



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Spring, 2005

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.net continually identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to curricular resources that help you share books in any classroom, library and even at home.

TeachingBooks Spirit highlights specific links to give you a flavor of what the site has to offer — enjoy!

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Are you studying the Caldecott Winners?

- Check out TeachingBooks' Exclusive Author Up-close Program with Mordicai Gerstein
http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Gerstein%2C%20Mordicai

Through this original TeachingBooks movie, meet 2004 Caldecott-winning artist Mordicai Gerstein and consider his many wonderful books and how his books allow people to learn what it's like to be another person. "You get to live a whole different life by reading about someone in a book." See many other award-winning and favorite authors and illustrators in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Up-close programs at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi, including Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black (of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*).

Are you looking for fresh books and resources in mythology?

- Read an interview with Nancy Farmer about her book, *The Sea of Trolls*
http://www.bookbrowse.com/author_interviews/full/index.cfm?author_number=818

A surprising change of pace from Greek mythology, *The Sea of Trolls* is based on Norse mythology. This written interview by BookBrowse.com explores the ideas and process behind the book. Farmer won Printz and Newbery honors for *The House of the Scorpion*. Get to know a different side of this award-winning author!

Do you need online resources to encourage your high school history students to reflect?

- Turn to the TeachingBooks slideshows featuring Marilyn Nelson
http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?name=Nelson%2C%20Marilyn

With the 50th anniversary of Emmett Till's horrific death right around the corner, now is the time to investigate the historical and social contexts in which such atrocity could occur. Use Marilyn Nelson's heroic crown of sonnets entitled *A Wreath for Emmett Till* to start or conclude a unit on the Jim Crow South. Nelson is the Poet Laureate of the State of Connecticut as well as an award-winning author. TeachingBooks' original Authors Up-close program features Nelson reading her entire poem as well as conversations with her publisher about the challenge of writing about this painful event. Appropriate for interdisciplinary collaborations with English classes.

Are you in need of a good book to read aloud to your elementary classrooms?

- Keep your eye on the The E.B. White Read Aloud Award
<http://www.abfc.com/ebwhite.html>

Sponsored by the Association of Booksellers for Children, this relatively new award “honors a book that reflects the universal read aloud standards that were created by the work of the author E.B. White.” This year, the winner is *Wild About Books*, written by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown, and published by Knopf. Last year, the winner was *SkippyJon Jones*, written and illustrated by Judith Byron Schachner and published by Dutton. Keep your ears open for this award!

Do you want a book that will start engaging discussions in health or social studies classes?

- Use the book guide that accompanies *Luna: A Novel* by Julie Anne Peters
<http://www.twbookmark.com/library/LunaTG.pdf>

If you feel stumped wondering how you’ll ever begin a conversation about transgender identity with your high school students, then here’s a resource for you. This four-page book guide for Peters’ ground breaking novel gives you some ideas of where to start, offering discussion questions for each set of chapters.

Would your youngest readers enjoy hearing a Cherokee trickster tale read aloud?

- Pique their interest with Harper Children’s excerpt of *How Rabbit Tricked Otter*
http://www.harperchildrens.com/catalog/book_xml.asp?isbn=1559945427

Use book reading excerpts as a book talk tool, getting readers interested enough to want to read or learn more about the book. Music sets the mood at the start of this audio excerpt of Gayle Ross’ *How Rabbit Tricked Otter and Other Cherokee Animal Stories*. Click on “Audio Excerpt” to download the audio file. (RealPlayer is needed to hear this program.) For other book reading ideas, see TeachingBooks’ list of more than 1000 audio book excerpts: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/readings.cgi>

Do you ever want to incorporate literature into your science courses?

- Use the Science Fiction and Fantasy for Children database to consider the options
http://www2.lib.uoguelph.ca/resources/bibliographies/science_fiction/index.cfm?action=home

Much more than a mere list of books, this is a searchable database compiled by Linda Day from the University of Guelph Library in Ontario, Canada. Besides the usual search fields of title and author, teachers and librarians can conduct searches based on type of book, suggested age/grade range and/or nationality of the author. Each entry includes an extensive annotation and a personal recommendation rating. Help your students draw connections between scientific quandaries and science fiction texts!

Do you want to reward your elementary school students with some poetic fun?

- Explore the Personal Website of Shel Silverstein
<http://shelsilverstein.com/indexSite.html>

Not only are there ideas for teaching poetry on this favorite author’s site, but kids can have fun making their own bookmarks, doing poetry puzzles and sending e-postcards. Additionally, animated readings of various poems and books are delightful interpretations of Silverstein’s nonsense literature. Plan on spending some time exploring!

Don’t you deserve to have some fun too?

- Take the Reading Rockets Book Quiz
<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/quiz.php>

Reading Rockets now has a monthly book quiz — just for fun. With only five multiple-choice questions to get right, maybe you should enter...you just might win a \$20 gift certificate!

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Encourage Students to Use TeachingBooks at Home!

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Thanks again for your interest in TeachingBooks.net, and have a super spring!
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Nick Glass, Carin Bringelson & John H. Moore

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