Collection Development (or Special Topics or Curriculum Support) Bibliography: Early Reader 2019

Highly Recommended Books


Summary: Mr. Monkey bakes a cake and wants to enter it in a cake contest. Ooh. He must overcome several barriers and adventures to get to the contest and when he arrives he is too late. Ooh. He really wanted a ribbon. Ooh. See if he can get one!

Mr. Monkey books:
Mr. Monkey Visits a School ISBN 9781534404298 2018

Curricular use: This almost graphic novel is a fun beginning reader. Introducing students to speech bubbles and reading the pictures would work well with this title.

Audience: Pk-1 grade students would enjoy these stories.


Summary: Pip would like to fly. Pip tries to fly by flapping his/her arms, but is unable to get off the ground. Otto is able to help in the end.

Other Otto books:

Also Adventures of Zip:
Poof! A Bot! ISBN: 9781534411029 2018
See Zip Zap ISBN: 9781534411005 2018

Curricular use: I have long been a fan of the Otto books for those students who need easy to sound out words, but still want a story. This is a great addition to that set.

Audience: Those very beginning readers who want to be independent when reading will enjoy these books.


Summary: The dinosaurs in this book come across a sign that says, “Dinosaurs do not scratch.” Unfortunately, they are all itchy except one who really wants to enforce the sign. Tough dinosaurs don’t scratch. Eventually, the rest of the sign is uncovered. Now it says, “Dinosaurs do not scratch alone” and they are all able to satisfy their itches!

Mo Willems’ Elephant & Piggie Like Reading Books:
The Cookie Fiasco by Dan Santat ISBN 9781484726365 2016
We Are Growing! by Laurie Keller ISBN 9781484726358 2016
It’s Shoe Time! by Bryan Collier ISBN 9781484726471 2017
Curricular Use: All of these titles would be good to discuss dialogue and speech bubbles.

Audience: I enjoy that Mo Willems is sharing his magic with other authors to encourage kids to branch out. These books are another one for the Elephant & Piggie crowd. The Itchy Book! is a little more sophisticated with slightly smaller font and a little more text. It may appeal to older students because of this.


Summary: This is a simple set of stories told with sparse text and through panels. It would be a great introduction to graphic novels. I like that the panels are all the same size and follow the same pattern (unlike something like Benny and Penny which are really good, but maybe more difficult for beginners to follow since the panels are not all the same size, etc.). The stories are simple stories of friendship that remind me of George and Martha only a little softer.

*Fox + Chick: The Quiet Boat Ride and Other Stories* ISBN 9781452152899

Curricular use: This book would be a good introduction to panelled stories.

Audience: Pk-1 grade students would enjoy these stories.


Summary: This book hits all the right notes with humor and imagination. Fox wants to be a tiger because they are big, fast, and sneaky, so he decides to pretend he is one. Other animals also do costumes to pretend to their favorite animals as well. They are all having fun until it rains and the costumes (paint) wash away. The other animals move on, but Fox is sad. That is until he meets Turtle, who wants to be a fox!

Curricular use: This is an I Can Read! My First Shared Reading book. I am always looking for titles for those students who are barely reading, but need a “Just Right Book.”

Audience: Pk-1 grade students would enjoy these stories.


Summary: Similar visually to Elephant and Piggie, this early reader is about friends. The illustrations are amusing and the facial expression of the characters should not be missed. F&P level G Part of the Giggle Gang series currently containing:

*A Birthday for Cow!* ISBN 9780544850026 F&P level H

*The Doghouse* ISBN 9780544850033

*My Toothbrush is Missing* ISBN 9780544966352 F&P level H

*What Will Fat Cat Sit On?* ISBN 9780544850040 F&P level F

Curricular use: This book is for early readers. It could also be used by older students to think about reading facial expression or inferencing from the illustrations.

Audience: Those students who already love Elephant and Piggie will enjoy these.


Summary: Another hit from Mo Willems, the Unlimited Squirrels are trying to help Zoom Squirrel find his lost tooth. Of course, the mob of squirrels over-react and create chaos and hilarity. At the end, there are a couple informational text parts and a couple A-Corny Jokes. I would look for additions to this book to create a series.

Curricular Use: The informational text could be used for research on teeth or animals, but mostly this is just a fun read for emerging readers.
**Audience:** Mo Willems fans will enjoy this book as well.

**Supplemental Books**


**Summary:** The main character’s brother Jack falls off the top bunk and breaks his leg/foot. The whole family goes off to the ER where they meet many different types of doctors. The girl asks questions about their jobs and the doctors answer. There is a glossary of doctors included in the back of the book.

**Curricular use:** This story is not exceptional, but I included it because the characters are of many different ethnicities. It is nice to see books of this type with characters who are not animals, etc. This may be a book that encourages students to learn more about medicine and doctors.

**Audience:** Pk-1 students will be interested in this book.


**Summary:** Rocket is following a butterfly, but the butterfly flies into the forest. Rocket thinks the forest is scary. Can he overcome his fear to find the butterfly again?

**Other Rocket Early Readers:**

**Curricular Use:** These are step 1 Ready to Read books. They are in that harder to find, really easy books.

**Audience:** Young readers will enjoy these books.


**Summary:** Horse is dancing (without music) when his friend Buggy comes along. Buggy wants to know what Horse is doing. explains and tries to convince Buggy to join in. Buggy resists until Horse gets out the boom box.

**Horse & Buggy Paint It Out** ISBN 978-0-8234-4256-0 2019

**Curricular user:** Part of the I Like to Read series which contains over 83 books. I’m not recommending them all, but if you need to beef up your collection of this type of book, this is a series to check out. Titles by authors such as Ted Arnold, Emily Arnold McCully, David McPhail, Ted Lewin, Betsy Lewin, David Catrow, Douglas Florian, etc. “I Like to Read books, created by award-winning picture book artists as well as talented newcomers, instill confidence and the joy of reading in new readers.” They have flash cards and reproducibles and the books are all leveled as well.

**Audience:** Pk-1 readers would enjoy these books.


**Summary:** Gracie LaRoo is the youngest synchronized swim team member. She and her team are at the Pig Jubilee and they hope to win a gold medal. Gracie is having trouble concentrating, though and keeps missing her final, award-winning jump. Can she focus and not let her team down?

**Other Gracie LaRoo books:**
- *Gracie LaRoo at Training Camp* ISBN: 9781515837770 2019
- *Gracie LaRoo Goes to School* ISBN: 9781515814405 2018
- *Gracie LaRoo in the Snow* ISBN: 9781515837763 2019
- *Gracie LaRoo on the Big Screen* ISBN: 9781515814412 2018
- *Gracie LaRoo Sets Sail* ISBN: 9781515814399 2018
Curricular use: Gracie learns a lot about concentrating, retracing her steps and not letting her team down. This book could be a good conversation starter about those topics. 

Audience: Pk-1 readers would enjoy these books.


Summary: Baby Monkey, Private Eye solves several cases for the humans around him. The text is repetitive, but the illustrations are gorgeous! And repetition is good for newer readers. 

Curricular use: This book is good for early readers. It would also be good for an art class or it would make good discussion on reading the illustrations as the scene changes with each new case.

Audience: Pk-1 students would be interested in reading this book. Teachers could use it for inference using the illustrations or to teach about context clues or to just appreciate the art.

NOTE: The Cybil Awards took Baby Monkey, Private Eye off it’s finalist list due to “racial representation issues” specifically that “anthropomorphized monkeys have been used throughout United States history as a tool of white supremacy, to demean and dehumanize African-Americans and justify slavery, Jim Crow, and continued racial injustices.” While they were sure that the authors didn’t intend this, they were uncomfortable with leaving it on. Please use your own best judgment as to whether or not this would be a good fit for your collection or not.


Summary: Mei is looking for the perfect gift for her brother’s first birthday. She tries to buy a present with the help of her friends, but nothing seems right and everything seems expensive. Can she find the perfect gift?

Curricular use: This was not my favorite of the books I read, but the characters are of Chinese heritage and it was nice to see multicultural characters represented in this type of book. Most of them have characters that are either animals or white.

Audience: Pk-1 readers would enjoy this book.