**Alma and How She Got Her Name**

Juana Martinez-Neal

Candlewick Press, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

What’s in a name: For one little girl, her very long name tells the vibrant story of where she came from and who she may one day be. How did Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela end up with such a long name? As daddy tells the story of her many names, Alma can almost feel herself growing into them!

GENRE TAG(S):

* Juvenile Fiction
* Hispanic American
* Names
* Personal Fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* SCCCR ELA Grade 1 Meaning and Context Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context. 8.1 Read or listen closely to: a. describe characters’ actions and feelings; b. compare and contrast characters’ experiences to those of the reader; c. describe setting; d. identify the plot including problem and solution; and e. describe cause and effect relationships.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Thunder Boy Jr.* Alexie, Sherman
* *My Name is Wakawakaloch!* Chana Stiefel
* *My Name is Aviva,* Leslea Newman
* *How Nivi Got Her Names,* Laura Deal
* *Elizabeti’s, Doll* S.A. Bodeen (Stephanie A.)
* *Marisol McDonald Doesn’t Match,* Monica Brown

WEBSITES:

Juana Children’s Illustrator, <http://juanamartinezneal.com/books/alma/>, Author website.

15 Picture Books That Spark Hispanic Heritage, <https://www.readbrightly.com/picture-books-celebrate-hispanic-heritage/>, Website includes 15 books that can be used during Hispanic Heritage month.

YouTube, <https://youtu.be/xvuuoGzrR0s>, Interview with Juana Martinez-Neal, creator *of Alma and How She Got Her Name.*

BOOKTALK:

In this 2019 Caldecott Honor Book and Juana Martinez-Neal’s debut picture book as author-illustrator, she opens a treasure box of discovery for children curious about their own names. If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Read this book to find out.

Prepared by:

Debbie Oswald, Gilbert Primary School, [dfoswald@lexington1.net](mailto:dfoswald@lexington1.net)

**Born to Ride: A Story About Bicycle Face**

Larissa Theule

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2019

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Louise Belinda Bellflower lives in Rochester, New York, in 1896. She spends her days playing with her brother, Joe. But Joe gets to ride a bicycle, and Louise Belinda doesn’t. In fact, Joe issues a solemn warning: If girls ride bikes, their faces will get so scrunched up, eyes bulging from the effort of balancing, that they’ll get stuck that way FOREVER! Louise Belinda strikes out to discover the truth about this so-called “bicycle face.” Set against the backdrop of the women’s suffrage movement, *Born to Ride*is the story of one girl’s courageous quest to prove that she can do everything the boys can do, while capturing the universal freedom and accomplishment children experience when riding a bike.

GENRE TAG:

* Historical Fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* 6.5.CO Compare the global movements that resulted in the advancement or limitation of human rights during the 20th and 21st centuries.
* 4.2 Identify the speaker’s use of chronological, cause/effect, problem/solution, and compare/contrast relationships to convey messages.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *POP!: The Invention of Bubble Gum,* Meghan McCarthy

WEBSITES:

Fun Facts About Bikes, <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/ten-fun-facts-about-bikes/>, Kids can read more about the history of bicycles at National Geographic Kids.

Civil Rights: Women’s Suffrage, <https://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_rights/womens_suffrage.php>, This website explains more about Women’s Suffrage in kid-friendly language.

BOOKTALK:

Do you like riding a bicycle? Can you imagine being told you can’t ride a bike because it could give you “bicycle face”?  In the book, Born to Ride, by Larissa Theule, all Louise Belinda Bellfower wants to do is ride a bike like her brother.  But he says that if girls ride bikes, their faces will get so scrunched up they’ll get stuck that way FOREVER! Louise Belinda strikes out to discover the truth. Will she prove to everyone that she can ride a bicycle just like anyone else?

Prepared by:

Samantha Smigel, River Ridge Elementary School, Samantha.smigel@spart5.net

**Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins**

Michelle Meadows

Henry Holt and Company, 2019

32 pages

SUMMARY:

This biography describes the life of Janet Collins. Janet Collins was the first African American prima ballerina in the Metropolitan Opera House. The story is told in rhyming couplets, with only a few lines of text on each page. The illustrations start with Janet as a little girl and finish with her taking her bow from the stage of the Opera House.

GENRE TAG(S):

* African-American biography
* the Arts; ballerinas; dancers
* prejudice and racism

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* Standard 2-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of cultural contributions made by people from the various regions in the United States.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *This is It,* Daria Peoples-Riley,
* *Ballerina Gets Ready,* Allegra Kent
* *A Dance Like Starlight, ,* Kristy Dempsey
* *Firebird,*  Misty Copeland

WEBSITES:

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, <https://www.nypl.org/locations/lpa>,  students can click through and view the digitized collections from the Jerome Robbins Dance Division Room of the NYPL.  There are paintings and audio recordings for students to experience.

International Association of Blacks in Dance, <https://www.iabdassociation.org/>, The International Association of Blacks in Dance (IABD) preserves and promotes dance by people of African ancestry or origin, and assists and increases opportunities for artists in advocacy, audience development, education, funding, networking, performance, philosophical dialogue, and touring.

BOOKTALK:

“This is the dancer, bold like the sun, a prima ballerina in 1951.”  You may have heard of ballerinas Misty Copeland and Maria Tallchief. But do you know about the dancer born in Louisiana Janet Collins? Her mother made costumes for other dance companies and that is how she paid for Janet’s lessons.  Janet was extremely talented and was offered a spot in the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, but they wanted her to paint herself. She bravely refused and still went on to eventually become the first ballerina of color to be the Prima Ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Prepared by:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary, [princeh@fortmillschools.org](mailto:princeh@fortmillschools.org)

**Can I Be Your Dog?**

Troy Cummings

Random House Children's Books, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

Arfy writes a series of letters to community members to request the chance to be their dog.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Pet stories
* Letter fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* Kindergarten / 1st Grade ELA Standard 9: Interpret and analyze the author’s use of words, phrases, and conventions, and how their relationships shape meaning and tone in print and multimedia texts.
  + 9.2  With guidance and support, identify how an author’s choice of words,  
    phrases, conventions, and illustrations suggest feelings, appeal to the senses, and contribute to meaning.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Before You Were Mine,* Maribeth Boelts
* *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School,* Mark Teague
* *The Dog Who Belonged to No One*, Amy Hest
* *Felipe and Claudette*, Mark Teague
* *I Found a Kitty,* Troy Cummings(to be published March 2020)

WEBSITES:

American Kennel Club, <https://www.akc.org>, This site provides information about a variety of dog breeds and a survey to help one decide on the best breed to adopt based on his/her lifestyle.

Troy Cummings Author Visit Kit, <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/author-visit-kits/teaching-content/troy-cummings-author-visit-kit/>, This web page offers basic information about setting up an author visit for Troy Cummings.  The page includes a description of the visit, technology needs, and virtual visits.

BOOKTALK:

All Arfy wants is to be someone’s dog.  He excitedly writes his first letter to the family in the yellow house asking if he can be their dog, but they write back and say “no.”  He continues to write letters to members of the community trying to convince them to let him be their pet. With each response, Arfy slips into despair.  Read *Can I Be Your Dog?* to find out if Arfy ever finds a home.

Prepared by:

Kelly Urtz, Indian Land Elementary School, kelly.urtz@lcsdmail.net

**The Day You Begin**

Jacqueline Woodson

Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

There are many reasons we feel different. Maybe it’s the way you talk or how you dress, or what you eat. Jacqueline Woodson’s book reminds us that at times we are all outsiders, but that it is important to be brave and go forth anyway. We find sometimes, when we reach out and share our story, others are happy to meet us halfway.

GENRE TAGS:

* Hispanic-American fiction
* School stories

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* K.RL.6.1 Describe the relationship between illustrations and the text.
* K.RL.9.2 With guidance and support, identify how an author’s choice of words phrases, conventions, and illustrations suggest feelings, appeal to the senses, and contribute to meaning.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *All Are Welcome*, Alexandra Penfold
* *I Am Enough*, Grace Byers
* *Dreamers*, Yuyi Morales
* *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You*, Sonia Sotomayor

WEBSITES:

Exploring Young Immigrant Stories, <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/exploring-young-immigrant-stories>, This lesson will help students appreciate diversity among their peers and the diversity of immigrants all over the world.

Happily Ever Elephants,<https://happilyeverelephants.com/home/2018/8/30/the-day-you-begin-by-jacqueline-woodson>, This blog has a wonderful first week of school activity to follow the book!

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever felt different from everyone else around you? In the book, *The Day You Begin,* Jacqueline Woodson reminds readers that it is great to be different! She reminds us that at times we may all be outsiders, but it is important to be brave. This story helps us to celebrate our differences and remember that we are all unique!

Prepared by:

Sara Kalbaugh, Langford Elementary, skalbaugh@richland2.org

**Friends Stick Together**

Hannah Harrison

Dial Books, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Rupert is a rhinoceros that is quiet and sensible. Levi, the new tickbird in class, is not.  Rupert cannot imagine ever being friends with Levi. However, as the two find they can get something they need from each other, they just might become friends in the process.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Friendship stories
* Animal fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* K.CG.1 Identify similarities and differences between people and discuss ways to protect and respect all people by practicing civic dispositions.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *Pigs make me sneeze!* Willems, Mo
* *Snappsy the alligator and his best friend forever (probably)* Falatko, Julie
* *You will be my friend!* Brown, Peter
* *Please, Mr. Panda* Antony, Steve

WEBSITES:

Encyclopedia Britannica: Rhinoceros, <https://www.britannica.com/animal/rhinoceros-mammal>, This article gives information about rhinoceroses and how they live in the wild, including photos.

Black Rhino Facts, <http://www.animalplanet.com/tv-shows/wild-kingdom/about-animals/rhino-nights-facts/>, This article explains the real-life relationship between rhinos and tickbirds.

Classroom Activity: Friends Work Out Problems, <https://pbskids.org/learn/lifes-little-lessons/pdf/DTN_Classroom_Activity_Friendship.pdf>, This lesson provides a short video clip and prompts for young children to think about problem-solving skills and social skills.

BOOKTALK:

You never know who will end up being your best friend. Rupert the rhino likes things quiet and proper. Levi likes things loud and wild. These two couldn’t be more opposite. When Levi does a favor for Rupert, he discovers that maybe they can be friends after all.

Prepared by:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary School, princeh@fortmillschools.org

**Giraffe Problems**

Jory John

Random House, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Edward the Giraffe feels funny about his neck. He tries to cover it up with ties and scarves. He envies other animals with different necks. He even thinks other animals are staring at his neck. Fortunately, a friendly turtle named Cyrus finds Edward and asks the giraffe for help reaching a banana up high. Edward saves the day for Cyrus and the two friends decide that Edward’s neck can have its advantages.

GENRE TAGS:

* Animal stories
* Self-acceptance

NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* V.A.1. Reading widely and deeply in multiple formats and write and create for a variety of purposes.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK TRY:

* *Penguin Problems,* Jory John
* *The Bad Seed*, Jory John
* *Quiet Please, Owen McPhee,* Trudy Ludwig

WEBSITES:

Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAIJNLyH5As>, Publisher book trailer using real animal footage to promote the story.

Jory John, <http://www.joryjohn.com/>, The author’s own website showing his many, many successful titles.

BOOKTALK:

For anyone who has ever worried about their looks, and how they compare to others, this delightful picture book brings fresh perspective. Edward the Giraffe has many issues with his long and graceful neck, but he never properly appreciates it until he meets the turtle, Cyrus, who longs for a longer neck. Cyrus shows Edward the value in being himself and the two become good and honest friends. A lighthearted story with a pithy message every human being can appreciate.

Prepared by:

Margaret Ferrin, North Charleston Elementary School, pferrin22@gmail.com

**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race**

Margot Lee Shetterly

Harper Collins Children’s, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

This story tells about the contributions of Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, Kathrine Johnson, and Mary Jackson to the United States Space program.  The refrain “they were good at math. Really good.” is repeated throughout the text. This story pointedly states how women and African-Americans were not allowed to do certain things because of their gender or race. Shetterly does a good job of integrating the specific stories of women into broader US and world history of the 1950s. A timeline, glossary and author’s note in the back of the book add meaningful background knowledge to the story.

GENRE TAGS:

* Biography
* Space
* African-American women

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* Standard 5-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic and political events that influenced the United States during the Cold War era.
* 5-5.2 Summarize the social, cultural, and economic developments that took place in the United States during the Cold War, including consumerism, mass media, the growth of suburbs, expanding educational opportunities, new technologies, the expanding job market and service industries, and changing opportunities for women in the workforce.
* 5-5.3 Explain the advancement of the modern Civil Rights Movement; including the desegregation of the armed forces, Brown v. Board of Education, the roles of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, the Civil Rights Act, and the Voting Rights Act.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *Who says women can't be computer programmers?*, Tanya Lee Stone
* *A Computer Called Katherine,* Suzanne Slade
* *To the Stars!*,Carmella Van Vleet
* *Starstruck,* Kathleen Krull
* *Mae Among the Stars,* Roda Ahmed

WEBSITES:

NASA kids club, <https://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub/index.html>, NASA created a website for kids. This interactive site has games, videos, stories and more, all about space.

Hidden Figures and Computers, <https://airandspace.si.edu/stories/editorial/hidden-figures-and-human-computers>, This article was created for the Smithsonian Air and Space museum about the “hidden figures” who contributed to the success of NASA and the US/Russian “space race.”

Space Race Exhibit, <https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/space-race>, The links on this page will take you to a digitized version of the physical space race exhibit in the Washington DC-based museum of Air and Space.  Students will be able to view primary sources including some of military origins and photos of rockets and space suits.

IBM Uncovers Hidden Figures, <https://www.ibm.com/thought-leadership/hidden-figures/>, This link for an app created by IBM reveals Augmented Reality videos of the hidden figures and computers from the story and more that were not in the story.

BOOKTALK:

Do you have something that you do good, *really good?* Katherine, Dorothy, Mary and Christine all do Math, *really good.*   They do math so you good you could call their math skills out of this world!  These four women each played a pivotal role in the Great Space Race during the 1950s.  They were the first women to become engineers, computer programmers and meeting attendees at NASA.  This was all the more amazing because they did it at a time that women and people of color were not yet given full rights under the law.  If you like stories where people help each other, persistence pays off, and people make a big impact on the world around them, then you should read this book.

Prepared by:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary School, princeh@fortmillschools.org

**Love, Z**

Jessie Sima

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018

48 pages

SUMMARY:

A robot, Z, finds a letter that is signed “Love, Beatrice”.  Love does not compute with the robot or other robots he knows.  Z is unsatisfied with that answer and sets out to find out what love is.  He has an encounter with animals and townspeople all that give him their own answers to what they think love is.  Z does not understand until his adventure brings him to the house of a lady who offers him warmth and upon his return home the other robots tell him they were worried.  The illustrations on the last pages show the reader that maybe Z figured out what love is after all.

GENRE TAG(S)

* Love fiction
* Robots fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* Standard 1-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how individuals, families, and communities live and work together in America and around the world.
* 1-4.1 Illustrate different elements of community life, including typical jobs; the interdependence of family, school, and the community; and the common methods of transportation and communication.
* 1-4.2 Compare the daily lives of families together in America and across the world, including the roles of family members; typical food, clothing, and shelter; and the ways that families earn a living.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *Love Monster,* Rachael Bright
* *A Friend is Someone Who Likes You,* Joan Walsh Anglund
* *Little Robot Alone,* Patricia MacLachlan
* *Just In Case You Want to Fly,* Julie Fogliano

WEBSITES: (14 pt.)

Jessie Sima Author & Illustrator, <https://www.jessiesima.com/>, This site will give you more information about the author and give you a list of her other books.  There is a link to some Valentine printables from the story that you can reproduce.

Writing Letters to a Pen Pal, <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/sponsored-content/USPS/writing-letters-to-a-pen-pal/>, Students inspired by Z’s letter in the bottle may want to write their own letter.  This Scholastic lesson walks students through steps to write a letter for a potential pen pal.

BOOKTALK:

Just like the song says - “what is love…”  Z the robot sets out to find out. In his adventure he comes across a baker, a cat, a bird and numerous others.  Exhausted from his journey, he comes across someone who offers him shelter and some dinner. This feeling is familiar to Z. Once he gets back home, he finds his family very worried about his absence.  The robot family springs into action to show Z how much he was missed. Could this feeling he has be love? Read *Love, Z* to find out.

Prepared by:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary School, princeh@fortmillschools.org

**The Magician’s Hat**

Malcolm Mitchell

Scholastic, Inc., 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

During family fun day at the library, the magician pulls out his hat and asks students to reach in. Each child pulls out a book that describes their future occupation. One student is skeptical that the magician is tricking them, so he decides to pull his own book. He is quite surprised when his book choice matches his internal desire instead of what he told the magician.

GENRE TAGS:

* Books and reading fiction
* Magicians, magic fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL STANDARD(S):

* SCCCR ELA Standards, Kindergarten - Grade 5 Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* Standard 9: Interpret and analyze the author’s use of words, phrases, and conventions, and how their relationships shape meaning and tone in print and multimedia texts.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, William Joyce
* *The Library Book*, Tom Chapin
* *The Not So Quiet Library*, Zachariah O’Hora

WEBSITES:

Read with Malcolm, <https://www.readwithmalcolm.com/>, The website of the author, Malcolm Mitchell. Includes teacher resources, school programs, special events, and more.

Scholastic, <https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/book/the-magician-s-hat-by-malcolm-mitchell/>,

Scholastic’s website for the book and author that includes downloadables, booktalk by the author, and a clip from the audiobook.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever struggled to find a book you like in the library? Do you have a dream career but don’t know how or where to start? Visit the library with Ryan and explore all the worlds the books have to offer. Discover the magic that books can bring us.

Prepared by:

Elizabeth Harris, Rice Creek Elementary, [elharris@richland2.org](mailto:elharris@richland2.org)

**Misunderstood Shark**

Ame Dyckman

Orchard Books, 2018

48 pages

SUMMARY:

Bob the jellyfish is host of the live show “Underwater World with Bob.” While he and his crew are attempting to film an episode of the program, Shark interrupts them continuously as he is caught in a series of “misunderstood” scenarios that he insists “only look like” he was about to eat a host of sea animals and even people. All the while, Bob continues to report interesting shark facts that are related to the scenarios.

GENRE TAGS:

* Animal stories
* humorous fiction
* marine animals fiction, sharks fiction
* television programs and direction fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* AASL Standards Framework for Learners I.A.1. Formulating questions about a personal interest or a curricular topic.
* First Grade: 1.S.1.A.1 Ask and answer questions about the natural world using explorations, observations, or structured investigations.
* Career Connections: Television programs and direction

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *The Epic Adventures of Huggie & Stick*, Drew Daywalt
* *The Boy Who Cried Ninja*, Alex Latimer
* *Blobfish Throws a Party*, Miranda Paul
* *Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist,* Jess Keating
* *Shark Nate-O*, Tara Luebbe
* *I’m a Shark*, Bob Shea
* *Shark in the Park*, Tara Luebbe

WEBSITES:

Scholastic’s *OOM On Our Minds* Blog, <http://oomscholasticblog.com/post/celebrate-misunderstood-shark-week-us>, Features reproducibles and videos.

Scholastic Kids Website, <https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/book/misunderstood-shark-by-ame-dyckman/>, Includes book trailer, quiz, slideshow and activities.

Cool Facts About Sharks, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzKs948SEZ8>, Watch this Nat Geo for kids video to learn more about sharks!

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever been to the beach? Have you ever gone swimming in the ocean? Have you ever been to an aquarium?  If so, you may be familiar with the main character of this book. What is the one thing that many people fear in the ocean?  That’s right, sharks! Meet Bob the squid and his helpers and learn some cool shark facts. Meet Shark and decide for yourself, “Are sharks really misunderstood?”

Prepared by:

Jennifer Tazerouti, Edwin P. Todd School, tazerouti@gmail.com

**Mixed: A Colorful Story**

Arree Chung

Henry Holt and Company, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

This story of tolerance and acceptance begins with three colors:  Reds, Yellows, and Blues. They all live happily together until a Red says “Reds are the best!” and starts a color dispute about which is best. The colors decide to separate to different parts of the city until, one day, a Yellow and a Blue get together and create and a never-before-seen color-- Green! What ensues is a uniting of different colors to make new ones, creating colorful families and new feeling of harmony.

GENRE TAG(S):

* Color fiction
* Diversity
* Character education

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* ELA Standard 13: Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes of reading for enjoyment, acquiring new learning, and building stamina; reflect on and respond to increasingly complex text over time.
* K.CG.1: Identify similarities and differences between people and discuss ways to protect and respect all people by practicing civic dispositions.
* 1.CG.1 Demonstrate how civic dispositions encourage citizens with diverse beliefs and backgrounds to work together for a common goal.
* 2.CG.1 Identify cultural and ethnic groups in the U. S., explore their characteristics, and communicate how civic dispositions build relationships between groups in a diverse society.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *Why Am I Me?,* Paige Britt
* *The Case for Loving,* Selina Alko

WEBSITES:

Macmillan, <https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/activity-guides/9781250142733AG.pdf>, An activity kit for students based on the book.

TeachingBooks.net, <https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=60231>, Access information about the author and additional activities for students.

BOOKTALK:

Looking for a cute read aloud with a positive message? Look no further than *Mixed: A Colorful Story* by Arree Chung. This art lesson in mixing colors teaches its audience about diversity, acceptance, and community in a world of bias and discrimination. You will love the beautiful colors created by mixtures of blues, reds, and yellows, and the feeling of color harmony the story creates.

Prepared by:

Elizabeth Ryan, Murray LaSaine Elementary, mary\_ryan@charleston.k12.sc.us

**Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs**

Melissa Stewart

Peachtree, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

*Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers* introduces young readers to a variety of animal underdogs and explains how characteristics that might seem like weaknesses are critical for finding food and staying safe.  This informational text also highlights the importance of differences.

GENRE TAG(S)

* Animals
* Nonfiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* 4th grade South Carolina Science standards: 4.L.5A. Conceptual Understanding: Scientists have identified and classified many types of plants and animals. Each plant or animal has a unique pattern of growth and development called a life cycle. Some characteristics (traits) that organisms have are inherited and some result from interactions with the environment.
* 4.L.5B. Conceptual Understanding: Plants and animals have physical characteristics that allow them to receive information from the environment. Structural adaptations within groups of plants and animals allow them to better survive and reproduce.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Biggest, strongest, fastest*, Steve Jenkins
* *A snake is totally tail*, Judi Barrett
* *Strange dances and long flights: a book about animal behavior,* Patricia M Stockland
* *Super animal powers: the amazing abilities of animals,* Ryan Jacobson

WEBSITES:

Ranger Rick Magazine, <https://rangerrick.org/>, This website for the National Wildlife Foundation's magazine Ranger Rick exposes children to information about animals through articles and interactive games.

PBS Kids:Wild Kratts, <https://pbskids.org/wildkratts/>, This website has videos and games that correspond to the PBS show Wild Kratts hosted by the animal experts the Kratt Brothers.

Smithsonian’s National Zoo, <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/>, This website for the National Zoo has links to live webcams to watch animals in their exhibits as well as articles about animal conservation and photos of animals.

BOOKTALK:

If you enjoy reading about animals, this is the book for you.  If you like putting things into categories, then this is the book for you.  If you enjoy finding out about how things survive and work together, then this is the book for you.  In *Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes and Stinkers,* you can find out about what animals have things in common, even not-so-fabulous things like a stinky smell or puny body.  You will also learn about how these same awful characteristics are really a good thing because they help the animal to survive.

Prepared by:

Helen Prince, Gold Hill Elementary School, princeh@fortmillschools.org

**Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré**

Anika Aldamuy Denise

Harper, 2019

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Pura Belpre moved to New York City from Puerto Rico and found comfort in the library in her neighborhood. She begins to work there and becomes a storyteller, puppeteer, and a bilingual assistant. Her talent brings her stories to life and cements them in library culture for future generations to discover.

GENRE TAGS:

* Biography
* Hispanic American
* Nonfiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL STANDARD(S):

* SCCCR ELA Standards (K-2) Informational Text: Standard 7: Research events, topics, ideas, or concepts through multiple media, formats, and in visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities
* Literature: Standard 8.1:

a. compare and contrast characters’ actions, feelings, and responses to major

events or challenges;

b. describe how cultural context influences characters, setting, and the

development of the plot;

c. explain how cause and effect relationships affect the development of plot.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Dreamers,* Yuri Morales
* *The Quiet Place,* Sarah Stewart
* *Cloth Lullaby*, *The Woven Life of Louise Bourgeois*, Amy Novesky

WEBSITES:

ALA: Pura Belpré Award: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

History and information about Pura Belpré and her namesake award

Anika Aldamuy Denise, Author, <https://www.anikadenise.com/portfolio/planting-stories-the-life-of-librarian-and-storyteller-pura-belpre/>, Background information about the book from the author.

Documentary Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=375vw6lS4-Y>

A trailer for a documentary made about Pura Belpré.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wondered where stories come from? This book follows a Latina storyteller all the way from Puerto Rico to New York City. She becomes the country’s first Latina librarian, but she is so much more than that. Discover how Pura Belpré became a legendary storyteller and left her mark on the literary world.

Prepared by:

Elizabeth Harris, Rice Creek Elementary, [elharris@richland2.org](mailto:elharris@richland2.org)

**Remarkably You**

Pat Zietlow Miller

HarperCollins Children’s Books, 2019

32 pages

SUMMARY:

This remarkable book encourages readers to embrace what makes each person extraordinary! We don’t need to all be the same in order to change the world.

GENRE TAGS:

* Individuality fiction
* Self-acceptance fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* AASL Learner Framework I. INQUIRE Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems
* AASL Learner Framework II. INCLUDE Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to inclusiveness and respect for diversity in the learning community
* AASL Learner Framework V. EXPLORE Discover and innovate in a growth mindset developed through experience and reflection.
* SC CCR K RI MC Standard 5: Determine meaning and develop logical interpretations by making predictions, inferring, drawing conclusions, analyzing, synthesizing, providing evidence and investigating multiple interpretations.
* SC CCR K RI MC Standard 5.1 With guidance and support, ask and answer who, what, when, where, why, and how questions about a text; refer to key details to make inferences and draw conclusions in texts heard or read.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Oh, the Places You’ll Go,* Dr. Seuss
* *Be Who You Are!*, Todd Parr
* *When I Grow Up,* Al Yankovic
* *Rock What Ya Got,* Samantha Berger
* *What's Your Talent?,* Britt Hallowell

WEBSITES:

*Remarkably You* Activity Guide, <https://b0f646cfbd7462424f7a-f9758a43fb7c33cc8adda0fd36101899.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/activity-guides/AG-9780062427588.pdf>, Visit this website to access activities related to the book.

*Remarkably You* Teacher’s Guide, <https://b0f646cfbd7462424f7a-f9758a43fb7c33cc8adda0fd36101899.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/teaching-guides/TG-9780062427588.pdf>, Visit this website to access a teacher’s guide for the book.

*Remarkably You* rap by children. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWPe9WxdJ9I>, View a fun video about the book!

Pat Zietlow Miller, <https://www.patzietlowmiller.com/about-me>, Visit the author’s website to learn more!

BOOKTALK:

What is something you are good at? Maybe you are a pro at sports or dance. Maybe you are smart with reading or math. Perhaps you are really good at tying shoes or can tie a cherry stem with your tongue!  Whether you are big or small, or old or young, everyone can find something they are good at. The book *Remarkably You* says, “You are a blessing, a promise, a prize. You’re capable, caring, courageous and wise.” All children are awesome, wonderful, and unique. Find out what you are good at and share your talents with the world!

Prepared by:

Stacey Knutson, Lake Carolina Elementary Lower, [sknutson@richland2.org](mailto:sknutson@richland2.org)

**The Remember Balloons**

Jessie Oliveros

Simon & Schuster, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

James and his grandpa are best friends and share the best memories, which shows up in the form of balloons. One by one, Grandpa’s balloons begin to float away as his memory fades. Grandpa eventually loses all his balloons, even the ones that are the most important to James. James realizes he has to be the balloon carrier for the both of them and helps bring his grandpa back with the help of some balloons.

GENRE TAGS:

* Family stories
* Illnesses
* Memory fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL STANDARD(S):

* SCCCR ELA Standards (K-2): Literature, Standard 8.1 With guidance and support, read or listen closely to:

a. describe characters and their actions;

b. compare characters’ experiences to those of the reader;

c. describe setting;

d. identify the problem and solution; and

e. identify the cause of an event.

* Writing, Standard 3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *The Day Abuelo Got Lost*, Diane De Anda
* *Grandpa’s Stories*, Joseph Coelho
* *My Singing Nana*, Pat Mora

WEBSITES:

Alzheimer’s Association, <https://www.alz.org/help-support/resources/kids-teens/for_kids>,

Resources to help children cope with a family member being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

Grandparent Activities, <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/free-grandparents-day-activities-1357628>, Activity ideas for kids to complete with grandparents or other family members.

BOOKTALK:

What happens when a family member starts forgetting things? Have you ever had a grandpa or grandma begin to forget small things and eventually the big things, like your name? James can help you figure out how to help them remember again.

Prepared by:

Elizabeth Harris, Rice Creek Elementary, [elharris@richland2.org](mailto:elharris@richland2.org)

**Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship**

Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes

Candlewick Press, 2018

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Rescue comes from a long line of Seeing Eye dogs, but he just isn’t cut out for that work. Luckily, he is cut out for being a service dog, because Jessica just lost her legs and needs help. Together, they work through the hardships of life and become an unstoppable team.

GENRE TAGS:

* Realistic Fiction, Based on a True Story
* Pet stories
* Disabilities

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL STANDARD(S):

* SCCCR ELA Standards (K-5): Standard 11:Analyze and provide evidence of how the author’s choice of point of view, perspective, or purpose shapes content, meaning, and style.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY…

* *Hello, Goodbye Dog*, Maria Gianferrari
* *My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay,* Cari Best
* *Mogie: The Heart of the House*, Kathi Appelt

WEBSITES:

Scott Magoon, <http://scottmagoon.com/rescue-jessica>, The illustrator’s website complete with teacher’s guide, activity guide, and videos.

Candlewick, <https://candlewick.com/book_files/0763696048.btg.1.pdf>, Activity guide from the publisher.

NEADS, <https://neads.org/>, World Class Service Dogs website (included in back matter)

UCF Stars, <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=diversefamilies-project>, Lesson plan from UCF Stars

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever felt nervous about starting something new? That’s just the way Rescue and Jessica feel when they first meet. But Rescue has an important job, and Jessica is going to need him. Read on and find out how they work through some unexpected problems, together.

Prepared by:

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**Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World**

Susan Hood

Harper Collins, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

14 young women who sparked change in the world are introduced through poetry.

GENRE TAGS:

* Biography
* Multicultural
* Women’s history

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARDS:

* AASL Standard II.A.3. Describing their understanding of cultural relevancy and placement within the global learning community.
* II.D.3. Reflecting on their own place within the global learning community.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

* *Leading the Way: Women In Power,* Janet Howell
* *Suffragette: The Battle for Equality,* David Roberts
* *I Will Be Fierce,* Bea Birdsong
* *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls,* [Francesca Cavall](https://www.amazon.com/Francesca-Cavallo/e/B00QNG9VZU/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1)o

WEBSITES:

Susan Hood Books, <https://susanhoodbooks.com/node/231>, This website contains sources and information for further research on the women featured in the book.

The Livbits, <https://vimeo.com/251737149>, Olivia Van Ledtje is an 11-year-old book reviewer.  Her website includes an engaging review of *Shaking Things Up* as well as many other books and author interviews.

BOOKTALK:

Dreams, courage, persistence, determination.  The fourteen young women featured in the book *Shaking Things Up* by Susan Hood exhibit these and many more qualities as their accomplishments helped to change the world.  Each of the fourteen women’s accomplishments is celebrated through poetry and illustrated by thirteen different artists.  This book will inspire you to shake things up in your own way.

Prepared by:

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**Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy**

Drew Daywalt

Disney-Hyperion, 2018

40 pages

SUMMARY:

Roderick hates going to bed, and he asks for everything he can think of to try and stay up.  His parents present him with a goodnight buddy to help him sleep. Bad idea! Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy keeps Roderick awake with all kinds of distractions from witches in the closet, to brushing his teeth.  Roderick grows very frustrated as he wonders if he will ever get to sleep!

GENRE TAGS:

* Bedtime fiction

STATE AND/OR NATIONAL LIBRARY STANDARD(S):

* South Carolina Standards for Health and Safety Education P-K.1.5 Explain why getting enough sleep is important.
* South Carolina College- and Career- Ready Standards for English Language Arts 2015 Reading Literary Text (RL) Standard 8: Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts 2015 Writing (W) Standard 1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
* AASL Standards Framework I. INQUIRE Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

* *The Crayons’ Christmas,* Drew Daywalt
* *Potato Pants,* Laurie Keller
* *Giraffe Problems*, Jory John
* *Rock What Ya Got*, Samantha Berger

WEBSITES:

Importance of sleep and tips for getting a good night’s sleep, <http://sleepforkids.org/html/about.html>, This website from the National Sleep Foundation offers quizzes, games, and puzzles to teach kids about sleep.

American Academy for Sleep Medicine, <http://sleepeducation.org/news/-in-Category/Categories/pediatrics/children>,This website offers a free downloadable poster for the teacher’s classroom, as well as printable suggestions for parents to promote better sleep habits at home.

BOOKTALK:

A snuggly, cuddly goodnight buddy is just the thing for a great night’s sleep, right?  Well, maybe! Roderick does not like going to bed, and he uses every excuse with his loving parents to stay awake.  Their solution is to give him Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy. The only problem is, this stuffed animal can talk! Read the hilarious story *Sleepy, the Goodnight Buddy* to find out whether or not Roderick ever gets to sleep!

Prepared by:

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**We Don’t Eat Our Classmates**

Ryan T. Higgins

Disney-Hyperion, 2018

48 pages

SUMMARY:

Penelope, a little T-Rex, is nervous about starting school.  She has a hard time adjusting to the rules, especially the one about not eating classmates since people taste so good. A chance encounter with the class pet changes her perspective.  Penelope is able to overcome her tummy and respect her classmates.

GENRE TAGS:

* Dinosaur stories
* First day of school fiction

STATE STANDARDS:

* SC.CCR.ELA K.RLMC.5 Determine meaning and develop logical interpretations by making predictions, inferring, drawing conclusions, analyzing, synthesizing, providing evidence, and investigating multiple interpretations.

5.1 With guidance and support, ask and answer who, what, when, where, why, and how questions about a text; refer to key details to make inferences and draw conclusions in texts heard or read.

5.2 With guidance and support, ask and answer questions to make predictions using prior knowledge, pictures, illustrations, title, and information about the author and illustrator.

* SC.CCR.ELA K.RL.MC.8 Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.

8.1 With guidance and support, read or listen closely to: a. describe characters and their actions; b. compare characters’ experiences to those of the reader; c. describe setting; d. identify the problem and solution; and e. identify the cause of an event.

* SC.CCR.SS. 4.K.CG.1 Identify similarities and differences between people and discuss ways to protect and respect all people by practicing civic dispositions.
* SC.CCR.SS.4.K.CG.2 Explain the purpose of rules and laws, and discuss the consequences of breaking them
* SC. CCR. ELA 1.RL.MC.5 Determine meaning and develop logical interpretations by making predictions, inferring, drawing conclusions, analyzing, synthesizing, providing evidence, and investigating multiple interpretations.

5.1 Ask and answer who, what, when, where, why, and how questions to demonstrate understanding of a text; use key details to make inferences and draw conclusions in texts heard or read.

5.2 Make predictions using prior knowledge, pictures, illustrations, title, and information about the author and illustrator.

* SC.CCR.ELA.1.RLMC.6 Summarize key details and ideas to support analysis of thematic development.

6.1 Describe the relationship between the illustrations and the characters, setting, or events.

* SC.CCR. ELA.1.RLMC.8 Analyze characters, settings, events, and ideas as they develop and interact within a particular context.
* SC.CCR.SS.4.1.CG.4 Collaborate with others to identify, resolve, and communicate resolutions on a local or state issue.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK TRY:

* *The Pigeon Has to Go to School*, Mo Willems
* *Llama, Llama Misses Mama*, Anna Dewdney
* *First Day Jitters*, Julie Danneberg
* *Tiny T-Rex and the Impossible Hug,* Jonathan Stutzman

WEBSITES:

“How to Show Respect for Your Classmates.” *Impact News for Grades K and 1*,

<http://k-5impactnewsgk-1.azurewebsites.net/2018/08/01/how-to-show-respect-for-your-classmates/>, This is a brief article for children with visuals about showing respect to others.

Ryan T. Higgins,<https://www.rodeenliterary.com/ryan-t-higgins>, Visit the author’s website to learn more!

BOOKTALK:

Were you nervous about starting school?  Penelope Rex definitely was. She liked school, but had a hard time with one rule: we don’t eat our classmates.  She tries really hard but can’t resist the delicious snack of her classmates. That is, until she meets Walter. He changes her perspective.

Prepared by:

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