



Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students

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Upcoming Events

**Support Team Day:
The Three Tiers of Behavior**
Friday, November 21, 2008

**Top 10 Behavior Tips
Workshop with Barbara
Pedersen, Jim McMillan & Ruby
Butler**

Thursday, November 20, 2008

To register please contact the
C.L.A.S.S. Office.

COLLEGE CREDIT AVAILABLE
FOR ATTENDING FOUR C.L.A.S.S.
WORKSHOPS. PLEASE CONTACT
THE C.L.A.S.S. OFFICE FOR
DETAILS.



November Issue: Science Read Alouds

The true delight is in the finding out rather than in the knowing.

-- Isaac Asimov

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools!

Welcome to the November issue of E-Tools. This month our focus is on Science Read Alouds. The books we have for you have all been published in the last few years. They include both fiction and non-fiction titles. When selecting your Science Read Alouds, make sure that they contain accurate and current information. Also read both fiction and non-fiction titles. Students need to hear and see there are different ways to read and collect information from different types of books.

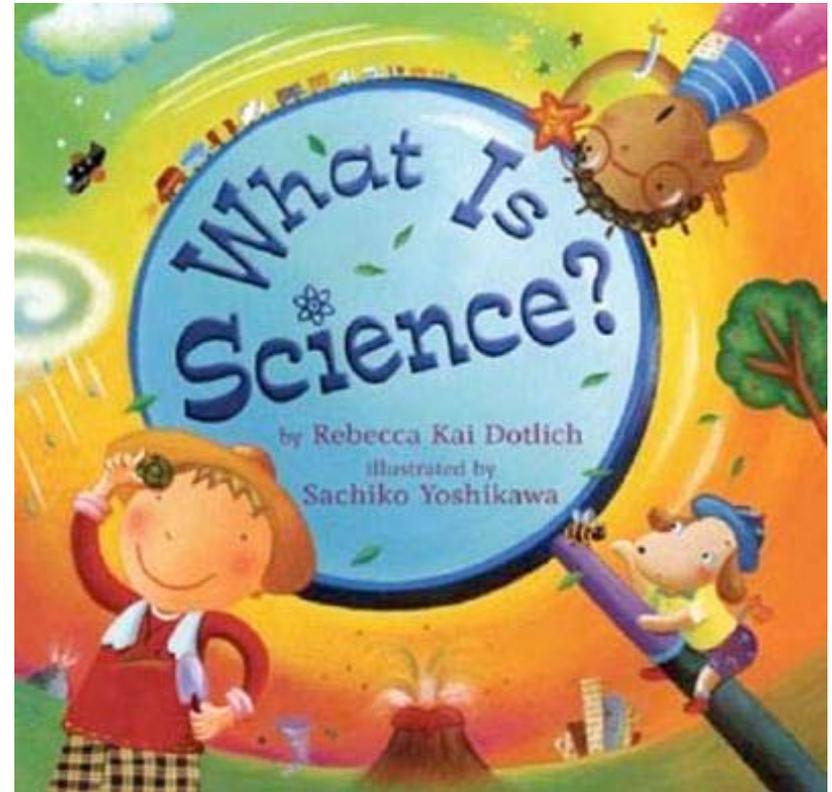
Science is one of the subjects that drive our themes and topics. So, use these books not only to talk about Science, but also use them to teach other subjects. Are there connections you can make between these books and language arts? math? social studies?

As with all recommended books, we encourage you to take time and read them before you share them with students. You know your students the best and will know if the book is a good fit.

What is Science?

By Rebecca Kai Dotlich

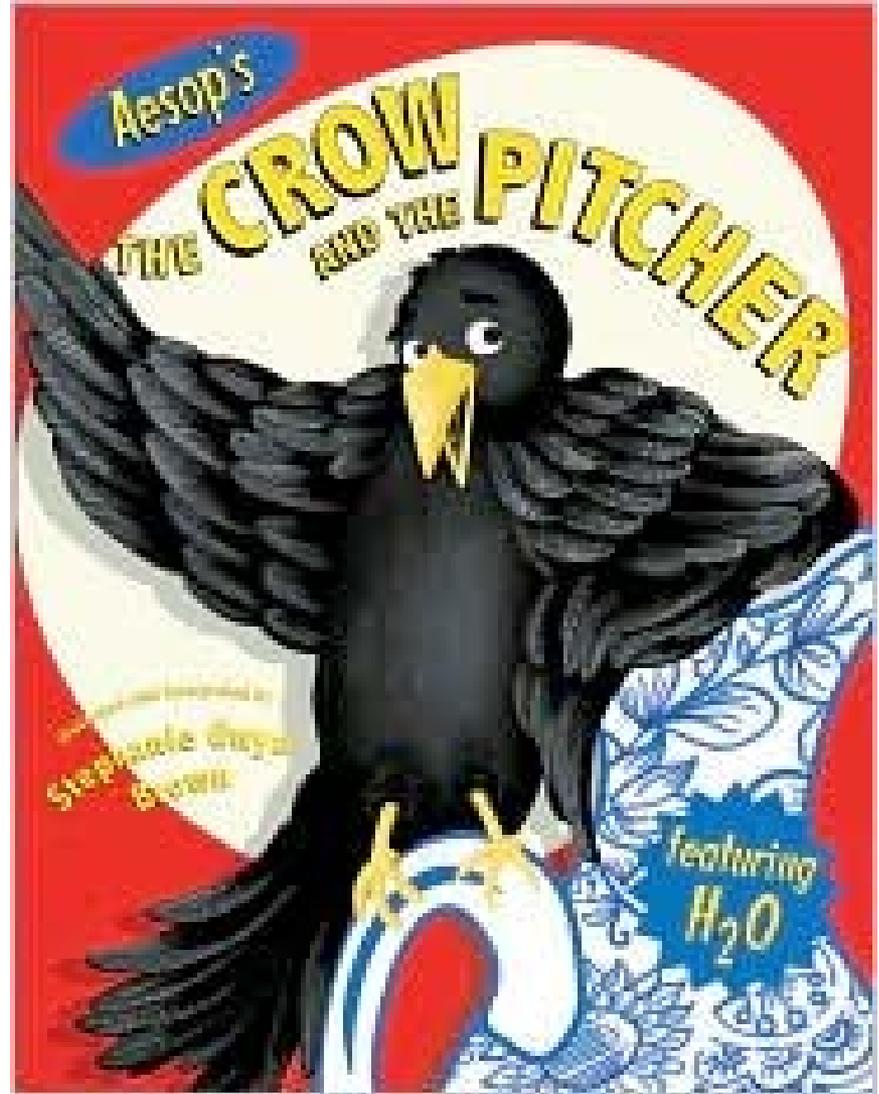
- In this charming poem, the author touches on all the major parts of science.
- Can you take the different ideas she suggests and classify them into groups? Life science, Physical science, etc.
- This is one author's thoughts on science. Ask students to write their own version. What do they think science is?
- Take a page from the poem. Take some time to research that subject in depth. Why do you think the author might included it in the book? Or, students could write their own What is _____? about the topic from the book.
- Translate the format to another subject. What is Language Arts? What is Writing? What is Social Studies? Students could write their own book!



Professor Aesop's The Crow and the Pitcher

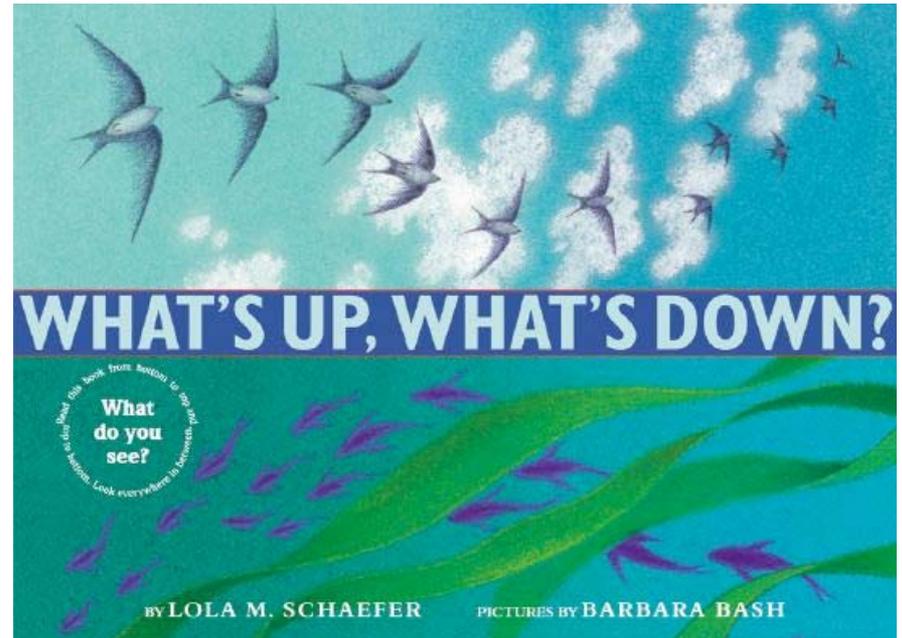
illustrated and interpreted by
Stephanie Gwyn Brown

- This old fable has a new twist as the author uses the crow's attempt to drink the pitcher to introduce the concept of the Scientific Method to the reader.
- This is the perfect book to use when introducing the Scientific Method to students. After reading, reread it and point out all the steps in the process along the way.
- Have students take their own experiment and write a Professor Aesop story. Did they make sure to include all the steps in the process?
- Talk about why it is good to read about other successful and not so successful experiments. Why is that important? What do we learn?



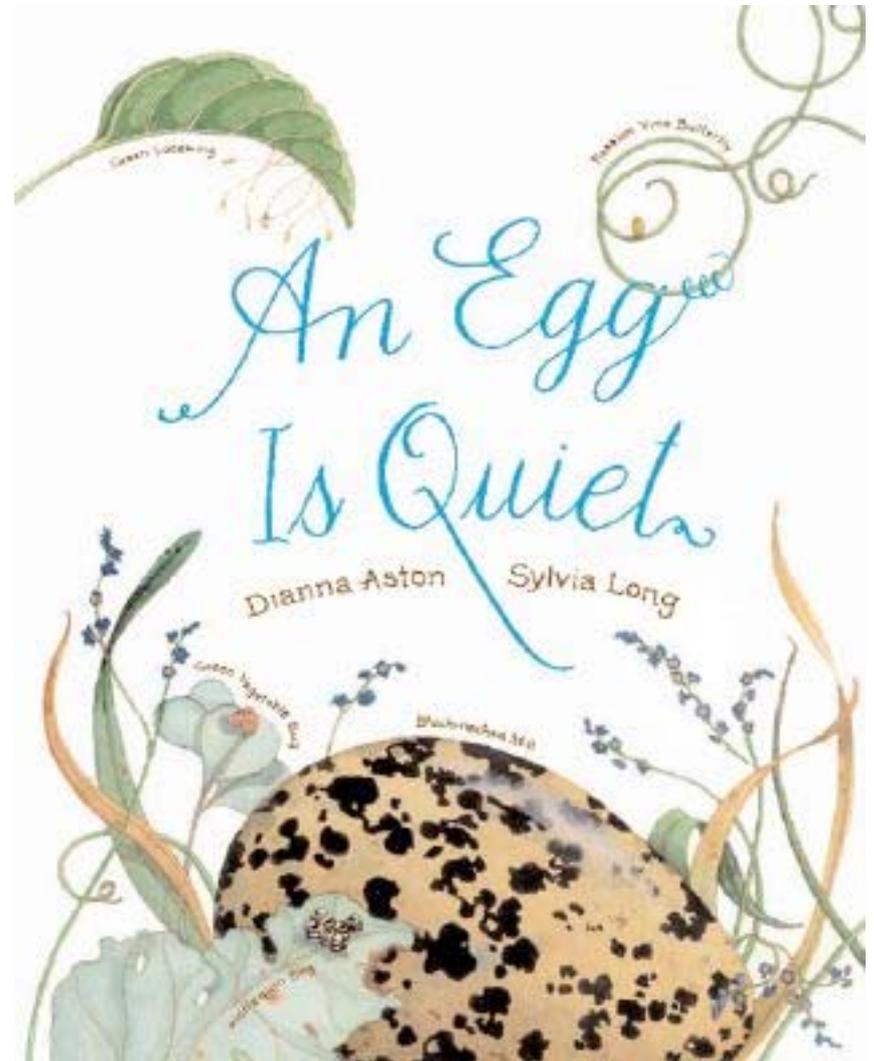
What's Up, What's Down by Lola Schaefer

- In this book, the author starts underground and takes the reader on a journey as the senses see what is above it. Each page finds something above the previous page. This goes until the book reverses and then looks at what's down.
- This is a great book for understanding in how our senses help us to learn and investigate about science. Students can take their own adventure to see what they find when they look up and down.
- Expand on the book. If you were the roots what else might you see when you look up besides what the author has listed? Can you think of other things that a root might also see?
- Talk with students about why it is important that we use our eyes to help us learn. Are there other senses that help us learn, too?



An Egg is Quiet by Dianna Aston

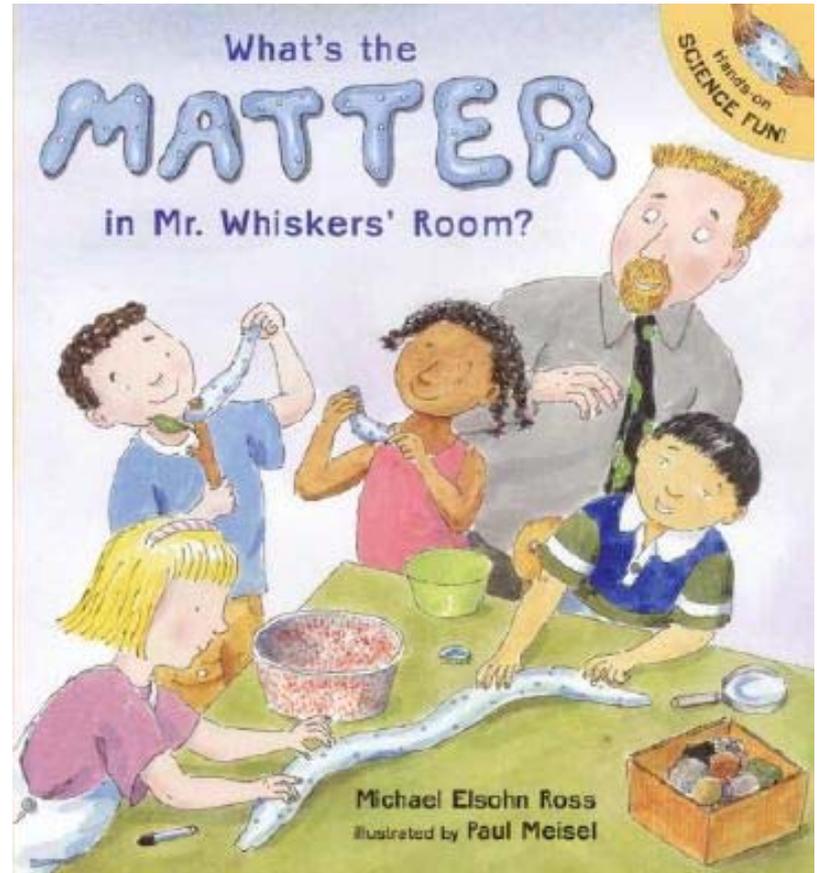
- Most science books are served best when they include actual photos instead of illustrations. This book is an exception to that rule. The illustrations are detailed showing all the various eggs that different animals lay. There is a short flowing text that can be easily read aloud, but the reader can also pause and take time to read all the facts that are scattered all over the page.
- Have each student pick any one of the animals mentioned and research it to see what else you can learn about that animal. Have students share with the class what they find out.
- Compare Long's illustrations to those of actual pictures of the eggs. How does she make the illustrations look so life like?



What's the Matter in Mr. Whisker's Room?

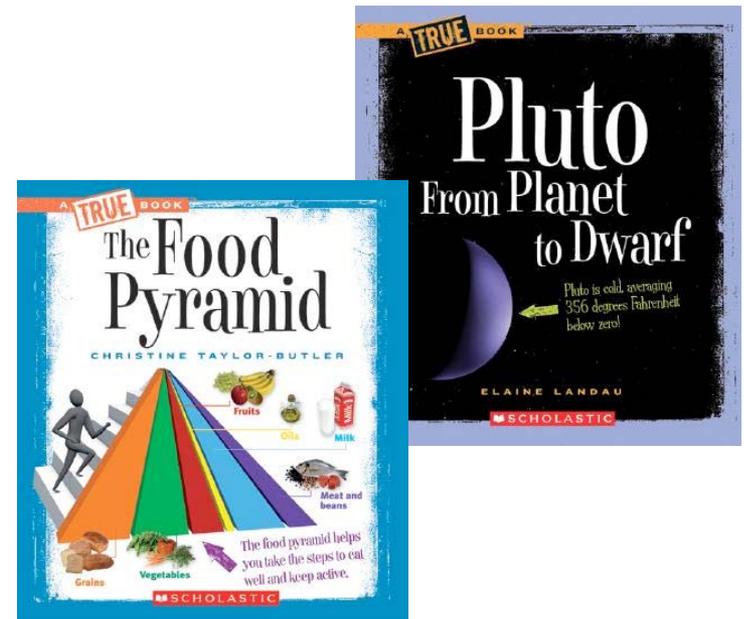
By Michael Elsohn Ross

- In this book Mr. Whisker's has set up learning stations in his room and outside to help students discover the big ideas about matter.
- Read this book to introduce students to the ideas of Matter. Or, better yet set-up your own learning stations and use this book to review what students have learned. Did they come up with some of the same conclusions as Mr. Whisker's students?
- Could you use this same idea for other learning topics? What's the Water Cycle in Mr. Smart's room? What's the Animal Habitat in Mrs. Intelligent's room?
- There are other things to note in this book for educators. Mr. Whiskers set-up stations for students to explore and discover. Discovery learning puts students in charge of their own learning.. He clearly gave procedures before the class got started and many of the students worked in their small groups to make sure procedures were followed.



Titles from Scholastic Library Publishing

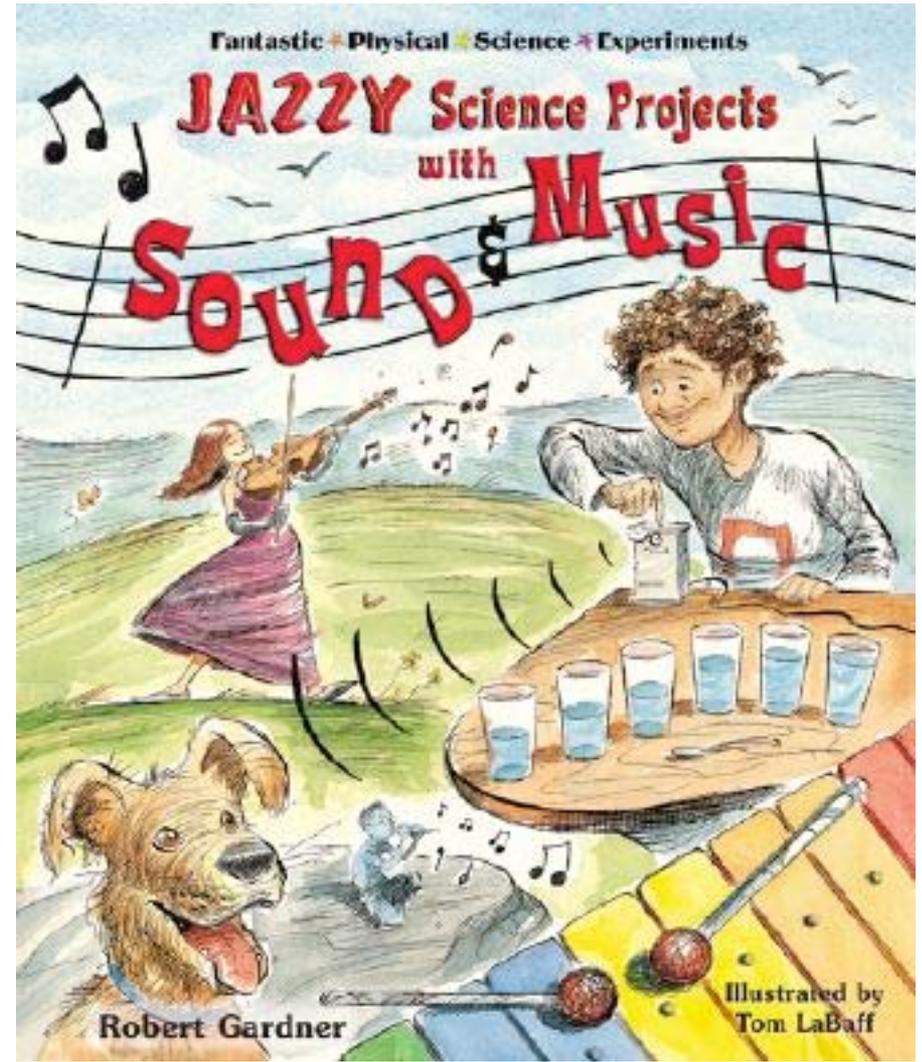
- Scholastic Library Publishing has several books and series that make great read alouds.
- Blastoff Readers include a variety of subjects such as habitats, seasons, science topics, etc. These are great read alouds and well as books students can read on their own.
- True Books have been around for many years, but have just come out with a “fresh” look to them. You’ll find some of the current topics in science such as Pluto no longer being a planet and the brand new food pyramid. Again, these are great to read aloud and then for students to use and read on their own.



Jazzy Science Projects with Sound and Music

by Robert Gardner

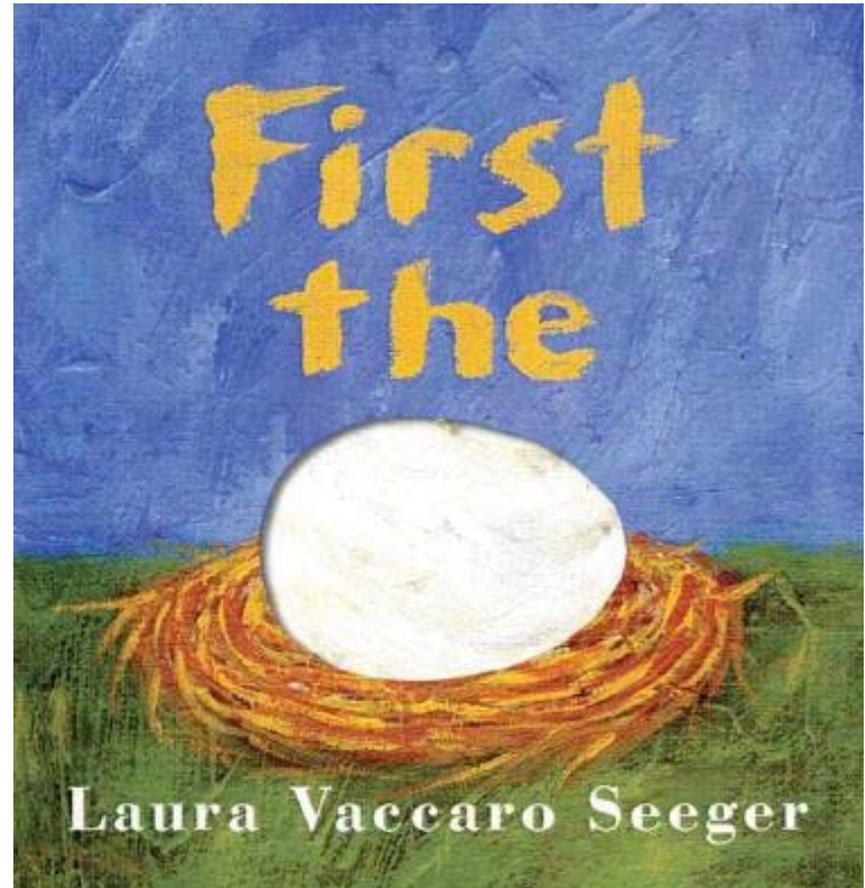
- This book is chocked full of experiments followed by a couple of pages of text to explain the science connections.
- This would be a great book to use in planning collaboratively with your music teacher. How could you connect science and music together?
- How does science connect with other subjects like art or P.E.? How could you make connections between other Related Arts teachers and the science you are teaching in your classroom?
- This is just one of countless books that offers science experiments students could do at home or at school. Consider a science fair for your class where each student or groups of students prepares an experiment to share. These books may provide inspiration, or students can come up with their own ideas.



First the Egg

by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

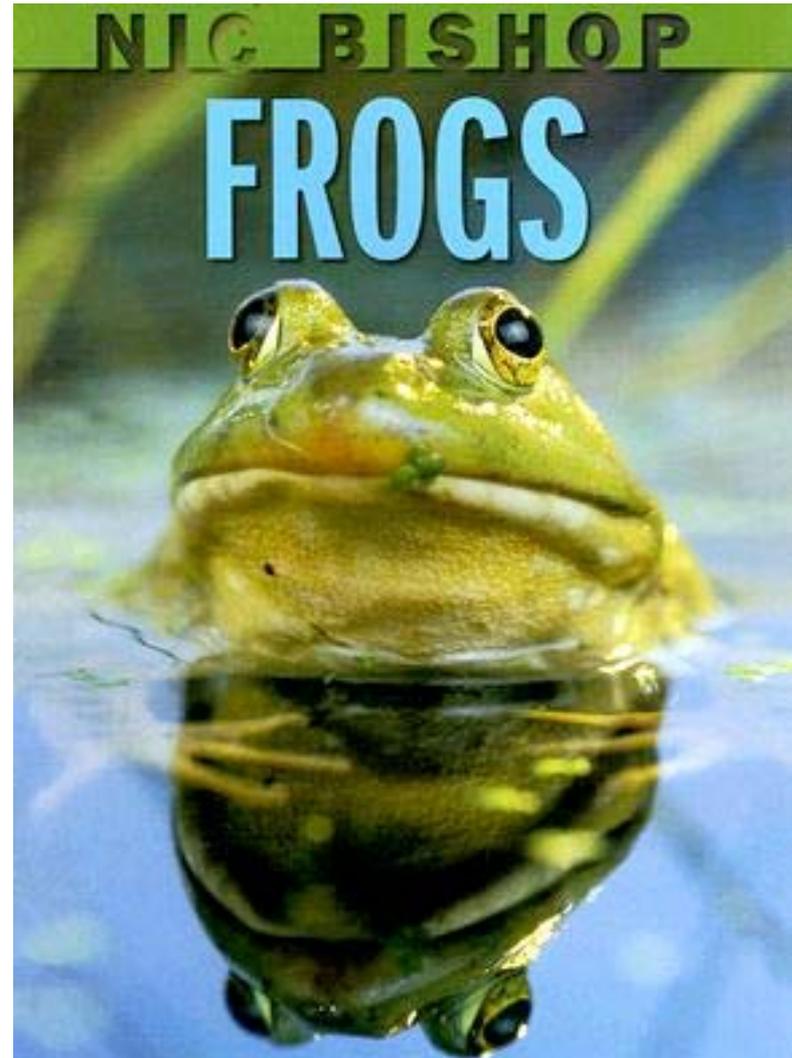
- This book talks about what comes first and then what comes next. So, for example first came the egg and then the chicken. The story provides many examples before coming back to first the egg and then the chicken showing there is a cycle to things.
- This is a great book to talk about sequencing. What came first? Using those transition words of *first* and *then* are also very prevalent in the book.
- What other ideas could students add to the story? First came school and then homework? First came soccer practice and then the game? Brainstorm a list of ideas that students might use in their own story.
- The author/illustrator of this book used cut-out sections to help transition from page to page. How does the cutout help us predict what might on the next page?



Frogs

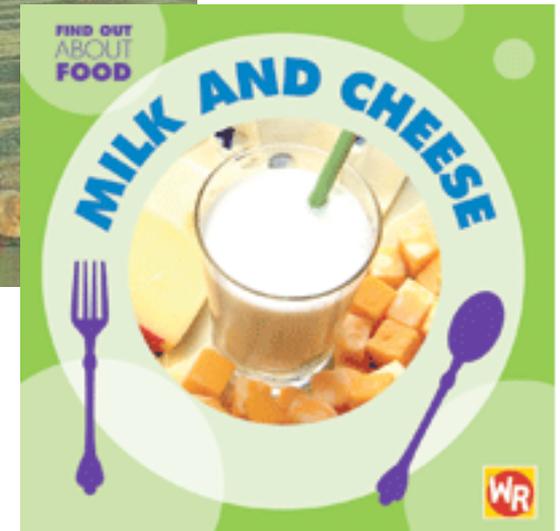
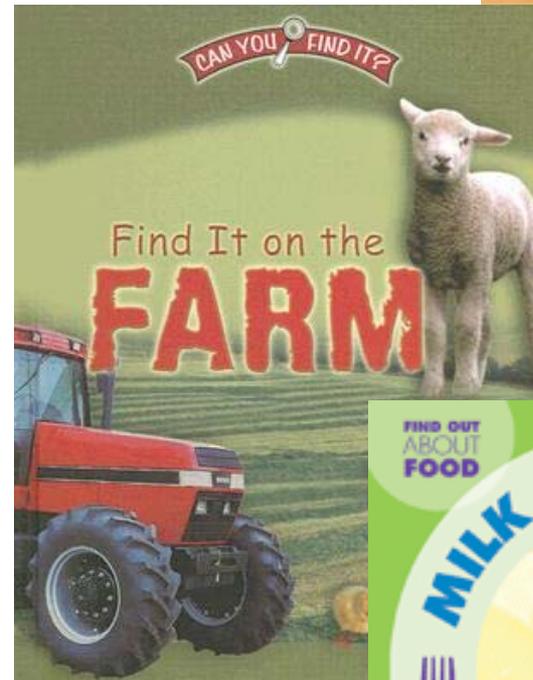
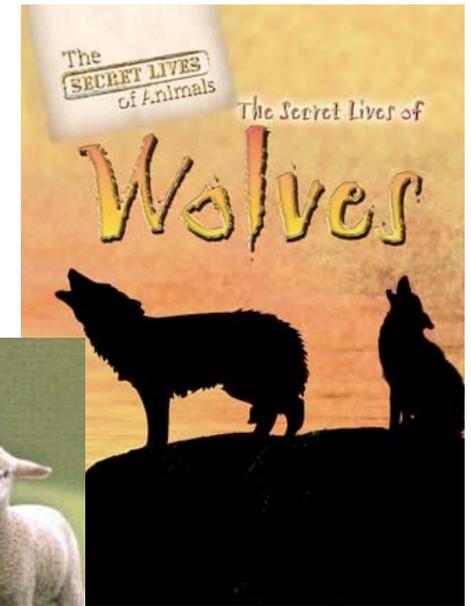
by Nic Bishop

- It was mentioned earlier that the best kind of science books use photographs instead of illustrations. Nic Bishop's books are amazing with the photographs he has taken on his trips. The text also provides the reader with great details next to these full page photos.
- Students returning from a field trip or a trip around the building could use images they took on a digital camera to write their own book. How could they model it after Bishop's book? What does he do to make sure the picture connects to the text? How does he make sure to include a lot of detail and what things can he leave out of text because they show up in the picture?
- Make a KWL chart prior to reading the book. Then revisit the chart after you read it. What can you add to it?



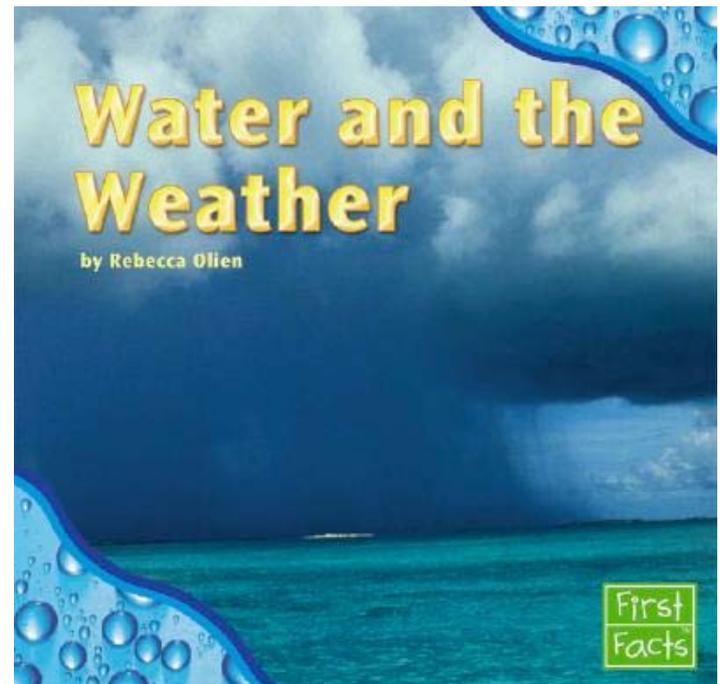
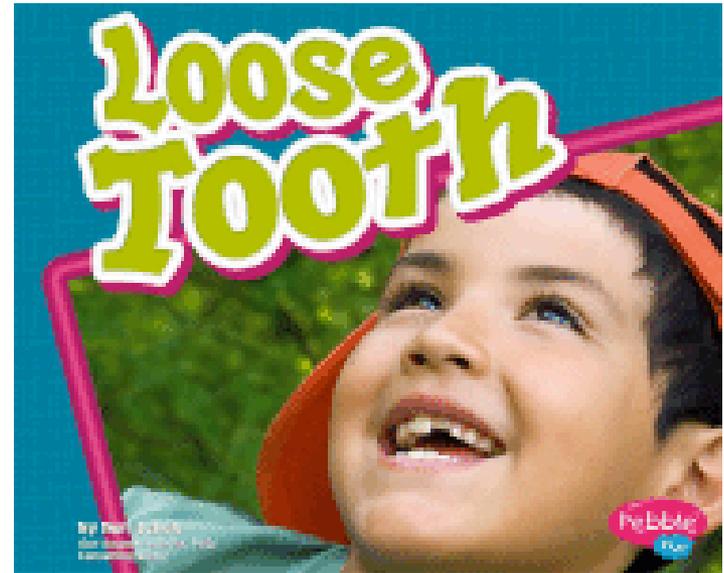
Titles from Gareth Stevens Publishing and Weekly Reader Publishing

- Gareth Steven Publishing and Weekly Reader Publishing are a wonderful resource for non-fiction text. Their titles cover a wide range of grade levels and topics.
- Some examples include the *Secret Lives of ... series*. The books provide a very simple explanation about various animals and their daily lives.
- In the *Can You Find It ... Series*, the readers have to find various things inside various locations such as the farm or biomes such as the desert.
- Some of the beginning reading books by Weekly Reader such as *Milk and Cheese* provide readers with simple and readable information.



Titles from Capstone Publishing

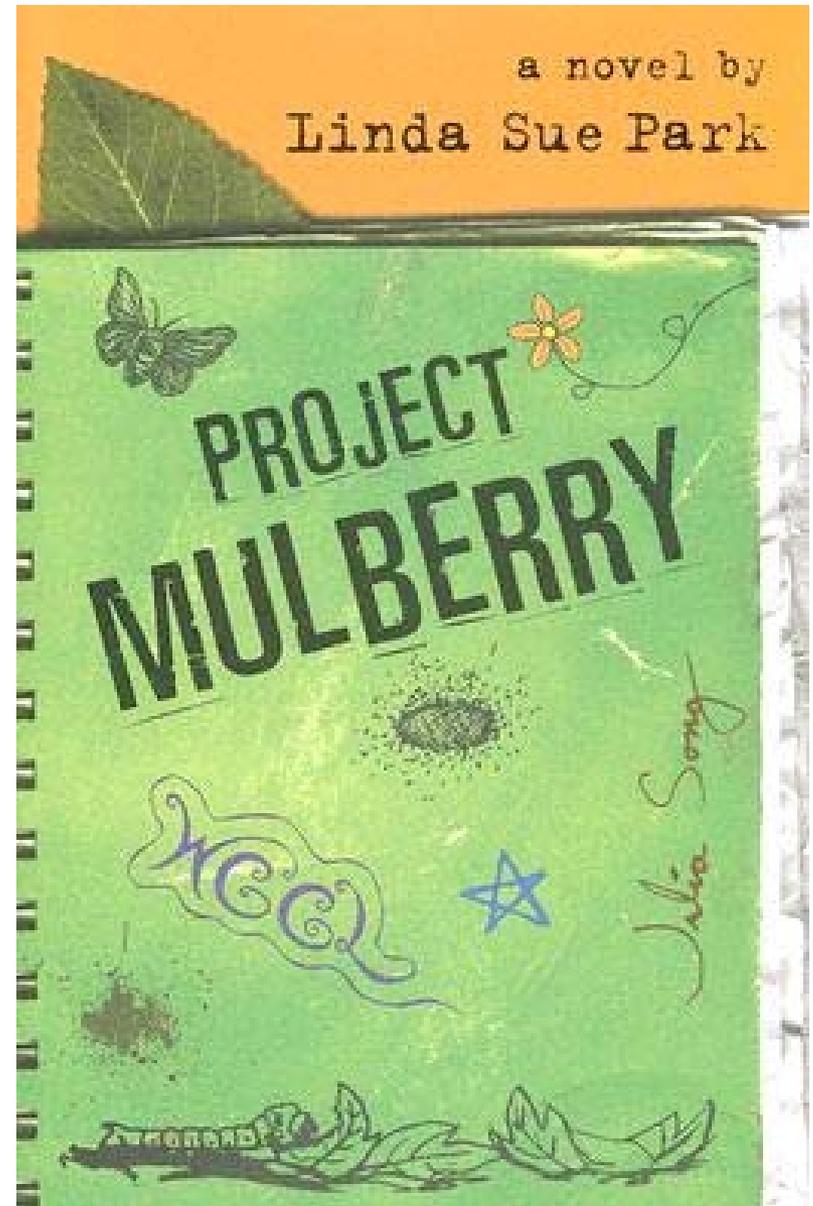
- Capstone publishing has some of the best photographs in their books as well as titles that cover many different reading levels.
- Series like *Healthy Teeth* from their Pebble Plus collection have huge full page photos along with simple, but readable text.
- There *Water All Around* series from their First Facts collection gives readers more text with the same great photos.
- Their titles cover a variety of topics in science and also provide a variety of reading levels.
- Many of the books are great to read aloud as well as have available for students to read on their own.



Project Mulberry

by Linda Sue Park

- This book shares the work of two friends as they create a project for an after school club. Neither of them really wants to do it, but each of them do it for the other person. They learn a lot about silkworms and the process that goes into making silk. The book also covers different cultures as well as periodic breaks where the writing stops and the author and main character have a conversation.
- Ask students to document their own experiments as a story similar to Project Mulberry?
- Can students see the Scientific Method happening in this story? Can they identify the steps?
- How does personal interest drive science research?



Science Verse

by Jon Scieszka

- The team of Scieszka and Smith are at it again. This time they have packed a book full of verse and rhyme that all relate to science.
- Ask students to research the facts that explain some of the quirky rhymes written in the story.
- Ask students to take elements of science and write their own quirky science verses.

