



**Fall
2015**

From the Editor

Dear *SCOPE* readers,

Welcome to the Fall 2015 issue of *SCOPE*! In this issue, we begin with a list of favorite picture books to challenge gifted learners. This list was submitted by Heidi Weber, a 3rd- and 4th- grade Gifted Intervention Specialist in Loveland, Ohio, and she includes great teaching tips and resources for each book. We have also included some additional resources about using picture books in your classrooms. Leighann Pennington, our network chair, also shares how she uses two picture books with middle-school learners.

Also in this issue, also shine the network spotlight on the upcoming NAGC convention in Phoenix. Please stop by and meet other network members at one of our network events.

Finally, don't forget that the Curriculum Studies website is a great resource for details about previous award winning curriculum units as well as information about writing and submitting your own unit (nagccurriculumnetwork.weebly.com).

~Matthew Reames, Newsletter Editor



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Main photo of
"Autumn Sunset in the
Desert" by Kimberly
Mahron *flickr*

NAGC Curriculum Network—2015 Leadership

Curriculum Network Chair: Leighann Pennington

Chair-Elect: Denise Drain

Convention Program Chairs: Christine Briggs and Carol Ann Williams

Newsletter Editor: Matthew Reames



Photo of Arizona cactus by
muhawio01
on flickr

From the Network Chair

Dear Members,

We have an exciting NAGC conference coming up in sunny Phoenix, AZ. I am excited to be a part of a Meet and Greet to discuss our NAGC Select Series publication *Engaging and Challenging Curriculum: Supporting Advanced and Gifted Learners*, a collaborative effort on the part of several members of Curriculum Studies Network leadership. This year at the conference, there will be an emphasis on the whole child, like in our signature session for Curriculum Studies: *Curriculum and the Whole Child*. We've assembled a panel of experts to discuss how to apply curriculum as a tool to meet the social and emotional needs of the students in your classrooms, and there will be plenty of time for questions and audience interaction. I will be presenting on the topics of motivation and differentiation in the middle grades and motivation research 101 for parents. As a new parent of a 9 month old baby girl, Josie, I am excited to be presenting to an audience of parents! After spending a year studying motivation research and creativity at the graduate level, I continued a passion for translating research into practical tips that teachers and parents can use every day. So much great research is out there, and together we can build a bridge so that our gifted children are well-served through the application of research in everyday ways.

See you in Phoenix!

Sincerely,
Leighann Pennington, Chair

10 Picture Books My Classroom Can't Live Without!

By Heidi Weber

*The illustrations,
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How can you challenge gifted learners and young readers while also addressing the Common Core standards? You can use picture books—they're not just for preschool students. Often the illustrations, poetic language, and big ideas can be analyzed on a deeper level to challenge gifted learners.

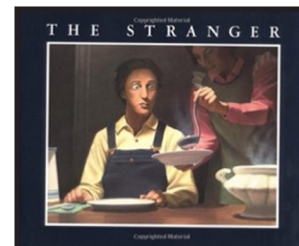
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7 - Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7 - Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7 - Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.

My 10 for 10 list centers around texts that I think are PERFECT for teaching CCSS #7... which require students to examine the interaction of text and visual representations. To do this, my go-to picture book list centers around one author/illustrator: Chris Van Allsburg.

His rich illustrations and extraordinary plots intertwine for exceptional deep thinking experiences... A gifted teacher's dream! Of course this collection also doubles and triples as an author study AND genre study. So, let me take you on a tour of my top Van Allsburg must haves!

1) *The Stranger*

This text tops any list as my all-time favorite! First purchased in 1999, it has been shared with every class I've had since. Each time I read it I discover something new. I have used it to teach questioning and inferring, among other things. My copy is so "loved" the jacket is ripped and torn!

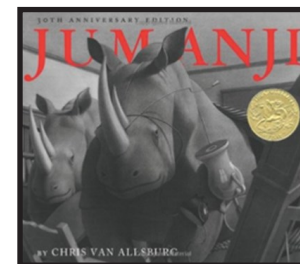


Teaching Notes:

- Plan to read and re-read this text several times!
 - Remove the book jacket and have students look at the plain cover with only *The Stranger*. Ask "Who do you think the stranger is?" "What do you think this story will be about?"
 - Be sure to read closely for clues both in the text and illustrations...they will lead to inferring who the stranger is!
- **I ask my students to look at a single illustration and consider how the corresponding text supports or extends the meaning.

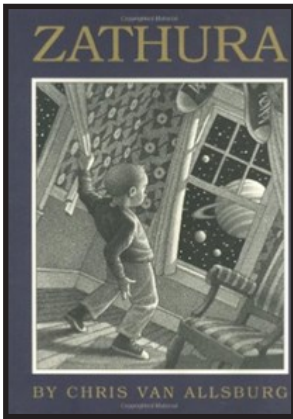
2) *Jumanji*

I admit that I saw the movie before enjoying the text; but the text has so much more to offer! One thing we noticed about our copy was how all of the illustrations were "grayscale" but the title was bold red. When we removed the book jacket, the cover underneath is plain and red. This really got us engaged in a discussion about why that was. (As a bonus...my copy has a CD of Robin Williams reading the story!)



Teaching Notes:

- Ask students to consider how the use of shading contributes to the "mood". Does it feel suspenseful? Dangerous? Mysterious? Notice how the use of light and dark shades seems "soft". (Great to contrast with the next text...)
- Look carefully at the smaller details in the illustrations. Examine the stance of the characters. Can you picture the action that is happening?
- The illustrations are framed; they do not extend to the edges of the page giving the reader a sense that they are captured within a single moment.

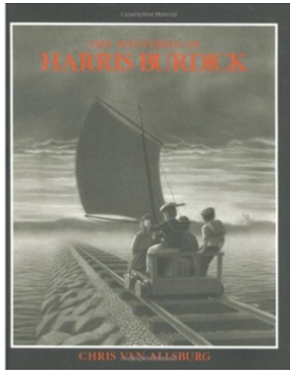


3) *Zathura*

My students begged me to get this after enjoying *Jumanji* because a few knew about the movie and it was the sequel to *Jumanji*. *Jumanji* ends with friends Walter and Daniel carrying a box under their arms (which we infer is *Jumanji*.) *Zathura* opens with Walter and Danny finding a box marked “Jumanji”.

Teaching Notes:

- Notice how in this story, Chris Van Allsburg creates illustrations that span a two page spread. Text is overlaid on the illustration. (In contrast to *Jumanji*’s page of text and page of illustration.)
- *Zathura* has grayscale illustrations, but they seem “sharper” and clearer. What mood does this create?

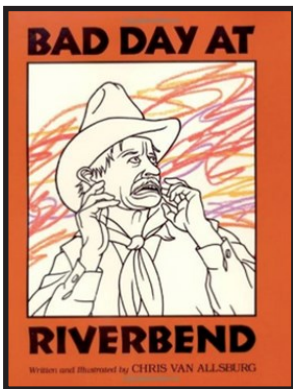


4) *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*

My introduction to the beautiful prints in this book was through a limited “portfolio edition” I won in a contest in the 90’s. Needless to say I have large poster size prints of the 12 images. Each has an engaging caption. Later *The Chronicles of Harris Burdick* was published with 14 writers telling tales inspired by the prints. Each image invites great discussion or offers an opportunity for creative writing.

Teaching Notes:

- The Harris Burdick Project:
harrisburdickproject.weebly.com/index.html
- A VoiceThread to share thoughts:
classroombooktalk.wikispaces.com/Mysteries+of+Harris+Burdick
- Both of these sites offer collaboration opportunities with other classrooms

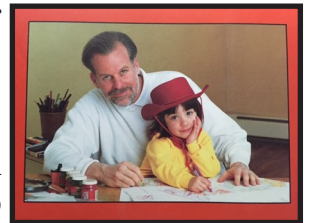


5. *Bad Day at Riverbend*

In my opinion, the COOLEST thing about this book is the fact that Chris Van Allsburg’s daughter, Sophia helped him with the illustrations! It starts out with simple line drawings, but soon crayon “enhancements” bring it to life. This book ends leaving you wonder whether or not the intention was to be a coloring book...

Teaching Notes:

- This text offers a great discussion opportunity: Why are the illustrations so different from other stories Chris Van Allsburg has written?
- Explore the interaction between the characters and the “evil thing”.
- Notice how the illustrations are not “framed”. The story/setting feel as though they are extending beyond the page.

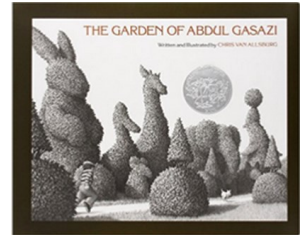


6) *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*

No collection would be complete without Chris Van Allsburg's first book! The little dog Fritz shows up in one way or another throughout his other books as a way to commemorate him!

Teaching Notes:

- After meeting "Fritz" in this story, challenge students to find him (or some form of him) in other books by Van Allsburg.
- This book invites questioning and is full of extension possibilities!
- Explore the moods and "personalities" of the characters by examining the details closely.

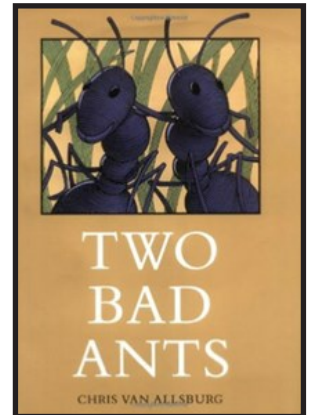


7) *Two Bad Ants*

The illustrations in this book beautifully capture the perspective from ant's point of view! I especially love the size of the objects in the kitchen! When examining the images closely, the use of line gives rich texture to specific parts (such as in the blades of grass or the bodies of the ants)

Teaching Notes:

- Point of view lesson plan from ReadWriteThink:
www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/teaching-point-view-with-789.html?tab=1#tabs
- Additional ideas for extensions:
www.mrsrielage.com/docs/third/unit06/third_ants_activities.pdf
- Take time to closely read and examine descriptive phrases... for example when the ants are in the cup of coffee.

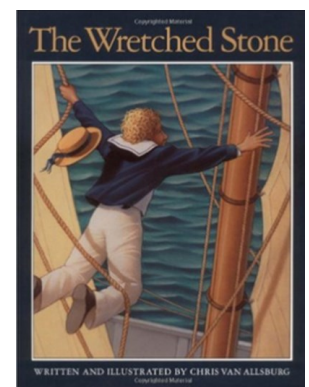


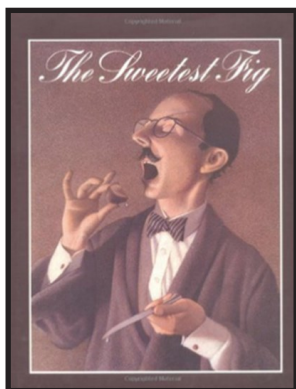
8) *The Wretched Stone*

The narration of this book is through journal entries from a captain's logbook. I love examining symbolism and lesson/moral with this text. As with his other books, Chris Van Allsburg creates such emotion with his illustrative details.

Teaching Notes:

- Explore the idea of the stone representing TV;
- "It is a rock, approximately two feet across. It is roughly textured, gray in color, but a portion of it is flat and smooth as glass. From this surface comes a glowing light that is quite beautiful and pleasing to look at."
- Check out this teacher's guide for guiding questions:
www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/thepolarexpress/tg/stone.shtml
- This is a great book to explore more closely by examining artistic style and elements.
- Additional resource: pingb.picturingbooks.com/





9) *The Sweetest Fig*

I love how the illustrations span across both pages when opened. It really draws the reader into the story! The way the protagonist Bibot is portrayed through both the illustrations and descriptions is engaging. I can't help but think of *Karma* when I read this text.

Teaching Notes:

- Analyze Bibot carefully by noting what he says and does as the main character.
- When we think of protagonist, we often think of the “good guy”, but is Bibot a “good guy”?
- Link to character analysis resource:
drive.google.com/file/d/oBwh7y1_Ut9cASmpQaTdORzRGcVE/view
- Making connections between events and characters:
drive.google.com/file/d/oBwh7y1_Ut9cAQkJNTmtOREpVanc/view



10) *The Polar Express*

A classic! I have a CD of Liam Neeson reading the story (which is fabulous!) I also have the e-book version for projecting onto a large screen so we can feel immersed into the story. The only way to experience this text, in my opinion, is to wear pajamas, pass out train tickets, and enjoy some cocoa!

Teaching Notes:

- Mood conveyed in illustrations is a key discussion point with this text. What words describe how the illustrations “feel”? Cold, warm, inviting?
- Examine illustrations carefully with an “artistic techniques” chart
- Great to compare/contrast the book and the movie! (Get those Venn Diagrams going!)

Additional Picture Book Resources

SCOPE contributor Heidi Weber's blog “Learning Links:”

hwlearninglinks.wordpress.com/2015/08/10/pb10for10/

Get involved! Join the picture book community, or take part in the event twice a year by sharing a list of your favorite picture books.

Picture Book 10 for 10 - Home of August #pb10for10 and February #nf10for10 - plus.google.com/communities/109747361653807401083

If you missed the 10 for 10 event in August, don't worry—there is another one in February!

Post with the hashtag on Twitter at twitter.com/hashtag/pb10for10
#pb10for10

A 5th grade teacher shares her favorite picture books in a popular blog, Literacy for Big Kids:

literacyforbigkids.blogspot.com/2015/08/2015-pb10for10.html

American Library Association: Caldecott Medal and Honor Books:

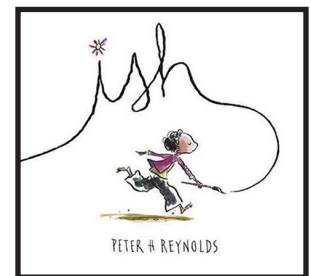
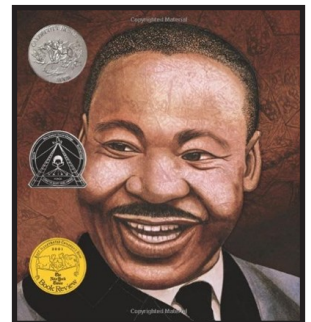
www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal

Picture Books: When there is more than meets the eye

Two of my favorite books to use with gifted middle school students include *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds and *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport and Brian Collier, a Caldecott Honor book. *Ish* is a wonderful book to introduce a discussion about the challenges of perfectionism and how others might view and appreciate your work in ways that you do not.

I used *Martin's Big Words* as an introduction to a unit about understanding the art of persuasion. Students also closely analyzed and used exemplary speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to inspire their persuasive speeches.

--Leighann Pennington, M.Ed., Curriculum Studies Chair



NAGC's 62nd Annual Convention in Phoenix

Don't miss these Curriculum Studies Network Events & Sessions! Check the Convention program for any last-minute changes to times or locations.

Curriculum Studies Network Meeting

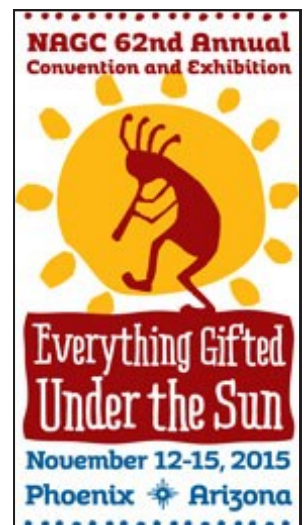
Friday, November 13, 9:15-10:15am — CC North 221 A

This is open to all Network members who want to become involved with the Network. Share your ideas and get up-to-date on Curriculum Studies events and initiatives.

Curriculum Awards

Friday, November 13, 7:30-8:30pm — Sheraton Valley of the Sun B

Please come to help us honor the Curriculum Studies Award Winners! The winners will receive their awards and then there will be time to browse the curriculum units and learn more about excellent curriculum for gifted learners. Peruse exemplary curriculum and ask the writers questions and see examples of excellent student work. Whether you are thinking about entering a unit into the awards next year or just want some fresh ideas for your classroom, come out and support these writers and teachers who have worked very hard for our gifted learning community!



Curriculum Studies Signature Session — Curriculum and the Whole Child

Saturday, November 14, 8:00-9:00am — CC North 124 B

*Have you read our
newest
publication:*

***Engaging and
Challenging
Curriculum:
Supporting
Advanced and
Gifted
Learners?***

This session will advise teachers, curriculum coordinators, and counselors about how to integrate social and emotional needs of gifted students into the curriculum. The session will touch on affective curriculum as well as addressing social-emotional needs while teaching standards-based and gifted curriculum. Experts (including counselors, professors, and/or curriculum writers) will discuss their areas of expertise, including perfectionism, curriculum development, and the social-emotional characteristics of gifted children. Half of the session will consist of the experts sharing their expertise through mini-presentations and during the other half of the session, the panel of experts will answer questions posed by a moderator and the audience.

The Meet and Greet for *Engaging and Challenging Curriculum: Supporting Advanced and Gifted Learners*

Saturday, November 14, 2:00 - see convention program for location

Engaging and Challenging Curriculum: Supporting Advanced and Gifted Learners is available as both a paperback book as well as an ebook from Amazon.com.

Check out these Convention presentations by our Curriculum Studies Network Leaders:

Friday Presentations

*Learn what's
necessary to
develop an
award-winning
curriculum
unit!*

Awards Chairs Carol Ann Williams and Christine Briggs will present:

Developing a Curriculum: How to Win an Award

Friday, November 13, 8:00-9:00am — CC North 121 C

Educators use curriculum everyday to guide their teaching and provide challenge for their students. The curriculum studies division seeks to honor authors of high quality, challenging, differentiated curriculum designed to meet the diverse learning needs of gifted students. This session will outline the rules and requirements for the Curriculum Network's annual competition. Participants will learn how to submit a unit, the timeline for the review process, and the assessment rubrics. If you have a unit you would like to submit, this session will provide the information you need.

Your Curriculum Studies Chair, Leighann Pennington, M.Ed. will present:
Using Differentiated Instruction to Motivate in the Middle Grades
Friday, November 13, 12:45-1:45pm — CC North 128 A

This session unites the tenets of differentiated instruction and motivation research to support middle grades teachers in enhancing their practice. The presenter will discuss how and why DI can be used to motivate middle grades students, based on adolescent brain and motivation research. Teachers will reflect on their DI practice and learn about motivation research, so they can advocate and inform students, parents, teachers, and administrators. This session includes Motivation Research 101, a primer on the research from educational psychology, excellent DI sample lesson plans, and resources for teaching students about motivation.

Saturday Presentations

Awards Chair Christine Briggs will present:
Creating Their World: Design Thinking with Elementary Students
Saturday, November 14, 10:45-11:45am — CC North 121 B
With Micah N. Bruce-Davis and Aimee Barber

Creativity movements, including design thinking from the Institute of Design at Stanford and the Makers movement, have presented new avenues to engage students in creative and critical thinking. The presenters will discuss how to help elementary students recognize the habits and dispositions of makers, including artists and engineers. Resources to engage students in the design/making process will be shared, including Squishy Circuits, recycled objects, and Lego Robotic Kits. In addition, the presenters will discuss various community connections that can be utilized to support the development of student products. Learn how to infuse the Makers movement into your classroom.

Your Curriculum Studies Chair, Leighann Pennington, M.Ed. will present: :
Motivation Research 101 for Parents
Saturday, November 14, 12:45-1:45pm — CC North 222 C

How can you motivate your child? How can you engage a child who appears unmotivated? How can you understand intrinsically motivated learners and help them make choices about which academics and activities to pursue? The way you interpret your child's emotions, performance, and intelligence and the way that you praise your child may reveal your underlying beliefs about motivation. This session will present main ideas of motivation research, which will be applied to the decisions you make daily and how you can proactively support your children and assist them in maintaining social-emotional health and pursue their intellectual and creative potential.

*The NAGC
Convention
website has the
full event details,
including a
searchable list of
presentations,
speaker
biographies, and
exhibitor list.
Visit today at
[www.eventscribe
.com/2015/
nagc/](http://www.eventscribe.com/2015/nagc/)*

Roundtable Session with Micah N. Bruce-Davis and Christine Briggs:
**Developing Quality Enrichment Programs Beyond the Classroom
for High-Ability Students**

Saturday, November 14, 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM – CC North 225 B

*Meaningful
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potential.*

Meaningful enrichment opportunities are essential to the nurturance of students with gifts and talents and those with gifted potential. These opportunities can't be limited to the school setting and must include an array of community resources offering new ideas to excite and engage students. To support the community connection the Center for Gifted Education at a southeastern university chose to redesign its summer and fall programs for Pre-K through 10th grade students. During this session, we will share the who, what, where and when that changed to better meet the needs of participating students and their families.

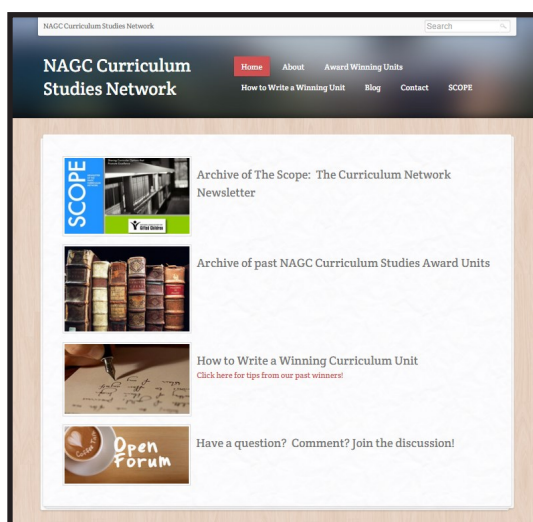
Program Chair Jennifer Beasley will present:

**Multiple Voices on Optimizing the Potential of Students with
Cognitive and Creative Abilities**

Saturday, November 14, 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM—CC North 122 C

With Erin M. Miller, Marla Read Capper, Andrea Esperat Lein, and
Michelle Yoon,

This session provides four diverse perspectives on K-12 students' understanding of their own high abilities. Certain attitudes/beliefs can lead to behaviors that are detrimental to achievement and motivation. The first presenter will discuss the current understanding of beliefs about intelligence and creativity from the perspective of cognitive psychology. The second presenter will discuss the implications for socio-emotional development from a clinical/counseling perspective and the third presenter will discuss the implications for the K-12 classroom from an educational psychology perspective. The final presenter will discuss what type of research or professional development educators would need to address the diversity noted in the session.



The Curriculum Studies Network Website

Don't forget, the Curriculum Studies Network website is a great resource for details about previous award winning curriculum units as well as information about writing and submitting your own unit.

Visit us at nagccurriculumnetwork.weebly.com.