



# TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

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This seasonal newsletter of <http://www.TeachingBooks.net> highlights specific online curricular connections to books and authors. It is only sent to registered educators who've requested it.

Use the TeachingBooks.net purple Search Box to find and instantly access the following resources and thousands of other online materials about authors, illustrators and books.

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## **Introduce a Native American Indian chief / author to your students!**

- Use TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring Joseph Medicine Crow and his latest book, *Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond*.

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/MedicineCrow>

Canadians celebrated Thanksgiving in October, and the U.S. celebrates it in November. Consider balancing the dominant cultural myths around this holiday with the perspective of this Native American Indian author. Filmed on the Crow Reservation east of Billings, Montana, Medicine Crow reflects on how he lives in two cultures. Extra links give you ideas of books to share with classrooms of all ages, as well as helpful tips on Teaching Respect for Native Peoples — great ideas for the entire year!

## **Capitalize on the afterglow of the World Series!**

- Make use of this Book Guide for *The Boy Who Saved Baseball* by John H. Ritter.

[http://www.johnhritter.com/TBWSB\\_TeachersGuide.sht](http://www.johnhritter.com/TBWSB_TeachersGuide.sht)

While Major League Baseball's World Series is still fresh in students' minds, consider sharing this book with your fourth through eighth graders. The guide includes questions for class discussion, a collaborative simulation project, writing prompts, literary and language exploration and word studies.

## **Engage fantasy readers with these video clips of author Cornelia Funke!**

- Utilize this author program from BookWrapCentral to gain insight into her writing craft.

<http://www.bookwrapcentral.com/authors/corneliafunke.htm>

Best-selling author Cornelia Funke's love of what she does shines through in these video clips. Try using them as booktalks to get students hooked. Also, current readers of *The Thief Lord*, *Dragon Rider* and *Inkheart* will enjoy watching and hearing this German author discuss her work.

## **Bring history to life with music!**

- Share an audio excerpt of *Blues Journey* to put a book in the middle of a class discussion about the blues.

[http://www.teachingbooks.net/book\\_reading.cgi?id=1414](http://www.teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=1414)

With background music and a theatrical reading/singing of the text, this five-minute book reading is sure to inspire students to consider the historical context of blues music. Actor Richard Allen

brings voice to Walter Dean Myers' poetry. This award-winning book includes Christopher Myers' expressive illustrations made only with white paint, blue ink and brown paper bags.

**Challenge your high school students to prepare for post-secondary education!**

- Get ideas from this booklist: Outstanding Books for the College Bound.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/outstandingbooks/outstandingbooks.htm>

Selected by the Young Adult Library Services Association, this booklist is organized into five academic disciplines: history, humanities, literature and language arts, science and technology, and social sciences. The list includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biography and drama. According to the YALSA site, "The books on this list offer opportunities to discover new ideas, and provide an introduction to the fascinating variety of subjects within an academic discipline. Readers will gain an understanding of our diverse world and build a foundation to deepen their response to that world."

**Learn about books that incorporate Mexican American culture!**

- Explore the winners of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award

<http://www.education.txstate.edu/subpages/tomasrivera/index.html>

Established in 1995, the Tomás Rivera award encourages authors, illustrators and publishers to create books that authentically reflect the lives of Mexican American children and young adults in the United States. One book wins each year. *José! Born to Dance* (written by Susanna Reich, illustrated by Raúl Colón) is the most recent winner.

**Explore how Science and Art coincide!**

- Explore author/illustrator Steve Jenkins' new website, which includes science information as well as insight into how he illustrates his books.

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

Steve Jenkins is the creator of the Caldecott Honor book, *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?*, and many other non-fiction picture books featuring his stunning paper collage illustrations. His website can be found by doing an "Author" search for "Steve Jenkins" on TeachingBooks.net.

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