



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Spring, 2006

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 resources about authors, illustrators and books.

Introduce Earth Day — April 22 — with a picture book story!

- Use TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring Leo and Diane Dillon sharing *Earth Mother*.

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

Earth Mother can introduce your students to the interdependence of all the Earth's creatures; then you can share with them the interdependence of the book's illustrators. Enjoy Caldecott Award winners Leo and Diane as they unveil their collaborative process for creating illustrations.

Honor Earth Day by focusing on the environmental science in a middle grade novel!

- Start by listening to an audio excerpt from Carl Hiaasen's Newbery Honor book, *Hoot*.

http://www.teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=1197

Random House describes *Hoot* as a "humorous ecological mystery," where "three unlikely middle-school kids lead a protest to save endangered burrowing owls." Perform a title search for "hoot" to locate this Book Reading, two Book Guides and other fun resources. A major motion picture based on the book opens on May 5.

Celebrate Beverly Cleary's 90th Birthday on April 12 — Drop Everything and Read!

- Explore the riches of Beverly Cleary's personal website.

<http://www.beverlycleary.com/index.html>

Enjoy Ms. Cleary's website, then learn more about Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Day at <http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/index.html> where you can watch a five-minute video interview with Beverly Cleary. In celebration of her 90th birthday on April 12, D.E.A.R. Day was established by national library and educational organizations. The idea is to get families and children reading together for 30 minutes — on that day and every day.

Introduce the 2006 Newbery Medal winner with an audio interview!

- Listen to Lynne Rae Perkins talk with NPR about her young adult novel, *Criss Cross*.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5170249>

Online resources about Lynne Rae Perkins are scarce. From hearing her giggle to understanding how she dealt with being nervous about the potential of winning a Newbery, this four-minute audio interview offers students a glimpse into her personality and home life.

