



**Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award
2021-2022 Booktalk Scripts
Grades K-3**



***Freedom Soup* by Tami Charles; illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara (RL: 3.1)**

Do you have a favorite food? What about a special food that you make for a picnic? Many people make a turkey dinner for Thanksgiving. Maybe you have a fancy holiday feast. Or a special dinner to celebrate your birthday. Belle and her Ti Gran make a special soup to celebrate FREEDOM. In *Freedom Soup*, you will learn how Haitian people stood up for their right to be free. And you will experience the fun of cooking, dancing, and singing right along with Belle.

Author website: <https://tamiwrites.com/>

Illustrator website: <http://jacquelinealcantara.com/about>

Lesson ideas: <https://www.texasbookfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Freedom-Soup.-2-3rd-grade-Book-Guide.pdf>

Lesson ideas: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/find-your-book/freedom-soup>

***Dandy* by Ame Dyckman; illustrated by Charles Santoso (RL: 1.0)**

What happens when you find the most perfect, sweetest dandelion in your backyard? You name it, of course! That is exactly what Sweetie, the cutest lion cub ever, decides to do and names this beautiful backyard weed Charlotte. She even proclaims the small dandelion her “best friend.” Meanwhile, her Daddy is not thrilled that there is ONE nuisance of a weed left in his perfectly manicured lawn. This laugh-out-loud story has the most hilarious moments between Daddy and Daughter as they battle over the most perfect dandelion.

Author website: <http://www.amedyckman.com/about-ame.html>

Illustrator website: <https://www.charlessantoso.com/wp/about/>

Storytime kit: https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Dandy_StorytimeKit.pdf

***Fox & Rabbit* by Beth Ferry; illustrated by Gergely Dudás (RL: 1.6)**

If you love Elephant and Piggie chapter books, this is the series for you! Fox is like Piggie: practical and fun. Rabbit is like Gerald: nervous around new things, but oh so loving. Fox and Rabbit visit a new place in each chapter and have a “super-trooper” adventure. At the end of each adventure a turtle always appears and asks, “What did I miss?” He always misses the fun stuff! Do not be that turtle. Read *Fox & Rabbit*!

Author website: <https://www.bethferry.com/>

Illustrator website: <http://dudolf.com/>

***Federico and the Wolf* by Rebecca J. Gomez; illustrated by Elisa Chavarri**

Who says Little Red Riding Hood must be a girl? Who says grandma gets eaten by the wolf? Enter Federico! What will Federico do when he is confronted by a big bad hairy *el lobo*? This book will remind you of the classic fairy-tale, set in Mexico, with a tasty ending.

Author website: <https://www.rebeccajgomez.com/>

Illustrator website: <http://www.elisachavarri.com/>

***Carter Reads the Newspaper* by Deborah Hopkinson; illustrated by Don Tate (RL: 3.6)**

Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson and illustrated by Don Tate (RL: 3.6). In February, we celebrate Black History Month. But without Carter G. Woodson, we might not have Black History Month. Carter was born just ten years after the end of the Civil War to parents who had been enslaved. He could only attend school four months each year and he worked the rest of the year to help his family. Eventually, he went to school and earned a doctoral degree from Harvard University. Carter became interested in sharing with others the important contributions and history of Black Americans. Carter changed history. Do you know the contributions of the 40 Black Americans highlighted in this book?

Author website: <https://deborahhopkinson.com/pages/bio>

Illustrator website: <https://dontate.com/>

Lesson ideas: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/find-your-book/carter-reads>

Teacher's guide: <https://peachtree-online.com/pdfs/TeachersGuides/CarterReadstheNewspaperTG.pdf>

***Lift* by Minh Lê; illustrated by Dan Santat**

Iris loves to push buttons, especially the elevator button, until one day her brother does it. And then the elevator breaks, and the button no longer works....or does it? Iris takes the broken button and discovers a magical new world. While that is fun, she is forced to choose between going alone or bringing someone with her. Follow along as Iris discovers that sometimes sharing the fun is much better than being alone.

Author website: <http://minhlebooks.com/>

Author/Illustrator interview: <https://theroarbots.com/explore-the-power-of-lift-with-minh-le-and-dan-santat/>

Book trailer: <https://vimeo.com/406975975>

***This Way, Charlie* by Caron Levis; illustrated by Charles Santosa**

Don't you love it when animals that are not supposed to be friends get along? That is what happens when Charlie, a horse, makes friends with Jack, a goat. What makes this story even better than just an animal odd couple? Charlie, the horse, is blind. Jack, the goat, helps him see by guiding and protecting him. And, what makes this story even better? It is based on a REAL

true friendship! The love between Charlie and Jack will make your heart sing!

Author website: <https://www.caronlevis.com/>

Author's blog (including lesson ideas) : <https://www.caronlevis.com/blog-1>

Author read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkQwDW0G18c>

Illustrator website: <https://www.charlessantoso.com/wp/>

***Borrowing Bunnies: A Surprising True Tale of Fostering Rabbits* by Cynthia Lord;
photography by John Bald; illustrated by Hazel Mitchell (RL: 2.3)**

Cute, cuddly, adorable bunnies! This book will show you how the author fosters homeless pet rabbits. Enjoy the real photographs of fluffy, furry Benjamin and Peggotty as they play with toys and learn to use a litter box and a 'binky.' These two Netherland Dwarf rabbits have a surprise for you.

Author website: <https://www.cynthialord.com/>

Illustrator website: <http://www.hazelmitchell.com/about>

Lesson idea (page 3):

https://www.wla.org/assets/Book_Award/WCCPBA/WCCPBA%202021%20Activity%20Packet.pdf

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard; illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (RL: 2.6)**

What is fry bread? "Fry bread is food...Fry bread is time...Fry bread is nation...Fry bread is us." Do YOU have a favorite kind of bread? For over 150 years, indigenous people have enjoyed fry bread. Join the celebration as family comes together to create fry bread: the measuring, the mixing, the rising, the shaping, the frying, the sharing! There are over 500 native tribes in the U.S. enjoying recipes passed down through the ages. Try the author's delicious, authentic fry bread recipe as you learn the history of this important family food!

Author website: <https://www.kevinmaillard.com>

Illustrator website: <https://juanamartinezneal.com/about/>

Author read aloud: <https://youtu.be/ZGoPq2CeJdw>

***Bear Came Along* by Richard T. Morris; illustrated by LeUyen Pham (RL: 1.9)**

Do you like to take walks? Did you ever find a river or pond on your walk and think, "This is the perfect place for a swim?" Well, meet the curious bear who leaves his cave (don't skip the end papers), finds a river, and falls in. The accident becomes an adventure when a lonely frog joins the ride on a log. Soon other forest animals join bear and frog as the river flows along. The friends encounter some surprises and maybe more adventure than they planned on. Watch what happens to the colors in the book as the friends journey along the river and discover that adventures are ALWAYS more fun when shared with a friend.

Author brief bio: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/contributor/richard-t-morris>

Illustrator website: <https://leuyenpham.com/>

Author read aloud: <https://youtu.be/iW9OYd5bcTI>

***The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S. K. Ali; illustrated by Hatem Aly (RL: 1.6)**

Do you remember how special your first day of a brand-new school year feels? For Faizah, it is a special day to show off her new backpack and light-up shoes. For her older sister Asiyah, it is the first day to show off a new blue hijab. A hijab is a veil worn by women in the Muslim culture, usually covering the head and the chest. “It’s the most beautiful first day of school ever...I’m walking with a princess.” At school, not everyone views the hijab as beautiful, and Faziah faces hurtful and confusing words about her sister. Will Faziah stay strong and find a way to teach others about a tradition that is so important to her family?

Author website: <https://www.ibtihajmuhammad.com/bio>

Illustrator website: <https://www.metahatem.com/about.html>

Lesson ideas: <https://alyssateaches.com/teaching-conflict-resolution-with-proudest-blue/>

Teaching guide: <https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CLPE-Teaching-Notes-for-The-Proudest-Blue.pdf>

***The Boy Who Invented the Popsicle: The Cool Science Behind Frank Epperson's Famous Frozen Treat* by Anne Renaud; illustrated by Milan Pavlović (RL: 4.4)**

“Ep-sicle! Ep-sicle! Who wants an Ep-sicle?” Wait! What IS an Ep-sicle? Well, on a hot sunny day, it is a favorite treat to eat...can you guess what it is? As a child, Frank Epperson wanted to be an inventor. He spent a lot of time on his back porch (also known as his laboratory), building and experimenting. And his favorite thing to experiment with was liquid. After inventing his own fizzy drink, he wondered what it would taste like FROZEN. He called it an Ep-sicle (using the beginning sounds of his last name). Eventually, as this invention became popular, the name changed to what we now call a POPSICLE! Do not miss the included experiments.

Author website: http://annerenaud.net/?page_id=296

Author biography: <https://www.kidscanpress.com/creators/anne-renaud/893>

Illustrator biography: <https://www.kidscanpress.com/creators/milan-pavlovi%C4%87/1097>

Lesson ideas:

https://wala.memberclicks.net/assets/Book_Award/WCCPBA/Boy%20Who%20Invented%20the%20Popsicle.pdf

Lesson ideas: <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/kid-who-invented-popsicle-and-other-surprising-stories-about-inventions>

***I'm the Big One Now! Poems about Growing Up* by Marilyn Singer; illustrated by Jana Christy (RL: 1.0)**

Growing up is sometimes tough but also fun. Think of all the things you did when you were little; not the usual stuff like learning to walk and talk but learning to snap your fingers or how to

whistle. Remember getting stung by a bee for the first time? Ouch! All these important moments while growing up are captured in this poetry collection. Read *I'm the Big One Now* and remember all the milestones you have already accomplished like taking the bus to school and look forward with excitement to all the “firsts” yet to come.

Author's website: <https://marilysinger.net/>

Illustrator's website: <https://janachristy.wixsite.com/illustrations/books>

Poetry month with author: <https://www.mackincommunity.com/2017/03/29/celebrating-national-poetry-month-with-marilyn-singer/>

***Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor; illustrated by Rafael López**
(RL 2.9)

Say hello to Sonia, planting a garden with her friends. Notice all the different types of plants and trees in the garden? Just like all the types of plants and trees, there are lots of different types of children. Sonia has diabetes and takes a shot of medicine called insulin to stay healthy. Sonia wonders if you ever need medicine to be healthy too? In this story you meet all of Sonia's friends, who make use of tools to help them breathe or wheelchairs to get around. Just like the plants in a garden, each of us is different too. It makes gardens and our whole world more interesting and fun. Each of us has unique powers. What will you do with your powers?

Author biography: <https://www.biography.com/law-figure/sonia-sotomayor>

Illustrator website: <https://rafaellopez.com/>

Literature guide (including Sesame Street clip): <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/just-ask-be-different-be-brave-be-you-literature-guide>

Printables: <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/just-ask-be-different-be-brave-be-you>

Author reads an excerpt: <https://youtu.be/OHJu7jx45tQ>

***Sweety* by Andrea Zuill** (RL: 3.0)

Everyone is different. You know that, right? Thank goodness, too, because the world would be boring if we were all the same. However, have you ever noticed someone who is REALLY different? That's Sweety, a naked mole rat with thick glasses and braces. She enjoys hunting for mushrooms and performing interpretive dances. Sweety is anything but boring. Sometimes she is really funny! Mostly, she is happy being herself, but finding a friend to share her interests would be great too!

Authors website: <https://www.andreazuill.org/>

Author inspiration and read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnk3yCDgUs8>