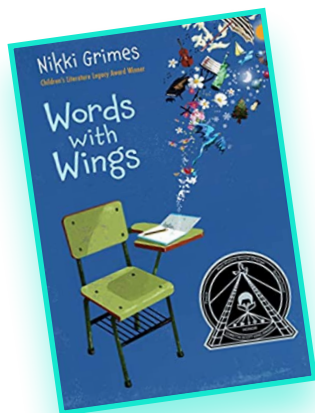


CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



Words With Wings

by Nikki Grimes

83 pages / Grades 4-8

Gabby is a daydreamer. Say any word and her mind takes her to vivid, clear places. What started as an escape from reality has become her way of life. It hasn't always been a good thing for her, but when a special teacher connects with her through her imagination and the power of words, those daydreams open a door that give her confidence and will allow her to fly.

C

Context

The entire story is told in **short verse**, with each page its own poem to advance the story.

Word choice and intent. This is a wonderful mentor text to discuss deliberate word choice and author's craft. Though the words are few on each page, we become connected and tied to characters in a very unique way, seeing deep inside of them.

Author's craft is front and center.

A

Arts

The **art of language.** Not only is this a text that uses the power of words, it is a tool for discussing page **layout, font**, word placement.

Visualization and transferring artistic ideas to language.

The **art of the spoken word.** The short verse of each page aligns beautifully with the idea of spoken language. How can you orate the words to enhance meaning and interpretation?

T

Themes

Loneliness

Survival

Friendship

Fragmented families

The power of words to both carry us away and comfort us

Imagination

Trust

C

Create

Allow students to daydream and see what it inspires them to do! Give them creativity and freedom on this. Use the same concept Mr. Spicer gives his students on pg. 75.

Illustrate words, from the simple to the complex.

Ask students what their favorite words are and to think why. Does their reasoning have complex meaning? Challenge them to start really noticing words and thinking about them more deeply. Keep a word journal and collect them.

H

Heart Words

"Whenever I described my daydreams it was like helping her see the rainbow"

"Words have wings that wake my daydreams."

Due to the vivid writing in this book, the Heart Words are endless. Challenge students to find their own set of Heart Words in the book. What speaks the most to them and why?

