My Favorite Books

By – Cyndi Summers

\***Both of these books are great to use to teach the concept of living and non-living.**

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble - by William Steig

Activity – Give students their own rocks. Paint them or decorate them with glue and glitter. Let them name their rocks and write a story about them.

Solomon and the Rusty Nail – by William Steig

Activity – Bring in some zinc or steel nails. Put the nail in clear plastic cups of soda, salt water, tap water, and vinegar to watch them rust. Which one will rust the fastest?

**\*Books that inspire and create a love for words and reading**

Max’s Words – by Kate Banks

Activity – Give students newspapers and magazines to create a sentence or small paragraph by cutting out words, gluing them to a large sheet of paper or a poster, and let them construct a silly sentence/story or a serious one. They can illustrate it and share it with the class.

How Do You Read to a Rabbit? – by Andrea Wayne von Konigslow

Martin’s Big Words – by Doreen Rappaport

This book features famous quotes by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His sentences that were famously spoken and recorded are written in bold and have dark quotation marks around them. Some examples are: **“Everyone can be great.” “Love is the key to the problems of the world.”**

Activity – After reading this story, let the students come up with words or phrases which they would love to be remembered for someday. Have them write them on a large poster or make a huge display on a bulletin board. Make sure to use large letters and big quotation marks.

This will encourage character and will remind them of the use of quotation marks also.

The Incredible Book Eating Boy – by Oliver Jeffers

Discuss how books can be like food groups. Some are short and sweet like dessert. This is a funny or silly book like “The Monster at the End of this Book” or “The Three Little Pigs.”Some are serious and filling like meat or protein in a main course. This could be a non-fiction book with a lot of information such as a “Magic School Bus” book. Other books are like vegetables. They usually teach you something by putting in an imaginative story. I think of fables and fairy tales or character education books such as “Rotten Ralph.” The grains/breads type of book is a classic story such as “Corduroy” or “The Snowy Day.”

Activity – Make a book pyramid, a pantry, or a refrigerator and fill it with some of your favorite staples. Think of it as your grocery list for good healthy helpings of words.

Do Not Open This Book – by Michaela Muntean

This is just a funny book. It is very similar to “The Monster at the End of the Book” and uses reverse psychology to create a desire to read.

The Pig in the Spigot – by Richard Wilbur

The poem style or format can get you to notice little words that are found in bigger words. It would go along with teaching “word chunking.” Sometimes the little word will help you to figure out a word, but sometimes it does no good at all.

**\*Books about color, art, creativity and individuality**

Little Blue and Yellow – by Leo Lionni



The Dot – by Peter H. Reynolds



The Big Orange Splot – by Daniel Manus Pinkwater

This book has so much to offer. I read this book when we are reading “The Dot” in our basal reader. I usually read “Little Blue and Yellow” too. We study “ea” words that week in spelling also. There are many “ea” words in this book. I love the part of the story that says, “A seagull flew over Mr. Plumbean’s house. He was carrying a can of bright orange paint. (No one knows why.)” And he dropped the can (no one knows why) right over Mr. Plumbean’s house.” Have children come up with the answers. This would be an interesting writing prompt! It would also be fun to have each child design, draw, and color a funny house. Use large bulletin paper to make a street map and place the houses on it. For a character lesson, you could discuss about being yourself. I could just go on and on about this book and available ideas!



Green as a Bean – Karla Kuskin



The Most Wonderful Egg in the World – by Helme Heine

**\*Books for Thinking & Writing**

The Great Fuzz Frenzy – by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

This book is amazing! Kids love it! It is a story about what happens when a tennis ball accidentally rolls into a prairie dog hole.

Activity – I bring in a tennis ball. I read the first few pages and then let them brainstorm ideas of what they think will happen. When we get to the part about the fuzz, I pull off some fuzz from my tennis ball. Give the students some cotton balls or stuffing to make something out of it just as the prairie dogs do. Let them write about it.



The Giant Jam Sandwich - by John Vernon Lord

“One hot summer in Itching Down, Four million wasps flew into town.” They did horrible things to the townspeople. How can they get rid of the wasps?

This is another good brainstorming book and writing prompt. Students will build connections to “Millions of Cats” and “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.”

Big Chickens- by Leslie Helakoski

\***Books for Character**

Five Chinese Brothers - Claire Huchet Bishop

Rotten Ralph – by Jack Gantos

Greedy Greeny - by Jack Gantos

The Story of Ping - Marjorie Flack

Albert’s Bad Word - Audrey Wood

Little Oink – Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Jen Corace

Chrysanthemum – Kevin Henkes

Wemberly Worried – Kevin Henkes

Shelia Rae the Brave – Kevin Henkes

**\*Books for Social Studies**

The Scrambled States of America – by Laurie Keller

Celebrate the 50 States! – by Loreen Leedy

Both of these books are an excellent for teaching fun facts about the U.S.A!

T is for Tennessee – by E. J. Sullivan

If You Lived 100 Years Ago – by Ann McGovern

**\*Books that are Fairy Tales/Tall Tales with oomph!**

Starlight Goes to Town – Harry Allard

The Dog Who Cried Wolf – Keiko Kasza

PondLarker – by Fred Gwynne

Hog-Eye – Susan Meddaugh

Rude Giants – Audrey Wood

Sausages – Jessica Souhami

Waynetta and the Cornstalk – Helen Ketteman

Kate and the Beanstalk – Mary Pope Osborne

Sleeping Bobby – Will Osborne and Mary Pope Osborne

Slender Ella and Her Fairy Hogfather – Vivian Sathre



Extra! Extra! Fairy Tale News From Hidden Forest – by Alma Flor Ada

Carmine A Little More Red – by Melissa Sweet

Squids will be Squids – Joh Scieszka and Lane Smith

Swamp Angel – Paul O. Zelinsky

Jack and the Dreamsack – Laurence Anholt

Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig – by Eugenios Trivizas

And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon – Janet Stevens Crummel