

Annotated Bibliography

Children's & Adolescent Literature: Creating a Supportive Learning Community

OVERVIEW:

Each of the following texts is suitable for use in PK-12 and university classes to create a supportive learning community and to enhance teacher preparation in times of crisis and recovery. Children's literature offers rich opportunities for providing literacy-based activities to support children and their families during such times. Multiple responses to literature may be enjoyed!

Five copies of each title are available to teachers, teacher candidates and university faculty, as these text sets may be used with undergraduate and graduate students as part of the curricular framework in fostering teacher preparedness. A list of literature extensions or responses to literature is also available.

Billiot, W. W. (2004). *Before the saltwater came*. Theriot, LA: Author.

The story of LaLoutre, a grandmotherly otter who tells the story of growing up in a healthy, freshwater wetland in south Louisiana before saltwater intrusion. She relates real-life events and how they adversely impact her environment. Watercolor illustrations personify the otters and encourage children to identify with them. A Teacher's Guide is available for use with this text.

DiCamillo, K. (2000). *Because of Winn Dixie*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

A tale about a young girl who moves to a small town with her father, the preacher. Once there she finds a stray dog that she takes in and names Winn Dixie. Throughout the summer, Winn Dixie helps the girl (Opal) make friends and build a relationship with her father. A story of love, friendship, and learning to be thankful for what you have. A great book for the young reader.

Fanelli, S. (1995). *My map book*. London: Harper Collins.

A book for children (K-3) which offers an unexpected view of the world. In full page splashes of color, the author collects maps of her tummy, her neighborhood, her bedroom, and her dog. A book designed to stir the imagination of a child beginning to map his or her life.

Fleischman, P. (1997). *Seedfolks*. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books.

This chapter book shows how one person can impact a neighborhood as the seedfolks join forces to build a community garden and caring relationships for another. Each chapter is told from a different voice of the thirteen characters that represent diverse cultures, languages and ages. This book has been chosen as a citywide read in communities across the country.

Elliott, C.B. (2008)

Provided through a grant funded by the University of Louisiana System and Learn & Serve America, *Everybody's Child: Teacher Preparedness in Times of Crisis & Recovery*.

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Hatoff, C., Hatoff, I., & Kahumba, P. (2006). *Owen & Mzee: The true story of a remarkable friendship.* New York: Scholastic Press.

The true story of how a frightened young hippo, separated from his family by a devastating tsunami, bonds with an Aldabra tortoise named Mzee. The 130 year-old tortoise accepts Owen as his own, and an inseparable bond is forged. Readers will learn of a truly remarkable friendship of an unprecedented nature.

Houston, G. (1992). *My great-aunt Arizona. U.S.A.: Harper Collins.*

The story of a woman named Arizona who was born and reared in the Blue Ridge Mountains and dreams of far away places she would one day visit, but never does. Instead she chooses to become a teacher and help generations of children in a one-room schoolhouse which she herself attended. This is a touching tribute to dedicated teachers everywhere and the importance of one's family.

Kaster, P. (2008). *Molly the pony. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press*

Molly the Pony is a true story of a pony that waited to be rescued during Hurricane Katrina and found a new home. But Molly's tale of courage does not end here. When a dog on the farm attacks Molly, she is badly injured and undergoes a rare surgery for horses: amputation of her front leg. Now fitted with a prosthetic limb, the pony relearns how to walk and embarks again on a new mission in life: making new people friends. This is a story of survival and friendship and will be recognized by all who have had to start over after displacement, abandonment, or injury.

Larson, K. & Nethery, M. (2008). *Two Bobbies.* New York: Walker and Company.

This picture book is a true story about the friendship of a cat and dog and their survival during Hurricane Katrina. It documents their journey immediately after the hurricane to a shelter and finally a new home. It is beautifully illustrated by Jean Cassels with end-pages that depict the eye of a hurricane and storm-warning flags.

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