

ESL Book Club

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This practice uses illustrated children's books to encourage advanced ESL adult learners to develop their reading skills by offering them an opportunity to share the stories with someone younger.

Once a week for ten months, the instructor provides multiple copies of several illustrated children's books that are introduced, read and discussed by the group. The group is given the opportunity to read to one another and then the books are taken home by group members to be read to a younger person. Four general topics are explored throughout the year: the immigration experience; holidays/cultural traditions including the fall/winter traditional holidays and national holidays; a language unit exploring grammar, homophones and "talking Minnesotan;" and a *Welcome to Minnesota* unit that includes children's books related to spring and summer recreational activities, in addition to literature about Minnesota's indigenous populations.

The ESL Book Club improves learners' language skills while they discover culturally rich reading material. Children's literature offers an insight to the culture for which the books are written. A natural outcome of this club is discussion about cultural and/or family information allowing learners to become familiar with other people and cultures.

These books can be obtained easily at local public libraries. The Internet can be used to reserve multiple copies. It is an easy practice to implement as little or no cost is incurred. For suggestions on materials, a bibliography follows.

Immigration/Multicultural

- Bunting, Eve. *How Many Days to America? A Thanksgiving Story*. Clarion, 1988. Unpaged. (Caribbean, unidentified)
- Cech, John. *My Grandmother's Journey*. Bradbury Press, 1991. Unpaged. (Russia)
- Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*. Scholastic, 1980. 72pp.
- Heo, Yumi. *Father's Rubber Shoes*. Orchard, 1995. Unpaged. (Korea)
- Herold, Maggie Rugg. *A Very Important Day*. Morrow, 1995. Unpaged. (Citizenship, multi-cultural)
- Knight, Margy Burns. *Who Belongs Here? An American Story*. Tilbury House, 1993. Unpaged. (Cambodia)
- Kroll, Steven. *Ellis Island: Doorway to Freedom*. Holiday House, 1995. 32 pp.
- Lawlor, Veronica. *I Was Dreaming to Come to America: Memories from the Ellis Island Oral History Project*. Viking, 1995. (Global)
- Levinson, Riki. *Soon, Annala*. Orchard, 1993. Unpaged. (Poland)
- Levinson, Riki. *Watch the Stars Come Out*. Puffin, 1985. Unpaged. (European)
- Maestro, Betsy. *Coming to America: The Story of Immigration*. Scholastic, 1996. Unpaged.
- Pryor, Bonnie. *The Dream Jar*. Morrow, 1996. Unpaged. (Russia)
- Say, Allen. *Grandfather's Journey*. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. Unpaged.
- Sorenson, Henri. *New Hope*. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1995. Unpaged. (Denmark to Minnesota)
- Watson, Mary. *The Butterfly Seeds*. Tambourine, 1995. (British)
- Winter, Jeanette. *Klara's New World*. Knopf, 1992. Unpaged. (Sweden)

Veteran's Day

- Ashabranner, Brent. *Always to Remember: The Story of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial*. Scholastic, 1988.
- Bunting, Eve. *The Wall*. Clarion, 1990. Unpaged. (Viet Nam War)
- Mochizuki, Ken. *Heroes*. Lee and Low, 1995. Unpaged. (Japanese American Soldiers, WWII)
- Wells, Rosemary. *The Language of Doves*. Dial, 1996. Unpaged. (WWI)

Election/Voting Day

- McCully, Emily. *The Ballot Box Battle*. Knopf, 1996. Unpaged. (Fictionalized Elizabeth Cady Stanton)
- Steins, Richard. *Our Elections (I Know Series)*. Millbrook Press, 1994. 48 pp.
- ?----- . *The Day Gogo Went to Vote: South Africa*.

Halloween

Krull, Kathleen. *Maria Molina and the Days of the Dead*. Macmillan, 1994. Unpaged. (Mexican)

Lasky, Kathryn. *Days of the Dead*. Hyperion, 1994. Unpaged. (Mexican)

Moore, Elaine. *Grandma's Smile*. Lothrop, 1995. Unpaged. (Festival-pumpkins)

Van Ahlsburg, Chris. *The Widow's Broom*.

Thanksgiving

George, Jean Craighead. *The First Thanksgiving*. Philomel, 1993.

Graham-Barber, Lynda. *Gobble! The Complete Book of Thanksgiving Words*. Avon, 1991.

Sewell, Marcia. *The Pilgrims of Plimoth*. Atheneum, 1986.

Sewell, Marcia. *Thunder From the Clear Sky*. Atheneum, 1995. (From the Native American perspective)

Swamp, Chief Lake. *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message*. Lee and Low Books, 1995. (Native American)

VanLeeuwen, Jean. *Across the Wide Dark Sea*. Dial, 1995. (Mayflower journey)

Hanukkah

Drucker, Malka. *Grandma's Latkes*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.

Ehrlich, Amy. *The Story of Hanukkah*. Dial, 1989.

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *While the Candles Burn: Eight Stories for Hanukkah*. Viking, 1996. (Juvenile Fiction)

Levine, Arthur A. *All the Lights in the Night*. Tambourine, 1991. (Pre-WWI Russia)

Rothenberg, Joan. *Inside-Out Grandma: A Hanukkah Story*. Hyperion, 1995.

Schnur, Steven. *The Tie Man's Miracle: A Chanukah Tale*. Morrow Junior, 1995.

Christmas

Allsburg Van, Chris. *The Polar Express*. Houghton Mifflin, 1985.

Anaya, Rudolfo. *Farolitos of Christmas*. Hyperion, 1995.

Bunting, Eve. *Going Home*. Harper Collins, 1996.

Cooney, Barbara. *The Story of Christmas*. Harper Collins, 1995.

Drescher, Henrik. *Looking for Santa Claus*. Lothrop, 1984. (Global Santa hunt)

Hennessy, B.G. *The First Night*. Puffin, 1993.

Matthews, Wendy. *The Gift of Traveler*. BridgeWater, 1995.

Rosen, Michael J. *Elijah's Angel: A Story for Chanukah and Christmas*. Harcourt, 1992.

Kwanzaa

Davis Pinkney, Andrea. *Seven Candles for Kwanzaa*. Dial, 1993.

Kroll, Virginia. *Wood-Hoopoe Willie*. Charlesbridge, 1992.

Porter, A.P. *Kwanzaa*. Carolrhoda, 1991.

Saint James, Synthia. *The Gifts of Kwanzaa*. Albert Whitman, 1994.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. *Kwanzaa: A Family Affair*. Lothrop, 1995.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Bray, Rosemary L. *Martin Luther King*. Greenwillow, 1995.

Ringgold, Faith. *My Dream of Martin Luther King*. Crown, 1995.

Valentine's Day

Adoff, Arnold. *Love Letters*. The Blue Sky Press, 1997.

Carrick, Carol. *Valentine*. Clarion Books, 1995.

De Paola, Tomie. *Things to Make and Do for Valentine's Day*. Franklin Watts, 1976.

Kessel, Joyce K. *Valentine's Day*. Carolrhoda Books, 1981.

Penner, Lucille Recht. *Celebration: The Story of American Holidays*. Macmillan, 1993.

President's Day

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of George Washington*. Holiday House, 1989.

Giblin, James Cross. Illus. by Michael Dooling. *George Washington: A Picture Book Biography*. Scholastic, 1992.

Krensky, Stephen. *George Washington: The Man Who Would Not Be King*. Scholastic, 1991.

Provinsen, Alice. *The Buck Stops Here: The Presidents of the United States*. Harper and Row, 1990.

Abraham Lincoln

Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Abraham Lincoln*. Holiday House, 1989.

Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. Houghton Mifflin, 1987.

Gross, Ruth Belov. *True Stories About Abraham Lincoln*. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1973.

English Language

Levine, Ellen. *I Hate English*. Scholastic, 1989.

Petty, Kate. *The Amazing Pop-Up Grammar Book*. Dutton, 1997.

Staneek, Muriel. *I Speak English For My Mom*. Albert Whitman, 1989.

Grammar

Heller, Ruth: *Kites Sail High*
Many, Luscious Lollipops
Merry-Go-Round
Up, Up and Away

Idioms

Amelia Bedilia books by Peggy Parish.

Homonyms

Gwynne, Fred: *A Chocolate Moose for Dinner*
A Little Pidgeon Toed
The King Who Rained
(The above are also sprinkled liberally with idioms.)

Terban, Marvin. Illus. by Giulio Maestro. *A Feast of Homonym Riddles*. Clarion Book, NYC.

Pronunciation (Tongue Twisters)

Calmenson, Stephanie and Cole, Joanna. *Six Sick Sheep*.
Dr. Suess. *Oh Say Can You Say* (also with audiotape)
Gackenbach, Dick. *Timid Timothy's Tongue Twisters*.
Rosenbloom, Joseph. *World's Toughest Tongue Twisters*.

Dialect

Bauer, Marion Dan. *When I Go Camping With Grandma*.
Chall, Marsha. *Up North At The Cabin*.
Day, Alexandria. *Frank and Ernest Play Ball*. 1990.
McKissack, Patricia C. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. *Mirandy and Brother Wind*. 1988.
Mohr, Howard. *How To Talk Minnesotan*.
Purdy, Carol. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. *Iva Dunnit and the Big Wind*. 1985.
Yglesias, Jose. "She Said a Bad Word." *Expressions*. Contemporary.

General Resources

Billings, Melissa. *Mosaics: Celebrations From Around the World*. Curriculum Associates.

Contemporary Books. *Expressions and Viewpoints*.

Dumicich, John and Christina Root. *Drawing on Experience: The Fundamentals of Good Writing*. McGraw Hill, 1995.

Foresman, Scott. *Writing Workout*

Regents, Prentice Hall. *The Chicken Smells Good: An ESL Reader*.