



## *Life Lessons (con't.)*

**Tyrone the Horrible** by Hans Wilhelm  
Grades 1—2

**Friends:** What makes a good friend?  
How do friends help one another?

Tyrone is a Tyrannosaurus Rex who bullies the other dinosaur children. How will they find a way to make him stop? They have to be good problem solvers because the obvious ways do not always work.

**Arthur's Pet Business** by Marc Brown  
Grades 1—2

**Responsibility:** How do friends & family help each other?

Arthur wants a puppy. First, he must show his parents that he can take responsibility for caring for it. He starts a business caring for pets. It does get a little bit out of control, and that's where the fun begins.

*Social Studies Standard 2.2.1.1.1 Economic Reasoning Skills (See pg. 8)*

**Freckle Juice** by Judy Blume  
Grades 2—4

**Growing Up:** What experiences can cause a person to change?

Andrew wants freckles so badly he believes a magic potion sold by a classmate would work. The results are painful and somewhat humiliating for Andrew until his teacher steps in to help.

**The Meanest Thing to Say** by Bill Cosby  
Grades 2—4

**Resolving Conflict:** How can words be powerful?

Bill's classmates play a very mean game with a new student, but Bill finds a way out of this situation and they all gain a new friend.

**Jerome** by Phillip Ressner  
Grades 2—3

**Community Heroes:** What heroes live in your community?

After a witch casts her spell on a little frog named Jerome, he hops into town where he finds its citizens being bullied by a destructive crow, a fire-breathing dragon and a fearsome wizard. His challenge is to rescue the town from destruction and persuade these creatures to do good. Jerome models his impressive negotiation skills to save the town. *Social Studies Standard 3.1.1.1.1 Civic Skills (See pg. 8)*

## *Life Lessons (con't.)*

**Red** by Jan De Kinder  
Grades 3—5

***Working Together:*** How can teamwork help us  
in a difficult situation?

This brief, but powerful story begins with an innocent observation that turns a schoolyard game into an opportunity for a bully. An empathetic girl finds courage with the help of her classmates as they successfully solve a familiar problem for students.

**Pippi Is a Thing Finder** by Astrid Lindgren  
2—3

***Let's Create:*** How do people express  
themselves in creative ways?

This folk-like Pippi Longstocking tale teaches us to think creatively, take risks and enjoy imaginative play. Pippi is independent, lives an improbable life and stands up for her friends.

**Herbie Jones and the Class Gift** by Suzy Kline  
Grades 3—4

***Neighborhoods and Communities:*** How  
does the school community work together?

Class organizer Annabelle tries to get everyone in the fourth-grade class excited about a year-end gift for their teacher. Herbie and his friend Raymond have to earn the money to contribute. This turns into a comedy of errors when they pick up the gift and—break it! With only 25 cents remaining, they make a desperate attempt to find another gift.

*Social Studies Standard 4.2.1.1.1 Economic Reasoning Skills (See pg. 8)*

**Adios, Coyote** by Marcia Vaughn  
Grades 3—5

***Working Together:*** How can teamwork help us  
in a difficult situation?

Coyote, the pesky prankster, has a bad habit of playing tricks on the other animals. But what happens when the other animals turn the tables and trick him?

**Miss Daisy is Crazy** by Dan Gutman  
Grades 3—4

***Let's Learn:*** Why is learning important?

Something weird is going on. Miss Daisy, who is supposed to teach kids, doesn't know how to add or subtract, read or write! However, she knows something very important about the students in her classroom: how to make them think and learn.

*Social Studies Standard 4.1.1.1.1 Civic Skills (See pg. 8)*

## *Citizenship*

**Boyhood of Martin Luther King**  
Grades 4—5

***Growing Up:*** What experiences can cause a person to change?

***Taking a Stand:*** Why do people take action to support what they believe?

How did Martin Luther King, Jr. use nonviolent action to shape U.S. history in the Civil Rights Era? This powerful story recalls hurtful incidents in his growing up when he realizes that his skin color unfairly separates him from friendships, services and accommodations. In each instance, adults in his life provide words of strength and wisdom that guide him to new understandings. This sensitive story includes information about the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to him and excerpts from his most famous speech in Washington D.C.

*Social Studies Standard 5.4.1.3.1 Civic Skills (See pg. 8)*

**VOTE!** Eileen Christelow

***Taking a Stand:*** How do community members work together? How do people make a difference in their communities? Why do people take action to support what they believe?

Grades 2—5

Using a town mayoral election as a model, this lively introduction to voting covers every step in the process, from the start of the campaign all the way to the voting booth. The cast of characters includes two dogs whose questions and comments mirror those of young students and help to explain some of an election's more confusing aspects.

*Social Studies Standard 4.1.1.1.1 Civic Skills (See pg.8)*

## *Folk Tales*

**Uncle Nacho's Hat** adapted by Harriet Rohmer  
Grades 1—3

***Families and Neighbors:*** How do family and friends help one another?

It's hard to part with familiar things. We can understand Uncle Nacho's reluctance to replace his old worn-out hat. His friends do not make it any easier. Meet Paco, Pedro, Ambrosia, a parrot, a monkey, a cat and a dog in this imaginative story from Nicaragua.

**Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock** retold by Eric Kimmel  
Grade 2

***Better Together:*** Why is working together better than working alone?

KPOM!! Down goes Anansi when he notices the moss-covered rock. In this African folk tale, it seems everyone is helpless when the rock works its magic. Anansi, who is full of tricks, lures the jungle animals to the rock so he can take their food. Will he succeed? Little Bush Deer has been watching.

## *Folk Tales (con't)*

**The Three Wishes**  
All Ages

**Change:** What events help change the way you think?

A husband and wife have a magical opportunity to gain anything they want. In their excitement, they are unable to plan together to make this come true. They learn a good lesson about communication.

**The Four Musicians** (Bremen Town Musicians)  
All Ages

**Teaming Up to Survive:** How can teamwork help us in a difficult situation?

Four aging animals whose masters have turned them away have the spirit and confidence to look for a new way of life. They meet a robber captain and his men who are no match for the clever ways the old animals use to frighten them away.

**The Big Turnip** adapted by Geraldine Bain Siks  
All Ages

**Our Team:** Why do people work in teams?

What do you do with a turnip that grows and grows and threatens to overtake the garden? Everyone gets into the act of pulling out this huge vegetable. This intergenerational story from Russia shows Grandpa, Grandma, Katrinka, Mishka, Kishka and Dishka all working together to solve their problem.

**Stone Soup** retold by Marcia Brown **Problem Solving:** How do we solve problems?  
All Ages

In this old folktale, three tired and hungry travelers find no comfort in a village of selfish people. The travelers devise a clever strategy to teach the villagers the benefits of sharing.

## *A New Look at Old Tales*

**Three Friends and the Fox**  
Grades 1—2

**Better Together:** Why is working together better than working alone?

The lazy duck and mouse learn how to cooperate when they think they are going to become the fox's lunch! The resourceful hen teaches them that it helps to work together to solve difficult problems

## *A New Look at Old Tales (con't)*

**The Three Little Javelinas** by Susan Lowell  
Grades K—2

***Our Families; Our Neighbors:*** How do family and friends help one another?

This version of *The Three Little Pigs* takes place in the Sonoran Desert where Native American, Mexican and Caucasian cultures blend together. *Javelina* comes from a Spanish name for a peccary. This story may explain why the coyote has that howl!

**Tops and Bottoms** by Janet Stevens  
Grades 1—3

***Let's Learn:*** Why is learning important?

Bear has lots of money—but he is lazy. Hare has nothing but a hungry family—but he is smart. Hare cooks up a plan to outwit Bear and share in Bear's wealth. As in many folk tales, this trickster overcomes hardship by using his wits and Bear learns an important lesson.

**The Wolf Who Cried Boy** by Bob Hartman  
Grades 4—5

***The Power of Words:*** How can words be powerful?

In this fractured fairy tale, Little Wolf tricks his parents to get out of eating his dinner. He thinks it would be more fun to eat a tasty boy instead. What a mix-up he causes when a Boy Scout troop comes exploring in the woods! (This story pairs well with *Aesop's Fables*.)

**Aesop's Fables**  
All ages

***Storytellers:*** What makes a good story?

“The Peacock and the Crane;” “The Boy Who Cried Wolf;” “The Lion and the Mouse;” “The Tortoise and the Hare;” “The North Wind and the Sun” and “The Grasshopper and the Ants” are retold in rhyme. The morals are clear and as timeless as ever.

## *Younger Learners*

**Little Miss Giggles** by Roger Hargreaves  
Preschool—Kindergarten

What makes someone special?

When Little Miss Giggles loses her laugh, her grown-up but silly friends help her find it again. You'll be giggling right with her by the end of the story!

## Younger Learners (con't)

### **Fraidy Cat and the Wise One**

Preschool—Kindergarten

***I Know a Lot:*** What makes someone special?

A fearful kitten, afraid of everything, gains confidence when a wise old owl convinces him he has acted very bravely in traveling through the forest to ask for help. Then “Fraidy Cat” gets a new name.

### **Look Out for the Big Bad Fish** by Sheridan Cain

Preschool—Kindergarten

***Growing Up:*** Patience, learning as we grow

A little tadpole wants to learn to jump high like his mother, the frog and his friends: Lamb, Grasshopper and Rabbit. They tell him to wait until he grows up, but there is a reason he needs to do it right now!

### **Little Quack—Four Stories** by Lauren Thompson

Preschool

***Growing Up:*** Learning as we grow

“Little Quack’s New Friend,” “Little Quack’s Hide and Seek,” “Little Quack Leaves the Nest” and “Little Quack’s Bedtime” are the simple adventures of four little ducklings.

### **Little Beaver and the Echo**

Preschool—Grade 1

***Friends:*** What do you do with your friends?

***Animals:*** Where do some animals live?

Like the little beaver in our story, children sometimes feel lonely especially in new situations. Little Beaver finds that friends are everywhere—one just has to look for them.

### **Franklin Says Sorry** by Paulette Bourgeois

Preschool—Grade 1

***Friends:*** What do you do with your friends?

Franklin and his friends are excited about making their tree fort into a ship. But Franklin almost loses Bear as his friend when he tells Bear’s special secret. Franklin has to learn how to say, “I’m sorry.”



*Reading aloud to children helps them develop and improve literacy skills — reading, writing, speaking and listening. Since children listen on a higher level than they read, listening to other readers stimulates growth and understanding of vocabulary and language patterns.*

- Jim Trelease, author of *The Read Aloud Handbook*

## *Social Studies Connections*

### Citizenship and Government

Third Grade: (3.1.1.1.1) Civic Skills. “Jerome” illustrates how people can make a difference in the civic lives of their communities to address a specific problem or need.

Fourth Grade: (4.1.1.1.1) Civic Skills. “VOTE!”, “Miss Daisy Is Crazy” and “The Boyhood of Martin Luther King” illustrate how people take action to influence a decision on a specific issue.

### Economics

Second Grade: (2.2.1.1.1) Economic Reasoning Skills. “Arthur’s Pet Business” and “Tops and Bottoms” show the challenges in making good choices.

Third Grade: (3.2.2.2.1) Personal Finance. “Tops and Bottoms” and “Herbie Jones and the Class Gift” describe income as the money earned from selling resources and expenditures as the money used to buy goods and services.

Fourth Grade: (4.2.1.1.1) Economic Reasoning Skills. “Herbie Jones and the Class Gift” shows the application of reasoned decision-making to make a choice.

### Geography

Kindergarten: (0.3.2.3.1) Places and Regions. “Wombat Stew” helps to identify the physical and human characteristics of places.

### History

Fifth Grade: (5.4.1.3.1) Historical Thinking Skills. “The Boyhood of Martin Luther King” analyzes multiple causes and outcomes of an historical event.