# Teaching Theme

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library

A Selective Annotated Bibliography

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Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder. But just when Thunder Boy Jr. thinks all hope is lost, he and his dad pick the perfect name... a name that is sure to light up the sky.


Rabbit's comfortable nightly routine is disturbed by exuberant Froggie, who settles in for a snack and a story without being invited.


With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

From Elephant's long nose to Kangaroo's huge feet to Monkey's stick-out ears, everyone is worth celebrating, no matter what they look like.


Using a red marker, a young girl draws a door on her bedroom wall and through it enters another world where she experiences many adventures, including being captured by an evil emperor.


Jeremy, who longs to have the black high tops that everyone at school seems to have but his grandmother cannot afford, is excited when he sees them for sale in a thrift shop and decides to buy them even though they are the wrong size.


Callie and her family are moving from their house to an apartment, so they're having a yard sale. It can be hard to let things go, but in the end, it's who you have - not what you have - that counts.


Emily paints four pictures and enters one in the first-grade art contest, but the judge interprets Emily's entry as a rabbit instead of a dog.


A little boy wants his wishes to come true.


Members of a large group of animals, including a penguin, two rabbits, and a koala, disappear at an alarming rate but the hungry lion remains.


A proper bulldog raised in a poodle family and a tough poodle raised in a
bulldog family meet one day in the park.


When her parents find a baby wolf on their doorstep and decide to raise him as their own, Dot is certain he will eat them all up until a surprising encounter with a bear brings them closer together.


Everyone on Grimloch Lane enjoys the trees and shrubs clipped into animal masterpieces after dark by the Night Gardener, but William, a lonely boy, spots the artist, follows him, and helps with his special work.


Wesley's garden produces a crop of huge, strange plants which provide him with clothing, shelter, food, and drink, thus helping him create his own civilization and changing his life.


Little Bird loves learning new words and sharing them with his friends, so when he realizes that his latest one is a bad word, he knows just what to say to set things right.


Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.


Jacob, who likes to wear dresses at home, convinces his parents to let him wear a dress to school, too.


After safeguarding her heart in a bottle hung around her neck, a girl finds the bottle growing heavier and her interest in things around her becoming smaller.

Two fuzzy creatures can't agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all!


A lot of Marilyn's friends have monsters. It's the latest thing. Each one is just right for its boy or girl. Marilyn really wants a monster, too, but despite her efforts to be the kind of girl no monster could resist, hers just doesn't come. What could be taking it so long? Everyone knows you just have to wait for your monster - but the spunky and determined Marilyn thinks there may be other ways that things can work.


A little black fish in a school of red fish figures out a way of protecting them all from their natural enemies.


Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives, everything changes.


On a trip to the farmers' market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents' gentle warnings that Bernice will begin to rot. As winter nears, Sophie does start to notice changes.... What's a girl to do when the squash she loves is in trouble?


Hoping that the enemy pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend.


A number/color book reminding us that it just takes one to make everyone count.

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.


Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things.


An old woman who has outlived all her friends is reluctant to become too attached to the stray dog that visits her each day.


Demonstrates the many ways that torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper can be transformed into various shapes and images.


When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

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Calkins, Lucy. *Units of Study for Teaching Reading*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015. (Total of six volumes; also available for grades 1-5)
