

# Make Every Book Count!

## The Best Picture Books for Teaching Readers and Writers

[www.mariawalther.com](http://www.mariawalther.com)    [maria\\_walther@ipeds.org](mailto:maria_walther@ipeds.org)    Twitter: @mariapwalther

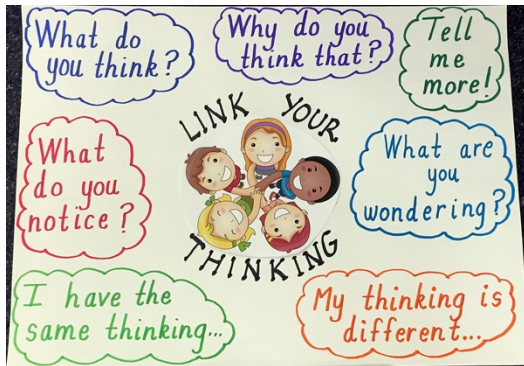
Note about Teaching Ideas References:

- T. L. T. = *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards* (Walther, 2015)
- M-by-M Reading = *Month-by-Month Reading for the Differentiated Classroom* (Walther & Phillips, 2012)
- M-by-M Writing = *Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction* (Walther & Phillips, 2009)
- Poetry = *Teaching Struggling Readers With Poetry* (Walther & Fuhler, 2010)
- L. I. B. = *Literature Is Back!* (Fuhler & Walther, 2007)

Swanson, M. (2017). *Everywhere, wonder.* (R. Behr, Illus.). New York: Imprint.

Through the magic of reading, a boy is transported to breathtaking locations around the world. Then, back in his neighborhood he takes time to wonder about commonplace occurrences in his everyday life. Finally, he uses what he has learned from these experiences to write a story to share with the world.

**Teaching Ideas:** Launching Writing Workshop; Ideas



### MENTOR TEXTS FOR READERS

#### Identify Feelings and Emotions

Dyckman, A. (2016). *Horrible bear!* (Z. O'Hara, Illus.). New York: Little, Brown.

A red-headed girl gets VERY upset and yells at bear when he accidentally breaks her kite. Bear is "indignant" and plots to get her back. Use this book when discussing how to work out misunderstandings with peers.

**Teaching Ideas:** Read Like a Writer; Three Read Aloud Words: *indignant, barged, ruckus* (See M-by-M Reading p. 15-16)

**BOOK TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjZ6MMbxof4&index=2&list=PL88D35C15FBEBDFE7>

| Read Alouds about Feelings/Emotions                          |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Theo's Moods</i> (Cocca-Leffler, 2013)                    | <i>Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods That Make My Day</i> (Curtis, 2007) |
| <i>The Way I Feel</i> (Cain, 2000)                           | <i>Walther Was Worried</i> (Seeger, 2006)                                 |
| <i>How Are You Peeling: Foods With Moods</i> (Freyman, 1999) |   |
| <i>It's Not Fair</i> (Rosenthal, 2008)                       |   |

## Infer Characters' Feelings: Strengthen Students' Social Imagination

Ko, S. (2015). *A dog wearing shoes*. New York: Random House.

Mini finds a lost dog wearing little yellow shoes and desperately wants to keep him until he runs away. After finding him at the animal shelter, she realizes how much his owner must miss him and works to reunite them. Will Mini adopt her own dog from the shelter?

**Teaching Ideas:** Pets; Animal Shelters; Making Thoughtful Decisions; Inferring Big Ideas (See M-by-M Reading p. 186)

Cornwall, G. (2017). *Jabari jumps*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

Jabari has finished his swimming lessons, passed his swimming test and is ready to jump off the high dive, or is he? Something always seems to stop him—he has just eaten lunch, he can't decide which dive to do, or he needs to do some stretches. Finally, with encouragement from his dad, he is ready to "take the plunge."

**Teaching Ideas:** Inferring Characters' Feelings; Pair with *Nope! A Tale of First Flight* (Sheneman, 2017)

Sheneman, D. (2017). *Nope! A tale of first flight*. New York: Viking.

In this nearly wordless book, a young bird and lives with his mama in a tall, tall tree. Afraid to fly, the bird imagines all kinds of dangers below until his mother lovingly gives him the nudge he needs to fly.

**Teaching Ideas:** Nearly Wordless Picture Books (See Revved-Up p. TBD; TLT p. 127); Pair with *Jabari Jumps* (Cornwall, 2017)

## Cultivate Connections

| Read Alouds about Bullying and Standing Up for Others                            |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Bully</i> (Seeger, 2013)  | <i>The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade</i> (Roberts, 2014) |
| <i>Chester Raccoon and the Big Bad Bully</i> (Penn, 2009) *This is OK, not great | <i>Stick and Stone</i> (Ferry, 2015)                           |
| <i>Peanut Butter and Jellyfish</i> (Krosoczka, 2014)                             | <i>Two of a Kind</i> (Robbins, 2009)                           |
| <i>The Recess Queen</i> (O'Neill, 2002)  | <i>Yoon and the Jade Bracelet</i> (Recorvits, 2008)            |
| <i>Say Something</i> (Moss, 2008)  |  |

Kraegel, K. (2017). *Green pants*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

Jameson only wears green pants. In fact, he believes that wearing green pants gives him the power to do just about anything. When his cousin's fiancée, Jo, who he adores, invites him to be in their wedding he enthusiastically agrees. Then, his mother informs him he will have to wear a tuxedo with black pants. He eventually agrees after seeing Jo's excitement about her big day.

**Teaching Ideas:** Making Meaningful Connections; Decision Making and Social Skills

**BOOK TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n30YO7XAGSs>

## Study Story Elements

Reynolds, A. (2017). *Creepy pair of underwear!* (P. Brown, Illus.). New York: Simon & Schuster.

Older and braver, Jasper Rabbit from the book *Creepy Carrots* (2012) is back. When shopping for underwear, he convinces his unwilling mom to buy him one pair of Creepy Underwear. When he discovers that they glow in the dark, he makes many attempts to get rid of them but they keep coming back. After burying the underwear deep underground, he realizes that their "gentle, greenish glow" helped him sleep. What do you predict he will do next?

**Teaching Ideas:** Predicting (See M-by-M Reading p. 116-119)

Jarvis. (2016). *Alan's big, scary teeth*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick.

Alan the alligator is best known for scaring with his "razor-sharp" teeth. Find out what happens when the animals discover Alan's secret—his teeth are fake.

**BOOK TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTVaTrfzGNE>

**Teaching Idea:** Pair with *Grandpa's Teeth* (Clement, 1999)

## MENTOR TEXTS FOR WRITERS

### Dig into Book Design

Byrne, R. (2014). *This book just ate my dog!* New York: Holt.

When Bella takes her dog for a "stroll across the page," he disappears into the gutter of the book along with her friend, the rescue squad, and Bella herself. Quick-thinking Bella writes a note to the readers telling them to shake the book and get everyone out.

**Teaching Ideas:** *Parts of a Book—Gutter* (See morning message in *M-by-M Reading* p. 40); *Reading-Writing Connection*

Rubin, A. (2015). *Robo-sauce*. (D. Salmieri, Illus.). New York: Dial.

**BOOK TRAILER:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivQ2CQt93rs>

McDonnell, P. (2016). *Tek: The modern cave boy*. New York: Little, Brown.

Much to his parents' and friends' chagrin, Tek refuses to leave his cave and all of his electronic gadgets until a volcano explodes and he is disconnected. Outside of his cave, Tek discovers friendship and "THE BIG BEAUTIFUL WORLD."

**Teaching Ideas:** *Create a text set with Doug Unplugged* (Yaccarino, 2013) and *Hello! Hello!* (Cordell, 2012); *Inferring Big Ideas—Technology vs. The Real World*

### Make Little Books

LaRochelle, D. (2012). *It's a Tiger!* (J. Tankard, Illus.). San Francisco, CA: Chronicle.

Begin reading this boldly illustrated picture book on the front flap and continue to read, notice, and laugh at the young narrator's adventures as he narrowly escapes a tiger again and again!

**Teaching Ideas:** *Read Like a Writer; Little Books* (See T. L. T. pp. 65-67)

Fan, T., & Fan, E. (2016). *The night gardener*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

William lives in an orphanage on downtrodden Grimloch Lane. One morning he wakes to a surprise topiary created by the night gardener. Each day, a new topiary appears bringing hope and happiness to the townsfolk.

**Teaching Idea:** *Use illustrations to describe characters, settings, and events* (See T.L.T. p. 127)

Hadfield, C., & Fillion, K. (2016). *The darkest dark*. (The Fan Brothers, Illus.) New York: Little Brown.

**BOOK TRAILER:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4\\_Jp2CibUR4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_Jp2CibUR4)

Petty, D. (2017). *Claymates*. (L. Eldridge, Illus.). New York: Little, Brown.

A gray and a brown blob of clay sit waiting in an artist's studio. Soon, the sculpture enters and creates a wolf and an owl respectively. Once she leaves, the blobs of clay decide to have a little fun and transform themselves, and each other, into different creatures and objects. *Claymates* is playful, imaginative, and hilarious. Your students will want a blob of clay after reading this book.

**Teaching Ideas: Creativity; Inspiration for Maker Space; Speech Bubbles**

**BOOK TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsalx6qsAxc&t=5s>**

Magruder, N. (2016). *How to find a fox*. New York: Feiwel and Friends.

Do you know how to find a fox? In this book, a girl shows readers exactly how to find a sly fox but doesn't notice that he is hiding in plain sight on almost every page.

**Teaching Ideas: Using Illustrations to Describe Characters, Settings, and Events (See T. L. T. pp 127-128); Writing a "How to" Piece**

Arnold, M. D. (2015). *Lost. Found.* (M. Cordell, Illus.). New York: Disney/Hyperion.

Bear's red scarf gets lost in the woods. Each woodland animal that finds the scarf uses it for a different purpose. In the end, the scarf is returned to Bear by his newfound friends.

**Teaching Ideas: Inferring Big Ideas—Friendship (See M-by-M Reading p. 186); Pattern Books—See-Saw Pattern (TLT p. 144), Pair with *The Hat* (Brett, 1997)**

Mack, J. (2013). *AH HA!* San Francisco, CA: Chronicle.

Frog is relaxing in the pond (AAHH!) when he finds a rock (AH HA!). Close behind there is a boy with a jar poised to catch him (AH HA!) and the chase begins. Using only four letters, Jeff Mack tells a rollicking tale.

**Teaching Ideas: Read Like a Writer; Fluency/Expression—Using illustrations to infer how to read the text**

## PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Biggs-Tucker, K., & Tucker, B. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, 3-5*. Scholastic.

Fuhler, C. J., & Walther, M. P. (2007). *Literature Is Back! Using the Best Books for Teaching Readers and Writers Across Genres*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. (In Press). *The Revved-Up Read Aloud: What to Notice as You Turn the Page*. Corwin.

Walther, M. P. (2015). *Transforming Literacy Teaching in the Era of Higher Standards, K-2*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. & Biggs-Tucker, K. (In Press). *Blurring the Lines: An Integrated Reading and Writing Workshop*. Stenhouse.

Walther, M. P., & Fuhler, C. J. (2010). *Teaching Struggling Readers with Poetry: Engaging Poems With Mini-Lessons That Target & Teach Phonics, Sight Words, Fluency & More—Laying the Foundation for Reading Success*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. P., & Phillips, K. A. (2009). *Month-by-Month Trait-Based Writing Instruction*. Scholastic.

Walther, M. P., & Phillips, K. A. (2012). *Month-by-Month Reading Instruction for the Differentiated Classroom*. Scholastic.