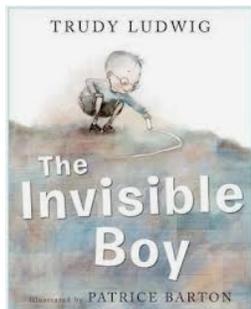


Heather's Picks

The Invisible Boy By Trudy Ludwig

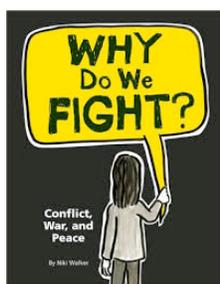


Recommended for All

We all know a Brian. Many of us have been a Brian at one time or another. He goes quietly about his day--unnoticed and not chosen. When a new classmate arrives Brian does something unexpected and surprises us all.

Use in writing to...write about small moments where we've felt invisible, explore the question: Is it better to be invisible or be laughed at?

Use in reading to... teach theme and character changes over time



Why Do We Fight? By: Niki Walker

Recommended for Grades 3 and Up

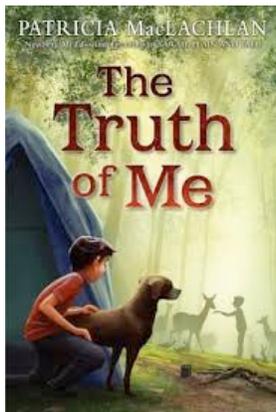
This is an important book and one I'd love to see in every classroom. Not only does it structure a way to look at conflict, war and peace in a global sense, but it brings it home by looking at conflict between any two people or groups. There are no photographs in this book so it really relies on timelines, charts, diagrams, font, highlights and more.

Use in writing to...study text features of informational text, look at use of quotes to support text, analyze summaries done with bullets, use one of the questions to explore a personal conflict.

Use in reading to...pose questions as a reader from subheadings, pg. 49 use the old Islamic fable to discuss the power of an arbitrator, much more.

Samantha's Picks

The Truth of Me By Patricia MacLachlan



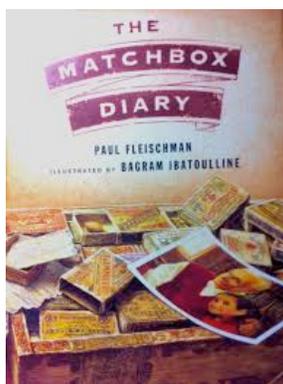
(Rec. for Grades 2-6)

Robbie's parents are concert musicians, more interested in their music than they are in him. Robbie is thrilled to spend the summer with his

grandmother who tells interesting stories and has animals for friends. When a difficult situation arises it is these stories that give Robbie confidence and help him find "the truth of me."

Use in writing to...to teach memoir (the truth of me as a starting point for generating memoir). Also, to explore effective use of dialogue.

Use in reading to...engage students in a read-aloud. Also to explore narrative voice. post



The Matchbox Diary By: Paul Fleischman (Rec. for K-5)

A little girl visiting her great grandfather pulls down a cigar box. Her great grandfather calls this his diary, but it is no ordinary diary-inside are matchboxes, each holding an item that sparks a childhood memory.

Use in writing to...to support memoir writing. Also to explore description and elaboration through small-moment stories.

Use in reading to...to explore asking questions.

Sean's Picks

Tiger in Trouble



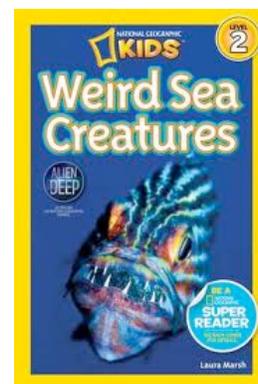
By Kelly Millner Halls

Recommended for Gr. 1-4

This nonfiction text is part of National Geographic's newer chapter book series. It tells three true stories about animal rescues: a tiger, a white albino bat and a trio of monkeys. It has beautiful photos, fun facts and a narrative structure.

Use in writing to...to teach about various structures authors use to present information. This could also be used as a background building piece for argumentative writing (animals in captivity).

Use in reading to...to teach schema. These stories provide new insight into the animals discussed, allowing us all to widen our understanding of their needs, personality and importance.



Weird Sea Creatures By: Laura Marsh (Rec. K-3)

This text is a beginning reader, but has appeal for many ages. The strange creatures catch the interest of many--both the descriptions and the wonderful images. As an informational text, it has a variety of text features and intriguing facts (deep-sea anglerfish with a glowing fishing rod on its body, the barreleye fish with a see-through head, etc.)

Use in writing to...to explore ways to use text features to purposely convey meaning. The structure of the text as a whole makes it a good mentor for "all-about" texts.

Use in reading to...to teach how to increase comprehension by effectively reading all components of an information text (captions, bold words, glossary, index, etc.)