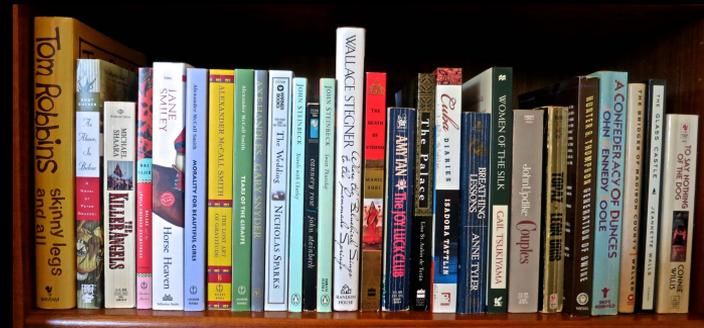


Building a Classroom Library for all Students

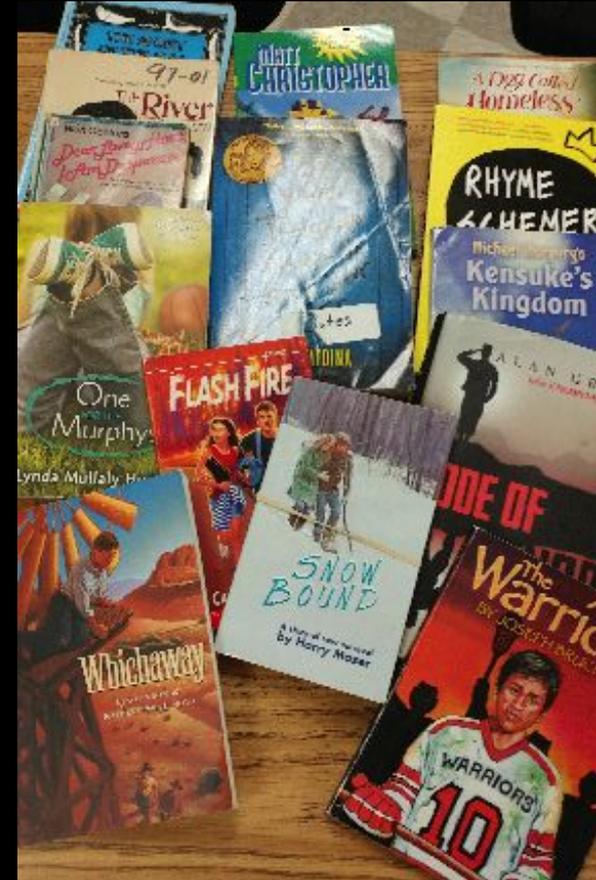
Variety is the Key!

A Sample of Titles



High Interest/Easier Reads but not poorly written

Shorter texts are less intimidating, but hi/lo books are often poorly written, lacking the beautiful language of “real” books. These days there are plenty of accessible texts for all readers.



Easier Reads

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass	Meg Medina	The title catches attention and the realistic situations make this a popular choice for 7-9 grade girls.
Lacrosse Face-Off	Matt Christopher	Short chapter book for that lacrosse play who would rather not read at all.
Whichaway	Glendon & Kathryn Swarthout	Short chapter survival story set in Arizona
Snowbound	Harry Mazer	Short chapter book about a girl and boy, who are strangers struggling to survive
Flashfire	Caroline B. Cooney	Rapid short chapters race against time as characters escape a wildfire
One for the Murphy's	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Such a sweet book about a foster child. Lynda Hunt's characters are so believable

Easier Reads

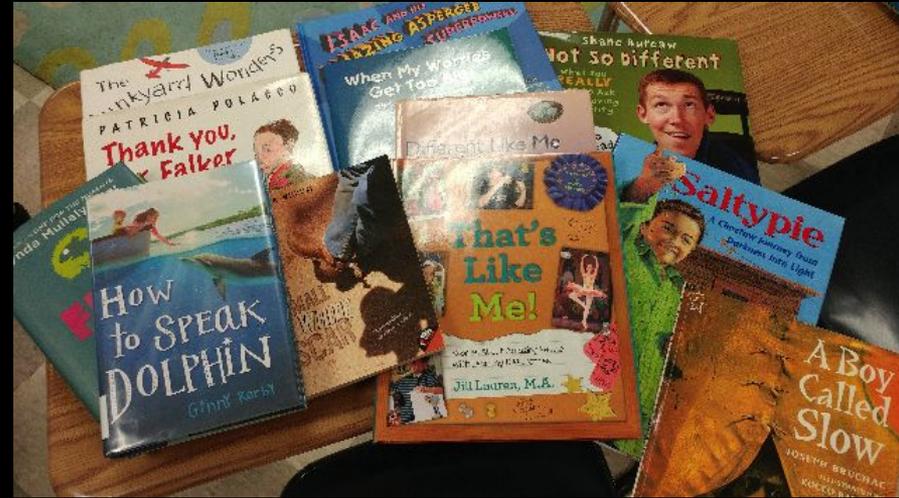
Dear Lovey Hart, I am Desperate	Ellen Conford	fun short book for high schoolers about a girl who becomes the school newspaper advice columnist. (published in 1975, will have to get used copy)
The River	Gary Paulsen	sequel to Hatchet. If you can get students hooked on Paulsen, there is a wealth of excellent choices.
The Secret of the Seal	Deborah Davis	If your student enjoys this book suggest, Julia of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George is a good follow up.
The Warriors	Joseph Bruchac	Joseph writes beautiful books about Native Americans. Being a Native American himself, he works to include accuracy in his historical fiction.
Code of Honor	Alan Gratz	Longer than the other titles but our 7th graders loved this book last year.

Easier Reads

Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo	Sailing around the world might be a great adventure, until you find yourself shipwrecked alone on a deserted island. Excellent twist at the end. Good follow up to The Wild Robot.
Rhyme Schemer	K. A. Holt	Told in verse- a great way to get boys interested in poetry. Follow this up with House Arrest by the same author.
A Dog Called Homeless	Sarah Lean	A beautiful book about a girl, who has lost her mother.

Characters w/ Disabilities

Finding yourself in a book can be hard if you feel different than everyone else. These titles can also help non-disabled students understand their classmates better.



Characters w/ Disabilities

A Small White Scar	K. A. Nuzum	A beautiful book about a brother who feels burdened by his brother with Down Syndrome but learns he couldn't be more wrong.
How to Speak Dolphin	Ginny Rorby	"Perfect for readers looking for a book about animals in captivity or tweens making a difference." -- Booklist
Fish in a Tree	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	Beautiful book about friends who are strong despite of their disabilities because of their friendship
Thank You, Mr. Falker	Patricia Polacco	A picture book about Patricia's childhood experience with dyslexia. My students love this story and read it over and over again.
The Junkyard Wonders	Patricia Polacco	A excellent follow up to Thank You, Mr. Falker. Based on Patricia's experience in a class with classmates all of which have learning difference. Inspiring to students and teachers.

Characters w/ Disabilities

A Boy Called Slow The True Story of Sitting Bull	Joseph Bruchac	Joseph Bruchac writes excellent books about Native Americans. This is a picture book about a child, who wants to outgrow his childhood name and become a man, who achieves something grand.
Saltpie A Choctaw Journey from Darkness into Light	Tim Tingle	This picture book explores bigotry and disability, family and hope. A Native American story, written by a Native American.
Not so Different	Matt Carr	Hysterical picture (with photographs of Matt) book about Matt, who is in a wheelchair and wants people to just ask him about his life. He has a book for high school student and adults that explains more about his interesting life.
That's Like Me! Stories about Amazing People with Learning Differences	Jill Lauren	This book is a collection of one page autobiographies of teenagers and adults, who have achieved goals in the arts, sports, or careers while struggling with disabilities.

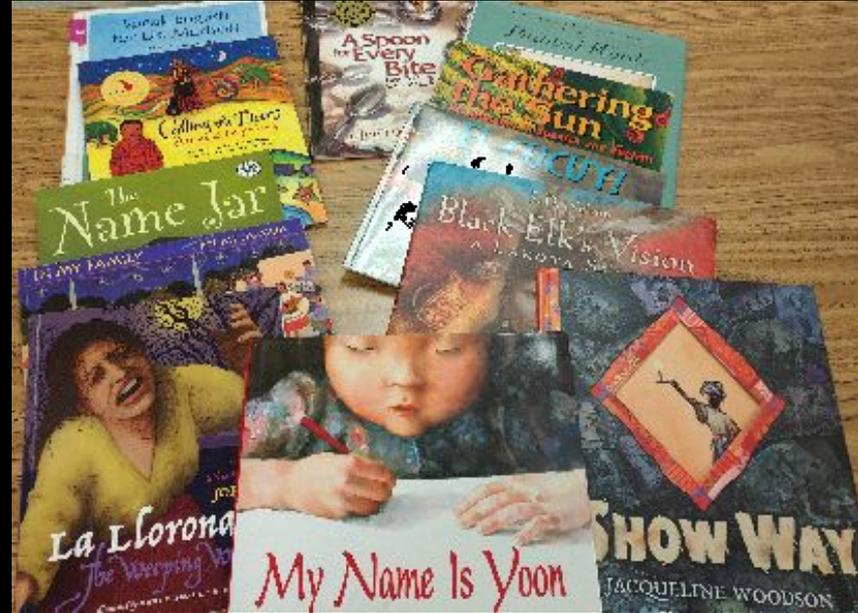
Characters w/ Disabilities

Different like Me My Book of Autism Heroes	Jennifer Elder and Marc Thomas	Just what the title says- biographies of famous people achieving success in science, art, math, literature, philosophy and comedy
When my Worries Get too Big!	Kari Dunn Buron	A relaxation book for children who life with anxiety
Isaac and his Amazing Asperger Superpowers!	Melanie Walsh	for younger students who are interested in understanding what it means to be one the autism spectrum- very positive!

Multicultural

ELL students who are just learning English benefit from books written in both English and their native language.

Again as with books about characters with disabilities, the multicultural selections in your classroom library make all children feel welcome and educate the class about cultural differences.



Multicultural

A Spoon for Every Bite / Una Cuchara Para Cada Bocado	Joe Hayes	A New Mexican folktale told in English and Spanish. Ideal for new to U.S. Spanish speakers.
My Name is Yoon	Helen Recorvits	Beautiful picture book about a Korean immigrant to the U.S. , struggling to find her place.
Show Way	Jacqueline Woodson	Picture book explaining the history of African American's history of using quilts to lead slaves to freedom. Of course any book from Woodson is a plus for your classroom library.
Black Elk's Vision A Lakota Story	S. D. Nelson	with illustrations and photographs, S. D. Nelson has also published Gift Horse, The Star People, and Coyote Christmas
El Cucuy!	Joe Hayes	A Bogeyman Cuento in English and Spanish
Gathering the Sun	Alma Flor Ada	An Alphabet in Spanish and English

Multicultural

Painted Words Spoken Memories	Aliki	"A life story of every child who has ever been uprooted, brought to a new country, and faced with a new school, new customs, and a new language."
La Llorona The Weeping Woman	Joe Hayes	An Hispanic Legend Told in Spanish & English
In My Family En Mi Familia	Carmen Lomas Garza	A collection of stories of growing up in the Mexican-American community of the author's hometown of Kingsville, Texas
The Name Jar	Yangsook Choi	A picture book that shares the story of a Korean Immigrant, who struggle with her name because none of her classmates can pronounce it. Should she be Susie?
Calling the Doves El Canto de las Palomas	Juan Felipe Herrera	A bilingual memoir of a migrant farmer, beautifully illustrated.
Speak English for Us, Marisol!	Karen English	Marisol's family has moved to the States and now she has to translate adult conversations for her parents.

Poetry for All

Kids don't hate poetry. They just haven't met the poem that sparks their excitement YET! Yet is an essential word to add to the struggling reader and/or writer's lexicon.

Variety is essential. A couple of my favorite poems to interest middle school students are found on <https://www.teenink.com/>

<http://www.teenink.com/poetry/all/article/14531/American-Revolution/>

<http://www.teenink.com/poetry/all/article/357129/Backwards/>



Poetry for All

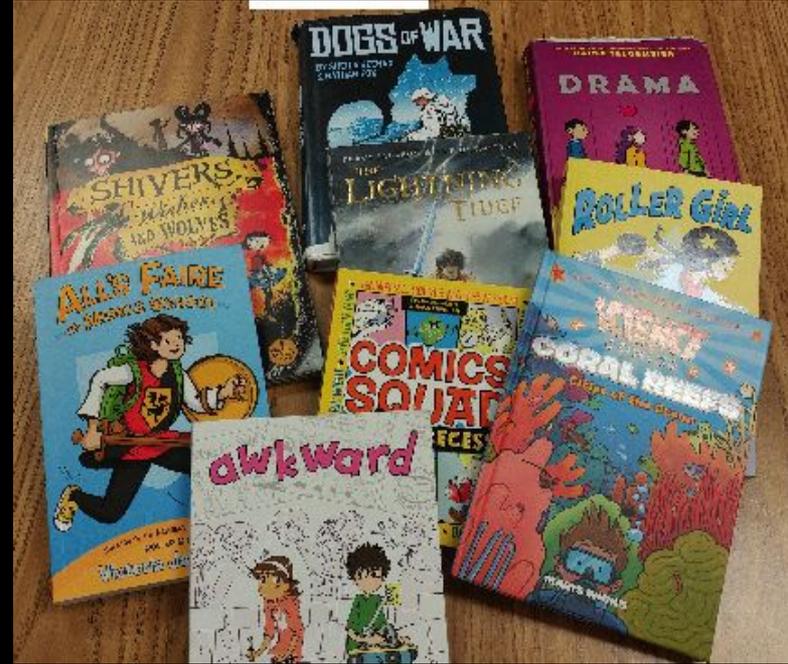
Crossover	Kwame Alexander	Award winning! Told in verse. Twin brothers struggle with each other and their ambitions on and off the basketball court. The word choice is outstanding. Kwame's follow up- Booked, about a soccer play, I enjoyed even more.
Stop Pretending	Sonya Sones	Sonya Sones has been writing novels in verse for years. Stop Pretending is a serious book about her sister's mental health break at 18 years old. Her most recent book, Saving Red, is a touching book of a girl reaching out and developing a relationship with a homeless girl. Sones is a must for any secondary classroom.
Falling Down the Page	Georgia Heard	List poems from the author of Awakening the Heart Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School.
The Armadillo from Amarillo	Lynne Cherry	Written in verse and postcards. An excellent introduction to Texas for your new-to-Texas students.
A Poke in the I a collection of concrete poems	Paul B. Janeczko	"A poem moves down a page faster than a novel"

Poetry for All

Mirror Mirror	Marilyn Singer	reversible verse- I don't know how she does it. She has a collection of 3 reversible poetry books. The kids love the reversible illustrations also.
Marvelous Math a book of poems	Lee Bennett Hopkins	Got kids who would love math and not words? These are the poems for them.
Mathematticles!	Betsy Franco	Words, math symbols, and illustrations come together in this very original twist on poetry.
Shiver me Timbers Pirate Poems & Paintings	Douglas Florian	When you're celebrating International Talk Like a Pirate Day 9-19-18, you have to have this book.
Book of Animal Poetry (National Geographic)	J. Patrick Lewis	With favorites from Robert Frost, Jack Prelutsky, Emily Dickinson, and more. Each poem paired with National Geographic photographs, which are outstanding.

Graphic Novels

Yes, graphic novels are real reading and sometimes just what the reluctant or struggling reader needs.



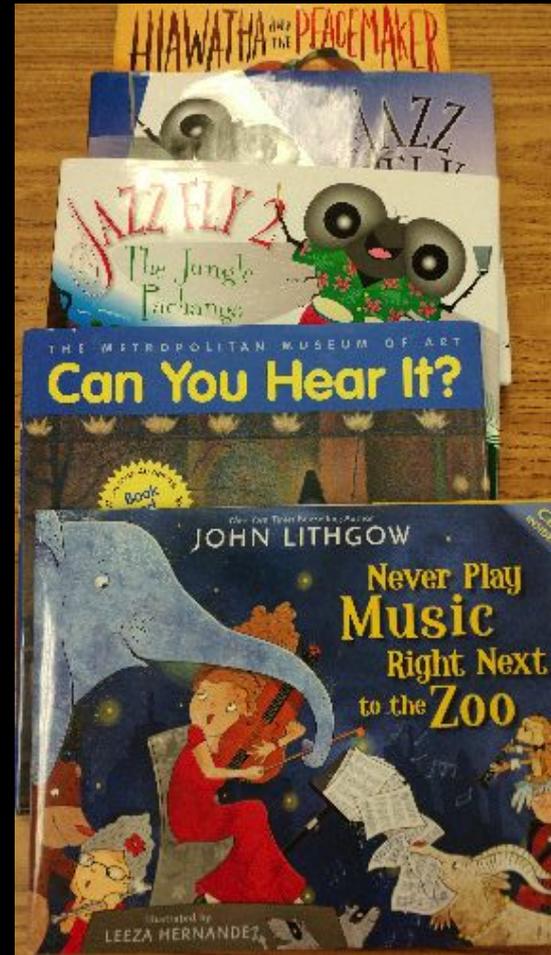
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Graphic Novels

Drama	Raina Telgemeier	One of her 3 big hits with my middle school girls
Dogs of War	Sheila Keenan & Nathan Fox	3 stories of dogs in WWI, WWII, and Vietnam
Science Comics Coral Reefs	Maris Wicks	dinosaurs already out, coming soon volcanoes, flying machines, bats, and solar system
Roller Girl	Victoria Jamieson	12 year old drama in roller derby. Girls love it!
Awkward	Svetlana Chmakova	The title speaks for itself; middle school is awkward.
All's Faire in Middle School	Victoria Jamieson	My 6th grade girls are devouring these books!
Comic Squad Recess!	Jennifer L. Holm	a collection from Vernon, Wight, Yang, Holm, Telgemeier and more
The Lightning Thief	Robert Venditti	great option for readers who listened to the novel.
Shivers, Wishes, & Wolves	Beth Bracken	fairy tales retold, love the art

Books w/ Music

These books come with an audio CD with the text being read with accompanying music.



Books w/ Music

Jazz Fly	Matthew Gollub	The text of the poem is totally underwhelming without the music. With the music, the rhythm
Jazz Fly 2	Matthew Gollub	If you like the first, this will be a big hit with a pachanga rhythm.
Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo	John Lithgow	For younger students. Actor John Lithgow brings his humor to this picture books as music causes the animals to escape their cages.
Can You Hear It?	William Lach	Classical music and fine art are combined in this book that asks students to connect the music's movements to the illustrations.
Hiawatha and the Peacemaker	Robbie Robinson	A native American and musician, author Robinson performs this story of Hiawatha, who united the Iroquois tribes in the 1500s.

Picture Books for Older Kids

More and more picture books, especially nonfiction books, are being published for older students. The illustrations give comprehension support for struggling readers and visual interest to all readers.

Picture books are often an excellent source of mentor texts for teaching word choice, voice, parts of a narrative, etc.



Picture Books for Older Kids

Nefertiti The Spidernaut	Darcy Pattison	2017 NSTA CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book. Fascinating true story of research with spider in space.
Six Dots A Story of Young Louis Braille	Jen Bryant	Winner of a Schneider Family Book Award! Picture book biography about Braille overcoming his disability to create a system of language for the blind.
The Extraordinary Mark Twain (according to Susy)	Barbara Kerley	"This is a frank biographer and an honest one: she uses no sandpaper on me."-Mark Twain wrote about his daughter Susy's diary about her father woven into this beautiful book.
Lewis and Clark and Me A Dog's Tale	Laurie Myers	A fun way to help students consider perspective. An easy read, told from Seaman, the dog who traveled with Lewis and Clark. Historically accurate.
The Matchbox Diary	Paul Fleischman	From the author of Seedfolks, this beautifully illustrated book tells the story of a girl and her great-grandfather sharing stories that are illuminated by artifacts contained matchboxes.

Picture Books for Older Kids

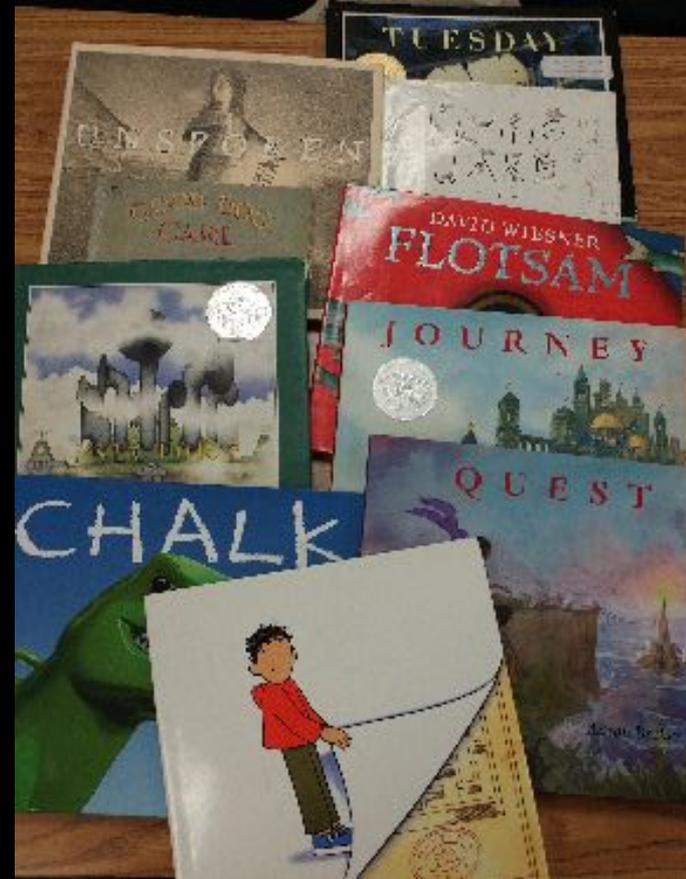
Tree of Wonder The Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest Tree	Kate Messner	Picture book for young students. One tree hundreds of living creatures call it home.
Peppe The Lamplighter	Elisa Bartone	Picture book about family, child labor in 1800s, and the value of all work.
Bugs for Lunch	Margery Facklam	Filled with facts about insects that are eaten by people around the world.
Beastworld Terrifying Monsters and Mythical Beasts	S. A. Caldwell	Every school year my most read book. Middle school boys love to talk about the existence of these creatures.
Tales of the Cryptids	Halls, Spears, & Young	Mysterious Creatures that may or may not exist. I've never had a school year when this book wasn't loved by a couple of middle school boys

Picture Books for Older Kids

<p>Funny Bones Posada and his Day of the Dead Calaveras</p>	<p>Dungan Tonatiuh</p>	<p>Picture book that tells the story of how the Day of the Dead artwork came to be. They are the creation of Mexican artist José Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada (1852–1913).</p>
<p>Two Bobbies A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival</p>	<p>Kirby Larson & Mary Nethery</p>	<p>Who can resist the unlikely animal friendship book? The two Bobbies happen to be a blind cat and loving dog.</p>
<p>Welcome to the Greenhouse</p>	<p>Jane Yolen</p>	<p>All of Jane Yolen's books are worth buying, but this one is a picture book written in verse, introducing tropical rainforests.</p>

Wordless Picture Books

While these books can be an excellent resource for writing activities, for the student struggling with oral language, these can be a resource for vocabulary development and storytelling activities.



Wordless Picture Books

Tuesday	David Wiesner	Frogs flying on lily pads!
Good Dog Carl	Alexandra Day	A rottweiler makes an unlikely but wonderful babysitter.
Unspoken A Story from the Underground Railroad	Henry Cole	A farm girl finds a runaway slave hiding in the barn.
Flying Jake	Lane Smith	Jake sets his bird free and finds himself with the power to fly also. Illustrations are complex and more appropriate for older students.
Chalk	Bill Thomson	Magical chalk on a rainy day, brings drawings to life.
Flotsam	David Wiesner	Magic and mystery from Wiesner as a camera with undeveloped film in it washes up on the beach.
Journey	Aaron Becker	A lonely girl draws a door and escapes into a magical world.
Museum Trip	Barbara Lehman	A trip to the museum and into the paintings.

Books for Browsing

Not browsing for a new book.

Books for browsing don't have to be read cover-to-cover. Books that allow reading that is more like magazine reading, enjoyed by kids who like facts or struggle with longer texts. Good for just a few minutes of reading; good for sharing with a partner; good when students are between books and/or need a break from novels.



Browsing Books

Fact Attack!	Max Brallier	
Groovy Greeks/Rotten Romans	Terry Deary	This series includes all kinds of gross facts that fascinate kids.
World's Wackiest Riddle Book	Evelyn Jones	Kids love to read these to you or to each other. Just silly:)
Are You "Normal"?	Mark Shulman	Fun for kids to share together.
DK World War II Visual Encyclopedia	Fleur Star editor	Great photographs.
Ultimate Weird by True! 3	National Geographic	Filled with completely mind-exploding, useless facts that are just so fun! Peanut butter into diamonds?
Ripley's Believe It or Not Eye-Popping Oddities	Rebecca Miles	I can't even look inside, but middle school kids love this stuff!

Books about Writing

Some books lend themselves to being read aloud as introductions to story writing and others are good resources for writing workshop time.



Books about Writing

What do Authors Do?	Eileen Christelow	Told in parallel comics and informative text, What do Authors do? demystifies the writing process.
The Plot Chickens	Mary Jane Auch	An avid reader, Henrietta chicken decides to try her wing at writing her own story.
Arthur Writes a Story	Marc Brown	Popular character, Arthur the aardvark, needs to write a story for school and finds that if he takes everyone's advice his story falls apart.
Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street	Roni Schotter	Eva struggles to come up with an idea for a school writing assignment, believing that nothing ever happens in her life like many students feel.
Punctuation Takes a Vacation	Robin Pulver	How difficult would life be without punctuation? Mrs. Wright's class finds out.
Aunt Isabel Tells a Good One	Kate Duke	Aunt Isabel and her niece discuss what makes a great story and in the process create a cute adventure. Good way to introduce story elements.

Books about Writing

Read a Rhyme Write a Rhyme	Jack Prelutsky	3 poems, a poem starter, advice, a list of rhyming words, and encouragement given readers a push to try writing a poem of their own.
Words, Wit, and Wonder Writing Your Own Poem	Nancy Loewen	Part of The Writer's Toolbox series. Loewen provides instructions and mentor texts.
Writing Magic: Creating Stories that Fly	Gail Carson Levine	Author of Ella Enchanted, Levine let's the readers in on her tricks of the trade.
You Have to Write	Janet S. Wong	For young writers who worry when they are told to write at school. Written in verse.
Writer's Book of Matches 1001 Prompts to Ignite Your Fiction	The Editors of Fresh Boiled Peanuts	Definitely for older students or teachers :)