

Literacy + Literature to Ignite, Delight and Cultivate Readers, Writers, and Thinkers

CONFRATUTE 2025

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The book is NOT a destination, it is a vehicle towards a destination unknown (and maybe unanticipated). ©Susannah Richards

I hope that you found ideas, perspectives, strategies, and approaches to meet the needs of highly able students at Confratute 2025. The following is a curated list of books (from strands, the keynote, and special topics I presented) for your radar. These include books that invite the reader to fall into story, learn information and skills, and set the stage for learning and thinking as a literate and thoughtful lifelong reader. Think of these as books to ignite, delight, and cultivate potential. For me books are one of the things that I look forward to much like many of the items in Sophie Blackall's beautiful book *Things to Look Forward To: 52 Large and Small Joys for Today and Everyday* (Chronicle, 2022).

Here is a Book by Elisha Cooper

We Are Definitely Human by X. Fang

All about U.S. by Matt Lamothe

The Yellow Bus by Loren Long

I Am Sorry You Got Mad by Kyle Lukoff

All the Books by Hayley and John Rocco

The Zebra's Great Escape by Katherine Rundell

We Celebrate the Light by Heidi E.Y. Stemple and Jane Yolen illustrated by Jieting Chen

Crowning Glory: A Celebration of Black Hair by Carole Boston Weatherford illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Pinecone! by Helen Yoon

Every Monday Mabel by Jashar Awan

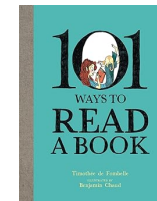
Fish Fry Friday by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by C.G. Esperanza

Little Rebel by Yuyi Morales

Some of Us by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by

Island Storm by Brian Floca, illustrated by Sydney Smith

Where are You Bronte? by Tomie dePaola, illustrated by Barbara McClintock



Poetry

How to Write a Poem by Kwame Alexander and Deanna Nikaido, Ill. Melissa Sweet

Daniel Finds a Poem by Micha Archer

Freedom Over Me: Eleven slaves, their lives, and dreams bought to life by Ashley Bryan

Words with Wings and Magic Things by Matthew Burgess, Ill. Doug Salati

Seeing Into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright, Ill. Nina Crews

The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems by Paul B. Janeczko

Poems and Notes about Color by Julie Paschkis

Mirror Mirror by Marilyn Singer
Soccer Queens by Charles Smith

Biographies

As Edward Imagined by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Mac Majewski
Motorcycle Queen: The Life of Bessie Springfield by Janie Havemeyer & Jean Claverie
Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer by Quartez Harris, illustrated by Gordon C. James
Good Books for Bad Children by Beth Kephart
She Sells Seashells: Mary Anning, An Unlikely Paleontologist by Heidi E. Y. Stemple, illustrated by Emily Paik
Janie Writes a Play: Jane Yolen's First Great Story by Heidi E.Y. Stemple, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight
Thurgood by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Bryan Collier

Informational Books

MIT KIDS Press books in collaboration and published by Candlewick Press
Black Lives Minds of Science by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by David Wi
Life After Whale: The Mazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall by Lynn Brunelle, illustrated by Jason Chin
Over and Under Wetlands by Kate Messner, Illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal
Golden Gate, Building the Mighty Bridge by Elizabeth Partridge
Meet the Wild Things series by Hayley and John Rocco
Meet the Mini Mammals: A Night at the Natural History Museum by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Brian Lies
Bounce: A Scientific History of Rubber by Sarah Albee
The History of We by Nikkolas Smith
Hurricane by Jason Chin

Anthologies

One the Block: Stories of Home edited by Ellen Oh
Banned Together: Our Fight for Readers' Rights by Ashley Hope Pérez

Chapter Books and Middle Grade Books

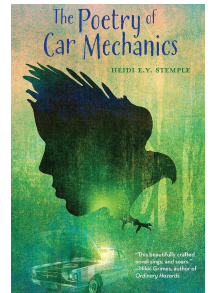
Beti and the Little Round House by Atinuke
Scattergood by H. M. Bouwman
The Night War by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
Carter Avery's Tricky Fourth-Grade Year by Rob Bunyea
Ferris by Kate DiCamillo *Max in the House of Spies* and *Max in the Land of Lies* by Adam Gidwitz
Lifeboat 12 and *Lifeboat 5* by Susan Hood
All The Best Dogs by Emily Jenkins
Good Different by Meg Eden Koyatt
The Gate, The Girl, and the Dragon by Grace Lin
The Secret Library by Kekla Magoon
Olivetti by Allie Millington
Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody by Patrick Ness, illustrated by Tim Miller

Grace Under the Waves by Linda Sue Park
A Wolf Called Fire by Rosanne Parry
One Big Open Sky by Lesa Cline-Ransome
Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell
Kareem Between by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
Safe Harbor by Padma Venkatraman
Remember Us by Jacqueline Woodson
J Versus K by Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft
The First State of Being by Erin Entrada Kelly
The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner



Young Adult

Under the Same Stars by Libba Bray
Twenty-Four Seconds from Now... by Jason Reynolds
Everything We Never Had by Randy Ribay
Run Away with Me by Brian Selznick
The Poetry of Car Mechanics by Heidi E.Y. Stemple
Whale Eyes by James Robinson

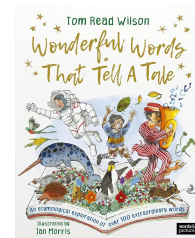


Graphic Novels

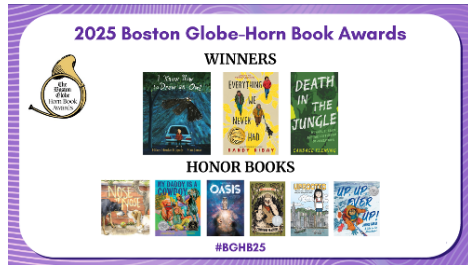
Plain Jane and the Mermaid by Vera Brosgol
Very Bad at Math by Hope Larson
One Crazy Summer graphic novel by Rita Williams Garcia and Sharee Miller
Hoops by Matt Tavares
Katie the Catsitter series by Colleen AF Venable
Ash's Cabin by Jen Wang
The Cartoonist Club by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud
Outsider Kids by Betty C. Tang
Mixed-Up by Kami Garcia
Speechless by Aron Nels Steinke
The Prohibition Era (History Comics published by First Second)
Human Space Flight (Science Comics published by First Second)
Born in the USA (World Citizen Comics) by Lawrence Goldstone, with James Otis Smith published by First Second

Word and Language Books

The Right Word by Jen Bryant, Ill. Melissa Sweet
The Fairy Tale Fan Club: Legendary Letters Collected by C.C. Cecily
Absurd Words: A Kid's Fun and Hilarious Vocabulary Builder for Future Word Nerds by Tara Lazar
Other-Wordly: words both strange and lovely from around the world by Yee-Lum Mak, Ill. Kelsey Garrity-Riley
The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds
Wonderful Words that Tell a Tale by Tom Read Wilson
Cozy Classics board books by Jack and Holman Wang (class stories told in 12 words and felted images)



Boston Globe/Horn Book 2025 Winners



Susannah's Miscellany...

- If you have the chance, visit **Planet Word** (<https://planetwordmuseum.org/>) in Washington, DC as an amazing language, literacy, and literature experience
- Explore all the resources (including Chronicling America) on the Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov).
- If a child wants to read a graphic novel, the answer is always **YES**. Graphic novels are not less of anything than prose or other forms of texts, in fact, they are often more. Analysis found that graphic novels often include a wide and more extensive vocabulary than other forms of story delivery.
- Check out the online issue of *American Educator*-Raising Joyful and Confident Readers https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2023/AE_Fall_2023_web.pdf.
- The current emphasis on the sciences of reading is **GOOD** for highly able students but they may not need extensive repetitions and practice to learn the phonological awareness, alphabetic principle, fluency, and vocabulary to continue to grow in their comprehension of all kinds of texts at all ability levels.
- Integrate all kinds of books into the curriculum and they are Type Is (exposure), IIs (how to), and Type IIIs (products and models of Type III that have an authentic audience) of the Enrichment Triad Model/Schoolwide Enrichment Model.
- Choose read alouds with purpose, relevance, and to build relationships among ideas, provide schema, and with reading, writing, and thinking goals.
- Picture books are great for building schema and setting the foundation for learning for all learners. They are also terrific stimuli for supporting social emotional development.
- There are SOOOO many books to ignite, delight, and cultivate readers, writers, listeners, speakers, and thinkers. Make a plan to find and help students have access to a wide variety books on a wide variety of topics in a wide variety of genres and formats.