



TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Summer, 2002

This is the newsletter for <http://www.TeachingBooks.net>, an unparalleled multimedia children's literature database that utilizes cutting-edge technologies to reveal to educators and families that special spirit and personality behind the best in children's books.

Welcome to the first issue of **TeachingBooks Spirit**! We're pleased that you've signed up to receive these quarterly mailings, and we hope that you will find the information valuable and timely.

TeachingBooks was founded upon the premise that educators find enjoyment and professional value in seeing and hearing authors talk about their work and sharing those presentations with children. We strive to give you unprecedented access to front-list authors and authoritative teaching materials.

If you haven't experienced our Authors Up-close programs, you should. TeachingBooks.net travels to the homes of the best children's book writers and illustrators — including the Caldecott Medal recipients of the past two years and five recent New York Times bestselling authors — and produces original, on-line author features that include professionally edited, five-minute movies, in-depth written interviews, and a collection of pertinent Internet links. To date, TeachingBooks.net has interviewed 18 extraordinary book creators and releases a new profile each month. Check out the listing of programs at: http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi

A popular feature of TeachingBooks.net is our series of sortable database tables that instantly connect you to teacher and discussion guides of favorite books for young readers and teens. We currently have links to more than 2,000 titles in our database, and we're continually adding more. Access this table at: <http://www.teachingbooks.net/guides.cgi>

Exciting changes are happening to TeachingBooks.net this fall, including the incorporation of hundreds of audio interviews with authors and illustrators, and a multimedia Help & Training tutorial that enables you to use the site as efficiently as possible.

As a hub of children's literature resources, TeachingBooks.net identifies, catalogs and maintains reliable links to curricular resources that help you share books in the classroom, library and home. Each issue of **TeachingBooks Spirit** will highlight specific links to give you a flavor of what the site has to offer.

Featured Award Jane Addams Book Award

<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/public/jaddams.htm>

This award recognizes a children's book that effectively promotes the cause of peace, social justice and world community. It is sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Jane Addams Peace Association.

Featured Author Website Bruce McMillan

<http://www.brucemcmillan.com>

"McMillan makes each bird, person, or place he photographs look special." (Booklist) Here's an author educators and children will love knowing about – McMillan creates gorgeous and captivating books about nature and children worldwide.

Featured Teacher Guide Houghton Mifflin's guide for *Lord of the Rings*

http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/readers_guides/lotr/lotr_rg.shtml Educators and families will appreciate the quality and breadth of suggestions found within this broad-based resource that has appeal far beyond the classroom. The recent resurgence of interest in the Tolkien trilogy makes this a particularly popular title for children.

"Take Note" Achuka.com <http://www.achuka.com>

Achuka.com is the UK's "Chock-Full, Eyes-Peeled, Independent Children's Books Site," filled with memorable interviews, book news, award information, reviews and much more. Their mission is to be an "informative, reliable, thought-provoking" site covering the children's book market in the UK.

Author in the News TeachingBooks is proud to report that featured illustrator Betsy Lewin is in the news. Betsy is the illustrator of the current New York Times bestseller *Giggle, Giggle, Quack* and the Caldecott Honor prequel *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type*. She recently completed a national tour that attracted huge crowds and loads of laughter. Watch Betsy draw her cows, duck and Farmer Brown in our TeachingBooks original five-minute movie: http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi After watching the movie and reading the In-depth Interview, we know you'll think differently about Betsy Lewin's work and will have insight into the spirit of her books.

We hope that these featured links from our database connect you to material that highlights the personality and spirit within the best of children's literature. Thanks for your interest and support of TeachingBooks.net, and have a great rest of the summer!

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