

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

Simeon's Gift

Written by Julie Andrews Edwards & Emma Walton Hamilton
40 pages / Grades K-6

A beautiful fairy tale/fable that celebrates the beauty and sounds of nature and all the gifts it has to share as discovered by Simeon, a musician on a quest to prove his love and to better himself by exploring the world. Stunning language and illustrations make this book important and accessible to readers of all ages, as there will be different takeaways and messages depending on the age of the student. A book not to be missed!



C

Context

Rich and vibrant **vocabulary**. The power of **word choice**.

Evoking feeling through language.

Medieval time period and the differences from today.

Sounds of nature and being aware of the world around you.

Elements and terms of music including harmony, melody, tone and so many more.

A [full teaching guide](#) is available from the authors.

A

Arts

The artistry and illustrations of **Gennady Spirin**. A Russian watercolor artist, he brings worlds to life through stunning creative realism. His work in this book is said to be an "illuminated manuscript" and very renaissance in its style to match the story.

Music as a way to bring life to a story and to complete a vision. The story was performed with a symphony behind it, narrated by Ms. Andrews and is available on YouTube.

T

Themes

Generosity

Creativity

Confidence and Self-Doubt

Kindness

Trust

Wonder

C

Create

Write a melody to go with the story. Discuss your artist choices.

Go on a nature walk and gather a list of sounds you hear. Using technology, create a "natural symphony" comprised of your collected sounds. Be still and hear as much as you can.

Create your own song for others to sing. What will it be about? Who will it be a gift for? How would you collect new sounds and experiences to make part of your unique song? What color is your song?

H

Heart Words

"Simeon suddenly heard the entire soul in his head and in his heart."

"...a true and brave heart can find a way, if it will only trust in all the wonder's under God's canopy."

Really look at the illustrations with awe and a sense of wonder. Which speaks to your heart the most. Why?

