

What's New in Children's Literature - 2016

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Books for Classroom Use Relating to the Common Core

The Common Core encourages teachers to give more emphasis to informational/nonfiction texts. Pairing fiction with nonfiction on the same topic is one way to intentionally introduce more nonfiction. Often this can be done with a fictional readaloud offered at the beginning of a lesson, as a way to kick-off the topic. Or, using a tween novel that touches on the history or science topic that is being taught during that same month can give both more significance, and show that fiction often weaves facts into the narrative.

Nonfiction and fiction pairings:

Adler, David. *Place Value*. Holiday House, April 2016, 32p. The monkeys at the Banana Cafè bake cupcakes as they demonstrate the mathematical concept of place value. **Pair with:**

Long, Ethan. *The Wing Wing Brothers Math Spectacular!* Holiday House, 2013, 32p. Five wacky ducks introduce concepts such as greater than, less than, equal to, and addition and subtraction in this joyful math story.

Aliki. *My Five Senses (revised edition)*. Harper, 2015, 31p. This classic simple informational book helps a young child grasp how the five senses allow her to experience the world. **Pair with:**

Isadora, Rachel. *I Hear a Pickle: (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!)*. Penguin, 2016, 32p. The five senses are a common Kindergarten topic, and this new picture book features a diverse group of children demonstrating the senses.

Cornell, Kari A. *The Nitty-Gritty Gardening Book: Fun Projects for All Seasons*. Millbrook, 2015, 48p. Color photos and easy-to-follow instructions make these gardening projects a sure success, even if you don't have much outdoor space. **Pair with:**

Dillard, Sarah. *Mouse Scouts*. Knopf, January 2016, 110p. In the first entry in this transitional fiction series, six mouse friends join the scouts and work on various gardening projects (complete with instructions). **Or, pair with:**

Pryor, Katherine. *Zora's Zucchini*. Readers to Eaters, 2015, 32p. In this picture book, Zora helps at the community garden and crop swap.

Coy, John. *Their Great Gift; Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land*. Carolrhoda, March 2016, 32p. Dramatic photos and a brief text describe the experiences of immigrants to the U.S. from various countries. **Pair with:**

O'Brien, Anne Sibley. *I'm New Here*. Charlesbridge, 2015, 32p. Three young children adapt to their new elementary school in the U.S. – Maria from Guatemala, Jin from Korea, and Fatima from Somalia.

Freedman, Russell. *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement that Defied Adolf Hitler*. Clarion, May 2016, 112p. Packed with photos and other primary source material, this engaging book describes the teenagers who risked their lives by distributing propaganda against the Nazis. **Pair with:**

Smith, Dan. *My Brother's Secret*. Chicken House/Scholastic, 2015, 293p. At first Karl is a loyal member of the Hitler Youth, but after his family moves to the country to live with his grandparents, he discovers his older brother is part of the resistance movement.

Hoose, Phillip M. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*. FSG, 2015, 198p. The remarkable true story of a group of teens who committed acts of sabotage in Denmark when the Nazis took over, helping to spark a Danish resistance movement. **Pair with:**

Preus, Margi. *Shadow on the Mountain*. Amulet, 2012, 286p. Based on actual events, this historical novel is set in Norway, where teens committed many acts of sabotage, which prevented the development of the atomic bomb by the Nazis. **Or, pair with:**

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. HMH, 1989, 137p. This Newbery Medal recipient focuses on Annemarie, whose family helps her Jewish friend Ellen get out of Denmark.

Huey, Lois Miner. *Floodwaters and Flames: The 1913 Disaster in Dayton, Ohio*. Millbrook, April 2016, 54p. Filled with photos and other primary source material, this fascinating history describes the great flood in Ohio in 1913. **Pair with:**

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*. Holt, 2015, 312p. In the second novel featuring this science-loving girl, the family helps relatives displaced by the Galveston hurricane and flood of 1900. These two books work together for a science unit on weather disasters.

Jarrow, Gail. *Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America*. Boyd Mills, April 2016, 196p. Focusing on incidents of the Bubonic Plague in San Francisco from 1900 to 1907, this look at a deadly disease combines history and science into a fascinating book. **Pair with:**

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Chasing Secrets*. Wendy Lamb, 2015, 278p. Lizzie befriends Noah, the son of the family cook, in this mystery set in 1900. Can Lizzie's doctor father find Noah's father, who is quarantined in Chinatown due to the outbreak of the Bubonic plague?

Jenkins, Martin. *Fabulous Frogs*. Candlewick, February 2016, 32p. Several different species of frogs are presented in this brief informational book, enhanced by Tim Hopgood's stunning mixed media illustrations. **Pair with:**

Hood, Susan. *Leaps and Bounce*. Disney-Hyperion, March 2016, unpagged. A rhyming story celebrating the metamorphosis from egg to tadpole to frog is highlighted by gatefold pages.

Kanefield, Teri. *The Extraordinary Suzy Wright: A Colonial Woman on the Frontier*. Abrams, March 2016, 64p. This biography of a little-known but influential woman who helped in the founding of the United States includes quotations and other primary sources. **Pair with:**

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Ashes*. Atheneum, October 2016, 272p. In this sequel to *Chains* and *Forge*, escaping slaves Isabel and Curzon search for Isabel's little sister Ruth. **Or, pair with:**

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Fever 1793*. S&S, 2000, 251p. Mattie helps at her mother's inn in Philadelphia when a yellow fever epidemic breaks out in the new nation's capital city.

Miranda, Paul. *Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle*. Roaring Brook, 2015, unpagged. With lovely illustrations by Jason Chin and a rhyming text, this describes the various stages of the water cycle. **Pair with:**

Lyon, George Ella. *All the Water in the World*. Atheneum, 2011, 34p. A lyrical poem about the water cycle, illustrated with digital watercolor and collage, make for a great introduction to this topic.

Park, Linda Sue. *Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs*. Clarion, March 2016, 40p. In this delightful picture book, animal-verb homograph pairs are illustrated with cartoons to explain unique vocabulary. **Pair with:**

Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots, & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!* Putnam, 2006, 32p. A fun look at how punctuation can help readers determine the meaning of a homonym.

Rosenstock, Barb. *Dorothea's Eyes*. Illus. by Gerard DuBois. Calkins Creek, March 2016, 40p. This picture book biography celebrates the noted San Francisco photographer Dorothea Lange. Even though this is factual, it reads like fiction. **Pair with:**

Thomson, Ruth. *Photos Framed: A Fresh Look at the World's Most Memorable Photographs*. Candlewick, 2014, 61p. Famous photos that influenced history, including Lange's "Migrant Mother" Depression-era portrait, are examined in this book that could inspire students to create photo projects.

Sandler, Martin W. *Iron Rails, Iron Men, and the Race to Link the Nation: The Transcontinental Railroad*. Candlewick, 2015, 211p. Filled with photographs and other primary source material, this history of the building of the Transcontinental Railroad in the 1860's includes descriptions of the displacement of Native Americans, and information on the Chinese work force. **Pair with:**

Yep, Laurence. *Dragon's Gate*. Harper, 1993, 335p. In this Newbery Honor novel, a 15-year-old boy is sent to America from China to work on the building of the railroad.

Smith, Jr. Charles R. *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*. Roaring Brook, 2015, unpagged. In celebration of Black History Month, this colorful book describes 28 different people or events that helped to forge equality for African-Americans. **Pair with:**

Robinson, Sharon. *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend*. Scholastic, 2016, 202p. In 1948, young Steve meets a new African-American family in his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn; it turns out to be the family of baseball great Jackie Robinson. This novel is based on a true story.

Sutcliffe, Jane. *Will's Words: How William Shakespeare Changed the Way You Talk*. Charlesbridge, March 2016, 40p. In this colorful book, the many words and phrases introduced to the English language by William Shakespeare are presented, including "foul play" and "wild goose chase." **Pair with:**

Blackwood, Gary. *The Shakespeare Stealer*. Perfection Learning, 2000, 216p. Widge joins Shakespeare's theatre company to steal the newest play from the Bard but soon makes friends and refuses to be a spy for the rival theater's manager.