Red Clover

Book Award

2019 - 2020

ART CONNECTIONS

Curated by MC Baker

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

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2019-2020 RED CLOVER BOOK AWARD NOMINEES
VERMONT'S PICTURE BOOK AWARD
FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES K-4

Agee, Jon. *The Wall in the Middle of the Book.* Dial, 2018. (ISBN: 978-0525555452)

Becker, Helaine. *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13.* Illustrated by Dow Phumiruk. Henry Holt and Co., 2018. (ISBN: 978-1250137524)

Dyckman, Ame. *Misunderstood Shark.* Illustrated by Scott Magoon. Orchard Books, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1338112474)

Florian, Douglas. *Friends and Foes: Poems about Us All.* Beach Lane Books, 2018. (ISBN 978-1442487956)

Gianferrari, Maria. *Hawk Rising.* Illustrated by Brian Floca. Roaring Brook Press, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1626720961)

Keller, Laurie. *Potato Pants!* Henry Holt and Co., 2018. (ISBN: 978-1250107237)

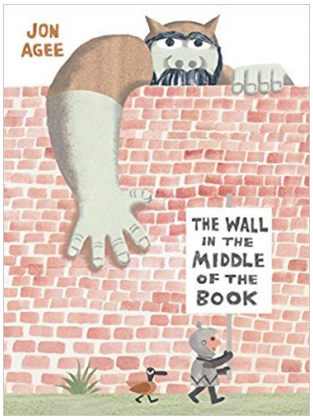
Lê, Minh. *Drawn Together.* Disney-Hyperion, 2018. Illustrated by Dan Santat. (ISBN: 978-1484767603)

Love, Jessica. *Julián is a Mermaid.* Candlewick, 2018. (ISBN: 978-0763690458)

Pimentel, Annette Bay. *Girl Running: Bobbi Gibb and the Boston Marathon.* Illustrated by Micha Archer. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1101996683)

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin.* Illustrated by Rafael López. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. (ISBN: 978-0399246531)

<u>THE WALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK</u>
Jon Agee
Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.
ISBN: 978-052555452
$17.99



What if the gutter of the book became a wall? However apt it may be as a political metaphor, the origin of *The Wall in The Middle of the Book* can be found in Mr. Agee's assertion on his website that a book's gutter is the "biggest headache about doing pictures for a picture book." A young knight in armor is so busy repairing the brick wall in the middle of the book, and breaking the fourth wall to explain why, that he fails to notice that not only is the other side of the book not as dangerous as he believes, but that his own side is becoming more dangerous with each turning page. When the dreaded ogre from the other side actually rescues him, the knight has to quickly reconsider everything he thought he knew. With a minimum of text and a muted but evocative watercolor palette, the text and illustrations integrate perfectly to tell a story of expectations upturned and new realities arising.

This is Jon Agee's third appearance on the Red Clover list (*Milo's Hat Trick*, 2002; *Terrific*, 2006) and students will probably be familiar with his other titles.

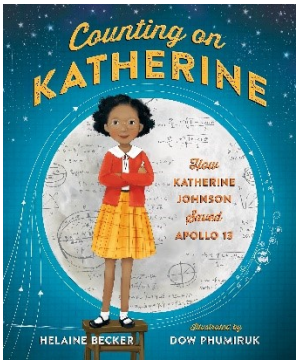
<u>Art Project</u>: Accordion Books!

These are SO fun. They look like a wall, stand up like a wall, and can just remind you of your old slinky toy (or maybe that is just me!) Your students can use them as a piece of sculpture or write on them. The sky's the limit. Have fun!

<u>Materials Needed:</u>

- The better the paper, the better your results! I love 140 lb. watercolor paper. However, I have used 80 lb. drawing paper and even copy paper to get good results too.
- Paints or bits to collage (optional)
- Glue sticks

<u>COUNTING ON KATHERINE: HOW KATHERINE JOHNSON SAVED APOLLO 13</u>
Helaine Becker, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk
Henry Holt and Company, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1250137524
$17.99



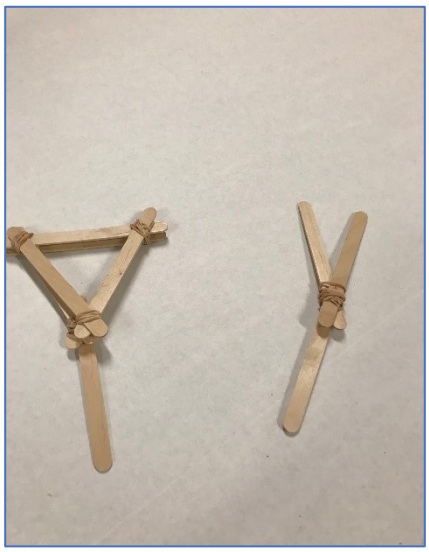
Katherine loved math from a very young age and proved to be an astute student who graduated college at 18. She worked for NASA in a career that spanned many missions in which astronauts counted on her to keep them safe.

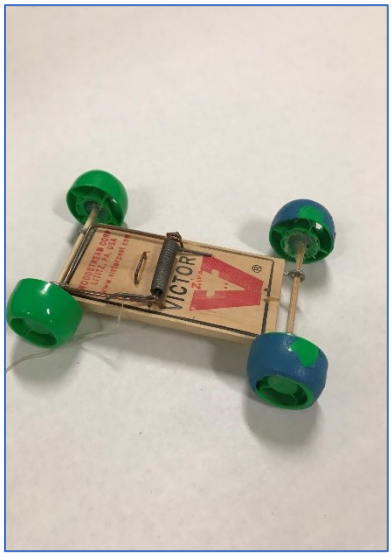
<u>Art Project</u>: Contraptions!

There's nothing better than inventing! Have a game plan or let them go with their own ideas. Make sure you have time for "re-design" after they test out their trebuchet, catapult, or car!

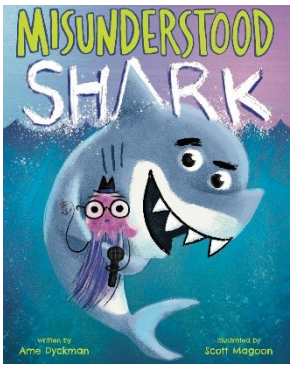
<u>Materials Needed:</u>

- Popsicle sticks
- Rubber bands
- Imagination





<u>MISUNDERSTOOD SHARK</u>
Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Scott Magoon
Orchard Books, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1338112474
$17.99



During a live broadcast of "Underwater World with Bob," a series of incidents with Shark create some hilarious misunderstandings and uncertainty. Is Shark truly as innocent as he claims? Scott Magoon's illustrations are a perfect match for this laugh-out-loud picture book.

<u>Art Project</u>: Two ideas…

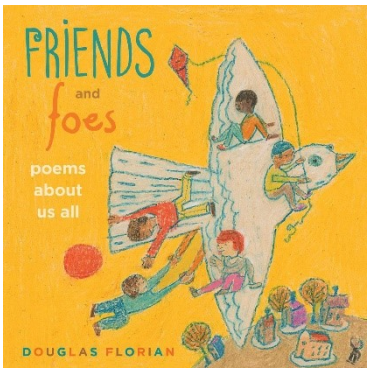
First, a **Flying Fish Wind Sock**. The Japanese are famous for their kites , but they also make a wind sock in the shape of a carp. It is displayed each year on May 5th during the festival call Children's Day. In the book Adventures In Art by Susan Milord, there are more specific details to the cultural connections as well as more specific construction details. In my sample, I cut an old white sheet, painted it with thinned acrylic paint, and sewed it together. Voila!

Second, an **underwater scene on a piece of raw canvas**. I used a black canvas that I purchased from JoAnn Fabric and then painted with acrylic paint. Easy and fun!

<u>Materials Needed:</u>
Fish Wind Sock:
- White cotton fabric
- Acrylic paint
- Needle and thread or sewing machine

Canvas Painting:
- Raw canvas
- Acrylic paint

<u>FRIENDS AND FOES: POEMS ABOUT US ALL</u>
Douglas Florian
Beach Lane Books, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1442487956
$17.99



A collection of 25 original poems on the many emotions of friendship, good and bad. Simple, colorful illustrations in crayon and colored pencil accompany the text.

<u>Art Project</u>: Two ideas…

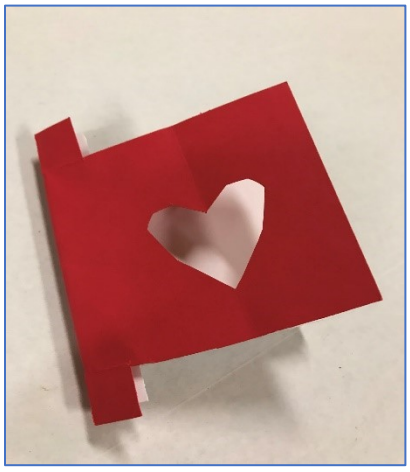
NO staple or glue book!

With this project, you can show that pages can be linked together with this SIMPLE structure. Yes, just like friendships, we can be linked together and not need a staple or glue (yeah!)

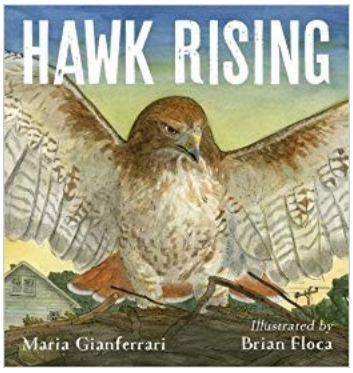
Paper Puppets
Love this project because it involves creativity and play. I'm not sure if my students had more fun making the puppets or playing with them. They had names, personalities, likes, and dislikes. Super fun especially for the younger kids!

<u>Materials Needed:</u>
No Staple/Glue Book
- Paper

Paper Puppets
- Copy paper
- Markers, pens, pencils



<u>HAWK RISING</u>
Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Brian Floca
Roaring Brook Press, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1626720961
$18.99



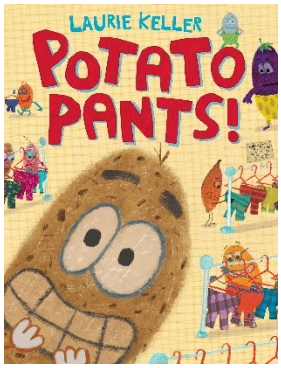
This insider's view of a hawk's life follows a red-tailed hawk as it hunts in a suburban neighborhood while two sisters observe from below. This lyrical nonfiction picture book provides insights into predator-prey relationships and also gives readers new perspectives toward avian species.

<u>Art project</u>: SO many ideas with birds! Create a clay bird ornament or part of a head, what about a tea light within a bird? Easy!

<u>Materials needed:</u>

- FIMO or Sculpey (Polymer clay)
- Self-hardening clay
- Acrylic paint
- Tea light

<u>POTATO PANTS!</u>
Laurie Keller
Henry Holt & Company, 2018
ISBN: 978-1250107237
$17.99



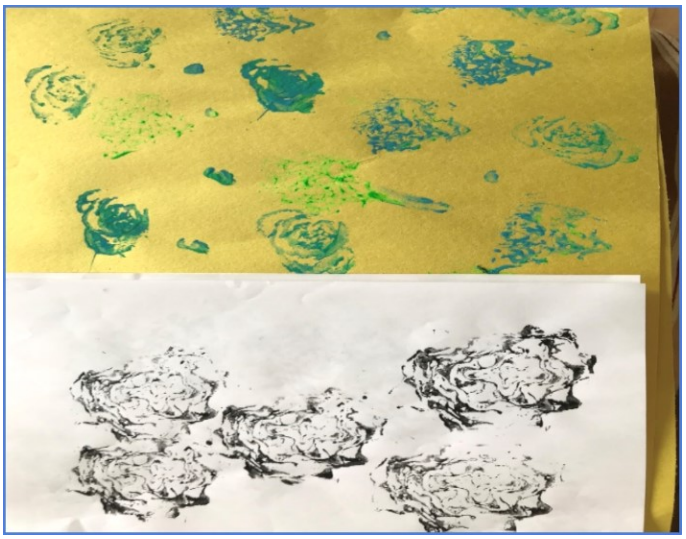
Potato is thrilled that potato pants are on sale at Lance Vance's Fancy Pants Store. But our vegetable hero is afraid to go shopping because Eggplant, who pushed him into a trashcan yesterday, is in the store. Eventually, his desperate desire for a pair of stripy potato pants (with stripy suspenders for added stripy-ness) overcomes his fear. He confronts Eggplant, and things look a bit grim, until it turns out that Eggplant has been looking for a chance to apologize.

<u>Art Project:</u> Veggie prints!

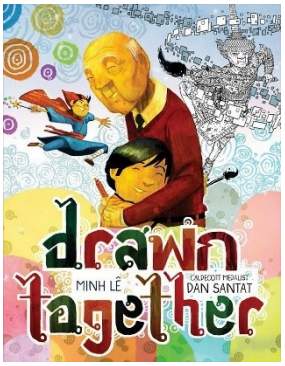
It turns out the star of the classic "potato-powered light bulb" science fair project has many talents, including art! Use potatoes and other vegetables to make one-of-a-kind veggie prints!

<u>Materials Needed:</u>

- Random vegetables. This is where you can be really creative! The ends of celery? Perfect! They look like the letter "C". Celery hearts are even better. Romaine lettuce "ends" make the coolest prints! Beans, asparagus… if your child will not eat them, maybe they will make art with them!!!
- Paint. My go to paint is always acrylic paint. However, tempra will do the trick too. You can even play with inks and good watercolors for different effects.
- Paper. If you are really playing, go with the cheap copy paper. However, good drawing paper will hold up better. You may also want to try and play with rolls of paper and you can create some veggie wrapping paper for a take-home.



<u>DRAWN TOGETHER</u>
Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat
Disney-Hyperion, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1484767603
$17.99



A grandpa and his grandson find a way to bridge their culture and language gap through the discovery of a shared love of storytelling and drawing.

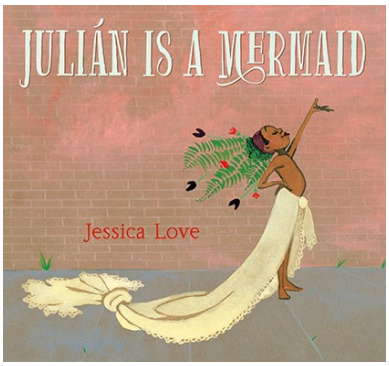
<u>Art Project:</u> String art!

I have always wanted to try this project and this book felt like the perfect opportunity to jump right in! I tried it with left-over foam core from a frame shop. Most times I have asked, local frame shops always have scraps that they are willing to donate to a school or library, so check with your local frame shop before you buy. I tried simple shapes with pins and thumbtacks. Both work equally well.

Two tips:
1. Embroidery floss works better than yarn.
2. Double up thinner foam core. It is easier to hold the pins in and it gives a more finished look to the piece.

<u>Materials Needed:</u>
- Foam core
- Pins with some sort of ball on the end **OR** thumbtacks
- Embroidery floss

<u>JULIÁN IS A MERMAID</u>
Jessica Love
Candlewick Press, 2018.
ISBN: 978-0763690458
$16.99



Julián is a young boy who deeply loves all things mermaid. He's not quite sure how his *abuela* will react when he shares his identity in his homemade mermaid costume. It's a relief when Julián finds he fits in at a Mermaid Parade (there's a real one on Coney Island.) This is a beautiful story of acceptance.

<u>Art project</u>: Two ideas…

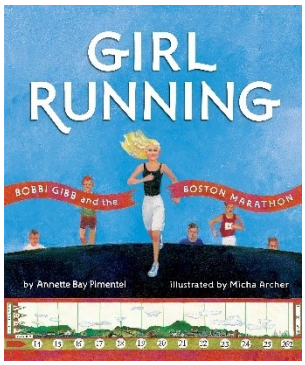
Mermaid tails and **paint brushes with mermaid tails**. In these activities, something ordinary can take on a whole new shape and purpose. Scrapbook paper is so lovely. Make a cone, tape it in its new shape, trim off the bottom and put a tail on top. Voila! You have a mermaid tail!

Paint brushes can feel completely different with a tail attached! How different it is to feel like you are painting with a tail on your brush! Will you paint a water scene or a robot? These brushes with tails may ignite your creativity!

<u>Materials needed:</u>
3-D Mermaid Tail:
- Fancy scrapbook paper
- Tape
- Scissors

Paint brushes with tails:
- Duct tape
- An old paint brush!

<u>GIRL RUNNING: BOBBI GIBB AND THE BOSTON MARATHON</u>
Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Micha Archer
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018.
ISBN: 978-1101996683
$17.99



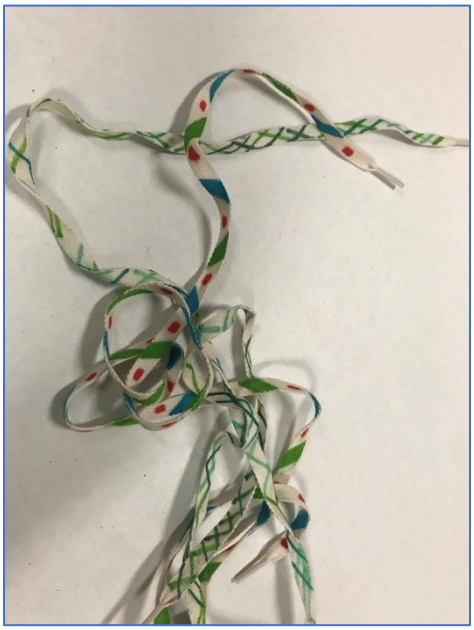
Bobbi Gibb was refused entrance to the 1966 Boston Marathon because she was a woman. Bobbi stealthily entered the race and made history as the first woman to complete the marathon.

<u>Art project</u>: Shoelaces!

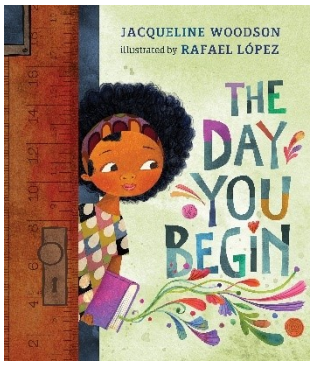
Create your own one of a kind shoelaces. Make them colorful and full of patterns or black and white. You are the artist in charge!

<u>Materials needed:</u>

- White shoelaces (the flat kind is better for decorating)
- Sharpie markers



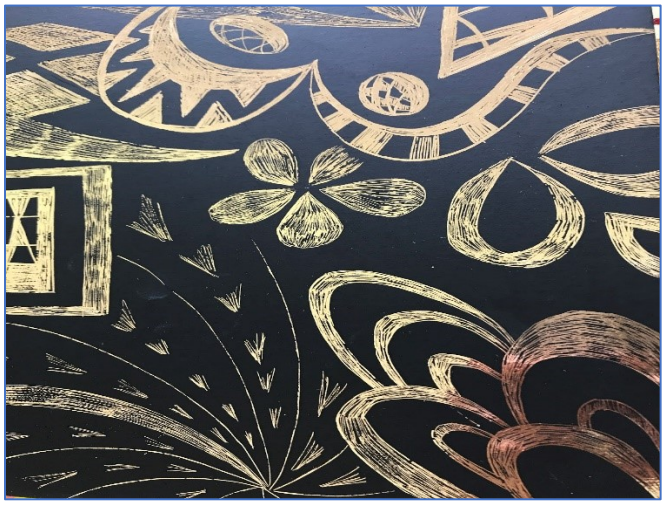
<u>THE DAY YOU BEGIN</u>
Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López
Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018
ISBN: 978-0399246531
$18.99



In *The Day You Begin,* four students struggle as they feel like outsiders at the beginning of the school year. Through sharing their stories, they begin to connect and embrace their differences.

<u>Art Project:</u> Scratch Art!

This is SO cool to use- the kids will <u>love</u> that it is GOLD. My link to the book is to talk about the value of friendships and connections between people, and how gold is the color that symbolizes that value. As students become inspired by the STUNNING artwork in this book, they can draw from Lopez's work to create their own doodles of creativity. I would suggest that they not just draw "something"; rather, they should try to doodle to evoke an emotion of friendship.

<u>Materials Needed:</u>

- Gold Scratch Board. I purchase most of my supplies from Blick Art Materials. (Item number 13516-9022) It is approximately $1 per sheet. The scratch <u>board</u> is better than the paper because it is more resilient and holds up better.
- You can purchase special scratch tools or open up and use a paperclip.