

Books Used in Cheryl's Seminars

In my seminars, I display books and am often asked for a bibliography. I don't generally give out a bibliography because I rarely ever bring the exact same books to each seminar. Sometimes I'm grabbing books as I pack, thinking to myself, "I've gotta share this book with them!" So, I'm sharing below many of the books I've been bringing along with me. I'll just share a line or two to remind you about what's in them:

Primary Grades

Word Wizard – Cathryn Falwell's book is a great way to explain the concept of Making Words lessons.

Pig Giggles and Rabbit Rhymes- A book filled with silly questions and hink pinks for answers! Use this just for fun or get some mileage in the Words Block!

Annie Bananie – Leah Komaiko's fun book helps us to explore what it feels like when a good friend moves away.

Oh, How I Wished I Could Read! - John Gile's book is a great one for teaching children that there's a real world purpose for them to learn to read.

The Crayon Box that Talked – Shane DeRolf – This book is my favorite to teach about diversity. Also, I think it speaks to the heart of Four-Blocks.

How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods – Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers – This book explores emotions through the zany art of real fruits and veggies!

Today I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day – Actor Jamie Lee Curtis has some really great books out. This one, I think, is my favorite. It lets us explore emotions that we all experience. There's also a surprise on the last page!

September 12th We Knew Everything Would Be All Right – (Scholastic) This book was written and illustrated by first-grade students of H. Byron Masterson Elementary in Kennett, Missouri. This will touch your heart!

The Pig in a Wig – Alan MacDonald – Such funny illustrations of a pig as she discovers something about herself!

Ducky – This Eve Bunting story is based on a true incident in 1992 when a crate of nearly 30,000 plastic bathtub toys washed overboard from a ship traveling from Hong Kong to Washington. A great science connection!

All Grade Levels

The Rules – Marty Kelley’s poem and funny illustrations provide the perfect way to introduce rules and procedures in your classroom.

Philippe in Monet’s Garden – Lisa Jobe Carmack’s book has unique story and rhyme and, additionally, makes an art connection with the great Monet!

Snowflake Bentley – Jacqueline Briggs Martin’s gives us a wonderful biography of Wilson Bentley who invented a camera that would capture the beauty of a snowflake. The illustrations by Mary Azarian are amazing and deservedly won the Caldecott Award. The biographical style is unique and worth exploring in the classroom.

Wolf – Becky Bloom – I’ve long used this in my seminars. It makes the point perfectly of what reading is really all about!

Parts – Tedd Arnold’s book will leave you and your students in stitches as the character discovers that he’s falling apart! (There’s also a sequel, *More Parts*.)

Hooway for Wodney Wat - Helen Lester’s book is an hilarious story about a young rat that can’t pronounce his r’s. This leads to a fun-filled book of puns that students will love. (Beware: Once you read this book aloud you’ll tend to talk that way all day!)

The Grapes of Math – A clever book of poetry that explores math concepts. I learned some neat things from this book! For those who are as mathematically challenged as I am, the answers and explanations are included in the back of the book!

Once Upon a Fairy Tale – The Starbright Foundation, that does wonderful things for critically ill children, asked Hollywood stars to write point of view stories based on characters from typical fairy tales. Four familiar fairy tales are retold from the points of view of all of the characters. Also, familiar children’s book artists drew pictures for each of the retellings. What a great springboard for writing!

More Than Anything Else – This is one of my very favorite books and one I use to close my upper grade seminars. The story of Booker T. Washington’s desire to learn to read really tugs at your heart strings.

The Journey – Sarah Stewart’s story and David Small’s art combine for a great book! See the “Books with Class” section of this website for lots of ideas about how this book can be used in the classroom.

Chicken Socks – This is another of Brod Bagert’s wonderfully funny poetry books!

Dog Breath – Dav Pilkey’s story of a dog names Halley who lives with the Tosis family (get it? Hally Tosis?) is quite a multilevel story. The story is loved by primary students because of the wonderful illustrations and story, and by upper grade students who appreciate the figures of speech on every page.

Bedhead – We all have bad hair days, but the fellow in this book has a particularly bad hair day. After the whole family gets involved in getting his hair under control, the character takes off for school only to arrive to find that it's picture day! You'll enjoy the hysterical pictures and the lightheaded antics!

Salt in His Shoes – Deloris Jordan with Roslyn Jordan – This great children's book was written by Michael Jordan's mother and sister. It's an inspiring story that gives hope to children who haven't yet found their niche in life.

When Marian Sings – Pam Munoz Ryan – This story of opera singer Marian Anderson is quite inspiring! The art by Brian Selznick is amazing!

It's Disgusting and We Ate It – James Solheim's book is jam-pack full of interesting facts about strange and unusual things that people eat.

Hands-On Grossology, The Science of Really Gross Experiments – Sylvia Branzei's book is filled with gross experiments that students will love. (Be sure it's not too gross for your classroom!)

Whatever Happened to Humpty Dumpty? David Greenberg shares surprising sequels to familiar nursery rhymes.

Upper Grades

Faithful Elephants - Tsuchiya - This is one of the saddest children's books I've ever read. I don't think it should be read to primary children because of the tragic story which is based on true events. This book teaches the far-reaching impact of war which in this story impacts even animals. A great book for present times as war looms.

Leonardo's Horse – Jean Fritz really has a way with biographies—never dry or dull! Lesson plan ideas and a further description of this author's treatment of Leonardo di Vinci's dream to create the massive horse of Milan can be found in the "Books with Class" section of this website.

Charles Dickens, The Man Who Had Great Expectations – Diane Stanley is one of my very favorite biographers. Her talent as a writer and an artist is apparent in all of her biographies. (*Shaka King of the Zulus, Shakespeare, Good Queen Bess*, etc.)

Appalachia, The Voices of Sleeping Birds – Cynthia Rylant's wondrous words flow so beautifully on the pages of this book. Barry Moser's watercolor pictures are fabulous!

Smelly Old History series: *Victorian Vapors*, *Moldy Old Mummies*, *Greek Grime*, *Medieval Muck*, all by Mary Dobson (Oxford Press) – Scratch and sniff fun for older readers! This series is one of the biggest hits of any books I’ve carried with me on the road! It teaches about history through some of the distasteful, gross facts about that era. This will definitely bring history to life for your students! (They really do love the gross stuff, don’t they?)

Encounter – Jane Yolen – A different point of view of the “discovery” of America by Christopher Columbus. Told by one of the children enslaved by Columbus, the story and the illustrations are poignant.

Holes – Louis Sachar – This book is always mentioned by upper grade teachers as a favorite novel. It’s a Newbery Award winner of a different sort! This book will surely be a classic!

Animal Sharpshooters – (Franklin Watts/Scholastic) - A great informational book about how animals protect themselves. Amazing research and photography show insects that squirt blood from their eyes or that shoot bullets of feces to protect themselves. Students will love the survival tricks of animals!

Smokey Nights – Eve Bunting – This author never minds tackling difficult subjects. This book of poetry about the LA riots earned a Caldecott Award for David Diaz’s beautiful and unusual art.

Fever 1793- Laurie Halse Anderson – Historical fiction based on the epidemic of 1793 that gives us a first person account of the horrors that changed the lives of so many people—and ended the lives of many others.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town – Kimberly Willis Holt - Explore the relationships and moral dilemmas created by the sideshow that brings the fattest boy in the world to a small town.

The Million Dollar Shot – Dan Gutman – Your students will beg you not to stop reading this one as a read-aloud! A boy enters a poem in a contest and is the winning entry. The prize is a chance to stand mid-court at half-time in an NBA game and try to ring a basket. You’ll be riveted by the training regime and in suspense about the outcome!

Joey Pigza Swallowed a Key – Jack Gantos – Read about this great chapter book in my Books with Class section where you’ll get lots of lesson plan ideas!

Because of Winn Dixie – Kate DiCamillo – One of my all-time favorites! A story that’ll make you laugh and cry with a pearl of wisdom in every sentence! You’ve gotta read this one!

Love That Dog – Sharon Creech – Love this book! This unique novel is a quick read. From beginning to end, it’s a journal written by a boy who detests poetry. He can’t

believe his teacher makes boys listen to poems and worst of all—write poems! The reader quickly realizes that each journal entry is indeed a free verse poem and by the end of the book, we see how poetry helps us express things of the heart.

Here are several books from the American Girl Library that provide good information to students about subjects they're interested in. I wish the books didn't say "Girl" on them because the info is usually good for boys, too!

Help! – This one is organized much like a "Dear Abby" series with questions asked by adolescents and answers by someone who's obviously "been there and done that".

Clever Letters – You might want to use this one in your class to motivate students to write through fun, creative letter writing.

Moneymakers – Good cents for girls!

The Babysitter's Handbook – How to take care of little kids.

Donavan's Word Jar – Monalisa DeGross's book is about a young boy who collects words. The problem and solution in this novel can certainly be a springboard for a classroom collection of interesting words.

The All-New Book of Lists for Kids – Sandra and Harry Choron – This book provides great lists that are fun to read on every imaginable subject. What a great springboard for writing ideas!