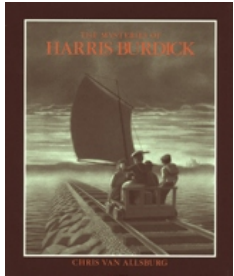


The Curriculum Team Celebrate Children's Book Week By Sharing Their Favourite Children's Story



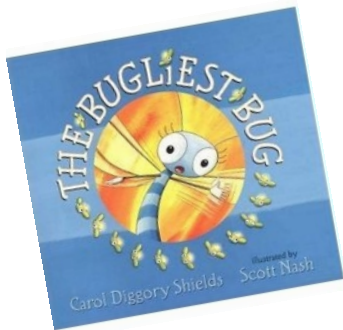
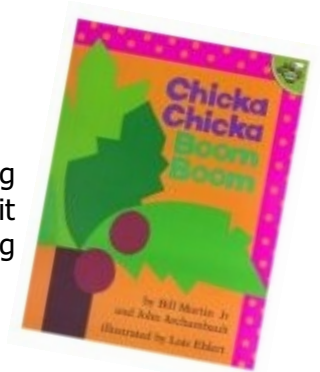
Paul Toffanello, Director of Education:

My all-time favourite children's book is *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick* by Chris Van Allsburg. This book provides an opportunity for rich discussion with children while exciting their imagination with wonderful illustrations. The story can be read time and time again to students of all ages. Other great stories from Chris Van Allsburg include *The Polar Express*, *Jumanji* and *Zathura*.

Karen Rowe, Superintendent of Education:

One of my favourite children's books is: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr., John Archambault and Lois Ehlert.

I love this book as my son Noah fell in love with reading with this book. The patterns and predictability, along with the charming story caught his attention and he felt as though he was 'a good reader' once he was introduced to this book. He would read it repeatedly and with the same pride every time! I love it when the big letters protect the little letters! An enjoyable and endearing read about letters.



Tricia Stefanic Weltz, Supervisor of Student Services:

My family's favourite children story is *The Bugliest Bug* by Carol Shields.

We love reading this book about a young little bug who doesn't believe she has any special talents to win a contest. The story is a great and lively account of how this young bug will turn out to be the hero in her community. Written in rhyme, this book highlights vocabulary development and has hints of important facts about insects. *The Bugliest Bug* is full of spectacular adjectives, beautiful illustrations, and a message about believing in yourself. It is always a favourite in our home!

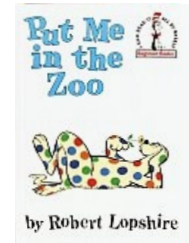
Dan Loreto, Special Assignment Teacher:

My favorite read aloud was *Coolies* by Yin and illustrated by Chris Soentpiet. It is about the hardships Chinese immigrants endured during the building of the railroad from California to Utah in the late 1800's. The story delves into the lives of one family (specifically, a young boy named Shek and his younger brother Little Wong) and illustrates with remarkable clarity the importance of honoring those who endured discrimination in all its unsavory forms to build the nation Americans take for granted today. I chose this book because a student in my class had a grandfather who traveled from Italy in the 1920's to take part in the building of the northern rail system (from Timmins to Kapuskasing). His grandfather was a victim of discriminatory practices, as were many of the families of the Aboriginal students in my class.



Elizabeth Mulholland, Special Assignment Teacher:

My favourite children's book is Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire. I loved this book as a child when my mother and I read it together and then when I could read it on my own. I love it even more with my own children. The kids love to chime in on the rhyming words. We love to count the dots. We debate which is better the circus or the zoo. The kids really enjoy finding the cat in the hat on the last page!



Kim Hall, Special Assignment Teacher:

Spider and the Fly, also available en français - La mouche et l'araignée, is one of my favourite children's book. This book is based on the poem by Mary Howitt and the artwork by Tony Diterlizzi.

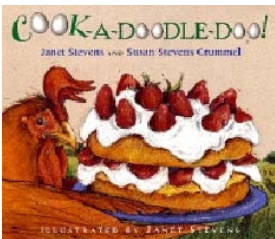
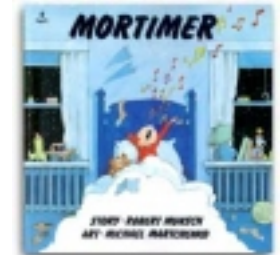


Why I love this children's book so much...

- the illustrations are beautifully detailed - I am always noticing new and interesting things every time I read this book
- the language is rich and superb
- although the poem was written in 1821 - the moral of the story still applies - beware of the flattering words of others
- the book is so lyrical - it reminds me of a tango between the spider and the fly
- a great book to relate to - who has not been a spider who has tried to use flattering words to get something and who has not been the victim of flattering words
- reading comprehension strategy - inferring word meaning
- great book for oral discussion with children
- good book to lead into persuasive writing - write a persuasive letter to someone using flattery

Marc Hurtubise, Special Assignment Teacher:

The book we all enjoy at bedtime is Mortimer by Robert Munch. The story is great and my boys like to sing the Mortimer song when it comes up. We also enjoy the artwork by Micheal Martchenko. I think it is true of all Robert Munch's books, the words and the pictures go so well together to take one of them out would make the story fall short. The story is a great example of how visuals make the stories move along.



Erica Raymond, Special Assignment Teacher:

Trying to pick a favourite book is like trying to choose a favourite star! I love fairy tales, especially those that retell a traditional story using modern themes and humour. My favourite is the Little Red Hen story remade into "Cook-A-Doodle-Do!". Big Brown Rooster is fed up of chicken feed so he takes out his great granny Little Red Rooster's cook book and decides to make strawberry shortcake. Since Dog, Cat, and Goose won't help him, he enlists the help of Turtle, Iguana, and a hilarious Pot-bellied Pig. They get going using scissors to cut the butter and a baseball bat to beat the eggs with the pig impatient for a taste! A great follow-up to this book would be "The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza" by Philemon Sturges.

Melanie Dixon-Fleury, Special Assignment Teacher:

My favourite book to read with my children is entitled Dooby Dooby Moo by Doreen Cronin. My son loves the idea of the animals entering a contest and loves to sing along with the animals. He enjoys her words as well as the illustrations. We never get tired of reading how Mr. Brown's animals always fool him and he never catches on. To extend on this book, my son likes to choose other animals and read the text and insert a different animal and tell me what sound he will be singing. It's fun for the entire family....

