



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Fall, 2002

This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>, an unparalleled multimedia children's literature database that utilizes cutting-edge technologies to reveal to educators and families that special spirit and personality behind 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 strive to give you unprecedented access to front-list authors and authoritative teaching materials.

In this issue of **TeachingBooks Spirit**, we proudly announce a site re-launch, complete with multiple movie formats, expanded databases, an online Help & Training tutorial and hundreds of new author up-close programs.

Check out our dramatically expanded Authors Up-close section at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi. TeachingBooks.net has now interviewed 20 extraordinary book creators and releases a new, comprehensive original program each month, each with a high-quality movie, in-depth written interview, pertinent Internet links and much more! We have also cataloged links to hundreds of audio and video interviews, chats and speeches from the best the children's book world has to offer.

A popular feature of TeachingBooks.net is our series of sortable database tables that instantly connect you to teacher and discussion guides of favorite books for children and young adults. We currently link to more than 2,300 guides, and we're continually adding more. Access this table at: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/guides.cgi>

As a hub of children's literature resources, TeachingBooks.net 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.

Featured Award: Flora Stieglitz Straus Award

<http://www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/awards.html>

This award for fiction "honors a book or books of outstanding literary merit in which children or young people deal in a positive and realistic way with difficulties in their world and grow emotionally and morally." We feel this is an award to watch and learn from during this particular year of horrific attacks when there are so many newly published books for children on related subjects.

Author's Personal Website: Judy Blume

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

Judy Blume, author of such classics as *Are You There God, It's Me, Margaret* and the Super Fudge series has just published another Fudge book, *Double Fudge* (Dutton / Penguin Putnam, 2002). Her personal site is loaded with information on this long-awaited installment, including a video of Judy talking about the book!

Featured Teacher Guide: *Henry Builds a Cabin* (Cyberbee)

<http://www.cyberbee.com/henrybuilds/>

This fun and engaging guide to D.B. Johnson's second book about "Henry the bear" (Henry David Thoreau) has children building a cabin via an interactive game and going on a treasure hunt through the book. D.B. Johnson's first book, *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg* (Houghton, 2000), earned numerous awards and distinctions including the Boston Globe, Horn Book Award and the Ezra Jack Keats Award. You'll love these books and teaching resources!

Take Note: Kerlan Collection (Univ. Minnesota)

<http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/kerlan.html>

This "take note" site is selected from TeachingBooks' list of Research & Special Collections links. The Kerlan Collection includes "books, original manuscripts and illustrations, and many related materials, and presently contains more than 90,000 children's books, primarily by twentieth-century American writers, as well as manuscript and illustration materials for more than 10,000 titles. Also included are many other items including letters, posters, toys, photographs" and much more. Check it out!

Author Up-close Program: Margaret M. Bruchac and Catherine O'Neill Grace

<http://www.authorchats.com/archives/archiveSummary.jsp?key=bruchacm>

The photo essay *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving* (National Geographic, 2001) offers counterpoint to the prevailing, traditional story of the first Thanksgiving, with a measured, balanced and historically accurate version of the three-day harvest celebration. Enjoy this Author Chat with co-author Margaret Bruchac.

A TeachingBooks Author in the News: Bryan Collier

Illustrator Bryan Collier is racking up recognition for *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr* (written by Doreen Rappaport, Jump at the Sun / Hyperion Books for Children, 2001). Collier's spiritual and powerful illustrations for this book already won him the Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Honor recognitions, and last month won the Jane Addams Book Award picture book category for, "effectively addressing themes or topics promoting peace, social justice, world community, and/or equality of the sexes and all races."

TeachingBooks interviewed Bryan Collier before *Martin's Big Words* was published, and in our original program, he offers many insights into his awe and approach for working on this title. You can see his program at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi

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. Thanks for your interest and support of TeachingBooks.net, and enjoy your Fall!

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TeachingBooks Spirit is published seasonally.