

Picture Books

Title/Author/ Publisher/Year	Award/Review	Personal Interest	Interest Level	Curriculum Connection
<i>Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear</i> By: Lindsay Mattick Little, Brown & Company, 2015	Caldecott Medal Winner, 2016	I enjoyed this book. I feel that students that like Winnie the Pooh will really enjoy learning about his origins.	K-3	Language Arts: This is a great example of narrative structure.
<i>The Snowy Day</i> By: Ezra Jack Keats Viking Press, c1962 p2011	Caldecott Medal Winner, 1963	I really enjoyed this book. I'm sure that I had it read to me as a child, but haven't read it in almost 30 years. I think students will be attracted to the illustrations.	K-3	Science: Students can discuss what happened with the snowball.
<i>This is Not My Hat</i> By: Jon Klassen Candlewick Press, 2012	Caldecott Medal Winner, 2013	This is an excellent example of a well illustrated book. Without the pictures, the story really wouldn't make sense. I believe students will enjoy this book, based upon the fun story, and pictures.	K-3	Character Development: This book can be used to start a discussion about stealing.
<i>Creepy Carrots!</i> By: Aaron Reynolds Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012	Caldecott Honor Book, 2013	While I think this is a cute book, it is definitely not one of my favorites. I could be a bit biased, however, since I have children fighting over it every day.	K-3	Character Development: Students can talk about a time when they were scared, and if it was truly something to be scared about.
<i>Rent Party Jazz</i> By: William Miller Lee & Low Books, 2001	New York Times, 3/10/02	I absolutely love everything about this book. It is an excellent example to teach cultural differences. I think students would enjoy this book, but don't feel it is one they will pick up on their own.	K-3	History: Students can look at the differences between the time in the story, and now. They could also talk, about the culture of the book.

Novels

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<i>Hatchet</i> By: Gary Paulsen Simon Pulse, c1987 p2007	Newbery Honor, 1988	I personally didn't care for Hatchet. I read it because it gets a lot of traffic in my Library, but it didn't hold up to the hype. I can see why students enjoy it, however.	5-8	Language Arts: This is a good example to teach the elements of fiction.
<i>Ramona Quimby, Age 8</i> By: Beverly Cleary HarperTrophy, c1981 p2006	Newbery Honor, 1982	I liked this book. I have read a lot of Beverly Cleary's works, but have never picked up this series. I definitely feel this book would resonate with students.	3-6	Language Arts: This is a great example for both literary elements, but also character development.
<i>Lightning Thief</i> By: Rick Riordan Miramax Books, 2006	ALA Notable Children's Books, 2006	I was leery of this book at first, because I was worried about the treatment of Mythology. I was pleasantly surprised, and feel students would enjoy this book/series.	5-8	Language Arts: Although some liberties are taken, this would be a great introduction to Greek Mythology.
<i>The Land</i> By: Mildred Taylor Puffin Books, 2001	Coretta Scott King Author Award, 2002	I was excited to read this book, since it acts as a prequel to <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> . I think students will enjoy this book, especially if they have read <i>Roll of Thunder</i> .	5-8	History: This is a good example of the life of a freed slave after the Civil War. I feel it could be used to give students some unique insight.
<i>The Magic Misfits</i> By: Neil Patrick Harris Little, Brown and Company, 2018	2019 Golden Sower Award Nominee	This was probably my favorite book in this category. I loved the story elements, and feel the book would be a big draw for students, especially with those who recognize the author's name.	3-6	Collaboration: The theme of team work, and collaboration is key to the story, I feel this lends itself to projects/lessons that promote collaboration.

Non-Fiction

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<i>Separate Is Never Equal</i> By: Duncan Tonatiuh Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014	Publishers Weekly, 3/3/14	This was a great book, although I feel the story itself is a little too deep for the interest level. It might be better suited as a prop in a lesson/unit.	K-3	History: This would be a great addition to a lesson on Civil Rights.
<i>I Am Martin Luther King Jr.</i> By: Brad Meltzer Dial Books for Young Readers, 2016	Horn Book Guide, 4/1/17	This is one of my new favorite series for biographies. The way the author & illustrator make the characters seem to be the same age as a young reader really seems like it should be a draw.	K-3	History: Another good book about Civil Rights. This would also be an excellent source for a report.
<i>All That Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge, and Our Problem with Stuff</i> By: Meghan McCarthy Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018	ALA Notable Children's Book, 2019	This book made me sad, but was still very interesting. Most students will have never heard of the Garbage Barge, and this is a book that will really make them think.	K-3	Science: This is really a good example of how human actions affect the world around us. It would also be a good story to use to introduce Earth Day/ecology lesson.
<i>Balloons Over Broadway</i> By: Melissa Sweet	ALA Notable Children's Book, 2012	I think kids will find this book interesting. I'm not sure if they will be willing to pick it up on their own, but if they get their hands on it, I feel they'll be pleased.	K-3	Art: This would be a great puppetry lesson. It could also be used in a STEM class where students could try some of the inventions highlighted.
<i>Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History</i> By: Walter Myers Harper, 2017	New York Times, 2/12/17	This is another book that I think is way too deep for the interest level. It has a lot of good information, but comes off as kind of dry.	K-3	History: This would be a good supplement to any Black History lesson.

Free Choice

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<i>Batman: The Killing Joke</i> By: Alan Moore DC Comics, 1988	Eisner Award Winner, Best Writer, 1989	I am a huge comic book fan, and have never gotten a chance to read this particular graphic novel. I think select students would enjoy this, but it is definitely geared toward a more mature reader.	Adult	Psychology: This is an interesting look at the human psyche. I could see a lesson combining this book and the movie <i>Falling Down</i> to examine the idea of the “bad day.”
<i>A Canticle For Leibowitz</i> By: Walter Miller Eos, c1959, p2006	Wilson’s Fiction, 10/1/10	A post apocalyptic sci-fi novel, I believe that students would enjoy this book, but many would just pass it by. I, personally, loved it.	Adult	Language Arts: This is a great example of a post-apocalyptic novel. It could also be used as an example of how myths came to be.
<i>The Joplin Tornado, 2011 (I Survived Series)</i> By: Lauren Tarshis Scholastic Press, 2015	Horn Book Guide, 4/1/16; Recommended by students	Students seem to love this book, and I can understand why. It is a solid piece of historical fiction, and has the unique trait, that some of the students interested were alive when this event happened.	3-6	Multi-Curricular: Could be used in combination with <i>Night of the Twisters</i> for an introduction to severe weather, or as an example of a historical narrative.
<i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> By: Tedd Arnold Scholastic, 2005	ALA Notable Children’s Books, 2006	I really enjoyed this book. I know that students really like it, and it is great for early readers.	K-3	Language Arts: This would be good to use for recall, either as a read a loud, or by themselves.
<i>Dragons Love Tacos</i> By: Adam Rubin Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012	New York Times, 6/17/12	Students love this book, especially the conversational nature of it. I found it to be a fun read.	K-3	Language Arts: Having students tell, write, or draw what they think happens next would be a good activity with this book. They could then use the sequel to check their predictions.