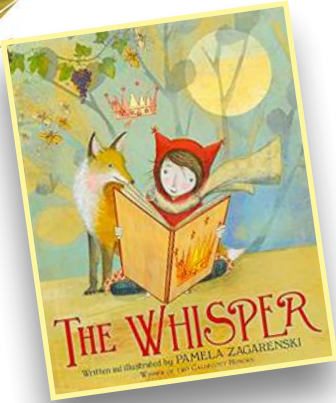


# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### The Whisper

Written and Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski  
40 pages / Grades K-4

A young girl is given a magical book by her teacher that she discovers is filled with only pictures. Thinking she has lost the words and the book is not able to be read, a whisper comes to her convincing her to create the words she cannot see. What follows is an adventure in imagination and creativity.

### C

#### Context

The elements of **creating stories**.

Discuss beginnings, middles and ends as a necessity. Use the stories the main character creates as examples.

Telling stories in **wordless picture books**. Reading stories by reading pictures and combining it with your imagination.

**Aesop's Fables**. The end of this story blends in the trickster fox. How can students use their imagination when thinking about fables differently? Which fable character would be in their story?

### A

#### Arts

Illustrations made with **layers**. How does the illustrator use layers? Consider transparency, color, layers of depth, color schemes and so much more.

Where do artists acquire their **inspiration**? The author biography on the jacket goes into great depth of her inspiration and process for creating her illustrations. Are there elements of the illustrations that carry over into each other?

### T

#### Themes

Imagination

Language

Storytelling

Celebration of reading

### C

#### Create

Give each student a copy of an illustration (from this book or another) and allow it to be the inspiration for a full story. Compare stories and see how different they are, even though they were all inspired from the same beginning.

Alter a fable so that the deception/trickery that happens in the original is altered to being an act of kindness.

Have students imagine the words of multiple books fell away. How would characters interact without the stories being written already for them. Perform a scene.

### H

#### Heart Words

*"There are never any rules, rights or wrongs in imagining - imagining just is."*

*"Start with a few simple words and imagine from there. Remember: beginnings, middles and ends of stories can be imagined differently."*

*"She grew sleepy and drifted off into a dreamworld woven out of the pictures and the stories she had imagined."*

