TEACHINGBOOKS SPIRIT

Winter, 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.

⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄⅄

Combine art, music and poetry units!

- Use TeachingBooks' exclusive Author Program featuring Chris Raschka reading from *A Poke in the I.*

http://www.teachingbooks.net/Raschka

He paints, he sings, he reads poetry. Enjoy Caldecott Honoree Chris Raschka as he explores concrete poetry and also talks about letting the "paint brush express itself." This program is a great compliment to his newest collaboration with Paul B. Janeczko, *A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms*, and includes several book guides. See many other Caldecott-recognized authors in our exclusive TeachingBooks Authors Programs at http://www.teachingbooks.net/athr_upcls.cgi, including Bryan Collier, Denise Fleming, and David Macaulay.

Begin a history unit with a Book Reading excerpt from an historical fiction novel!

- Listen to Jerry Spinelli's *Milkweed*, which is set in Warsaw during World War II.

http://www.teachingbooks.net/book_reading.cgi?id=655

By listening to the first few chapters of this young adult novel, students can get a palpable sense of place and character. Do a TeachingBooks search for "Milkweed" and find the Book Guide, too!

Incorporate an author study into your African American History Month lesson plans!

- Explore the Author Website of Jacqueline Woodson, who has written books for all ages.

http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com

Jacqueline Woodson loves "watching words flower into sentences and sentences blossom into stories." Get a personal understanding of this dynamic African-American author and her books. Learn about how her book *Miracle's Boys* is being made into a mini-series, and see photos of her favorite places to write! Her latest book *Show Way* is the autobiographical "story of seven generations of girls and women who were quilters and artists and freedom fighters."

Introduce the next Science Fair Project with a novel!

- Watch this Author Program in which Linda Sue Park discusses *Project Mulberry*.

http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/park.html

It was important for Newbery Medalist Linda Sue Park to overcome her "worm-phobia" when doing her research for her newest middle grade novel about an animal project on silk worms. Science students will learn about her observational methods and record keeping by watching this author program [RealPlayer plug-in required] filmed at the National Book Festival. Language Arts students will get a new perspective

on the writing process when reading *Project Mulberry*, as it includes "conversations" Park has with the protagonist of the book.

Start preparing for April's National Poetry Month!

- Utilize multiple books with this "Guide to Poetry."

http://www.harcourtbooks.com/images/pdf/activitykit/poetryteacherguide.pdf

This Book Guide from Harcourt Children's Books delineates general concepts for teaching poetry while also offering specific ideas on how to incorporate five books by Douglas Florian, Kristine O'Connell George, J. Patrick Lewis and Kurt Cyrus.

Expand the options for high school free reading time by offering books written for adults!

- Utilize the Alex Award website to offer new reading choices to high school students.

http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/alexawards/alexawards.htm

Since 1998, special recognitions have been given annually to ten books that were written for adults but have a special appeal to young adults. Access the lists of past winners to give your students ideas of new books they might want to explore.

Contest: Name a New Species

Bring science to life by encouraging your students to enter a contest to name a new species!

- Submit your ideas to this contest by March 31, 2006.

http://www.mapletreepress.com/

In conjunction with the publication of *Strange New Species: Astonishing Discoveries of Life on Earth*, Maple Tree Press is sponsoring a contest to name the new species that was identified by a 21-year-old science student. The winner's contest entry will be chosen as the common name for the newly identified extremophile. Details about the species and the contest are on the Maple Tree Press website. Students must be between the ages of seven and 15.

Search TeachingBooks: We are looking forward to the announcement of the American Library Association's award winners next week. Be sure to search TeachingBooks.net to find resources about the award-winning titles and authors!

Toll-Free Number: Have a question for us? Call us toll free at (800) 596-0710.

If for any reason you need to unsubscribe from these newsletters or TeachingBooks.net,
go to your "Educator Area Profile" at http://www.teachingbooks.net/profile.cgi and scroll to the bottom of the page.

TeachingBooks.net®
Sharing the spirit of children's literature℠

© 2006 TeachingBooks.net LLC. All rights reserved.