

# Recommended Children's Books

(alphabetical by engagement and author)

## Book Clubs

***Fly Away Home, Eve Bunting*** A homeless boy and his father live in an airport, moving from terminal to terminal trying to go unnoticed by airport security. The little boy's hope of having a home outside the airport is renewed when he sees a little brown bird get trapped in the airport but then make it out of the airport to freedom. The little boy knows it may take some time, but he and his dad will make it out of the airport, too.

***Sister Anne's Hands, Marybeth Lorbiecki*** During the early 1960s, an African American nun, Sister Anne, integrates a small-town parochial school as a second-grade teacher. At first, students are apprehensive of Sister Anne because of her skin color, but they learn she is a phenomenal teacher who makes learning fun. One day, someone sends a cruel racial message, and Sister Anne turns it into a formidable learning experience that has a meaningful impact on her students.

***An Angel for Solomon Singer, Cynthia Rylant*** Solomon, an Indiana native currently living in a men's shelter in New York City, is lonely and longs for nature or a countryside view and friendly people to talk to like he experienced in Indiana. Solomon also yearns for the freedom of decision-making that he lacks at the shelter. He takes daily walks in search for the things he is missing and befriends a café worker named Angel, which fulfills some of what he's been missing.

***Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote, Duncan Tonatiuh*** A rabbit named Pancho illegally crosses the U.S. border from Mexico in search of his father, and encounters a few obstacles along the way: He sneaks a ride on top of a train, swims across a rampant river, and crawls through a tunnel under the border. He meets Señor Coyote, who agrees to help Pancho in exchange for some of his food. But when the food runs out, he wants to eat Pancho. The author sheds light on some of the struggles thousands of families face when they cross the U.S. border illegally to seek a better quality of life.

***A Chair for My Mother, Vera B. Williams*** Rosa and her family struggle after their home burns down. Although neighbors and friends brought replacement furniture, the family still longs for a big comfortable chair. They save her mom's tips from waitressing in a jar until it's full and exchange the coins for bills. Then she, her mom, and her grandmother go shopping for a chair.

***Each Kindness, Jacqueline Woodson*** Maya, the new girl in class, is treated harshly because she wears old dresses and plays with old-fashioned toys. Every time Maya offers a friendly gesture or tries to join Chloe and her gang, they reject her and give her the nickname Never New. Eventually, Maya stops coming to school. Chloe is changed when her teacher gives a lesson about how small acts of kindness can change the world.

***Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson*** This book of poetry examines the experience of growing up as an African American child during the 1960s and '70s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and the growing awareness of the civil rights movement. Each poem offers a glimpse into the child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. The author shows how individuals' private obligations and constraints sometimes force them to submit to the racist status quo, arguably contradicting the activism they support.

## Chart a Conversation

**Voices in the Park, Anthony Browne** Different characters tell the same story from their own perspective. The story addresses issues such as prejudice, friendship, and class.

**Willy and Hugh, Anthony Browne** Willy is used to being bullied, but his new friend Hugh is big and tough. Together, they form the perfect team and, in the process, overcome their individual fears. The book addresses issues such as bullying, phobias, friendship, and more.

**Going Home, Eve Bunting** Carlo isn't sure what to think when his mother says the family is going home to Mexico for Christmas. If Mexico is home, why did his parents ever leave? His father's answer is always the same: "We are here for the opportunities." This story raises crucial questions about economic disparity, the difficult conditions of farm workers, differences in language and culture that can exist within families, and the painful choices and sacrifices faced by families living in poverty.

## Cultural X-Rays

**I Love Saturdays y domingos, Alma Flor Ada** A biracial child spends Saturdays immersed in the differing cultures of her two sets of loving grandparents.

**Thunder Boy Jr., Sherman Alexie** Supported by his father, a young boy longs for his own name as part of his search for identity within Native traditions of naming.

**Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress, Christine Baldacchino** A young boy loves to wear a tangerine dress from the dress-up center and is taunted by peers as he explores gender identity.

**Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina, Monica Brown** A biracial child with dark skin and red hair loves mismatched things but finds herself judged by others.

**Voices in the Park, Anthony Browne** Four characters each tell the same story about their encounter in the park, highlighting differing perspectives based on social class and age.

**Going Home, Eve Bunting** When a family returns to Mexico for a visit, the children experience their parents' love of the place they left behind.

**A Day's Work, Eve Bunting** A boy tells a lie to help his Mexican grandfather get temporary work, leading to a situation that reveals the deeply held values of his *abuelo*.

**Oliver Button Is a Sissy, Tomie dePaola** A boy must come to terms with the gender expectations of others and his sense of identity.

**The Upside Down Boy/El niño de cabeza, Juan Felipe Herrera** A migrant child struggles with an unfamiliar language and expectations in school, and searches to make a place for himself in a new world.

**Two Mrs. Gibsons, Toyomi Igus** A child celebrates growing up biracial in a family with an African American grandmother and Japanese mother.

**Big Red Lollipop, Rukhsana Khan** A clash between a Pakistani family's cultural customs and school culture around birthday celebrations creates a difficult situation for a child.

**Less Than Half, More Than Whole, Kathleen Lacapa and Michael Lacapa** A biracial child is uncertain of his identity after being taunted by a classmate until his Hopi grandfather helps him gain a new perspective on his heritage.

***I Hate English!, Ellen Levine*** A Chinese child resists learning English, afraid she will lose her own language and culture in the process.

***You Be Me, I'll Be You, Pili Mandelbaum*** A biracial child with a white father and black mother questions her identity because her skin color differs from both of her parents.

***My Name Is Yoon, Helen Recorvits*** A child who is a recent immigrant from Korea searches for her place in a new land and must decide whether to Americanize her name.

***América Is Her Name, Luis J. Rodríguez*** A young immigrant resists the difficulty of life in an urban *barrio* until a poet helps her express her identity creatively in both of her languages.

***The Silence in the Mountains, Liz Rosenberg*** A child from Lebanon is homesick for a life and place he left behind until his grandfather connects the two places through listening for the silence.

***Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say*** A Japanese man's love for two countries and his desire to be in both places frames his transnational identity.

***Cooper's Lesson, Sun Yung Shin*** A Korean American child who does not speak the language of his parents explores the connection between identity and language.

***Suki's Kimono, Chieri Uegaki*** A Japanese American girl decides to wear a kimono, a gift from her grandmother, to the first day of school despite her older sister's warnings.

***My Name Is Sangoel, Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed*** A refugee child from Sudan is proud of his name, passed down across generations, even when classmates find it difficult to pronounce.

## Disconnections

***So Far From the Sea, Eve Bunting*** A family visits Manzanar, the former Japanese internment camp, in order to pay respects to a grandfather who died at the camp. The father's memories of the camp are illustrated as though they are black and white photographs. The text is spare in this book and invites thoughtful conversations about this period of time in U.S. history.

***Last Stop on Market Street, Matt de la Peña*** Riding the bus with his grandmother, CJ asks why they have to ride the bus, and his grandmother turns every lack that CJ perceives in his life into a positive. For example, CJ asks, "How come we gotta wait for the bus in all this wet?" And CJ's grandmother replies, "Trees get thirsty, too." The book invites important conversations about equity, fairness, and relationships.

***Wings, Christopher Myers*** Ikarus Jackson is a new boy at school who has the ability to fly. Children taunt him, and he is even dismissed from school. A young girl who is also often excluded comes to his defense and challenges people for not accepting Ikarus because he is different.

***The Composition, Antonio Skármeta*** In a country governed by a dictator, Pedro sees a friend's father taken away by the police. The next day at school, a soldier visits and tells the children that they must write a composition about what their families do at night. The reader wonders whether Pedro will betray his family or not.

***Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-ins, Carole Boston Weatherford*** All Connie wants to do is have a banana split at the Woolworth's counter, but there are signs all over town telling her and her mother where they can and cannot sit. In the story, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. comes to town, and while Connie is not allowed to participate in the lunch counter sit-ins, she helps her older siblings make signs. The book conveys a strong sense of hope that change is coming.

## Interactive Read-Alouds

**Pete & Pickles, Berkeley Breathed** Pete is a predictable and orderly pig, at least until Pickles, an elephant from the zoo, enters his life. Pete thinks he is happy with his ordinary and calm existence until Pickles shows him how to dream and imagine. Through this story, Pete changes as a result of Pickles' kindness and love for adventure. Pete is somewhere between frustrated and delighted with his new house guest. But when Pickles makes the mistake of opening Pete's deceased wife's chest of clothes, Pete tries to throw Pickles out, an accident occurs, and the home is flooded. The true meaning of sacrifice and friendship comes through in a heartwarming story.

**Fred Stays With Me!, Nancy Coffelt** This is a story told from the perspective of a young girl whose parents are divorced. She lives with her mom some of the time and her dad some of the time. She has a bedroom at her mom's house and another at her dad's house. She eats pizza with her mom and peanut butter sandwiches with her dad. She goes to the park with her mom and to the lake with her dad. Even though things are very different in her two homes, one thing stays the same. Fred, the girl's loyal dog, stays with her.

**The Day of Ahmed's Secret, Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide** Ahmed is a young Egyptian boy who lives with his family in the city of Cairo. He has a secret that he longs to tell his family, but first he must work. Ahmed delivers fuel to people in the city. He tells the story of how he works from sunup until sundown with pride, sharing how the sound of his cart "helps to make the whole sound of the city." He is equally proud to share his secret with his family at the end of the day.

**Painting for Peace in Ferguson, Carol Swartout Klein** This is the true story of how hundreds of artists and community members came together after the violent protests following the shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri, and used art to send messages of peace in the city. Written in kid-friendly verse, the text is illustrated with photographs of the artists and the artwork created on boarded-up windows in the city of Ferguson. All profits from the book go directly to the Ferguson community.

**Little Tree, Loren Long** Long tells a powerful story of a young tree who holds tight to his leaves. The other trees are dropping their leaves in the fall, but Little Tree does not want to drop his. He hugs tightly to the leaves, and thus when the other trees have new leaves and continue to grow and change, he does not. He is encouraged to drop his leaves by his forest friends, but he is reluctant. He finally makes the decision to drop his brown, withered leaves. Little Tree realizes that he needs to grow and embrace this change. It is a lovely story that shows children that change can be scary but is necessary.

**Snowflake Bentley, Jacqueline Briggs Martin** A boy from Vermont is intrigued with the snow although it is common and most people do not see its beauty. Wilson Bentley, the boy, grows from a small boy to a young man who tries to capture the miracle of ice crystals with his camera. This text is unique in that it is told as a narrative; however, the author gives the facts of Bentley's life in the margins. This book can be read over and over again in different ways. Children and teachers have an opportunity to talk about persistence, taking an inquiry stance, and believing in your dreams.

**Hope, Isabell Monk** A young girl learns the story behind her name and the story of her heritage. Aunt Prudence, known as Aunt Poogee, takes Hope to the market, where Miss Violet asks about the child and asks, "...is the child mixed?" Hope is bothered and is not sure what this means for her. Her Aunt Poogee tells her a bedtime story where she weaves the story of how two people of different ancestries fell in love and how she is the result of that love. It is a lovely portrayal of how being from a mixed heritage is a wonderful gift. Aunt Poogee tells her that in the future when someone asks if she is mixed, she can answer, "Yes, I am generations of faith 'mixed' with lots of love! I AM HOPE!"

**My First..., Eva Montanari** Alice is counting down the days to her birthday and getting a doll. She already has a carriage and socks. Unfortunately, she is disappointed when she opens her present and it is not a doll. Montanari takes the reader through the story, not revealing the present. Her mom tries to reassure her. It does not work. She goes to the park and pretends there is a baby in the carriage. The reader is left in suspense. Alice starts calling her present “him,” and at the turning point, Alice describes how she feels about him. She says he keeps her awake at night. He tells her stories. And yet, she is not sure how to tell her friends. She finally reveals that the present is a book. Children enjoy this text and love to predict what Alice received.

**Wings, Christopher Myers** *Wings* is the story of Ikarus Jackson, a new boy at school who is laughed at and made fun of because he is different. He has wings. Even the teacher asks him to leave the classroom because his wings are distracting other kids. One girl empathizes with Ikarus. She has also been laughed at because she is so quiet. She stands up for Ikarus, telling the neighborhood kids to leave him alone. They do. The girl smiles at Ikarus and tells him that his flying is beautiful.

**Fox, Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks** Dog and Magpie are friends who enjoy spending time together and helping each other live full lives despite their disabilities. When Fox comes along, Magpie becomes nervous, but Dog invites Fox to stay. Eventually, Fox takes Magpie out into the desert, far from Dog. The story ends with Magpie beginning the long journey back to Dog. It is a story about friendship, loyalty, trust, and betrayal.

## Rereading for Layered Meaning

**Last Stop on Market Street, Matt de la Peña** This picture book explores issues of class and race through a bus ride that characters CJ and his grandmother take through a city.

**Henry's Freedom Box, Ellen Levine** Based on a true story, this picture book depicts how Henry Brown, a slave, mailed himself to freedom in the north.

**Nelson Mandela, Kadir Nelson** This book examines the life of Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa, who was imprisoned on Robben Island for 28 years because he protested Apartheid.

**Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph, Roxane Orgill** This collection of poetry recounts the famous 1958 photograph of American jazz musicians taken on a stoop in Harlem by photographer Art Kane.

**Night Boat to Freedom, Margot Theis Raven** In this story, Granny Judith and Christmas John help slaves escape to freedom from Kentucky to Ohio.

**The Composition, Antonio Skármeta** Children living under a dictatorship are asked to write an essay about what their families do at night. This book explores the fear that families and communities face and how some governments can create fear and surveillance states.

**The Arrival, Shaun Tan** This wordless graphic novel portrays an immigrant's experience in a new country.

**Why War Is Never a Good Idea, Alice Walker** In this visually compelling book, the illustrator shows communities and nature intact and then the impact of war on even the smallest creatures, such as frogs.

**Freedom Summer, Deborah Wiles** Two boys, Joe and John Henry, excited to finally swim together in their community pool, are confronted with the ugliness of racism in their own community.

**The Librarian of Basra: A True Story From Iraq, Jeanette Winter** Alia Muhammad Baker, a librarian in Basra, saved 30,000 volumes of books nine days before the library was burned to the ground.

**Each Kindness, Jacqueline Woodson** In this story, a young girl, Maya, is new to a school. Children notice that her clothes are secondhand and her sandals are broken. Children do not show any kindness to Maya. This text invites readers to consider bullying, social and economic disparities, and their own actions.

**Show Way, Jacqueline Woodson** This memoir illustrates the author's life and her connection to her ancestors. This book invites important conversations about history, families, and the power of stories over time.

## Say Something

**Charlie Anderson, Barbara Abercrombie** Two young girls discover they have something in common with their cat. Just as they live in two houses with their divorced parents, their cat has two homes as well.

**One Green Apple, Eve Bunting** A girl from another country feels isolated as she tries to adjust to her new school. She eventually connects with the other students and begins to feel like she belongs.

**The Hundred Dresses, Eleanor Estes** Wanda Petronski, a Polish schoolgirl, wears the same dress to school every day. She struggles to endure endless bullying and judgment from her peers.

**Dog Breath, Dav Pilkey** Hally Tosis, the family pet, proves her worth by stopping a burglar with her bad breath.

**The Butterfly, Patricia Polacco** A young French girl discovers a Jewish family is hiding from the Nazis in her basement.

**I Survived... (series), Lauren Tarshis** Each book in this historical fiction series follows a character's courageous journey through a life-threatening event.

**Each Kindness, Jacqueline Woodson** After bullying a new student, Chloe realizes how small acts of kindness can change the world for the better.

**Locomotion, Jacqueline Woodson** Through poetry, an 11-year-old boy shares his thoughts, worries, and dreams as he copes with life in foster care.

**Owl Moon, Jane Yolen** A young girl and her father hike into the woods in search of a Great Horned Owl.

## Subtexting

**Those Shoes, Maribeth Boelts** Jeremy so wants a pair of "those shoes," the ones nearly everyone is wearing. But Grandma can only afford what he needs: new boots for winter. Jeremy's worn shoes come apart at school, and the only replacements the counselor can find for him are "little kid shoes" with Velcro straps. All the kids but Antonio laugh; he's wearing shoes that are duct-taped together. Jeremy finds an almost-big-enough pair of those shoes at a thrift store and buys them. After endless blisters and much suffering, he rethinks his need for them. Jeremy's experience of wanting something beyond a family's means will resonate with nearly all readers.

**Now One Foot, Now the Other, Tomie DePaola** Bobby and Grandpa Bob have been best friends since Bobby was a baby and Bob helped him learn to walk, telling him, "Now one foot, now the other." But when Bob suffers a stroke, Bobby is overwhelmed and fearful. What is Bobby thinking when his grandfather is bedridden and makes unrecognizable sounds? What about Bob, the grandfather, whose speech and mobility are now so limited? The story comes full circle as Bobby now supports his grandfather, helping him learn to walk again, telling him, "Now one foot, now the other."



***The Invisible Boy, Trudy Ludwig*** Brian is a shy, imaginative child who is also very isolated. He eats lunch by himself and is overlooked when teams are chosen or invitations to parties extended. When Justin, a new student, arrives, Brian is hopeful as he and Justin have so much in common. A partner project could be the answer, but then another child intervenes. Patrice Barton's beautiful illustrations add wonderful depth and meaning to this touching story of the quiet child all teachers have known.

***Ish, Peter H. Reynolds*** Nine-year-old Ramon loved to draw until his big brother's laughter and unkind comments about his pictures left him feeling devastated and filled with self-doubt. After endless attempts to improve, Ramon gives up. Marisol, his little sister, helps Ramon appreciate the artfulness of his own efforts and inspires a brand new freedom with his drawing.

***The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein*** "Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy...and the boy loved the tree very much...and the tree was happy." This summarizes the first half of this classic tale. As the boy and tree grow older, the boy's needs change. The book is the story of ultimate generosity as the tree sacrifices everything for the person she loves.

***Each Kindness, Jacqueline Woodson*** What is it like to be Maya, the new kid in the school who arrives in winter wearing broken sandals, and whose efforts to make friends and fit in are repeatedly rejected? *Each Kindness* offers a heartbreaking look at Maya's situation. Woodson's ending is uncomfortably real, pushing readers to reflect on the subtle ways they might be bullying, the pain of excluding others, and the power of even small kindnesses.

***Our Gracie Aunt, Jacqueline Woodson*** This deeply moving text pulls us into the world of Johnson and his big sister, Beebee, whose mama often leaves them alone for days. When a social worker intervenes, they are placed in foster care with their mama's estranged sister. The children experience many emotions—sadness, uncertainty, distrust, surprise, joy, and guilt—as they adjust to life with their Aunt Gracie. The book gives a glimpse into the lives of those who have to adjust to living with a relative or a stranger instead of with their parent(s).

***The Other Side, Jacqueline Woodson*** Clover is intrigued by the white girl who lives next door in a house separated from her African American neighborhood by a fence. Clover's mother worries for her daughter's safety and requests that she not cross the fence, so Clover watches the girl from a distance. One day, Clover ventures out to meet Annie Paul, and they discover that both mothers have instructed them not to cross the fence. But both their mothers "said nothing about sitting on it," so the girls launch their friendship from atop the fence, setting into motion a chain of small events that, in time, make a difference.

## ***That's Not Fair!***

***Rebel, Allan Baillie*** The general brings his tanks to destroy a school playground. The children in the school think this isn't fair. Later, the general tries to punish a child who embarrassed him. The general in this story is a more frightening version of the one in *The Arabolies of Liberty Street* by Sam Swope. The children and teachers work together to find a way to protect the child. Students may enjoy comparing these two stories.

***Voices in the Park, Anthony Browne*** Two children come to the park, each with a dog and a parent. One parent won't let her child play with the other because of the way she looks. Readers often feel that this mother is not being fair.

***White Socks Only, Evelyn Coleman*** A little girl drinks from the "Whites Only" drinking fountain, without realizing she is breaking the law. When a white man gets angry, others in the community step up to protect the child.

***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, Doreen Cronin*** In this delightful farm story, the cows think it isn't fair that the barn is too cold. When Farmer Brown won't help, the cows go on strike. Farmer Brown thinks it's not fair when the other animals join in with the cows.

***Oasis of Peace, Laurie Dolphin*** A special school has been created in Israel where Arab and Israeli children go to school together. The school is designed to help reduce the conflicts between the two groups. Students may need help recognizing that the school is the solution to a problem.

***Amazing Grace, Mary Hoffman*** Young Grace thinks it isn't fair that her classmates don't want her to play the part of Peter Pan because she is a girl. Her family helps her to find the courage to stand up for herself.

***Gotcha!, Gail Jorgensen*** Bear is having a birthday party and has invited lots of animal friends. Fly, who wasn't invited, dive-bombs the birthday cake and sets off a series of catastrophes. Students may want to focus on whether it was "fair" that Fly wasn't invited to the party.

***My Name Was Hussein, Hristo Kyuchukov*** Hussein, a Muslim boy living in Bulgaria, is forbidden to practice his religion and forced to adopt a Christian name when the soldiers come into his town. Students easily recognize that Hussein feels it isn't fair that he must give up his religious practices, his culture, and even his name.

***Nim and the War Effort, Milly Lee*** Nim, a Chinese American girl living in San Francisco during World War II, enters a contest to collect newspapers for the war effort. She encounters many things that aren't fair, including prejudice against Asian Americans during the war, the assumptions made by her family, and the Anglo-European classmate who cheats in the contest.

***Sister Anne's Hands, Marybeth Lorbiecki*** Sister Anne is the first Black nun to teach in Anna's school. Some of the children treat her poorly, and Anna doesn't think this is fair. Later, the community forces Sister Anne to leave for another school, which Anna also thinks is unfair.

***Insects Are My Life, Megan McDonald*** Amanda loves insects with a passion. As a result, she is the target of teasing and bullying, first from her brother, and then from her classmates. Students may find much to discuss as they debate whether Amanda's treatment of others is justified.

***When Marian Sang, Pam Muñoz Ryan*** This beautifully illustrated story of opera singer Marian Anderson highlights the injustice faced by many African Americans, even popular musicians. The book contrasts the prejudice Ms. Anderson faced in the U.S. with the way she was treated in Europe.

***The Recess Queen, Alexis O'Neill*** Mean Jean is the classic playground bully, and students will have no difficulty identifying the unfair things she does. Katie Sue stands up to the bully and motivates the bystanders to become allies.

***The Composition, Antonio Skármeta*** Young Pedro, living under the harsh rule of a dictator, learns to recognize the way the government is trying to use children to collect information about their parents. Pedro finds a strategy for resisting—one that doesn't put his family in danger. While younger students may recognize the unfair situation, they may have difficulty understanding the subtleties of Pedro's actions.

***Freedom Summer, Deborah Wiles*** Two young boys, one black and one white, are eager to swim in the newly desegregated pool. When the Southern townspeople find a way to resist this change, the boys are confronted with the unfairness. Multiple other examples of the unfairness of Jim Crow laws are subtly incorporated into this accessible and moving text.

***The Other Side, Jacqueline Woodson*** Annie and Clover find crafty ways to get around the unfair rule from their mothers that they don't go on the "other" side of the fence to play with someone of another race. Young readers may also pick up on the unfair way that Annie's friends respond when they notice that she is now friends with Clover.



## Thinking, Wondering, Feeling

**The Hickory Chair, Lisa Rowe Fraustino** A young, visually impaired boy has a special relationship with his grandmother. She passes away unexpectedly and has left things with special meaning to each of the family members. The problem is that this young boy, Louis, seems to have been forgotten. Of course, he is not, but the readers will empathize with Louis's situation and feel relief at the end when Louis realizes that his grandmother did not forget him.

**George Shrinks, William Joyce** The title for this book gives away the storyline, but not all the adventure that George has when he wakes up to find himself small enough to fly a toy airplane. There is minimal text, but the illustrations tell much of the story. The readers are fascinated by his adventures, which translate into some thinking and a lot of wonderings and feeling.

**Library Lion, Michelle Knudsen** One day, a lion enters a library, and, since there are no rules about lions in the library, Miss Merriweather allows him to stay as long as he follows the rules. However, for a very good reason, the lion breaks the quiet rule of the library and is banned by Mr. McBee. Readers feel a sense of right and wrong, and empathy for the lion and for Miss Merriweather who loses a good friend when the lion has to leave.

**Everybody Makes Mistakes, Christine Kole MacLean** This is a funny story about a boy named Jackson who is in big trouble with his mom for something he has done to his sister. You do not find out until the end of the book exactly what he has done, and it is quite a surprise when you get there. The students can relate to being in trouble with one's mom and how frustrating sibling relationships can be.

**The Teddy Bear, David McPhail** This is a sweet story of a little boy who mourns the loss of his teddy bear and the homeless man who happens upon the discarded bear in a trash can. Readers can put themselves in the little boy's shoes, as we have all experienced the loss of something we treasure. At the conclusion of the story, the boy makes a decision that we all might not make if we have the opportunity to recover what we lost. A great story for thinking, wondering, and feeling as we try to understand the actions of the boy and other characters in the story.

**Dory Story, Jerry Pallotta** This is an engaging story of a little boy who, even though he has been told not to take the dory out by himself, does anyway. But wait, does he really? The ending is a huge surprise, and the readers love it. Kids react as the last page is turned, which makes it a great text for helping them realize that reading is about thinking, wondering, and feeling.