CHILDREN’S FICTION

**The Blood Guard (The Blood Guard #1) by Carter Roy**

Learning that his mother is a member of the secret society, Ronan finds himself on the run for his life.

* What would be your special power?
* Have the class draw their own logo.
* In The Blood Guard, Jack Dawkins is almost 200 years old. What would it be like to live for 200 years untouched by time? Compare and contrast how things have changed and what has remained the same.
* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/Amazon/BloodGuard_ActivityGuide.pdf> (Activity guide with lots of fun stuff.

**El Deafo by Cece Bell**

After Cece loses her hearing, she discovers her superpower when she uses the Phonic Ear.

* Research hear aids and their history.
* Research Meningitis
* <http://www.abramsbooks.com/academic/El_Deafo_TeachingGuide.pdf> (Teaching Guide)
* <http://disabilitygames.blogspot.com/2010/06/welcome-to-disability-games-website.html> (Games to teach with)

Play games that illustrate what it would be like to have a disability:

Have the class play a game based on the popular game Telestrations (Telephone game). Each student or group starts with a sketch book, marker and word card. The timer gets turned and the first person draws their word from the card. After 60 seconds, they pass the book to the player on their left. The next student takes a few seconds to guess in words(s) what they see, and passes again. The next student draws the guess.This continues until everyone has had a chance to make a guess. It’s time for The Big Reveal. Everyone shares the book and the hilarious miscommunication is revealed.

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCMLP3630-ccCFYkDkgodxOMD0w&url=http://games.173zy.com/536/picture/3&psig=AFQjCNF-49g4UBR6Q5XzxiOX1d1x4crRkQ&ust=1442436368264510)

**The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm**

Ellie’s life gets complicated when her grandfather discovers how to reverse aging.

* Talk about the history of medicine.
* Explore different scientists mentioned in the book; Curie, Salk, and Oppenheimer.
* <http://freesciencefairproject.com/projects/mold_experiment.html> (Experiment on mold)
* <http://globalreadaloud.wikispaces.com/Fourteenth+Goldfish+Page>

This website contains a lot of information including a teaching guide, classroom predictions, science articles, articles on jellyfish, videos, etc.

**Frostborn (Thrones & Bones #1) by Lou Anders**

When a family tragedy strikes, Karn flees into the wilderness where he befriends a young frost giant.

* <http://www.thronesandbones.com/content/uploads/2014/07/Frostborn_Educator_Guide.pdf> (Guide)
* Do a Vikings project
* Make your own board game like the one in the book.
* Make a map from the story.
* Character sketches.
* Make up your own Viking Village.
* Make a playlist for the book.

**The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel by Deborah Hopkinson**

In 1854 a young orphan assists Dr. Snow to find the cause of the cholera outbreak in London.

* Look at the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov).
* What is the role of each organization in managing epidemics and pandemics? What are some current epidemics?
* <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/GreatTrouble_EG_WEB.pdf>
* <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/the-great-trouble-mystery-of-london.html>
* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/YHBA/GreatTrouble.pdf>

**Loot: How To Steal a Fortune by Jude Watson**

March uncovers family secrets when his burglar father meets an untimely end.

* Do a jewelry making craft.
* Scavenger hunt to find the treasure. The students can draw a map to get to it.
* <http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/sites/default/files/pdfs/349185_loot.pdf>
* <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/discussion-questions-loot-jude-watson>

**The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier**

Two Irish orphans face an ancient curse when they begin work at a crumbling English manor.

* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=41123&a=1>

(Reader’s Theater and discussion questions)

* <https://suzyred.com/The-Night-Gardener.html>

(Scary stories that go with the story)

* Have students write a review and then post it to Goodreads

**Spell Robbers (The Quantum League #1) by Matthew J. Kirby**

Ben is drawn into danger when he learns how to change reality at science camp.

* Do a science camp with multiple experiments.
* <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/discussion-questions-quantum-league-spell-robbers-matthew-j-kirby>

**Under the Egg by Laura Marx Fitzgerald**

Theodora must find the hidden treasure that could save her family.

* <http://www.lauramarxfitzgerald.com/>

The author has a lot of fun stuff on her website that goes with the books. For example, art

history links, information on Raphael the famous painter, and crafts (window sun cathers out of

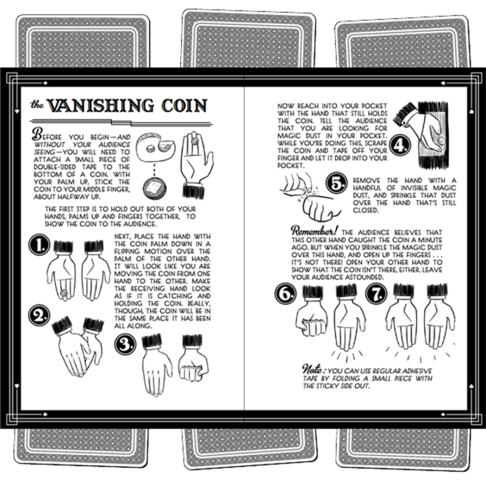
leaves)

* Lots of craft ideas:
  + Decorate eggs
  + Paint landscapes

**The Vanishing Coin (The Magic Coin #1) by Kate Egan and Magician Mike Lane, illustrated by Eric Wright**

Fourth grader Mike Weiss finds his talent at the White Rabbit magic shop.

* Have the students learn and perform magic tricks
* <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yTE8-E9JZYBvqIC-PTwQFUeetr3OWoannmARJrA_Vyo/edit?pli=1> (Readers theater)
* Coin magic trick



POETRY

**Dust of Eden by Mariko Nagai**

A novel in verse about Mina and her family who are sent to an internment camp in Idaho.

* Study Japanese History
* Great Pictures of the camps
* Study Internment camps
* Talk about what a novel in verse
* Study the internment camp at Topez in Utah

**Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons by Jon J. Muth**

Twenty-six haikus about the four seasons presented by a panda bear named Koo.

* <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/firefly-july-and-hi-koo-poems-about.html>

(All sorts of ideas to teach this book)

* Teach and practice haiku poetry
* Learn about the seasons and the differences
* <http://joannamarple.com/2014/04/hi-koo-a-year-of-seasons-perfect-picture-book-friday/>

(Videos and lessons that apply to the book

**Ode to a Commode: Concrete Poems by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Andy Rowland**

Find the objects in these poems shaped just like their inspiration.

* <http://www.brianpcleary.com/>

(Author website)

* Students can create their own concrete poetry

**The Pet Project: Cute and Cuddly Vicious Verses by Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by Zachariah OHora**

An analytical young girl plans out a scientific experiment in order to find the perfect pet.

* Vote for a classroom pet (use a stuffed animal or have a drawing contest)
* <http://www.lisawheelerbooks.com/LW/Pet_Project.html>

(Author website)

**Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles by Douglas Florian**

A collection of humorous poems.

* Each student will choose one poem to practice reading aloud. The student will focus on line breaks, voice, timing, and portraying the feeling of the poem. After the student has taken the time to choose a poem and practiced reciting it, the students will find a partner and take turns reciting each other’s poems for one another.

**Prince Puggly of Spud and the Kingdom of Spiff by Robert Paul Weston**

Poorly dressed Prince Puggly finds that he can teach the well-dressed people in Spiff a little something.

* <http://americarunsonreading.blogspot.com/2013/10/prince-puggly-of-spud-and-kingdom-of.html>
* <http://www.literaryfusions.com/2015/07/02/book-review-prince-puggly-of-spud-and-the-kingdom-of-spiff-by-robert-paul-weston/>

**Under the Freedom Tree by Susan VanHecke, illustrated by London Ladd**

In 1861 slaves find freedom in a Union-held fort by building their own community.

* Research slavery
* <http://www.underthefreedomtree.com/underthefreedomtree_readers.pdf> (Reader’s theater)
* <http://www.underthefreedomtree.com/> (Video)

**Your Skeleton Is Showing: Rhymes of Blunder From Six Feet Under by Kurt Cyrus, illustrated by Crab Scrambly**

A walk through a graveyard allows a boy and a dog to discover the stories of the residents’ demise.

* <http://www.teacherplanet.com/resource/skeletal.php> (Website to learn all about the skeletal system)
* <http://www.kurtcyrus.com/yourskeleton.html> (Author website)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**All the Truth That’s In Me by Julie Berry \***

When her town is attacked, Judith must choose to speak secrets long kept buried.

* Discuss what the time period of the book could be
* <http://static.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommoverride/Berry_%20All_the_Truth_thats_in_Me.pdf>

**Buzz Kill by Beth Fantaskey**

Millie realizes it is up to her to solve the murder of her high school’s football coach.

* Elements of a classic mystery
* Compare & contrast with an Agatha Christie novel
* <http://bethfantaskey.com/>

**Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan**

Willow builds new connections with people when her family is unexpectedly killed.

* Discuss how it would be to suddenly be part of a family with a different culture
* <http://www.penguin.com/static/images/yr/pdf/CountingBy7s.pdf>
* <http://www.sweetonbooks.com/all-titles/1003-counting-by-7s.html>
* <https://texasbluebonnetaward2015.wordpress.com/counting-by-7s/>
* <https://texasbluebonnetaward2015.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/rtcountingby7s-2.pdf> - reader’s theater script
* <https://sixtraitgurus.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/counting-by-7s/>
* [www.state.lib.la.us/files/LYRC/**Counting\_by\_7s**.docx](http://www.state.lib.la.us/files/LYRC/Counting_by_7s.docx)

**Grandmaster by David Klass**

Daniel gains insight about his father when they compete together in a chess tournament.

* Learn the basics of chess
* Have a chess competition and discuss the pressures of competition
* <http://teenlitrocks.com/2014/02/27/qa-interview-grandmaster-author-david-klass/>

**If We Survive by Andrew Klavan**

On a service trip, Will and his companions are trapped in the middle of a revolution.

* Talk about different revolutions in Central America or South America
* Che Guevara
* <http://www.needread.net/ebooks/If_We_Survive/Pages_56.html>

**The Mark of the Dragonfly by Jaleigh Johnson**

Piper is drawn into a dangerous world when she rescues a mysterious girl.

* Build a robot
* <http://www.randomhousekids.com/brand/mark-dragonfly/>

**The Naturals (The Naturals #1)by Jennifer Lynn Barnes\***

Cassie joins a group of teenagers who have been recruited by the FBI to solve cold cases.

* Profiling
* Forensics
* History of the F. B. I.
* <http://www.jenniferlynnbarnes.com/>

**One Came Home by Amy Timberlake**

Georgie is determined to find her sister who everyone else believes is dead.

* Causes of the extinction of the passenger pigeon
* Wisconsin history
* Essay on what you would do for a family member
* <http://static.squarespace.com/static/503d3bee84aef2a18d298301/t/50dc95c6e4b0c2f49761da1b/1356633542483/OneCameHomeDiscussion%20guide-Timberlake.pdf>
* <http://amytimberlake.com/about-one-came-home/>
* <http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/resource/one-came-home-educator-guide-with-ccss-tie-ins-2/>

**The Screaming Staircase (Lockwood & Co. #1) by Jonathan Stroud**

Lucy and the Lockwood Psychic Investigations Agency combat London’s ghost epidemic.

* Discuss if the story takes place in a modern day time or a historical time. What makes it feel more modern/historical?
* Are any of the locations mentioned in the book real? Find out if they are by checking a map of London.
* [**http://www.randomhouse.co.nz/content/teachers/The%20Screaming%20Staircase%20Notes%20For%20Readers%20Sep%2013.pdf**](http://www.randomhouse.co.nz/content/teachers/The%20Screaming%20Staircase%20Notes%20For%20Readers%20Sep%2013.pdf)

**Steelheart (Reckoners #1) by Brandon Sanderson**

David dreams of defeating the invincible superhuman who murdered his father.

* Attributes of a hero vs. a villain
* <http://www.tomesociety.org/uploads/1/5/5/3/15531344/steelheart_discussion_guide.pdf>
* ltrc.state.lib.la.us/2016/**guides**/**Steelheart**.docx

**Tesla’s Attic (Accelerati #1) by Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman**

The unusual junk in the attic of Nick’s new home brings a lot of trouble.

* Learn about Nikola Tesla
* <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/5-things-you-didnt-know-about-nikola-tesla/>
* <http://books.disney.com/content/uploads/2014/01/Teslas-Attic-DG-%C2%A6%C3%86.pdf>
* <http://project-middle-grade-mayhem.blogspot.com/2014/02/teslas-attic-interview-with-authors.html>

**The Tragedy Paper by Elizabeth LaBan**

Their senior thesis has Tim and Duncan reflecting on the previous year’s disasters.

* Elements of a tragedy
* Shakespeare’s Macbeth
* <http://novelnovice.com/2013/01/16/qa-with-the-tragedy-paper-author-elizabeth-laban/>
* <https://www.saybrook.edu/newexistentialists/posts/02-08-13>

**\*Mature Readers**

PICTURE BOOK    
  
**Battle Bunny by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett, illustrated by Matthew Myers**

Alex transforms a sappy book into a story all his own.

* Get some used books that the kids can write all over to make their own story.
* Talk about book mash ups
* <http://mybirthdaybunny.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Battle-Bunny-Guide.pdf>

(Questions and activities)

**Because I Stubbed My Toe by Shawn Byous**

A stubbed toe sets off a chaotic chain reaction.

* Talk about cause and effect
* Pair the book with “If you give a mouse a cookie” by Laura Numeroff
* <http://www.scasl.net/assets/BookAwards/pba_activity_guides.pdf>
* <http://www.readworks.org/lessons/grade1/cause-and-effect>

**Buddy and the Bunnies in: Don't Play With Your Food! by Bob Shea**

Buddy wants to eat bunnies until they become friends.

* Bunny ear crafts
* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=37017&a=1>
* <http://molib.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Activity-Sheet-2015-Buddy-and-Bunnies.pdf>



**The Girl and the Bicycle by Mark Pett**

A wordless book about working hard to earn something you want.

* Talk about wants vs. needs
* Saving Money and budgeting
* Make a piggy bank
* Talk about wordless picture books
* Make their own wordless picture book
* [http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/pdf/literacy/2014%20Girl%20%26%20Bicycle%20LA.pdf](http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/pdf/literacy/2014%20Girl%20&%20Bicycle%20LA.pdf)
* <http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/treasurer/files/pdf/literacy/2014%203-4%20grades%20lesson.pdf>

**How To Babysit a Grandma by Jean Reagan, illustrated by Lee Wildish**

Presents instructions for properly babysitting a grandmother.

* <http://www.randomhousekids.com/media/activities/HowBabysitGrandma_Activities.pdf>

**I'm a Frog! by Mo Willems**

Piggie and Gerald discover the world of pretend.

* Learn about frogs
* Talk about pretending and do some pretending exercises
* Students can read and act the book out

**I'm My Own Dog by David Ezra Stein**

Dog is fine on his own until he gets an itch he can’t reach.

* Students can make dog tags
* Do some animal yoga
* <http://bookweekonline.com/system/files/123/original/ImMyOwnDog_StoryHourKit.compressed.pdf>
* <http://molib.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Activity-sheet-2015-Im-My-Own-Dog.pdf>

**Maple by Lori Nichols**

Maple learns how to accept her baby sister.

* Leaf art
* Go on an outdoor scavenger hunt
* Learn to identify tree leaves
* <http://www.lorinichols.com/Lori_Nichols/MAPLE_files/leafidentification%202.pdf>
* [http://lorinichols.com/Lori\_Nichols/MAPLE\_&\_WILLOW\_TOGETHER\_files/M%26W\_APART\_ACTIVITY\_WEB.pdf](http://lorinichols.com/Lori_Nichols/MAPLE_&_WILLOW_TOGETHER_files/M&W_APART_ACTIVITY_WEB.pdf)

**The Odd One Out by Britta Teckentrup**

Find the odd one out in each animal search-and-find puzzle.

* Students can try drawing a picture of their own
* <http://www.tefl.net/esl-lesson-plans/esl-activities-oddoneout.htm>

**Picture Day Perfection by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Santat**

A young boy plans all year to have the most terribly perfect school picture.

* Make masks or funny props that the students can take their picture with
* Fake a bad picture with a camera
* cool iPad app for filmstrip photos, snap shots of your kiddos faking a “bad picture day” moment. They LOVE this. Have them mess their hair up, make their clothes look sloppy, and have the worst faces EVER in the photos you snap. (film strip)

**This is a Moose by Richard T. Morris, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld**

Moose dreams big, even when it gets in the way of the movie director’s vision.

* Use a camera or iPad to make their own documentary
* Draw a picture of their dream or what they want to be when they grow up
* Science Craters on the moon activity. Students will drop meterors (rocks) on the moon (flour and baby oil in tin tub) and see what happens.
* Learn about astronauts
* Film each student explaining what they want to do in the future and how they will accomplish it.
* <http://www.islma.org/Monarch-2016-files/islma/ThisIsAMoose.pdf>

**The Tooth Fairy Wars by Kate Coombs, illustrated by Jake Parker**

Nathan is determined to stop the tooth fairy from taking his teeth.

* Investigate the Tooth Fairy and the history behind her
* Talk about teeth and how to take care of them
* Talk about which animals that lose their baby teeth
* Tooth Fairy traditions
* <http://katecoombs.com/TFW.html>
* <http://www.bystephanielynn.com/2012/02/10-tooth-fairy-traditions-and-ideas-tuesday-ten.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A%20UnderTheTableAndDreaming%20%28Under%20The%20Table%20and%20Dreaming%29>
* Make a little pillow to put tooth in



INFORMATIONAL  
  
**Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons by Sara C. Levine, illustrated by T.S. Spookytooth**

Examines how skeletons are the same yet different.

* Skeleton of a cat: <http://www.infovisual.info/02/067_en.html>
  + Use as a puzzle
* Matching game: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/gamesactivities/movinggrowing.html>
* Dinosaur Pasta skeletons: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/525795325224043510/>

**Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives by Elizabeth Rusch, photographs by Tom Uhlman**

Follows the scientists of the International Volcano Crisis Team.

* Soda/Mentos geyser: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/501940320948176312/>
* Tetonic Plates: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/289778557252472954/>
* Lava: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/151574343686577258/>

**Fighting Fire!: Ten of the Deadliest Fires in American History and How We Fought Them by Michael L. Cooper**

Chronicles how ten deadly fires lead to new firefighting techniques and technology.

* Fire safety: <http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson026.shtml>
* Activities: <http://seasonal.theteacherscorner.net/fire-prevention/>
* Safety worksheets: <http://busyteacher.org/teaching_ideas_and_techniques/emergency/fire-safety-worksheets/>

**Hot Dog! Eleanor Roosevelt Throws a Picnic by Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by Victor Juhasz**

In 1939 Eleanor Roosevelt knows the perfect way to entertain the King and Queen of England.

* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/SleepingBearPress/HotDog_ActivityGuide.pdf>

**How Big Were Dinosaurs? by Lita Judge**

Not all dinosaurs were really big, in fact some were very small.

* <https://www.teachervision.com/dinosaurs/teacher-resources/6611.html>
* <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/dinosaurs>
* <http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/themes/dinosaurs/>

**Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II by Martin W. Sandler**

An in-depth look at the lives of Japanese-Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

* <http://amhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/internment/more.html>
* https://zinnedproject.org/materials/a-lesson-on-the-japanese-american-internment/

**Millions, Billions, & Trillions: Understanding Big Numbers by David A. Adler, illustrated by Edward Miller**

Shows concrete examples of very large numbers.

* <https://emccss.everydaymathonline.com/em-crosswalk/pdf/5/g5_tlg_Lesson_2_10_mm_page_66B.pdf>
* <http://lessonplanspage.com/mathplacevalue4th-htm/>

**Mr. Ferris and His Wheel by Kathryn Gibbs Davis, illustrated by Gilbert Ford**

In a magnificent feat of engineering, George Ferris creates a giant wheel for the 1893 World’s Fair.

* <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/build-a-big-wheel/>
* <http://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/HMH/Davis_MrFerrisAndHisWheel_TG.pdf>
* http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/61956.htm

**Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh**

Syliva and her family fight to end school segregation in California.

* <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/book-of-the-month-separate-is-never-equal.pdf>
* <http://www.booklistreader.com/2014/07/07/bookends-childrens-literature/separate-is-never-equal-by-duncan-tonatiuh/>
* <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.com/2015/02/separate-is-never-equal.html>

**Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton**

The tiniest living organisms all work hard to change things.

* <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.com/2014/11/tiny-creatures-world-of-microbes.html>