

## Books For Kicks:

A literature collection for my future classroom

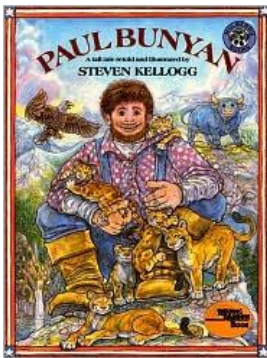
This literature collection includes books for all ages and grade ranges.

It includes classic books that I grew up with, and books with amazing illustrations and rich language.

### Paul Bunyan

Retold & Illustrated by: Steven Kellogg

Genre: tall tale



**Grade Range:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

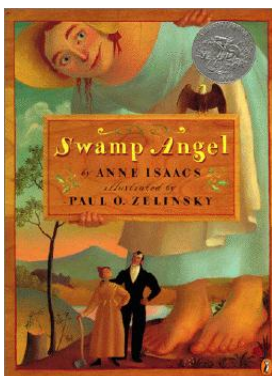
**Features:** Paul Bunyan has such vivid and intriguing illustrations, rich language, shows characterization, and is a story of timelessness, This book is wonderful and an easy read.

**Summary:** A story about a boy who grew up in Maine and decides to take a journey with crew members to cut down trees in different woods until he crosses the U.S.

During their journey, Paul and his crew come across a few obstacles. But once they get to the other side of the country Paul decides to give up lumbering and explore the wilderness.

### Reader Response Activity:

1. Write a short story about an adventure Paul has in the wilderness after he gave up lumbering
2. Once the students have written a short story they will illustrate a picture to go along with their story.



### Swamp Angel

**Author:** Anne Isaacs

**Illustrator:** Paul. O. Zelinsky

**Genre:** tall tale

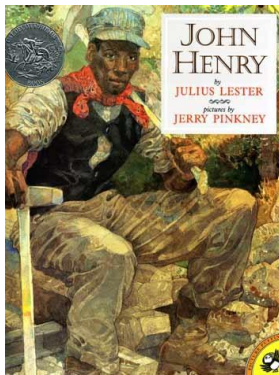
**Grade Range:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Features:** Swamp Angle has amazing illustrations and rich language.

**Summary:** Angelica Longrider grew up in Tennessee. She was nicknamed Swamp Angel because one day she lifted a group of settlers' wagons out of a puddle and placed them on high ground. The settlers then started calling her an angel. Swamp Angel takes on a challenge to get rid of a bear that was bothersome. Eventually the bear dies and Swamp Angel, Angelica, moves out of state.

**Reader Response Activity:**

1. Describe some ways you would use the bear's body parts and fur to help out others.
2. Describe a time where someone was helpful to you, or a time when you were helpful to someone else.



**John Henry**

**Written by:** Julius Lester

**Illustrated by:** Jerry Pinkney

**Genre:** tall tale

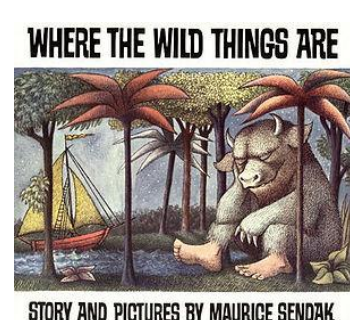
**Grade Range:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Features:** John Henry is a timeless story, with the moral of helping others. It is rich in language and includes a song that is very thought provoking.

**Summary:** John Henry was a remarkable baby. When he was born the entire town and all of the animals gathered to see him. He grew up to be a handyman giant the same day he was born. John eventually went off and traveled to help people. This story tells all his larger than life adventures when he went off to help others.

**Reader Response Activity:**

What do you think John Henry's song symbolizes? Describe a time when you've done something to help others.



**Where the Wild Things Are**

**Written by:** Maurice Sendak

**Genre:** Fantasy

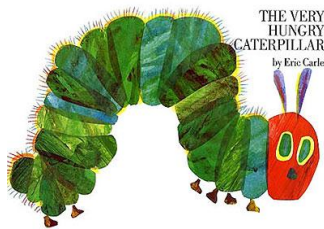
**Grade Range:** K-3

**Features:** Where the Wild Things Are, is so compressed in its language, lively in its pictures, and so psychologically right

**Summary:** When Max is sent to bed without eating dinner with his wolf suit on, he imagines an adventure. Max is greeted by the ocean and his own personal boat. He sails to an island where the wild things are where he meets a crowd of fanciful beasts. He fearlessly greets the creatures and shows them that he is the wildest thing of all. When he becomes homesick he leaves the island of the wild things and sails back home. He wakes up in his bedroom to find his warm supper waiting for him.

**Reader Response Activity:**

1. Students may also have a similar way of dealing with their emotions like max, so the students will draw a picture of their own island where they can do anything. They will have to include themselves in the illustration.
2. Once the child is done with their illustration they will write a story about one of their many adventures and share it with the class.



**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**

**Written by:** Eric Carle

**Genre:** Fiction realistic

**Grade range:** PreK–2

**Features:** This books has such colorful illustrations that it is hard not to pass up such a timeless book. When I went to the library to check it out for my students, they were all reserved.

**Summary:** Eric Carle’s colorful classic depicts the famished insect eating his way through an apple, two pears, three plums, and a smorgasbord of other treats. Along the way, readers learn about colors and counting—not to mention the life cycle of a caterpillar.

**Reader Response Activity:**

Draw pictures of the foods you would eat if you were a caterpillar.

THE POLAR EXPRESS



**The Polar Express**

**Written by:** Chris Van Allsburg

**Genre:** Adventure

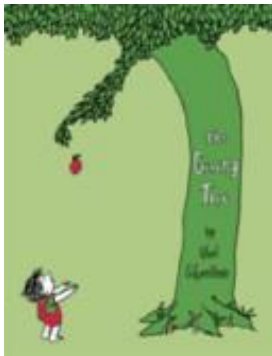
**Grade range:** K–5

**Features:** The pictures are so clear that they almost look like it came out of a movie. The text is so fun and rich it includes and descriptive.

**Summary:** Could there be a better Christmas tale than that of a boy lying awake on Christmas Eve who is taken by Santa himself to the North Pole? This book encourages kids to believe in the spirit of Christmas. The boy believes there is no Santa, but when he hears a train pass by right in front of his house he is hesitant to get on it. When he gets on they are headed to the North Pole to meet Santa himself. He makes new friends and when he finally believes Santa is real he can hear his small bell ring.

**Reader Response Activity:**

For a reader response activity the students will write or describe a wonderful gift they have ever received.



**The Giving Tree**

**Written by:** Shel Silverstein

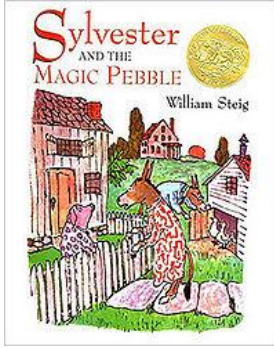
**Genre:** Fiction realistic

**Grade range:** 2–5

**Features:** Another great timeless story for all ages. It's one of my favorites.

**Summary:** This wise and lovely story of the tree that gives her all for love. It's a wonderful tale about life transforming the boy that played on her branches to an old man that sits on her stump. The boy gathered her leaves and would make them into crowns. He saw the tree everyday until one day when he was gathering her apples he stopped going to see her for a bit and the tree was sad. But when the boy came back she was happy again. But the boy was now a man and he didn't have time to see the tree any more so he cut off her branches and took it to make a home. And once again he stayed away for a long time. When he came back again the man was now old and he wanted a boat so the tree said to use her for his boat and he did. But only this time when he returned there was nothing left but the old tree stump.

**Reader Response Activity:**



### **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**

**Written by:** William Steig

**Genre:**

**Grade range:** K–5

**Features:** This is a timeless story about Sylvester and the magic pebble. Although the illustrations aren't the greatest they are still fun to look at and the literature is rich. The story also shows characterization.

**Summary:** Once a pebble-collecting donkey finds his lucky stone, misadventure begins. Once Sylvester accidentally turns himself into a stone, it seems all is lost, but eventually he comes back to his donkey self—and wishing is approached more carefully!

#### **Reader Response Activity:**

Make a wish and tell what you would do after your wish has come true. Would your life be accomplished? IS there any more that you would need to reach have your greatest wish come true?



### **Madeline and the bad hat**

**Written by:** Ludwig Bemelmans

**Genre:** Adventure

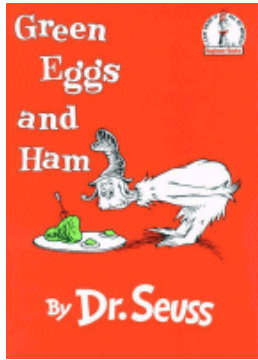
**Grade range:** K–5

**Features:** the famous “In an old house in Paris that was covered with vines lives twelve little girls in two straight lines, they left the house at half-past-nine, in two straight lines in rain or shine. The smallest one was Madeline”

**Summary:** Ah, the Parisian adventures of Madeline! Her life with the nuns, her trip to the hospital, and Bemelmans' depictions of the city still satisfy kids of many ages. In this story Madeline meets their new neighbor, a boy named Pepito. Pepito is a “bad hat”. He tries to impress Madeline but Madeline wants nothing to do with him. When Pepito makes a plan it goes too far and soon backfires on him.

#### **Reader Response Activity:**

1. Write a story of a time when you tried to impress someone but they didn't like it.
2. Write a story of a time you got into trouble with a pet or knew someone who got into trouble with a pet.



## **Green Eggs and Ham**

**Written by:** Dr. Seuss

**Genre:**

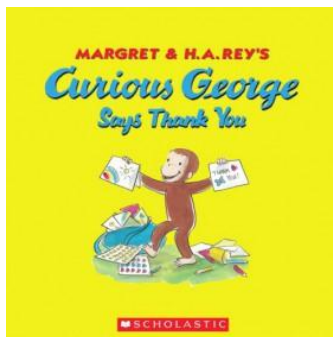
**Grade range:** PreK–3

**Features:** When Dr. Seuss accepted a bet that he couldn't write a story using only 50 words he came up with Green Eggs and Ham. The illustrations are simple yet engaging and the fact that the story rhymes makes the book so much better. It's fun to read and it is a classic Dr. Seuss book that everyone can enjoy.

**Summary:** Sam is trying his hardest to get his friend to try green eggs and ham. His friend refuses to eat them so Sam tries to convince him to eat them in a house, on a boat, with a mouse, in the dark, so on and so forth. Eventually his friend gives in and tried the green eggs and ham. He discovers he loves them and will eat them in a house, on a boat, with a mouse and in the dark. He will eat them everywhere. The moral of the story is to try something new because you just may end up liking it.

### **Reader Response Activity:**

1. I will have the students write a story of a time when they had to try something when they absolutely didn't want to whether they loved or hated it.
2. The students will draw a picture to go along with their short story and at the end we will try some green eggs and ham as a class.



## **Curious George Says Thank you**

**Written by:** H.A. and Margret Ray

**Genre:** fiction-adventure

**Grade range:** K–2

**Features:** Curious George and his wild adventures are fun for all ages, I remember growing up watching the T.V. show. It is a timeless, fun, and full of wonderful language and illustrations that it is hard not to pass up.

**Summary:** The world's most beloved monkey, Curious George has had many adventures in his day. On this particular adventure George receives a thank you card from his neighbor Betsy. He then decides to write thank you cards to a few people he's thankful to.

**Reader Response Activity:**

1. Write a thank you note, letter, or card to someone you are thankful for.