

# Trade Books

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EDUC 340

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Trade books- multi-cultural & fantasy

**Title of book:** Molly the Brave and Me

Author's name: Jane O'Connor (Illustrated by Sheila Hamanaka)

Copyright year: 1990

Genre: multi-cultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Molly is an African American girl who goes to Beth's school. The two classmates are not close friends at first, and Beth secretly wishes she could someday be as brave as Molly. One day, Molly invites Beth to come stay the night at her house. Beth is scared because she thinks that they might be really different from each other. Throughout the book, you experience all the fun things the girls do together, like picking berries. Beth realizes that Molly and her are really a lot alike! In the end, they become the best of friends.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- o Original
- o Write a letter about your best friend for your teacher, making sure to use the letter format. Be sure to include how you became friends and at least 3 activities they enjoy doing together. Decorate the letter with a border or picture of you and your best friend.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- o Original
- o Write a note to a pen pal that you do not know telling him or her about some things you like and dislike. (Teacher will find a class that will participate in pen pals.) Write back and forth and share with your class similarities and differences both you and your pen pal have each time you exchange notes. At the end of pen pal activity (Teacher discretion of how long you continue), share with the class what you learned from this experience.

**Title of book:** Hooper Humperdink...? NOT HIM!

Author's name: Theo. LeSieg (Illustrated by Charles E. Martin)

Copyright year: 1976

Genre: multi-cultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** The main character is a little boy who decides that he wants to have a party, but does not want to invite Hooper Humperdink. For this party, the little boy is trying to decide which people he should invite. He goes through the whole alphabet of names, and finds out there are so many people he will need to invite. Along with all the people, he will need a lot of things for the people to do. Since there is such a diverse amount of people, he asks everyone to bring something fun! In the end, the little boy realizes that this is going to be such a good party with so many different types of people that he needs to invite Hooper Humperdink so he does not miss out.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- o Original
- o Write a list of everyone in your classroom, including your teacher. Beside each person's name, write something that they could bring to the party. This item or activity needs to be something that they are either good at or would be appropriate for their personality. Beside each classmate's name, explain what you would have him or her bring and why you would have him or her bring it. Example: Sally's favorite food is pizza, so I would ask her to bring pizza to the party.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- o Original
- o Make an invitation to your own party. Make sure to include For, Date, Time, Place, R.S.V.P., a description of the party, and what guest will need to bring. Decorate according to the theme of the party.

**Title of book:** Thank You, Squanto!

Author's name: Peter and Connie Roop

Copyright year: 2005

Genre: multi-cultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This chapter book talks about a famous Indian named Squanto. There are many stories about Thanksgiving, but this book gives another side to the story. It provides a biography about his life and the times he spent as a child growing up. Squanto is depicted as a historian because he was part of the first harvest between the Pilgrims and Indians. Thank you, Squanto! entails the life before his encounter with the Pilgrims. The actual Thanksgiving feast made Squanto so well recognized, but Squanto's adventures as a young boy were very important too.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original (idea from my own elementary, DeSoto Elementary)
- (Divide class up into two groups, the Pilgrims and Indians.) The Pilgrims and Indians each will make hats that are similar to what they would wear during the time period of the book. Each person brings in food items from home that represents what the Pilgrims and Indians might have eaten on Thanksgiving. Before Thanksgiving break, have feast with the food and hats.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Watch the movie Pocahontas. Write a reflection about the similarities and differences of the book and movie.

**Title of book:** The Children's Book of America

Author's name: William J. Bennett (Illustrated by Michael Hague)

Copyright year: 1942

Genre: multi-cultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Many people are a part of the creating and making of the Americas. In this book, The children's Book of America, students are introduced to 26 different stories about people who have impacted America. Each historical figure is very different in the way they lived and the people whom they impacted. All stories contained in this book are from all parts of the Americas. Basic understandings of America's founders are presented throughout each story in a way for children to relate to.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Pick one historical person from the book and look up five interesting facts about that person. Dress up like that person would have during that time period and present the facts to the class. Some historical people may be duplicated according to class size.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Make a class timeline of all the historical people in history. Be sure to include the date, historical person, and a short description of their contribution to America.

**Title of book:** Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Author's name: Dr. Seuss

Copyright year: 1990

Genre: multi-cultural

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This encouraging story talks about all the new great places that you will come across along the way of life. Some places will be familiar with fun things to do, while other roads will take you to places and people that you have never seen. The book takes you to where you find "strange people" because they are speaking a different language than you, or even to a place where people look different from you. Oh, the Places You'll Go! leaves you wondering if each place will be the right one for you based on the environment you are in.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Draw a flag from another country that you have visited, want to visit, or know of someone who has visited that country. Hang up different types of flags in the classroom representing all the places people can go.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/asl/>
- Imagine that you are taken to a culture where they speak a different language. In this certain place, people only use sign language. Go to this website to learn the American Sign Language with flash cards and translate sentences into sign language.

**Title of book:** If You Give a Pig a Pancake

Author's name: Laura Numeroff (Illustrated by Felicia Bond)

Copyright year: 1998

Genre: fantasy

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** A little girl is the main character in this book and it tells what would happen if you give a pig a pancake. Throughout the story, you find out what would happen if you decided to give a pig a pancake. It leads the little pig into doing something silly followed by another, and another. The little pig has the girl doing little things such as taking his picture, to even building a tree house. Obviously a pig would not be able to suggest these things, but this book keeps the reader always guessing what that silly little pig is going to do next.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- List all the ingredients you would need to make a pancake. Write down detailed steps on how to make a pancake. Follow all the steps by using the ingredients to make a pancake if possible in your classroom.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Pre-make or have students bring in a large pancake. Use the pancake method to help use fractions. Pancakes can be used to cut into halves, fourths, eighths, etc.

**Title of book:** Aladdin

Author's name: Disney (Adapted by Don Ferguson)

Copyright year: 1992

Genre: fantasy

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Aladdin is a boy who is raised on the streets. He ends up at the magical palace and falls in love with the princess. During his journey, he finds a magical lamp and becomes friends with the genie inside. Aladdin also has a companion monkey along his journey and finds a magical carpet. His life long lessons are present throughout the book. The entire story gives rise to the journey and life they all share and the friendships and hardships they encounter along the way.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Write a poem about what you would do if you found a magical lamp and were given three wishes. What would you wish for? Poem can be any type that you are familiar with or can be a current type you are learning in the classroom. If you were working on rhyming words, it would be appropriate to use them in the poem.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Imagine that you just found a Magical Carpet and you decide to ride it. POOF! It will take you anywhere. Draw a picture of what your magical carpet would look like. Write and draw the places you would go and things you would see from an aerial view.

**Title of book:** Just Imagine

Author's name: Mary Shrode (Illustrated by Mary Grace Eubank)

Copyright year: 1992

Genre: fantasy

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** A five year old names Lori just moves to the city and all she has to play with is her toy dinosaur Barney. She has yet to make new friends and is sad that she will not make any new friends. Lori's toy Barney comes to life through her imagination. Barney insures that everything will be okay and that there is so much to do in the city. With time, Barney helps Lori discover that she should not be sad, but happy. Lori has so many new sights she can see.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Make a map of your closest city. Use a map key to distinguish direction as well as show places on your map. Be sure to include important landmarks, label the roads, and show where important places you like to visit are.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Create a life-size drawing of an imaginary friend that you used to have. Label his or her body parts that you have learned. Example- awareness of leg and foot

**Title of book:** Olivia

Author's name: Ian Falconer

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: fantasy

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Olivia is a pig that does not do normal things that you would think of a pig doing. She wears clothes and is always being copied by her younger pig brother. Olivia tells about the things she loves doing and describes how she does them step-by-step. Her life is a lot like an example of what a younger child might act and do. Olivia is always getting in trouble or finding new activities she likes to do, that no normal pig would ever be sighted doing.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Make a checklist of the things that you do in order to get ready for school in the morning. Make sure to include everything from the moment you get up until the time that you get to school.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Draw a family tree and include all the people in your immediate family. Also include your extended family. Can be an actual tree drawing or a plain diagram family tree.

**Title of book:** Strawberry Shortcake and the Crazy Baking Contest

Author's name: Nell Miller (Illustrated by Pat Sustendal)

Copyright year: 1983

Genre: fantasy

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Strawberry Shortcake is a doll that has many friends. She finds a sign about a contest and decides that she wants to enter. Strawberry tells about the contest to all of her friends and they decide to enter too. The story helps show one way of entering and describes what participating in a contest is like. Strawberry and her friends all have tasks along the way, and become very competitive in strivings to win the contest. They stay friends throughout the entire story even though there can only be one winner in the end.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Create a sign that advertises a contest in your town. Make sure to include the time, place, and description of the contest in your sign.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original (idea from my elementary, DeSoto Elementary)
- Write an essay based on a given topic by a local writing contest. Have students write their essay and submit each essay as a classroom project.

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Trade books- historical fiction & realistic fiction

**Title of book:** The Drinking Gourd: A Story of the Underground Railroad

Author's name: F.N. Monjo (Illustrated by Fred Brenner)

Copyright year: 1970

Genre: historical fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY: A slave family, who is trying to runaway with the Underground Railroad, makes a surprising stop at the Fuller family's farm. The son, Tommy Fuller, discovers the slave family in the hayloft of his barn. Tommy must keep their escape a secret because helping the slaves run away was a major crime. He eventually helps his father, Thomas Deacon Fuller, travel with the family hiding in the hay wagon on their way to Canada. The slaves that were part of the Underground Railroad guided for freedom followed the drinking gourd, better known as the Big Dipper.

ACTIVITY ONE:

- Original
- Use LITE-BRITE® toys to form major constellations from the Milky Way. Constellations will be shown in pictures from your teacher and will be replicated on the LITE-BRITE® for assessment and practice purposes. After studying the constellations, visit a Planetarium.

ACTIVITY TWO:

- Original
- In small groups, write a script of your own version of The Drinking Gourd: A Story of the Underground Railroad. Include major reading parts from main characters in the book, and also include emotions and sayings that characters might have felt or said during the time of the Underground Railroad.

**Title of book:** Tut's Mummy: Lost...and Found

Author's name: Judy Donnelly (Illustrated by James Watling)

Copyright year: 1988

Genre: historical fiction

SYNOPSIS OF STORY: King Tutankhamen was a young king that was a very important part of the Egyptian history. Even though he was only eighteen years old, his remains must be preserved and buried with his ancient artifacts. The remains of King Tut have been discovered throughout the years by different scientists. One myth is from a scientist named Howard Carter who supposedly found an ancient tomb. Many thought he was foolish because of the artifacts he found that were very unbelievable to be found from any ancient tomb. Many still continue to seek other ways of finding any signs of ancient Egyptian artifacts.

ACTIVITY ONE:

- Original
- Bring in ancient looking artifacts and/or pictures of artifacts from the Egyptian time period. Each item needs to be identified and each student will try to guess what the significance of artifact is and what it might have been used for. Students will apply prior knowledge and also educated guesses after reading the book Tut's Mummy: Lost...and Found.

ACTIVITY TWO:

- Original
- After discussing how mummies are prepared for burial from the book, have students break off into groups or use one student as a volunteer. Students may bring in one significant item that is important to them. Without wrapping the head, wrap your group member or volunteer with toilet paper, mocking how a mummy would be wrapped for burial. Place items brought into class together to represent the ancient important artifacts for a simulated burial ceremony.

**Title of book:** Dinosaur Bones

Author's name: Aliko Brandenburg

Copyright year: 1988

Genre: historical fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This story is about a little boy who starts becoming interested in dinosaurs from reading a book about them. He wants to see just how big dinosaurs really were, so he takes a visit to a museum. Throughout the museum he discovers a lot of different perspectives of how dinosaurs really came about and how they lived. With every dinosaur fossil that is found, he discovers that scientists can learn more and more about dinosaurs. Since the dinosaurs suddenly died out and nobody knows why, the little boy decides that he will check the museums and library books for the latest news.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- In the hallway or gym, measure out different types of dinosaurs. Compare the sizes of the dinosaurs to each other. Practice converting measurements into inches, feet, yards, etc.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Set up a box of sand that is filled with simulated dinosaur bone models. Students will pretend like they are archaeologists and use many techniques to find dinosaur bones. Students will try to guess what type of dinosaur the bones may have come from after putting together the dinosaur bone models.

**Title of book:** Molly's Surprise: a Christmas Story 1944

Author's name: Valerie Tripp (Illustrated by Nick Backes)

Copyright year: 1986

Genre: historical fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Molly is a girl that lives in the 1940s. While her father is away at war, Christmas is approaching fast. She worries that Christmas just is not going to be the same without her father. Molly worries and worries because as it gets closer to Christmas, family traditions without her father become unbearable when it has been weeks since she has heard from him. Unexpectedly, Molly's father shows up on Christmas and surprises the whole family. The holidays this year for Molly would be a special time to remember forever.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- (Original & Mrs. Domenico; MES)
- Using a wrapped present, write on each side of the box a tradition that you have during a specific holiday. Make sure to use each side of the box to help describe your tradition.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Write and address an envelope properly. Make sure to include return address and correctly use proper nouns and punctuations. Students can also decorate letter for the winter holidays.

**Title of book:** Fossils: Tell of a Long Ago

Author's name: Aliko Brandenburg

Copyright year: 1990

Genre: historical fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** A group of friends discover a fossil close to the riverbank and decide to figure out how it was created. They realize that fossils come from many different animals from the past such as dinosaurs, plants, and even reptiles. Throughout their discovery, they notice that not all of the fossils are the same. Some are small, while others are large. Many fossils have lots of textures, while others do not have many at all. Their advice is that when you see a fossil, look at it carefully because it may be from an animal that is no longer living or extinct.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Have students bring in hard objects that have a lot of detail and that have the potential of being thrown away after activity if ruined. For example, a student might bring in a keychain. With molding clay that can be heated up, students will cover their objects. Students will let molding clay dry and will cut open their "fossilized product". Students will examine the fossil prints on both sides and describe/share their object to the class.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- With blank computer paper, students will place the paper onto 5 different types of textures and rub over the texture with a pencil. Textures may include gravestones, sidewalks, coins, etc. Exchange rubbings among classmates and have them try to figure out what the pencil on the paper was rubbed on.

**Title of book:** Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox

Author's name: Grace Maccarone (Illustrated by Betsy Lewin)

Copyright year: 1992

Genre: realistic fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** The main character in this story is a little boy who mysteriously has "red spots" that keep appearing. He keeps discovering them everywhere, from his head all the way to his toes! His father decides that it is time to go to the doctor. In the end, the boy discovers that these pesky red itchy spots are called the chicken pox. After special lotions and an oatmeal bath that the little boy does not enjoy, he realizes that he feels better. Once the itchy, itchy chicken pox goes away, thanks to the doctor's orders, he can now go back to doing everything he enjoys.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Pass around items from a doctor's office to familiarize students with some of the instruments used. Teach students about what each of the health instruments are used for and how they can benefit your body. Prepare and make sure students are familiar with what a doctor's visit might be like. Use a doctor as a reference if needed.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Make a cutout of a human body. Using finger paints, students will use their fingerprints to represent Chicken Pox. Explain to students that the fingers represent that every person is different and not everyone might have the same symptoms when you are sick. At the bottom of the picture, have students tell about some of the symptoms they might have when they aren't feeling well.

**Title of book:** A Bad, Bad Day

Author's name: Kirsten Hall (Illustrated by Laura Rader)

Copyright year: 1995

Genre: realistic fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Waking up late was just the beginning of bad luck the little boy experiences in the book A Bad, Bad Day. He woke up late for school, which means he has to miss breakfast and also cannot find anything to wear. Once he gets to school, he realizes that he cannot show his classmates that he is having a bad day. The little boy decides to sit quietly and hopefully his bad, bad day will go away. In the end, his patience pays off. His bad day turns into a really good day when he gets a good grade on his test.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Have students learn about telling time. Use a classroom clock to practice telling what time it is. Make sure to include all of the parts of a clock to help understand how it works.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- The book A Bad, Bad Day (after reading activities)
- People's faces can show what they are feeling. Provide two sets of faces. Point or draw a line to the face that matches the word.

**Title of book:** Just Me and My Little Sister

Author's name: Mercer Mayer

Copyright year: 1986

Genre: realistic fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Critter decides one day that his mom is too busy working inside the house and it would be beneficial to take his little sister, Too, out to the park. Too wants to play basketball, but Critter realizes she is too young to play. He agrees to play hid and seek, but he loses her. By the end of the day, Critter realizes that taking care of someone else is a lot of work. Even though Too had a blast, Critter has a lot of responsibility when watching his little sister.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Have students make a growth care chart for a babysitter that explains types of activities that would be appropriate for a baby as they grow up. Make sure children understand why riding bikes for example would not be appropriate for a baby. What types of things would you need to do for a baby that they cannot do on their own? What do you feed a baby? Does a baby need sleep? What types of toys should they play with?

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Bring in grasshoppers for the students to feed and observe for a few days. Have students learn the body parts of a grasshopper. Use a diagram of a grasshopper to assess body parts. Make sure students pay close attention to the environment they live in and what types of things that they eat.

**Title of book:** The Pet That I Want

Author's name: Mary Packard (Illustrated by John Magine)

Copyright year: 1994

Genre: realistic fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** In this story called The Pet That I Want, a little boy discovers that he wants a pet. Every day he walks by the pet store and decides that he knows exactly what kind of pet he wants. He tells his friends what his pet does not do, and it leaves them guessing what it could be. He finally gives a bug clue and tells his friend that his pet cannot even fit through a door! Silly enough, he tells them that he wants a pet dinosaur.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Have students bring in a photograph of a pet that they have or once had. If any students have never had a pet, allow them to bring in a magazine picture or drawing. Allow students to share their pets with the class and tell a funny story about them.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Have pictures of animals that would be a type of pet that a student might have had. Students will write an "If I had" sentence using a verb to describe each pet or tell what you might do with that pet. For example, "If I had a pet fish, I would like to take it swimming".

**Title of book:** No Way!

Author's name: Paul Fehlner (Illustrated by Laura Rader)

Copyright year: 1995

Genre: realistic fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This silly story is about a girl who does not like her parents to tell her what to do. She finds it annoying, so when her parents ask her to do anything, she says no way. Making decisions on her own is a big deal because she always thinks her parents are wrong. After a long struggle of refusing to listen to her parents, she decides that maybe she should listen to them after all. Her parents actually turn in to being very wise to her. Completing her chores becomes a lot easier when she listens to her parents.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**

- Original
- Discuss with students why it is important to eat a breakfast. Bring in different types of healthy breakfast foods. This will provide an example so that students may become familiar with those choices. Allow and encourage students to at least sample every food.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**

- Original
- Discuss the seasons. For each season, have children describe what they would wear. Bring in articles of clothing to show an example of an outfit that could be worn on that seasonal day. Break students up into groups to make a game to play afterwards. Have students race to put on the outfits might to help visually and hands on learn what they should wear according to the weather.

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4/23/2009

Trade books- non-fiction & free choice

**Title of book:** Earth & You: A Closer View: Nature's Features

Author's name: J. Patrick Lewis (Illustrated by Christopher Canyon)

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: non-fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** The Earth has a lot of different characteristics which requires a real close look to experience nature's entire beauty. There are so many aspects of the Earth that often people forget about. Starting at a young age, children are introduced to how they can help save the Earth from harm. There are many ways to preserve all of nature's resources, and they are included in this book according to where you live. Each picture contains nature's different landforms throughout the Earth's surface.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Have students make rock pets. Divide the class into small groups and provide different types of rocks for each group (example: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic). Let the students decorate them however they choose with the materials provided and share with their classmates.

**Title of book:** A Place for Butterflies

Author's name: Melissa Stewart (Illustrated by Higgins Bond)

Copyright year: 2006

Genre: non-fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:**

This is a book all about butterflies. Each butterfly is different in color but also is different in habitat. Some butterflies are found in different parts of the world and some species of butterflies are very rare. This book also shows the life cycle of the butterfly and how they depend on other insects such as mosquitoes. It also gives an insert in the back of how children can help the expansion of butterflies by creating a butterfly garden.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Use a butterfly cut out to learn about symmetry. Show by drawing a line down the middle. Have students decorate their own butterflies, making them mirror images of one another.

**Title of book:** Young Naturalist's Handbook: Insect-lo-pedia

Author's name: Matthew Reinhart

Copyright year: 2003

Genre: non-fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This is a book full of different kinds of insects. Facts are provided about the behavior and history of each of these insects. It also is a comedic book about the study and observation of insects. There are jokes throughout the book to give the reader a good laugh. Overall, Young Naturalist's Handbook: Insect-lo-pedia is a fun but educational book about all kinds of insects.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Using a shoebox, have the students go outside in groups and make an environment that would be suitable for an insect they are assigned. Have the students use elements from the outdoors to recreate the environment. Share with the class which type of bug would live in the environment they created.

**Title of book:** What Stinks?

Author's name: Marilyn Singer

Copyright year: 2006

Genre: non-fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Has there ever been a smell so horrible that you wonder how and where it came from? If you answered “yes”, this is the book for you. This is a fun filled book about our sense of smell. For example, it provides information about why a skunk uses the scent as a way of defense. Other animals use their sense of smell to mark their environment. This is a great way for you to follow your nose and read!

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Bring in different items that have a distinct sense of smell. In partners, have 2 sets of items that are going to be used. While one partner is blindfolded, have them try to guess what it is they smell. Predict what they think the smell is. Repeat with partners. Use as many different smells as you can complete in the time allotted.

**Title of book:** Ack! Icky, Sticky, Gross Stuff Underground

Author's name: Pam Rosenberg

Copyright year: 2008

Genre: non-fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Ack! Icky, Sticky, Gross Stuff Underground is a great way for children to learn about anything and everything that can be found underground. When most of us think about the underground, we usually think of bugs and insects. Besides these creepy crawlies, there are types of plants that thrive for the underground environment. Most of us only see what is above ground, but they do not realize that there are roots underneath the topsoil. This book will leave you educated about all the unknowns underground.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original Make mud pudding with your students to represent the environment of insects. Have a fake flower to represent the grass and topsoil, use crunched up Oreos to represent the soil, and use gummy worms to represent the bugs.

**Title of book:** Punctuation Takes a Vacation

Author's name: Robin Pulver (Illustrated by Lynn Rowe Reed)

Copyright year: 2003

Genre: fantasy (free choice)

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Mr. Wright's classroom is learning about punctuations. Every day, more and more the punctuations are being used on the chalkboard and on homework. One day, the punctuations decided to go on vacation because they did not think that Mr. Wright's students were very appreciative of their use in the classroom. All at once, the students came back in from recess and all of the punctuations were gone! The punctuations send postcards to the students asking if they are missed yet. The students discover that nothing makes sense without them, so they send a letter begging for them to come back.

**ACTIVITY:**

- [proteacher.org](http://proteacher.org)
- Students will make up noises to go with their punctuation marks. Every time you get to a period you do a specific sound (same sound every time, ex. smack your lips), a comma might be "hmmm" (to denote a pause), a question mark could be "huh?", an exclamation mark could be "Woah!", quotation marks could be a double click with the hand movement. Alternately, you can do walking punctuation where every time you get to: a period (you stop), a comma (you pause), a question mark (you shrug), and an exclamation mark (you throw your hands up in the air).

**Title of book:** Rainbow Fish to the Rescue!

Author's name: Marcus Pfister

Copyright year: 1995

Genre: fantasy (free choice)

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** A special family of fish lived out in the deep blue sea. They were so special because they had one scale that was sparkling silver in color unlike no one else they had ever come across. The family of fish were so happy and they paid no attention to any other fish that came across their path except for one of the fish; Rainbow Fish. Rainbow Fish felt bad that the little striped fish did not have any friends because he was different from the other fish. One day a shark came and all of the sparkling silver fish had to hide, leaving the striped fish all alone with the shark. Rainbow Fish saves the day and convinces all his friends to help save the striped fish. After the striped fish is saved, Rainbow Fish asks him to stay and play, so they played happily forever in the deep blue sea.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Make a cut out of a large fish. Cut out scales of many different colors. Each student will have the same amount of scales as well as the same colors. Have students practice their colors and write them on each of the scales. Once every student has labeled their colors, paste the scales on the classroom fish. Display in the classroom.

**Title of book:** Amelia Bedelia's Family Album

Author's name: Peggy Parish (Illustrations by Lynn Sweat)

Copyright year: 1988

Genre: realistic fiction (free choice)

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Amelia Bedelia works for Mr. and Mrs. Rogers cleaning their house. She has worked for them for such a long time that Mr. and Mrs. Rogers decide to have a party for Amelia and finally meet her family. Amelia brings out her family album from her treasure trunk to show Mr. and Mrs. Rogers everyone in her family and tells them what they do. Everything that Amelia tells Mr. and Mrs. Rogers that her family does becomes very unusual. They all have very unique occupations. Amelia gets carried away and invites her entire family to the party herself, the very next day!

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Create a memory game with characters from the book Amelia Bedelia's Family Album. Have the student match up the person performing the job with the tools or items they would need. Flip the cards face down and each student flips over two cards. If the student has a match, they keep the cards and continue their turn. If the cards do not match, the student must put them back into the same place

**Title of book:** What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?

Author's name: Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

Copyright year: 2003

Genre: realistic fiction (free choice)

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** This is a book about animals and their body parts. On every page there is an animal body part and the reader has to guess what that body part is and what it is used for. The next page has a description for each body part and explanation of why it is so important. For example, there is a picture of an anteater's mouth. If you are an actual anteater, your mouth would help you capture termites with your long tongue. Each page is full of different body parts and unusual facts about how they are used daily.

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original
- Take the entire class to a zoo. Break the students up into small groups. Each group will receive a camera. Students will take pictures of animals from the story that they see in the zoo. Once the camera is developed, have students put all of the pictures on a poster and make captions below each one.

**Title of book:** CLICK, CLACK, MOO: Cows That Type

Author's name: Doreen Cronin (Illustrated by Betsy Lewin)

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: fantasy (free choice)

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:** Farmer Brown raises cows and he discovers that they are not your average cows; his cows love to type. All day long he hears "click, clack, moo" and before he knows it, farmer Brown starts receiving ransom notes. His farm animals are not happy, they want electrical blankets! Farmer Brown refuses to give into his animals so they decide to go on strike. Finally, farmer Brown and the animals make a deal; if he gives them the electric blankets they demand, they will give him the typewriter. The duck on the farm helps with the trade deal and ends up tricking the farmer. Farmer Brown ends up stuck with the ducks starting to type notes and demanding blankets too!

**ACTIVITY:**

- Original+ducksters.com
- Introduce the keyboard and the location of keys to the classroom. Have the students take timed tests each day to improve the speed of their typing. Allow them to use a typing program of the teacher's choice or at this website <http://www.ducksters.com/games/typingtest.php>. With a blank keyboard, have students label where each letter is on the keyboard. Also, using 2 different crayons, color which key should be pressed with the left and right fingers.