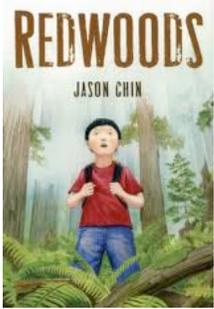


**Sean's Picks**

**Redwoods** By Jason Chin



Recommended for age 7 and up

An informational book about the coast redwood trees has captivating pictures that tell a separate narrative. It has been described as “an artful mix of fantasy and non-fiction.”

**Use in writing to...**engage in inquiry lessons about the absence of sections/headings in this text. The illustrations provide the structure for this text, different from many other information texts. Students could create the headings/sections after studying them.

**Use in reading to...** study how pictures can enhance the meaning of a text. In fact, they can introduce entirely new ideas. Also, to study how to interpret scale in nonfiction.



**Bluebird** By: Bob Staake

Recommended for All Ages

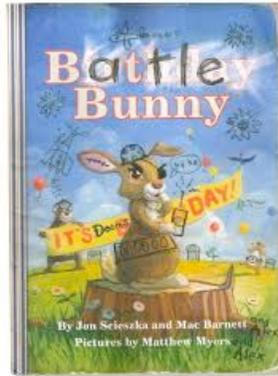
This wordless text tells a timeless narrative. A boy being bullied is befriended by a bluebird. When the bullies attack, the bluebird intervenes with pure selflessness.

**Use in writing to...**add the narrative text. You could also study how to add deeper meaning to a text through the use of pictures. Really, the possibilities are endless.

**Use in reading to...**hone deep inferring skills. Also, to study the concepts of internal/external character traits.

**Amanda's Picks**

**Battle Bunny** By By: Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett



Pictures by Matthew Meyers

A sweet, charming bunny birthday book is transformed into a book of evil-doings when a boy named Alex takes his pencil to the pages, rewriting the story and turning it into one he would enjoy.

**Use in writing to...**think strategically about elaboration. “Alex” makes careful decisions about which words to change, what to cut out, and where to grow ideas with descriptions, illustrations and graphic strips. After studying Battle Bunny, copy a page from another picture book and let kids practice this style of editing/elaboration.

**Use in reading to...**study how mental images and tone are connected. Copy a page from “Battle Bunny” and read the original version and “Alex’s” version. Share thinking about what the mental images are in each version, and how the tone, feeling and mental images change as the words are changed.



**The Beetle Book** By: Steve Jenkins

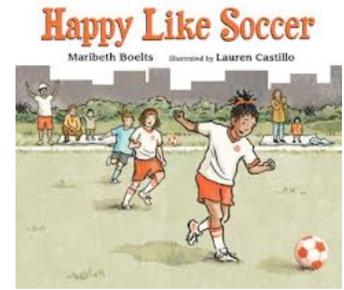
A beautifully illustrated informational book all about beetles. The bold graphics and information presented in small chunks make this rich text engaging and accessible.

**Use in writing to...**organize “chapters” of informational text. “Chapters” are intentionally connected. Each chapter explores a subtopic related to beetles.

**Use in reading to...**use a diagram to more deeply understand and/or clarify meaning.

**Heather's Picks**

**Happy Like Soccer**



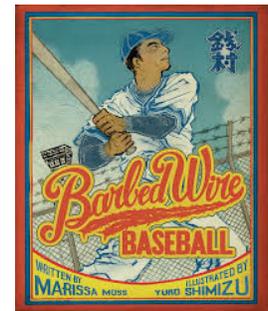
By Maribeth Boelts

Recommended for Ages 6-10

Soccer is uniforms and running and teams and fun. But it is also hard when you have no one cheering on the sidelines. Sierra’s auntie always has to work during games until Sierra makes a plan that just might work.

**Use in writing to...**explore experiences that have a range of emotions. Soccer is wonderful and disappointing for Sierra at the same time. What experiences have students had like Sierra? How did they problem solve?

**Use in reading to...**look at character traits. If one said Sierra was “determined,” what thoughts, words and actions would back that up? Could also look at theme and compare to Those Shoes (also by Maribeth Boelts).



**Barbed Wire Baseball** By: Marissa Moss

Recommended for Ages 10 Up

Zeni was a star player before he was put behind barbed wire with his family after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He brought his love for the game and built something inspiring from nothing.

**Use in writing to...**to consider students’ opinions on someone being judged as disloyal due to his ethnicity. Is it ever fair to judge a person by race? What would they have felt in Zeni’s place?

**Use in reading to...**explore issues related to Japanese Internment, patriotism, fairness etc. Read supplementary informational texts to understand the “real story.”