

11-1-2007

Mice are Nice

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Mice
are
Nice

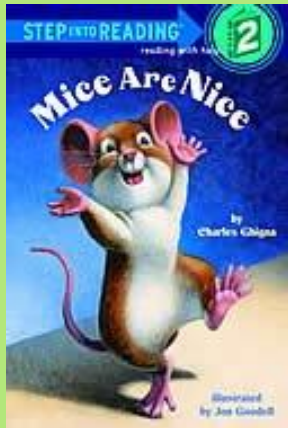
Heroes of the Mouse Persuasion

Presenters

Janice DeLong

Rachel Schwedt

Mice are Nice



Why Mice?

1. Fun
2. Many books with mice as heroes
3. Mice thought of as underdog –

Young people often feel powerless and can easily relate to a hero who seems small and helpless.

Level One

Generally appropriate
for grades K – 3

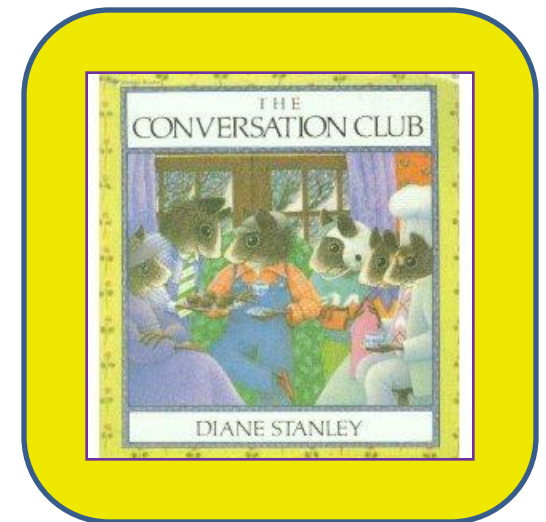
The Conversation Club

by Diane Stanley

Plot:

Peter Fieldmouse is invited to join a listening club. But when Peter can't get a word in edgewise, he starts his own listening club.

“In the opening game you add some parsley stir the crocuses which resemble the sound of shrieking in our solar system for a first down mix in the garlic daffodils that faint at the sight of blood on Mercury or Venus...”



The Conversation Club

by Diane Stanley

Hero:

Peter Fieldmouse

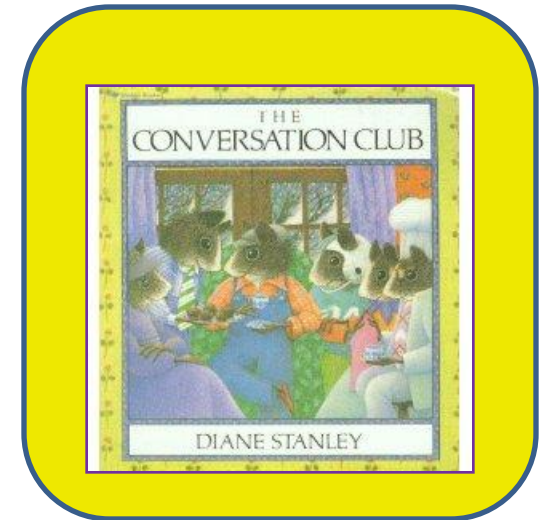
Character Values:

Consideration of others, Good manners

Classroom Use:

Promote listening skills

Websites:



<http://teachers.net/mentors/profreading/topic5656/10.10.07.12.09.22.html>

Diane Stanley has won many awards for her juvenile biography books



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Post: The Conversation Club, The Philosophers' Club

Posted by Mandy on 10/10/07

Hi,

I just wanted to share two books: an old one The Conversation Club by Diane Stanley and a new one: The Philosophers' Club by Christopher Phillips

The first one could be read first to show how when have a book discussion or just a discussion group, you have to be respectful and not have everyone talk at the same time.

Then the second one could be read to show how questions are what keep a conversation going (and lead to new discovering.) It asks many thought provoking questions that you could have your students practice with. And it shows children discussing these questions which lead to



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The Teachers.Net

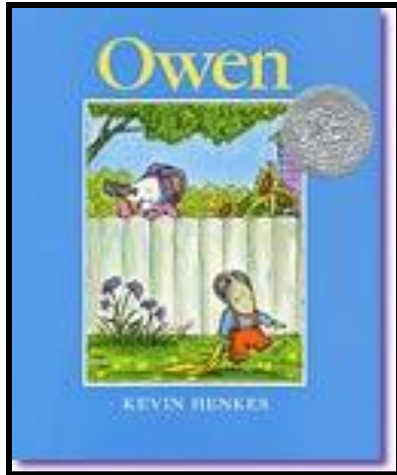
Owen — Kevin Henkes

Plot:

Owen's parents try to figure out a way to convince him to give up his security blanket before he starts school.

Hero:

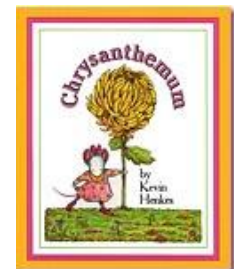
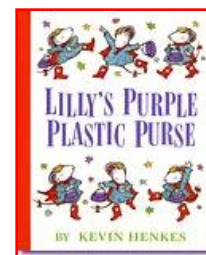
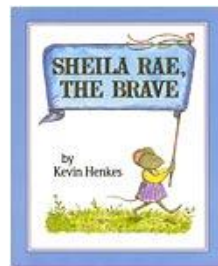
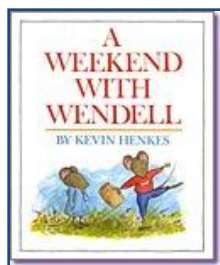
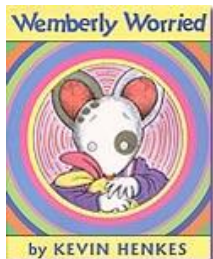
The Family -- Solve a problem together in a positive manner.



Won 5 awards

Character Values:

Ingenuity, Family love, Individuality



Owen – Kevin Kenkes

Classroom Use:

Problem solving, Ease first day at school worries

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com/books/mouse.asp>

Script for classroom play

<http://www.timelessteacherstuff.com/readerstheater/Owen.pdf>

Ideas for many of his books

<http://www.teachingheart.net/kevinhideas.html>



http://www.teachingheart.net/kevinideasw.html

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Kevin Henkes Author Study - lessons, ideas, printable...

Page



[Wemberly Worried](#)

Kevin Henkes

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Relate text to self by making a class book the first week of school about what each student is worried about. Jennifer DePalo/N.C.



Owen is another one of our favorite Kevin Henkes books. We read the story and students like to share what it is that they would like to bring to school with them. They draw a picture and dictate a sentence about it for me. I created a Owen's blanket color words worksheet for the students. They color each blanket the correct color and draw a circle around Owen's blanket.

[Click to view the Owen's Color Word Worksheet](#)

Renee Liles/Arkansas

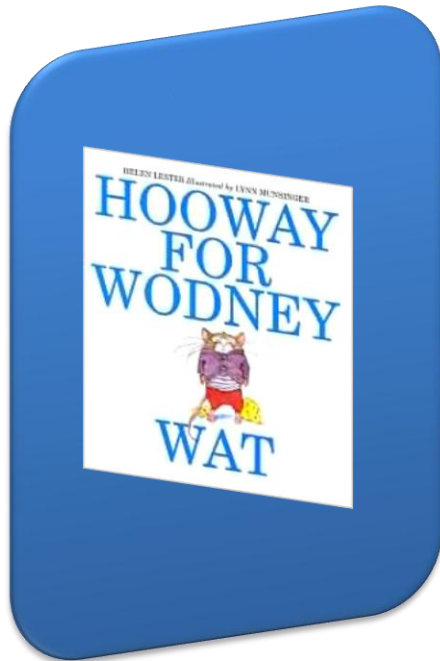
[Links to other Pages!](#)

[Wow, click here to find many free printables to match this book!](#)

- Coloring sheet: [Everyone can be an artist](#)
- Mouse maze: [Help Wemberly find Petal](#)

Hooway for Wodney Wat

by Helen Lester



Plot:

Rodney's handicap becomes the tool of salvation for the rest of the class.

Hero: Rodney

Character value:

Courage

Classroom Use:

Bullies

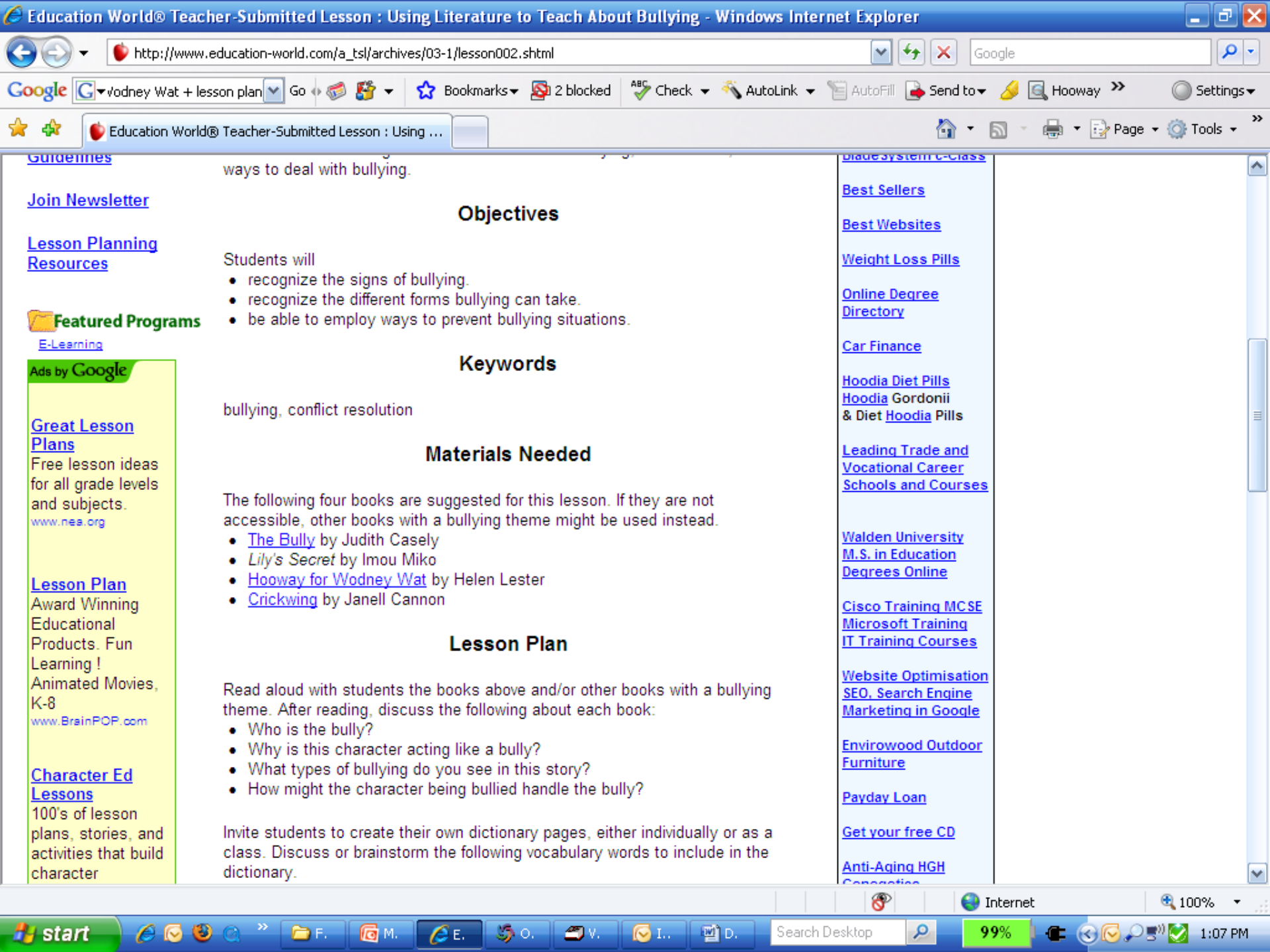
Conflict resolution



http://www.education-world.com/a_tsl/archives/03-1/lesson002.shtml

<http://www.embracingthechild.org/alester.html>

<http://completingthepuzzle.wordpress.com/2007/09/01/being-a-good-friend-lesson/>



Education World® Teacher-Submitted Lesson : Using Literature to Teach About Bullying - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.education-world.com/a_tsl/archives/03-1/lesson002.shtml

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Education World® Teacher-Submitted Lesson : Using ...

Page

Tools

Guidelines

ways to deal with bullying.

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Lesson Planning Resources

Featured Programs

E-Learning

Ads by Google

Great Lesson Plans

Free lesson ideas for all grade levels and subjects.

www.nes.org

Lesson Plan

Award Winning Educational Products. Fun Learning !

Animated Movies, K-8

www.BrainPOP.com

Character Ed Lessons

100's of lesson plans, stories, and activities that build character

Objectives

Students will

- recognize the signs of bullying.
- recognize the different forms bullying can take.
- be able to employ ways to prevent bullying situations.

Keywords

bullying, conflict resolution

Materials Needed

The following four books are suggested for this lesson. If they are not accessible, other books with a bullying theme might be used instead.

- The Bully by Judith Casely
- Lily's Secret by Imou Miko
- Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester
- Crickwing by Janell Cannon

Lesson Plan

Read aloud with students the books above and/or other books with a bullying theme. After reading, discuss the following about each book:

- Who is the bully?
- Why is this character acting like a bully?
- What types of bullying do you see in this story?
- How might the character being bullied handle the bully?

Invite students to create their own dictionary pages, either individually or as a class. Discuss or brainstorm the following vocabulary words to include in the dictionary.

Grade System C-Class

Best Sellers

Best Websites

Weight Loss Pills

Online Degree Directory

Car Finance

Hoodia Diet Pills

Hoodia Gordonii & Diet Hoodia Pills

Leading Trade and Vocational Career Schools and Courses

Walden University M.S. in Education Degrees Online

Cisco Training MCSE Microsoft Training IT Training Courses

Website Optimisation SEO, Search Engine Marketing in Google

Envirowood Outdoor Furniture

Payday Loan

Get your free CD

Anti-Aging HGH

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[Back to School Night Project- File](#)

Being a Good Friend Lesson

[Folder Family »](#)

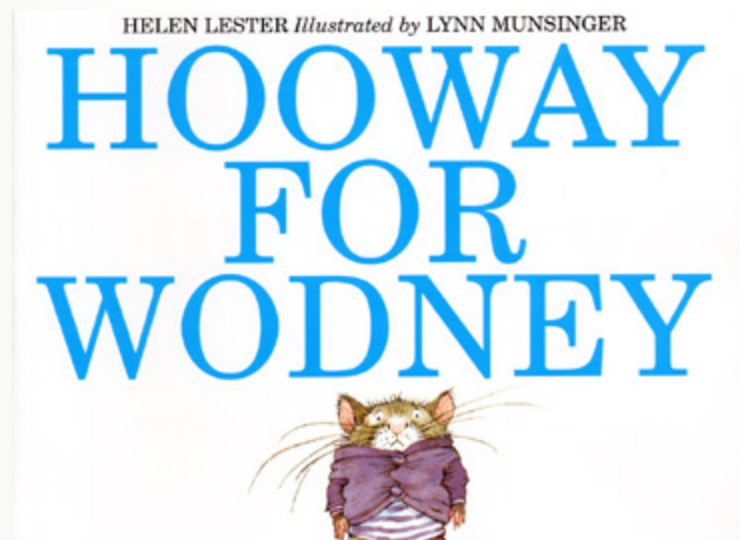
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Get printable daily lesson plans, worksheets, puzzles, and more.
[edHelper.com/LessonPlans](#)

[Free Classroom Activities](#)

to supplement PreK -12 lesson plans with the Dover Teacher's Sampler.
[www.doverpublications.com/teacher](#)



A Picnic With the Barleys

Karen Mezek

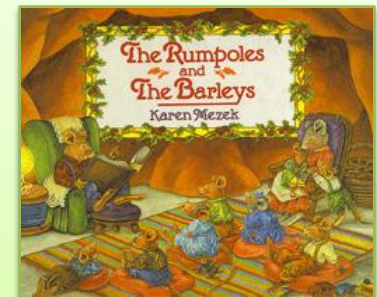
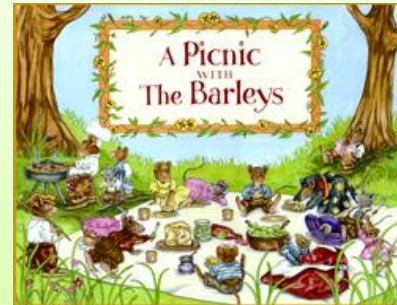
- **Plot:**

The Barleys take a picnic with their friends, the Rumpoles. Conflict ensues, but all is resolved in the end.

- **Heroes:** Prunella Barley and Dagwood

- **Character values:**

Understanding those who are different from ourselves, sharing, courage, and forgiveness

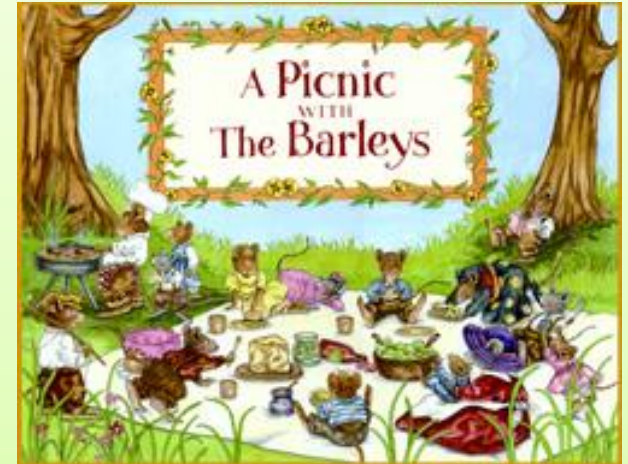


A Picnic With the Barleys

Karen Mezek

- **Classroom use:**

Music—create a song with different verses about friendship, sharing, and courage



Level Two

**Generally appropriate for
grades 4-6**

Chato's Kitchen — Gary Soto



Plot -

Chato tries to fool the mice into becoming his dinner, but with the help of a friendly dog, they outwit their enemy.

Heroes - The clever mice, the friendly dog

Character Values -

Ingenuity, friendship

Classroom Use -

Introduction to Spanish phrases/ Book on tape



<http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/education/projects/webunits/diversity/chato.html>

<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/fieldexp/SampleSeminars/SampleSeminar31.php>

http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/education/projects/webunits/diversity/chato.html

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Chato's Kitchen

Page

Chato's Kitchen

by Gary Soto, illustrated by Susan Guevara



Story Summary

Chato is a sneaky, low-riding cat who is delighted to see a large family of plump mice moving into his barrio. He decides to trick them into coming over to his house for dinner so that he can eat them. He begins to prepare a tasty feast when the mice say that not only will they come to dinner, but they'd like to bring a friend. Chato's friend, Novio Boy, comes over to help him cook. Meanwhile, the mice make cheese quesadillas to bring. Soon their friend Chorizo the dog arrives, and they all make their way to Chato's home. Chato and Novio Boy are scared of Chorizo and hide at first, but after learning that Chorizo is a nice dog, they settle down unhappily to eat the original feast that they had prepared.

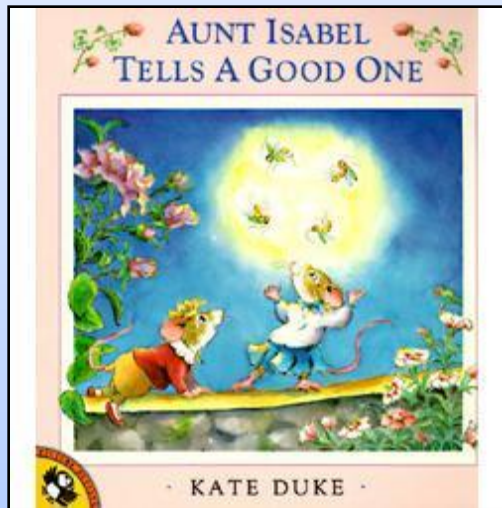
Lesson Ideas

This book is written by a Hispanic author who does an excellent job of incorporating Spanish words and phrases into his books. Upon reading this book with the class, a teacher might want to plan to discuss the Spanish words and their meanings with the students. Next, if the classroom has labels for everything (or even if it doesn't) like door, desk, chair, wall, window, etc., have the class use Spanish-English dictionaries to translate some of the things around the classroom (and even around the entire school) and label them with signs in Spanish.

Another use in the classroom that seems obvious is the idea of having a Spanish food fair, where students either make and bring in some of the many foods described in the book, or vote on which ones they'd like to make as a class and make them together. This activity would be lots of fun for students, and would expose them to the cuisine of a different culture. Often

Aunt Isabel Tells a Good One

by Kate Duke



Plot:

Young Penelope Mouse asks her artistic Aunt Isabel to tell her a "good story." Rather than just reciting a tale, Aunt Isabel teaches Penelope how to create a story by combining such elements as a heroine, a hero, excitement, and romance.

Heroines. Aunt Isabel, Lady Nell

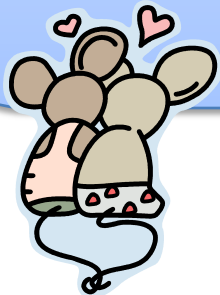
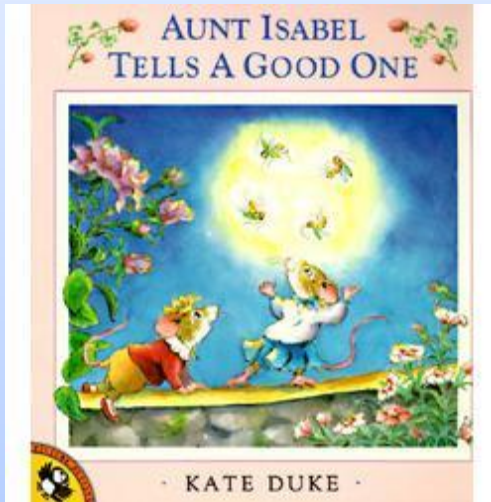
Character values:

Ingenuity, Following directions, Courage



Aunt Isabel Tells a Good One

by Kate Duke



Classroom use:

Use as a guide to help students write their own story.

Excellent example of the elements of a story in simple terms.

Web sites:

<http://www.thegateway.org/browse/25000>

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=221

<http://us.penguinroup.com/static/images/yr/pdf/tl-guide-aunt.pdf>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/literature/lesson-plan/4818.html>

Navigation bar showing the URL: http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=221. Search bar with Google. Navigation links: Home, Literacy Engagements, Calendar, About Us, Contact Us, Search. Search results: ReadWriteThink: Lesson Plan: Collaborative Stories 1:...



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Lessons

Standards

Web Resources

Student Materials

Lesson Plan Selector

K-2

Grade Band

Literacy Strand

Literacy Engagement

Display

Estimated Lesson Time



Three 30-minute sessions

Collaborative Stories 1: Prewriting and Drafting



Lesson Author



[Renee Goularte](#)
Magalia, California

Overview

This lesson involves students in two prewriting activities, one on brainstorming ideas using story maps, and one on creating beginnings of stories, and two collaborative-writing activities where they draft an "oversized" story on chart paper. Before starting the activities, the teacher reads aloud the first few sentences from a variety of children's books which have unusual, exciting, or particularly descriptive openings. Each student works individually to read what has been written before, adds the "next sentence," and passes the developing story on to another student. The story is passed from student until the story is complete. Later, the story is revised by the groups (see [Collaborative Stories 2: Revising](#)).

From Theory to Practice

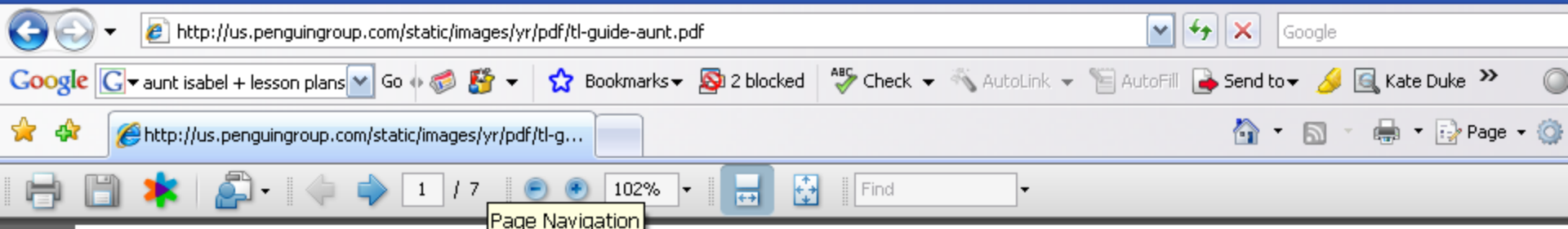
Writing stories is a common activity asked of young children, but often the hardest parts of writing the story are developing the idea and getting started with that first sentence. Having children collaborate on writing stories may bring into play the "two heads are better than one" idea, allowing for language and plots which can be enriched by a variety of ideas and student backgrounds. Collaborations during the writing process offer support for writers, according to Short and Harste in *Creating Classrooms for Authors and Inquirers*. Specifically, they remind us that through "a shared writing process, writers are able to offer demonstrations to each other about strategies they use while composing." The group process supports less proficient

NCTE/IRA Standards

[4, 5, 6, 12](#)

Resources

- [Sample Story Beginnings](#)



AUNT ISABEL TELLS A GOOD ONE and AUNT ISABEL MAKES TROUBLE by Kate Duke

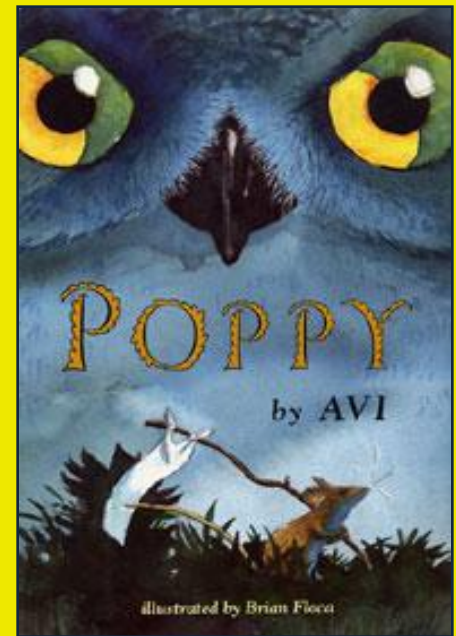
Introduction

Create a memorable storytelling unit for your class with the help of this teacher's guide and two lively little mice! Curious Penelope and her beloved Aunt Isabel, the stars of **Aunt Isabel Tells a Good One** and **Aunt Isabel Makes Trouble** by Kate Duke, introduce children to the elements of a good tale. Using the lessons here, you can enhance your students' appreciation of these books and familiarize them with the process of creating a story. The



POPPY -- AVI

- *PLOT*:
After the untimely death of her friend, Poppy sets out to find a safer living environment for her family and her community
- *HERO*: Poppy, a deer mouse
- *CHARACTER VALUES*: Courage, determination, individuality, leadership, overcoming prejudice





POPPY -- AVI

CLASSROOM USE:

Research deer mice and porcupines.
Create stories based on research.
(Science/Lang. Arts)

WEBSITES:

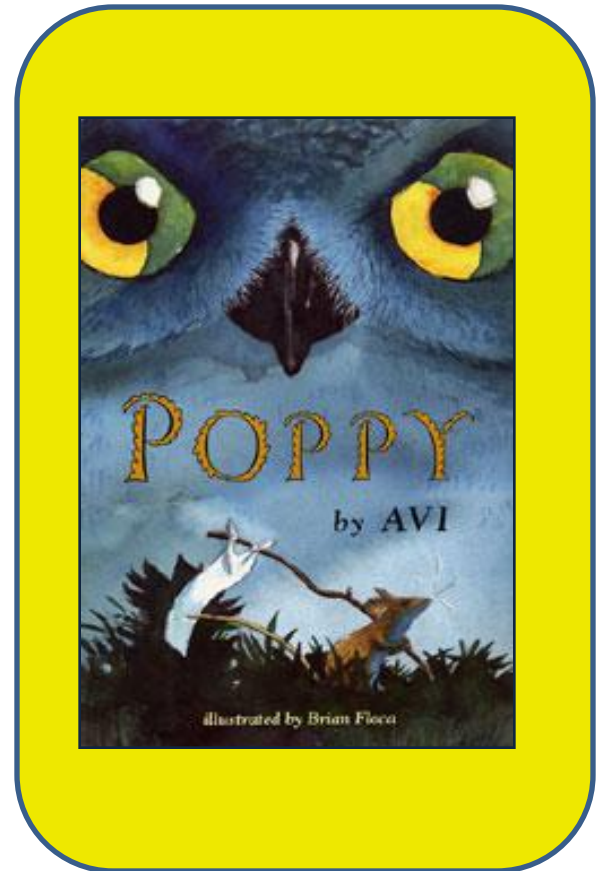
<http://litplans.com/authors/Avi.html>

<http://teachers.net/mentors/literature/topic3119/8.19.06.09.41.07.html>

<http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/faculty/kkvre/units/2003/poppy/poppy.html>

<http://www.educationoasis.com/bc/authorpages/avi.htm>

http://teacher.scholastic.com/authorsandbooks/events/avi/teachers_guide.htm





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Re: Poppy by Avi - study guide

Posted by JJ on 8/19/06

On 7/27/06, Nan wrote:

- > I am looking for the study guide for the book, Poppy, by
- > Avi. Does anyone know where I can locate a copy???
- >
- > Thanks so much!

There is an amazing website that has questions for each chapter. They are very thought provoking, higher order questions. I had the students in my class do think-pair-share with the questions and they prompted very interesting and in depth discussions.

I also added questions of my own as they arose, especially those about being faced with an ethical dilemma, which became a theme with my students.

<http://www.fiveinarow.com/reststop/041501.html>

Chapter 1:

Mr. Ocax finds a "deep satisfaction in having others afraid of him." Is this a sign of true authority? Is it possible to be a



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[Bull Run Literature Unit](#)

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Job Center
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Woodrow, The White House Mouse

Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes

Plot:

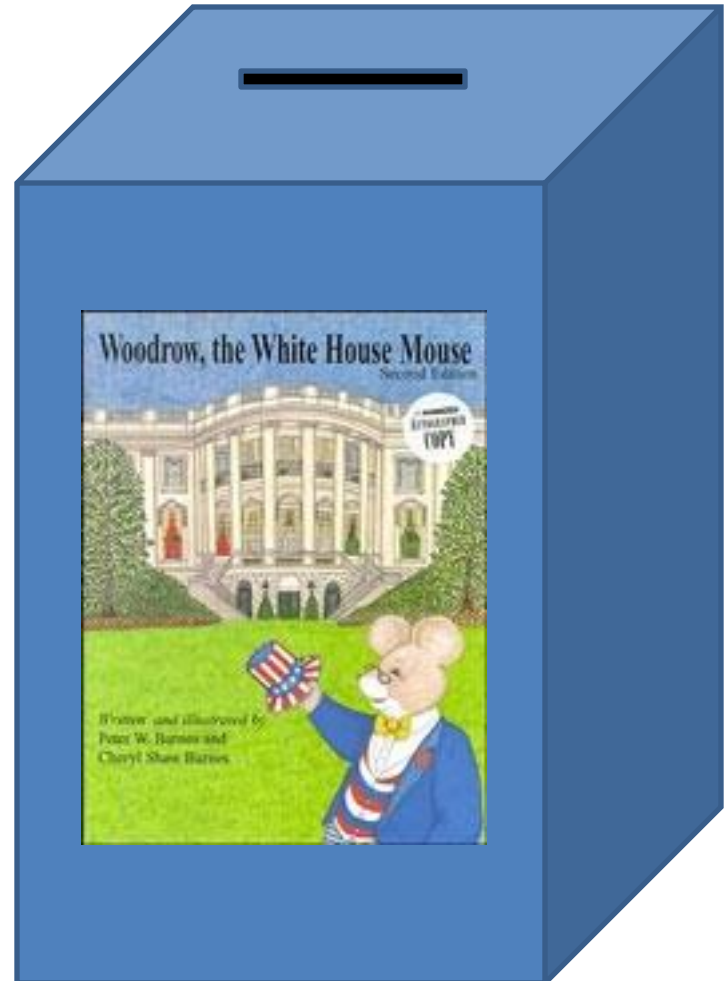
Woodrow has been elected as President of the Mice of America. His celebratory events parallel those of the human President.

Hero:

Woodrow Mouse, President and his family, with names right from the pages of the White House annals (Bess, Truman)

Character values:

Leadership, responsibility, humor, respect for the Oval Office



Woodrow, The White House Mouse

Peter W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes

Classroom Uses:

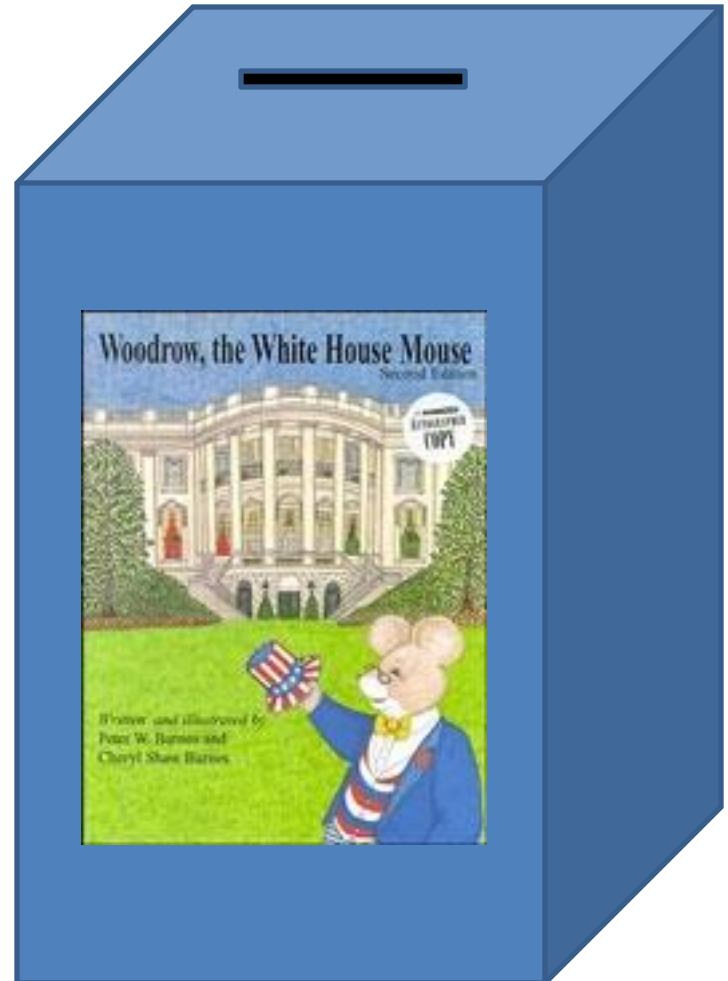
Research presidential responsibilities. Write about a most liked and a least liked part of the job.

Websites:

[http://www.senate.gov/reference/bibliography/kids/Presidency/Woodrow the White House Mouse](http://www.senate.gov/reference/bibliography/kids/Presidency/Woodrow%20the%20White%20House%20Mouse)

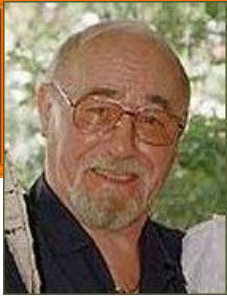
<http://www.oklahomahomeschool.com/PresElec.html>

<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>



Level Three

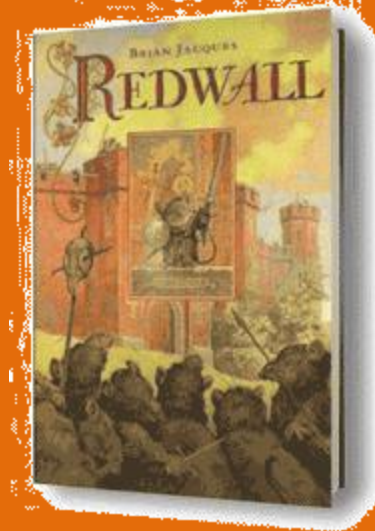
**Generally appropriate
for grades 7-9**



Redwall—Brian Jacques

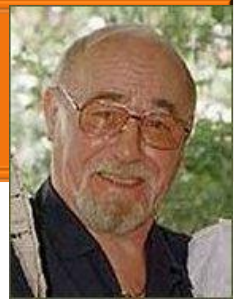


- *Plot:*
Cluny the Scourge has come to attack the beloved and well populated Redwall Abbey. Only teamwork will save the structure and its peaceful inhabitants
- *Hero:*
Matthias Mouse, a clumsy, young, and ill-equipped mouse
- *Character values:*
Courage, teamwork, respect for authority, ingenuity, humor





Redwall—Brian Jacques



- *Classroom Uses*

Visit the Redwall kitchen website and prepare a feast using the recipes.

Choose a hero and write a dialogue that might occur if student and hero meet

Make masks of selected characters to decorate the classroom.

- *Websites:*

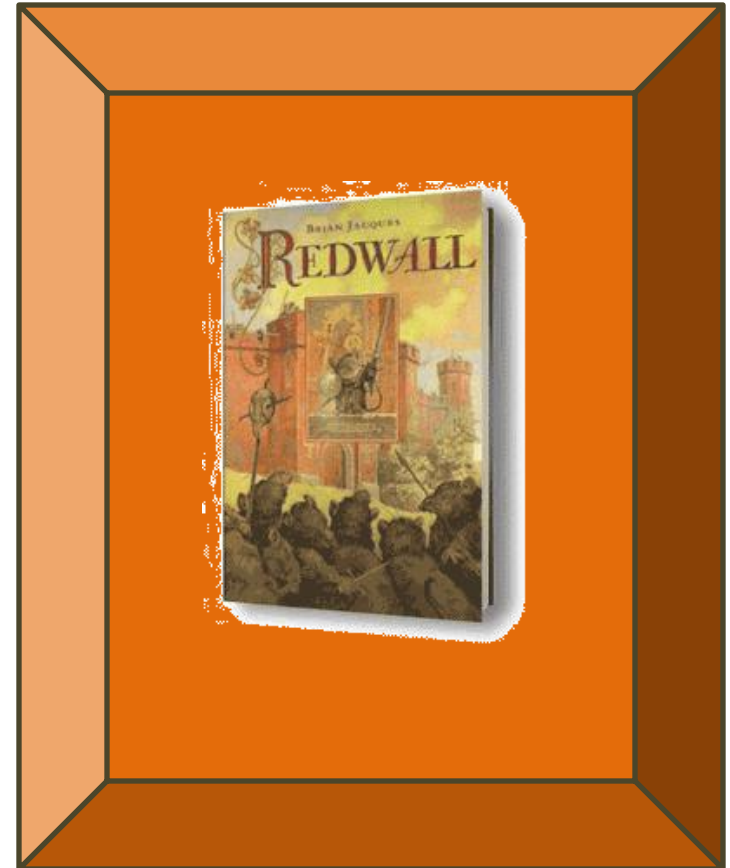
<http://www.redwall.org/dave/news.php>

<http://www.carolhurst.com/titles/redwall.html>

<http://www.redwall.net/kitchen>

<http://www.progenypress.com> (Christian perspective)

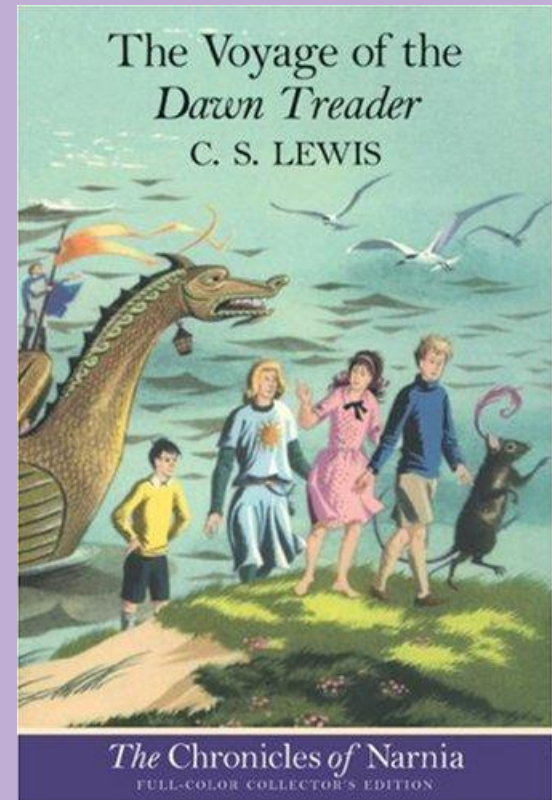
The home page offers numerous sites





Voyage of the Dawn Treader—C.S. Lewis

- *Plot:*
As the mysterious ship, *The Dawn Treader* searches for lost lords, Reepicheep the warrior desires nothing greater than to sail beyond the known sea and on to Aslan's country
- *Hero:* Reepicheep
- *Character values:*
Courtesy, courage, determination, teamwork, responsibility



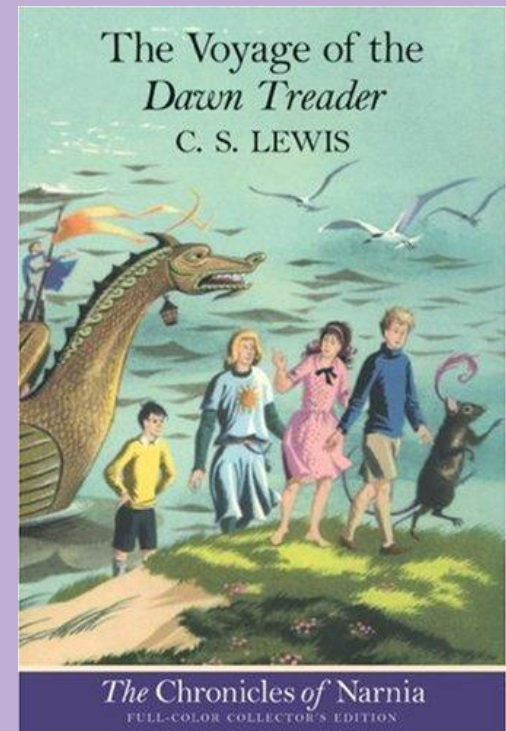
Voyage of the Dawn Treader—C.S. Lewis



- *Classroom Uses:*

Search text for ways that Reepicheep could have been a “Mouse of God.”

Divide book into sections and students into groups to research “Reepicheep Rules” and post in the classroom to provide a Code of Honor



Voyage of the Dawn Treader—C.S. Lewis



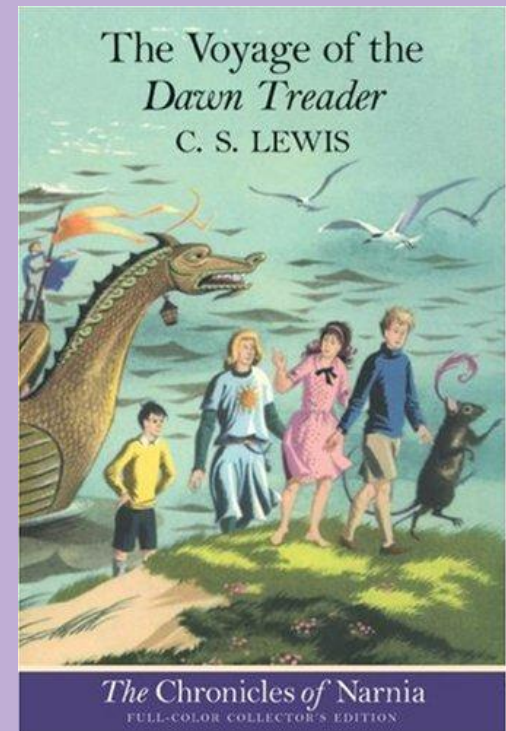
Websites:

<http://www.help4teachers.com/DawnTreader.htm>

http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/BuilderV03/LPTools/lps_hared/lpdisplay.asp?LPID=31774

<http://books.narnia.com> (Listen to a chapter)

www.gotquestions.org/Narnia_Voyage-Dawn-Treader (Christian themes)





THE VOYAGE OF THE 'DAWN TREADER'

ENGLISH YEARS: 1942

NARNIAN YEARS: 2306

Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace, are magically transported onto the ship, Dawn Treader, where King Caspian is searching for the seven lost friends of his father. On the voyage, the children meet many fantastical creatures, including the great Aslan himself.

- TELL ME MORE
- BUY THE BOOK
- LISTEN TO A CHAPTER
- READ A CHAPTER
- BROWSE INSIDE



THE SILVER CHAIR

ENGLISH YEARS: 1942

NARNIAN YEARS: 2356

King Caspian's beloved son Prince Rilian has disappeared. Aslan sends Eustace and his school friend Jill to Narnia on a quest to search for the young prince and defeat the evil Witch.

- TELL ME MORE
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The Tale of Despereaux

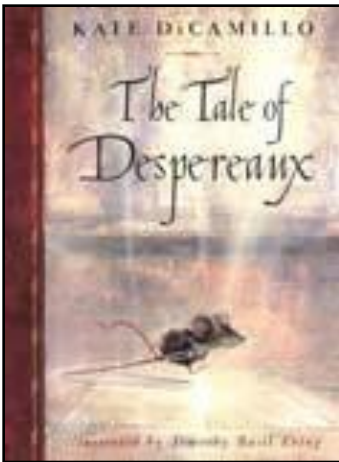
by Kate DiCamillo

Plot:

The stories of four main characters become woven together with dark and light : a tiny mouse, a beautiful princess, a wretched rat, and a small abused girl

Hero:

Despereaux



Character values:

*****Forgiveness, Courage to follow a dream, Love,
Determination, Overcoming rejection**



The Tale of Despereaux

by Kate DiCamillo

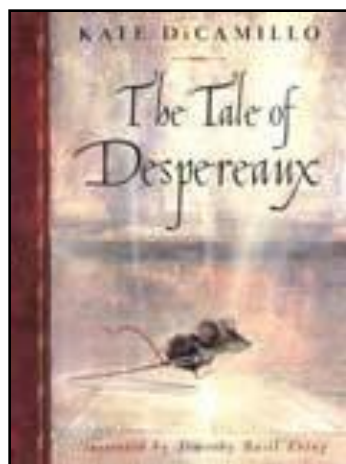
Classroom Uses:

Study use of imagery and metaphor

Study conflict of light vs. dark/Physical and Spiritual

Strong spiritual lessons of the power of forgiveness

Writing: Students can write about their own hopes and dreams

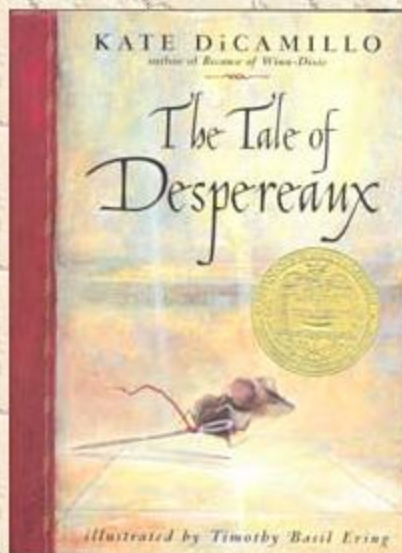


<http://suzyred.com/2005despereaux.html>

<http://kitzimilner8.tripod.com/analysispage.htm>

My Analysis

Lesson Plans



The Tale of Despereaux is a book which contains all the romanticism, adventure, and wonder of a good old fashioned fairy tale. It appeals to reader on many levels. For one, the characterization is incredibly strong involves a small mouse named Despereaux, who becomes an unlikely hero. A devious, yet lonely rat named Roscuro. Finally, a wishful dim-witted servant girl named Miggory Sow. Each of the attributes of the main characters can be easily related to a child. Young girls could relate to Miggory's desire to be a princess, while others could relate to Roscuro because he wanted something so badly but was afraid of persecution by those around him. Children could also relate to Despereaux. He is a character yearning for love and acceptance. Although he encounters self-doubt several times, he never gives up. Despereaux is small and seen as weak but proves that it is not the size of yourself but the size of your heart that truly matters. DiCamillo does a beautiful job of describing each character's emotions. It is easy to empathize with Miggory Sow when she longs to be a princess. The reader can feel for her when she is hit in the

ear by her abusive uncle. Her mother has died and her father sold her to this abusive uncle. Roscuro's secret desire for the light and to escape the dungeon makes it difficult to imagine that he is really so evil. Yet at the same time he is believable as a relentless villain. For instance, after Roscuro sees the light for the first time he knows it is what he wants more than anything. Boticelli, an old rat, is quick to persuade Roscuro that he, as a rat, does not belong in the light. Roscuro is all too



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The Tale of Despereaux



being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread

Click to activate and use this control

[The Tale of Despereaux](#) by Kate DiCamillo

One tiny mouse, the only surviving baby in his litter. One tiny mouse is touched by the light. One tiny mouse seeks the light through beauty, music, truth, courage, and love. Despereaux.

One beautiful princess with a heart full of light. The Princess Pea

One wretched rat, born in a dungeon. One wretched rat who sees the light, wants the light, goes toward the light, only to find darkness. Chiaroscuro

One small girl, traded for trinkets, abused, degraded, trapped in darkness. Miggory Sow.

Four stories whose threads become woven together with dark

Kids' Wings

The world's greatest literature units for **The Tale of Despereaux** and 20 other terrific children's novels are found in



Research Links for [The Tale of Despereaux](#)

[Kate DiCamillo's Biography](#)

[Author's Biography](#)

[Teacher's Guide from Candlewick](#)

[Reader's Guide](#)

[Deer Mice and White-Footed Mice](#)

[Research: MICE \(Peromyscus leucopus\) and
Seville Data](#)

[Watercress Soup Recipe](#)

[Research: RATS](#)

[Shenandoah Music](#)

Literary Connections:

[Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIH](#) by Robert O'Brien
[Cyberguide](#)

[Christopher Mouse: The Tale of a Small Traveler](#) by William
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