



Welcome to the Ready Readers Workshop October 21, 2009

Sue Darcy's "You Can't Go Wrong With These 10 Books + One"

10. **WHAT! CRIED GRANNY *An Almost Bedtime Story*** by Kate Lum ISBN 0-14-230092-6, \$6.99 in paper. Available at Booksource.

A little boy spends the night at his grandmother's house, but he doesn't have any of the things he needs. The exasperated grandmother uses her resources to help him. A very silly and fun book.

USES: Problem solving and prediction

9. **WAG A TAIL** by Lois Ehlert ISBN 978-0-15-205843-2, \$16.00 in hardcover. NOT available at Booksource. Available at Amazon and other bookstores.

This is a story of good dog behavior at the Farmer's Market. The illustrations are made from construction paper and buttons. The book is very bright and visually stimulating.

USES: I use pictures of the dogs to play matching games. This helps with concepts of same/different. If your children are too young to the cards, it is a great book for talking about colors and shapes.

8. **GINGERBREAD BABY** by Jan Brett ISBN 0-399-23444-6, \$16.99 hardcover only. Available at Booksource

This is a traditional story of the runaway gingerbread boy with a twist at the end. The illustrations look like gingerbread cookies. The last page has a 3-D decorated gingerbread house.

USES: Memory recall of all of the characters who chase the gingerbread baby. A good non-religious holiday story. I have a paper gingerbread baby that I give to the children to decorate. After getting permission from the teacher, I usually bring graham crackers and frosting and let the children decorate the crackers. Last year, I brought a gingerbread house for them to see.

7. **LEAF MAN** by Lois Ehlert ISBN 0-15-205304-2, \$16.00 hardcover only. Available at Booksource

Leaf Man is a story of a leaf that takes an autumn journey. The leaves join forces and make shapes.

USES: A good nature story. Fall leaves “Xerox” well. I give each child a copied leaf. I usually pick several different fall leaves of varying sizes. We talk about how different trees have different types of leaves. Leaf Man has acorn eyes and a sweet gum ball nose so I try to bring those also.

6. **THE DOORBELL RANG** by Pat Hutchins ISBN 0-688-09234-9, \$6.99 in paper. Available at Booksource

Mom bakes a dozen cookies for her two children to share but friends ring the door bell and the children have to share their cookies.

USES: Math and the concepts of sharing and manners. I have made a dozen paper cookies. After I have read the story once, I re-read it and we divide the cookies as more and more friends come. Even though they won’t really understand the concept of division and fractions, they can count the number of cookies and children. We talk about why the children are reluctant to answer the door near the end of the book.

5. **A WINDY DAY** by Robin Nelson ISBN 0-8225-1963-1 (non-fiction)

This is a wonderful intro-to-science book about wind. It has actual photographs of children experiencing the wind. It can be coupled with THE WINDY DAY by Frank Asch.

USES: I LOVE teaching little kids about science. I start out by asking them questions about the air around us. We talk about how wind is air that moves. We blow on our hands. The Magic House did a great experiment with The Windy Day: Put a 10’ length of string through a drinking straw. Blow up a balloon, but DO NOT tie it off. Tape the balloon to the straw. Let go of the balloon. It will shoot along the string like a rocket and the kids love it. It really shows them how air and wind can move an object.

4. **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR** by Eric Carle. ISBN 0399226907, Board book, \$10.99, ISBN 0399208534, Hardcover, \$21.99. Board book and Hardcover available at Booksource. (Walmart edition \$8.99, Jumpstart)

This was the Jumpstart Read for the Record book last week (Oct. 2009). In this story, the little caterpillar hatches from an egg, eats and eats, undergoes metamorphosis and turns into a butterfly.

USES: Counting, colors, nutrition (and gluttony) and science. All of Eric Carle’s stories are wonderful and there are lots of them!

3. **TWO EGGS, PLEASE** by Sarah Weeks and Betsy Lewin ISBN 978-1-4169-2714-3, \$6.99 in paper, available at Booksource

In this story, each anthropomorphic character enters a diner and orders two eggs but each orders the eggs cooked in a different manner.

USES: Diversity, same/different. The inside cover of the books explains a simple demonstration using a brown and a white egg.

2. **GO AWAY, BIG GREEN MONSTER!** By Ed Emberley ISBN 0-316-23653-5, \$10.99 in hardcover, available at Booksource.

This is a great cut-out book that builds a monster face and then makes it disappear.

USES: Helps children to take control over the monster and fears of monsters. The book can be used to learn colors and parts of the face and head. The children love to yell, "and don't come back until I say so!"

And the number 1 book is:

SNOWBALLS by Lois Ehlert ISBN 0-613-22939-8, \$17.00 hardcover; ISBN 0152020950, \$7.00 in paper. Both are available at Booksource.

This story seems so simple on the surface but has many wonderful concepts. It is about building a snow family on a snowy day...but then the sun comes out and they melt away...and they weren't really made of snow anyway!

USES: I wait until it snows to read this book. I bring in a snow ball and put it on a plate while I read the story. The children get to watch the snowball melt and become water. I also bring in a small hand mirror and have them breathe on it so they can see "steam". The end of this book also has some real photos of snow people in case the younger children have never seen a snowman. A few pages from the end is a page with all the items used to make the snow family. I have the children guess which item belongs to each snow person. The "plus" book that I use along with SNOWBALLS is STRANGER IN THE WOODS by Carl R. Sams II & Jean Stoick ISBN 0-9671748-0-5. This is another sweet snowman story with photographs instead of illustrations.

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