

Trade Book Installment

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Literacy Block
Professor Schilling
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Title of book: *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*

Author: Judi Barrett

Copyright Year: 1978

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 30

Summary:

In *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, Henry's grandpa tells him and his sister a story of a little town called Chewandswallow, before bedtime. In this town there was something strange that occurred because when it rained or snowed, it was not actual rain. Instead it was raining foods like soup and mashed potatoes. The people who lived in this town did not have to go to the grocery store to buy food, but rather they would just carry plates and cups around with them to catch the food that fell from the sky. Eventually the food begins to fall too fast and overflows the town. The people have to leave the town, but to do this they have to think of a way to get across the water. They begin to use the food that falls from the sky and take the bread to make a sailboat. They hope on their bread and sail to another shore and leave Chewandswallow behind forever.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea I made up. The activity for the class is to create their own story of a fantasy town with food falling from the sky. First the student will be given five sheets of white paper and they will need pencils and crayons. Once they have their paper have them make up a town they live in and write that as the title. Once they do that, have them develop a storyline similar to *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. Write a couple sentences at the bottom of each page describing what is happening and then include some of their favorite foods they would want to fall from the sky in their illustrations. Allow them to alter the storyline a little and encourage them to have a different outcome of what will happen in the end. Once they are done with their stories have them read aloud to the class in the author's chair.

Grade level: 4th-5th

Title of book: *The Magic School Bus: Inside a Hurricane*

Author: Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen

Copyright Year: 1995

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 48

Summary:

In *The Magic School Bus*, Ms. Frizzle decides to take her class on a field trip, but the class's field trips are not your ordinary field trips. For today's class, they were going to make a trip that dealt with hurricanes. They started their trip off with traveling in their bus down the road and before they knew it, they transformed into a hot air balloon. They began floating in the sky and ended up over a hurricane that had been traveling across the ocean. They transform from being in a hot air balloon, to an airplane that flew through the hurricane and witnessed the parts that make up a hurricane. They make it out of the hurricane and land safely back on the ground. To celebrate their long and scary trip, the class had a party with games, music, and food.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea I made up. I would have the class write a report on hurricanes and the different parts that make up the hurricane. Some examples that I mean by different parts or facts are: when hurricane season is, why hurricane winds blow in a circle, sizes of a hurricane, or even how the wind, rain, and air play a vital part in the development of a hurricane.

Grade level: 5th

Title of book: *The Penguin Who Wanted to be Different*

Author: Maria O'Neill

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 28

Summary:

In *The Penguin Who Wanted to be Different*, a young penguin named Dorothy wants to be different from all the other penguins. Dorothy begins asking her mother and uncle why she is not different from all the others and what she can do to become different. Then she comes across her friends who are writing their letters to Santa and she decides that for her Christmas wish, she wants to be different from everyone else. So after she sends it, Santa asks Dorothy to help deliver all the gifts on Christmas Eve. She was thrilled to death and after she helped Santa, she woke up the next morning to open her gift. The gift was an elf hat and even though she still looked the same as all the other penguins, she still felt different.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea I made up, but I am sure that others have used it. For this activity I want the students to write a letter to Santa like Dorothy did. They will need to write the proper format of the letter with "Dear Santa" at the top followed by 5 sentences of what they want for Christmas, and then write "Sincerely with their name at the bottom".

Grade level: 3rd

Title of book: *Mooseltoe*

Author: Margie Palatini

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages:

Summary:

In *Mooseltoe*, it is Christmas time and Moose is very busy writing letters, shopping for presents, cooking food, and decorating his house. When he does all of this he makes sure everything is perfect. After he does all of the decorations, his family realizes that he was missing one thing, the Christmas tree. So he grabs his jacket and heads to town to find a tree, but everyone was sold out. When he gets back home his family has a plan to use Moose as a Christmas tree. With his long moosetache they glued and twirled it all around him. When they did that, they started to hang lights and decorations. He looked amazing and they all were filled with joy to know they had a Christmas tree for Santa to put presents under.

Activity: The origination of this activity was made up from my experiences with past teachers in elementary school. I will have the students get out their scissors, glue, and crayons first. Then I will pass out construction paper with different colors. I will have them cut the construction paper hot dog style and then curl it to make a complete circle. Once they do this I will have them glue the ends together to make a circle and then for the next one they make I will have them connect the new one with the old one. To do this they will need to run the new paper they cut through the other one they made a circle with and then connect them by gluing it. They will do this a total of ten times and then connect everyone's together. This will look like a chain and once they are all connected, hang them up around the room.

Grade Level: 3rd

Title of book: *Diary of a Worm*

Author: Doreen Cronin

Copyright year: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 34

Summary:

In *Diary of a Worm*, a young worm keeps a diary of all the things he does throughout the day. Worm's mother tells him there are three important things about being a worm: the first is the earth gives us everything we need, the second is when we dig tunnels it helps the earth breathe, and the third is never bother dad when he is chewing the newspaper. Then Worm writes about how he tried to get spider to dig holes like he does, but it did not work and then he writes in his diary how spider tried to get him to walk upside down, but that did not work either. Worm wrote about his scariest nightmare when he was playing hopscotch with giant birds, but his mother blamed the dream on him eating junk food. The last thing that Worm writes about is, the three good things about being a worm. The first one is he never has to go to the dentists, the second one is he never gets in trouble for tracking mud into the house, and the last is he never has to take a bath. Although many people may forget about Worm and his family members, the earth never will.

Activity: The origination of this activity is something I made up on my own. For this activity I will have the class take a notebook and pencil outside with them. When we get outside, I will dig a couple of holes in the ground to find worms. When I find the worms I will have the students write down things in their journal like color, size, the activity, and tunnels of the worms. Once they do this I will have them compare how the worms in the ground are similar to Worm in the book.

Grade Level: 2nd – 3rd

Title of book: *The Matzah Man*

Author: Naomi Howland

Copyright year: 2002

Genre: Multi-Cultural

Number of pages: 31

Summary:

In *The Matzah Man*, a baker named Mr. Cohen is cooking matzah and with his scraps he decides to make a little figure that looks like a man. He places the Matzah Man in the oven and when it is done cooking, the Matzah Man runs away from Mr. Cohen. As the Matzah Man escapes the baker, he encounters many other people who try to catch him. Some of the people he comes across are a red hen, cousin Tillie, grandpa Solly, and Mendal. All of these people were trying to eat him except Mendal. Mendal helped the Matzah man hide in his house under a napkin on a dinner plate. The people who were trying to catch him came in the house and were hungry, so they decided to have something to eat. The grandpa reached under the napkin and broke the Matzah Man in half and ate him. They all eventually ate a piece of him and they thought it was the best matzah they ever had.

Activity: The origination of this activity is something I made up on my own. For this activity I would allow my students to make ginger bread men because it relates to the Matzah Man. I would have the students cut out a man on their own and then they could add decorations to him. By doing this they would be creating their men from the image the book provided them.

Grade Level: 4th

Title of book: *Whoever You Are*

Author: Mem Fox

Copyright year: 1997

Genre: Multi-Cultural

Number of pages: 26

Summary:

In *Whoever You Are*, it tells everyone who reads it about how everyone is the same inside. It does not matter what color you are or what culture you belong to. Everyone has a heart, a laugh, a cry, and a smile to show in this world. Although people have different surroundings like schools or homes, everyone is the same in this wonderful world and people are just like you. People need to see that they are not so different and through this book, it might bring a new image for the world to work on.

Activity: The origination of this activity is something I created on my own. For this I will have them write a list of 10 similar things that all people share no matter what their color or religion. I will give the students a piece of paper with numbers 1-10 and they will have to complete the list. This will allow the students to see that color does not matter and that we all are similar.

Grade level: 2nd

Title of book: *La Mariposa*

Author: Francisco Jimenez

Copyright year: 1998

Genre: Multi-Cultural

Number of pages: 35

Summary:

In *La Mariposa*, a young boy Spanish boy named Fransico, lives with his family in a tent outside of the town. Fransico can only speak Spanish and he is going into to first grade at an English speaking school. When they get to school, Fransico is introduced to his teacher, Miss Scalapino. As he begins attending class, he tries his best not to become frustrated, due to the fact that no one speaks Spanish and he is the only one. So Fransico sits at a desk where he watches a caterpillar, which eventually turns into a cocoon, and then a butterfly. As school goes on Fransico has a hard time making friends because no one can understand him, so with his alone time he draws a beautiful picture of a butterfly. Eventually the butterfly he draws wins him first place in an art contest and he is so proud of this picture. What he decides to do with this picture is give it to a boy named Curtis who does not like him at all. This breaks the barrier between them and they become good friends.

Activity: The origination of this activity is something I made up on my own. For this activity I am going to set up different stations throughout the classroom where each student will have to do a certain task. Since Fransico could not understand English, my class is going to experience what he did and have to do activities that are all in Spanish. I will have four stations and at the first one the students will have to read a Spanish storybook that is for first graders. The next station is where they are going to have to write one sentence in Spanish. Station three is where they will have to listen to my verbal instructions for a task they have to perform. The last station is where they will take a test that is written all in Spanish. This activity will show my students how hard it was for Francisco in his English speaking class and how hard English is to learn.

Grade level: 5th

Title of book: *The Big Game*

Author: Louise Gikow

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: Multi-Cultural

Number of pages: 28

Summary:

In *The Big Game*, a young boy named Jose has fun playing soccer with all of his friends. The thing is Jose cannot kick the ball or run very well, but he still has fun. There is one thing that Jose can do and that is play goalie. One day in a game, the other team is bringing the ball down the field towards Jose and everyone on his team is yelling, do not let them score. If Jose stops them from scoring they will win and then the ball is kicked towards the goal. Jose dives to the side and stops the ball to win the game. That is why Jose has so much fun playing soccer with all his friends.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea. For this activity since it is dealing with soccer, I am going to tie it in with the World Cup. I am going to have the students pick one country that is going to be in the World Cup and draw the flag of that country to hang up in the room.

Grade Level: 1st

Title of book: *Martin's Big Words*

Author: Doreen Rappaport

Copyright year: 2001

Genre: Multi-Cultural

Number of pages: 26

Summary:

In *Martin's Big Words*, author Doreen Rappaport writes about Martin's life growing up and how he influenced the lives of others. Martin followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a pastor and using the big words that his father used every Sunday into his own vocabulary. As he began to get older, Martin started to help people who were standing up for what they believed in and helped people fight laws not with violence, but with love. He said that they could not heal the hatred in the world with violence, but they had to use love and the black people bought into his idea and it worked. Eventually segregation was not allowed anymore through the acts of Martin Luther King and the people who followed him, but this made more whites begin to hate him more. Martin Luther King was shot in 1968 while in Memphis, Tennessee.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea. I am going to have the students break up into four different groups to play a trivia game. I will have five to ten different questions that I will choose from reading *Martin's Big Words*. Each time the student gets the question right they will take one marble out of the middle. Everyone in the group can answer the question correctly. The people in each group with the most marbles win and if there is a tie, I will ask a question about Martin Luther King that is not in the book.

Grade level: 5th

Title of book: *The Impossible Patriotism Project*

Author: Linda Skeers

Copyright year: 2007

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Number of pages: 30

Summary:

In *The Impossible Patriotism Project*, a young boy named Caleb was having a rough time coming up with a project on patriotism. Caleb walked around and asked his fellow classmates what they were doing and they had amazing ideas. Some of those ideas were to draw a map of the states with a different color for each state and another girl was going to dress up like the Statue of Liberty. So Caleb went home that night and looked at a photograph of his father who was away fighting in the war and all of the sudden a great idea came to mind. The next day at parent night, Caleb brought a drawing of his father that he made and explained to the class how his father is patriotic. He is patriotic because he risks his life to keep the United States safe. Caleb's mother hugs him at the end and tells him how his father would be so proud of him if he were here.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from the book being read. Have the students do what the teacher had her class do. Have them do a project showing patriotism. It can deal with a drawing, a picture, a video, etc. Leave it open in the air as long as they provide something patriotic.

Grade Level: 3rd

Title of book: *The Cupcake Thief*

Author: Ellen Jackson

Copyright year: 2007

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Number of pages: 31

Summary:

In *The Cupcake Thief*, two boys named Zack and Tyler get into a mix up over Zack's cupcake. Tyler has been accused of taking his cupcake and the teacher decides that they need to go to the judge to decide if Tyler is guilty or not guilty. When the lawyer starts to ask questions Tyler looks like he cannot believe what is happening and said he hates sweets. His best friend Erin backed him up on this and said that last Halloween Tyler gave away all his sweets. As the lawyers continue to ask questions Erin jumps out of her seat and says Tyler did not do it. She explained to the judge how the class moved the desks around so they could act out a play and that they must have switched each other desks. They go to visit the crime scene and sure enough Tyler was innocent.

Activity: The origination of this activity comes from the ideas used in the book. The class is going to act like they are actually in court trying to solve a crime. You will need

to appoint one student to be the judge, four students to be lawyers, one to be the officer, and the rest to be the jury. You will provide the class a scenario of something that happened and one of the students will be the person who committed the crime. Doing this it will show the class that either justice always prevails or in some cases it may not always prevail depending on what the jury decides.

Title of book: *A Chair For My Mother*

Author: Vera B. Williams

Copyright year: 1982

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Number of pages: 29

Summary:

In *A Chair For My Mother*, a young girl and her mother work at a small restaurant called Blue Tile Diner. The mother is a waitress and her daughter cleans the saltshakers. When they go home they both empty their pockets of change and put it into a big jar to save. When they have enough money saved up they want to go out and buy a nice lounging chair for them to sit in and relax after a long day of work. The reason why they do not have a nice chair is because a year ago their house started on fire and everything burned inside their home. So as they continue to fill the jar with change it becomes full after a while. They take the change to the bank and exchange it for bills. After they get the money they go out and shop around for the perfect chair they want. It took them all day, but they finally found the perfect chair and had just enough money to buy it. They haul it home and were so happy to be able to sit in it and relax for once.

Activity: The origination of this activity comes from the book they are reading. Have the students write down one thing that they or their family really want that is affordable. When they write it down and hand it to you hand out each student a plastic jar to put change in it. When you give them the change tell them to take it home and try and have their parents put their change in it along with their own and see if at the end of the year how much money they have saved. Tell the children how good they will feel when they have all their money saved up and then spend it on something they have been wanting for a really long time.

Grade Level: 3rd

Title of book: *Thank you, Mr. Falker*

Author: Patricia Polacco

Copyright year: 1998

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Number of pages: 35

Summary:

In *Thank you, Mr. Falker*, a young girl struggles with reading her whole life. When she was young her grandpa gave her a book with honey on the page and told her to lick the honey and she said it was sweet. Her grandpa told her that honey is as sweet as knowledge. Later on as she goes through school she continues to get made fun of and feels dumb that she cannot read. Then one day her mother finds a job out in California and they move out, with the hope that the little girl will not be made fun of anymore. When she arrives at her new school she is still being made fun of until she enters the fifth grade. A new teacher arrives named Mr. Falker and he has a soft spot in his heart for this little girl. The students continue to pick on her, but Mr. Falker protects her from all the kids who are mean. After school he has her stay to work on her reading for a little bit and it begins to pay off. One day he picks out a book and has her start to read from it and she finally reads on her own. It brings tears to Mr. Falker's eyes and he is so happy for her and it also brings tears to her eyes because she finally got to read just like her grandpa had promised her.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity I will write down a list things that students should try and do everyday to try and be positive for one another. Every time they do one of the five things they can put a star by their name on a poster board. Some positive things that they can do are say how you like their outfit; help them feel better if someone makes fun of them, say please and thank you, and help one another with homework.

Grade level: 3rd-4th

Title of book: *My Teacher for President*

Author: Kay Winters

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Number of pages: 30

Summary:

In *My Teacher for President*, a young boy named Oliver writes a letter to a news station explaining how his teacher should be the next president. Oliver explains how they share similarities like how she is a good listener, finds jobs for people, cares about the Earth, and is even use to people following her around all the time. She is always there for her students no matter what and acts quickly whenever an emergency happens. All of her students share this bond with her that she is the best of the best and she should be the next

president. The one wish he asks for at the end is that they will not take her away before the end of the year cause he still wants her to be his teacher.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity have the students write a letter to the president. In this letter have them explain one thing that they would like to see different in this world. They also can tell him how great of a job he is doing. Teach them how to write a letter with the proper format. There should be a minimum of five sentences.

Grade Level: 2nd-3rd

Title of book: *Oliver's Game*

Author: Matt Tavares

Copyright year: 2004

Genre: Historical Fiction

Number of pages: 24

Summary:

In *Oliver's Game*, a young boy named Oliver was at his grandpa Hall's shop looking through all the baseball cards and souvenirs his grandpa had for sale. Then the phone rang and they were asked to find a program from the 1945 World Series, so they went into the closet and tried to find it. Oliver came across this wooden box and opened it up to find an old Cubs jersey. His grandpa had a story behind the jersey about how he got it when he was younger. He told Oliver that the manager asked him one afternoon if he wanted to take batting practice with the team and sit in the dugout during the game. Grandpa Hall did not turn him down and sitting in the dugout for nine innings was the best time of his life. After the game the coach asked if he wanted to come back in the spring to try out and Grandpa Hall said yes, but later to find out America would be going to war. He joined the Marines and after he got out realized how baseball is just more than the players on the field, it is everyone around the game that makes it so much fun. After grandpa Hall finished his story, Oliver and him went up to the roof to watch the Cubs play a game.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity you will be teaching your students about the game of baseball. By doing this you will have a whiffle ball game outside. Teach them about the rules of the game like (3 outs, 7 innings, 9 players on the field, etc). By doing this it will also give the students some physical exercise.

Grade level: 4th

Title of book: *I have Heard of a Land*

Author: Joyce Carol Thomas

Copyright year: 1998

Genre: Historical Fiction

Number of pages: 26

Summary:

In *I Have Heard of a Land*, it is about a woman who is describing this beautiful land that she has heard of. She talks about how it is perfect for such a woman to live on and how a pioneer can live on such fertile land. The land that is around her provides everything she needs to survive with food, shelter, and water. At this place she has heard that worship can take place not inside a church, but outside under an arbor of bushes with hymns that sound so sweet. This is a place where everyone provides help for one another without even asking for it. The land she has heard of is perfect for her.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. In the book she talks about making hominy grits from scratch. For this activity you will look up the recipe online and have the students help make hominy grits to see what the food was like back in this time period.

Grade Level: 4th

Title of book: *The Huckabuck Family and How They Raised Popcorn in Nebraska and Quit and Came Back*

Author: Carl Sandburg

Copyright year: 1999

Genre: Historical Fiction

Number of pages: 31

Summary:

In *The Huckabuck Family*, a young girl named Pony Pony, is the daughter of Jonas Jonas and Mama Mama Huckabuck. They live on a farm out in Nebraska where they grow and harvest popcorn. One day Pony Pony cuts open this lovely squash and finds a silver buckle. She runs it to her mother and finds out that it can either be good luck or bad luck. Later the evening, a fire started in the barn and the kernels started to make popcorn that eventually overflowed the farm. The Huckabuck family decided to move away and not come back until the popcorn blew away, but they had to wait for a

sign to come back. They lived in many different places and one day Pony Pony decided to buy a squash. When she cut it open she found a silver buckle again and her parents decided to move back out to Nebraska. When they got back out there they found that all the popcorn had blown away and they decided to not harvest popcorn anymore.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea. Since the book is talking about growing plants, the activity we will be doing is with how plants need water and sunlight to grow. I will explain how photosynthesis works and I will also have a seed to plant in a cup to watch it grow. The class will observe the seed as it grows and record their observations.

Grade Level: 5th

Title of book: *Paul Revere's Midnight Ride*

Author: Stephen Krensky

Copyright year: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction

Number of pages: 29

Summary:

In *Paul Revere's Midnight Ride*, it explains what Paul had gone through the towns to warn the people that the British were coming. Paul Revere was a well-known messenger and his job was to get to Concord as fast as he could to warn the people that the British were on their way. Along the way he stopped at Lexington to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams that they were coming and would take them prisoners. When the British arrived in Lexington they noticed that all the people were staring out their dark windows at them. Eventually Paul Revere was caught and they took his horse from him so he went back to his family to tell him that he was ok and he eventually went back to being a silversmith.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. Have the students trace on a map the path that Paul Revere took when he warned the people that the British were coming. Allow them to use crayons to color in the map. Also have them label the towns and the rivers he had crossed.

Grade Level: 4th

Title of book: *The Butterfly*

Author: Patricia Polacco

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Historical Fiction

Number of pages: 40

Summary:

In *The Butterfly*, a young girl named Monique wakes up one night to find a little girl sitting at the edge of her bed looking outside. She tries to talk to her, but she does not get a response for the longest time. The next morning she went downstairs to tell her mom what she saw and her mom seemed to be mad at her. She told her that it was just a ghost and it was not real. Later that day Monique and her friend go to the candy store to get some candy, and as they walk out they see the Nazis are taking Marks away from the store. They were horrified and hurried home to tell her mom about what they saw. As she went to bed that night she woke up and saw the little girl again and asked her what her name was. She finally replied and said her name was Sevrine. The two seemed to be perfect for each other and later Sevrine told her that she was living in her basement to hide from the Germans. Eventually Monique's mother had to move the family out of the basement for their safety and she took them to another friend's house she knew. Then after they never saw her again, Monique found a sign that Sevrine was ok when hundreds of butterflies flew around her. She told her mother that Sevrine had sent them to let her know she was safe.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity have the class go outside and find two caterpillars. When they find them place them both in a glass jar with holes at the top so they can breath. Put some leafs in their for them to eat as well. As the caterpillar begins to change have the students draw pictures of what the changes look like that are happening. When the caterpillar changes into a butterfly have them release them into the wild.

Grade Level: 5th

Title of book: *Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook*

Author: Michael Garland

Copyright year: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 29

Summary:

In *Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook*, a young student named Zack arrived at his first day of school and was not excited one bit. He thought it would be the same as last year with another boring teacher and all they learned was boring stuff. Well when Miss Smith walked into the classroom she seemed to be somewhat different than all the other

teachers. She had the class do the same boring stuff as any other teacher would and then she decided to read them a story. The story was different though because the characters came to life and the class could actually see them. One day Miss Smith is running behind so the principal steps in and reads them a story, but when he starts the characters come to life and he becomes scared and runs for help. Then the students get the book and start to read different stories without ever finishing the other ones so the characters go back into the book. Miss Smith finally arrives at the school and sees all the characters in the classroom, so she finishes the stories and all the characters jump back into the book before the principal arrived with help.

Activity: The origination of this activity is from my own idea. I am going to have the class select a fairytale book and we are going to have a play where the students will be different characters like there was in the book we read. I will have to develop a couple stories they can act out because of the number of students we have. When they practice their acting, I will have the class perform it in front of the rest of the class.

Grade Level: 4th

Title of book *Together*

Author: George Ella Lyon

Copyright year: 1989

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 31

Summary:

In *Together*, two little girls who are best friends do everything together. They do a variety of things like build a house, make ice cream, paint a boat, fish, and even dig for water. During the story a couple times they try and put their heads together to dream the same dream and some of the dreams they have are riding on dolphins, and being pulled by horses on a chariot. These girls seem to be the happiest when they are with each other and they dream the wildest dreams together.

Activity: This activity is from my own idea. I will have the students stand up in front of the class and tell the class their favorite dream they have ever had. They do not need to write anything down they just need to tell their favorite dream. Make sure that the students are well mannered and do not interrupt one another.

Grade level: 2nd

Title of book: *Wake Up, Sun!*

Author: David L. Harrison

Copyright year: 1986

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 32

Summary:

The book *Wake Up, Sun*, is about these farm animals who are trying their hardest to wake up the sun in the middle of the night. The first animal that wakes up in the middle of the night and thinks it is time to be up for the day is the dog. He begins to bark really loud and after a while he wakes up pig, which begins to oink. After they bark and oink, they walk around the farm and wake up the cow. Once they create more noise with the three of them, they decide to wake up the chicken. Through all their efforts they cannot wake the sun up until the baby wakes up and starts to cry. When the baby cries the sun comes up and the animals all decide from that day on they were going to become good friends with her.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity I will bring in different animals from my farm that are similar with the book. I will show the students how animals provide food for everyone in the world such as steak, milk, poultry, etc. When you bring in the animals encourage the students to join their local 4-H programs to gain new experience working with animals.

Grade Level: 2nd

Title of book: *The Magic School Bus Makes A Rainbow*

Author: Joanna Cole

Copyright year: 1997

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 28

Summary:

One day Ms. Frizzle's class came to school and noticed that she was not anywhere to be found in the classroom. They all heard a noise that was coming from the closet so one brave student walked up to the door and opened it. Come to find out, Ms. Frizzle was playing an awesome pinball game that was a rainbow theme. The goal of the game was to get all six colors of the rainbow lit up to win. Ms. Frizzle and her students jump into their bus and travel through the pinball machine to find out more about rainbows.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from an idea in the book. For this activity I will have the students take a disposable camera and go outside searching for rainbows. When they find a rainbow I will have them take pictures of it and then come back inside and draw a picture on paper with paintbrushes. If they cannot find a rainbow, make one with a hose and the sunshine. They will need to do their best at copying the rainbow off their picture onto paper.

Grade level: 3rd

Title of book: *The Snow Day From The Black Lagoon*

Author: Mike Thaler

Copyright year: 2008

Genre: Fantasy

Number of pages: 58

Summary:

In *The Snow Day From The Black Lagoon*, a young boy named Hubie does not like winter at all. The only time he wants it to be winter is the day before Christmas and the day of Christmas. He hates how you have to dress up in layers of clothing when you want to go outside and do anything because he hates having to put the cloths on and off when he goes in and out of his house. Eventually Hubie decides that he is ready to go out and explore the winter wonderland that had been developing outside. His mother and him decide to go out and make a snowman because it was something that Hubie thought would be a lot of fun. Hubie liked not having to attend school, but one morning he woke up and saw the snowplows going down the road and realized that he would have school again.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. In the book they just read it talks a little bit about what you can use to make a snowman. After they read the book, I will ask the students to use their own ideas along with the ideas from the book and go outside and create a snowman in groups of four. After they create their snowman, take a picture of them with their snowman and hang it up in the classroom.

Grade Level: 5th

Title of book: *Grasshoppers*

Author: Melvin and Gilda Berger

Copyright year: 2002

Genre: Non-Fiction

Number of pages: 14

Summary:

In *Grasshoppers*, it talks about all the interesting things about grasshoppers. Grasshoppers known as an insect, are hard to see because they blend in so well with there naturally surrounding, normally being grass or green leaves. They are able to jump high because of their back legs and they can also sing by chirping. Females lay their eggs and leave them go forever without showing any mothering skills. Most grasshoppers eat either plants or seeds they find on the ground or when they are flying around.

Activity: The origination for this activity came from my own idea. The students will make their own bug collector out of a jar and cut holes in the top. We will go outside into the grass and woods and look for grasshoppers to catch. When we catch the grasshoppers we will bring them back to the sidewalks at the school. Each student will place his or her grasshopper on the ground and we will have a game to see whose can jump or fly the farthest. After they grasshopper lands we will get out a tape measure to see whom the winner is.

Grade Level: 1st

Title of book: *Twizzlers Percentage Book*

Author: Jerry Pallotta

Copyright year: 2001

Genre: Non-Fiction

Number of pages: 30

Summary:

In *Twizzlers Percentages Book*, author Jerry Pallotta explains how to involve percentages while using twizzlers. Through the activities that are performed with finding percentages, they take a outer space theme calling us earthlings and how they act like aliens. Throughout the book he provides different illustrations and problems of how to use twizzlers to find out percentages like placing a hundred twizzlers on the page and sharing how each twizzler is one percent of a hundred. Through all the problems they worked, the class at the end knew how to divide the twizzlers evenly amongst twenty-five students. They all enjoyed eating the eight twizzlers that they found out that they could have in the end.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from the book that was just read. For this activity I will buy three bags of twizzlers and have my students learn percentages just like the students in this book did. I will have the students count out how many twizzlers there are all together, and then for some of them they will split them in half. Then I will ask

them to tell me what percentage each student will receive of the twizzlers. When they come up with the right answer I will then let them eat their twizzlers.

Grade Level: 5th

Title of book: *The Amazing Human Body*

Author: Luann Colombo

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Non-Fiction

Number of pages: 15

Summary:

In *The Amazing Human Body*, Luann Colombo uses a skeleton body along with his writing to explain what makes up the human body. He introduces all the different parts that make up the body like the skeleton, muscles, nervous system, respiratory system, circulatory system, urinary system, and the digestive system. In each section there is a brief overview of how each system works. With the muscle section it talks about how there are involuntary muscles that are mostly in your gut and they do their job without you even having to think about it. These muscles help us do things like breathing and digesting food. Through this book Luann does an excellent job of explaining what the body is made of and how each part functions.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from the game operation. For this game I will have the students play the game and try and get all of the pieces from inside the body out without making the buzzer go off.

Grade Level: 3rd

Title of book: *The Truth about Great White Sharks*

Author: Mary M. Cerullo

Copyright year: 2000

Genre: Non-Fiction

Number of pages: 41

Summary:

In *The Truth about Great White Sharks*, author Mary Cerullo provides interesting facts about one of the fiercest creatures in the ocean, being the great white. Some of the interesting facts about Great whites are they can grow in length from roughly twelve to

18 feet in length. Great whites are commonly known for man-eaters, but studies have shown that when there is an encounter, great whites usually take one bite and then leave. Each year there are about fifty shark attacks in the world and only ten attacks have resulted in the victim dying. Most attacks the shark mistakes people for their favorite meal the seal or sea lion. Professionals advise after you read this book to be aware of the waters you are entering and take proper precaution when you swim.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. For this activity I will have a certified shark expert come into class with a baby pet shark. This way the students can see what a shark looks like up close, instead of just in books. I will also have the class come up with question they want to ask the shark expert while he is here.

Grade Level: 4th-5th

Title of book: *Storms*

Author: Seymour Simon

Copyright year: 1989

Genre: Non-Fiction

Number of pages: 28

Summary:

In *Storms*, author Seymour Simon talks about all the elements it takes to make a storm happen in the sky. Thunderstorms form when the sun heats moist air, near the ground. The warm air rises until it reaches a spot in the sky where it is cooler and the air forms into tiny water droplets. Then a vacuum effect occurs and the cloud begins to suck more moist air up and creates a bigger cloud in minutes. Some thunderstorms can be seen as a lone giant, but others are made up of several cells in a row called a squall line. Thunderstorms are the most powerful electrical storms in the atmosphere and in twenty minutes, a single storm can dump more than a hundred and twenty-five gallons of water. People find thunderstorms so amazing because of all the different designs they create on their way down to the ground or even across the sky.

Activity: The origination of this activity came from my own idea. Whenever the next thunderstorm occurs while the students are at school take them to the window to watch what all is happening outside. Have students talk in groups about what they are seeing with what they read in the book to connect the dots to an actual storm they are seeing. This is good because it works on their comprehension and their social skills to talk with one another.

Grade Level: 4th

