



**Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award  
2023-2024 Book Talk Scripts  
Grades K-3**



***Sun in My Tummy* by Laura Alary; illustrated by Andrea Blinick (RL: 2.9)**

Who ate sunshine for breakfast today? Nobody? No, no, no, I'm pretty sure we **all** had sunshine for breakfast. Who had cereal for breakfast? Guess what? Cereal comes from grains which grow from the help of the sun's energy. Who had fruit? Fruit grows on plants which also grow thanks to sunshine. Today, we are all together with satisfied tummies because of the sun. Read *Sun in My Tummy* to learn more about how the sun energizes our bodies.

Author website: <https://lauraalary.ca/>

Illustrator website: <https://andreablinick.weebly.com/>

Teaching guide: <https://pajamapress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SunInMyTummyTeachingGuide-1.pdf>

***Sydney and Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World* by Jacqueline Davis; illustrated by Deborah Hocking (RL: 2.3)**

What if you never traveled outside of your own yard? Your own neighborhood? Your own town? Meet Sydney the Skunk and Taylor the Hedgehog who are perfectly content living quietly in a burrow beneath Miss Nancy's potting shed. One morning Taylor has a big idea to explore more of the Whole Wide World. Wanting Taylor to be happy, Sydney begins to plan an expedition. What to take? Water? Food? Weapons to protect against predators? Follow the two friends as they go to places unknown, become wild animals and battle ferocious predators and find their way home with the help of Miss Nancy. [Don't forget to check out the end papers for a map of the Whole Wide World and the back of the title page for a view of their burrow.]

Author website: <https://www.jacquelinedavies.net/>

Illustrator website: <https://www.deborahhockingstudio.com/about>

Activity kit: [https://mcusercontent.com/c2ef88666198289a4b59eb89c/files/dae6b2d7-a1f5-4a49-82b8-2ef7eda42530/Davies\\_Sydney\\_and\\_Taylor.Activity\\_Kit.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/c2ef88666198289a4b59eb89c/files/dae6b2d7-a1f5-4a49-82b8-2ef7eda42530/Davies_Sydney_and_Taylor.Activity_Kit.pdf)

***The Yawns Are Coming!* by Christopher Eliopoulos (RL: 2.0)**

"We are NEVER going to sleep." "We'll stay up ALL night!" Nothing can stop two friends from going to sleep...except for THE YAWNS! As the friends try to escape the Yawns, here comes a DOZE, then SNORES and the SLEEPIES! Find out if these friends escape the YAWNS and stay up all night.

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

Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/Ru6rhSSsce0>

Storytime activity: [https://storage.googleapis.com/classroom-portal-production/uploads/2020/03/87e6250d-read-aloud\\_guide\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/classroom-portal-production/uploads/2020/03/87e6250d-read-aloud_guide_2020_final.pdf)

Learn to Draw- A YAWN: <https://www.thechildrensbookreview.com/2020/04/learn-to-draw-with-christopher-eliopoulos-illustrator-of-the-yawns-are-coming>

### ***It Fell from the Sky* by Terry Fan and Eric Fan (RL: 3.8)**

When a wonderful thing falls from the sky, all of the insects in the garden marvel at its beauty, and wonder what it is and where it came from. But whatever it is, it fell near Spider's house, so he's convinced it belongs to him. Clever and crafty Spider comes up with a plan to make money from the discovery. But what will Spider do after everyone stops showing up?

Authors website: <http://www.thefanbrothers.com/>

Authors read the book aloud: <https://youtu.be/r07ho6YDwgo>

Activity book:

[https://d28hgpr8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged\\_assets/8119544/9781534457621\\_as\\_it%20fell%20from%20the%20sky%20activity%20booklet.pdf](https://d28hgpr8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/8119544/9781534457621_as_it%20fell%20from%20the%20sky%20activity%20booklet.pdf)

Q and A with Terry and Eric Fan: <https://diversebooks.org/qa-with-terry-and-eric-fan-it-fell-from-the-sky/>

### ***Berry Song* by Michaela Goade**

Travel through the Alaskan seasons with a young Tlingit girl and her grandmother as they collect wild berries on their island. As they gather, they say "Gunalchéesh!" (thank you) and sing to the berries so the land knows they are grateful (and so the bears know they are near) and the land sings back to them. Back at home, the family makes syrup, marmalades, jams and jellies, pie, and scones to share. How many different berries does the pair find? Can you taste the sweet and colorful jewels? Be sure to notice all of the animals they meet along their journeys. The author reminds us to be careful when picking wild foods and to only take what we need in order to share with others and with animals.

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

Book Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bpQ\\_h02scw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bpQ_h02scw)

### ***Meet the Super Duper Seven* by Tim Hamilton (RL: 1.0)**

Meet the Super Duper Seven. Electro-Elephant can charge your phone. Hypno-Hippo can put bad guys to sleep. Hungry Kitty has four brave birds. Oops - where are the birds? Now the Super Dupers need four more team members. Can the Super Dupers solve crimes when Hungry Kitty keeps eating new team members? Maybe Mr. Polka Dot Mouse can help. (Watch out for the cat, Mr. Mouse!)

Author website: <https://hamilton-tim.pairsite.com/CUTBLEED/about/>

Author interview: <https://elephant-books.com/tim-hamilton/>

Book trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvI\\_UfhooOc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvI_UfhooOc)

***A Peek at Beaks: Tools Birds Use* by Sara Levine; illustrated by Kate Slater (RL: 3.9)**

Have you ever seen a bird using a jackhammer? What about scooping up a meal with a net? Or a bird that can cut food with a knife? Of course, birds can't really use tools, at least not the way humans do. But birds have surprisingly helpful tools with them at all times—their beaks! Play along in a creative way to look at birds and how they differ.

Author website: <http://www.saralevinebooks.com/>

Illustrator website: <https://www.kateslaterillustration.com/>

Lesson plan: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2079/2015/12/LessonPlan-Bird-beaks.pdf>

***Good Eating: The Short Life of Krill* by Matt Lilley; illustrated by Dan Tavis (RL: 2.3)**

Krill are among the tiniest creatures in the ocean, but they make up a large part of the ocean's food chain. Follow along on their short journey from egg, to spiny creature, to growing arms and legs! Watch them try to escape penguins and a BLUE WHALE!

Author website: <https://www.mattlilley.ink/> (includes Teacher guide, cover coloring page, paper krill activity)

Illustrator website: <https://www.dantavis.com/about>

Author reads an excerpt: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wr\\_pJbpFpk0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wr_pJbpFpk0)

Paper krill instructions:

[https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/u/20211231/Paper\\_krill\\_instructions-mattlilley.pdf](https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/u/20211231/Paper_krill_instructions-mattlilley.pdf)

***Friends Are Friends, Forever* by Diane Liu; illustrated by Lynn Scurfield**

Dandan and Yueyue are best friends, and they are excited to be celebrating the Lunar New Year together with fun traditions of food, family, fireworks, and paper folding. But this excitement is also sad, because this will be their last Lunar New Year together in China. Dandan is moving to America. Can they stay friends living on opposite parts of the world? Can Dandan keep her joyous Chinese traditions in America? Find out in *Friends Are Friends, Forever*.

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

Illustrator website: <https://www.lynnscurfield.com/>

Author book read and activity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2HCSHL519o>

***Bug Scouts: Out in the Wild!* by Mike Lowery (RL: 3.6)**

Do you love to play outside? Do you enjoy hanging out with your best friends? Do you love ADVENTURE? Well then, you will love the graphic novel *Bug Scouts: Out in the Wild!* Come have fun with Doug the bug, Abby the worm, Josh the spider, and Luna the lightning bug as they hang out in their clubhouse, earn merit badges, and forage for food in the forest. You'll want to hunt for more of this series!

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

Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/r-GsfVqbUJU>

***Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl* by Megan Reid; illustrated by Laura Freeman (RL: 3.6)**

What if you were the quickest, tallest, and most fearless athlete? What if you had a talent and energy that couldn't be beat by other athletes? What if it seemed as if no one could beat you at any sport you tried? Imagine if all these things were true and you were a GIRL with powerful skills and athletic ability. This is the true story of Althea Gibson, the first black Wimbledon, French, and U.S. Open tennis champion. In *Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis Fleet-of-Foot Girl*, you will learn about segregation and how African Americans were not allowed to compete in professional sports. You will also learn that Althea Gibson broke barriers in the tennis world and became a champion on and off the court with her grit, determination, and bravery.

Author website: <https://meganreid.co/books-for-kids>

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

Author reads book aloud: <https://youtu.be/s6x7EAK8M-A>

Althea Gibson biography: <https://www.tennisfame.com/hall-of-famers/inductees/althea-gibson>

***My Kingdom of Darkness (Pets Rule #1)* by Susan Tan; illustrated by Wendy Tan Shiau Wei (RL: 1.4)**

Ember, the Chihuahua rescued by the Chin family, wants to rule the world. He works to dominate the other pets in his family: Steve, the smelly hamster, a canary named Leo, BeBe the beetle. Unfortunately, the neighborhood is already ruled by a mean squirrel named Masher. Can Ember defeat Masher and build his kingdom? Can Ember master the scary trash cans? Will he teach his minions, the Chin family, how to understand his language and obey his commands?

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

Illustrator website: <https://www.artstation.com/wendytansw>

Book trailer: [https://youtu.be/RZxZc\\_fTYxQ](https://youtu.be/RZxZc_fTYxQ)

***The Chicken Who Couldn't* by Jan Thomas (RL: 1.4)**

Everyone repeat after me: I am strong, I am powerful, I am nice-looking. Nice job! These qualities are true about all of us. However, have you ever doubted you were strong? Powerful? Nice-looking? It's funny how we can lose sight of these things. Chicken feels this way in Jan Thomas's story *The Chicken Who Couldn't*. It's a riot!

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

Activity guide:

[https://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged\\_assets/6299743/9781416996996\\_as\\_%5Bthe%20chicken%20who%20couldn%27t%20activities%5D.pdf](https://d28hgpr18am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/6299743/9781416996996_as_%5Bthe%20chicken%20who%20couldn%27t%20activities%5D.pdf)

***Write! Write! Write!* by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater; illustrated by Ryan O'Rourke (RL 2.7)**

Do you need some help with becoming a writer? Are you unsure where to begin? No worries, because *Write! Write! Write!* will guide you through the writing process in a fun and engaging way. Through a collection of poems, the reader will imagine the impossible and be inspired to pick up a pen or pencil. Is it possible that the reader of this poetry collection will soon become a writer? Check it out and see for yourself in this creative illustrated picture book.

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

Illustrator process: <https://www.amyludwigvanderwater.com/illustrators-process>

Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/v4VWL6nK9VE>

Activity page: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/19eRrrcfCi6aaFTToRIRiYaWeEX2l9WYt8/view>

***Someone Builds the Dream* by Lisa Wheeler; illustrated by Loren Long (RL: 2.9)**

Our country is made up of people with all sorts of different talents. Some folks have enormous and wonderful ideas and some other folks have the skills to build the ideas. Read *Someone Builds the Dream* and learn how it takes, many, many, MANY hands to create something new. Bridges, buildings, art, and roller coasters all need lots of folks to work together. Could YOU be one of them one day?

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

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

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