

**Not Just For Babies: Picture books to capture the imaginations and minds
of Middle School and High School students**

by

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Picture books can be used in the middle school and high school for many reasons. They are simple ways to introduce a topic, reinforce the current topic under discussion, illustrate a given topic and as a way to bring literature into the non-English content areas. An excellent way to use picture books is to read the book and then have the students respond – whether through various forms of writing, through art, or through discussion.

****Lambert, Megan Dowd *Reading Picture Books with Children*, 128 pages. Charlesbridge, 2015. \$22.
978-1-58089-662-7**

Brace yourself – Lambert is about to teach you more than you realized there was to know about the picture book and about reading them with children. And when you are done, you will be grateful you read this from cover to cover.

Andrews, Troy *Trombone Shorty*, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Abrams, 2015. 978-1-41971-465-8
Trombone Shorty is a well known musician who has created a foundation to make sure that kids who grow up in difficult circumstances can also have dreams, like he did.
MUSIC, DIVERSITY

Archer, Micha *Daniel Finds a Poem*. Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin Random House), 2016.
978-0-399-16913-7

Accompanied with collage illustrations, this is a simple, pattern story that includes days of the week and animals found in park setting, as well as an introduction to poetry through an appreciate of nature all around us. Teachers could tie it to curriculum in a variety of ways, including a beginning lesson on writing poetry, following the book's pattern to compose a class poem.
POETRY

Arsenault, Isabelle. *Alpha*, Candlewick Press, 2014. 978-0-7636-7852-4

This is an alphabet book written using the NATO phonetic alphabet, or the International Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet, used by different emergency services personnel for communication.
ART

****Barnes, Brynne *Books do not Have Wings***, illustrated by Rogerio Coelho. Sleeping Bear Press, 2016.
978-1-58536-964-5

Is a book just a book? Brynne Barnes would beg to differ.
Grab this one for a faithful read aloud, whether group story time or as a cuddle before bed. I can't wait to gift this to new mothers and grandchildren.
READING

Barnett, Mac *How This Book Was Made*, pictures by Adam Rex. Disney, 2016. 978-1-42315-220-0

How does a book get made? The Barnett/Rex super team know all the answers! In their incredible comedic way, they cover all of the aspects of the process. I personally love the exchange between author and editor. I am putting this in my library and will be showing it all of my Language Arts teachers just for that scene.
READING

Barretta, Gene *Lincoln and Kennedy: a pair to compare*. Henry Holt (Macmillan), 2016.
978-0-8050-9945-4

Barretta skillfully compares and contrasts the lives, presidencies, and legacies of Lincoln and Kennedy. I would love this book to be in any school and it would be an excellent resource for every government or American History teacher. A clever teacher could also mimic the information, but have the students do their own research with this comparison as the target.
GOVERNMENT

Barretta, Gene *Muhammad Ali: A Champion is Born*, illustrated by Frank Morrison Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins), 2017. 978-0-06-243016-8

The artwork is full of movement and very engaging. Secondly, the events are written so that it grabs the readers attention and isn't too wordy. Could be shared as part of a biography unit, a sports unit, a civil rights unit, a unit on famous African Americans or famous people that are Muslim. I had this on my desk at work and already have a waiting list for students who want to check it out.
BIOGRAPHY, DIVERSITY

Barton, Chris *Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions* Charlesbridge, 2016.
978-1-58089-297-1

Its bring diversity into the Einstein inventor stereotype, as Lonnie is African American. His life shows determination, intelligence, persistence, creativity, resilience, and a sense of fun! Students will love that he invented rockets and super soakers! The illustrations can easily be shared with a classroom full of students. Great curriculum connection to inventors and inventions.
SCIENCE, DIVERSITY

Barton, Chris *The Nutcracker Comes to America*, illustrated by Cathy Gendron. Millbrook (Lerner), 2015.
978-1-46772-151-6

The story of the Nutcracker in America starts in Brigham City, Utah, with the birth of a trio of brothers, Harold, Willam, and Lew Christensen.
PE, DANCE

Barton, Chris *88 Instruments* Illustrations by Louis Thomas Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. 978-0-553-53814-4
This is an adorable book about trying to sort through all of the options of picking a musical instrument. The illustrations are cute and the words describing the sounds of instruments are creative, making it so you feel like you are in the music store listening to him try out all the different sounds.
MUSIC

****Becker, Helaine** *Lines, Bars, and Circles: How William Playfair Invented Graphs*. Kids Can Press, 2017. 978-1-77138-570-1

Perfect for STEM support in any class that has students use or create infographics of any kind. The front story details Playfair's life and exploits and the historic notes in the back add depth and details to story., also showing Playfair's original graphs.
SCIENCE, COMPUTERS, LANGUAGE ARTS

Bildner, Phil *Martina and Chrissie: The Greatest Rivalry in the History of Sports* Illustrated by Brett Helquist Candlewick Press, 2017. 978-0-7636-7308-6

This book reads like someone is talking to you, for example: "You do know what the Cold War was, right? No?" and then it goes on to explain it. The story has suspense and action with the tennis matches and it also has heart and friendship.
PE, BIOGRAPHY, WOMEN

Bowman, Donna Janell *Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World About Kindness*, illustrated by Daniel Minter Lee & Low Books, 2017. 978-1-62014-148-9

Jim Key's story is an excellent example of a story that needed to be reintroduced to the world. Doc's method of training Jim always involved only love, not fear.
BIOGRAPHY, DIVERSITY,

Brown, Monica. *Waiting for the Biblioburro*, Tricycle Press, 2016. 978-1-58246-353-7

This book has both the English text and the Spanish text side by side. The story gives a great look into different versions of libraries and learning in a different part of the world.
READING

****Bryan, Ashley** *Freedom over me : Eleven slaves, their lives and dreams brought to life*. Atheneum Books for young Readers (Simon and Schuster) 978-1-48145-690-6

The illustrations are beautifully rendered in pen, ink and watercolor. Ashley Bryan acquired an estate appraisal from 1828 which included the names and prices of several slaves. He imagined them and painted, then wrote their stories in free verse. References to spirituals, African culture and slave life make this a nice introduction to a unit on slavery.
AMERICAN HISTORY,

Bryant, Jen *Six Dots* illustrated by Boris Kulikov. Alfred A. Knopf 2016. 978-0-449-81338-6

This picture book biography includes an author's note, a "more about Braille" and a bibliography for both the man and the writing system. A real nice young people's biography as its focus is mostly on the young boy.
BIOGRAPHY

Burleigh, Robert *Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea*, illustrated by Raul Colon. Simon & Schuster, 2016. 978-1-48141-600-9

In a monumental effort, Marie Tharp and her colleague Bruce Heezen used data from hundreds and ship ocean soundings and created the first map of the ocean floor, discovering the Mid Atlantic Ridge and mothering the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift. A great way to show them how new theories are discovered and that science is still a new, and ever-changing field.
SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY

Butterworth, Chris *Where Did My Clothes Come From?* Illustrated by Lucia Gaggiotti. Candlewick Press, 2015. 978-0-7636-7750-3

Complementing the text are both multicultural workers and models as well as the important steps in each production cycle. The simple informational text is concise yet also covers a surprisingly satisfying amount of details for each fabric.
CLOTHING, WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Campoy, F. Isabel and Howell, Theresa *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*, illustrated by Rafael Lopez. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. 978-1-52006-125-2
Bright, vibrant colors highlight the story of the creation of San Diego's Urban Art Trail. Share this with your classes and children so that they will understand how important art and creativity are in the lives of everyone.
ART

Carbone, Elisa *Diana's White House Garden*. Viking (Penguin), 2016. 978-0-670-01649-5
Diana was a little girl who lived at the White House! Diana steps up to help with the White House's own garden and publicity of her efforts helps to promote Victory Gardens in the whole country.
I love this true story because there was a tangible contribution that a child could make to something that was quite big and overwhelming. Students will be entertained by Diana's failed efforts as well. The Authors and illustrators notes are a must read to explain parts of the story such as why all the staff are African American.
AMERICAN HISTORY, GARDENS

Carle, Eric and Lauren Castillo, et al. *What's Your Favorite Color?* PICTURE BOOK. Godwin Books (Henry Holt & Co.), 2017. 978-0-8050-9614-9
In this nonfiction collection, fifteen different children's book illustrators explain their favorite color along with an accompanying illustration featuring said color.
ART, SHORT ESSAYS

Churnin, Nancy *The William Hoy Story* Illustrated by Jez Tuya Albert Whitman and Company, 2016 .
978-0-8075-9192-5
This is the true story of William Hoy a deaf boy who loved baseball. William progressed to the major leagues and overcame ridicule and rude people, eventually helping umpires to use hand signals for their calls. Those hand signals are still used today.
This is an interesting and not very well known story about a determined man who shaped baseball into the great sport it is today. I loved the illustrations because they are attractive and help tell the story. Great inspiring read.
PE

Corey, Shana *The Secret Subway*, illustrated by Red Nose Studio. Schwartz & Wade, 2016.
978-0-375-87071-2
Alfred Ely Beach had a dream. He wanted to build fan powered underground transportation in New York City in the late 1860s. But with so many ideas out there, gaining permission to construct an underground tunnel was too difficult, so Beach got permission to build a smaller tube system for delivering mail and secretly made an experimental tunnel to transport people! It was the first subway in New York City.
This non fiction picture book is illustrated with pictures of clay characters from Red Nose Studio. The book jacket back demonstrates how the illustrations were made. The story - a little known secret from history - is well written and reads like a performance, the page turns reveal surprises. This book is delightful!
AMERICAN HISTORY

****Coy, John *Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game***, illustrated by Randy DuBurke. Carolrhoda (Lerner), 2015. 978-1-46772-604-7
In 1944, a team of white basketball players secretly went to a black college to play a game against a black team. By the end of the game, the white players knew that they had been beat, but instead of hard feelings, they opened up and playing another game with mixed teams.
DIVERSITY, PE

Drummond, Allan *Pedal Power: How One Community Became the Bicycle Capital of the World*. Farrar, SG (Macmillan), 2017. 978-0-374-30527-7
After it came out the over 500 children had died in bike vs car accidents, Maartje Rutten and other concerned citizens started a series of protests to get the government to change the laws and the roads to make life safer for cyclists.
GOVERNMENT, CITIZEN ACTION

Engle, Margarita *Bravo! Poems about Amazing Hispanics* Illustrated by Rafael Lopez. Godwin Books, 2017 (Henry Holt and Co). 978-0-8050-9876-1

Eighteen different Hispanic people are covered in this illustrated book of poems. Each poem alludes to how that person overcame hardship and contributed to the greater good in America.

DIVERSITY, POETRY

Farrell, Mary Cronk *Fannie Never Flinched: One Woman's Courage in the Struggle for American Labor Union Rights*. Abrams, 2016. Violence: PG (strike breakers, two murders). 978-1-41971-884-7

After working in a garment sweatshop for 15 years, Fannie Sellens first helped her fellow workers organize into a labor union and then went on to work for the United Garment Workers full time. Her last big efforts were to help organize coal miners around West Virginia, but helping miners in Pennsylvania turned out to be her death. This densely worded book looks like a picture book, but really is a powerful story about one woman who gave her life to help improve working conditions for all Americans.

WOMEN, AMERICAN HISTORY

Ferrell, Sean *The Snurtch*, illustrated by Charles Santoso. Antheneum (Simon & Schuster), 2016.

978-1-48145-656-2

Children will love the illustrations and the book will spark a great discussion about good behavior strategies for being successful in school.

MANNERS

Ford, Gilbert *The Marvelous Thing That Came From a Spring*, Illustrated by Greg Endries. Antheneum, 2016. 978-1-48145-065-2

This is the story of the invention and marketing of the accidental invention of the slinky. Readers learn about the angst of worrying that your invention won't be successful and the perseverance needed to see it through. The illustrations collage style and top notch. Of course, great for a unit on inventors and inventions. The illustrations are so much fun and could even work as ideas for an art project.

INVENTIONS

Fraser, Mary Ann *Alexander Graham Bell Answers the Call*. Charlesbridge, 2017.

978-1-58089-721-1

This picture book biography brings Bell's story to life with charming anecdotes and pictures of early Bell inventions.

INVENTIONS, BIOGRAPHY, SCIENCE

Fulton, Kristen *Long May She Wave : The True Story of Caroline Pickersgill and her Star Spangled Creation*, illustrated by Holly Berry. Simon and Schuster (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2017).

978-1-48146-096-5

This beautiful tribute to our flag and the dedicated women who made it is a great quick read for a history lesson .

AMERICAN HISTORY, WOMEN

Gandhi, Arun and Hegedus, Bethany *Be the Change: A Grandfather Gandhi Story*, Illustrated by Turk, Evan. Atheneum (Simon), 2016. 978-1-48144-265-7

This is a lovely story that brings to life the teachings of Gandhi, rather than just a plain biography. It is well suited for third grade and up. You could try it with younger readers, but non-violence divided into passive and aggressive might be confusing. This could also work as an all age read-aloud.

CITIZEN ACTION, WORLD GEOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY

Goodman, Susan E. *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial* illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

Bloomsburg Publishing, 2016. 978-0-8027-3739-7

Sarah Roberts was a young girl growing up in Boston at a time when segregation in schools was enforced. Despite being a girl of color, Sarah's parents enrolled her in one of the finest school's in Boston, the Otis School – a school for white children.

This was a wonderfully written and illustrated story about the struggle to bring equal rights to all seeking an education. Sarah's heartbreaking and inspirational story will resonate with young readers as they are reminded of the freedoms many children had to fight for.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Groß, Benedikt and Joseph Lee *ABC: The Alphabet from the Sky*. Price Stern Sloan (Penguin Young Readers), 2016. 978-1-10199-581-5

Groß and Lee use satellite imagery from the United States to illustrate birds-eye views of each letter of the alphabet. The targeted letter is printed on each page for reference. Maps also accompany the photos to provide geographical context. Some letters are easy to find, while others require hunting.

While it may be meant for a younger audience, it could be applicable with older students -- especially in geography or art classes.

ART

Harvey, Jeanne Walker *Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*, illustrated by Dow Phumbrick. Henry Holt (Macmillan), 2017. 978-1-25011-249-1

While this picture book is brief, its applications are numerous. Whether about creativity, women working, architecture, monuments, the Vietnam War, Washington D.C. – almost any age level can find a place for this.

ART

****Heos, Bridget *Shell, Beak, Tusk: Share Traits and the Wonders of Adaptation*.** Houghton Mifflin, 2017. \$17. 9780544811669

Each two-page spread shows two animals or insects that share a common trait (spines, tall ears, etc.), and talks about how each of them uses that trait. Pair this with *Different? Same?* By Heather Tekavec and *Animals Do, Too!* By Etta Kaner for an extensive look at animal traits and adaptations. Perfect for Utah's 7th grade science core.

SCIENCE

Herzog, Brad *Murphy's Ticket: The Goofy Start and Glorious End of the Chicago Cubs Billy Goat Curse*, illustrated by David Leonard. Sleeping Bear Press, 2017. 978-1-58536-387-2

It was 108 years from one World Series win for the Chicago Cubs to the next. Was it because of the curse laid on them by "Billy Goat" Sianis when his goat Murphy wasn't allowed into the game? Maybe.

PE, SUPERSTITIONS

Hood, Morag *Carrot & Pea: An Unlikely Friendship*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. 978-0-544-86842-7

There is so much heart to this simple picture book. The message of appreciating our differences and being friends with those who are not exactly like us is wonderful and easily applicable in a variety of classroom settings.

FRIENDSHIP

****Hood, Susan *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay*,** illustrated by Sally Wren Comport. Simon & Schuster, 2016. 978-1-48143-095-1

This is the true, on-going, story of a group of children and the man who helped them find something more than lives filled with garbage. They are fundamentally changing their way of life. What an inspiration for young people and for adults. There are references included for news stories and YouTube clips of the orchestra, so this would make an excellent lesson for any age.

MUSIC, GEOGRAPHY

Hopkinson, Deborah *Steamboat School*. Disney, 2016. 978-1-42312-196-1

Tells the story of a young free African American named James who lives in Missouri in 1847. He and his sister attend a secret school run by the Reverend Meachum in a dark basement.

This is a fantastic story! I think there are not as many books about free African Americans during the Civil War, who were still facing much adversity and discrimination. I also love this story because it helps, even in some small way, to show how grateful we should all be for the education we are receiving.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Hopkinson, Deborah *Independence Cake : A Revolutionary Confection Inspired by Amelia Simmons whose true history is unfortunately unknown*, illustrated by Giselle Potter. Schwartz & Wade (Random House) 2017. 978-0-385-39018-7

Amelia Simmons wrote the first American cookbook. Shows how much work a woman did just to keep a home, and then, someone important like Amelia Simmons is lost to history because, being a woman, she wasn't important enough to bother keeping records about her achievements.

AMERICAN HISTORY, COOKING

Jang, Ki-hwa *Good Friends*, illustrated by Seung-min Oh. Big & Small (Lerner), 2015. 978-1-925233-58-2
Jang takes a simple look at the concept of animal mutualism in this picture book. A few of the pages have extra explanation, but otherwise the concept is very easy to understand. This is part of the Science Storybooks series.

SCIENCE

Jeffers, Oliver *A Child of Books* Illustrated by Sam Winston. Candlewick Press, 2016. 978-0-7636-9077-9
This book reads like a poem about being a book lover. The illustrations are a mix of drawing, real pictures and text. The text is used from different classics to make pictures, for example, the characters hike a mountain of text from the story of Peter Pan.

READING

Jenson-Elliott, Cindy *Antsy Ansel: Ansel Adams, A Life in Nature* Illustrated by Christy Hale. Ottaviano Books, 2016 (Henry Holt and Company). 978-1-62779-082-6
The illustrations throughout this story are amazing. I love the way the author gave the story a rhythm and explained in a simple way how important Ansel Adams's pictures are to our nation. This would be a fun way to introduce Adams in a photography or art class.

ART

Jin-Ho, Jung *Look Up!* PICTURE BOOK. Holiday House, 2016. 978-0-8234-4013-9
From high above the city, a wheel-chair-bound girl looks down on a busy street.
This book has few words or colors, but the illustrations are expressive and tell a fully story in themselves. The joyful ending is likely to make many readers smile. This would make a wonderful accompaniment to a lesson on inclusion, on varying perspectives/points of view, or on looking around and being mindful while walking instead of staring at a screen.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Kaner, Etta *Animals Do, Too! How They Behave Just Like You*, illustrated by Marilyn Faucher. PICTURE BOOK. Kids Can Press, 2017. 978-1-77138-569-5
Kaner and Faucher combine text and illustrations to paint a picture of what members of the animal kingdom do that is something you do too. Each page has a paragraph of text explaining a bit more in depth about each animal's habits, creating a perfect science lesson for many different ages.

SCIENCE

Kelly, Kitty *Martin's Dream Day*, photographs by Stanley Tretick. Atheneum (Simon), 2017.
978-1-48146-766-7

Using period photographs by Stanley Tretick, Kitty Kelly shows the events leading up to and during Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The text is a little wordy for elementary students. It's really more suited to a middle school or high school level – to show the text while talking about the events, perhaps.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Lang, Heather *Swimming with Sharks: the daring discoveries of Eugenie Clark*, pictures by Jordi Solano. Albert Whitman, 2016. 978-0-8075-2187-8

I love that each year there are more books being written about female role models. Very little has been written about Ms. Clark, but this biography fits right in with STEM and MESA in elementary and middle schools.

SCIENCE, WOMEN

****Levy, Debbie *Soldier Song: a true story of the Civil War***, illustrated by Gilbert Ford. Disney, 2017.

978-1-48472-598-6

Levy populates her book with quotes from diaries and journals of the time period, weaving together an untold story of brotherhood during the Civil War. Ford's illustrations fit the mood of the book perfectly. I can't wait to share this with my teachers.

CIVIL WAR, MUSIC

Levy, Debbie *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg makes her Mark*, Illustrated by Baddeley, Elizabeth. Simon, 2016. 978-1-48146-559-5

I will be showing this to each and every upper grade teacher, it would make a great read-a-loud for those classes who have a foundation in the 1950's-1960's. This book could also easily function as the foundation for a class report, because it covers her entire life.

BIOGRAPHY, WOMEN

Lloyd, Megan Wagner *Finding Wild*, illustrated by Abigail Halpin. Alfred Knopf, 2016. 978-1-10193-281-0

The illustrations are colorful and attractive, and the un-rhyming text has a lovely lyricism to it. The message about finding nature even in the midst of a city is a good one. Would pair well with *Weeds Find a Way* by Cindy Jenson-Elliott.

NATURE

Luyken, Corinna. *The Book of Mistakes*. Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin), 2017.

978-0-7352-2792-7

A great way to teach children that there are no mistakes in art. This story is imagination at its very best.

ART

Lynch, P.J. *The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower or John Howland's Good Fortune*. Candlewick Press 2015.

978-0-7636-6584-5

Written in first person about John Howland who was an indentured servant and sailed on this historic ship.

Interesting to see this story told from a teenage perspective. A must have for every library.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Macy, Sue *Miss Mary Reporting: The True Story of Sportswriter Mary Garber*, illustrated by C.F. Payne.

Simon & Schuster, 2016. 978-1-48140-120-3

Born in the 1910's, Mary Garber always adored football – and reporting on life in a newspaper format. She was able to combine her two loves by getting a job on the Winston-Salem newspaper, a job she kept for over fifty years. Mary paved the way for female reporters of the next generation to get admitted to the locker room. An excellent addition to any library and shop this to your P.E. teachers and any class that covers history, including women's issues.

PE, WOMEN, JOURNALISM

Macy, Sue and illustrated by Collins, Matt *Trudy's Big Swim*. Holiday House, 2017. 978-0-8234-3665-1

Could be use for lesson on accomplished women, swimming, Olympic athletes, and women rights.

PE, WOMEN

Markel, Michelle *Balderdash! John Newbery and the Boisterous Birth of Children's Books*. Chronicle

Books, 2017. 978-0-8118-7922-4

Could be read to almost any grade as introduction to the history of children's books and/or the Newbery award. Every school librarian should have this book! The illustrations are creative and even funny.

READING

Maurer, Tracy *Noah Webster's Fighting Words*. Millbrook, 2017. 978-1-46779-410-7

This is a picture book biography of Noah Webster's life, with a focus on his contributions to the American English dictionary. This one is fun because of what feels to be little blurbs and odd spelling from his journals and the little mark-ups that Noah "himself" adds, which make it feel like he is reading along with you. Great for a lesson on dictionaries or biographies of early Americans.

READING

McAlister, Caroline *John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien* Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler.

Roaring Brook Press, 2017. 978-1-62672-092-3

This picture book about the life of Tolkien is well done and simple. The illustrations are thought out and reflect the parts of Tolkien's life that he included in his books.

BIOGRAPHY, WRITING

McCarthy, Meghan *The Wildest Race Ever: The Story of The 1904 Olympic Marathon*. Paula Wiseman Book (Simon & Schuster) 2016. 978-1-48140-639-0

This is the story of the 1904 Olympic marathon. The first to be held in the United States. It was a total debacle that featured the administration of poison, cheating, a dog chase, a car crash, lack of water, and much more. It could be used to discuss cheating of every kind and how sports have evolved to try to overcome this and how careful planning could have prevented most of the issues with the race.

PE

McCully, Emily Arnold *Clara: The (Mostly) True Story of the Rhinoceros Who Dazzled Kings, Inspired Artists, and Won the Hearts of Everyone...While She Ate Her Way Up and Down a Continent*. Schwartz and Wade Books, 2016. 978-0-553-52246-4

The author takes a lot of liberties to the true events, but it is a delightful story. The author's note at the back of the book was also a great read, giving insights into the time period and explaining why Clara was allowed to be kept in captivity and put on exhibition for most of her life.

WORLD HISTORY

McCutcheon, John *Flowers for Sarajevo*, illustrated by Kristy Caldwell. Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 978-1-56145-943-8

A beautiful story about the war in Sarajevo, the cellist is Vedran Smailovic (his history and contribution to the resistance effort is included in the author's notes, as well as a short description of the history of the war in that region) but the boy is fictional. The book includes a CD narrated by the author and a recording of the original song "Streets of Sarajevo."

WORLD HISTORY

Messenger, Norman *An Artist's Alphabet*, Candlewick Press, 2016. 978-0-7636-8123-4

A beautiful example of an alphabet book, unique and well rendered in watercolor and pencil. I'm sharing this with our art teacher, I see lots of classroom applications for this simple ABC book - interpretation, movement, adaptation etc.

ART

Miles, David *book*, illustrated by Natalie Hoopes. Familius, 2015. 978-1-939629-65-4

What is a book? A book is the link to everything in the universe, not needing batteries or a password, just imagination. Pair this with Brynne Barnes's Books Do Not Have Wings and William Joyce's The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore for a reading time about the wonder of books.

READING

Miller, Pat *The Hole Story of the Doughnut* Illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. 978-0-544-31961-5

This book tells the story of the doughnut, but it also tells of Hanson Gregory and his life at sea. The story includes myths and legends about Hanson Gregory and how he invented the doughnut. It also has an author's note and picture of the real Hanson Gregory.

LEGENDS, COOKING

****Milway, Katie Smith *The Banana-Leaf Ball***, illustrated by Shane W. Evans. Citizen Kid (Kids Can Press), 2017. 978-1-77138-331-8

Based on a true story, the newest Citizen Kids book brings a new dimension to the lives of refugee children. The text on each page is rather wordy - this is not meant to be read by a child alone, but together with a teacher or other adult. It will be a very rewarding experience, especially in combination with a humanitarian project of some kind.

GEOGRAPHY, REFUGEES

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux *The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore*, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Lerner Publishing Group, 2015. 978-0-7613-3943-4

Lewis' Dad owned a bookstore in Harlem: The National Memorial African Bookstore. Many historical figures (like Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X) visited and spoke there. Includes a biography of Lewis Henri Michaux, author's note, and bibliography.

CIVIL RIGHTS

****Nolan, Janet *Seven and a Half Tons of Steel*** Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez. Peachtree, 2016. \$17.95
Content: G. 978-1-56145-912-4

This is an emotional read but it is done well. The history behind USS New York is fascinating and at the back there is extra information about the ship and the crest of the ship. The illustrations are fantastic.
9-11

O'Byrne, Nicola *Use Your Imagination*. Nosy Crow (Candlewick Press), 2015. 978-0-7636-8001-5

A wolf and a rabbit discuss beginning, characters, costumes, and setting, while the wolf repeatedly reminds rabbit to use his imagination.

WRITING, IMAGINATION

Petričić, Dušan *My Family Tree and Me*. Kids Can Press, 2015. 978-1-77138-049-2

Would work especially well for classes or families who study genealogy or for young children or ASL students who may have difficulty visualizing how cousins and great-great-grandparents and nieces and everyone else in a family is related.

FAMILY

Pimentel, Annette *Bay Mountain Chef: How One Man Lost His Groceries, Changed His Plans, and Helped Cook Up the National Park Service*, illustrated by Rich Lo. Charlesbridge, 2016. 978-1-58089-711-2

Tie Sing was born in Nevada to Chinese parents sometime before 1875. In 1915, known as the best trail cook in California, he assisted on an expedition led by millionaire Stephen Mather to convince some high-ranking congressmen to establish a new national park service to oversee the national parks already in existence. This would be a good book to help diversify a library's nonfiction collection and acknowledge the contributions of marginalized people on historical events.

U.S. HISTORY, NATURE

Pinkney, Andrea Davis *A Poem for Peter*, Illustrated by Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson. Viking (Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC), 2016. 978-0-425-28768-2

A beautiful book of poetic verse which portrays the life of Jack Ezra Keats and specifically the groundbreaking art from his most famous book "A Snowy Day". This book opened the doors for other children's books in portraying people of color. Wonderful opportunities for lesson tie-ins for parents, teachers, and librarians.

WRITING, READING, CIVIL RIGHTS

Poletti, Frances and Kristina Yee *The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibbs, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon*. Compendium, 2017. 978-1-943200-47-4

Poletti and Chapman, along with illustrator Susanna Chapman combine words and pictures that exude Gibbs' love for running into a simple book about a woman breaking a significant barrier – not to prove a point or make a scene.

WOMEN, PE

****Raczka, Bob *Niko Draws a Feeling***. Carolrhoda Books (Lerner), 2017. 978-1-46779-843-3

Niko likes to draw things that can't be seen, things that can only be felt or heard, like how it feels to have the sun warm your face. He feels sad and misunderstood, until one special new neighbor realizes what he is trying to capture. Feature large images with lots of movement.

This is a wonderful book for encouraging outside of the box thinking. It would be an asset for art teachers or even school counselors or therapists.

ART

Raczka, Bob. *Wet Cement, A Mix of Concrete Poems*, Roaring Book Press, 2016. 978-1-62672-236-1

This is a selection of concrete poetry. Poems that are written in the specific shape or subject of the poetry itself. The author has not only created poems that are concrete, but the titles of the poems also reflect the feeling of the poem. The poetry itself was very good and this would be a fantastic book to use with English lessons on concrete poetry.

POETRY

Rappaport, Doreen *Frederick's Journey*. Disney, 2015. 978-1-42311-438-3

A biography of Frederick Douglass, short enough to be read to a class with enough information for student research as well.

BIOGRAPHY, CIVIL RIGHTS

Rappaport, Doreen Elizabeth *started all the Trouble*. Disney/Hyperion, 2016. 978-0-7868-5142-3
A history of women's right to vote in the United States. Learn about the start of the movement, the upheaval it caused, and the serious determination of generations of women to achieve their goal.
WOMEN, VOTING

Reich, Susanna *Stand Up and Sing: Pete Seeger*, illustrated by Adam Gustavson. Bloomsbury, 2017. 978-0-8027-3812-7
Reich's biographical sketch and Gustavson's beautiful illustrations weave together a look at an important folk singer and shows the power of music to move people. A great book for a music class, a history class, or as a biography source.
BIOGRAPHY, CIVIL RIGHTS, MUSIC, U.S. HISTORY

Reynolds, Aaron *Sea Monkey & Bob*, illustrated by Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Simon & Schuster, 2017. 978-1-48140-676-5
Sea Monkey is afraid that he will sink to the bottom of the ocean. Bob the Puffer Fish reassures him, but now Bob is afraid that he will float to the top of the waves. Both of them can help each other be brave. Since it talks about buoyancy and density in the ocean, it's a nice little starter for that particular topic.
SCIENCE

Robbins, Dean *Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton saved the first lunar landing*, illustrated by Lucy Knisley. Knopf (Random), 2017. 978-0-399-55186-4
Margaret's skills were key to most of the Apollo missions and especially to the safe landing of Apollo 11. Robbins's picture book is a perfect combination of text and picture for a dynamic read aloud. It shows the not Margaret's growth in her field, but the important programming work she did on the Apollo missions.
WOMEN, SCIENCE

Sanchez, Anita Karl, *Get out of the Garden! Carolus Linnaeus and the Naming of Everything*. 47 pgs. Charlesbridge, 2017. 978-1-58089-606-1
Fantastic book for an introduction on the classification system, especially since it shows the reader how necessary its creation was, and what a big task. An upper elementary or middle school teacher could use this as a read-aloud before a unit.
BIOGRAPHY, SCIENCE

***Sehgal, Kabir**. *The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk*, Beach Lane Books, 2015. 978-1-48144-831-4
really like this alternate version of the song. It gives readers a way to connect with a different culture. Teachers and parents will find this a great excuse to help their students and children learn more about another place and it will produce some great discussion of India itself, but also comparisons and differences with American culture. The illustrations depict the song and place well so that the reader can visualize it, and children will enjoy some of the unfamiliar language combined with a well-known tune.
WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Sillett, Devon *The Leaky Story*, illustrated by Anil Tortop. Exisle Publishing Pty Ltd, 2017. 978-1-925335-39-2
This is a colorful, imaginative take on fiction coming alive, and it begs for a class discussion on what stories students would most like to realize. Because it is Australian, there are a few very slight variations in language and punctuation, but these are easily explained.
WRITING

***Simler, Isabelle** *The Blue Hour* Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2017. 978-0-8028-5488-9
The illustrations in this book are magical. My son kept petting the pages because the drawings have so much texture. The text reads like a poem.
POETRY, WRITING, ART

Slade, Suzanne *The Inventor's Secret: What Thomas Edison Told Henry Ford*, illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt. Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-667-2
A great book for any science or technology class - or really any class that deals with creating. Pair this with Ashley Spires Most Magnificent Thing for a great mini lesson on perseverance and the sweat equity involved in inventing.
SCIENCE, INVENTING

Slade, Suzanne *Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story*, illustrated by Jessica Lana. Sleeping Bear Press, 2017. 978-1-58536-986-7

Anna Comstock pioneered having children not only learning about nature, but going outside and learning from observing nature.

SCIENCE, TEACHING

Smith, Matthew Clark *Lighter than Air: Sophie Blanchard, the First Woman Pilot*, illustrated by Matt Tavares. Candlewick, 2017. 978-0-7636-7732-9

Add another picture book to the list of women who dared. The tidbits are very rewarding to read as we balance out the idea that only the men of history performed dangerous exploits.

SCIENCE, WOMEN

Snyder, Laurel *Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova* Illustrated by Julie Morstad Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-45211-890-1

An excellent and artistic biography of Anna Pavlova.

DANCE

Singer, Marilyn *Echo Echo*, illustrated by Josee Masse. Dial (Penguin), 2016. 978-0-8037-3992-5

Using her amazing reverse poetry, Singer shows two sides of several myths – most familiar, some lesser known. Doesn't matter – I am still dumbfounded by her eye and ear and ability to find and define both stories using the same words, just in reverse order and some punctuation changes. I know people usually avoid poetry like the plague, but this is one you should not miss.

POETRY, MYTHOLOGY

Stanley, Bethany, *Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer*. ill. by Jessie Hartland.

Simon and Schuster, 2016. 978-1-48145-249-6

This is the story of how Ada Lovelace helped her husband Charles Babbage to convert the design and how she became the first computer programmer.

The layout is well done and easy to follow. The information is useful and intriguing. The illustrations are fairly detailed and colorful and easily complement the text. Included are a timeline, sources for further information, and glossary for further common core alignment.

SCIENCE, BIOGRAPHY, WOMEN

Steptoe, Javaka *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*, Little Brown and Company (Hachette), 2016. 978-0-316-21388-2

Steptoe captures the essence of Samo's art with murals painted on wood and other surfaces found all over the New York area. Includes a bibliography, more thorough biography, and artist's note, plus a glossary indicating some of the symbolism Samo used. Good for the middle school art student as an introduction to this special artist. 2017 Caldecott Medal winner.

BIOGRAPHY, ART

Stone, Tanya Lee *The House that Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams*, illustrated by Kathryn Brown.

PICTUREBOOK. MacMillan (Henry Holt) 2015. 978-0-8050-9049-9

This picture book biography is short, with beautiful illustrations, a well told story an author's note and source material for reading more about this amazing Nobel Prize winner. This is a marvelous springboard for a biography unit. Tell the short story, then discover more by going to the source materials.

U.S. HISTORY, WOMEN

Sutcliffe, Jane *Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk*, illustrated by John Shelley. Charlesbridge, 2016. 978-1-58089-638-2

Sutcliffe tells the story of play-going in Shakespeare's time, especially goings-on at The Globe Theatre and about Shakespeare's plays. She weaves in Will's own word, including side notes with definitions and origins in his plays.

Any part of this would be a gem to share with theater class, Language Arts and anywhere that Shakespeare or his plays are studied.

WRITING

Tate, Don *Strong as Sandow: How Eugen Sandow Became the Strongest Man on Earth.* Charlesbridge, 2017. 978-1-58089-628-3

Eugen Sandow became not only strong, but also a great showman, moving swiftly to the heights of fame throughout Europe and even in the United States. When he became older, he found other ways to fan the flames of fame, including creating the first body building competition.

PE, BIOGRAPHY, FAME

Tavares, Matt *Crossing Niagara: The Death-Defying Tightrope Adventures of the Great Blondin.*

Candlewick Press, 2016. 978-0-7636-6823-5

Jean Francois Gravelet, known as the Great Blondin, is a tight rope walker who likes to perform. The illustrations in this nonfiction account are realistic and well done. The true story of the Great Blondin in the late 1850's is so shocking and crazy that my son was hooked. This is a fun and unique story of one man obtaining his dreams.

BIOGRAPHY

Tavares, Matt. *Growing Up Pedro.* Candlewick Press, 2015. 978-0-7636-9310-7

A chronicle of the life of the baseball player Pedro Martinez and his brother Ramon, as they make their way to the major league.

PE, BIOGRAPHY

Tekavec, Heather *Different? Same!* Illustrated by Pippa Curnick. Kids Can Press, 2017. 978-1-77138-565-7

What in the world do a tiger and a bumblebee have in common? They both have stripes! And so does a zebra and a ring-tailed lemur. Manes, tusks, horns, even scales – all characteristics that bring different animals together in a point of likeness. Text and illustrations work together to make a perfect package ready for a science lesson on almost any level.

SCIENCE

Thompson, Laurie Ann *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah,* illustrated by Sean Qualls. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015. 978-0-449-81745-2

With the message that disability doesn't mean inability, this inspiring true story is a great introduction to children about the challenges of having a disability and empathy for those who do.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY, DIS/ABILITY

Tonatiuh, Duncan *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras.* Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015. 978-1-52001-138-7

Jose Guadalupe Posada was a printer, and a political cartoonist whose work is much more famous than his name. A great addition to your books about Dia de Muertos.

ART, WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Tonatiuh, Duncan *Esquivel! : Space-Age Sound Artist.* Charlesbridge, 2016. 978-1-58089-673-3

Tonatiuh has included a photograph of Esquivel!, resources including websites and video, and both an author's and an illustrator's note. The reader will certainly want to hear his music. Can't wait to show this to my music teachers.

MUSIC, WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Trent, Dr. Tererai, *The Girl Who Buried Her Dreams in a Can,* illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Viking, 2015. 978-0-670-01654-9

The true story of a dedicated woman, who, through education has changed the lives of the people of Zimbabwe.

WOMEN, WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Van Steenwyk, Elizabeth *How Kate Warne Saved President Lincoln* Illustrated by Valentina Belloni Albert Whitman and Company, 2016. 978-0-8075-4117-3

Kate Warne's story is a great addition to the women studies type books coming out lately. Her strong and courageous character helped save Lincoln and her example made it so other women were able to become detectives.

U.S. HISTORY, WOMEN

Van Vleet, Carmella *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space* Charlesbridge 2016. 978-1-58089-644-3

This is the story of Astronaut Dr. Kathy Sullivan. The pages rotate between her interests and experiences as a child/teen and her life as an adult in her career.

This picture book is one that could easily be a read-aloud about astronauts or accomplished women.
WOMEN, SCIENCE

****Verde, Susan *The Water Princess*** Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2016. 978-0-399-17258-8

This book is based on a true story of the difficulties some people have gathering water in Africa. The illustrations are fantastic and although this is a hard task, the character is positive about gathering water for her family. There is a two page spread at the end of the book that shows pictures of those people who travel far for their water and what the model Georgie Badiel is doing to raise awareness and money to help build safe and clean wells for remote villages in Africa.

WOMEN, WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Vernick, Audrey *The Kid From Diamond Street: The Extraordinary Story of Baseball Legend Edith Houghton*, illustrated by Steven Salerno. Clarion Books (Houghton), 2015. 978-0-544-61163-4

Edith Houghton was born in 1912 – a time when women were expected to wear long dresses and skirts and they didn't have the right to vote. That didn't stop Edith from becoming a professional baseball player at the age of ten. Useful at many different grade levels, if you can get your middle school or high school P.E. teachers to add books to their curriculum.

WOMEN, PE

Wahi, Ellen *Full Moon Lore*, illustrated by Ashley Stewart. Sleeping Bear Press, 2017. 978-1-58536-965-2

Lovely illustrations accompany a book that will appeal to readers interested in science and/or lore. The names and stories of each full moon is married well with scientific facts about the moon and its place in the universe. A simple but pleasing introduction to astronomy for young readers.

SCIENCE

Wallmark, Laurie *Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code*, illustrated by Katy Wu. Sterling Children's Books, 2017. 978-1-45492-000-7

Grace Hopper was able to join the Navy, where she not only work code for the first computer, the MARK I, she also thought of many ways to make it even easier to code them. I thought maybe it was a bit text heavy, but it read quickly. Plus, the illustrations will not fail to delight!

WOMEN, COMPUTER SCIENCE

Weatherford, Carole Boston *Freedom in Congo Square*, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Little bee Books (Bonnie Publishing Group) 2016. 978-1-49980-103-3

This book is a celebration! The poetry and the illustrations show how terrible their lives were (so busy, difficult, despair) and then the mood totally changes when they are at Congo Square. A great introduction to some of the hardships of the enslaved.

CIVIL RIGHTS, POETRY

Weatherford, Carole Boston *The Legendary Miss Lena Horne*, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Atheneum Books for Young Readers (Simon and Schuster), 2017. 978-1-48146-824-4

Beautifully illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon, this brief life sketch hits on many of the most important points of her life. This is a great springboard to a longer biography project or as information for a civil rights project. Includes a bibliography, further reading suggestions and music and video recommendations.

MUSIC, WOMEN, CIVIL RIGHTS

Weatherford, Carole Boston *Voice of Freedom Fannie Lou Hamer Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*, illustrated by Ekuia Holmes. Candlewick Press, 2015. Content: PG (Civil Rights violence). 978-0-7636-6531-9

Fannie Lou Hamer was the youngest child of sharecroppers in Mississippi. Outspoken and brave, she sang, made speeches and was the voice of the civil rights movement.

MUSIC, WOMEN, CIVIL RIGHTS

Weatherford, Carole Boston *Dorothea Lange: The Photographer Who Found the Faces of the Depression* Illustrated by Sarah Green. Albert Whitman and Company, 2017. 978-0-8075-1699-7

Dorothea Lange's pictures began to capture the heartache and suffering of the Great Depression and she had some printed in a newspaper. Eventually her photographs gained enough attention that the government helped those who were suffering.

U.S. HISTORY, ART, WOMEN

****Williams, Lily** *If Sharks Disappeared*. Roaring Brook (Macmillan), 2017. 978-1-62672-413-6

While many people are afraid of sharks, they play an important in maintaining the ocean's ecosystems. What would happen if sharks, in danger in many places, were to disappear?

What a great introduction to so many different science lessons.

ECOLOGY, FOOD CHAINS, BIODIVERSITY

Wing, Natasha *When Jackie Saved Grand Central* Illustrated by Alexandra Boiger. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. 978-0-547-44921-0

Jacqueline Kennedy helped save Grand Central Station in New York from being bulldozed and turned into skyscrapers. The laws that were passed to save Grand Central have helped maintain many historical buildings throughout the country.

PRESERVATION

****Winter, Jonah** *The Secret Project*, illustrated by Jeanette Winter. Beach Lane (Simon), 2017.

978-1-48146-913-5

What an interesting topic for a picture book. I will have to ask my elementary teacher friends if this is taught at that level. I can only see it being useful for high school, really, as a starter. I'd love to hear from the authors about their motivation for this topic in this format.

WORLD WAR II

Winter, Jonah *Lillian's Right to Vote*, illustrated by Shane W, Evans. Schwarz & Wade (Random), 2015.

978-0-385-39029-3

As Lillian heads her way up the hill to cast her vote in the election, she sees the panorama of African Americans before her who fought for their right to vote.

WOMEN, GOVERNMENT, CIVIL RIGHTS

Winter, Jonah *My Name is James Madison Hemings*, illustrated by Terry Widener. Schwatz & Wade (Random), 2016. 978-0-385-38342-4

Winter takes a very interesting look at the life of Thomas Jefferson's slave children. It is quite a lot of information and more detailed than the average picture book. I will definitely be showing this to my teachers, as I feel the material is more appropriate for the upper grades.

U.S. HISTORY, CIVIL RIGHTS

Winter, Jonah *Mickey Mantle: The Commerce Comet* Illustrated by C.F. Payne. Schwartz and Wade Books, 2017. 978-1-10193-353-4

This inspirational sports story will appeal to those interested in baseball. There is 2-3 paragraphs per page spread making it a longer read for a picture book.

PE

Yaccarino, Dan *I Am a Story*. HarperCollins, 2016. 978-0-06-241106-8

Demonstrates ways in which stories have been passed down. It would be especially good as a beginning-of-the-year book for library time, or for when discussing the origins of ancient stories such as cave paintings or constellations.

WRITING

***The Use of Picture Books in the High School Classroom* by Melissa Reiker, 2011**

<http://scholarship.rollins.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=mls>

1. Authors are writing picture books about more complex topics
2. Authors are writing picture books with content not necessarily appropriate for the normal picture book audience.
3. Picture books provide both factual learning and an aesthetic, or emotional experience

Errors in thinking about picture books as classroom material in secondary classes:

1. Students need to read for information rather than enjoyment
2. Students at this age prefer reality over fantasy
3. Picture books don't contribute to the growth of cognitive thinking skills

Some steps to success:

1. Don't apologize for reading a picture book to your students – dive in with gusto
2. Ask students to refute or defend the notion that a good story line could be accompanied by illustrations.
3. Front load the lesson with cues hinting at the intellectual nature of the unit.

Positive Effects of Using Picture Books with Older Students:

Student Engagement:

1. Body posture indicates relaxation and engagement
2. Few students display off-task behaviors

Classroom Culture and Climate

1. Students' stress levels decreased
2. Returned a sense of enjoyment of learning to the classroom
3. Learning without feeling they were working
4. Enjoyment of hearing stories
5. Foster trust and vulnerability between teacher and student
6. Appealing and satisfying on an emotional level

Student Learning

1. Less engaged students are more vocally responsive
2. Books that reinforce content concepts do increase student learning
3. Greater connection to prior knowledge
4. Greatest understanding in students with limited English language
5. Satisfy the needs of different learning types
6. Convey complex topics at a level everyone can appreciate

A group of veteran teachers who have used picture books extensively note these engaging responses high school students often display when they encounter picture books (Matthews, et al, 1999):

- Recall particular memories
- Understand the essence of empathy
- Feel disturbed at negative aspects of human nature
- Describe childhood experiences
- Talk about favorite books from childhood
- Think about how to teach advanced concepts to young children
- Consider self image, peer pressure, conformity, and identity
- Connect colors to feelings
- Overcome a learning disability or difficulty
- Identify and relate to diverse cultures
- Recognize the nature of symbolic and literal walls

Picture Books for Young Adult Readers by Sunya Osborn, 2001

<https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/ALAN/v28n3/osborn.html>

1. Give students a mental model they are often unable to create for themselves
2. Convey complex connections in a simpler manner
3. Discussion starters
4. Spark writing ideas
5. Can be read in one class period
6. Enjoyment and education combined