

Be A Friend

Salina Yoon

Bloomsbury, 2016

40 pages

SUMMARY:

Dennis is an ordinary boy who expresses himself in extraordinary ways. Some children do show-and-tell. Dennis mimes his. Some children climb trees. Dennis is happy to BE a tree . . . But being a mime can be lonely. It isn't until Dennis meets a girl named Joy that he discovers the power of friendship--and how special he truly is! At its core, this book is a heartwarming story of self-acceptance, courage, and unbreakable friendship for anyone who has ever felt "different."

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Chrysanthemum*, Kevin Henkes
- *Ninja*, Arree Chung
- *Little Quack's New Friend*, Lauren Thompson
- *Not Your Typical Dragon*, Dan Bar-el

WEBSITES:

Salina Yoon

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/blog/literacy-daily/2016/03/09/putting-books-to-work-em-be-a-friend-em>

Be A Friend Song,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr1gm5gIG4Y>

Pantomime,

<http://www.kidactivities.net/post/Drama-Pantomime-Tips-and-Games.aspx>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever felt different from your friends? Do you have a friend that is different? Dennis sees the world a little differently from his classmates. When it's time for show-and-tell, Dennis doesn't say a word—he mimes. Every day, he dresses up like a mime, complete with a tall black hat, a white-painted face, and a tiny red heart pinned to his black-and-white shirt. But sometimes, being a little bit different means you're also a little lonely. Until one day, he kicks an imaginary ball . . . and a girl named Joy catches it. *Be A Friend* by Salina Yoon is a sweet, story of friendship and acceptance.

Prepared by:

Jayne Pinson, Pincrest Elementary School, jpinson@gwd50.org

A Bike Like Sergio's

Maribeth Boelts

Candlewick Press, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Ruben, hopeful for a new bike, finds a one-hundred dollar bill, but he's unsure of what to do with the money.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Those Shoes*, Maribeth Boelts
- *How to Heal a Broken Wing*, Bob Graham
- *Jimmy the Greatest!*, Jairo Buitrago
- *The Bicycle Man*, Allen Say
- *Happy Like Soccer*, Maribeth Boelts

WEBSITES:

Cycling Safety, <http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk/cycling-safety.php>

This website features interactive kid-friendly games and animated videos to promote bike safety.

PBS Kids: Arthur, <http://pbskids.org/arthur/beingafriend/>

This website features interactive comics to learn about character traits such as honesty, empathy and more. It's a great resource for students to work with a buddy to explore making good choices.

A Bike Like Sergio's, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN8DsjYwSpc>

The book is read aloud on YouTube.

A Bike Like Sergio's Book Trailer, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KxjRcTXpYE>

The book trailer is also on YouTube.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever heard the saying "finders keepers?" Do you think this is a good policy? Ruben really wants a new bike, and then he finds \$100! What would you do if this happened to you? What do you think Ruben will do? To find out, read *A Bike Like Sergio's* and see what kinds of choices Ruben makes in this very tricky situation.

Prepared by:

Jan Faile, Lake Carolina Elementary Lower Campus, jtfaile@gmail.com

Bobbie the Wonder Dog

Tricia Brown

WestWinds Press

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Bob was an average-looking collie puppy in every way, except for his bobbed tail . . . and maybe that's why the Brazier family named him Bob, or Bobbie. But he was average in no other way. In 1923, Bobbie joined Frank and Elizabeth Brazier for a cross-country drive from Silverton, Oregon, to Indiana, Frank's home state, where they planned to visit family. During a stop in Indiana, Bobbie was chased off by loose dogs, and after a week of searching and placing newspaper ads, the broken-hearted Braziers had to give up and start the drive home. Six months to the day after he was lost in Indiana, a very thin Bobbie was spotted on a Silverton sidewalk, his coat matted, his paws raw from wear. Unbelievable as it seemed, the three-year-old dog had WALKED almost 2,800 miles to get back home.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY . . .

- Shiloh, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate Dicamillo
- Old Yeller by Fred Gibson

Websites:

- Dog Training basics <http://www.dogtrainingbasics.com/>
- Dog Facts &, Information & Worksheets For Kids | Breeds, Types & More <https://kidskonnnect.com/animals/dog/>
- Activity Guide: <http://triciabrownbooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/Bobbie-the-Wonder-Dog-Activity-Guide.pdf>

BookTalk:

The Brazier family adopted a collie dog and named him Bobbie. Bobbie was to be the family's farm dog. In 1923, Bob joined the family for a cross-country drive from Silverton, Oregon, to Indiana, where they planned to visit family. During a stop in Indiana, Bobbie was chased off by loose dogs, and after a week of searching and placing newspaper ads, the broken-hearted Braziers had to give up and start the drive home. Six months to the day after he was lost in Indiana, a very thin Bobbie was spotted on a Silverton sidewalk, his coat matted, his paws raw from wear. Unbelievable as it seemed, the three-year-old dog had WALKED almost 2,800 miles

to get back home. Read this Wonder Dog to learn of Bobbie's impossible adventure and his famed life.

Prepared by:

Beth Beale, Mathews Elementary, bealeb@gwd50.org

Chicken Lily

Lori Mortensen

Henry Holt and Co., 2016

40 pages

SUMMARY:

Chicken Lily is afraid of trying new things. She is afraid to take off her training wheels on her bike. She is terrified of trying different foods. She is horrified when she learns that she will have to read a poem at the school poetry jam. How will she ever be able to speak in front of all of those people?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Sheila Rae, the Brave* by Kevin Henkes
- *Daredevil Duck* by Charlie Alder
- *Flight School* by Lita Judge
- *Scaredy Squirrel* by Melanie Watt

WEBSITES:

<http://www.abundantmama.com/6-ways-to-encourage-children-to-take-risks/> Tips on encouraging kids to try new things

<http://www.scarymommy.com/helping-your-child-take-risks/> Tips to share with parents who have a reluctant child

<https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/encourage-child-to-try-new-things> Activities to encourage kids to try new things

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever been afraid of trying something new? Or maybe you have a friend who is reluctant to do the things that you like to do. If so, you will be able to relate to Chicken Lily. She is afraid to try new things. She doesn't want to take her training wheels off of her bike to ride fast like her friends. She doesn't like to try new foods. So you can imagine how terrified she was when she found out that she would have to read a poem at the school-wide poetry jam! Will she be able to get on stage in front of an audience to read the poem? Will she run away or cry? Find out what happens in the book Chicken Lily by Mortensen.

Prepared by: Laura Griner lgriner@greenville.k12.sc.us

Excellent Ed
Stacy McAnulty
Alfred A. Knopf, 2016
24 pages

SUMMARY:

Ed belongs to the Ellis family. Everyone in the Ellis family is excellent at something, everyone except Ed that is. Ed has to find the thing he is excellent at if he ever wants to sit at the table, ride in the car, sit on the couch, or use the indoor bathroom. Ed begins to wonder if he can be excellent at anything.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Extraordinary Jane*, Hannah E. Harrison
- *Princess Sparkle-Heart gets a Makeover*, Josh Schneider
- *Trouper*, Meg Kearney
- *Norman, Speak!*, Caroline Adderson

WEBSITES:

Stacy McAnulty, <http://www.stacymcanulty.com>, This is the author's website. You can learn more about the author and find other books she has written.

Excellent Ed – Dog Adoption, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kR4PO7CU4pE>, This is a YouTube video where author Stacy McAnulty and her 3 children look to sponsor an adoption for one lucky dog.

BOOKTALK:

Do you ever feel like you are the only one in your family who isn't really great at something? That is exactly how Ed the dog feels! All the children in the Ellis family have wonderful talents and Ed knows that's the real reason they get to sit on the couch and go for rides in the car. Ed starts to worry that he's not excellent enough to be an Ellis. If only he could find something that he is good at, then he would be able to sit at the table and maybe even use the indoor bathroom. Will Ed ever be worthy enough to be called an Excellent Ellis?

Prepared by:

Brooke Matthews, Boundary Street Elementary School, bmatthews@newberry.k12.sc.us

Follow the Moon Home

Cousteau, Philippe
Chronicle Books, 2016
(Unpaged)

SUMMARY:

Includes bibliographical references. "A book about loggerhead sea turtles, and a girl's attempts to help save their babies from man-made light."--Provided by publisher.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY:

- *One Tiny Turtle*, Nicola Davies
- *Loggerhead Turtle*, Jason Cooper
- *A Place for Turtles*, Melissa Stewart

WEBSITES:

<https://www.philippecousteau.com/> : A biography is provided describing the legacy and inspiration of the Philippe Cousteaus's grandfather, Jacques Cousteau. Clips of Philippe's television shows and information about how youth can become involved in conservation of the earth's oceans and natural resources is provided.

<http://earthecho.org/> : Earth Echo International was founded by Philippe and Alexander Cousteau in honor of their grandfather. Teacher resources, including lesson plans to teach students how to explore and protect local environments are provided

BOOKTALK:

A tale about Vivian, a young girl who is adjusting to a new school, is woven with a tale of the plight of newly hatched baby sea turtles. Vivian realizes that the baby sea turtles often die because they cannot find the ocean. The lights in the homes near the sea shore confuse the turtles causing them to move away from the ocean rather than toward the ocean. As Vivian realizes something must be done to help, she also discovers she has found a problem to solve which is her first school assignment in her new school.

Cousteau brings awareness about animal and environmental conservation in a way that is easy for children to understand and to relate to in their own lives. Children K-3rd grade will enjoy this book on their own or as class read aloud. It would work well as an introduction into a science or environmental unit.

Prepared by:

Brenda Stephens
Christ Church Episcopal School, Stephensb@cces.org

From Wolf to Woof: The Story of Dogs

Hudson Talbott

Penguin Young Readers Group, 2016

40 pages

SUMMARY:

A dog is a man's best friend. Why did this truly unique bond form so long ago? How can all dogs trace their line to a common ancestor the wolf? Hudson Talbott's book will take you on a journey to discover how the relationship formed and continues even today.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Wolf Camp*, Andrea Zuill
- *Antoinette*, Kelly DiPucchio
- *The Dog Who Cried Wolf*, Keiko Kasza

WEBSITES:

Virginia Living Museum,

<https://thevlm.org/events/museum-events/wolf-to-woof-the-story-of-dogs/> information about how wolves are related to dogs.

National Geographic Magazine

http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/data/2002/01/01/html/ft_20020101.1.html

this website is an article about how wolves became dogs.

BOOKTALK:

Hooowl! Where do dogs come from? How come they can be trained to do so many things to help us? Have you ever thought about how dogs and humans became friends? Read *From Wolf to Woof: The Story of Dogs* by Hudson Talbott to see how the partnership between dogs and humans became a howling success.

Prepared by:

Amelia Eakin , Woodfields Elementary School , eakina@gwd50.org

Horrible Bear

Ame Dyckman

Little, Brown and Company, 2016

33 pages

SUMMARY:

When a little girl's kite breaks and falls into a bear's cave, she quickly goes inside to retrieve it. Asleep, the bear rolls over on it and breaks it. In her anger, the girl yells and stomps, even calling him a "Horrible Bear" repeatedly. Her anger gets the best of her until she makes a similar mistake and breaks something herself, proof positive that anyone can make a mistake, and "I'm sorry" will work to smooth things over. With apologies behind them, the pair begin to work together to fix the kite and their friendship.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

- *The Pigeon Needs a Bath*, Mo Willems
- *The Duckling Gets a Cookie?* Mo Willems
- *When Sophie Gets Angry, Really Really Angry*, Molly Bang
- *Wolfie the Bunny*, Ame Dyckman

WEBSITES:

Ame Dyckman, Children's Author and Mischief Elf, <http://www.amedyckman.com/>

This is the author's home page. It has contact information about possible school visits, copyright permissions, or if you would just like some stickers!

YouTube Interview with Ame Dyckman, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H68geURUJNM>

This is an interview at the Savannah Children's Book Festival

Saying You're Sorry, <http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/sorry.html>

Saying "I'm Sorry" can be a tough thing to do, but for kids, it is something they have to learn. This site can help with that.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever broken a toy? What about a toy that didn't belong to you? Did you say, "I didn't mean to?" Did you stop to say, "I'm sorry?" That's what happens to Bear when he accidentally rolls over on the Little Girl's kite and breaks it. She thinks he is horrible! She stomps, screams, and yells... until she sees that, sometimes, accidents just happen. Make sure to read *Horrible Bear*, by Ame Dyckman, and find out how saying "I'm sorry" can change everything.

Prepared by:

Amy Marshall, Mount Lebanon Elementary School, amarshall@anderson4.org

Lion Lessons

Jon Agee

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Earning your lion diploma is not easy! Who else can teach you but a lion? The boy in this story may not be the best of students. He always tries to do his best and completes each of the lessons. In the end, he learns that the most important lesson can come when you aren't trying.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Bear and the Piano, David Litchfield

How to Hide a Lion, Helen Stephens

The Lion Inside, Rachel Bright

Milo's Hat Trick, Jon Agee

WEBSITES: (14 pt.)

Riverbanks Zoo African Lion, <https://www.riverbanks.org/animals/african/lion>, Columbia's Riverbank Zoo page with information about African Lions

Jon Agee's website, <http://jonagee.com/>, Visit Jon Agee's website to learn about Jon Agee and his books.

National Geography Kids,

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/lion/#ww-wild-cats-lion.jpg>, Visit National Geography Kids to learn more about lions.

Smithsonian Zoo Lion Webcam, <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams/lion-cam>, Visit this site to watch a live broadcast of the Smithsonian Zoo's lion.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wanted to be something different or new? Perhaps even a lion? Well, you can become a lion in just seven lessons! Can it really be that easy? Will the boy in this story accomplish his goal? Read *Lion Lessons* by Jon Agee to find out!

Prepared by:

Marianela Dieguez, Langford Elementary School, mdieguez@richland2.org

Marta! Big and Small

Author: Jen Arena

Illustrator: Angela Dominguez

Roaring Brook Press 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Marta is una niña, an ordinary girl . . . with some extraordinary animal friends! As Marta explores the jungle, she knows she's bigger than a bug, smaller than an elephant, and faster than a turtle. But then she meets the snake, who thinks Marta is sabrosa—tasty, very tasty! But Marta is ingeniosa, a very clever girl, and she outsmarts the snake with hilarious results. With simple Spanish and a glossary at the end, this fun read-aloud picture book, *Marta! Big and Small*, teaches little ones to identify opposites and animals and learn new words.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY:

- *Besos for Baby: A Little Book of Kisses* Arena, Jen
- *100 Snowmen* Arena, Jean
- *How Do You Say? / ¿Cómo Se Dice?* Arena, Jen
- *There's a Giraffe in My Soup Hardcover* Burach, Ross
- *Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía Una Llamita* Dominguez, Angela
- *Lion Lessons* Agee, John

WEBSITES:

Macmillan site for the books that contains some helpful reviews of the book and some of the pages illustrated.

<https://us.macmillan.com/martabigsmall/jenarena/9781626722439/>

BOOKTALK:

How would you look to an animal? To a lion, Marta is tranquila. . .quiet, very quiet. To a rabbit, Marta is ruidosa. . .loud, very loud.” Yes, there are Spanish words in this book. . .but, you’ll understand each one! Marta and you are different from animals. All of her differences are shown, how different are you from each of the animals. . .from a león, from a serpiente, from a insecto.

Prepared By:

James Bryan, Independent Consultant, palmettoguardSC@gmail.com

My Dog is a Chicken

Written by Susan McElroy Montanari

Schwartz & Wade Books, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Lula Mae wants a puppy, but times are hard and she'll just have to make do. Her family has plenty of chickens, so she decides maybe a chicken can be a dog or can they? Readers will cheer for plucky Lula Mae and giggle over her beloved Pookie, who quite unknowingly saves the day.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Henrietta and the Golden Chicken* by: Hanna Johansen
- *Chicken Soup* by: Jean Van Leeuwen
- *Sam the man & the Chicken Plan* by: Frances O’Roark McDowell
- *This is the Farmer* By: Nancy Tafuri

WEBSITES:

Susan Montanari

<http://www.henandink.com/coop/smontanari/>

Learn about author Susan Montanari and her books

Anne Wilsdorf

<http://www.studiogoodwinsturges.com/anne-wilsdorf.html>

Learn about illustrator Anne Wilsdorf and her books

Pet Chickens

https://pethelpful.com/farm-pets/Chicken_Toys

Ideas to entertain your pet chicken.

BOOKTALK:

Pookie is an ordinary chicken, or is she? Lula Mae thinks she is very doglike indeed! She places a bow in Pookie's hair, and she is a show dog. When Pookie runs circles around the other chickens, she is a shepherd dog. Then Lula Mae's brother, Baby Berry, wanders away. Who do you think comes to the rescue? Read *My Dog's a Chicken* by Susan McElroy Montanari to find out.

Prepared by:

Mary L. Catoe, Doby's Mill Elementary, mary.catoe@kcsdschools.net

A Piece of Home

Jeri Watts

Candlewick Press, 2016

30 pages

SUMMARY:

When Hee Jun's family moves from Korea to West Virginia, he struggles to adjust to his new home. His eyes are not big and round like his classmates', and he can't understand anything the teacher says, even when she speaks s-l-o-w-l-y and loudly at him. But little by little Hee Jun begins to learn English words and make friends on the playground. And one day he is invited to a classmate's house, where he sees a flower he knows from his garden in Korea — *mugunghwa*, or rose of Sharon, as his friend tells him — and Hee Jun is happy to bring a shoot to his grandmother to plant a "piece of home" in their new garden. (From Amazon)

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Brand New Kid*, Katie Couric
- *Each Kindness*, Jacqueline Woodson
- *My Name is Yoon*, Helen Recorvits
- *Can you Greet the Whole Wide World? 12 Common phrases in 12 different languages*, Lezlie Evans

WEBSITES:

Illustrator Hyewon Yum's website - www.hyewonyum.com

Author Jeri Watts shares why she believes in picture books - <https://vimeo.com/66422031>

Google Translate - Communicate in over 100 languages. <https://translate.google.com/>

What you didn't know about Korea's national flower (Mugunghwa) -

<http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Culture/view?articleId=75126>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever visited a place far away from home? A place where EVERYTHING looks different - even the people? Imagine having to move there permanently and you don't even speak the language! When Hee Jun's family moves from South Korea to West Virginia - almost 7000 miles away - they have a hard time fitting in. But even in this very different place, given time, Hee Jun discovers some things are still the same - like friendship - and it starts to feel like home.

Prepared by:

Susan Easter, Porter-Gaud Lower School, seaster@portergaud.edu

Quit Calling Me a Monster!

Jory John

Clarion Books, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Monster is tired of being called a monster. Every where he goes, bike riding, the grocery store, trying to take a little nap, everyone keeps screaming Monster! He is tired of the name calling. He wants to be know for more than just the way he looks. Read *Quit Calling Me a Monster* to find out how names can change the way people think.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *If Your Monster Won't Go To Bed*, Denise Vega
- *The Chupacabra Ate the Candelabra*, Marc Tyler Nobleman
- *We Wish for a Monster Christmas*, Sue Fliess

WEBSITES:

Quit Calling Me a Monster, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEZm_9qDBj8 this is a youtube video of the public librarian reading the book with a monster puppet.

Central Rappahannock Regional Library site <http://www.librarypoint.org/quitcallingmeamonster>, this website a quick animated video of the book.

Jory John, <http://www.joryjohn.com/about/> this is the author's website.

BOOKTALK:

Quit calling me a monster! Just because I have horns, long toe nails, and fangs. Just stop it this minute. I don't go around call you a little meat snack do I? No!!! So you don't need to run screaming to your mommy in the grocery store to keep you safe from the big harry monster. I'm not a monster! Well okay I am but I've got a name you know! Read *Quit Calling Me a Monster* by Jory John to find out their is more to a person than a name.

Prepared by:

Amelia Eakin , Woodfields Elementary School , eakina@gwd50.org

School's First Day of School

Adam Rex, Author

Christian Robinson, Illustrator

Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

A newly constructed building finds out what it is like to become a school when all the children, teachers, and their activities enter the building on School's First Day of School.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY . . .

- *Ally-saurus & the First Day of School*, Rich Torrey
- *The Class*, Boni Ashburn
- *The Exceptionally, Extraordinarily Ordinary First Day of School*, Albert Lorenz
- *Milk Goes to School*, Terry Border
- *A Tiger Tail: (Or What Happened to Anya on Her First Day of School)*, Mike Boldt

WEBSITES:

Publisher Created Reading Guide with activities:

<https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/activity-guides/9781596439641AG.pdf>

Teachingbooks.net: If you have access to this service, there's a great section for this book.

<https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=51757>

BOOKTALK:

School is nervous. Ever since being constructed, school couldn't wait for the children, the teachers, the parents! Now that day is here, and School is nervous. Will the children like School? Will everything work, or will there be some embarrassing water fountain problems? What about the Fire Alarm? Come along as School experiences it all for the first time in School's First Day of School.

Prepared by:

Mary Cockrell, Charleston Progressive Academy, Mary_Cockrell@charleston.k12.sc.us

The Quickest Kid in Clarksville

Pat Zietlow Miller

Chronicle Books LLC, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Alta's family cannot afford to buy new sneakers for her. But that doesn't stop Alta from attending a parade in Clarksville, Tennessee. The parade is being held in celebration of Alta's hometown hero, three-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Wilma Rudolph.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*, Chelsea Clinton
- *Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still*, Karlin Gray
- *Shark Lady: The Daring Tale of How Eugenie Clark Dove into History*, Jess Keating

WEBSITES:

Amazing Women of History,

<http://www.amazingwomeninhistory.com/wilma-rudolph-olympic-gold-medalist-civil-right-pioneer/>, biography of Wilma Rudolph

Notable Biographies, <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ro-Sc/Rudolph-Wilma.html>, biography of Wilma Rudolph

Olympic.org, <https://www.olympic.org/wilma-rudolph>, tells of Wilma Rudolph's Olympic career

Social Studies for Kids,

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/wilmarudolph.htm>, biography of Wilma Rudolph

BOOKTALK:

Even though her shoes are worn out, Alta is proud of being fast. In fact, she considers herself the quickest kid in her hometown. That is until she meets that strutting Charmaine with her brand-new tennis shoes. When the two girls race, Alta keeps beating her rival until her shoes cause her to fall. Alta and Charmaine realize they have a lot in common when they meet each other on the way to a parade celebrating their idol, Wilma Rudolph, someone who herself was once the fastest girl in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Prepared by:

Cathy Poole, Monarch Elementary School, cpoole@union.k12.sc.us

The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read

Curtis Manley

Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Nick and his two cats do everything together over the summer. But when Nick wants to read, the cats get in the way by laying on the pages and sitting on the books. Nick decides to teach them to read and tries many approaches to teach them. Verne liked flashcards, but not Stevenson. Nick wanted both of his cats to join him. He finally found Stevenson's stack of pirate drawings and decided to write the words for the pictures. He finally got Stevenson's interest and they enjoyed stories together for the rest of the summer.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Make Way for Readers*, Judy Sierra
- *A Tiger Tail*, Mike Boldt
- *The Class*, Boni Ashburn

WEBSITES:

First Day of School Activity Kit

https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/SimonSchuster/Back_To_School.pdf, is a website with a complete back to school activity kit for all of the books mentioned here.

Curtis Manley's website

<http://curtismanley.com/index.php/books/the-summer-nick-taught-his-cats-to-read/>, tells more about the book and provides an early literacy activity sheet.

BOOKTALK:

Nick does everything with his cats, Verne and Stevenson. But they won't let him read. So Nick decides to teach them to read. Verne picks right up on the lessons, but Stevenson isn't interested in fish and nurse rhymes. Nick has to find the just right book for Stevenson. What is Stevenson's just right book? Read *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read* to find out.

Prepared by:

Tracy Turner, Merrywood Elementary, turnert@gwd50.org

Thunder Boy Jr

Author: Sherman Alexie

Little, Brown Books for Young Reader 2016

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder.

But just when Thunder Boy Jr. thinks all hope is lost, he and his dad pick the perfect name...a name that is sure to light up the sky.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY:

- *One day in the eucalyptus, eucalyptus tree* Bernstrom, Daniel
- *Penny and her doll* Henkes, Kevin
- *My Name is Yoon* Recorvits, Helen
- *My Father is Taller Than a Tree* Bruchac, Joseph
- *My dad is big and strong, but--: a bedtime story* Saudo, Coralie

WEBSITES:

Thunder Boy Jr| Little Brown <http://littlebrownlibrary.com/thunder-boy-jr/>
Contains curriculum information and book trailers from the publisher.

ADL Book of the Month Nov 2016

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/education-outreach/book-of-the-month-thunder-boy-jr.pdf>

from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® institute, ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. Contains Discussion Questions, Key Words and Extension Activities.

Towards a Common Understanding of Native Peoples in the U.S. (or, Why Alexie's THUNDER BOY JR. Needs a Note to Readers

<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2016/05/towards-common-understanding-of-native.html>

A post including links for further information and activity pitfalls to avoid.

BOOKTALK:

DO you love your dad? Me too. So does Thunder Boy Jr, he just isn't sure if he wants to be named after his dad. He feels like the Jr at the end makes him seem small and insignificant. Thunder Boy Jr. thinks over all that he can do that makes him strong, powerful and big. At the conclusion of the story Jr changed his name to better suit all he has accomplished, and still respects his father's legacy.

Prepared By:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary School, princeh@fortmillschools.org

Who Wants a Tortoise?

Dave Keane, Author

Alfred A. Knopf/Borzoi Book Publishing, 2016

33 Pages

SUMMARY:

Puppies are great, puppies are sweet, puppies are snuggly, everyone wants a puppy. I wanted a puppy. I asked my parents for a puppy. I got a tortoise! What? A tortoise is hard and cold-blooded, a tortoise is slow and doesn't play fetch, a tortoise can only hiss and pull their head inside their shell. You can't really have any fun with a tortoise, can you?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY. . . .

- *What's the Difference? Turtles and Tortoises* by Lisa M. Herrington
- *Prudence Wants a Pet* by Stephen Michael King
- *A Pet for Petunia* by Paul Schmid
- *A Dog is a Dog* by Stephen Shaskan

WEBSITES:

Pets At Home. Useful advice and tips on feeding and caring for tortoises:

<http://www.petsathome.com/shop/en/pets/pet-talk/pet-care-reptile-tortoise/>

Mr. Dave Keane Official Website. Mr. Keane's biography, blog, Tips for Kids, summaries of his other books, and link to ask questions:

<http://www.mrdavekeane.com>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever dreamed of something you really, really wanted? You think about it all the time and plan what you will do with it. You make sure to tell your parents and friends about it. You are sure you will get your special gift, and then.....you don't. This sassy, young girl really, really wants a puppy. But when she gets a tortoise for her birthday what happens? Will she keep it? This is the story of learning that sometimes our hearts are bigger than we think.

Prepared by:

Carol Smith, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary, Carol_smith@charleston.k12.sc.us

Whoosh! Lonnie Johnso

Chris Barton
Charlesbridge, 2016
32 pages

SUMMARY:

Lonnie Johnson loved rockets, robots, and new inventions. *Whoosh!* Is the story of Lonnie, an engineer who worked for NASA, and how he created his most famous invention, the Super Soaker water gun.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay* by Susan Hood
- *Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles* by Phillipe Cousteau
- *Growing up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made it from the Dominican Republic All the way to the Major Leagues* by Matt Tavares
- *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash* by G. Neri
- *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah* by Laurie Ann Thompson

WEBSITES:

Chris Barton, <http://www.chrisbarton.info/books/whoosh.html>
Learn about the author Chris Barton.

Chris Barton's *Whoosh!* Activity Guide,
<http://chrisbarton.info/whoosh-discussion-activity-guide.pdf>
An activity guide from the book.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an inventor? Lonnie Johnson did. Lonnie grew up playing with rockets and robots and trying to invent new things. *Whoosh!* Is the story of how Lonnie invented the super soaker water gun and how it became his most famous invention.

Prepared by:
Brittany Shay, Cayce Elementary, bshay@lex2.org

Wolf Camp

Author: Andrea Zuill

Publisher: Schwartz Wade Books

29 pages

SUMMARY:

Homer is a dog who has always dreamed of living the wild and free life of a wolf. One day he gets a flyer in his dog food advertising a week long Wolf Camp and his family encourages him to go. He tries very hard to learn to live the life of a wolf, even though it is not always easy. In the end he graduates with his certificate as an honoring wolf and returns home forever changed.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Excellent Ed*, Stacy McAnulty
- *Piggie Pie*, Margie Palatini
- *From Wolf to Woof! The Story of Dogs*, Hudson Talbott

WEBSITES:

<https://www.livingwithwolves.org/wolf-camp/>

Living with Wolves is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging the public worldwide in education, outreach and research to promote truth and understanding about wolves, while encouraging coexistence and inspiring people to take action to protect them.

<http://www.andreazuill.org/>

Author Andrea Zuill has lots to share on her website. Check out her new books available.

BOOKTALK:

Wolf Camp by Andrea Zuill will get you thinking about your dog Fido differently as well as remembering your days at summer camp fondly (I hope). Homer is a pampered little pet who has always dreamed of living free and wild like his wolf ancestors. He gets a flyer in his dog food one day advertising a camp where his dream can come true. With a smile and a wave his family sends him off to camp on a big yellow bus. On arrival, he is greeted by his camp counselors appropriately name “Fang” and “Grrrr”. Homer puts his whole heart into wolf training and you cannot help but love how hard he is trying to be the wolf he wants to be. You can tell the author has definitely lived the camp life as you see funny details your students will enjoy such as a letter Homer wrote home about the camp food. The illustrations make you feel you are right there beside Homer during every step of his training and allow you to get into the

minds of the dogs at the camp beginning to end. Read this book to find out if Homer gets to love living on the wild side. It gets five stars from me for humorous illustrations and a story you will love to read start to finish.

Prepared by:

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