



Teaching Theme

Theme is the message or lesson in a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Grade Level	Title Information	Call Number
BIG BOOKS		
PreK-3	Williams, Vera B. <i>A Chair for My Mother</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982. (Themes: Generosity, Community, Family)	BB W6759C
	A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.	
EASY		
PreK-3	Alexie, Sherman. <i>Thunder Boy, Jr.</i> New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2016. (Themes: Identity, Independence)	E AL279T
	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.	
PreK-K	Antony, Steve. <i>Please, Mr. Panda</i> . First American edition. New York:	E AN889P

Scholastic Press, 2015. (Themes: Manners, Sharing)

Mr. Panda has a plate of doughnuts to share, but most of the other animals forget to say "Please."

PreK-K Antony, Steve. *Thank You, Mr. Panda*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2017. (Themes: Manners, Gratitude) E AN889T

Mr. Panda has presents for all his animal friends, but many of the gifts are not quite right--but as little Lemur knows, it is the thought that counts.

PreK-K Asher, Sandy. *Too Many Frogs!* New York: Philomel Books, 2005. (Themes: Friendship, Manners) E AS353T

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

PreK-3 Barnett, Mac. *Extra Yarn*. New York: Balzer & Bray, 2012. (Themes: Individuality) E B2646E

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.

PreK-3 Beaumont, Karen. *Wild About Us*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. (Themes: Individuality, Self-Acceptance) E B3838W

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.

PreK-3 Becker, Aaron. *Journey*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013. (Themes: Imagination) E B3883J

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.

K-3 Boelts, Maribeth, and Noah Jones. *Those Shoes*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2007. (Themes: Kindness, Generosity, Bullying, Embarrassment) E B6333T

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.

PreK-2 Bunting, Eve. *Yard Sale*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. (Themes: Change, Family) E B886YA

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.

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| K-3 | Catalanotto, Peter. <i>Emily's Art</i> . New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. (Themes: Imagination, Individuality, Self-Esteem) | E
C2802E |
| | 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. | |
| PreK-3 | Clanton, Ben. <i>Something Extraordinary</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. (Themes: Imagination) | E
C529S |
| | A little boy wants his wishes to come true. | |
| K-2 | Cole, Henry. <i>Unspoken: A Story From the Underground Railroad</i> . New York: Scholastic Press, 2012. (Themes: Compassion, Courage, Civil Rights) | E
C6749U |
| | In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corn crib in the barn and decides to help him. | |
| PreK-3 | Cummins, Lucy Ruth. <i>A Hungry Lion, or a Dwindling Assortment of Animals</i> . New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015. (Themes: Friendship, Surprise) | E
C9129H |
| | 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. | |
| PreK-K | de la Peña, Matt, and Christian Robinson. <i>Last Stop On Market Street</i> . New York, NY: G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), 2015. (Themes: Gratitude, Giving) | E
D3706L |
| | Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty -- and fun -- in their routine and the world around them. | |
| PreK-3 | DiPuccio, Kelly. <i>Gaston</i> . New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014. (Themes: Identity, Family, Individuality) | E
D626GA |
| | A proper bulldog raised in a poodle family and a tough poodle raised in a bulldog family meet one day in the park. | |
| PreK-3 | Dyckman, Ame. <i>Wolfie the Bunny</i> . New York: Little, Brown and Company, | E
D984W |

2015. (Themes: Adoption, Family, Sibling Rivalry)

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.

- PreK-3 Fan, Terry. *The Night Gardener*. New York: Simon and Schuster for Young Readers, 2016. (Themes: Creativity; Community, Nature) E
F2125N
- 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.
- K-3 Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1999. E
F628W
- (Themes: Imagination; Community)
- 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.
- PreK-2 Grant, Jacob. *Little Bird's Bad Word*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2015. E
G76742L
- (Themes: Manners)
- 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.
- PreK-3 Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1991. E
H3893CHR
- (Themes: Bullying; Identity)
- Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.
- PreK-3 Hoffman, Sarah. *Jacob's New Dress*. Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2014. (Themes: Bullying, Identity, Gender Roles) E
H67555J
- Jacob, who likes to wear dresses at home, convinces his parents to let him wear a dress to school, too.
- PreK-3 Jeffers, Oliver. *The Heart and the Bottle*. New York: Philomel Books, 2010. E
J3555H
- (Themes: Love, Loss, Hope, Emotions)
- 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.
- PreK-3 John, Jory, and Pete Oswald. *The Bad Seed*. First edition. New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2017. (Themes: Self- E
J6136B

Awareness, Growth, Social Awareness)

The bad seed changes his mind about being bad and decides that he wants to be happy.

- PreK-1 Kang, Anna. *You Are (Not) Small!* New York: Two Lions, 2014. (Themes: Perspective, Opposites, Diversity) E
K1318Y
- 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!
- PreK-3 Knudsen, Michelle. *Marilyn's Monster*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. (Themes: Patience, Hope, Friendship) E
K781M
- 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.
- PreK-2 Lawson, JonArno, and Sydney Smith. *Sidewalk Flowers*. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2015. (Themes: Generosity, Kindness, Observation) E
L445S
- A little girl collects wildflowers while on a walk with her distracted father. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter. This wordless picture book, conceived by award-winning poet JonArno Lawson and beautifully brought to life by illustrator Sydney Smith, is an ode to the importance of small things, small people and small gestures.
- PreK-2 Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. New York: Pantheon, 1963. (Themes: Friendship, Courage, Leadership, Diversity) E
L661SW
- A little black fish in a school of red fish figures out a way of protecting them all from their natural enemies.
- 1-4 Ludwig, Trudy. *The Invisible Boy*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. E
L9669I
(Themes: Friendship, Kindness, Inclusion, Isolation)
- Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives, everything changes.
- PreK-3 Lunde, Stein Erik, Oyvind Torseter, and Kari Dickson. *My Father's Arms Are a Boat*. 1st American ed. New York: Enchanted Lion Books, 2013. (Themes: Loss, Conquering Fears, Emotions) E
L9722M
- Unable to sleep, a young boy climbs into his father's arms and asks about

birds, foxes, and whether his mother will ever awaken, then under a starry sky, the father provides clear answers and assurances.

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| PreK-3 | Mantchev, Lisa, and Taeun Yoo. <i>Strictly No Elephants</i> . First edition. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015. (Themes: Diversity, Tolerance, Friendship) | E
M31862S |
| | A boy is excluded from joining his friends' pet club because of his unusual pet. | |
| PreK-2 | Miller, Pat Zietlow. <i>Sophie's Squash</i> . New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2013. (Themes: Friendship, Loss) | E
M61715S |
| | 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? | |
| PreK-7 | Munson, Derek. <i>Enemy Pie</i> . San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2000. (Themes: Friendship, Acceptance, Conflict Resolution) | E
M928E |
| | 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. | |
| PreK-3 | Otoshi, Kathryn. <i>One</i> . Mill Valley, CA: KO Kids Books, 2008. (Themes: Bullying, Courage, Counting) | E
OT60 |
| | A number/color book reminding us that it just takes one to make everyone count. | |
| K-3 | Polacco, Patricia. <i>Thank You, Mr. Falker</i> . New York: Philomel Books, 1998. (Themes: Self-perception, Acceptance, Overcoming Difficulties) | E
P7569T |
| | 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. | |
| PreK-2 | Rania, Kelly DiPucchio, and Tricia Tusa. <i>The Sandwich Swap</i> . 1st U.S. ed. New York: Disney-Hyperion Books, 2010. (Themes: Friendship, Tolerance) | E
R164S |
| | Best friends Lily and Salma disagree over their preferred foods, but after trading sandwiches to see how they taste, the girls change their minds. | |
| K-4 | Reynolds, Peter H. <i>The Dot</i> . First edition. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2003. (Themes: Creativity, Self-Confidence) | E
R3365
DOT |
| | Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement | |

leads her to change her mind and she goes on to encourage another student who feels the same as she had.

- K-4 Reynolds, Peter. *Ish*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004. (Themes: Self-Confidence, Talents, Perspective) E
R3365IS
- Ramon loses confidence in his ability to draw, but his sister gives him a new perspective on things.
- PreK-K Rosenthal, Amy Krouse, and Scott Magoon. *Spoon*. New York: Disney/Hyperion Books, 2009. (Themes: Identity, Self-Esteem) E
R7273S
- Spoon's always been a happy little utensil. But lately, he feels like life as a spoon just isn't cutting it. He thinks Fork, Knife, and The Chopsticks all have it so much better than him. But do they? And what do they think about Spoon?
- PreK-3 Rylant, Cynthia. *The Old Woman Who Named Things*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Brace, 1996. (Themes: Friendship, Loyalty, Fear) E
R983O
- An old woman who has outlived all her friends is reluctant to become too attached to the stray dog that visits her each day.
- PreK-2 Saltzberg, Barney. *Beautiful Oops!* New York: Workman Pub., 2010. E
SA379BE
- (Themes: Creativity, Self-Acceptance, Mistakes)
- Demonstrates the many ways that torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper can be transformed into various shapes and images.
- K-2 Sanna, Francesca. *The Journey*. Second edition. London: Flying Eye Books, 2016. (Themes: Conflict, Compassion, Courage, Hope, Immigration) E
SA587J
- What is it like to have to leave everything behind and travel many miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? A mother and her two children set out on such a journey; one filled with fear of the unknown, but also great hope.
- PreK-3 Santat, Dan. *After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again*. First edition. New York, New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2017. (Themes: Conquering Fears, Determination) E
SA593AF
- After falling off the wall, Humpty Dumpty is very afraid of climbing up again, but is determined not to let fear stop him from being close to the birds.
- PreK-3 Shannon, David. *A Bad Case of Stripes*. New York: Blue Sky Press, 1998. E
SH191B
- (Themes: Individuality)
- In order to ensure her popularity, Camilla Cream always does what is expected, until the day arrives when she no longer recognizes herself.

- 4-8 Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964. (Themes: Giving, Sacrifice, Love, Gratitude) F
SI398GV
- This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation. Shel Silverstein has created a moving parable for readers of all ages that offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return.
- PreK-2 Spires, Ashley, and Yasemin Uçar. *The Most Magnificent Thing*. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press, 2014. (Themes: Creativity, Emotions, Perseverance) E
SP4819M
- A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks. All of her efforts are "wrong," so she has a tantrum and talks about quitting. Fortunately, her assistant leads her to look at her work anew.
- PreK-3 Williams, Vera B. *A Chair for My Mother*. First edition. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1982. (Themes: Generosity, Community, Family) E
W6759
CAM
- A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.
- K-3 Woodson, Jacqueline. *Each Kindness*. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012. (Themes: Bullying, Friendship, Kindness) E
W868E
- 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.
- K-3 Woodson, Jacqueline, and Earl B Lewis. *The Other Side*. New York: Putnam's, 2001. (Themes: Friendship, Tolerance, Open-Mindedness) E
W868O
- Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

FICTION

- PreK-3 Levine, Ellen, and Kadir Nelson. *Henry's Freedom Box*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007. (Themes: Freedom, Overcoming Adversity, Resilience) F
L57863H
- A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

NONFICTION

PreK-3 Clinton, Chelsea, and Alexandra Boiger. *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World*. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2017. (Themes: Courage, Perseverance, Overcoming Adversity) 920.72 C617S

A nonfiction picture book compilation of the stories of 13 American women who persisted in overcoming obstacles and changing the world.

BIOGRAPHIES

K-2 Berne, Jennifer, and Vladimir Radunsky. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2013. (Themes: Creativity, Perseverance, Science) B EI68BE

Follows the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories.

K-5 Levinson, Cynthia, and Vanessa Brantley-Newton. *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2017. (Themes: Activism, Civil Rights, Courage) B H3842L

Meet the youngest known child to be arrested for a civil rights protest in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963, in this picture book that proves you're never too little to make a difference. Nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks intended to go places and do things like anybody else. So when she heard grown-ups talk about wiping out Birmingham's segregation laws, she spoke up. As she listened to the preacher's words, smooth as glass, she sat up tall. And when she heard the plan -- picket those white stores! March to protest those unfair laws! Fill the jails! -- she stepped right up and said, I'll do it! She was going to j-a-a-ill!

RONNIE BARNES AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER

PreK-3 Levine, Ellen, and Kadir Nelson. *Henry's Freedom Box*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007. (Themes: Freedom, Overcoming Adversity, Resilience) F L57863H

A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

K-3 Woodson, Jacqueline, and Earl B Lewis. *The Other Side*. New York: Putnam's, 2001. (Themes: Friendship, Tolerance, Open-Mindedness) E W868O

Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

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|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| K | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015.

v. 1. We are readers-- v. 2. Super powers: reading with print strategies and sight word power-- v. 3. Bigger books, bigger reading muscles-- v. 4. Becoming avid readers-- v. 5. If ... then ... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades K-2-- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: primary grades. | 372.4
C129U
GR. K
V. 1-6 |
| 1 | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015.

v. 1. Building good reading habits--v. 2. Learning about the world: reading nonfiction-- v. 3. Readers have big jobs to do: fluency, phonics, and comprehension--v. 4. Meeting characters and learning lessons: a study of story elements--v. 5. If... then... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades K-2-- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: primary grades | 372.4
C129U
GR. 1
V. 1-6 |
| 2 | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015.

v. 1. Second-grade reading growth spurt-- v. 2. Becoming experts: reading nonfiction--v. 3. Bigger books mean amping up reading power-- v. 4. Series book clubs-- v. 5. If... then... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades K-2 -- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: primary grades | 372.4
C129U
GR. 2
V. 1-6 |
| 3 | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015.

v. 1. Building a reading life-- v. 2. Reading to learn: grasping main ideas and text structures-- v. 3. Character studies -- v. 4. Research clubs: elephants, penguins, and frogs, oh my!-- v. 5. If... then... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades 3-5 -- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: intermediate grades--v. 7. Reading pathways: performance assessments and learning progressions, grades 3-5 | 372.4
C129U
GR. 3
V. 1-7 |
| 4 | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2015.

v. 1. Interpreting characters: the heart of the story--v. 2. Reading the weather, reading the world-- v. 3. Reading history: the American Revolution-- v. 4. Historical fiction clubs-- v. 5. If... then... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades 3-5-- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: intermediate grades-- v. 7. Reading pathways: performance assessments and learning progressions, grades 3-5 | 372.4
C129U
GR. 4
V. 1-7 |
| 5 | Calkins, Lucy. <i>Units of Study for Teaching Reading</i> . Portsmouth, NH: | 372.4
C129U |

Heinemann, 2015.

GR. 5
V. 1-7

v. 1. Interpretation books clubs: analyzing themes-- v. 2. Tackling complexity: moving up levels of nonfiction-- v. 3. Argument and advocacy: researching debatable issues-- v. 4. Fantasy book clubs: the magic of themes and symbols-- v. 5. If... then... curriculum: assessment-based instruction, grades 3-5-- v. 6. A guide to the reading workshop: intermediate grades-- v. 7. Reading pathways: performance assessments and learning progressions, grades 3-5

K-12	Fogarty, Robin. <i>Integrating Curricula with Multiple Intelligences: Teams, Themes, & Threads</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, 2008.	370.15 F687I
K-5	Gruber, Barbara, et al. <i>100% Practical Strategies for Teachers</i> . Torrance, CA: Frank Schaffer Publications, Inc., 1993.	372.4 G9211O
K-12	Gutloff, Karen. <i>Integrated Thematic Teaching</i> . West Haven, CT: NEA Professional Library, 1996.	372.13 IN8
K-5	Horning, Kathleen T. <i>From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books</i> . New York: HarperCollins, 1997.	028.1 H7847F
K-5	Kraus, Anne Marie, and Susan K Bins. <i>Folktale Themes and Activities for Children</i> . Englewood, Colo.: Teacher Ideas Press, 1998.	372.64 K868F V. 1-2
3-8	McLaughlin, Maureen. <i>Guided Comprehension in Action: Lessons for Grades 3-8</i> . Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 2002.	372.47 M2228GA
K-5	Wait, Shirleen S. <i>Reading Learning Centers for the Primary Grades: Monthly Theme Units, Activities, and Games</i> . San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005.	372.13 W1343R

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