

Teachers Working Together : Books to Read Aloud

TGIF Question on Teaching Resources Facebook page: March 12 2010

When teachers work together and share ideas, they rock the educational world! This chart was compiled by Shauna Nero and based on the responses to a question Laura Candler posted on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TeachingResources): What's one of your favorite read-aloud books and why do you like it ? Shauna has compiled the responses and organized them loosely by grade level preferences. Thanks Shauna!

TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE(S)	WHY ?
Can't You Sleep Little Bear?	Martin Waddell	PS	Rhythm and predictability
The Very Cranky Bear	Nick Bland	PS-K	Rhyming, kids can fill in the words at the end of each page, everyone is special
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Bill Martin Jr.	PS-1	Letter identification
Is Your Mama a Llama?	Deborah Guarino	PS-1	Rhyme recognition and alliteration
Skippyjon Jones series	Judy Schachner	PS-3	Learn about 'far away places', incorporating Spanish, rhythm
Diary of a Wombat	Jackie French	K-2	Repetition
The Mitten	Jan Brett	K-4	Prediction
Yo! Yes?	Chris Raschka	K-Primary	Simple text but can work on: punctuation, inflection, fluency, friendship, emotions like loneliness, curiosity, fear of rejection, and hopefulness, to finally, joy, and onomatopoei
I Stink	Kate McMullan	K-Primary	Genre: fantasy; series can be used in Community Helpers
On the Night You Were Born	Nancy Tillman	K-Primary	Good read for birthdays
Imagine	Alison Lester	K-Primary	
Henry and The Buccaneer Bunnies	Carolyn Crimi	K-Primary	Pirate theme, good vocabulary
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (or anything by Kevin Henkes)	Kevin Henkes	1-3	Character traits; character analysis, author study (students can relate)
Chester/Chester's Back	Melanie Watt	1-3	Students can write their own versions of the story
Grouchy Ladybug	Eric Carle	Early primary	Activity: act out the characters using felt characters and cardboard clock, Math unit on time
Thank You Mr. Falker	Patricia Polacco	2+	Realistic fiction, students can identify with
Mrs. Piggy Wiggle	Betty Macdonald	2+	Kids see their own battles with grown-ups
Up North at the Cabin	Marsha Wilson	2-6	Metacognition, vivid descriptions for descriptive writing
Gooney Bird Greene	Lois Lowry	2	Supports 6 traits writing
Matilda	Roald Dahl	2	Descriptive writing
The Seekers	Erin Hunt	3	Descriptive language

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The Crayon Box That Talked	Shane DeRolf	3 (early Primary)	Getting along/diversity
Walter the Farting Dog series	William Kotzwinkle	Primary	Sequencing activities; drama
Charlotte's Web	EB White	Primary	Classic
Trouble with Trolls	Jan Brett	Primary	Folk Tale
Something from Nothing	Phoebe Gilman	Primary	Piecing together the 2 parts of the story
Mrs. Spitzer's Garden	Edith Pattou	3	Mystery
Officer Buckle and Gloria	Peggy Rathmann	3	Message about friendship, safety tips
That Chickadee Feeling	Frank Glew	3-4	Making inferences and connections
Owls in the Family	Farley Mowatt	3-4	
Horrid Henry	Francesca Simon	3-4	For 'particularly robust boys'
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl	3-4	Respect
Roxy and the Hooligans	Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	3-4	
The Wizard of Oz	Frank Baum	3-5	Classic (compare movie to book)
Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio	Peg Kerhert	3-5	Autobiographical account of growing up with polio
Bunnicula	James Howe	3-5	Students know what is going to happen next
Hank Zipzer series	Henry Winkler	3-5	Learning about a student with a learning disability
The City of Ember	Jeanne DuPrau	3-6	Genre: science fiction Unit on electricity
Wayside School series	Louis Sachar	3-5	Character studies: pick a student they want to 'become'
The Top Ten Ways to Ruin the 5th Grade	Ken Durby	3-5	New school year; realistic fiction
Oggie Cooder	Sarah Weeks	3-5	
The Thief of Always	Clive Barker	3-7	Descriptive language (can be difficult go slow); Theme: seasons
The Lorax	Dr. Seuss	3-7	Research on resources and conservation
How I Became a Pirate	Melinda Long	4	Pirates are popular!; Creative writing, mapping skills, sequencing

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The Lightning Thief	Rick Riordan	4	Greek myths; Theme: diversity
Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing	Judy Blume	4	Students can predict from the names of each chapter; character analysis
Orphan Train Rider – One Boy’s True Story	Andrea Warren	4	Non-fiction story; Author’s purpose, text organization, character traits
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Judi Barret	4+	Story grammar, setting, importance of weather in setting
Sisters Grimm	Michael Buckley	4+	Fantasy genre based on fairy tales
Chasing Vermeer	Blue Balliett	4+	Mystery and art; good follow-up activities
Because of Winn Dixie	Kate DiCamillo	4+	Model for not judging people/unlikely friendships
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	4-5	
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	4-5	Visualizing, figurative language; divorce
Tales of Despereaux	Kate DiCamillo	4-5	Opportunity for different voices; Interesting vocab, vivid imagery
Walk Two Moons	Sharon Creech	4-5	Inferencing, vivid language, metaphors, surprise ending, mini research on US landmarks Themes: loss, journey, friendship, self-awareness
The Astonishing Journey of Teddy Bodain	Melissa Forney	4-5	Historical fiction; 130 days with corresponding activities/writing instruction
The BFG	Roald Dahl	4-5	Inventive language, Theme: friendship, doing what is right
Frindle	Andrew Clements	4-5	Kids can make a difference
Esperanza Rising	Pam Munoz Rising	4-6	What’s really important: riches VS family, new culture
The War with Grandpa	Robert Kimmel Smith	4-6	Realistic fiction personal narrative; Theme: Peer pressure, respect and compassion
Once	Morris Gleitzmann	4-6	WW2 and learn about the Nazis
Maniac Magee	Jerry Spinelli	4-6	Figurative language; tolerance & acceptance
Kensuke’s Kingdom	Michael Mordugo	4-6	Modern-day island survival
The School Story	Andrew Clements	4-6	Unit on voice, writing process

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Holes	Louis Sachar	4-6	Tolerance/racism
I Wanna Go Home	Gordon Korman	4-6	
Haunting of Hawthorne	Anne Schraff	4-7	Surprise ending, difficult vocab
Fox	Margaret Wild	4-8	A picture book with twisting text, allegory about betrayal and loyalty
Harris & Me	Gary Paulsen	5	Great for boys and girls, warn about language
No Talking	Andrew Clements	5	Communication
Bud, Not Buddy	Christopher Paul Curtis	5	Learning about sarcasm
Walker of Time trilogy	Helen Hughes	5	Book 1: Introduction to characters Book 2/3: Simultaneous stories about the 2 main characters
Nightmare at the Book Fair	Dan Gutman	5	
Report to the Principal's Office/Wringer	Jerry Spinelli	5	Students identify with the protagonist
Swindle	Gordon Korman	5	
David and Max	Gail Levine Provost	5	Story about a boy and his grandfather (makes weepy)
Becoming Naomi Leon	Pam Munoz Ryan	5	A girl finding her voice
Land of the Lawn Weenies	David Lubar	5-6	Weird short stories
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie Babbitt	5-6	
Hoot	Carl Hiasasen	5+	Trying to fit in
The Graveyard Book Author reading this on tour: http://www.mousecircus.com/videoour.aspx	Neil Gaiman	5-Middle	Character lists
Canyons	Gary Paulsen	5-8	Historical & realistic fiction: 2 characters connected through time
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson Rawls	Upper Elementary	Classic

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Everlost	Neal Shusterman	6	Suspense; discussion starter on predictions
Written in Bone	Sally M. Walker	6-8	Non-fiction
The Million Dollar Series	Dan Gutman	Junior & Intermediate	Shot, kick, put, goal
The Math Curse	Jon Scieszka	7	Math & Halloween
Egghead	Caroline Pignat	7-8	Social issues, bullying
The House of the Scorpion	Nancy Famer	7-8	Get boys interested: sci-fi, futuristic, raises questions
The Giver	Lois Lowry	7-8	
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas	John Boyne	7-8	
Touching Spirit Bear	Ben Mikaelson	Middle	Bullying
The Breadwinner trilogy	Deborah Ellis	Middle	Realistic fiction about a girl in Afghanistan, very current can help to explain our world today
Three Cups of Tea	Greg Mortensen	Middle	A good connection to the Breadwinner trilogy
Number the Stars	Lois Lowry	Middle	Good book to teach about Holocaust
Freak the Mighty/Max the Mighty	Rodman Philbrick	Middle	
Escaping the Giant Wave	Peg Kehret	Middle	Surviving an earthquake, a tsunami and a bully
The Power of Un	Nancy Etchemendy	Middle	Fantasy
Zach's Lie	Roland Smith	Middle	Realistic fiction
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	John Steptoe	All ages	Folk tale with good message
Henry's Awful Mistake	Robert Quackenbush	All ages	Short read about lessons for everyone
The Night I Followed the Dog	Nina Laden	All grades	Creative writing, mapping skills, sequencing
Charlie Anderson	Barbara Abercrombie	All ages	Unit on questioning
Big Plans	Bob Shea		Students can make their own 'Big Plans' as follow up assignment
The Miraculous Journey of Edward	Kate DiCamillo		Fairy tale/fantasy

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Tulane			
I Wanna Iguana	Karen Kaufman Orloff		Persuasive writing; prediction
My Teacher is an Alien	Bruce Coville		Great book to start off a new year – eases tension
Owl Moon	Jane Yolen		Realistic fiction picture book; writers workshop on adj. & descriptions
Mill on the Floss	George Eliot		Gives inspiration
Enemy Pie	Derek Munson		Conflict/resolution
The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles	Julie Andrews Edwards		Fantasy and helping develop imagination Activities: draw pics as teacher reads; make scrappy caps, write letters to the author
The Watson’s Go to Birmingham	Christopher Paul Curtis		Civil Rights movement, blends factual and fictional info from 1963
The Giving Tree	Shel Silverstein		Timeless classic
Sarah Plain and Tall	Patricia Maclachlan		Historical fiction
Fighting Ground	Avi		
Trapped in Ice	Eric Walter		Suspense, historical fiction
The Capture	Kathryn Lasky		Animal fantasy
Parts, More Parts, and Even More Parts	Tedd Arnold		Teaching idioms
The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit	Susan Lowell		
The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey	Susan Wojciechowski		
The Green Book	Jill Paton Walsh		

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SERIES NAME	AUTHOR (S)
39 clues (3-Middle)	Rick Riordan, Gordan Korman, Peter Lerangis, and Patrick Carman
And Then It Happened	Various
Little House (on the Prairie)	Laura Ingalls Wilder
Ms. Nelson	Harry Allard
Shadow Children	Haddix
Gregor the Overlander	Suzanne Collins
Spiderwick Chronicles	Holly Black, Tony DiTerlizzi
Fablehaven	Brandon Mull
Junie B Jones (1st grade)	Barbara Park
Box Car Children	Gertrude Chandler Warren
Harry Potter	JK Rowling
Scaredy Squirrel Series (K)	Melanie Watt
Gingerbread (K)	Jan Brett

THE BEST OF THE BEST AUTHORS (Recurring)
Roald Dahl
Beverly Cleary
Judy Blume
Dr. Seuss
Max Lucado
Robert Munsch