



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Fall, 2005

This is the seasonal newsletter of <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>, which highlights specific online curricular connections to books and authors. Enjoy and share with your colleagues!

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Incorporate a fiction title in your history class!

- Use TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring Christopher Paul Curtis reading from *Bud, Not Buddy*.
http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Curtis%2C%20Christopher%20Paul

Include the Depression-era story of *Bud, Not Buddy* to give history a face and a life. Get to know author Christopher Paul Curtis as he explains how he became a writer and reads an excerpt from this Newbery winner. Do you notice a similarity between the soup kitchen lines described by Mr. Curtis and the recent-day experiences of hurricane survivors? See many other Newbery-recognized authors in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Programs at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi, including Sharon Creech, Jack Gantos and Marilyn Nelson.

Enjoy experiential science books!

- Explore the website of Shar Levine, who has created books about science experiments.
<http://www.sciencelady.com/index.htm>

In 1987, Canadian Shar Levine opened a toy, game and book store called Einstein's the Science Centre. At the back of the store, she started teaching hands-on science classes. Out of this love for science and kids, the books were written. Her books include everything from *Build Your Own Remote Control Light Switch* to *Quick-But-Great Science Fair Projects*. Check out the science experiments, found under "Missing Chapters," on her website!

Utilize picture books with your middle school students!

- See this book guide for the Caldecott-winning title *Black and White* by David Macaulay.
http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=66

The collaborative creators of ReadWriteThink have designed a lesson plan to "engage students in a deep analysis of [a] writer's craft" by looking closely at Macaulay's Caldecott-winning picture book. This book guide outlines student objectives, the instructional plan, student assessment and the IRA/NCTE standards it meets.

Help your newly beginning readers get engaged with a book!

- Start with a book reading for *Brothers of the Knight* by Debbie Allen.
<http://www.kennedy-center.org/multimedia/storytimeonline/brothers.html>

This 16-minute book reading is a dramatic retelling of the fairy tale "Twelve Dancing Princesses," set in contemporary Harlem. Enjoy this fun-loving story (narrated by the family dog) as well as the illustrations done by Kadir Nelson, a Coretta Scott King award winner.

Use Native American books in your social studies classes!

- Refer to Best Native American Books for Children and Young Adults.
<http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org/favorite/favnatv.html>

This list, hosted by the Children’s Literature Network, provides annotations (and corresponding book cover art) for 11 different books. The recommended titles are appropriate for both Native and non-Native young people. The list is prefaced with a helpful reminder that, “When selecting books to share with children of all backgrounds, it is vital to preview selections with a critical eye.”

Get support and inspiration for teaching your Spanish-speaking students!

- Explore Colorín Colorado, a website associated with Reading Rockets.
<http://www.colorincolorado.org/homepage.php>

This website, available in both English and Spanish, provides information, activities and advice for the parents and educators of students who are learning English. This is the website that inspired us to have our summer intern create a training resource called “Using TeachingBooks with English Language Learners.” You can find this slideshow and others on our “Training Resources” page at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/show.cgi?f=training#ITR>.

Consider these instructional ideas for your classroom or library!

- Read the suggestions submitted about *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
<http://www.TeachingBooks.net/content/TeachingCharlie.pdf>

This past summer, several TeachingBooks subscribers submitted their ideas for how they would use the new *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* movie to teach Roald Dahl’s classic book by that same name. We are happy to share these ideas with you now. Also, note that you can hear 44 seconds of an interview with Roald Dahl done by the BBC. In it, Dahl talks about the world he creates for his child characters. While logged on to TeachingBooks, just do an author search for “Dahl” and check out the Author Programs!

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