



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Spring, 2007 Vol. 6, No. 2

This seasonal newsletter of <http://www.TeachingBooks.net> highlights specific online curricular connections to books and authors.

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.

Have your art students meet the TeachingBooks illustrator who recently won the Caldecott!

- Explore TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring David Wiesner.

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

The 2007 Caldecott Committee recently honored illustrator David Wiesner for his book *Flotsam*. Did you know that, in order to create a book, he must do so *four* times, in various stages? Learn more about Mr. Wiesner and his book-creating process by watching the movie and reading the written interview. Additionally, there are many educational and enlightening resources — everything from Mr. Wiesner's two websites to information about wordless picture books.

Encourage your high school students to consider international politics using literature!

- Utilize this Book Guide from Random House in your social studies classes.

http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/teachers_guides/9780553376050.pdf

This Book Guide ties five books together with the theme "World at War": *How I Live Now*, *Light Years*, *The Prophet of Yonwood*, *Fish*, and *Refugees*. The guide offers classroom activities as well as questions for group discussion. Many of these same books have supporting resources on TeachingBooks, including author interviews, author websites, author name pronunciations, book readings, and additional book guides—just conduct some author searches to find them.

Incorporate full-length Book Readings into story time!

- Share these online videos of picture books being read by famous actors.

<http://www.storylineonline.net/>

With eighteen titles to choose from, one or more of these is bound to please your youngest students. After watching the videos, incorporate the suggestions from the activity guides that accompany each story. To find these Book Readings on TeachingBooks.net, go to the Subject/Advanced search page, and then conduct an "All Fields" search for Storyline.

Learn about high-quality poetry books!

- Explore the winners of the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award.

<http://www.pabook.libraries.psu.edu/activities/hopkins/hopkins.html>

During Poetry Month or at any time of year, utilize the books recognized by this distinguished honor. Sponsored by The Pennsylvania Center for the Book, the University Libraries, and the Pennsylvania School Librarians' Association, the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award defines good poetry as:

- imaginative
- dealing with emotion and having significance beyond the act of creation
- using figurative language, yet is compact in thought and expression
- having an element of beauty and truth which appears unstable outside of the poem

Go to the “Previous Winners” page to see and hear poets accepting their awards.

Use booklists to recommend audio books to your students!

- One booklist is called *Not Just for Listening: Integrating Audiobooks into the Curriculum*.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/booklinksbucket/NotJustforListening.pdf>

As students become more and more interested in audiobooks, be prepared to offer them suggestions for what to “read” next. The Book Links booklist mentioned above includes the rationale for encouraging audiobooks, noting the research demonstrating that “listening to audiobooks fosters reading comprehension, fluency, language acquisition, vocabulary development, and improved achievement.” On TeachingBooks.net, conduct a “Title” search for “audio” to find other booklists about audio books, appropriate for a wide range of age levels.

Participate in a global bookmark exchange, facilitated by Canadian author, Margriet Ruurs!

- Her website states, “Make the world a better place through books and friendship.”

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

Author of *My Librarian is a Camel* and many other picture books, Margriet Ruurs has much to offer students and teachers via her website. Besides exchanging handmade bookmarks with students around the world, classrooms can access coloring pages and teacher’s guides for many of Ms. Ruurs’s books. And if you need help pronouncing her name, listen to Ms. Ruurs herself explaining it for you at the TeachingBooks Author Name Pronunciation Guide found at <http://www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi> .

Get to know authors who have birthdays in April and May!

- Explore the original Author Programs created by TeachingBooks.net.

http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi

These TeachingBooks-featured authors/illustrators are celebrating birthdays very soon:

Marilyn Nelson
(26 April)

Christopher Paul Curtis
(10 May)

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