



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Fall, 2003

This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>, — multimedia children's literature resources "all in one place" — utilizing cutting-edge technologies to reveal to educators and families that special spirit and personality within the best in children's books.

TeachingBooks was founded upon the premise that educators find enjoyment and professional value in seeing and hearing authors talk about their work and sharing those presentations with children. We give you unprecedented access to front-list authors and high-quality, engaging teaching materials.

As a hub of children's literature resources, TeachingBooks.net continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to curricular resources that help you share books in the classroom, library and home. Each issue of **TeachingBooks Spirit** highlights specific links to give you a flavor of what the site has to offer.

Exclusive Author Up-close Program: Christopher Paul Curtis (author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963* and *Bud, Not Buddy*).

http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Curtis%2C%20Christopher%20Paul

In this intimate, five-minute Author Up-close movie, Christopher Paul Curtis shows viewers the library where he writes; shares a memorable story of how he began writing books for children; and discusses race, humor and other topics in his books, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963* and *Bud, Not Buddy*. Christopher Paul Curtis' first two-novels received some of the highest distinctions in children's literature, including a Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Medal. TeachingBooks is delighted to share an original glimpse into this renowned author's life and work. An extra movie features Christopher Paul Curtis reading a passage from *Bud, Not Buddy*.

TeachingBooks Authors & Illustrators in the News:

Bryan Collier, Betsy Lewin, Chris Raschka and Vera B. Williams

Each of these illustrators TeachingBooks has previously filmed in their studios all appeared at Reading is Fundamental (RIF)'s National Reading Celebration in September. This year's theme was "The Art of Reading." TeachingBooks created a series of slide shows with RIF to show some of the styles and tools illustrators use in their studios to create children's books. See the Illustrators at Work slide shows for yourself at: http://www.rif.org/art/illustrators_atwork.msp

Gain even more insights into these award-winning authors and illustrators in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Up-close programs at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi

Additional Author Program: Roald Dahl

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/audiointerviews/profilepages/dahlr1.shtml>

TeachingBooks continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to multimedia interviews with children's book creators. While TeachingBooks does not create these programs, we believe that you'll really enjoy them.

In this featured author program, hear Roald Dahl (in a 1988 interview) discuss the importance of reading, children's love of laughter and their attraction to rudeness. You will need Real Media Player to hear this program.

Author's Personal Website: Jacqueline Briggs Martin

<http://www.jacquelinebriggsmartin.com/>

Author of *Snowflake Bentley*, the 1999 Caldecott Award-winning book, Jacqueline Briggs Martin offers a variety of helpful resources on her site, including information about her books, curriculum connections, author study materials, a family photo album and a page of links to school projects that focus on Jacqueline or her books.

Featured Activity Guide: *Sahara Special* by Esmé Raji Codell

<http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com/data/books/tgpdf/0786807938499.pdf>

This comprehensive teacher guide includes a plot summary, review quotes, character descriptions, discussion questions, an interview with the author, further reading suggestions and quite an array of activities relating to the book. Much of the Hyperion Books for Children teacher's guide relates to journal writing and looking inside oneself. Note: Guide is a PDF and requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to open.

Featured Award: The Henry Bergh Children's Book Award

<http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2002winners>

This award is given annually by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They select 11 children's nonfiction and fiction titles (including categories for poetry and illustration) "that promote the humane ethic of compassion and respect for all living things." The 2003 award will be presented at the American Library Association annual conference in Orlando next June.

Take Note: Book Industry News

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/vl.cgi?type=news>

Get all the book gossip and news you can imagine — including the latest on authors, publishers and new releases — from our listing of 14 different book industry news websites!

We hope that these featured links from our database connect you to material that highlights the personality and spirit within the best of children's literature.

To learn more about what's happening at TeachingBooks, you can go to our News page at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/news.cgi> and read about where we've been, what we're doing and who's taken notice.

Thanks again for your interest in TeachingBooks.net, and enjoy your autumn!

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