

Book Title	Book Author	Age Group:	Suggestions for Using	Additional Information?	Recommended by
<i>From hand to mouth, or, How we invented knives, forks, spoons, and chopsticks, &amp; the manners to go with them</i>	Giblin, James	Elem/Upper / Middle Sch	I love to read out loud Erasmus' rules for good manners found on pp. 31-32.		E. Overmyer
<i>Poop happened! : a history of the world from the bottom up</i>	Sarah Albee	Elem/Upper	Perfect booktalking book using a good trick to capture kids' attention. This book snapshots much history of civilization, medicine, and technology through excrement and what to do with it.	I began this part of the class visit by asking what the most important community helper (a Kindergarten project for many kids) might be. After much guessing, I discuss garbage collectors, move from garbage to sewage (lauding people who keep our sewage flowing). I also asked the kids if they had ever lived in a place where garbage was not collected. Almost all never had -- I, then, described living in Napoli during a long garbage strike -- smelly piles, rats, and terrible diseases.	Alan Bern per recommendations from Emma Coleman and Ann Hotta, BPL
<i>I stink!</i>	Kate & Jim McMullan	Elem/Prim	CIP Summary: A big city garbage truck makes its rounds, consuming everything from apple cores and banana peels to leftover ziti with zucchini. Read Aloud: Some kids had heard this one before, but all enjoyed it and the details of garbage collection and laudatory tone fit in well with my Additional Info below. Also, booktalked/summarized bilingual classic: The long journey of Mister Poop = el gran viaje del Señor Caca / Angèle Delaunois ; [illustrated by] Marie Lafrance ; translated by Daniel Zolinsky	I began this part of the class visit by asking what the most important community helper (a Kindergarten project for many kids) might be. After much guessing, I discuss garbage collectors, move from garbage to sewage (lauding people who keep our sewage flowing). I also asked the kids if they had ever lived in a place where garbage was not collected. Almost all never had -- I, then, described living in Napoli during a long garbage strike -- smelly piles, rats, and terrible diseases.	Alan Bern
<i>Poop : a natural history of the unmentionable</i>	Nicola Davies	Elem/Prim, Elem/Upper	You can ask questions about poop and then read chunks of it for the answers.	Very funny and interesting. Great EW factor.	
<i>Snapshots: the Wonders of Monterey Bay</i>	Celeste Davidson Mannis	Preschool, Elem/Prim	Gorgeous large color photos and large simple text make this a great preschool storytime read aloud. Additional text on each spread in a smaller font increase its potential audience to include lower elementary school storytimes.	Includes wildlife and habitat info.	Helen Bloch
<i>Spirals in Nature</i>	Joyce Sidman	Elem/Prim	Great for use with the k-2 audience in storytimes, this book features very short accessible poems and gorgeous woodcuts that explore where spirals can be found all around us.	Use with a nature walk or with an art project.	Helen Bloch

<b><i>An Eye for Color: the story of Josef Albers</i></b>	Natasha Wing	Elem/Prim	Josef Albers painted squares of all sizes and colors to explore how color and size work together in differing combinations. Good read aloud for k-2 students with end matter that suggests different, easy to do experiments the reader can use to supplement the storytime or kids can do after the book has been read..		Helen Bloch
<b><i>Just Behave, Pablo Picasso</i></b>	Jonah Winter	Elem/Prim	Part biography, part subtle bibliotherapy, this short bio of Picasso introduces his work while imparting the message to readers to follow your own dream.	Follow this book with some images of Picasso's later work. A follow up drawing project is fun too.	Helen Bloch
<b><i>Face Book</i></b>	Chuck Close	Elem/Upper	Portraitist Close is interviewed about his art, his disabilities, and his life by a 4th grade class. The text is extremely accessible and the mix- and-match section highlights the different artistic techniques and media he has used (it's also lots of fun to show students). Use as a booktalk or choose excerpts to use as a read aloud.	Could also be used when discussing overcoming disabilities as Close is paralyzed and ironically suffers from prosopagnosia, the inability to recognize faces.	Helen Bloch
<b><i>Red-Eyed Tree Frog and Chameleon, Chameleon</i></b>	Joy Cowle	Preschool	These classic informational picture books feature minimal text and breathtaking large-sized photos making them perfect for preschool storytimes.		Helen Bloch
<b><i>If You Decide to Go to the Moon</i></b>	McNulty, Faith	Elem/Prim	Could be read aloud or used for booktalk. Good STEM title and could go with science activities about the moon or space travel.	I think that this book depicts the emptiness of space and the landscape of the moon better than any other book I have seen. It is great read aloud, though a bit longer than the usual read-aloud.	Ann Hotta, Berkeley Public Library
<b><i>Angel Island</i></b>	Freedman, Russell	Middle Sch	I book talk the book, telling kids about the back ground of Angel Island as an immigration depot for many thousands of immigrants during the early 1900s. Many of them have already been there, but are unaware of the story behind it.	I talk briefly about the use of Angel Island as an immigration depot where thousands of immigrants, especially from China, spent many weeks, sometimes even months, waiting for their immigration papers, medical exams and their interviews to be done before they could legally enter the United States. I show some of the original photographs in the book, of how the immigrants were house, fed and interviewed -- and mention how they were treated without respect or dignity. The middle school kids are unusually quiet as I read out the translation of a couple of the heartfelt poems found inscribed in the barracks and restored after Angel Island was declared a Historic Landmark.	Armin Arethna

<b>Red Eyed Tree Frog</b>	Cowley, Joy	Preschool, Elem/Prim	Read Aloud, with a little bit of talking after the book is read, about nocturnal and diurnal creatures.	This is an amazing book -- I have read it to groups of diverse ages, from toddlers to elementary students. The kids, along with their adults, are drawn in by the large, colourful photographs and action story. It is a very quick read, with simple text and easy to follow story, but it has maximum impact!	Armin Arethna
<b>Left for Dead</b>	Pete Nelson		<p>Booktalking We were on the battleship Indianapolis, just returning from a secret cargo drop--we had delivered the atom bomb that was dropped over Hiroshima, but we didn't know it then. It was a hot night and I was trying to sleep on deck when just before midnight the ship was torpedoed, and only 12 minutes later the 1500 men on board were either dead or trying to survive in shark infested waters. During the next four days and five nights, some of those men would become heroes. Some would become murderers. Most would die.</p> <p>Hunter Scott was eleven when he first heard of this story watching Jaws with his dad. In the movie Quint, the crusty old captain of the shark hunting boat and an Indianapolis survivor, gets drunk and tells the tale of men at the mercy of sharks. Hunter needed a topic for his history fair project on 'Triumph and Tragedy' and this seemed perfect, but,when he went to the library he found there was virtually no written history. His dad, a school principle, just thought Hunter had done a lousy research job, but when he looked he got the same result: nothing. It didn't make sense: no history about the worst U.S. Naval disaster ever. So Hunter put an ad in the local Navy paper asking for survivors to come forward. (He was lucky to live near a naval base.) What he got was an outpouring of stories from men haunted. Haunted not just by what they had endured but haunted by questions. Why had no one responded to their S.O.S? Why had their captain been scapegoated and driven to suicide? How could such a massive tragedy have been overlooked and buried. Why did no one seem to care? Could one eleven year old boy challenge a cover-up that had haunted the survivors for over 50 years? Could he win a legal battle against the United States Navy on front of Congress? Could he explain why the men of the Indianapolis were Left for Dead ?</p>	<p>Pair with Port Chicago 50 for two-WWII examples of scapegoating and cover-ups. Both also have a local connection: The Indianapolis sailed from SF w the atom bomb and was torpedoed on it's return.</p> <p>Great example of kid making a huge difference.</p>	Melissa McAvoy

<i>Ape</i>	Jenkins, Martin	Elem/Upper, Middle Sch	Read Aloud	Large format book with ABSOLUTELY STUNNING, photo-realistic illustrations. There are just a few sentences per page which describe 4 of the different great apes in the world (orangutan, chimp, bonobo, gorilla), with some other smaller text that give more facts. The MOST fascinating thing about this one is that it starts out by saying that there are FIVE kinds of great apes in the world, and, at the end, the author asks, "And the fifth kind of great ape is... do you know who? YOU... and me." He then says a little bit about what we have in common with the other great apes, and how we are sometimes TOO smart and can't stop changing things.	Eric Barbus (SFPL)
<i>Weird Sea Creatures / Weird Insects</i>	Hoyt, Erich / Worek, Michael	Elem/Upper	Booktalking	These are two HIGHLY browse-able titles with gorgeous photographs on every page of the oddest sea creatures / insects imaginable. The sea creatures are (smartly) set against a black background, and the insects against white, and all are clearly labeled with the name, scientific name, and a brief description which includes (for most) where they can be found in the world.	Eric Barbus (SFPL)
<i>What the Heart Knows: Chants, Charms &amp; Blessings</i>	Sidman, Joyce	Middle Sch	I think it would be really fun to read aloud the two short poems about the passage of time, on p. 20, I (To Speed Up) and II (To Slow Down). Isn't that a hallmark of summer? You can't wait for it to get here - and then it flies by so fast you wish you could slow it down.		Elizabeth Overmyer
<i>Balloons Over Broadway</i>	Melissa Sweet	Elem/Prim	Great Thanksgiving read aloud.		Beth Gousman
<i>Brothers at Bat: The True Story of An Amazing All Brother Baseball Team</i>	Audrey Vernick	Elem/Prim	Great April (Beginning of baseball season) read aloud.		Beth Gousman
<i>Daredevil: the Daring Life of Betty Skelton</i>	Meghan McCarthy	Elem/Prim	I use this during Woman's History Month. Betty Skelton's life is fascinating!		Beth Gousman
<i>A River of Words: the Story of William Carlos Williams</i>	Jennifer Bryant	Elem/Prim	Use as read aloud for National poetry month, followed by "Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It: False Apology Poems" by Gail Carson Levine, and then have third graders construct their own false apology poems.		Beth Gousman
<i>Red Eyed Tree Frog</i>	Joy Cowley	Preschool, Elem/Prim	Great photographs!		Beth Gousman

<b><i>Tillie the Terrible Swede</i></b>	Sue Stauffacher	Elem/Prim	Huge hit read aloud with first grade audience who couldn't get over that woman weren't allowed to ride bicycles.		Beth Gousman
<b><i>Queen of the Falls</i></b>	Chris Van Allsburg	Elem/Upper	CYRM selection this year with wild appeal as a read aloud.		Beth Gousman
<b><i>Giraffe and a Half</i></b>	Shel Silverstein	Preschool, Elem/Prim	Great Kindergarten participation read aloud with the class joining in.		Beth Gousman
<b><i>Death Trap: the Story of the La Brea Tar Pits</i></b>	Thompson, Sharon E.	Elem/Prim, Elem/Upper	Dinosaurs are a popular topic, and this book about excavating and studying dinosaur bones in Los Angeles is fascinating. It could be introduced along with other dinosaur book titles, as well as paired with Dinosaur Bones by Alikei, and the recent title by Marc Aronson and Adrienne Mayor entitled The Griffin and the Dinosaur: How Adrienne Mayor Discovered a Fascinating Link Between Myth and Science.	What I like is that the book points out that science always changes. For example, paleontologists at La Brea tar pits excavate the bones of early animals. Soon, the pits fill up with tar once more and the paleontologists have to excavate again. The author says that a skeleton of a saber-toothed tiger was in a display case for years -- it had been pieced together with bones from various individual saber-teeth, and when someone eventually discovered a full skeleton, guess what -- they had put their display case animal together incorrectly!	Kathy L. Haug
<b><i>Port Chicago 50, The: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights</i></b>	Sheinkin, Steve	Elem/Prim, Elem/Upper, Middle Sch	This is an important book about the ill-treatment and uncaring endangerment of African-American sailors who were routinely sent in to prepare explosives at Port Chicago, which is local to Contra Costa County, California. From the publisher's website: "On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution."	There have been people working together for decades to have the charges removed from the men's Naval records, but it still has not happened. Although they were offered a Presidential pardon, few accepted it because a pardon indicates that the person(s) was guilty of the crime and the President is providing a formal forgiveness. This would be great for a civil rights discussion, and I can imagine a teacher encouraging the students to write letters to their congresspersons asking them to correct the situation.	Kathy L. Haug
<b><i>For The Good of Mankind?: The Shameful History of Human Medical Experimentation</i></b>	Vicki Oransky Wittenstein	Middle Sch	Biology curriculum; ethics and social justice discussions; resource for pro/con debates.	Also good for high school aged readers.	Carla Riemer
<b><i>Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature's Undead</i></b>	Rebecca L. Johnson	Middle Sch	Booktalking; nature studies.		Carla Riemer

<p><b><i>Josephine: the Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker</i></b></p>	<p>Powell, Patricia Rhuby</p>	<p>Elem/Prim, Elem/Upper</p>	<p>Perfect for booktalking and as a resource for Black History Month as well as Women's History Month, this book fills a gap for age-appropriate materials on Josephine Baker. The book would also work well as part of a unit on racial/religious equality (she adopted twelve children of different races from all over the world and raised each in whatever religion they came with). She was also awarded France's highest honor, the "Légion d'Honneur," for her war work in WWII, and the title would fit in nicely on a history booklist.</p>	<p>Often, children ask for materials on Baker and the collection only includes materials for adults or the picture book Ragtime Tumpie by Alan Schroeder. There isn't much available for middle elementary readers. What I especially like about this title is that it shows Baker as a whole person, not just as a fan dancer, which is the one facet of her life that people are most familiar with. She had a rich, full, useful life that children could benefit from learning about.</p>	<p>Kathy L. Haug</p>
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