

BAKER'S DOZEN SELECTIONS

FRIENDSHIP MINI LESSONS

Lubna and Pebble by Wendy Meddour (2020 Selection) Dial Books /Penguin Young Readers Group, 2019
Fox + Chick: The Party and Other Stories by Sergio Ruzzier (2019 Selection) Chronicle Books, 2018
I Want That Nut! by Madeline Valentine (2018 Selection) Alfred A. Knopf, 2017
Bear and Squirrel are Friends...Yes, Really! by Deb Pilutti (2016 Selection) Simon & Schuster, 2016
Chopsticks by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (2013 Selection) Hyperion Books for Children, 2012
City Dog, Country Frog by Mo Willems (2011 Selection) Hyperion Books for Children, 2010
We Are in A Book! By Mo Willems (2011 Selection) Hyperion Books for Children, 2010
Hi, Harry! The Moving Story of How One Slow Tortoise Slowly Made a Friend by Martin Waddell (2004 Selection) Candlewick Press, 2003

Library Information Concepts:

Identifying Text Features
Identifying Literary Elements
Describing Key Ideas and Details
Recalling Information
Identifying Author & Illustrator Roles
Evaluating Diverse Media

PA Common Core Standards:

ELA CC 1.2.E	ELA CC 1.3.G
ELA CC 1.3.B	ELA CC 1.3.H
ELA CC 1.3.C	ELA CC 1.5 A
ELA CC 1.3.D	ELA CC 1.5 B

the Model Curriculum for Pennsylvania School Library Programs (2014)
Pennsylvania Department of Education. *Academic Standards for English Language Arts: Grades PreK-5* (2014)



Lubna and Pebble
by Wendy Meddour

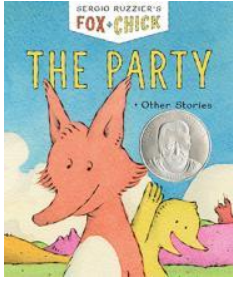
When Lubna and her father arrive at a refugee settlement, Lubna finds comfort and friendship in a pebble she finds on the beach. She appreciates Pebble's company as it listens to her with its hand-drawn, yet warm, smile. When Lubna meets Amir, a younger boy who has arrived at the settlement, she enjoys his company, while still maintaining her strong connection with Pebble. The day Lubna and her father prepare to leave for a new home is bittersweet. This quiet story with simple text and beautiful illustrations sends a powerful message about resilience, compassion, and friendship.

Tips for Using with Children

Daniel Egnéus' illustrations portray the physical and emotional hardships many refugees face as they leave their homelands to search for a better life. Children will empathize with Lubna's fears but will be encouraged to learn that her pet rock brings Lubna feelings of comfort and safety. Creating a pet rock or pebble is a fun activity for children, and discussion about this story can enhance children's experience. Adults can talk with children about ways to care for their pebble, as well as ways they can care for others. Children will enjoy using writing materials to create a pebble of their own, and adults can extend this activity by encouraging children in making positive message rocks for others. Children can decorate the rocks with a smile like Pebble, a picture, or a positive phrase. Children can decide to give their rock to a loved one or a person in need, or, with the help of an adult, place them in the community for someone to discover. Adults can talk with children about how someone might feel when they receive or find the rock, and consider if that is how Amir may have felt when Lubna shared Pebble with him.

Tips for Using with Families

Encourage adults to preview the story prior to reading with children by taking a picture walk. When focusing on text alone, a reader might miss aspects of the story revealed through the detailed illustrations. Adults can take time to observe each illustration, and practice telling the story in their own words. What might they want to point out to children when reading? Lubna and Amir find comfort and security in Pebble. Ask adults if their child has a treasured belonging that he or she carries for comfort. Did reading Lubna's story provide insight into their own child's connection to this belonging?



Fox + Chick: The Party and Other Stories by Sergio Ruzzier

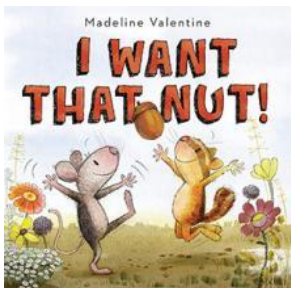
Fox and Chick, a pair of unlikely friends, embark on a series of adventures in this book, which is separated into three brief and entertaining chapters: The Party, Good Soup, and Sit Still. In each chapter, the two friends interact using a comic book panel format that is accessible and engaging to young readers. The humorous dialogue between the two characters will have readers wanting to read more. The two companions may not always see eye to eye, but their friendship rises above their differences.

Tips for Using with Children

Because this is a chapter book, it presents an opportunity to prepare for reading longer books. Point out some of these characteristics prior to reading the story: Table of Contents, page numbers beside Chapter Titles, Title pages preceding each chapter. After reading one chapter, introduce the idea of using a bookmark to remember your place in a book. Children will enjoy making and decorating their own bookmarks. Encourage children to use them with books in the class library. They can mark where they stopped reading a story, or just mark a favorite page or picture that they want to return to. Of course, there is much to enjoy and talk about as you read these short, funny stories to children. And because Fox and Chick often misunderstand one another, these also become lessons in understanding another person's point of view. For example, in the first story, consider what "use" your bathroom meant to Fox vs. why Chick wanted to "use" the bathroom.

Tips for Using with Families

Take this opportunity to introduce chapter books. On reading the book's title, emphasize the words "and other stories," pointing out that this book contains more than one story. Then turn to the CONTENTS and read the titles of each of the chapters, pointing out the page numbers and the pictures beside them. As your child names the pictures, you might want to wonder together what those pictures might have to do with the stories. Show your child how to find where each story starts using the page numbers listed. If your child is still a beginning listener, read just one chapter at a time. You can start at the beginning or let your child decide which story to hear first. The chapters are short and always funny, providing a great way to build any child's attention span.



I Want That Nut! by Madeline Valentine

The combination of simple text, watercolor illustrations, and expressive faces and body language of both characters result in a wonderfully engaging tale of two friends and one nut. Both Mouse and Chipmunk cherish their time alone with the nut, which is often cut short by interference from the other. The decision of who will keep the nut is made near the end of the story, when a third character is introduced; and Mouse and Chipmunk discover that some things are more valuable than a nut.

Tips for Using with Children

Talk with children about the activities that Mouse and Chipmunk do together or with the nut during the story. Examples include playing games, reading, cloud watching, having a tea party, and more. Create a written list of these activities that friends can do together and ask children to add other ideas to the list. This book also provides an opportunity to talk about sharing and turn-taking. Think about how the story might have been different if Mouse and Chipmunk had asked each other for a turn playing with the nut or waited until the other was finished before starting to play. Playing board games together is also a great way to practice turn-taking while having fun together.

Tips for Using with Families

Families will find that there is so much to look at in this book. The expressions and body language of the characters are perfect complements to the text. Before reading the story with children, adults may want to walk through the pages, giving attention to the speech bubbles. Speech bubbles can be a fun vehicle for children and adults alike to interact with the characters in a book and understand what they may be feeling. Because the illustrations contribute to a deeper understanding of the characters as well, adults can pause after reading the text on each page to allow children to look at the illustrations.



Bear and Squirrel are Friends... Yes, Really! by Deb Pilutti

Bear and Squirrel are good friends. They like to share food, play games, and help each other out. Squirrel sweeps Bear's den with his tail and Bear shakes trees so that Squirrel can collect acorns. But Squirrel's friends remind him that bears eat squirrels, and Bear's friends remind him that squirrel can be a tasty snack. When Bear hibernates in winter, Squirrel patiently knits while he waits for Bear to wake up. When spring arrives, Bear thinks Squirrel looks different. He thinks Squirrel looks delicious! In a few humorous, tense moments, Squirrel gulps and disappears off of the page. The funny ending restores the reader's faith in true friendship.

Tips for Using with Children

All friends have things in common, but also things that are unique. After reading the story, make a list/chart of ways in which Squirrel and Bear are different (e.g. one is tall and can shake tree branches; one has a bushy tail that can be used to clean) and ways they are alike (e.g. they both like to play games). To extend this activity, invite children to think of a good friend or family member and talk about ways that they are similar to that person, and ways they are unique.

Tips for Using with Families

Explain to families that this book can help listeners focus on visual literacy as well as writing/drawing. Point out the thought bubbles, asking children to tell what the characters are thinking. Then suggest a writing/drawing activity in which children draw thought bubbles. Share these projects with other family members, asking them to "read" the thought bubbles. An enrichment activity for families would be to play "name that song" together just as Squirrel and Bear do in the story. Adults and children take turns singing or humming a song, and the other tries to guess.



Chopsticks
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

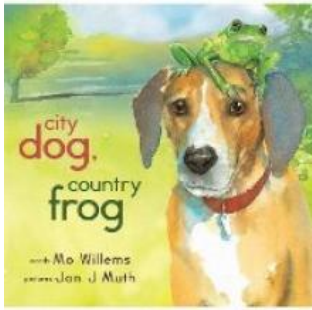
In this charming companion book to *Spoon* (2010), Chopsticks are best friends. They go everywhere and do everything together. While learning new tricks, the tip of Chopstick's leg is snapped apart. He is "whisked away," glued, and bandaged back together, but he must stay off of it while it sets. Through the recuperation period, the two chopsticks learn lessons about friendship and that being apart can make their friendship even stronger.

Tips for Using with Children

Provide children with a variety of plastic kitchen utensils and googly eyes to create puppet performances that will help them to retell the story and also give children the opportunity to create their own "friendship" stories.

Tips for Using with Families

The Chopsticks learn that a variety of activities can be fun on their own as well as together. This story's theme lends itself to a parent discussion of how to encourage children to play productively alone. Talk about the kinds of activities, places, and situations that lend themselves to solitary play. Remind parents of the value of independent play.



City Dog, Country Frog
by Mo Willems

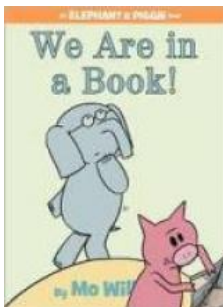
City Dog and Country Frog meet for the first time in the spring, and they play Country Frog games. In the summer, they play City Dog games. By Fall, Frog is too tired out, and the pals simply recall their past fun. Sadly, Country Frog does not return in the winter. However, City Dog discovers friendship again in the spring. The beautiful, expressive watercolors enhance the action and give insight into a range of feelings that children will want to discuss. They will return to their favorite pictures and want to hear the book numerous times.

Tips for Using with Children

Children will love the pictures in this book, especially if some of the details are pointed out to them (e.g., Country Frog throwing the stick for City dog to fetch, Country Frog holding the leaf umbrella for City Dog, City Dog waiting for his friend, and City Dog giving his froggy smile). This is a great book for children to choose their favorite picture and tell why they like it. Before reading, children could be asked what it is like in the country and in the city. Show them pictures of both places and sort them by laying them out in two columns or two circles. This book can also be used to talk about hibernation, the life cycles of animals, and the seasons of the year.

Tips for Using with Families

Talk to families about the fact that this book will spark emotions in children. They will enjoy the friendship of the dog and frog, and they will feel sad that the frog does not come back. Children and parents can discuss possible reasons that the frog did not return. Children may want to relate times that they have experienced a loss. Explain to parents that the ending is so important in that the dog found a new friend, but still had a part of his old friend with him when he gave his "froggy smile" and used the frog's words.



We Are in a Book!
by Mo Willems

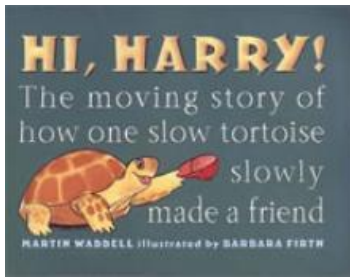
In the newest adventure of Elephant and Piggie, these hilarious best friends find themselves literally stuck in the pages of a book! The story, told in word bubbles, follows the comical exchange between Gerald and Piggie as they explore the parts of a book and get the reader to say funny words like "BANANA." However, what will happen when the book ends? The pair figures out a plan that will make this book a hard one to put down.

Tips for Using with Children

This book is one of a series about Elephant and Piggie. Gather as many of the books as you can and talk about what a series is. Give children an opportunity to read/listen to the stories. This would be a good activity for reading partners. Invite children to share the books they enjoyed. Visit [Mo Willems' website](http://www.mowillems.com) for this list of books as well as games and other activities that children will enjoy.

Tips for Using with Families

Point out to families that this story is told through "speech bubbles" and simple text. After reading the story to children once or twice, let children help read the book. Show children that Gerald (the elephant) has gray speech bubbles and Piggie has pink ones to match their skin colors. Have the child choose a character to read, with the parent being the other character. Beginning readers can read the actual words, while younger children can come up with their own to recall what happens in the story. The colored bubbles will help children know when it is their character's turn to speak.



Hi, Harry! The Moving Story of How One Slow Tortoise Slowly Made a Friend by Martin Waddell

Harry is a very, very slow tortoise who wants to find a friend, but everyone else is too fast. Slowly, slowly, Harry sets out to find a friend who has time to play with a tortoise. The ink and watercolor pictures give a sense of gentle movement that will take young listeners along Harry's meandering journey to look for the perfect friend.

Tips for Using with Children

Harry's hopeful persistence makes for a great read-aloud book on the pleasures of friendship. Ask children, "What makes a good friend?" "What are some things they do that make them a good friend to others?" Review the story by asking, "Why did snail make a good friend for Harry?"

Tips for Using with Families

Help families understand how to talk about friendship with their children. As children enter preschool and other social settings, they may discover that they do not want to be friends with everyone. Explain to parents that they should tell their child it's okay if they are not friends with every person, but they must respect and be kind to everyone. Connect this idea with the story. Some animals didn't make the best friends for Harry and others were just right.

