

Appendix V

Bibliography of Picture Books for Close Reading

Teachers have asked me repeatedly for a bibliography aligned to the College and Career Readiness Standards for Reading. Here it is! Of course there are thousands of texts that would support any standard. These are the books that happen to be on *my* bookshelf. Please know that they are just examples of the kinds of books that could work to help students reach a particular standard. Do not feel compelled to run out and buy these exact books. Look for books in your school or classroom library that have some of the same characteristics.

The books suggested in the bibliography below are mostly literary texts, though some feature “real people” in stories with a factual base. Whole informational books are generally too complex for a close reading lesson at the intermediate level. For informational text, it is best to use shorter pieces such as articles or passages from a longer text.

Included here are texts you can use to help students practice the skills they will need to meet Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Remember that *every* text will help with skills needed to meet Standards 1 and 10 and that the skills needed to meet Standards 7 through 9 will mostly be addressed in follow-up lessons. The standards below are those that are most closely associated with an initial close reading lesson.

Standard 2: Summary, Theme, Main Idea

There are too many great books with great themes to ever list them all. Below are some of the books I use most often. For a more comprehensive list of specific themes and alignment of texts to those themes, see my book *That's a Great Answer* (2nd ed.).

Lower Intermediate

- *Down the Road* by Alice Schertle
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson

- *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
- *A Frog Thing* by Eric Drachman
- *Galimoto* by Karen Lynn Williams
- *Hey, Little Ant* by Phillip and Hanna Hoose
- *Keep Climbing, Girls* by Beah Richards
- *Melissa Parkington's Beautiful, Beautiful Hair* by Pat Brisson
- *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney
- *Nobody Owns the Sky: The Story of "Brave Bessie" Coleman* by Reeve Lindbergh
- *The Sandwich Swap* by Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan
- *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Mellon* by Patty Lovell
- *Tacky the Penguin* by Helen Lester
- *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts

Upper Intermediate

- *As Good as Anybody* by Richard Michelson
- *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon
- *Be Good to Eddie Lee* by Virginia Fleming
- *Dave the Potter* by Laban Carrick Hill
- *Dear Willie Rudd* by Libba Moore Gray
- *Dream* by Susan V. Bosak
- *Eggbert, the Slightly Cracked Egg* by Tom Ross
- *The Empty Pot* by Demi
- *Four Feet, Two Sandals* by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed
- *14 Cows for America* by Carmen Agra Deedy
- *The Honest-to-Goodness Truth* by Patricia C. McKissack
- *Jam & Jelly by Holly and Nellie* by Gloria Whelan
- *Just a Dream* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *The Lotus Seed* by Sherry Garland
- *Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man* by David A. Adler
- *The Memory String* by Eve Bunting
- *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margot Theis Raven
- *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman* by Alan Schroeder
- *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby
- *My Rows and Piles of Coins* by Tololwa Mollel

- *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein* by Don Brown
- *One Thousand Tracings* by Lita Judge
- *The Princess and the Pizza* by Mary Jane Auch
- *A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry
- *The Royal Bee* by Frances Park and Ginger Park
- *Silver Packages* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Something Beautiful* by Sharon Dennis Wyeth
- *Testing the Ice* by Sharon Robinson
- *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
- *Virgie Goes to School With Us Boys* by Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard
- *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischman
- *The Yellow Star* by Carmen Agra Deedy

Standard 3: Connecting Story Parts, Details, Facts

The following texts *feature* the attribute indicated (character change, character development, etc.) Remember, however, that what the Common Core encourages most is the *interaction* between story elements. Examine this attribute in relation to other aspects of the text such as setting and problem.

Character Change

- *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon
- *Fireflies* by Julie Brinckloe
- *Going Home* by Eve Bunting
- *The Honest-to-Goodness Truth* by Patricia C. McKissack
- *The Memory String* by Eve Bunting
- *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother* by Patricia Polacco
- *A Picnic in October* by Eve Bunting
- *The Sandwich Swap* by Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan

Character Development

- *Be Good to Eddie Lee* by Virginia Fleming
- *Dave the Potter* by Laban Carrick Hill
- *Down the Road* by Alice Schertle
- *Jam & Jelly by Holly and Nellie* by Gloria Whelan
- *Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man* by David Adler (significance of problem)