

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

My Book Selections

-Ralph Masiello

Now that you have sat through a weary, long winded session with me, I would like to give you this collection of selected books that I think are inspiring for both children and adults. Included are some examples of how you could use them in your own classroom.

Happy Birthday Poems selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Hilary Knight. (Have your birthday children pick their favorite poem to be read in class on their special day. It is a nice way to build self esteem while building a fondness for poetry.)

On the Day You Were Born by Debra Frasier, another great birthday book

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds (One of my favorite books! Simple, yet inspirational)

Tea Party Today by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Karen Dugan (Tea parties aren't just for girls! This book has poems about tea drinking dragons and other animals as well as people. Have your children create pictures and rhymes of things other than people having tea and imagine how strange and wonderful that might be.)

Flashlight Monsters and Flashlight Dinosaurs by Mark Shulman, illustrated by John S. Dykes (Cut out animal, fish, bird shapes, etc. and glue them to a popsicle stick, turn down the lights and with a flashlight, create shadows on your wall or ceiling while reading stories about those things. You could also create a book, similar to Mr. Shulman's by gluing a folded piece of heavy construction paper or similar to your own classroom made book and cut out character. And if resourceful enough, you can also find non-toxic "glow in the dark" paints and paper to add even more fun!)

Shadowville by Michael Bartalos (Fun, silly poetry about the lives of shadows. What do shadows do on their day off, like on cloudy days? Have your children draw what their shadow likes to do when they have their day off and what would it look like? A simple black marker drawing on colored paper is nice. Then, have the children write a sentence or more about their shadow.)

Dog's Rule by Dennis Kirk (includes music CD) For all your poetic dog lovers

Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg (This is a fine example of showing "point of view". Have your children crawl under their desks with pencil and paper and have them "imagine" themselves ants. What would an ant draw? What would the world look like from under the desk?)

Froggie Went a Courtin' as told by Iza Trapani (See how many versions of this story and music you can find and compare them. There are many.)

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle (Check out how Eric makes his pictures at: <http://www.eric-carle.com/q-makepic.html>)

Imagine A Night Paintings by Rob Gonsalves, text by Sarah L. Thomson (As the flap copy inside the book states: "Imagine a night when ordinary objects magically become extraordinary..." This book oozes with imagination! After reading this book with your students, have them come up with their own "Imagine a..._____". This book is absolutely thought provoking for both young and old.)

The Tin Forest by Helen Ward, illustrated by Wayne Anderson. (This is one of my favorite children's books! Here is an example of how text and illustration are dependent upon each other. A book full of joy and hope.)

Spooky ABC by Eve Merriam and illustrated by Lane Smith. (Being a guy who has illustrated many alphabet books, I always love to see what new and inventive way one can be written and illustrated. This is one has so much going for it: the alphabet, poetry, humor, and seriously bizarre illustrations by Lane Smith. I love it. Definitely thinking "outside the box".)

The Elements of Pop-Up by David Carter and James Diaz (This book has many actual pop-up examples of simple design that even young students can make. Create a "Pop-Up" alphabet book. Have each letter "pop-up" and write a sentence or two about the subject of each alphabet letter.)

Easy-to-Make Pop-Ups by Joan Irvine, illustrated by Barbara Reid (This pop-up design book has very simple instructions and pictures showing how to create your own pop-ups.)

Links to Interesting Websites:

<http://www.ickybugman.com> My own website! Check it out and share it with your students. I have some downloadable coloring pages as well as many photos of my family and my work. My new website: <http://www.ralphmasiello.com> (under construction, but check the school visit page for downloadables)

<http://www.broward.org/library/bienes/lii13903.htm> A nice history of Pop-Up books by Ann Montanaro

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3123> Scholastic Book site. Nice article written by Gayle Berthiaume for Famous First Graders. Includes a nice list of books to share with your students.

<http://www.makersgallery.com/joanirvine/howto.html> JoanIrvine downloadable instruction for making a pop-up.

<http://kids.nypl.org/reading/recommended2.cfm?ListID=61> New York Public Library list of recommended books.

<http://www.charlesbridge.com> My publisher's website which has many downloadable activities for teachers. While there, check out my books!

<http://www.underdown.org> Children's book editor Harold Underdown's Purple Crayon site for information about Writing, Illustrating, and Publishing (Great stuff here for all you budding book writers and illustrators)

FANTASTIC BRAND NEW LINK:

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/07/21/080721fa_fact_lepore

THE LION AND THE MOUSE

The battle that reshaped children's literature.

by Jill Lepore JULY 21, 2008

Read this WONDERFUL new article in the NEW YORKER about the woman who may be responsible for inspiring children's book rooms at public libraries all over the nation!

Thanks for attending my session and happy educating!

-Ralph Masiello