



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

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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.

Learn more about the TeachingBook author who recently won a genius grant.

- Explore TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring David Macaulay.

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

The MacArthur Foundation recently honored three-time Caldecott recipient author/illustrator David Macaulay for “celebrating and explaining the nature of civilization’s greatest architectural and engineering achievements.” After watching the TeachingBooks movie and reading the in-depth, written interview, learn more about his work at:

http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.2070789/apps/nl/content2.asp?content_id={956CCD18-8768-44B2-9F19-0998EF94C9DC}¬oc=1

Incorporate this video Book Reading into a unit on folklore!

- Share this online video of *Anansi and the Pot of Beans* with your elementary-aged students.

http://www.storycove.com/anansi_and_the_pot_of_beans

Many versions of folktales exist, and here’s one that portrays an Anansi story of West Africa. This Book Reading brings the tale to life and has different book guides for grades Pre-K through 2nd grade. There are also activity sheets that accompany the video.

Learn about high-quality, non-fiction books!

- Explore the winners of the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal

http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/sibertmedal/Sibert_Medal.htm

Many students appreciate and enjoy reading non-fiction books. One way to encourage their reading is to recommend the titles awarded the Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal. Established in 2001 by the ALA’s Association for Library Services to Children division, this award honors the most distinguished informational book published in English.

Encourage your middle grade students to grapple with themes of liberation and racism!

- Utilize this Book Guide from the National Council of Teachers of English.

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=32

This lesson plan hosted on the ReadWriteThink website has students compare Faith Ringgold’s *Tar Beach* to Virginia Hamilton’s *The People Could Fly*. Besides aligning to educational standards, this guide details instructional plans and student assessment options. Try using this

during units on genre studies or understanding historical contexts — or use it to incorporate multicultural literature now or during African American History Month.

Use books to inform students about the cultures mentioned in current events!

- Get ideas from this booklist: The Middle East: Building Bridges through Children's Books. <http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/sfplonline/kids/booklists/mideast.htm>

Selected by the staff of the San Francisco Public Library, this booklist on the Middle East includes the categories of nonfiction, biographies, folklore and poetry, fiction, and picture books.

Explore the website of John Green, young adult author of *An Abundance of Katherines!*

- This Printz Award-winning author incorporates a blog into his website. <http://www.sparksflyup.com/>

John Green’s humor and love of words shine through in his personal website. The site features pages of interest to readers of his books, including information about “famous last words” and a “mathematical formula” which, according to the protagonist in his 2007 Printz Honor book, *An Abundance of Katherines*, can predict who will end a romantic relationship and when. Green won the 2006 Printz Medal for *Looking for Alaska*.

ALA Bestows 2007 Recognitions to Five TeachingBooks Authors

- Caldecott Medal: David Wiesner <http://teachingbooks.net/wiesner>
- CSK Illustrator Honor: Christopher Myers <http://teachingbooks.net/cmyers>
- Geisel Beginning Reader Honor: Kate DiCamillo <http://teachingbooks.net/dicamillo>
- Maragaret A. Edwards Award: Lois Lowry <http://teachingbooks.net/lowry>
- Arbuthnot Honor Lecture: David Macaulay <http://teachingbooks.net/macaulay>

Get to know authors who have birthdays in January, February, and March!

- Explore the original Author Programs created by TeachingBooks.net. http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi

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

Rosemary Wells (1/29)	Jacqueline Woodson (2/12)	Lois Lowry (3/20)
Denise Fleming (1/31)	Leo Dillon (3/2)	Kate DiCamillo (3/29)
David Small (2/12)	Diane Dillon (3/13)	

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