



Literature And Technology: A Winning Combination!

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Too many Americans lack survival literacy skills. One of the primary reasons is that kids don't get enough practice reading. What are the keys to breaking this damaging cycle of non-readers?

- Increasing fluency
- Improving students' ability to create mental pictures from the text.

Repeated reading has a big payoff for struggling readers. Reading becomes enjoyable and people are motivated to read. If students receive and/or disseminate information in more than one mode, they engage more of their brain.

Your favorite children's books are key to improving literacy. Used in conjunction with technology, literature supports learning and increases both motivation and understanding.

"Students using technology are actively engaged in their learning and able to create their own knowledge and accomplish their own goals." (Copyright 2000, ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), www.iste.org) Projects created with computers are more fun, motivating, creative, and much more sophisticated than most products students would create on paper. Even the most simplistic picture book or idea can be expanded and adapted for use at all grade levels.

Following an author's pattern of writing can give definition to a vague writing assignment. Quality literature is the perfect springboard to help guide students toward great writing.

Author's Craft With Pattern Books

Many children's books are written with a predictable pattern. Read aloud a pattern book and use it as a model to create your own books that will reinforce a content area being studied. Students can write and illustrate one page for a classroom book or multiple pages for group or individual books following the author's pattern of writing. This is a good way reinforce vowel sounds, spelling, patterns, and visualization.

12 Ways To Get To 11 by *Eve Merriam, illustrated by Bernie Karlin*

Where is eleven? Perhaps eleven is with the sow and her ten piglets. Maybe it's on the jack-o-lantern with its two eyes, one nose and eight teeth. A dozen colorful and engaging spreads present children with a cornucopia of intriguing objects to count in order to find where eleven is hiding. It all adds up to an imaginative counting adventure.

America Is . . . by *Louise Borden, illustrated by Stacey Shuett*

Traveling from coast to coast in celebration of all things American, this book features skyscrapers, cows at pasture, Niagara Falls, and rodeos.

America is _____.

And Here's To You! by *David Elliott, illustrated by Randy Cecil*

A rhyming celebration of life on earth from the Feather People (birds) to the Dreaming People (dogs) and even the People People. It declares that all of earth's creatures are special and unique.

Anno's Counting Book by *Mitsumasa Anno*

A clever, beautiful, wordless counting/picture book that depicts the growth in a village and surrounding countryside during twelve months. Starting with an empty snowy landscape (zero), the picture progresses to one . . . one house, one person, one tree, and one snowman. With each picture representing a month of the year, young readers witness the growth of a town through all the seasons, and they will love counting everything they see in each picture. Outside each picture is a stack of the same number of colored blocks represented in the picture and the Arabic numeral.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by *Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle*

Introduce children to a variety of animals and colors in a question and answer game. This classic book with chant-like text ("Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see? I see a red bird looking at me. Red, Red Bird, what do you see? I see a yellow duck looking at me," etc.) and lovely illustrations promotes close observation. This is the first book in a series which also includes POLAR BEAR, POLAR BEAR, WHAT DO YOU HEAR? and PANDA BEAR, PANDA BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Dr. Seuss's ABC by *Dr. Seuss*

An introduction to the alphabet for young readers. Zany drawings and nonsense verse provides an entertaining way for small children to learn the letters and their sounds.

Big A, little A, what begins with A . . .

Each Orange Had 8 Slices, A Counting Book by *Paul Giganti, Jr., illustrated by Donald Crews*

A picture book that introduces the concepts of counting, addition, and multiplication. Each double-page spread features a colorful illustration and three related mathematical questions. If each orange has 8 slices and each slice has 2 seeds, how many seeds are there in all? You'll have fun whether you multiply, add, or count your way through the math puzzles.

Students create their pages with pictures and related math problems.

The Feel Good Book by *Todd Parr*

A compilation of things that make people feel good . . . from catching snowflakes on your tongue to showing the new kid around to making sounds like a monkey.

_____ feels good.

Fortunately by Remy Charlip

Ned alternates between good luck and bad luck as he travels from New York to Florida on his way to a surprise party. Fortunately, Ned is invited to a surprise party. Unfortunately, the party is a thousand miles away. Fortunately, he borrows an airplane. Unfortunately . . .

Colored vs. black-and-white pictures enhance the writing.

Here Are My Hands by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault, illustrated by Ted Rand

A dozen suitably assorted five or six-year-olds point out and celebrate different parts of the body, mentioning their functions, from "hands for catching and throwing" to the "skin that bundles me in." Each is written as half of a rhymed couplet.

Here are my _____ for _____ and here is my _____ for _____.

How Many, How Many, How Many by Rick Walton, illustrated by Cynthia Jabar

Guess the answer (including a number) from the clues. For example, "Rainbows follow storms in March. How many colors in the arch?" The answer . . . "Seven. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet."

Students write their own how many pages.

I Like Me by Nancy Carlson

By admiring her finer points and showing that she can take care of herself and have fun even when there's no one else around, a charming pig proves the best friend you can have is yourself in this gentle lesson in self-esteem.

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by David Catrow

In rhyming text, a little girl expresses confidence and joy in her uniqueness. Text encourages readers to love themselves despite the fact that they might sport messy hair or have horrible "beaver breath."

I'm Gonna Like Me by Jamie Lee Curtis, illustrated by Laura Cornell

Through alternating points of view, a girl's and a boy's, this book shows kids that the key to feeling good is liking yourself no matter what . . . because you are you. A young girl learns to like herself every single day, even when you make a mistake, are chosen last for a team, or give a wrong answer in class.

If You Give A Mouse A Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond

Giving a mouse a cookie might seem like a nice thing to do, but in this book, it is only the first in a series of interconnected and ever-increasing requests from the mouse. For example, giving a mouse a cookie will lead him to ask for a glass of milk, which will then cause him to request a straw, and so on. Young readers will be amazed to see how giving a tiny mouse a small snack can actually result in having the mouse give himself a haircut, sweep and mop the house, and draw himself a picture. This book is the first in a series that also includes IF YOU TAKE A MOUSE TO SCHOOL, IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE, and IF YOU GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN.

Imagine by Alison Lester

A vivid introduction to animals from all parts of the world, portraying them in their specialized environments with intricately detailed pictures. Imagine inspires curiosity and conversation as it is explored again and again. Includes a four-page key to the animals depicted.

Great for biomes and environments.

The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Examine the natural world and various objects by reading clear, simple ideas about the most important qualities of each one chosen. While other characteristics are included, there's always one very important identifier that is held up as most important above all.

The most important characteristic makes up both the first and last line.

Is Your Mama A Llama? by Deborah Guarino, illustrated by Steven Kellogg

A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals. In rhyming verses, each animal explains which mother they belong to, and by turning the page readers can see a picture of each creature's mother.

It's About Time by *Stuart J. Murphy, illustrated by John Spears*

It's about time to wake up, to learn, to play, to read, to cuddle up in the blankets and to dream. A twenty-four hour day is full of great things to do! Illustrations depicting things kids do every day make this an easy introduction to the skill of telling time.

It's Okay To Be Different by *Todd Parr*

This book embraces differences in a unique way . . .it describes all kinds of differences that are okay. For example, it's okay to be a different color, to need some help, to be adopted, and have a different nose. It cleverly delivers its important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in a child-friendly package.

It's okay to _____.

Lifetimes by *David L. Rice, illustrated by Michael S. Maydak*

Introduces some of nature's longest, shortest and most unusual lifetimes. David Rice's "tell about it, think about it" questions for each lifetime are perfect for engaging a young person in a stimulating conversation. Dramatic illustrations and Rice's thoughtful approach make Lifetimes a unique way to appreciate nature and consider the fundamentals of life at the same time.

Animals teach us _____.

Meanwhile . . . by *Jules Feiffer*

Raymond imagines what life would be like if he lived in a comic book and could use the simple word "meanwhile" to change scenes whenever he got caught in an unpleasant situation. When he writes "meanwhile" on his bedroom wall, he magically enters a comic book world where he travels from one adventure to another.

Meanwhile . . .to change to a new setting/story.

My Teacher's Secret Life by *Stephen Krensky, Illustrated by Joann Adinolfi*

Most children wonder what their teachers do after school and on weekends. Some even think they live and sleep in school. One curious pupil follows his teacher to find out about her "secret life." After observing the teacher at the supermarket, the mall, and even in a park, a young child begins to think that the teacher has a secret life.

The Night Before Christmas by *Clement Clarke Moore*

On the night before Christmas, when not a creature is stirring in the house, a chubby visitor dressed in red bounds down the chimney leaving gifts for everyone.

The Peace Book by *Todd Parr*

Describes peace as making new friends, sharing a meal, feeling good about yourself, helping your neighbor, keeping the water blue for all fish, having enough pizza for everyone in the world, etc. Peace is _____.

Picture Perfect? by *the second-grade students of Fletcher Walker Elementary in Westwood, California*

It's picture day at our school. Everyone wants to look their best, but . . .View self-portraits along with the reasons why the student's picture wasn't quite perfect.

Reading Makes You Feel Good by *Todd Parr*

Describes the characteristics and various advantages of reading in a fun way.

Reading makes you feel good because . . .you can _____.

Schools Have Learn by *Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Amanda Haley*

A rhyming description of the ups and downs of a day at school, where erasers have rub and pencils have nub. Requires higher-level thinking as students put together objects with what they do or something that they have.

Sky Tree by *Thomas Locker and Candace Christiansen*

A tree stands on a hill by a river. As the sky changes, so does the tree . . .its branches filling with clouds, stars, snow, birds, mists, and the golden spring sun. One tree can mean many things through the seasons of the year. Includes a section in the back, where art and science are intertwined.

Someday written by Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Arnold Lobel

Explores personal possibilities for the future . . . if we were perfect and did what we should before we are asked.

Someday _____.

Spring Is A New Beginning by Joan Walsh Anglund

Spring is a new beginning . . . and so the exploration of what makes spring great begins.

Students can make an acrostic book with each page a different letter of SPRING.

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

A counting book with rhyming text that introduces readers to the numbers one through 10. It shows what can be done with ten black dots; one can make a sun or moon, two a fox's eyes, or eight can be the wheels of a train.

That's Good! That's Bad! by Margery Cuyler, illustrated by David Catrow

When a little boy vacations at the Grand Canyon with his grandmother, both good and bad things happen.

That's What a Friend Is by P. K. Hallinan

Simple, rhyming verse discusses the best ways to make and be friends.

The Wonderful Happens by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Coco Dowley

Describes some of the things that bring happiness and awe into our lives, including a baby bird, fresh-baked bread, snow, clocks, the moon, and more.

There's A Wocket In My Pocket by Dr. Seuss

A young boy describes life in his unusual house which is inhabited by such never before heard of creatures as the wocket who lives in the closet, the yottle that lives in a bottle, and the yeps who occupy his steps. This unusual story is meant to help encourage new readers recognize common household words.

Things That Are Most In The World by Judi Barrett, Illustrated by John Nickle

The reader who wants to know what are the quietest, silliest, smelliest, wiggliest things in the world finds imaginative answers to these and other questions about superlatives.

Brainstorm other adjectives and type a creative sentences just like the author.

Time To by Bruce McMillan

It's time to wake up, to eat breakfast, to go to school, to play, to read, to fall asleep. A full waking day of great things to do! Illustrations depicting things kids do every day make this an easy introduction to the skill of telling time.

Today I Feel Silly & Other Moods That Make My Day by Jamie Lee Curtis, illustrated by Laura Cornell

A child's emotions range from silliness to anger to excitement, coloring and changing each day. This collection of short verses celebrates a variety of different moods and feelings such as happy, grumpy, joyful, lonely, and angry.

Tulip Sees America written by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Lisa Desimini

A young man and his dog drive west from Ohio and marvel at the farms of Iowa, the skies of Nebraska, the wind in Wyoming, the mountains of Colorado, the desert in Nevada, and the ocean in Oregon.

Great way to do county, state or country reports.

Underwear Do's and Don'ts by Todd Parr

Every other page has an underwear Do (do wash your underwear), while the alternating pages have a related underwear Don't (don't use too much soap).

If kids can get past the "silly factor" that is a fun pattern to use again.

Water by Frank Asch

A celebration of the many forms that water takes . . . ice, snow, rain, etc. This book offers a unique look at nature study.

Water is _____.

We Dream of a World . . . by the Gifted and Talented Students of Pershing Accelerated School in University City, Missouri

Endangered species, homelessness and peace are among the issues tackled in this beautifully illustrated book about our planet offering a lofty dream, tidbits of information about our planet, and suggestions to motivate the reader to action.

What Are You So Grumpy About? by Tom Lichtenheld

A humorous look at the many things that might have made a child so grumpy . . . including having to eat "grown-up" cereal, having too many chores to do (including training the cat how to play fetch), and not noticing that the toilet seat was up. Can anything bring about the end of such a grumpy mood? Color illustrations accompany the text.

Did you _____? or Did your _____?

What Mommies Do Best/What Daddies Do Best by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

Mothers and fathers participating in everyday activities show their love for their children in very similar ways. In this back-to-back book, readers learn all about what mommies do best, and then turn the book over to read about what daddies do best. The text, which is identical in both stories, demonstrates that both mommies and daddies can give piggyback rides, teach children how to ride a bicycle, and sew a button on a teddy bear. It shows students that mothers and fathers are equally important and equally special.

What Santa Can't Do by Douglas Wood, illustrated by Doug Cushman

Although Santa Claus is nearly perfect, he cannot resist a plate of cookies, remember Mrs. Claus's grocery list, or even shave. Santa can't always remember where he put his pipe, he can't do as many sit-ups as he used to and he can't sleep at night . . . well, not on the big night. But we all love the things he can do on Christmas Eve!

What Teachers Can't Do by Douglas Wood, illustrated by Doug Cushman

A young dinosaur shares his list of all the things teachers can't do by themselves such as buying their own apples, going down the tube slide at recess, spelling Mississippi, and teaching without flowers on their desk.

What lunch ladies/principals/librarians can't do . . .

What Comes In 2's 3's, & 4's? by Suzanne Aker, illustrated by Bernie Karlin

Introduces the numbers two, three, and four by showing ways they occur in everyday life, from your two eyes and two arms to the four seasons of the year. (Great for finding math in pictures.)

When I Was Little, A Four-Year-Old's Memoir of Her Youth by Jamie Lee Curtis, illustrated by Laura Cornell

A four-year-old girl proudly reflects on all the accomplishments she has achieved since the time when she was just a little kid.

Where Does The Wind Blow? by Cindy Rink

From children in their beds at night to mountaintops white with snow, follow the wind as it blows around the world to the many things it sees.

Why? by Lila Prap

Questions such as "Why do elephants have trunks?" are asked. Silly answers are given, but a short explanation that answers the question gives information about that animal is also on each page. (Great alternative to animal reports.)

Winter, An Alphabet Acrostic by Steven Schnur, illustrated by Leslie Evans

A collection of acrostic poems using winter-related words like cold, igloo, and quilt.

Alphabet and Number Books

ABC books provide a fun and easy format for sharing a variety of information. Create class, group or individual books on a single topic. Use the ABC Book map (attached) to organize your information. Illustrate by either drawing pictures, finding pictures on the Internet or using a digital camera to take pictures. Insert the pictures into PowerPoint, Kid Pix, Word, etc. once the writing is done.

10 Trick-or-Treaters, A Halloween Counting Book by Janet Schulman, illustrated by Linda Davick

A Halloween-oriented spin on the "10 Little Monkeys" rhyme can be found in this picture book counting tale of gently frightened trick-or-treaters. Ten costumed children start out to go trick-or-treating, only to slowly drop off one by one as little beasties, from a wee spider to a smiling bat to a hastily wrapped mummy (who might just be one of the other children), turn up to frighten them.

A is for America, An American Alphabet by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Pam Carroll

Readers are introduced to the letters of the alphabet and tidbits of American history.

A Is For Angry, an Animal and Adjective Alphabet by Sandra Boynton

Colorful animals are used to introduce readers to letters of the alphabet and to adjectives.

A is for Arches, A Utah Alphabet by Rebecca Hall, illustrated by Katherine Larson

An alphabet book that introduces Utah's history, culture, and landscape, from Arches National Park to Zion National Park.

A-To-Z by Sandra Boynton

A variety of humorous animal characters introduce the letters of the alphabet.

ABCs of Halloween by Patricia Reeder Eubank

Alliteration accompanies each Halloween word and is a fun way to explore the holiday.

Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson

Letters can be seen all over the city, in this book illustrated with realistic paintings. Readers will discover a "G" in the neck of a lamppost, a "P" in a subway railing, and a "V" on a telephone pole.

America, A Patriotic Primer by Lynne Cheney, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser

An alphabetical tribute to the people, places, ideas, and events that shaped the history of the United States. For example, "C is for the Constitution," "J is for Jefferson," "S is for suffrage," and "V is for valor."

Animal Alphabet by Gill Davies, illustrated by Gill Guile

Animals for each letter of the alphabet.

Capital! Washington D.C. from A to Z by Laura Krauss Melmed, illustrated by Frane' Lessac

Welcome to our nation's Capital, home of American government, world-renowned museums, and famous memorials and monuments. Visit Apollo 11 at the Air and Space Museum, find out how bills are printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and visit the Capitol Building to see where Congress meets, in this alphabetical tour. Rhyming text and illustrations present the sights of Washington, D.C.

The Flower Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Leslie Evans

Describes a variety of flowers from A-Z, beginning with the amaryllis and concluding with the zinnia.

The Furry Animal Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Edgar Stewart

Readers use the alphabet to learn about some of the more unusual mammals of the world.

I is for Idea, An Inventions Alphabet by Marcia Schonberg, illustrated by Kandy Radzinski

An A to Z introduction to modern inventions such as computers, microwave, umbrella, zipper and many more. Each invention is introduced with a poem and includes detailed-filled expository text.

The Icky Bug Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Ralph Masiello

Synopses:

Introduces the characteristics and activities of insects and other crawly creatures from A to Z, beginning with the ant and concluding with the zebra butterfly.

L is for Lone Star, A Texas Alphabet by Carol Crane, illustrated Alan Stacy

The letters of the alphabet are represented by words, set in short rhymes with additional information, relating to the state of Texas.

M is for Majestic, A National Parks Alphabet by David Domeniconi, illustrated Pam Carroll

Examines the history and lore of America's national parks from Acadia National Park to Zion National Park.

The Ocean Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Frank Mazzola

Introduces the letters A to Z by describing fish and other creatures living in the North Atlantic.

Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Stephen Gammell

Rhyming text and illustrations listing the many annoying activities of an old black fly (who always seems to be exactly where he shouldn't be) serves to introduce young readers to the letters of the alphabet. For example: "He coughed on the cookies with the chocolate bits. He drove the dog nearly out of his wits." What will become of this fly when he reaches the end of his "very busy bad day?" The rhyming song-like text features the irresistible, and quite repeatable, refrain "Shoo fly! Shoo fly! Shoo."

One Nation, America By The Numbers by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Pam Carroll

A counting book presenting various aspects of the United States, from the concept of one nation to the hundred men and women in the U.S. Senate.

P is for Pilgrim, A Thanksgiving Alphabet by Carol Crane, Illustrated by Helle Urban

The letters of the alphabet are used as a framework to introduce readers to the history of Thanksgiving.

Q Is For Duck, An Alphabet Guessing Game by Michael Folsom, Mary Elting, illustrated by Jack Kent

A is for Zoo . . .because animals live in the Zoo. A different twist on alphabet books that requires some higher-level thinking.

There's a Zoo in Room 22 by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Barney Saltzberg

The kids in Room 22 have 26 classroom pets. This book contains 26 poems that describe the antics and habits of a zany classroom pet whose name begins with a different letter of the alphabet.

Another alternative to ABC books is **Surfing for ABC's**. This is a fun way to use the internet to reinforce beginning sounds. Type several things that the letter stands for and then choose a site on the Internet that relates to that letter.

A stands for apple. A stands for apron. A stands for ape. A stands for ant. A stands for anteater. A stands for Andrew. A stands for amen.

"A" Sites to See!

Airplanes (<http://www.zurqui.com/crinfocus/paper/airplane.html>)

The best paper airplane in the world!

B is for bear. B is for bird. B is for beetle. B is for butterfly. B is for bunny. B is for ball. B is for buffalo. B is for beans. B is for bamboo.

"B" Sites to See!

Baseball (<http://mlb.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/index.jsp>)

This is the site for Major League Baseball!

Barbie (<http://barbie.everythingirl.com/>)

Here is the homepage for Barbie!

Your Own Version – Going Deeper With Springboard Books

Alexander Who Use To Be Rich Last Sunday by *Judith Viorst*

When Alexander's grandparents come to visit, they give him and his two brothers a dollar each. Alexander thinks about saving the money for some walkie-talkies, but then there was bubble gum, some bets that he lost, a snake rental, a garage sale, and all kinds of other things to spend money on. Now all he has is bus tokens. Although Alexander and his money are quickly parted, he comes to realize all the things that can be done with a dollar.

The Doorbell Rang by *Pat Hutchins*

Each time the doorbell rings, more friends arrive to share Ma's wonderful cookies. Will there be enough to go around? Students can illustrate the beginning, middle and end of the story to assist them in typing a summary paragraph.

Students can start with their own number and have various numbers of guests show up.

The Frog Prince Continued by *Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Steve Johnson*

After the frog turns into a prince, he and the princess do not live happily ever after. It seems that the Frog Prince doesn't think life is a bowl of duckweed . . .all the Princess does is nag, nag, nag. So it's off to the deep dark woods to look for a witch willing to help him out.

Giving Thanks by *Jonathan London, illustrated by Gregory Manchess*

A Native American celebrates the natural world through his prayers of thanks each morning and evening and assures his son, who finds it embarrassing to thank trees and such, that it becomes a habit and makes one feel good. Students can write about the things they are thankful for.

Goldilocks Returns by *Lisa Campbell Ernst*

Thirty years after Goldilocks first met the three bears, she returns to fix up their cottage and soothe her guilty conscience.

Hello School, A Classroom Full of Poems by *Dee Lillegard, illustrated by Don Carter*

A collection of 38 poems . . .all associated with early school experiences.

Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest by *Steve Jenkins*

Describes some of the remarkable places on earth, including the hottest, coldest, windiest, snowiest, highest, and deepest.

Find the extremes in a chosen county, state or country.

How To Make an Apple Pie And See The World by *Marjorie Priceman*

An apple pie is easy to make if the market is open. But if the market is closed, the world becomes your grocery store. This deliciously silly recipe for apple pie takes readers around the globe to gather ingredients. First hop a steamboat to Italy for the finest semolina wheat. Then hitch a ride to England and hijack a cow for the freshest possible milk. And, don't forget to go apple picking in Vermont! A simple recipe for apple pie is included.

I'm In Charge of Celebrations by *Byrd Baylor, illustrated by Peter Parnall*

A young woman celebrates her love of the desert as she tells of treasured experiences such as dancing in the wind on Dust Devil Day and sleeping outside during the Time of the Falling Stars. She creates her own personal holidays such as "Coyote Day", "Dust Devil Day", and "The Time of the Falling Stars".

Where do you love most? What parts of it can you celebrate?

Imogene's Antlers by *David Small*

One Thursday Imogene wakes up with a pair of antlers growing out of her head and causes a sensation wherever she goes. How would you deal with the growth of an extra animal part on your body?

Monster Goose written by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Jack E. Davis

A collection of twenty-five nursery rhymes, rewritten to feature vampires, ghouls, mummies, the Loch Ness monster, and other fearsome creatures.

Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

This is a collection of rhymes that gives new and rather unexpected endings to familiar stories like Cinderella and The Three Little Pigs.

Take Me Out of the Bathtub by Alan Katz, illustrated by David Catrow

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Row Row Row Your Boat," are presented with new words and titles, such as "I'm So Carsick" and "Go Go Go to Bed."

The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig written by Eugene Trivizas, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

An altered retelling of the "Three Little Pigs" with a surprise ending. In this version, three young wolves are the innocent victims of a nasty pig who destroys first their brick house, one made of stone, and finally one of steel. Will the wolves find a way to outwit the pig?

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson (chapter book)

Cole Matthews has been violent and destructive for most of his 15 years, but when his beating of Peter Driscall results in brain damage, Cole is forced to face the consequences. In order to avoid going to prison, he agrees to participate in a sentencing alternative based on the native American Circle Justice, and is sent to an island in the harsh climate of Alaska. He must fend for himself for a year. In the first days of his banishment, Cole is mauled by a mysterious white bear and nearly dies. Now there's no one left to save Cole, but Cole himself.

Great for character sketches!

The Wall by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ronald Himler

"This is the wall, my grandfather's wall. On it are the names of those killed in a war, long ago." A boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather, who was killed in the conflict.

Biographies and other books about historical events can be a good introduction for students to people, places and events of the past. Students can select literature that best depicts conditions of an era (Industrial Revolution, World War II, etc.) and defend the choice in a multimedia presentation. Students can create multimedia presentations on points of view of historical period by different people, or of a different subject area from the historical period. iMovie, iPhoto, PowerPoint or similar applications are easy to use for creating multi-media presentations that allow students to share what they have learned. A few examples of good springboard books are:

Attack on Pearl Harbor by Shelley Tanaka, illustrated by David Craig

Inside The Hindenburg by Mireille Majoor, illustrated by Ken Marschall

Martin's Big Words by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier

My First Book of Biographies by Jean Marzollo, illustrated by Irene Trivas

The Vietnam War by Douglas Willoughby

The Wright Brothers, How They Invented the Airplane by Wilbur Wright

Books With A Message

The Araboolies of Liberty Street by Sam Swope, illustrated by Barry Root

General and Mrs. Pinch are horrified when an unconventional family moves into their conservative neighborhood. Will the Pinches' plot to reign in the colorful Araboolies family ruin all the fun in the neighborhood? The kids of Liberty Street join forces to help the Araboolies when the mean general orders them to move because they look different.

(acceptance and individuality)

The Big Orange Splot by Daniel Manus Pinkwater

When a seagull drops a can of orange paint on his neat house, Mr. Plumbean gets an idea to paint his house every color of the rainbow . . .much to the neighbors' dismay.

(creativity and individuality)

Bravery Soup by Maryann Cocca-Leffler

Carlin is frightened by everything. Zak the Fox and Big Bear concoct a pot of bravery soup to cure the fears of their pal, Carlin the raccoon. The soup will cure his ills, but it's missing one key ingredient, and Carlin must traverse the woods, streams, and mountains to find it.

(bravery)

The Empty Pot by Demi

Ping is an excellent gardener who can make almost any plant flourish and bloom. Needing a successor, the Emperor, who also enjoys gardening, comes up with a contest. He distributes a seed to every child in the kingdom, declaring that whoever grows the most beautiful plant will be the new emperor. Ping is more than disappointed when his carefully tended seed refuses to grow and all he has to present to the Emperor is an empty pot. Has Ping really lost the competition?

(honesty)

Feathers and Fools by Mem Fox, illustrated by Nicholas Wilton

A modern fable about some peacocks and swans that live together in a beautiful garden. Everything is peaceful until the two groups begin to notice their differences and grow fearful of each other. Soon the birds collect weapons to protect themselves. Can they restore their peaceful coexistence?

(peace and silly reasons to get upset)

The Grump by Mark Ludy

A young girl befriends a grumpy old man. Her love and kindness brings out a side to him that the town has never seen.

(kindness and love)

I Heard of a Nerd Bird by Gary Hogg, illustrated by Gary R. Anderson

Whoever heard of bird that couldn't fly? Well, this one can't . . .or can he?

(believe in yourself and you can do things you never thought possible)

Leo the Lightning Bug by Eric Drachman, illustrated by James Muscarello

Leo the lightning bug can't seem to get his light to flicker on, though, as his mother advises, he keeps on practicing. During a lightning storm, the flashing bolts of electricity inspire him, and he finally learns to light up . . .delighting himself and his formerly jeering pals.

(never give up/perseverance)

Smiley Shark by Ruth Galloway

Smiley Shark's toothy smile frightens the other sea animals but comes in handy when they are caught in a net.

(don't be judgmental)

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by *Patty Lovell, illustrated by David Catrow*

Molly Lou Melon is short and clumsy, has buckteeth, and has a voice that sounds like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor. She doesn't mind. Her grandma has always told her to walk proud, smile big, and sing loud, and she takes that to heart. But then Molly Lou has to start in a new school. Ronald Durkin calls her "SHRIMPO!" and "BUCKY-TOOTH BEAVER!" but Molly Lou has learned a lot from her grandma and knows just how to put him in his place.

Tough Boris by *Mem Fox*

Boris von der Borch is a very tough, greedy, and mean old pirate, who is tough as nails. When a young boy sneaks onto Boris's ship, he discovers that the pirates aren't quite what he expected.
(it's okay to show your feelings and care)

Two Monsters by *David McKee*

Two monsters on opposite sides of a mountain argue about what they are seeing. As the battle wears on, they end up destroying the mountain, only to discover that the other person was right too.
(respect the perspective of others)

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by *Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas*

After overhearing his parents say that his elderly friend, Miss Nancy, has lost her memory, a young boy named Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge tries to find out what a memory is so that he can get Miss Nancy's back for her. Will Wilfrid be able to discover the true meaning of what a memory is?

(helping others, memories)

Illustrated Songs

PowerPoint, iMovie, iPhoto, QuickTime Pro, and Graphic Converter are just a few of the many applications that can be used to turn a song into a slide show complete with music and pictures. An adaptation of this would be to use a song from a specific time period, place, or event with pictures that match. Adding subtitles, comments or information adds depth to the learning experience.

America The Beautiful by *Scholastic or by Katharine Lee Bates, Illustrated by Wendell Minor*

An illustrated edition of the first verse of the song "America the Beautiful" is presented here in a picture book format. Colorful acrylic paintings illustrate the text.

This Land Is Your Land by *Woody Guthrie, illustrated by Kathy Jakobsen*

This well-known folk song is accompanied by folk art-style paintings that celebrate the natural beauty of the United States.

Letter Writing

Dear Mrs. LaRue, Letters From Obedience School by Mark Teague

Sent to a live-in obedience school after one transgression too many, a spirited but rather naughty dog named Ike sends typewritten and paw-written letters back home to his owner, Mrs. LaRue. He wants her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home. Ike's letters tell of the horrible conditions in which he's forced to live and the terrible manner in which he's being treated but the color illustrations that also accompany the text demonstrate that Ike is being treated with loving kindness. When Mrs. LaRue fails to be moved by Ike's dramatic letters, he takes matters into his own paws and runs away. Will Mrs. LaRue and Ike ever be reunited and will Ike ever reform?

Detective LaRue, Letters From the Investigation by Mark Teague

While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog, Ike, who is being held in police custody . . . wrongly accused of playing a part in the disappearance of his neighbor's cats. He is trying to clear his name by embarking on his own investigation. As in the previous story, Ike's letters are illustrated with black and white drawings that depict the imagined horrors of his life, while color illustrations depict more realistic scenes that prove that Ike has a very active imagination.

First Year Letters by Julie Danneberg, illustrated by Judy Love

This sequel to FIRST DAY JITTERS follows the further adventures of first year teacher Sarah Jane Hartwell. Sarah Jane's experiences are shared via letters sent to her from her students, her principal, and other professionals she meets through her work including a firefighter and the school's janitorial staff.

Nice Try, Tooth Fairy by Mary W. Olson, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson

Hoping to get back her lost tooth, Emma writes a series of letters to the Tooth Fairy, but when the wrong teeth keep getting returned the mistakes create complications.

Plantzilla written by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by David Catrow

A series of letters a boy, his science teacher, and his parents discuss the progress of a very unusual and sometimes frightening plant that becomes more human as the summer progresses.

Best Practices When Using Literature Books And Technology

The first and most important thing to do is read the book with your students! Share thoughts and ideas as you read. Discuss patterns, format and illustrations. Reread the book if you want to.

Using one computer in the front of the classroom, brainstorm ideas for what to write about.

With that one computer, write a sample as a class. Model how to gather facts and the necessary information, as needed. Interactively write the sentences and paragraphs together, and then print the story on paper for students to look at when writing their own.

Writing in a group or in pairs is a good way to transition students who are reluctant to write. After they have had this success, then they are more confident in their ability to write a story on their own.

Use a computer in front of the classroom to model the critiquing and editing process on student or teacher writing. (Students love to see the teacher's writing.)

When creating electronic books/pages, assign young students to read until they can read the book themselves without the computer voice.

As a teacher, assign yourself your own topic to do a project on. Modeling how to do something and doing it first allows you to better help students as they come up against problems or roadblocks.

Have students create pages, stories, reports or slide shows using multimedia.

Publish student writing on the World Wide Web.

Students can create and present a video and/or multimedia presentation on a book, something they've learned or a current/historical event.

Always have students read and reread what they've typed! Sharing with other students or parents is a good way to do this!

Additional Info: Book excerpts and summaries were borrowed, all or in part, from <http://bestprices.com/>.

Handouts can be found online at <http://www.westridge.provo.edu/teacherlinks.html>.

Many thanks to the teachers at Westridge Elementary who have worked with me and helped develop so many of the ideas shared!!

