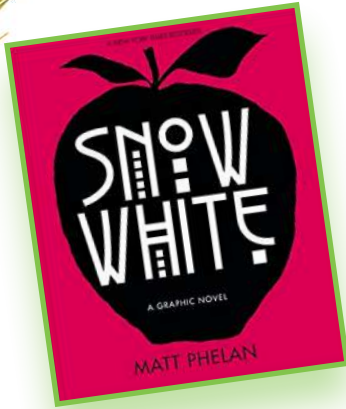


CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Snow White: A Graphic Novel

Written and Illustrated by Matt Phelan

216 pages / Grades 4-8

Not your typical Snow White! This creative twist on a traditional favorite is set in New York City in the Roaring Twenties and will appeal to both readers and non-readers. Familiar characters are given a unique twist and create a book that reads like a film and few will see as a traditional fairy tale. History meets fantasy in a book that will allow you to delve into many layers of meaning.

C

Context

Set in the **1920s**, the book brings strong recognition to the contrast between the glamour of the era and the darkness of the **Great Depression** and the **Stock Market Crash**. References are also made to Hooverville and the Rockefellers.

Wordless picture books as a genre. There is a great deal of **inferencing** throughout the novel and a reminder of the importance of really reading pictures.

Structure of graphic novels.

A

Arts

Illustrations are a mix of **watercolor** and **pencil**, adding strong **atmospheric elements**. Aligns perfectly to the film noir feel of the book, with interesting minimal color **choices**. **Light and dark** become both literal and figurative features. The style lends itself to film noir, which also aligns to the way the book is structures.

The **history of Broadway and the arts** - from Ziegfeld and his costumes to the glitz of old Broadway to the treasured Macy's holiday windows.

T

Themes

Perseverance

Good vs. Evil

Friendship and dedication

What motivates people to make certain choices?

Good always prevails

Light vs. Dark

C

Create

Choose a historical era to place a different fairy tale in. Consider why this one worked so well in the 1920s. What makes a good fit with history and fairy tale? Can students align the fictional fairy tale characters with true historical characters?

Launch into a study of the style of Art Deco, using the cover as a launching point, along with the fashion in the book.

Study the history of Macy's Holiday windows. How have they aligned to world events and styles over the years?

H

Heart Words

"...her rise has been as stunning as it is meteoric"

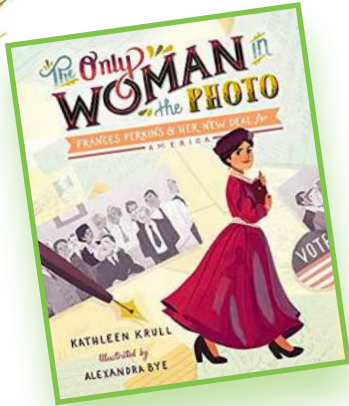
"The city is beautiful too. It has it's own magic"

A largely wordless graphic novel. Find an image, a box that speaks to you ahead of reading this with students. Construct your own story around it. Why does it speak to you?



CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Only Woman in the Photo

Frances Perkins and Her New Deal for America

Written by Kathleen Krull / Illustrated by Alexandra Bye

48 pages / Grades 4-8

Few people likely know of Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and instrumental to The New Deal and creating safety for American Workers. A story rooted in a very black and white past, but told in a colorful way, shedding light and new perspective, while serving as inspiration to future change makers.

C

Context

This book is a walk through history. Spanning and mentioning so many historical events from **1900 -1945**, including the **New Deal, FDR, Great Depression, Social Security**, and so much more.

A

Arts

Graphic arts: Much of the book brings themes and words to life with lettering and graphic design. Discuss with students how layouts and artistic choices for words emphasize meaning.

The illustrations in the book lend themselves to the feel of original early animations, clearly **hand drawn illustration**. It is an interesting choice to pair fun and colorful with the darkness of such a historical time. Is this perhaps because of the color Frances herself brought to situations she was in?

T

Themes

Grit and determination

Strength through quiet

Fighting for injustice

Making a difference and the power of doing so quietly

Finding your voice

Word choice

C

Create

Find a famous historical photo from a given time period. Identify an unknown person in the photo, much the same way Frances was a quiet but strong presence. Research the person to find their true story, or create a story for them.

Frances fought for injustice and what she believed should be changed and made right. Align this to today's world events. What do you see happening that is worth fighting for?

Create a graphic design of a powerful personal phrase.

H

Heart Words

"It was sort of up to me."

"When someone opens a door you go forward."

"I felt the satisfaction of someone who told the truth."

"I had accomplished what I had come to do."



CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

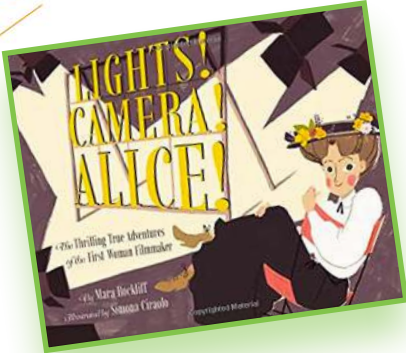
Lights! Camera! Alice!

The Thrilling True Adventures of the First Woman Filmmaker

Written by Mara Rockcliff / Illustrated by Simona Ciraolo

60 pages / Grades K-4

It's time to meet Alice Guy-Blaché, a filmmaker who had ideas no one else had and new ways to look at stories. She developed her passion for stories and her work has become an inspiration to many though she remains largely unknown. Illustrations mirror the Alice's story and bring her work to life. Students of all ages will want to become filmmakers in their own right!



C

Context

The **role of women** and their struggle to find a place in industry at the **turn of the 20th century in America**.

The **science and technology** behind the **development of filmmaking**.

Segmenting stories through text and pictures.

The power and importance of good **storytelling**.

A

Arts

Film!

An opportunity to study the early roots of films, from silent films, to talking pictures to the development of movie theatres.

The book is also **designed** as an early film would be, with title pages and minimal words on those pages to set the stage. The **illustrations** also allow a glimpse into the simplicity of special effects of early films.

T

Themes

Grit and determination

Being an outlier and forging your own path

Imagination can take you places

Stories are important

C

Create

After studying about early filmmaking, connect the process to stop motion animation. Ask students to turn a fictional story they have written into a stop motion film.

Connect media arts by creating scene titles in the format of early films. This can be done in a movie, stop motion films, or illustrated versions of their own stories.

Ask students to think of a "special effect" kind of scene, and challenge them to film it using only the materials and resources they have.

H

Heart Words

"Alice's movies came alive with color."

"Only the very best would do."

"She had one last story to tell."

"She couldn't wait to see what happened next."



CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

Becoming Bach

Written and Illustrated by Tom Leonard
40 pages / K-3

An introduction to one of the world's greatest composers, through his life as a boy and the way he saw music. A lyrical connection to math and color, this book provides us a visual representation of music and the notion that some people are simply drawn to their passion, without even realizing it.



C

Context

Patterns!

As a boy, Bach sees patterns everywhere.

Students will see patterns through his eyes and then branch out finding their own, particularly as they become stronger observers and truly look around them.

Attaching **feelings and words** to what we often may not, such as music. An access point to building a **vocabulary** and word bank of **adjectives**.

A

Arts

The connections between **music** and **colors**. Play music for students and ask them to see it as well as hear it. What colors do they attach to it?

Power of color: Can students attach colors to patterns and feelings as often done in the illustration? What is their reasoning for their choices?

Classical music as a genre. Play Bach in the classroom throughout the day, drawing attention to patterns they notice in the music, the instruments they hear, the colors they see.

T

Themes

Patterns are everywhere

Finding your path in life

Listening to your heart and inner voice

C

Create

Use the last page as an inspiration, ask students what it means to "become a (their last name)" This could launch a family study, a creative or narrative writing piece.

All music, as Bach mentions, is comprised of just seven notes. Have students collect 7 items and see what they can create with it. How many different things can they create with the same 7 tools? Is your creation something you can communicate with as Bach did through his music?

H

Heart Words

"There was always music."

"I needed to say things but words weren't enough."



CATCH a spark!

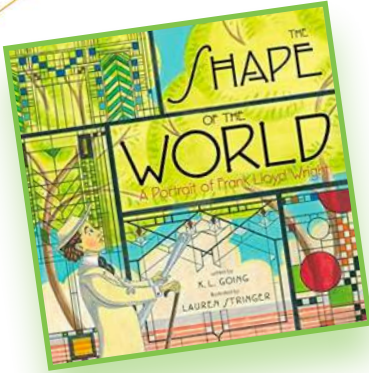
Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

The Shape of the World: A Portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright

Written by K.L. Going / Illustrated by Lauren Stringer

40 pages / K-5

An introduction to one of the America's greatest architects, told in the style of the man himself - in shapes. What presents itself as a simple picture book, told in simple sentences and words, actually presents many layers and launching points for students to begin working with and seeing shapes in new ways. Build observational and creative skills while introducing students to a one of a kind designer.



C

Context

Geometry!

So many layers to connect to in the story - organic shapes, two-dimensional shapes, three dimensional shapes, congruency, patterns, lines, classification, symmetry.

Architecture as a career and the scientific aspects of it as well as the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Attaching **feelings and adjectives** to the **mood** of shapes.

A

Arts

Be sure to read the illustrator's note at the end to discover how she was influenced and inspired to create the illustrations. A true peek into a working **illustrator's process**.

The **art of architecture**. Look at it through an artistic eye. A perfect opportunity to pair photographs of the real buildings with the **elements of art** including form, space and line.

Shapes as artistic tools when looking closely at the illustrations.

T

Themes

Visualization

Imagination

Finding and developing your passion.

C

Create

Give students a transparent overlay and have them identify/trace all the shapes in a given illustration.

Analyze how shapes created illustrations and challenge them to do the same.

Go on a shape hunt, looking for "buried" shapes. Tie this into media arts and photography.

Using pages 5-6 as a guide, provide them with tangrams and see what they can create and build.

Analyze illustrations with photos of the real buildings as identified at the end.

H

Heart Words

"the shape of the world"

"When other architects chose walls, he chose windows."



CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

One Time

Written by Sharon Creech

272 pages / Grades 3-6

Eleven year old Gina has always been told she has an overactive imagination, which has always made her feel different. Enter a new boy in class, a new teacher and a new way of looking at things, and you have a recipe for a powerful story about acceptance and the possibilities that lie in front of everyone as they hope to find their niche in the world. A book with a strong but calm and quiet power that will leave students and teachers thoughtful and inspired.



C

Context

The **process of writing** and discovering topics, finding a voice and inspiration in the simplest of ways.

The importance of collecting memories, images and stories, which can serve as connectors and access points to **creativity** and **critical thinking**.

Recognizing and accepting differences in everyone and that each person we connect with, in any way, leaves an imprint on us as we move forward.

A

Arts

The power and acceptance of **imagination and visualization** is front and center throughout the book. As you are reading, ask students to consider times in their own lives they have been afraid to speak about their imagination, or a time when they viewed someone as "different" because of that person's imagination.

The **power and beauty of words and images** to serve as **inspiration** for your own **personal creativity**.

T

Themes

Friendship

Acceptance

Finding your path and who you could be compared with who you are.

Being open to thinking in new ways and trying new things.

Observations - how do we really see things.

C

Create

Using the chapters "First Lines", "Who Is It", "Swirls" and "Images" as inspiration, create a personal board of inspiration - words, images, favorite lines from books (like Heart Words) to use for your own creativity in writing.

Use the chapter "Fictional Trees" as a launching pad for doing the same activity - create a fictional family tree. Allow students their own thought process for doing this, but be sure they can explain their thinking.

H

Heart Words

"Who are you?"
"Who could you be?"

pg. 46 - "I think it matters how people look at you when they first see you, before they have a chance to rearrange their expression."

pg. 169 - "The silence was so noisy."

pg 182 - "When I was writing, I could follow the rhythms of my own mind..."

pg 247 - "I am learning that most of us have an intense need to communicate, but we do it in different ways."

