

Teaching About the Core Competencies and Building Portfolios

with Great Stories and Supporting Activities

By Janine Fraser



COMMUNICATION

A Letter to My Teacher by Deborah Hopkinson

The book is a thank you letter to a childhood teacher. It's the story of a girl who on the surface didn't follow the rules but underneath was struggling to learn to read. Its a story about a teacher who noticed and cared.

Suggested Activity:

"One thing I want My Teacher to Know About Me is..."

Have children draw and write some things they want their teacher to know about them to communicate their inner self.



CRITICAL THINKING

Charlotte the Scientist is Squished by Camille Andros

The book is about a rabbit who has a lab coat and a scientific mind, but she has no space (being a rabbit in a rabbit family of course). This story helps children be critical thinkers and think like scientists.

Suggested Activity:

"The Scientific Method: Conducting an Experiment."

Conduct an experiment with your class using the scientific method





CREATIVE THINKING

Sarabella's Thinking Cap by Judy Schachner

Sarabella's mind is always full of ideas, and this is not always the best, like when you are supposed to be concentrating and doing multiplication tables at school. Lucky for Sarabella she has an understanding teacher who gives her an assignment that helps her express who she is while sharing that great imagination.

Suggested Activity:

"My Thinking Cap"

Have children draw and write some things that are in their imaginations.



POSITIVE PERSONAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

When We Were Alone

by David Alexander Robertson

The book is about a young girl who asks her grandmother questions about why she wears her hair long, wears bright clothes, speaks her language, and spends time with family. It is an important story that shares experiences from the Grandmother's childhood in a residential school. It's a story of personal and cultural identity, strength and reconciliation.

Suggested Activity:

"How the character feels/How I feel"

Have children draw and write about the way they think the character feels in this story. They will also draw and write about how they feel about this story.





PERSONAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY

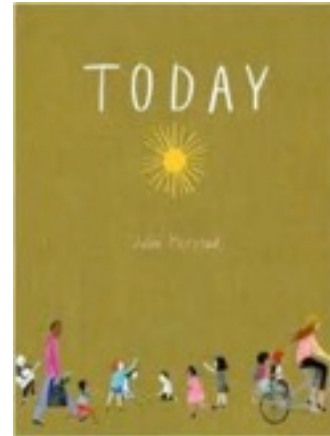
Today by Julie Morstad

This beautifully written and illustrated book showcases diverse children making choices about their day, from what to eat for breakfast, to getting dressed, to ways to travel. It makes the ordinary extraordinary and shows children that the choices are theirs to make in life from the simplest moments to the largest.

Suggested Activity:

"What Should I Wear in Each Season..."

.Have children show their personalities and understandings of weather and seasons as they draw the clothes they would chose to wear for each season.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Come with Me by Holly McQueen

The book is about a young girl who asks her family what she can do to make the world a better place after seeing news that is filled with hatred and fear. Her parents ask her to come along with them, and she is able to see that everyday life is full of people who are kind and good. The girl learns that her part may seem small but it is important in the world.

Suggested Activity:

"Making the World a Little Brighter."

Have children draw and write about one thing they can personally do to make the world a better place.

