Highly Recommended Books


**Summary:** Told through a combination of text, photography and egg shaped sidebars, Arnold details the 21-day process of a kindergarten class incubating eggs and watching them hatch. The photographs are a mixture of up close images showing vivid chick details and images featuring students interacting with the chicks. Backmatter includes a Q&A section, vocabulary, and print and digital sources for further exploration. *Included in Wilson’s Core Collection.*

**Curricular use:** Science units relating to life cycles; units relating to farms or springtime.

**Audience:** K-2.


Hamilton, Kimberlie. *FeaFle:

**Summary:** In this celebration of cat courage, Hamilton portrays the stories of 30 famous (or infamous) cats throughout history. Each cat’s story is accompanied by a full page portrait by one of 17 artists. Between each cat profile are informational pages that provide facts about cats, examples of cats in history, arts and entertainment, a cat quiz, and more! Backmatter includes a timeline, glossary, recommended reading and websites as well as short biographies about the author and illustrators.

**Audience:** Grades 3-6


**Summary:** Each book in this series features a wealth of information about the featured pet(s). Topics include best species for beginners, selecting your pet, care and feeding of the pet, cage/habitat cleaning, understanding the pet, health and safety, communication play/games the pet may enjoy, and more. Each book contains a quiz, brief list of additional books/websites, glossary, and index. This series is noted in reviews for providing considerable information in a fun and engaging format. *Several titles are part of Wilson’s Core or Wilson’s Supplementary Title Collections.*

**Audience:** Grades 2 - 5

**Titles in this series:**

**Summary:** In this narrative nonfiction, Newberry Honoree Lord shares her personal experiences fostering rabbits. The story focuses on two Dwarf rabbits, one of whom ended up being pregnant when she arrived with Lord. Through the combination of narrative, photographs, and endearing illustrations, readers are brought along on the journey. It is not all cute and happy, however, as two of the baby rabbits are not strong enough to survive despite Lord’s best efforts to nurture them. In the end, the two parents and remaining two babies all find their forever homes. *Included in Wilson’s Core Collection.*

**Audience:** K-3 (likely to also appeal to older animal-lovers)


**Summary:** This book features illustrations of 300 AKC dog breeds, organized by breed category. The table of contents includes a brief description of the breed category (i.e. working dogs, hound dogs, sporting dogs, etc.) along with the corresponding page number. An index provides a 1-2 sentence description of each breed along with the page on which that breed is featured. *Included in Wilson’s Core Collection.*

**Audience:** Grades K-3.

**Also Available:**


**Summary:** In this early reader nonfiction book, students are introduced to a variety of farm animals including cats, cows, dogs, pigs, and chickens. The adult animal is introduced first on a two-page spread, followed by the baby (i.e. cats, then kittens). Pictures feature children from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities interacting with the animals. Text follows the pattern: “I like the cat. I like the kitten.” *Included in Wilson’s Core Collection.*

**Curricular use:** Farm/animal units, early reader text.

**Audience:** Grades K-1.

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**Supplemental Title**


**Summary:** This book profiles 22 dogs who have served in a variety of roles within the military. Each profile includes pictures of the dog on duty and a narrative of the canine’s service. Readers quickly get a sense of the many roles dogs can fill to assist the soldiers - from detecting explosives, to moral support for troops, to search and rescue. The book shows how dogs’ natural abilities can provide essential support. *Included in Wilson’s Core Collection.*

**Audience:** Grades 3-6.

**Note:** I placed this title under “supplemental” because I thought it might be more of a niche audience than some of the other titles and it is a bit older copyright. For students who are interested in military history and dogs who serve, this book will be a big hit!