



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Spring, 2004

This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>. — Generating enthusiasm for books and reading by providing easy access to authors, illustrators and exceptional book resources — all in one place!

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 about books for children and teens.

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

TeachingBooks Is For Your Entire Community!

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TeachingBooks’ Exclusive Author Up-close Program: Jack Gantos

http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Gantos%2C%20Jack

In TeachingBooks’ original movie, see and hear Jack Gantos reveal his love of writing and passion for journaling; share insights into his Joey Pigza and Rotten Ralph characters; and talk about teaching and writing for children. Gantos was awarded a Newbery Honor for his book *Joey Pigza Loses Control*.

TeachingBooks Author in the News: Betsy Lewin

Betsy Lewin’s new collaboration with Doreen Cronin, *Duck for President*, features the enterprising web-footed character from *Click, Clack, Moo* and *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*. Issued last month, it has already received a starred review from *School Library Journal* and is currently #1 on the *New York Times* Children’s Picture Book Best-Sellers List. Betsy Lewin is a TeachingBooks Authors Up-close featured illustrator. View a movie showing her drawing characters from these books at http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Lewin%2C%20Betsy

See many other award-winning authors and illustrators in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Up-close programs at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi, and look for NEW programs later this spring featuring Christopher Myers, Sharon Creech, Peter Sís, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Rosemary Wells.

Additional Author Program: Keven Henkes

http://www.harperchildrens.com/teacher/catalog/book_interview_xml.asp?isbn=0060535431

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.

Listen to Kevin Henkes talk about and read from his Newbery Honor book, *Olive's Ocean*. (Real Media player is needed to hear this program.)

Author's Personal Website: Mordicai Gerstein

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

The personal website for the winner of this year's Caldecott Medal for his *The Man Who Walked Between The Towers* (Roaring Brook Press) features a biography, multiple bibliographies, a list of awards and honors, information about author visits and contact information.

Book Award: Paul A. Witty Short Story Award

<http://www.reading.org/awards/witty.html>

The Paul A. Witty Short Story Award honors the author of an original short story published for the first time in a periodical for children. Past winners include 2003: Patricia Baehr, "Blizzard," published in *Cricket*; 2002: Dayton O. Hyde, "Medicine Hattie," published in *Highlights for Children*; and 2001: G. Clifton Wisler, "The Orange Armband," published in *Boys' Life*.

Book Guide: *I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This* by Jacqueline Woodson

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=0440219604&view=tg>

The thorough guide for this award-winning book includes a pre-reading activity; thematic activities: friendship, prejudice, peer pressure, family and relationships; and interdisciplinary activities: language arts, health, history and art. Teaching ideas prepared by Pat Scales, Library Media Specialist, Greenville Middle School, Greenville, SC.

Book Reading: *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

<http://library.booksontape.com/bookdetail.cfm/YA156CX>

Enjoy an audio excerpt of E. B. White reading from his classic, *Charlotte's Web*. Click on "Click Here To Listen." (Real Media player is needed to hear this program.)

Thematic Booklist: Buried Treasures: Wonderful Books You Probably Didn't Know About

<http://www.webrary.org/kids/jbibtreasures.html>

An annotated booklist created by Morton Grove Public Library, Morton Grove, Illinois. Each listing includes a link to a review complete with grade level suggestion.

These featured links from our database connect you to material that highlights the personality and spirit within the best of children's and young adult literature — enjoy!

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 Happy Spring!

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