## RANDOM HOUSE

 ONREADINC ALOUD

## READINC

 TOCETHER
## READINC ALON:

# CRADES K-3 <br> EDUCATORS CUIDE CORRELATED TO (9) COMMON CORE 

Exemplar Texts
Picture Books

Early Readers
Chapter Books Informational Books

Dear Educator,
An enormous amount of growth occurs in the relationship between children and books in the span of four years, from kindergarten to third grade. From story time, to decoding words, to mastering it all independently, an entire world of reading quickly unfolds. It is in your classrooms that children are introduced to the transcending power of great stories. It is in your classrooms that children begin to truly appreciate books, and turn to them for knowledge. It is in your classrooms that children learn to read. It's astonishing!

And, we understand that the books you are using to do this are key components to the process. However you structure your class, however you use books with your students, we know it is invaluable to have a classroom or school library of books you and your students will love. Within this guide we have included the exemplar texts highlighted in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), as well as a carefully curated list of other Random House books that are great for your class library, along with extension activities aligned to CCSS to supplement your teaching of them. The titles are clustered in groups of picture books, early readers, chapter books and informational books. This guide also provides the Fountas \& Pinnell and Lexile measurements of each title with the understanding that these quantitative measures are just one third of the necessary evaluations needed to determine text complexity. We hope that knowing these measurements will be useful to you as you engage in your own qualitative evaluations and consider how best to match your students to texts and tasks.

We've highlighted the key Common Core State Standards for each extension activity included herein, but depending on your process, others will most definitely apply. Many of the activities can be slightly adjusted to use with other books and it is our hope that you will find them useful for your practice in general. We encourage you to adapt the activities to attain specific Common Core grade level standards for your classroom and students. You know your kids best!

We love books. You love books. And, we couldn't be happier to be working together with you to ensure that our young people love books too!

Read On!
All of Us at Random House Children's Books

## PICTURE BOOKS

Picture books are often our very first means of sharing books with young students. So, when we do, they should not just be any picture book. They should be rich in language, visually stimulating and written in such a way that they captivate a young audience. They should be informative, cross content areas and build on young people's world views.


GRADES K-1
An Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection Lexile: 440L - F\&P: TK PB: 978-0-375-80349-9
HC: 978-0-679-80401-7

Tomás and the Library Lady<br>Pat Mora, Illustrated by Raul Colon<br>$\checkmark$ VOCABULARY BUILDING $\checkmark$ RICH IN FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE $\checkmark$ INSPIRE LOVE OF READING

Based on the true story of the Mexican-American author and educator Tomás Rivera, a child of migrant workers who went on to become the first minority Chancellor in the University of California system, this inspirational story suggests what libraries-and education-can make possible.

## Craft: Words That Appeal to the Senses Activity

Throughout the story, Mora uses a variety of descriptive words that appeal to her readers' five senses. This activity is a fun way to get your students moving while they listen for these descriptive words! After a discussion of the five senses, enlarge a picture of an ear, eyes, a nose, a mouth, and hands and post them around the room. Direct students to listen carefully as you read for descriptive words or images that the writer uses. As students hear words that appeal to one (or more!) of the five senses, they should walk to the picture that represents that sense. Stop periodically to ask students to explain why they moved to that particular picture and discuss how these details bring to life Tomas' experiences.

O Correlates to Common Core State Standard: RL.1.4: Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

## Details \& Vocabulary Acquisition Activity

When asked her purpose for writing this story, the author Pat Mora said, ". . . I wanted my readers to think about the difficult life migrant workers have . . ." Read the story aloud to your students. As you read details about Tomas' parents' difficult job, ask your students all the question words (i.e., who, what, where, when, why and how) and encourage students to explain their responses using details from the text. As a class, write your own definition for farm worker and then compare it to the dictionary definition.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RL.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
L.K.1d: Understand and use question words (interrogatives).
L.1.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 1 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.


Dona Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: AD860L
PB: 978-0-375-86144-4
HC: 978-0-375-82337-4
EL: 978-0-385-37614-3


The Beautiful Lady: Our Lady of Guadalupe Illustrated by Steve Johnson \& Lou Fancher GRADES K-3
Lexile: AD630L
HC: 978-0-375-86838-2
GLB: 978-0-375-96838-9
EL: 978-0-449-81706-3


I Pledge Allegiance
Written with Libby Martinez; Illustrated by Patrice Barton GRADES PREK-2
Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-307-93181-8 GLB: 978-0-375-97109-9
EL: 978-0-307-97556-0


GRADES 2-3
More teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-375-84744-8
GLB: 978-0-375-95744-4
EL: 978-0-375-98783-0

## Key Ideas and Details: Steps in Technical Procedures Activity

The Apple Orchard Riddle is a unique text that would fit perfectly into a unit on the season of autumn! The story combines literary components and nonfiction/ informational material. This combination engages your students and helps them practice identifying important details...like making apple cider! Read the book aloud with your class, directing students to pay close attention to the steps for making apple cider. In small groups, students closely reread the pages where Farmer Hills teaches how to make apple cider. Together students draw a large apple-picking ladder onto white poster paper. Students discuss the steps in making apple cider and write the steps on each rung. If possible, conclude your season's unit with a trip to an apple orchard to watch the cider steps in action (and to taste it!)!
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RI.2.3: Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
SL.2.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

## Research: Fact vs. Opinion Activity

Tara is a creative character in The Apple Orchard Riddle who explores her concrete and abstract world beautifully. With your students read "Tara's Apple Orchard Facts" and "Mr. Tiffin's Apple Orchard Facts" at the back of the book. Discuss the difference between fact and opinion and compare and contrast Tara's "facts" to Mr. Tiffin's facts. Consider having students research print and digital resources to gather facts about an apple food of their choice (i.e., apple pie, apple juice, apple doughnuts). Students might make a book that highlights facts they've gathered vs. opinions they've generated about that particular food.

O Correlates to Common Core State Standard: W.3.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

The Apple Orchard Riddle

Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas

$\checkmark$ DOMAIN-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY<br>$\checkmark$ THEMATICALLY RELEVANT $\checkmark$ TECHNICAL STEPS

In this playful, humorous, and child-friendly classroom story, Mr. Tiffin and his students learn a lot about apples and apple orchards-including how apples are harvested, how cider is made, and what the different varieties of apples arewhile trying to solve a riddle. The book also celebrates how some children learn differently than others.


How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?
Illustrated by G. Brian Karas GRADES PREK-2
Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-375-84014-2
EL: 978-0-307-55680-6


George Washington's Birthday: A Mostly True Tale GRADES PREK-3
HC: 978-0-375-84499-7
GLB: 978-0-375-94458-1
EL: 978-0-375-98741-0


The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot Illustrated by Mark Fearing GRADES PREK-3
HC: 978-0-375-86689-0
GLB: 978-0-375-96689-7
EL: 978-0-375-98694-9

## PICTURE BOOK CLUSTERS

In Standard 10: Range, Quality, \& Complexity, the CCSS emphasize teaching content and subject areas through multiple interrelated books because a strong foundation of understanding is built when they are read together. Below, you will find groups of picture books clustered by subject area, topics, themes and craft.


Maps, Geography \& Culture


Me on the Map
Joan Sweeney; Illustrated by Annette Cable GRADES TK
F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-517-88557-4
EL: 978-0-307-79333-1


People
Peter Spier
GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: 440L
PB: 978-0-385-24469-5
HC: 978-0-385-13181-0


How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World Marjorie Priceman GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: AD590L
PB: 978-0-679-88083-7
EL: 978-0-307-79312-6


How to Make a Cherry Pie and See the U.S.A. Marjorie Priceman GRADES K-3
Lexile: AD680L
Teaching activities
available at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com
PB: 978-0-385-75293-0
EL: 978-0-307-98340-4

## The Joy \& Inspiration of Books \& Librarians



Tomas and the Library Lady
See page 3 for ordering details


Waiting for the Biblioburro
Monica Brown; Illustrated by John Parra GRADES K-3
Lexile: AD880L
HC: 978-1-58246-353-7
EL: 978-0-385-37455-2


The Lonely Book Kate Bernheimer; Illustrated by Chris Sheban GRADES PREK-3
Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-375-86226-7 EL: 978-0-375-98386-3


## My Pet Book

Bob Staake
GRADES PREK-2
F\&P: L
HC: 978-0-385-37312-8
GLB: 978-0-375-97195-2
EL: 978-0-375-98186-9

## PICTURE BOOK CLUSTERS coninued



The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo

## Farnsworth

Kathleen Krull;
Illustrated by
Greg Couch
GRADES 1-4
PB: 978-0-385-75557-3


A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin Jen Bryant;
Illustrated by
Melissa Sweet
GRADES K-3
Lexile: 610L
Teaching activities available at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-375-86712-5 GLB: 978-0-375-96712-2 EL: 978-0-449-81014-9

Fascinating Folks


The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art Barb Rosenstock; Illustrated by Mary GrandPre GRADES PREK-3 Teaching activities available at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-307-97848-6 GLB: 978-0-307-97849-3 EL: 978-0-307-97850-9

Annie \& Helen
Deborah Hopkinson; Illustrated by Raul Colon GRADES PREK-3
Lexile: 940L
Teaching activities
available at
RHTeachersLibrarians.com
HC: 978-0-375-85706-5
GLB: 978-0-375-95706-2


Mrs. Harkness and the Panda Alicia Potter; Illustrated by Melissa Sweet GRADES K-3 Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com HC: 978-0-375-84448-5

## Marvelous Math



Lemonade in Winter: A Book about Two Kids Counting Money
Emily Jenkins;
Illustrated by
G. Brian Karas

## GRADES PREK-2

Lexile: AD410L
HC: 978-0-375-85883-3
GLB: 978-0-375-95883-0
EL: 978-0-375-98773-1


How High Can a
Dinosaur Count? . . . and Other Math Mysteries
Valorie Fisher
GRADES PREK-2
PB: 978-0-375-85809-3


How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?
Mary McNamara and G. Brian Karas See page 3 for ordering details


Sensational Science


Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth Mary McKenna Siddals: Illustrated by Ashley Wolff
GRADES PREK-2
PB: 978-0-385-75538-2
HC: 978-1-58246-316-2


11 Experiments That Failed Jenny Offill; Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter GRADES PREK-3
HC: 978-0-375-84762-2 GLB: 978-0-375-95762-8 EL: 978-0-375-98384-9


Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our
Backyard
Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld; Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont GRADES K-4
PB: 978-0-385-75364-7 HC: 978-0-517-70990-0


Water in the Park: A Book About Water and the Times of the
Day
Emily Jenkins;
Illustrated by
Stephanie Graegin
GRADES PREK-2
HC: 978-0-375-87002-6
GLB: 978-0-375-97002-3
EL: 978-0-375-98718-2

## PICTURE BOOK CLUSTERS coninued



The Apple Orchard Riddle
See page 3 for
ordering details


Secrets of the Seasons: Orbiting the Sun in Our Backyard Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld; Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont GRADES K-3
HC: 978-0-517-70994-8
GLB: 978-0-517-70995-5

Snazzy Seasons


Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit: A Book of Changing Seasons
Il Sung Na
GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: 450L
HC: 978-0-375-86786-6
EL: 978-0-375-98601-7


A Kitten Tale Eric Rohmann GRADES PREK-2
PB: 978-0-307-97774-8 HC: 978-0-517-70915-3


Sophie's Squash Pat Zietlow Miller; Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf GRADES PREK-2
HC: 978-0-307-97896-7 GLB: 978-0-307-97897-4 EL: 978-0-307-97898-1

Craft: Figurative Language \& Vocabulary/Context Clues
Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com


The Boy Who Loved Words
Roni Schotter:
Illustrated by
Giselle Potter
GRADES PREK-3
Lexile: AD780L
HC: 978-0-375-83601-5
EL: 978-0-307-98319-0

GRADES PREK-3
Lexile: AD540L
HC: 978-0-375-87086-6
EL: 978-0-307-97491-4

Rocket Writes a Story


## 

## Wordless Wonders

Teaching activities available at RHTeachersLibrarians.com

A Ball for Daisy
Chris Raschka
GRADES PREK-2
HC: 978-0-375-85861-1
GLB: 978-0-375-95861-8



Never Forgotten
Patricia C. McKissack; Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon
ALL GRADES
HC: 978-0-375-84384-6


How Rocket Learned
to Read
Tad Hills
GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: AD600L
HC: 978-0-375-85899-4
GLB: 978-0-375-95899-1
EL: 978-0-375-98922-3
-


Bluebird
Bob Staake
GRADES PREK-3
HC: 978-0-375-87037-8
GLB: 978-0-375-97038-2


Time Flies
Eric Rohmann
GRADES PREK-2
PB: 978-0-517-88555-0
HC: 978-0-517-59598-5


## BEGINNING AND EARLY READERS

Stock your classroom with Dr. Seuss Beginner Books! They are considered Text Exemplars by the Common Core State Standards, and teachers and students have been loving them for over 50 years. In 1957, Theodor Geisel, known to the world as Dr. Seuss, wrote a book called The Cat in the Hat. It was fun to read aloud, easy to read alone, and impossible to put down. From this magically right beginning came the concept of Beginner Books, exacting blends of words and pictures that encourage children to readall by themselves. Rich in sight words and humor, they are perfect for the classroom.


Are You My Mother?
P.D. Eastman
$\checkmark$ REPETITION
$\checkmark$ GOOD FOR PREDICTIONS
$\checkmark$ PUNCTUATION PRACTICE
A baby bird goes in search of his mother in this hilarious Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss.

GRADES K-1
An Appendix B Text
Exemplar Selection
F\&P: I
HC: 978-0-394-80018-9
GLB: 978-0-394-90018-6
EL: 978-0-375-98443-3

## Writing and Research: Informative/Explanatory Texts Activity

Please Explain . . . Why AREN'T You My Mother? Poor baby bird never receives an explanation as to why the other animals are not his mother. Read Are You My Mother? aloud to the students. Then have the students read the story again in pairs or groups, keeping a list of all the animals that baby bird mistakes for his mother. Students select one of the animals from their list to compare to baby bird. In their class or school library, students work in groups to research these two different animals. The class creates and fills in a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them. Then, with your guidance, students write an informative paragraph explaining to baby bird why the chosen animal CANNOT be baby bird's mother.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:
W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.
W.1.7: Participate in shared research and writing projects.

## Conventions \& Collaboration Activity

Are You My Mother? is a wonderfully approachable story for introducing students to end punctuation and capitalization. The teacher chooses and cuts out particular sentences from the book ending with exclamation points, question marks, and periods and gives each small group one of these scrambled sentences. Students work together in groups to unscramble their sentence and to place the correct punctuation. Each group reads their sentence aloud and the rest of the class gives a thumbs up if correct! Other groups assist if needed.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:
L.1.2: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
SL.I.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.


GRADES K-1
An Appendix B Text
Exemplar Selection
Lexile: 30L • F\&P: J
HC: 978-0-394-80016-5
GLB: 978-0-394-90016-2

## Key Details Activity

Sam can be very convincing! Read the story aloud modeling two distinctly different voices for Sam and the character in the black hat. Read aloud a second time, inviting students to read along sections with you. Suggest that they attempt to use two different voices for each character. Follow up reading by making a list with the class on all the different ways Sam tries to convince the other character to eat the green eggs and ham. How else could Sam have been persuasive? Have children make suggestions. Discuss what finally convinces him to taste it.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RL.1.1: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
RL.1.3: Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

## Writing: Opinion Piece Activity

Who likes trying new foods? Clearly not the main character in Green Eggs and Ham! After reading the book aloud as a whole class, brainstorm on the board in a web organizer why it is GOOD to taste new foods. Then do the same for why it is NOT GOOD to taste new foods. Using the notes from the board to support their opinions, students then write an opinion piece stating why they think kids should or should not try new foods.
(9) Correlates to Common Core State Standard: W.1.1: Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.

Also by Dr. Seuss:


The Cat in the Hat
GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: 260L • F\&P: J
HC: 978-0-394-80001-1
GLB: 978-0-394-90001-8


The Lorax GRADES 1-4
Lexile: 560L
HC: 978-0-394-82337-9
GLB: 978-0-394-92337-6


Horton Hears a Who! GRADES K-4
Lexile: 490L
HC: 978-0-394-80078-3
GLB: 978-0-394-90078-0


GRADES K-1
An Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection Lexile: 150L • F\&P: H HC: 978-0-394-80017-2
EL: 978-0-375-98686-4

## Informational Resources Activity

Put Me in the Zoo tenderly reminds students (and adults!) that every creatureanimal or human-is good at something. After reading the book aloud to the class, create a group list on the board of what the animal in the story is good at. Then watch several clips from the animal cameras at the San Diego Zoo and read nonfiction texts from your class or school library about those same animals' skills. Create group lists of each animal's talents. With your students, produce Welcome to the Zoo pamphlets that inform readers ("visitors") why these particular animals are so extraordinary.
http://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animal-cams-videos
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RI.1.10: With prompting and support, read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade 1 .
W.1.2: Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

## Using Picture Clues Activity

What are the characters feeling throughout the story? Create a class list of feeling words or provide one to your students. As you read the story aloud for the second time, draw students' attention to the illustrations throughout the book. Stop intermittently to look closely at the details in the pictures and the text. Ask students to describe how the characters are feeling based on these details. You can preface this or follow it up with a drama exercise where students change their facial expressions to convey different emotion.
(O) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RL.1.7: Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events. RL.1.4: Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

Also by Robert Lopshire:


I Want to Be Somebody
New!
GRADES PREK-2
HC: 978-0-394-87616-0
GLB: 978-0-394-97616-7
More Beginner Books:


Title to Come GRADES TK
HC: 000-0-000-00000-0
GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0


Title to Come
GRADES TK
HC: 000-0-000-00000-0
GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0

## BEGINNING AND EARLY READER BOOK CLUSTERS

By first grade, students should not only be reading literature across the subject areas, they should also be learning to recognize the difference between fiction and nonfiction (RL.1.5). The Step into Reading and Cat in the Hat's Learning Library books are a fun and engaging way to supplement your content teaching. And, teaching the original Magic Tree House books alongside the Magic Tree House Fact Tracker books is an excellent way to discuss the differences between books that tell stories and books that give information.

## Reading Success, Step by Step



Barack Obama: Out of Many, One Shana Corey; llustrated by James Bernardin GRADES K-3
Lexile: 480L - F\&P: M
PB: 978-0-375-86339-4


Corn Aplenty!
Dana Meachen Rau; Illustrated by Melissa Iwai GRADES PREK-1 PB: 978-0-375-85575-7



Dolphins!
Sharon Bokoske; Illustrated by Richard Courtney GRADES K-3
Lexile: 320L • F\&P: L PB: 978-0-679-84437-2 EL: 978-0-307-55570-0


S-S-snakes! Lucille Recht Penner; Illustrated by Peter Barrett
GRADES K-3
Lexile: 510L • F\&P: L PB: 978-0-679-84777-9 EL: 978-0-385-37451-4

StepintoReading.com




Tentacles!: Tales of the Giant Squid Shirley Raye Redmond; Illustrated by Bryn Barnard GRADES K-3 Lexile: 590L PB: 978-0-375-81307-8


Is A Camel A Mammal?: All About Mammals
HC: 978-0-679-87302-0


Fine Feathered Friends: All About Birds
HC: 978-0-679-88362-3


Oh Say Can You Say Di-No-Saur?: All About Dinosaurs HC: 978-0-679-89114-7


On Beyond Bugs!: All About Insects HC: 978-0-679-87303-7


Wish For A Fish: All About Sea Creatures
HC: 978-0-679-89116-1


There's No Place Like Space! All About Our Solar System
HC: 978-0-679-89115-4 GLB: 978-0-679-99115-1

Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce
Setup line TKTKTK to address using MTH to transition from early reader to chapter books Teachers.MagicTreeHouse.com MTHClassroomAdventures.org

GRADES 1-4
FICTION


Dinosaurs
Before Dark
Lexile: 240L • F\&P: M PB: 978-0-679-82411-4 HC: 978-0-375-86988-4 GLB: 978-0-37-596988-1 EL: 978-0-375-98716-8


Dinosaurs
Lexile: 690L • F\&P: M PB: 978-0-375-80296-6 GLB: 978-0-375-90296-3
EL: 978-0-449-81 174-0



Mummies in the Morning
Lexile: 230L • F\&P: M PB: 978-0-679-82424-4 GLB: 978-0-679-92424-1 EL: 978-0-375-89420-6


Mummies and Pyramids
Lexile: 650L • F\&P: M PB: 978-0-375-80298-0 GLB: 978-0-375-90298-7 EL: 978-0-307-97515-7

| Title | Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 | HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 |
| GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 | GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 |


| Title | Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 | HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 |
| GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 | GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 |


| Title | Title |
| :--- | :--- |
| HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 | HC: 000-0-000-00000-0 |
| GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 | GLB: 000-0-000-00000-0 |

## CHAPTER BOOKS

Chapter books are great to read aloud, great to read together and great to assign as independent reading. The ideal chapter book for the classroom is one that works well in all three of those situations. Even better is when it is one of a series or has follow up companion novels to recommend once the student has fallen in love with it!


GRADES 2-3
An Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection Lexile: 990L • F\&P: N PB: 978-0-440-42121-4

## Craft: Structure Activity

While students read the novel, My Father's Dragon is a captivating adventure story that is simply perfect for young readers. The plot is accessible but thrilling, silly but earnest. This is a great teachable book! As students read independently, provide them with your favorite graphic organizer that teaches structure, guiding students to identify the beginning, middle and end of the story. Encourage students to fill in the graphic organizer as they read with specific details from the text. Ask your students to use their notes to write an opinion paragraph stating which of Elmer's obstacles is his most challenging and why.

O Correlates to Common Core State Standards:
RL.2.5: Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
W.2.1: Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words to connect opinion reasons, and provide a concluding statement or section.

## Writing: Narratives Activity

While students read the novel, focus their attention on the items Elmer packs in his travel bag and how he uses them throughout his adventure. You might have students predict what Elmer could possibly need these things for during his travels. After the students finish the novel, assign them to write one more obstacle for Elmer. Have them select one additional every day item to add to Elmer's bag and a new animal that Elmer will encounter and give it to on the island. Guide students in writing a short narrative piece in which they tell how this item will save Elmer from the animal.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standard:
W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

## Also by <br> Ruth Stiles Gannett:



The Dragons of Blueland GRADES 3-7
Lexile: 810L • F\&P: L
PB: 978-0-440-42137-5


Elmer and the Dragon
GRADES 3-7
Lexile: 800L • F\&P: M
PB: 978-0-440-42136-8
MY FAITERS DRGGON


Three Tales of My Father's Dragon GRADES 3-7
Lexile: 910L
HC: 978-0-679-88911-3
EL: 978-0-307-97648-2


GRADES 2-3
An Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection
Lexile: 520L • F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-394-82892-3
EL: 978-0-307-80119-7

## Reading for Information Activity

Throughout the stories, Julian and his brother and friends cook, garden and make crafts. Supplement the reading of these stories with informational texts that guide your students to engage in similar activities. Print a recipe for a meal that your students can prepare during class, share excerpts on different flowers and instructions for planting them, and provide directions to a craft kite project that the students can complete on their own. For each activity, focus the students' attention on headings, bold or italicized print, and other text features and discuss the main purpose of each text. Have the students list the steps they need to follow in each procedure before engaging in the activity.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standard: R1.3.3: Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

## Craft: Figurative Language Activity

While Julian, his brother and his father cook together, the figurative language bursts out of the story! Let's help your students pull the examples out of the book and fry them in your Figurative Language Frying Pan. After reading pages 1-2 aloud to the class, define figurative language, and identify examples together. Then have students work in groups to continue pulling out more examples of figurative language (i.e., similes, imagery) while reading collectively. Place an actual frying pan in the middle of the room. Direct students to write their example with the page number, tear it from their paper, toss it into the frying pan and continue searching for more. When your pan is full, read the examples aloud and discuss how these examples strengthen and "heat up" the writing.
(a) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:

RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
L.3.5: Demonstrate understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Also by Anne Cameron:


Julian, Dream Doctor
GRADES 1-4
Lexile: 480L • F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-679-80524-3
EL: 978-0-307-80019-0


Julian, Secret Agent GRADES 1-4
Lexile: 460L - F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-394-81949-5
EL: 978-0-307-80017-6


More Stories Julian Tells GRADES 1-4
Lexile: 430L • F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-394-82454-3
EL: 978-0-307-80184-5

## CHAPTER BOOK CLUSTERS

The importance of reading multiple books by the same author or reading books in a series is highlighted in the CCSS for third graders. The standards call for students to compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (RL.3.9). Below are titles that are perfect for this age group, and have become teacher and student favorites over the years.

## STEPPING STONES

chapter books

A ${ }^{\circ}$ ZMysiteries
Ron Roy; Illustrated by John Steven Gurney GRADES 1-4


Ron Roy; Illustrated by Liza Woodruff GRADES 1-4


David A. Kelly; Illustrated by Mark Meyers GRADES 1-4


The Absent Author
F\&P: N
PB: 978-0-679-88168-1
GLB: 978-0-679-98168-8
EL: 978-0-307-51012-9


Who Cloned the President?
Lexile: 340L • F\&P: N
PB: 978-0-307-26510-4
EL: 978-0-307-54924-2


The Fenway Foul-up PB: 978-0-375-86703-3 GLB: 978-0-375-96703-0 EL: 978-0-375-89816-7


The Bald Bandit Lexile: 470L • F\&P: N PB: 978-0-679-88449-1 GLB: 978-0-679-98449-8 EL: 978-0-307-51373-1


Kidnapped at the Capital
Lexile: 500L • F\&P: N PB: 978-0-307-26514-2 EL: 978-0-307-53518-4

The Pinstripe Ghost PB: 978-0-375-86704-0 GLB: 978-0-375-96704-7 EL: 978-0-375-89817-4


Mysteries
Ron Roy; Illustrated by John Steven Gurney GRADES 1-4



January Joker
Lexile: 380L
PB: 978-0-375-85661-7
GLB: 978-0-375-95661-4 EL: 978-0-307-77169-8


Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly
Bus
F\&P: M
PB: 978-0-679-82642-2
HC: 978-0-679-92642-9
EL: 978-0-307-75484-4


Cookies and

## Crutches

Lexile: 370L•F\&P: L
PB: 978-0-440-40010-3
EL: 978-0-307-77884-0


February Friend
Lexile: 470L
PB: 978-0-375-85662-4
GLB: 978-0-375-95662-1 EL: 978-0-307-77170-4


Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey

## Business

F\&P: M
PB: 978-0-679-83886-9
GLB: 978-0-679-93886-6
EL: 978-0-307-75477-6


Camp Ghost-Away
Lexile: 380L • F\&P: L
PB: 978-0-440-40062-2
EL: 978-0-307-77885-7

## CHAPTER BOOK CLUSTERS



Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things Lexile: 570L•F\&P: Q PB: 978-0-375-84930-5 HC: 978-0-375-83914-6 EL: 978-0-375-84965-7


Nate the Great Lexile: 130L • F\&P: K PB: 978-0-440-46126-5 HC: 978-0-385-73017-4 EL: 978-0-385-37229-9


Lucy Rose: Here's the Thing About Me F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-440-42026-2
EL: 978-0-307-53798-0


Big Whopper
Lexile: 300L
PB: 978-0-553-49469-3 HC: 978-0-385-74688-5 GLB: 978-0-385-90926-6 EL: 978-0-375-89636-1

ZIGZAG•KIDS
Patricia Reilly Giff; Illustrated by Alasdair Bright GRADES 3-7


## Number One Kid

Lexile: 230L
PB: 978-0-553-49468-6 HC: 978-0-385-74687-8 EL: 978-0-375-89635-4

Lenore Look; Illustrated by LeUyen Pham GRADES 2-5


Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters
Lexile: 600L • F\&P: Q PB: 978-0-375-85750-8 EL: 978-0-375-85393-7


Nate the Great Goes Undercover Lexile: 300L • F\&P: K PB: 978-0-440-46302-3 EL: 978-0-385-37679-2


Lucy Rose:
Big on Plans
F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-440-42027-9
EL: 978-0-307-53797-3


Katy Kelly; Illustrated by Gillian Johnson GRADES 3-7 by Adam Rex GRADES 3-7
(alvin Coconut
Graham Salisbury GRADES 3-7


Kate Klimo; Illustrated by John Shroades GRADES 3-7 Sharmat; Illustrated by Marc Simont GRADES 1-4


Katy Kelly; Illustrated


Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet
F\&P: O
PB: 978-0-375-84600-7
EL: 978-0-375-89393-3


The Dragon in the Sock Drawer
Lexile: 680L
PB: 978-0-375-85588-7 HC: 978-0-375-85587-0 GLB: 978-0-375-95587-7 EL: 978-0-375-89246-2


Melonhead
Lexile: 620L • F\&P: S
PB: 978-0-440-42187-0
HC: 978-0-385-73409-7
EL: 978-0-375-89192-2


Kate the Great
Except When

## She's Not

HC: 978-0-385-38742-2 GLB: 978-0-385-38743-9 EL: 978-0-385-38744-6

## INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Diversify your classroom library with informational books from which you can pull excerpts to supplement your teaching. Students can also use them as references during their own independent research or free reading. These are great books to use across your subject areas.


GRADES 2-3
An Appendix B Text Exemplar Selection Lexile: 1150L HC: 978-1-58246-246-2

What the World Eats<br>Faith D'Aluisio, Photography by Peter Menzel

$\checkmark$ EXCELLENT SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCE
$\checkmark$ RICH IN A VARIETY OF ILLUSTRATIONS/MAPS/CHARTS
$\checkmark$ CROSSES ALL DISCIPLINES
To find out how mealtime is changing in real homes, authors Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio visited families around the world to observe and photograph what they eat during the course of one week. They watched moms making dinner in kitchens and over cooking fires, and they sat down to eat with twenty-five families in twentyone countries-if you're keeping track, that's about 525 meals!

## Supplemental Reading

This book is an amazing supplemental resource. You can use it in an innumerable amount of ways. When reading a novel about another culture with your students, refer to this book to provide background knowledge. When creating a unit on food or health, use sections of this book (i.e. Fast Food) to enrich the conversation. Bring the charts, tables, maps and stunning photos into your curriculum to exercise skills associated with reading informational texts. Use it to strengthen compare/contrast and categorizing skills. Make it available to students to simply enjoy looking through. It is a must-have book for your class library.

## Informative Writing Activity

Students love to write about their own lives! What the World Eats is a perfect medium to help students take a look at their own food stories. After reading and looking closely at several of the portraits from the book, have students create their own "Family Food Portraits". Students should model their portraits after the ones in the book. As part of their portraits have students write an informative piece that examines some of their families' healthy and unhealthy food habits and any changes they might want to make in the future. Follow up the assignment by having a family food celebration where students share their portraits and taste each other's family recipes.
(9) Correlates to Common Core State Standards:
W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
L.3.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
SL.3.4: Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Pair with:


Andrew Zimmern's Bizarre World of Food: Brains, Bugs, and Blood Sausage GRADES 3-7
Lexile: 1220L
PB: 978-0-385-74004-3
HC: 978-0-385-74003-6 EL: 978-0-375-89870-9



GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: 440L
PB: 978-0-385-24469-5
HC: 978-0-385-13181-0

People<br>Peter Spier<br>$\checkmark$ CROSSES DISCIPLINES<br>$\checkmark$ MULTI-CULTURAL CONTENT<br>$\checkmark$ ART

"A wonderful introduction to a global view that will answer and arouse curiosity in the young and act as an absorbing reminder for any age."
-School Library Journal

## Supplemental Reading

This book is another example of an amazing supplemental resource. It is an ideal fit for either a unit on diversity or on the other end of the spectrum, an "All About Me" unit. As Spier writes, there are "More than 6,000,000,000 people. . . . and no two of them alike!" Take out excerpts to use to supplement your other reading. What different types of clothes do people from around the world wear? What do the alphabets from different languages look like? How might a home in Holland compare to one in Bolivia? This book is not only full of information about the differences between people, it is also a celebration of those differences. A beautiful book. A gift to your students.

## Identifying Purpose Activity

What better way to help your students appreciate their own uniqueness than through a study of diversity. Read People with your students, pausing throughout to appreciate the uniqueness of the people and cultures represented on the page. Focus the students' attention on the last two pages of the book and discuss how the text and illustrations emphasize Peter Spier's point that the world is a better place because every person is unique. Follow this up by having the students create a class quilt art project. Provide each student with the same size poster paper (i.e. $4 \times 4$ piece of white cardboard or construction paper) and have them draw their eye, just as in the book. Sew or tape the pieces together to make a poster quilt. You can also do a class quilt of noses, or hair or houses. Use these as room decoration and discuss how the purpose of this activity mirrors that of the book.

O Correlates to Common Core State Standard: RI.2.6: Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain or describe.

Also by Peter Spier:


The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night GRADES PREK-2
Caldecott Medal PB: 978-0-440-40829-1 HC: 978-0-375-97207-2


Noah's Ark GRADES PREK-2
Caldecott Medal PB: 978-0-440-40693-8
HC: 978-0-385-
09473-3


Peter Spier's Circus GRADES PREK-3
PB: 978-0-440-40935-9
EL: 978-0-307-98288-9


The Star-Spangled Banner GRADES PREK-2 PB: 978-0-440-40697-6 HC: 978-0-385-37618-1 GLB: 978-0-375-97209-6


We the People GRADES K-4
HC: 978-0-385-37617-4 GLB: 978-0-375-97208-9

## INFORMATIONAL BOOK CLUSTERS

Below are more titles that you can use when teaching across content areas. These books provide you with texts from which you can exercise your students understanding of general academic and domain-specific words (RI.3.4), of text features to locate information (RI.3.5) and of included illustrations such as maps and photographs (RI.3.7), among other Common Core standards.

Codrry
GRADES PREK-2


Best Lowly Worm Book Ever!
HC: 978-0-385-38782-8
EL: 978-0-385-38783-5


Richard Scarry's Busy Busy Town
HC: 978-0-307-16803-0


Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever
HC: 978-0-307-15510-8


Richard Scarry's What Do People Do All Day? HC: 978-0-394-81823-8


Me and My Amazing Body
Lexile: NC710L
PB: 978-0-375-80623-0


The Busy Body Book:
A Kid's Guide to Fitness Lizzy Rockwell GRADES PREK-2
Lexile: 680L
PB: 978-0-553-11374-7
HC: 978-0-375-82203-2
EL: 978-0-307-79342-3


Me on the Map
Lexile: 280L
PB: 978-0-517-88557-4


Me Counting Time
Lexile: 170L
PB: 978-0-440-41751-4


Me and My Family Tree
Lexile: 160L
PB: 978-0-517-88597-0


Me and My Place
in Space
Lexile: 570L
PB: 978-0-517-88590-1



## INTEGRATE

# COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS 

## WITH RANDOM HOUSE RESOURCES

## Classroom-Ready Educator Guides Available at RHTecchersLibraricins.com/Gommoncore



