



## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release:

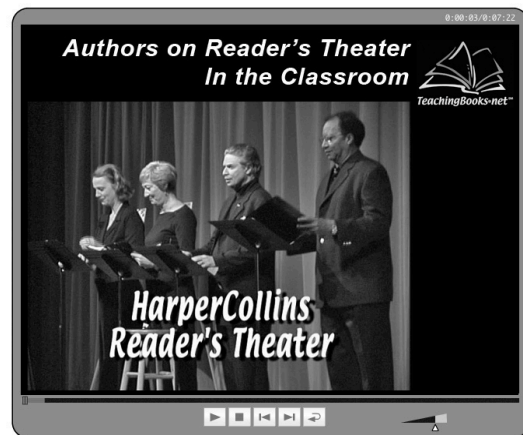
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## ***TeachingBooks.net* Unveils Reader's Theater Original Author Program**

*Authors Share Insights and Strategies for Incorporating Reader's Theater into the Classroom*

MADISON, WIS. (May 14, 2007) – Reader's Theater is storytelling through narration, without the help of costumes or props. This interpretive reading activity allows students to take any piece of literature, analyze it and then adapt it into their own script. A valuable tool for any classroom, Reader's Theater combines reading, writing, speaking, and listening experiences in an engaging way. The new Reader's Theater Original Author Program from *TeachingBooks.net*, produced in conjunction with HarperCollins Children's Books, allows educators and students to learn more about this effective literacy strategy directly from four extraordinary children's book authors.

*TeachingBooks.net*, an online service designed to generate enthusiasm for books and reading, filmed award-winning authors Sharon Creech, Walter Dean Myers, Sarah Weeks, and Avi performing scripts from one another's books, including "Love That Dog," "Don't You Know There's A War On?," "Bad Boy," and others. The Reader's Theater Original Author Program also features a mini-documentary with the four authors as they share insights and strategies for incorporating Reader's Theater into the classroom, and creating Reader's Theater scripts and productions in schools. The comprehensive program consists of nine movies for classroom use, a collection of approximately 200 ready-to-use scripts and authoritative online resources to support educators and students to engage in Reader's Theater activities.



"Reader's Theater puts the heart of a reader's enthusiasm for a book at center stage," said Nick Glass, founder of *TeachingBooks.net*. "Our program was designed for educators and students to learn about this activity directly from four amazing authors. It enables everyone, online, anytime, to watch these award-winning, fabulous authors demonstrate this activity while teaching us strategies for incorporating Reader's Theater into the classroom."

MORE

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Educators have long praised the benefits of using Reader's Theater in the classroom. Merging literacy learning and drama, Reader's Theater serves as a motivational reading tool for students. The activity affirms the importance of reading and writing skills, as well as encouraging students to use their imaginations. Participating in Reader's Theater strengthens several key reading skills, including reading fluency and comprehension, oral communication skills, language structure, and vocabulary development. It also teaches the value of collaboration by providing a forum for students to work together on the production of an entertaining theatrical performance.

Launched in 2003, *TeachingBooks.net* is licensed to more than 15,500 schools across the United States and Canada, encompassing over 9.5 million students. Districts include New York City Board of Education, Chicago Public Schools, Houston Independent School District, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Calgary Board of Education in Alberta and all schools in Wisconsin. Pricing for *TeachingBooks.net* varies depending on the number of schools per district.

For more information about *TeachingBooks.net*, or to sign up for a free 14-day trial, visit [www.teachingbooks.net](http://www.teachingbooks.net) or phone 800-596-0710.

#### **About TeachingBooks.net**

TeachingBooks.net LLC is committed to bringing books to life by providing thousands of author programs, book readings, book guides, and other K-12 multimedia resources that reveal the spirit and personality within books. The company, established in 2000 and headquartered in Madison, Wis., delivers an interactive online service designed to facilitate learning about and discussion of books to inspire students to read. For more information, visit [www.teachingbooks.net](http://www.teachingbooks.net) or phone 608-257-2919.

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