Crickwing

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
Crickwing, a cockroach that had his wing twisted by a hungry toad, is picked on all of his life. He is always upset about it and then one day he runs into a group of ants, who are obviously smaller than himself. So he decides that he will pick on them because he is bigger. He has fun doing this until one day the queen ant tells her worker ants to bring Crickwing to her. When he gets to the queen of the worker ants she tells them to tie him up and give Crickwing to the army ants as a sacrifice. On the way the worker ants decide that no other creature deserves to be treated how the army ants would treat Crickwing so they let him go. But the queen ant would have the worker ants heads’ if she found out they let Crickwing go. So he comes up with a plan to trick the army ants. They build a huge ant eater out of plants that scares the army ants away forever and everyone is happy in the end.

ACTIVITY ONE:
- Original idea
- Students will go back through after reading this book and write down three facts that they did not already know about cockroaches and another three facts about ants from the back of the book.

ACTIVITY TWO:
- Original idea
- Write a poem about Crickwing and his adventures with the army ants and worker ants.

Rude Giants

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book two rude giants move into a city and are clumsy loud and selfish. Then Beatrix and her best friend, who is also a cow, Gerda get picked up by the two giants and taken back to their castle. The two giants want to eat Gerda the cow but Beatrix tricks them and says that they can not eat her because their castle is to dirty to fully enjoy her. She then tricks them and tells them they need to clean themselves to fully enjoy her. By
the end she has turned the rude giants into sophisticated giants and they won’t eat Gerda. But they are still hungry so the whole city throws a party and brings food and everyone is happy and full.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will each go to the chalk board and write down one thing that their parents have told them are good manners. Repeats may happen in a class of 25 or so but do not allow students to repeat a manner more than twice.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Write a mini story about what adventure Beatrix and Gerda had to take the giant baby through to change his manners. Did they make a school for manners? What did they do to change him? What activities did they have to put him through? Use your IMAGINATION!

Title of book: Did I ever tell you how lucky you are?

Author’s name: Dr. Seuss

Copyright year: 1973

Genre: Fantasy

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
Dr. Seuss leads us through a crazy world with Duckie where we learn how lucky we really are to be ourselves. We get examples of workers building an extremely busy town, a boy who mows lawns but the grass grows faster than he can mow it, and Harry Haddow who does not have shadow. We learn about how much worse things really could be.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Read another book by Dr. Seuss and rewrite similar words used by the same author.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will provide an example to the class aloud when they have ever had bad luck or good luck. Write about both and explain how the situation could have been worse or better.

Title of book: The Spider and the Fly
SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book a sly spider tricks a gullible fly into coming to his house for dinner. He uses clever wording into making the fly think she is beautiful and radiant. After he got her into the house he trapped her and put her into a spider web he had built before she came in. She laid there next to the other two victims he had already eaten. She was then eaten by the spider. A bit of a sad ending but it is supposed to relay a message to not be gullible to children.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Have students do research through reading other books or the internet on spiders, and find out what kind of spider the main character probably was.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Have students go back through the book and identify where the spider’s house really was. What location was his house in? Was it in the woods? Was it by the river? Was it inside a person’s house? Answers will be submitted after class.

Title of book: The Eleventh Hour

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
An elephant named Horrace had a huge birthday party where he invited an alligator, a swan, an mouse, a rhinoceros, two giraffes, a tiger, a pig, a zebra, and a kitten. They had great fun at this party where they played all sorts of games from cricket all the way to board games. At the end of the party, however, they came back inside and noticed that someone stole all the food. Horrace made more food and everyone was happy but they still had no idea who stole the food.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Write captions for each picture in the book. Students will basically rewrite the story using their own words just by looking at the illustrations from the book.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will meet with the teacher one on one and tell who they thought the thief was in the story and why they thought it was him or her. Give descriptive reasoning of when in the story you found out and how.

Title of book: Hooray A Pinata

Author’s name: Elisa Kleven

Copyright year: 1996

Genre: Multicultural

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
Two children, Clara and Samson, prepare for Clara’s birthday party with all of her friends in this book. They go to a store and get a piñata, a little dog they name Lucky. Clara takes the little piñata everywhere and ends up becoming friends with the piñata. When it is time for her birthday party she does not want to break Lucky. So Samson brings her another, big, scary piñata for her party and they whack it open for all the children to eat the candy inside.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will use the internet to find information on where piñatas are made and what they are made of. What materials are used? How does the paper stick together? Why do people do this in Mexican culture?

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Write a short story about something that you have become attached to like Clara did with her piñata, Lucky. This could be a pet, sibling, or even a stuffed animal.

Title of book: The Case of the Cat’s Meow

Author’s name: Crosby Bonsall

Copyright year: 1965

Genre: Multicultural

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book four friends, Wizard, Skinny, Tubby, and Wizard’s little brother Snitch, go on an adventure to find Snitch’s lost cat Mildred. At first the Snitch is convinced that someone has stolen Mildred from him. Wizard however, says that no body would ever want to steal that dumb old cat. Throughout the book the boys look all over town for Mildred and set traps to catch her. In the end the boys find Mildred sneaking out to their clubhouse where she has had kittens in a basket.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**
- Original idea
- Pretend you are in the Private Eye Club and you are still looking for Mildred. Make a flyer to help find Mildred. Provide details of what the cat looks like and where to contact you.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**
- Original idea
- Students will do a reading record with the teacher that will be graded on fluency, pronunciation of words and whether or not words are said correctly. Mark it down if student says words incorrectly or if teacher has to give the student the word.

Title of book: *A Fine, Fine School*

Author’s name: Sharon Creech

Copyright year: 2001

Genre: Multicultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:**
The Principal Mr. Keene is so proud of all the learning going on in his school that he decides that students need to come on Saturdays too. He then thinks more learning needs to go on in their school so he ends up making all the teachers come in on holidays and Saturday and Sunday and even in the summer. But the main character, Tillie, does not have time to teach her brother how to swing or skip or how to climb her tree and sit there for an hour because she is always in school. She then explains that to Mr. Keene and he had never realized that. So he lets all the students and teachers go home and there is no summer school or school on holidays or Saturdays or Sundays anymore.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**
- Original idea
- Write a letter to Mr. Keene and explain to him why you can not have school in the summer, weekends or holidays. Provide reasons as to why you cant have school and convince Mr. Keene

**ACTIVITY TWO:**
- Original idea
• Have children write in a reading log how they would feel if they never got weekends, holidays or even summer off. Have students focus on punctuation and correct spelling and grammar.

Title of book: Jambo Means Hello

Author’s name: Muriel and Tom Feelings

Copyright year: 1974

Genre: Multicultural

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This book is an alphabet book but not in English. This book goes through every letter, but with a word in Swahili. The book not only provides a short definition or what the word means in English but it also gives an example of when it would be used in everyday life in Africa.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Each student will become an expert in one word from the Swahili language and will be able to provide an explanation of the word and when it is said in African culture.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Student will take his or her letter for the word they were assigned in Swahili and will come up with five other words for that letter. They will then make a sentence with each word.

Title of book: Down the Road

Author’s name: Alice Schlertle

Copyright year: 1995

Genre: Multicultural

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book a little girl named Hetty is given the duty of going into town all by herself for the first time and getting 12 eggs for her family to eat for breakfast the next day. On her way she thought about how careful she would have to be on her way back with the eggs. Once she got the eggs she tripped once but the eggs did not break. But then she was trying to get apples out of an apple tree and she smashed all the eggs. So she climbed up into the tree and sat there to think. Not very long passed and her father and
mother came to look for her. When they found her in the tree they both climbed up into the tree and made Hetty feel better. And the next morning they had apple pie for breakfast instead of eggs.

ACTIVITY ONE:
- Original idea
- Have children make a timeline of Hetty’s day. From when her parents and her talked about getting eggs for breakfast and Hetty volunteered to go get them all the way to when they had apple pie for the next day. Each timeline should have at least 6 times written on them and each one should be written in detail with correct grammar and punctuation.

ACTIVITY TWO:
- Have students work together as a class to pick words out of the story to put on word wall. All words that most or even all students in the class need help spelling or even saying.

Title of book: My Buddy

Author’s name: Audrey Osofsky

Copyright year: 1992

Genre: Realistic Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A boy and his golden retriever are best friends during this inspirational story. The boy has muscular dystrophy and Buddy is his dog that helps him with everything. Buddy opens doors, turns off lights, and carries the boy’s lunch and many more things. The boy is worried that when he takes his dog to school other students will be distracted by Buddy and will try to pet him. But he learns after a few short days at school that all the students leave Buddy alone and know that he is there for work and not for play. They play ball, take showers together, and sleep together. Buddy is the boys’ best friend and they love to be together.

ACTIVITY ONE:
- Original idea
- Have students look around room at each other and find similarities and differences between each other. (ex: hair color, skin color, height, where they are from) Then have students write a response letter back to their teacher about what they noticed about their fellow classmates. Is it okay to be different? Explain.

ACTIVITY TWO:
- Original idea
• Students will work together in small groups and create a skit to act out how exactly assistance dogs help people. Each group will then write on the board what the dog did to help the person with a disability. Such as leading the person in the right direction, carrying a bag on their back so that the person with a disability can everything they need right there, or maybe just the dog showing obedience because they know that they are working.

Title of book: My Brother, Matthew

Author’s name: Marv Thompson

Copyright year: 1992

Genre: Realistic Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY: This story is about a boy and his brother, David and Matthew. Matthew has disabilities and all throughout this book the older brother, David, talks about what it is like having a little brother who has disabilities. When Matthew was a baby he was not allowed to come home for a very long time; he had to stay inside a little box with tubes and wires running through it. After a while, Matthew could come home and the two boys became very close. They played games together and went on cat tours but sometimes Matthew embarrassed David because he did things differently. Although Matthew was different, David didn’t mind very much, they understood each other. Sometimes people wouldn’t understand what Matthew was saying, but luckily his translator, David, was there to explain it for him. The two boys care very much about each other and find different ways to have fun when Matthew can’t do something.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will make a Venn diagram and pick a partner. They will then write every similarity and difference between the pair of them.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will sort through magazines, newspapers, or any other kind of media and cut out pictures of people with disabilities. Students will then create a collage and be able to describe the disability that each person has in the pictures.

Title of book: The Secret

Author’s name: N. Joy

Copyright year: 2007
Genre: Realistic Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this story a young girl named Olivia tells Ayanna, one of her classmates, a huge secret. It is such a big secret that she wants to spread the news, but she knows that she can’t because Olivia is her friend. One day, Ayanna is talking to Stephanie and on accident the secret slips out. Throughout the rest of the book the secret keeps spreading from person to person. By the end of the book the secret has gotten bigger and is not even true. So Ayanna knows that she has made a terrible mistake and needs to tell Olivia the truth. She tells Olivia that she has accidentally let the secret out but begs for her friendship and forgiveness. In the end both girls have learned a valuable moral lesson.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will get together with a group of three or four students and describe on a piece of poster board what THEY think is right and wrong. Students may need guidance on what to write about. Such as cheating, lying, stealing, etc. Poster boards will be hung around the room to remind students right from wrong at all times.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Have students pretend that they are Ayanna, and have them act like they are writing in her journal about the situation of the secret getting out. Students will make up a secret that could have gotten out to other people and will pretend to write in a diary as if they are Ayanna.

Title of book: At the Crossroads

Author’s name: Rachel Isadora

Copyright year: 1991

Genre: Realistic Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A bunch of young children are waiting for their fathers to come home in this book. They go to school and then rush straight to an area they call the crossroads to wait on their fathers, who have been working in the mines for a very long time. While they wait they sing songs, and others stop to join in their fun. Everyone begins to leave and in the end there are only six kids left. All of the children fall asleep and in the morning their fathers come and they are all very happy.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Have students think of one time that they have ever felt alone. They will then write five adjectives that describe the person that they wanted to see the most at that time. Whether that is their father, brother, mother, best friend, teacher, whomever.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will meet with the teacher for a short meeting where they will orally describe where they thought this book took place. Did it take place in America? Africa? Germany? They will have to provide good descriptions and reasons to why they came to this conclusion. Where did their parents work? What kind of clothes were they wearing in the pictures? Etc.

Title of book: Grandpa’s Corner Store

Author’s name: DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Realistic Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A little girl named Lucy loves her Grandpa and he owns a grocery store. The grocery store is very close to her house and she goes there every day after school and helps her grandpa at the store and does her homework. She loves her Grandpa’s store, but one day she gets news of a new supermarket coming to town. It will be very big and much better than her Grandpa’s grocery store. She then learns that her Grandpa is going to have to sell his store because he is going to get run out of business. This upsets Lucy very much and she even gets into an argument with a classmate named Steven, because he teases her about how her Grandpa is going to have to move to Florida. But then Lucy gets an idea that she can get everyone in her community to pitch in and help make her Grandpa’s grocery store better. Lucy learns a lesson, that a store may be bigger than another store, but it is not bigger than a community; and Lucy’s Grandpa’s grocery store stays open.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will make a map of their own community. They will have to correctly label the stores, parks, restaurants, houses, and other main things around whatever community they decide to pick

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will brainstorm and write down other ideas of how to save Lucy’s grandfather’s store. Teacher will then ask a few students what their ideas were before they turn in their ideas.
Title of book: The Always Prayer Shawl

Author’s name: Sheldon Oberman

Copyright year: 1994

Genre: Historical Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A Jewish boy named Adam started his young life in Russia. He did not go to school though, he went to his grandfather’s house and he would teach all the young men things like how to read and write in Hebrew. One day, Adam asked his grandfather why his name was Adam. His grandfather explained that his grandfather’s name was Adam and so was his grandfather’s. So no matter what changes there will always be an Adam in their family. Then all of a sudden, Adam and his family had to flee Russia and leave his grandfather behind. But before they left Adam’s grandfather gave him an always prayer shawl. Over the years the always prayer shawl fell apart and Adam had to retouch it and sew new things onto it. But every Saturday he would get it out and pray with it as his grandfather taught him to do. Adam got old and his grandfather asked him if he was ever a young boy like himself. Adam went on to tell the story of his grandfather and the always prayer shawl, and Adam’s grandfather said that one day he will have a grandson and his name will be Adam so that there is always an Adam in their family.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Have students draw a picture of what their very own shawl would look like. Give descriptions of why each part of the shawl is there. Such as a drawing of a baseball or a group of stick figures being the student’s family.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Have students think about if they have a family heirloom or something that means something to their family. Students will write a short paragraph in their writers notebook about why this means something to their family just like Adam’s shawl meant something to his whole family.

Title of book: Oliver’s Game

Author’s name: Matt Tavares

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: Historical Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A boy named Oliver talks with his grandfather about his adventure to the major leagues with the Cubs. Oliver’s grandfather was just a boy who lived in Chicago who played stick ball outside of Wrigley Field. One day, a man told Oliver’s grandpa he could really hit and then invited him to come practice with the team that day; this man was the Cubs manager. His grandpa took batting practice, hitting a homerun, and then sat in the dugout during the game. He was invited to be on the team the next year but later that year he read in the paper about the attack on Pearl Harbor, so he joined the Marines. He was hurt during the war and was not able to play baseball ever again. He stayed away from baseball for a long time until one day he realized that he was still a part of the game; he just couldn’t play left field.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will write a story about their dream day. Whether that is a major league baseball game or performing in an opera in front of thousands of people. Grammar must be correct and creative descriptions of the day will be needed.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will provide insight on why Oliver’s grandpa decided to stay away from baseball for a very long time. And also why he decided to become a fan again. What happened?

Title of book:  The Composition

Author’s name:  Antonio Skarmeta/ Alfonso Ruano

Copyright year:  1998

Genre:  Historical Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In The Composition a child named Pedro is growing up in a time of dictatorship. He does not know what is going on at the beginning of the book as he just plays soccer and enjoys his life. But one day a group of soldiers come to his town and take away his best friend, Daniel’s, father. He goes home that night and asks why Daniel’s father got taken away and they explain because he is against the dictatorship. Pedro is very worried because his father is also against the dictatorship. He then asks his mother if he is against the dictatorship. His mother’s response is that children are not against anything. Children are supposed to go to school, study hard, play and be good to their parents. Then one day, a soldier comes to the Pedro’s classroom and tells them to write a composition about what their parents do at night. Pedro thinks very hard about what to write on his paper. A couple weeks later the soldier comes back with the compositions to give to the children. Pedro is very proud of his and he tells his parents about the composition and the soldier coming. They are both very worried, but Pedro reads them his story. Pedro wrote that he comes home and they eat dinner and his parents listen to the radio and play
chess, and then he goes to bed. Pedro’s father laughs and then says,” Well, I guess we have to buy a chess set now.”

**ACTIVITY ONE:**
- One student will be the dictator for a day. Will give students an insight on what living in a dictatorship would be like. The one dictator student will come up with a few rules that everyone must follow for a short period of time. Students will then discuss the pros and cons of a dictator at the end of the two hours.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**
- Original idea
- After taking a close look at the picture in the book right after Daniel’s father is taken away by the soldiers for being against the democracy, students will write a descriptive reflection on what Daniel might be thinking, how would you feel? What might be going through Daniel’s mind? Look at his face as he stands there holding the keys. Link to picture below: [http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/images/0888995504/ref=dp_otherviews_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&img=1](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/images/0888995504/ref=dp_otherviews_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&img=1)

Title of book: A Band of Angels

Author’s name: Deborah Hopkinson

Copyright year: 1999

Genre: Historical Fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:**
In this inspirational story a little girl is told the legacy of her Great, Great Grandmother Ella and how she led her family through their earliest struggles. The story starts with Ella being born into slavery and having to work as a slave until the age of fourteen when the Civil War and slavery ended at last. Ella’s one true dream was to go to school and become educated even though she was an amazing singer. She saved up just enough money to get to the school, but only had enough for three weeks. So she worked hard while she was at school to extend her three week stay for much longer. Bad news was around the corner though, the school did not have enough money to stay open and they would have to close. The first professor that Ella met at Fisk School was George White and he had started a school chorus. Professor White thought that this singing group was as good as anyone in the country and maybe them singing could make the school money. So the next day they left to go up North and sing for money. It was not working and they were discriminated against constantly, but then one night, Ella decided she was going to take over. She walked out onto stage as her choir followed and she sang a song that was about the end of slavery. The choir sang the song with great emotion and the crowd erupted. They wanted to hear more, and so did everyone else. The choir sang all over
the U.S. and Europe and even for President Grant. They made enough money to turn Fisk School into Fisk University but Ella was never able to graduate because she was so busy singing with the Jubilee Choir, but maybe her great, great granddaughter will.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students create a picture book based on the life of Ella and the Jubilee Choir. Short captions should be included to describe story but the story of Ella should be evident just through the illustrations.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• The entire class will go out to the playground. Each student will have a piece of sidewalk chalk and will write one word for what it means to them to be free and to live in a free country. They can decorate the word however they like but no two words can be the same by any two students.

Title of book: More Than Anything Else

Author’s name: Marie Bradby

Copyright year: 1995

Genre: Historical Fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book, a boy named Booker has the want to learn how to read more than anything. He is just a young boy who works and shovels salt all day though. He does not ever think that he will be able to read and just when he is about to lose all hope he sees a man reading a newspaper to a huge group of people who can not read; and that man is brown like Booker. He tells his mother and father about how he needs to learn how to read. Later, they buy him a little blue book, which neither one of them knows how to read. Booker then runs into the man who can read again and asks him to teach him. The man teaches Booker the song- the sounds the marks make. He is so excited and the man writes his name down in the dirt. It is the happiest moment in his life as he just looks down and sees his name spelled out, B-O-O-K-E-R!

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Students will use the letters B-O-O-K-E-R to write an acrostic poem about reading and its importance.

ACTIVITY TWO:
• Original idea
• Students will imagine that they live in the time that this book is set. Back when blacks were still slaves and did not know how to read. Students are to pretend to put an advertisement in the newspaper that says that they can help blacks learn
how to read. Students will need to provide reason for why blacks should learn how to read. Why is it important? How can they advance themselves? Is reading fun or something that everyone should be able to do? Students will need to grab the attention of the other blacks that can read so that they can tell their friends who can not. Like in this book, one black gentleman reads the newspaper to a whole group of others who can not read.

Title of book: Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins

Author’s name: Eric Kimmel

Copyright year: 1985

Genre: My Own Choice

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
A man named Hershel of is asked to go to a horrid house on a hill where goblins control everything. They do not like Hanukkah and will not allow the villagers to celebrate the holiday. Every time they light a candle the goblins blow it out, or if they make potato latkes the goblins throw them on the floor. So Hershel says he will go and defeat these goblins. So every night he lights a candle in the house and a different goblin comes to stop him. But every night he tricks the goblin into allowing the candle to stay lit. On the last night the King of the Goblins comes and Hershel has to trick him into lighting the candle himself. So Hershel does not light any of the candles and says that it is to dark to see the King of the Goblins and that maybe he should light some candles to see his hideous face. By the end the king has lit all of the candles and the spell upon Hanukkah is broken and all of the villagers are free to celebrate once again.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will be given a small, BLANK, book that will be theirs to keep. They will write a story in this book about how they would have tricked the seven goblins. We will discuss the importance of having a beginning, middle and end to a story and students will also draw their own illustrations.

Title of book: There’s A Frog In My Throat

Author’s name: Loreen Leedy and Pat Street

Copyright year: Not Available
Genre: My Own Choice

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book we observe an almost countless array of animal sayings. In our society we love to make animal references for different analogies. This book goes through an abundance of animal says that for one reason or another catch on in our every day life. We may not even realize that we are saying them; it just seems like our normal language. Some examples given in the book were “hold you horses,” otherwise known as be patient or even a “quack,” being a fake doctor. Many others are given an some of them are very funny.

ACTIVITY ONE:

- Original idea
- Students will draw a picture of three animals and then write an example for each one of the animals that was used in the book. Students will also write down any other animal sayings that they have heard from either a parent, grandparent, family member or friend.

Title of book: My Teacher For President

Author’s name: Kay Winters

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: My Own Choice

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This story is about a student who believes that his teacher, Mrs. Robbins, could be the President. He writes a letter to Channel 39 to advertise his teacher. He provides examples such as Mrs. Robbins goes to lots of meetings, she deals with the media every day, she acts quickly when there is an emergency, she likes to go on trips and that she wants peace. The last thing he says is that his teacher would make a great president but please don’t take her until the end of the year.

ACTIVITY ONE:

- Original idea
- Students will make an advertisement that could be put in the newspaper to promote a parent, friend or anyone else to a special position; such as their parent to be president or the police chief. Maybe they want to promote their friend to be the mayor or the manager of the Chicago Cubs.

Title of book: Jazz on a Saturday Night

Author’s name: Leo and Diana Dillon
Copyright year: 2007

Genre: My Own Choice

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book the joy and emotion of Jazz is brought to life. People show up in a crowded area to hear some of the Jazz greats play music in perfect harmony on their historic instruments. Influential artists like Miles David, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Thelonis Monk, and Ella Fitzgerald join together to make beautiful music for a group of people.

ACTIVITY ONE:
- Original idea
- Students will make a fun book mark with the name and a little bit of history of a musician from the jazz period and also their favorite musician from the present. Students will do some research and find out some information about each artist to put on both sides of the book mark.

Title of book: We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

Author’s name: Kadir Nelson

Copyright year: 2008

Genre: My Own Choice

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This book captures the heartbreak and triumph that the Negro League had to endure during their coming as a league. This book speaks about the hardships it took for some of these young baseball players just to make it along. But in the same breathe it speaks about the greatness of the Negro League. The flashiness and speed of the game could not be matched even in Major Leagues. Stories are told about the umpires not being able to call the Negro League games because they were to fast. They would say the players were so fast that if it was the major leagues the parks would have to be built bigger to fit all the fans that would come. Famous players and owners such as Rube Foster and Jackie Robinson along with the famous teams such as the American Giants and the Detroit stars are mentioned in the history of this great book.

ACTIVITY ONE:
- Original idea
- Students will create a baseball card of one of the baseball players mentioned at the end of the book that will have statistics, where the player was from, when they lived, what team they played for and find a picture of the players using google.
Title of book: Fossils

Author’s name: Kris Hirschmann

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: Nonfiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This short book tells of the different types of fossils. Fossils range from mammals to other animals all the way to fossilized trees. There have been fossils found in rocks of fish, dolphins and even leaves. At times ancient insect fossils are found where the insect got caught in the sap from a tree and it hardened into amber leaving the insect frozen in time. The four main types of fossils are called mineral fossils, molds, casts and trace fossils. At the end the book covers the most famous types of fossils, dinosaur fossils. There are many near complete fossils of Tyrannosaurs Rex’s and Triceratops in the world.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Give each student a fossil and without looking at it have them just feel it and write down on a piece of paper what they think the fossil is of; also have them provide reasoning for why they think it is of this specific bug or animal. Then have the students place a piece of paper over the fossil and go over it with a pencil until the image is clearly on the paper. Students will then know what the fossil is.

Title of book: Earth in Danger

Author’s name: Kate Waters

Copyright year: 2009

Genre: Nonfiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
In this book the author speaks of the danger that humans are causing to the earth. She talks about the greenhouse effect and global warming. Facts are brought up about how we, as humans, release fossil fuels into the atmosphere every day. Solutions for helping this problem are then talked about and what we can do to help save the environment. Recycling, turning off the TV and riding a bike instead of driving a car are easy solutions for trying to help. This book would be a great introduction to a lesson on the effects we have on the earth and why recycling is important. It would give great background knowledge to young students who do not know about this sort of topic.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will make a sign to put above their trash can at home that labels what is supposed to be recycled or not. Signs will be laminated and ready to take home to help students remember to help the environment.

Title of book: Creepy Crawlies

Author’s name: John Stidworthy

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Nonfiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This book gives an unbelievable amount of interesting facts about creepy crawlies bugs. It mentions about every type of bug that a person could imagine and then some. Huge, nasty spiders are mentioned along with bees, locusts and even slugs. Each page is packed with things that most people wouldn’t know about each bug. How specific bugs defend themselves, where they live, what they eat and what the bug is in general are all spoken about. Students could earn a great deal of knowledge from this book if they were interested in bugs, which I know that most young boys are at least.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Students will go into their back yard and find one of the creepy crawly bugs mentioned in the book. They will then bring the bug into class and write all the facts mentioned in the book on their own paper to remember then stick the bug to the page. These pages will all be put together at the end of the section to make a book like the book Creepy Crawlies.

Title of book: Poison Dart Frogs

Author’s name: Tracey Reeder

Copyright year: 2005

Genre: Nonfiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This book talks about poison dart frogs and how they live. It talks about where they live, their growth, how they are ban, their lifespan and their lifecycle. There are great illustrations showing how frogs carry their tadpoles in water and how large their eggs are. It also shows the evolution of frogs and how they can breathe so well under water and how they developed lungs do breathe outside of the water. There are also great activities in the back of the book that

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Original idea
• Students will draw the life cycle in specific terms that apply to poison dart frogs. How they are born as eggs into tadpoles and then how they develop and eventually over time turn into a full grown poison dart frog. They will also show some of the specific attributes a grown poison dart frog has. Why do they have this name and what do they use this ability for?

Title of book: Africa

Author’s name: Leila Merrell Foster

Copyright year: 2001

Genre: Nonfiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY:
This book talks about every important aspect of Africa. It mentions where Africa is located, the weather, the terrain, important cities, animals, and famous places in Africa. This book would be great for a geography section focused on Africa and its people. It gives details about what makes Africa such an interesting place and also gives great insight on what the people look like. It has pictures of certain tribes taking advantage of the great land in Africa. Africa has some of the most interesting animals in the world and that is shown in this book.

ACTIVITY ONE:
• Students will use the information from the book along with other resources and create a fake conversation with a person who lives in Africa. Students will create a mock conversation using the information already attained and pretend as if they were talking to a person from Africa and the person from Africa was answering. They can ask questions such as; what are the animals that live around you? What rivers or mountains do you live near? What part of Africa are you from? What do you enjoy eating? And then they will pretend to be the African person and answer the questions with the correct information.