Abegail Prado Children’s Literature

April 13, 2011 Timothy Swann

Winter, Jeanette. *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. New York: Knopf, 1988. Print.

**Description:** Follow the Drinking Gourd is a book written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter.  The story is about Peg Leg Joe, an abolitionist who worked as a carpenter and taught the slaves the song to freedom.  On one plantation, comes another character, a slave named James who learns he has been sold and will be separated from his wife, Molly and son, Isaiah the next day.



*“When the sun comes up and first quail calls, follow the drinking gourd.”* This was the first line of the song that reminded and convinced them to escape and follow the drinking gourd, which is a big dipper star in the sky pointing to the north. The runaway slaves’ journeyed north along the Underground Railroad by following directions in a song.  Will they be able to survive and brave hunger, beasts, patrollers, and danger on their way to freedom*?*

**Awards:** 1988 - Reading Rainbow Feature Books, Booklist Books for Youth Editors' Choice, Library of Congress Children's Books of the Year

**Characters:** Peg Leg Joe, James, Molly, Isaiah, other slaves

**Genre:** realistic fiction

**Themes:** escape, hope, African American, slavery

**Literary Qualities:** music, easy to read for early readers

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is K to 6th grade and the reading level is 3rd grade.

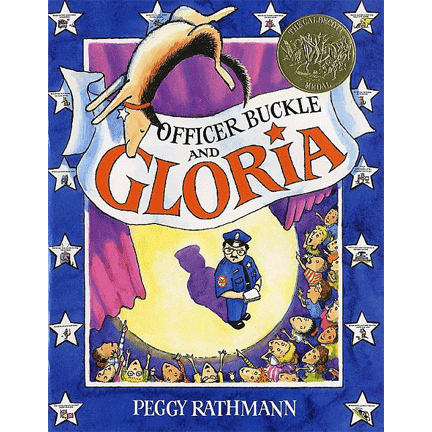
**Personal Response:** I also watched the story from Safari Montage and it gave me a last song syndrome. I felt excitement after reading page-after-page, wanting to find out what will happen next to the story. The painting illustrations are also appealing and the song will make you wonder if they really used this song during the civil war? I read this for my students and all of them were interested and some still remembered the story because of the song.

**Instructional Uses:** Its simple story teaches them the life of the African Americans during the time of slavery and best to read during the Black History month. Readers can identify the characters, settings and plot of the story.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Rathmann, Peggy. Officer Buckle and Gloria. New York: Putnam's, 1995. Print.*

**Description:** Officer Buckle and Gloria is a story of a police officer whose job is to teach school children the importance of safety. Officer Buckle has a problem with getting the children’s attention every time he gives a talk but things changed after he was partnered to Gloria, a police canine. Officer Buckle and Gloria have wonderful attention from the children in the schools of Napville—from cheers, receiving thank you letters and remembering their safety tips. However, Officer Buckle did not see Gloria's humorous enactments of his safety tips. At a large gathering that was aired on TV, Officer Buckle saw that Gloria was the real hit and refused to go to any more schools after that. After an accident at the school, pile of letters convinced him that they are both needed in a show and Officer Buckle learned the importance of sticking with your buddy.



The book also has illustrations that capture the young reader’s interest because of the bright colors and bold lines used.

**Award:** 1996 Caldecott Award winner

**Characters:** Officer Buckle, Gloria the dog, students at Napville, Mrs. Toppel (Principal), Claire

**Genre:** Award books, General Fiction

**Themes:** trust, team work and friendship

**Literary Qualities:** bold words that are easy to read, humor

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is from K to 6 and the reading level is 2nd Grade.

**Personal Response:** I personally love this book because it helps me teach the safety tips to my students after a fire drill in school. It also teaches kids that team work makes the dream work!

**Instructional Uses:** This could be read to students during the career day, after or before a fire drill, and community helpers discussions.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Pinkney, Jerry, and Aesop. The Lion & the Mouse. New York: Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers, 2009. Print.*

**Description:** The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney is an adaptation of the Aesop’s fable about offering and repaying kindness, despite the enormous differences between the two creatures. It is special because of its beautiful illustrations. There are also few words in the book, but these are only sounds like the “grrr” of the lion, “squeak” of the mouse and “whooo” of the night owl. Jerry Pinkney used pencil, watercolor, and colored pencil on paper to show the stunning expressions of the characters. The illustrations showed great work on the expressions, body language of the two characters, and the plots in the story.



**Characters:** lion and the mouse

**Genre:** fable

**Awards:** Randolph Caldecott Medal winner in 2010

**Themes:** kindness, courage, friendship, trust, animals

**Literary Qualities: full** illustrations on each big page, perfectly drawn expressions

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is from Pre-K to 3rd Grade and the reading level is K.

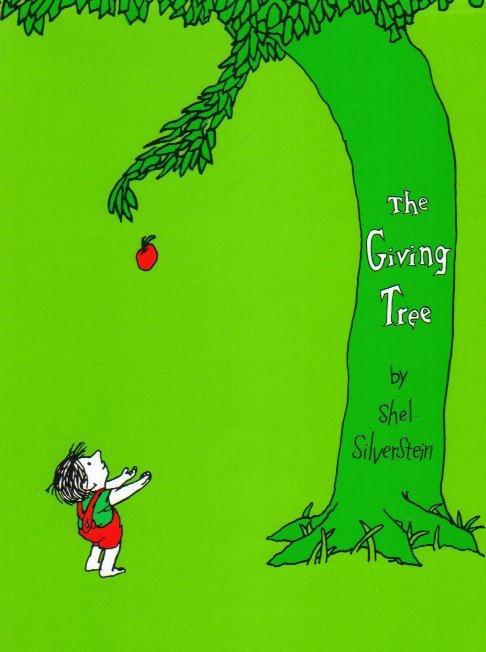
**Personal Response:** It’s a beautiful book to read with a lot of voice expressions of the characters. I like showing it using my visualizer so students can really get into the story when they see the expressions of the lion and mouse.

**Instructional Uses:** This could be one of the books that can read about lions or mouse in the animal theme. Also it can be read when discussing about friendship and being courageous.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Silverstein, Shel. The Giving Tree. New York: Harper & Row, 1964. Print.*

**Description:** This is a beautiful story of a tree who has loved a boy from childhood to manhood. The tree gave its all, from fruits, leaves, wood, until the last of it when it became a stump. The only happiness of the tree is to when the boy is happy. It does not have a happy ending, but it still will teach readers the lesson of friendship and selfless love.



**Characters:** thetree and the boy

**Genre:** fiction, fable

**Awards:**

**Themes:** selflessness, kindness, giving and receiving,

**Literary Qualities:** emotional context that could make you cry, black and white text and line drawings which is simple yet attractive

**Age/Grade levels: The** interest level is Pre-K to adult. The reading level is 4th grade.

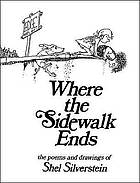
**Personal Response:** I personally love this book. This was first introduced to me by a colleague in the Philippines back in 2005 because of the heartwarming story that is somewhat related to my life. I still see myself like a giving tree to my husband and baby because I always give my all just to see them happy.

**Instructional Uses:** This is great to use when introducing poetry to young students. The teacher can also use this when discussing relationships/friendship, generosity, and science, when they discussing parts of a tree.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Silverstein, Shel. Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems & Drawings of Shel Silverstein. New York: Harper and Row, 1974. Print.*

**Description:** This is an award-winning first compilation poetry book of Shel Silverstein. This book details poems about silly people and animals doing crazy activities. It has some suggestive content and needs adult’s supervision because of some inappropriate language. You will meet here the crocodile who had a toothache, a boy who turned into a TV, flying shoes, diamond garden, etc.  
  
**Characters:** Sarah Cynthia Silvia Stout, Jimmy Jet, Melinda Mae, Paul Bunyan, Gore, crocodile, farmer and the queen, boa constrictor, brontosaurus, Joey, Lazy Jane, and many more



**Genre:** Golden Archer Award in 1996 (Intermediate), Michigan Young Readers Award (1981), New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year, ALA Notable Children’s Book

**Themes:** funny poetry

**Literary Qualities:** The use of humor in the poetry and black-and-white drawings makes it very appealing for all young readers.

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is3rd to 12th Grade and the reading level is 4th Grade.

**Personal Response:** I really like Shel Silverstein’s style in writing because he is unique and funny. He is not afraid to use words, but it still makes me cautious when using this book to my students because there maybe some languages that is not appropriate for young readers.

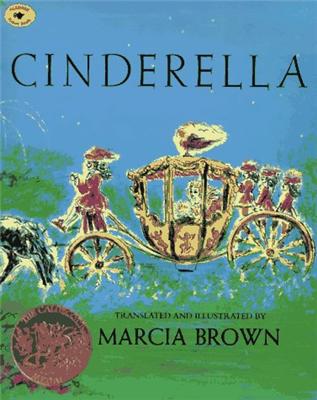
**Instructional Uses:** This is great for read-aloud. The students especially in the elementary level, who are just beginning to learn poetry will appreciate the art of poetry with humor. Teachers can use this book to teach them how to write poems.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Brown, Marcia, and Charles Perrault. Cinderella: Or the Little Glass Slipper ; a Free Translation from the French of Charles Perrault. New York: Scribner, 1954. Print.*

#### Description: This is a picture book story of Cinderella, complete with two wicked step-sisters, a fairy Godmother, and a handsome prince. Our heroine is beautiful inside and outside. She is able to forgive her selfish sisters, even though they do some terrible things to her. This version has been translated from the story told by Charles Perrault, a Frenchman. It was the most popular version of Cinderella in 1697 because of his additions to the story, including the pumpkin, the fairy-godmother and the introduction of glass slippers. Another well-known version was recorded by the German brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm in the 19th century. It is a fairy tale because of its magical story of turning a poor and dirty girl into a beautiful princess and making the story enchanting for young readers.

#### Characters: Cinderella, two stepsisters, stepmother, fairy godmother, handsome prince



#### Genre: fairy tale

#### Award: Randolph Caldecott Award winner in 1955

**Themes:** family, magic, beauty vs. graciousness

**Literary Qualities:** classic drawing, dialogues of the characters, ending with moral lesson

**Age/Grade levels:** Interest level is Pre-K to 3rd Grade. The reading level is 3rd Grade.

**Personal Response:** I think this is a good Cinderella story because the main character forgives the stepsisters in the end of the story, which is really “classic” for me. I’ve read and watched a lot of Cinderella stories and some of them ended punishing the villains. There is a moral lesson in the end that I would love to teach my students.

**Instructional Uses:** Teacher can use this story to emphasize courage, wit, common sense and intelligence. It can also be used to remind students that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What matters still is the breeding, graciousness and kindness of a person.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Zelinsky, Paul O. Rapunzel. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1997. Print.*

**Description:** This is a beautiful picture book about the classic fairy tale adapted from Grim Brother’s fairy tale. Rapunzel was taken by the sorceress when she was a baby after her parents stole the rapunzels from her backyard. She trapped her in a tower for years until the day comes and a handsome prince found her. The witch had to stop him from seeing Rapunzel, by blinding him. But in the end, good prevails and they found each other again and lived happily ever after.



**Characters:** Rapunzel, sorceress, prince, mother and father of Rapunzel

**Genre:** fairy tale, folk tale, myth

**Awards:** Randolph Caldecott Award winner in 1988

**Themes:** selfish love, perseverance, emotional and social development, life experiences and relationships

**Literary Qualities: The** Italian paintings were used to show Renaissance art, adaptation of the Grimm’s fairy tale

**Age/Grade levels:** Theinterest level is Pre-K to 3rd grade and the reading level is 3rd grade.

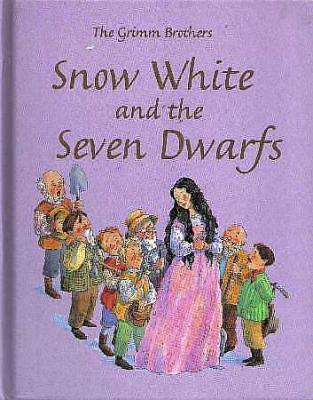
**Personal Response:** This was one of my favorite fairy tales in childhood. I thought the rapunzel was fake, but my teacher told me in the past that it is a German herb that has an English name “rampion”.

**Instructional Uses:** An artteacher can use this book for introducing Renaissance Art.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Grimm, Jacob, Wilhelm Grimm, Ronne Randall, and Anna C. Leplar. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Bath, UK: Parragon Publishing, 2006. Print.*

**Description:**  "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of us all?" repeatedly asks the Queen, Snow White's stepmother. Snow White is as beautiful as snow was the mirror's choice and put envy in the evil Queen's heart. The Queen commands the huntsman to kill Snow White and bring her "lung and liver as a token." Snow White's enchanting story with the dwarfs, witch and prince made this fairy tale memorable for the little ones.  
  
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was known from many countries in Europe, the best known version being the German one collected by the Grimm Brothers in 1857. The story uses the elements of magic by using the magic mirror and dwarfs.



**Characters:** Snow White, handsome prince, seven dwarfs, evil Queen, huntsman

**Genre:** fairy tale

**Themes:** true love and jealousy

**Literary Qualities:** read-aloud, traditional fairy tale

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is Pre-K to 3rd Grade. The reading level is 3rd grade.

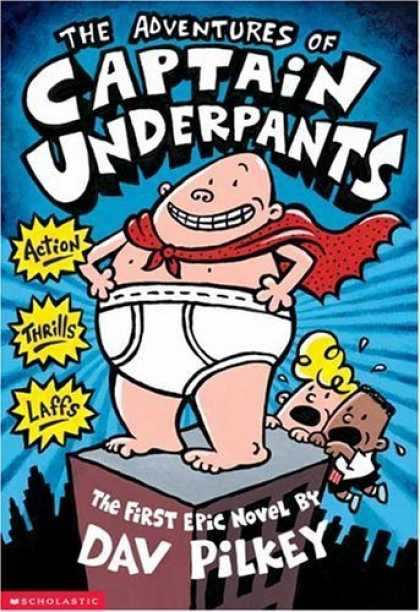
**Personal Response:** Again, this is one of my favorite fairy tales from childhood. Almost every little girl loves this fairy tale.

**Instructional Uses:** This could be read with the integration of counting in Math. It can also be used as a springboard for talking about the importance of not talking to strangers. In Reading, the teacher can use this book for sequencing of events lesson. Pre-K students can also be introduced with the different emotions after reading this book.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Pilkey, Dav. The Adventures of Captain Underpants: An Epic Novel. New York: Blue Sky Press, 1997. Print.*

**Description:** It is a funny story of George and Harold and they love of writing comic books about Captain Underpants.  At school, these two boys enjoy cracking jokes, pulling pranks, and causing mayhem at school. Their number one enemy is the Principal, Mr. Krupp.  The two were caught for causing trouble during the football game and Mr. Krupp gave them punishments. More laughs happened when they hypnotized Mr. Krupp and impersonated Captain Underpants.



**Characters:** George, Harold, Mr. Krupp (Captain Underpants)

**Genre:** fiction

**Awards:** American Bookseller Pick of the Lists and a Publishers Weekly "Cuffie" Award winner for the Funniest Book of the Year

**Themes:** humor, superhero

**Literary Qualities:** black-and-white line drawings, fun flip-o-rama where the pictures looked like moving

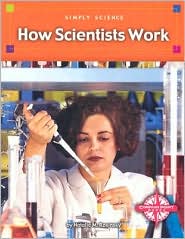
**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is 2nd Grade to 8th Grade and the reading level is 3rd Grade.

**Personal Response:** I have two copies of this book in my library and students from 3rd to 6th grade love reading them. I agree that the story was really funny and I was surprised to know that it was banned for offensive language and unsuited to age group.

**Instructional Uses:** Students can do journaling on making predictions like answering the questions, What will happen if the principal didn’t wake up from the hypnotism?

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Rosinsky, Natalie M. How Scientists Work. Minneapolis, Minn: Compass Point Books, 2004. Print.*



**Description:** The first part of the book talks about superstitions and how people long time ago believed in gods of good and evil that explains why things happen. It's basically about scientists; how they do not believe in superstition, but ask questions, use tools and t heir senses to find reasonable answers. The book explains how scientists ask special questions, where they use scientific method and it is very briefly explained in the chapter.  Other things that scientists do like making hypothesis, conclusion, showing evidence, taking safety precautions, repeating and sharing experiments, publishing research and making scientific theories are explained well in the pages. It also includes real photographs of scientists doing different tasks or tools that they use to make it more appealing for young readers. The end pages have a glossary to define new words for children, some trivia and other bibliography for further readings.

**Characters:** scientists

**Genre:** Science-fiction

**Themes:** Science project, scientist, Scientific method

**Literary Qualities:** Real pictures, captions, facts and trivia.

**Age/Grade levels:** The interest level is 3rd to 5th Grade and the reading level is 4th Grade.

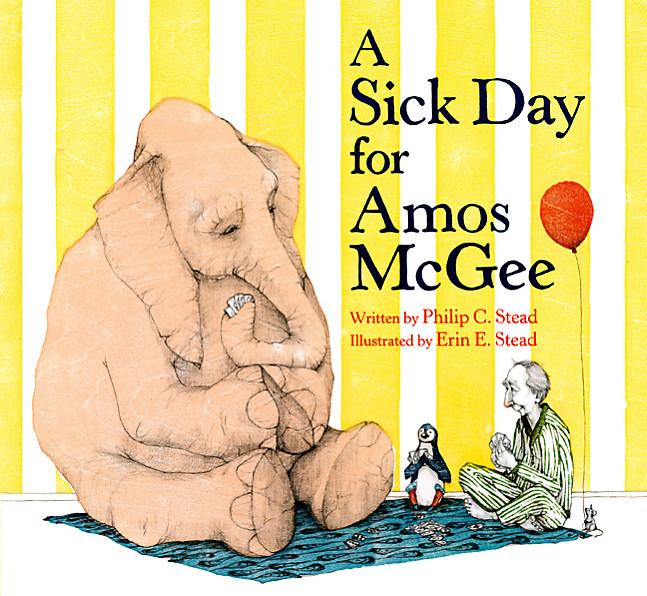
**Personal Response:** I like the way the author explained the difference between superstitions and scientific experiments in this book. Any beginning readers who want to know more about scientific methods would appreciate this book.

**Instructional Uses:** It great to discuss text features with this book.  It is a helpful book for Science teachers before starting a scientific project. A sixth grade teacher could also use this if he/she is introducing careers for students.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Stead, Philip C, and Erin E. Stead. A Sick Day for Amos Mcgee. New York: Roaring Brook, 2010. Print.*

**Description:** Amos McGee is a famous zookeeper and always made time to visit his animal friends, the elephant, tortoise, penguin, rhinoceros and the owl. But one day, he got sick and did not come to work. His friends surprised him for a visit and took care of him. This is a picture book of caring and friendship.



**Characters:** Amos McGee,elephant, tortoise, penguin, rhinoceros and the owl

**Genre:** Fiction

**Awards:** 2011 Caldecott Medal Winner; 2011 Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book; 2011 ALA Notable Children’s Books, Younger Readers; Kirkus Reviews 2010 Best Children’s Books; Publishers Weekly Best Children’s Books 2010, Picture Books

**Themes:** friendship, animals, caring

**Literary Qualities:** Full-color illustrations done with woodblock printing techniques and pencil

**Age/Grade levels:** Interestlevel is K to 6th Grade and the reading level is 2nd grade.

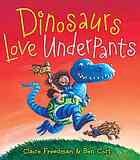
**Personal Response:** It is easy to understand especially for read-aloud. Anyone would love to read it over and over again to the little ones. There is also a touch of humor if you imagine how the animals act like an elephant playing chess and playing hide and seek with a tortoise.

**Instructional Uses:** Sequencing events, text features, writing sentences using verbs—can be used for lessons after reading this book.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Freedman, Claire, and Ben Cort. Dinosaurs Love Underpants. New York: Aladdin, 2010. Print.*

**Description:** This is a funny story of a war between the cavemen and dinosaurs fighting over underpants. When the cavemen learned to use underpants, the dinosaurs wanted to get all their underpants. The illustrations and rhyming words used in the story explains how the underpants caused the extinction of dinosaurs.



**Characters:** cavemen, dinosaurs

**Genre:** fiction

**Themes:** dinosaurs’ extinction

**Literary Qualities:** The illustrations go with the hilarious story.

**Age/Grade levels:** Interest level is Pre-K to 2nd Grade and reading level is 2nd Grade.

**Personal Response:** I find it really

**Instructional Uses:** An introduction to dinosaurs and identifying different types of dinosaurs and how they extinct.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------