

2010-11 Camellia Award Nominees

Activity Guide

K-1

I Need My Monster, by Amanda Noll, illustrated by Howard McWilliam

- After reading the story, have students draw “their” monster. Write a description of the monster. Trade the description with a friend and have the friend draw the monster from the description. Compare the two monsters. Compile all the monsters into a class book.

The Day Leo Said I Hate You, by Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Molly Bang

- Combine with other books for a unit of study on feelings (ex. When Sophie Gets Angry, No, David!)
- Brainstorm a list of things people say they, “love.” Discuss the differences in types/expressions of love. Relate to the feelings of hate expressed by Leo. Discuss appropriate ways to express anger.

The Busy Tree, by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern

Silly Tilly, by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by David Slonim

- Silly Tilly would be excellent for starting conversations with young students about bullying and accepting people for who they are. Students could be asked to draw pictures of a time when they did something silly. Then they could be asked to think about how others treated them and how it made them feel. They could also be asked to draw pictures of and think about the people who make them feel happy or who make life fun.

A Mighty Fine Time Machine, by Suzanne Bloom

- After reading *A Mighty Fine Time Machine* students could be given the chance to try their hands at their own imagination machine. Using small boxes about the size of a shoe box and simple craft supplies, students could let their imaginations run wild to build an imaginary machine to do whatever they thought up. If space allows, students could also be grouped in small teams to create a machine with larger boxes.

Robot Zot, by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by David Shannon

- After reading story, children will use recycled, “found” objects to create their own robots. Students will use digital cameras to photograph their robots. Students will name their robot and describe what it does. Teacher will upload photos to a website like, “Voice Thread,” and students will record themselves telling about their robots.

Little Blue Truck Leads the Way, by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry

- Give students digital cameras and have them photograph different types of vehicles. Compare and contrast suburban and urban settings. Use a Venn Diagram. Have students write about where they live or where they would like to live.

Ophelia, by Ingrid and Dieter Schubert

- Play “Telephone” or the Gossip Game before the story is read. Students sit in a circle. The teacher whispers a sentence to the first student and the student then whispers the “same” sentence to the next student. Compare the sentence the last student repeats with the original sentence.

Wink, the Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed, by J. C. Phillipps

- Use the AVL to research Ninjas. Find the answer to the following questions: 1. Country of origin, 2. Role in society, 3. One fun fact. Draw a picture of yourself as a Ninja. What would your Ninja name be?

Jon Scieszka’s Trucktown, Truckery Rhymes, by Jon Scieszka

- Pair nursery rhyme with “Truckery” rhyme.
- Recognize and understand service vehicles.
- Draw and name your own service vehicle.
- Sing “The Wheels on the Truck” using gestures.
- Project pictures of the vehicles blocking out the sounds they make. Match sounds with vehicles.
- Include this book in a Jon Scieszka author study.
- Find one “fun fact” on your favorite service vehicle.
- What is your favorite service vehicle and why?
- Use book in combination with research on service vehicles.

2-3

Letters to a Soldier, by First Lt. David Falvey

- Write a letter to a soldier describing the students' interests and hobbies, asking questions about the soldier's life while stationed overseas. Exchange class photo and/or artwork. Use Google Earth to locate the region where the soldier is stationed.
- Students collect items to create a care package to send to a soldier(s).
- Have someone from the armed forces visit classroom in person or by using technology (Skype).

Tsunami!, by Kimiko Kajikawa

- Create a class mural using various materials, such as cloth, straw, paper, etc., to depict a weather-related catastrophe.
- Discuss what we do to prepare for bad weather to protect lives and property.
- Research and discuss the Red Cross and what they do to help people in need. Have a class project to collect items for the Red Cross to send to people who have experienced a weather-related catastrophe.
- Research various weather conditions.
- Invite a meteorologist to visit the school.
- Measure rainfall over a period of time by using a rain gauge and have students create a chart using the gathered information.

Flip, Float, Fly: Seeds on the Move, by JoAnn Early Macken

- Sort various seeds by color, size, shape, and whether they are edible or not.
- Have students plant seeds to watch the stages of germination.
- Students draw four squares on a piece of paper. In each square, have students illustrate a stage of germination.
- Take students on a seed hunt around the school yard and playground. Talk about how seeds migrate.
- Students create a seed mosaic using different types of seeds.

When the Wolves Returned, by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

- Students use digital cameras to photograph animals and different aspects of nature. This can be done during a field trip to the zoo, at home, etc. Allow students to write about the pictures they have taken or found. (Variation: Use pictures found in magazines or online.)
- Take a virtual field trip to Yellowstone National Park using Google Earth and various websites.
- Research animals mentioned in the book and have students work with a partner to create a PowerPoint slide showing the balance of nature and how they survive. Put slides together to make a presentation to share with parents, school, etc.

Tortuga in Trouble, by Ann Whitford Paul

- Have students rewrite a favorite fairy tale using different characters.
- Use a Spanish/English dictionary to change key characters, words, and aspects into Spanish. Students illustrate story.
- Create a class dictionary in which students select nouns and then find the Spanish word. Have students illustrate.
- Have students make masks, puppets, etc., and act out the story.

Under the Snow, by Melissa Stewart

- Research hibernation and design a shoebox habitat diorama.
- Talk about animals that hibernate. Include physical changes the animal undergoes before, during, and after hibernation.

Henry Aaron's Dream, by Matt Tavares

- Research famous people from Alabama.
- Compare and contrast before and after Civil Rights Movement using a Venn diagram.
- History of baseball
- Use baseball statistics to follow a particular player or team. This can be done using Internet websites or by taking a field trip to a baseball game. Baseball cards could also be used as a resource.
- Use this book for character education dealing with perseverance and overcoming obstacles in life.

Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize, by Kathy-Jo Wargin

- Research winners of the Nobel Peace Prize using list provided in the back of book. This book can be used to introduce students to biographies. Students can be given the opportunity to write about the people, create a PowerPoint slide, etc.
- Have students brainstorm projects that might be considered to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Have students illustrate and write a paragraph describing something they would like to invent. This could be a solution to a worldwide problem or need, something that could improve the quality of life, etc.

Lincoln and His Boys, by Rosemary Wells

- Great introduction to chapter books. Use as a read-aloud.
- Discuss how the life of a president's child is different or similar to the lives of students.
- Find pictures of landmarks found in Washington DC using the Internet to create class book.

Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story, by Judy Young

- Students write about how they met their best friend or how to become a friend with someone who does not speak their language.
- Discuss the physical and cultural differences between two cultures using a Venn diagram.
- Have students build or draw a covered wagon. What would you pack if you were going on the Oregon Trail? What kinds of dangers might you encounter?
- Use a map to track the Oregon Trail.
- Play the computer software version of the Oregon Trail.

4-6

The Potato Chip Puzzles, by Eric Berlin

- Activities available at <http://www.winstonbreen.com/index.html>
- Pair and Share – to work puzzles together
- Print out puzzles from the book: http://www.winstonbreen.com/download_puzzle.html
- Phone interview with author (free, schedule through http://www.winstonbreen.com/book_clubs.html)
- Field trip to Golden Flake potato chip factory (Birmingham)
- Make potato chip art!
- Puzzle This! – create puzzles throughout the school building
- More Winston Breen puzzles available on his blog: <http://winstonbreen.com/blog/>
- Create your own puzzles

Million-Dollar Throw, by Mike Lupica

- Writing prompts for sports
- Sports columnist visits classrooms
- Blindness – research macular degeneration
- Helen Keller/Annie Sullivan tie-ins
- Map or take a field trip to Ivy Green
- Research Braille alphabet
- Statistics lesson on probability of reaching pros
- Reading competition to win a chance to throw a football, to win a set of ML books
- Tie in with the book, *How Much is a Million?*
- Writing prompt: “What would YOU do with a million dollars?”

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had, by Kristin Levine

- Discussion guide at <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/literature-guide/printable/60120.html>.
- World War I
- Early Civil Rights movement
- The African American Experience in the South
- Moundville, AL – field trip to Native American mounds
- Interviews
- Influenza Epidemic – Study the Redstone Arsenal epidemic
- Field trip to the post office
- Writing prompt: “What is the best bad luck you ever had?”
- Tie in with the book, *Fortunately UnFortunately*

Barbarians, by Steven Kroll

- Lots of mapping activity opportunities throughout book
- Study origins of holidays
- Mythology
- Timelines – study those in the book, create your own
- Weaponry
- Heraldry -Design your own shields
- Language – create a letter written with one of the barbaric alphabets
- Create your own rune alphabet
- Author study of Steven Kroll
- Make your own barbaric dictionary
- Military strategies

When the Whistle Blows, by Fran Cannon Slayton

- Author website for activities: www.francannonslayton.com
- Tie into industrialization
- 21st Century skills/jobs
- Career Preparation – unit on the need for different jobs and varied training
- Explore new careers
- Occupational Outlook Handbook, Career Discovery Handbook
- Halloween writing prompt – The most interesting Halloween experience I have ever had...
- Venn diagram comparing main character at beginning and end of book
- Hunting
- Rituals
- Interview relatives/neighbors to inquire about family or community rituals