

# Teacher Connection

A resource flash from the Youth Services Department of the Lake Villa District Library



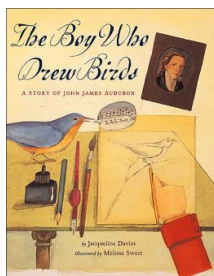
NOVEMBER 2013

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## Fiction / Nonfiction Pair



**Okay For Now** by Gary D. Schmidt (novel, Caudill Nominee) In this companion novel to *The Wednesday Wars* (Newbery Honor 2008; Caudill 2010), Doug Sweiteck struggles to be more than the "skinny thug" that some people think him to be. He finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, who gives him the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam. Schmidt expertly weaves multiple themes of loss and recovery in a story teeming with distinctive, unusual characters and invaluable lessons about love, creativity, and survival. One of the threads woven deep in the book is Doug's adoration of Audubon's bird pictures. He learns how to draw the birds from the librarian and thinks about the drama of the avian scenes that end up playing into his worldview.



**The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon** by Jacqueline Davies (biographical picture book grade 2-4). Pair this nonfiction read to see why Doug Sweiteck is fascinated with Audubon's birds.

## Just Arrived: Legends and Tall Tales ... a new series by Virginia Schomp

*Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue*  
*Paul Bunyon and his Big Blue Ox*  
*John Henry the Steel-Driving Man*  
*Hiawatha and the Great Peace*

## Dictionary Skills Song

By popular demand, the second grade teachers requested the lyrics to the Dictionary Song. Made up by LVDL staff, this song is a piggy back rhyme, meaning it uses a familiar tune with new words (in this case, dictionary terms).

(tune: "Frere Jacques")

Pronunciation

How you say it

Definition

What it means

Use it in a sentence

This is called the usage

Illustration

See a picture



Check out *Cricket* magazine's October 2013 article, "Get to Know Kate DiCamillo." She is author of *Because of Winn Dixie*, a Bluestem nominee for this year, as well as many other books kids love. You can request the article or *Winn Dixie* through Classroom Connection.

Students can also write Kate DiCamillo letters at:  
Kate DiCamillo  
c/o Candlewick Press  
99 Dover Street  
Somerville, MA 02114



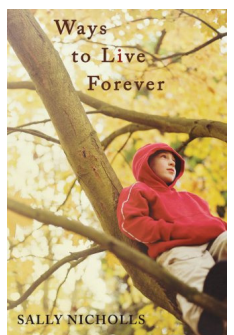
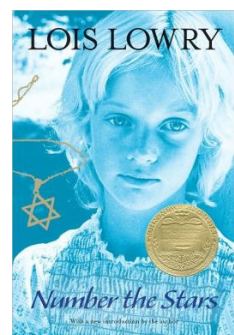
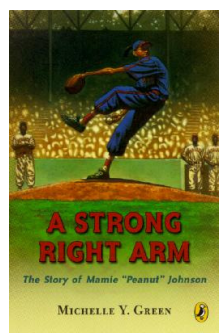
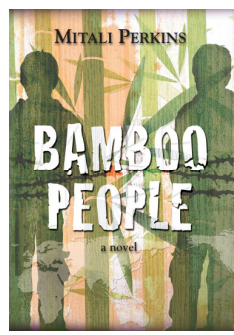
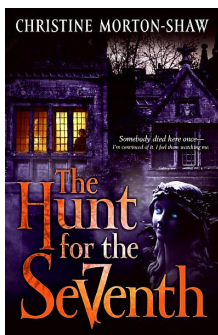
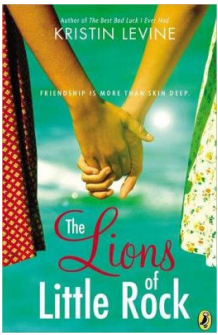
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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# Teaching Social / Emotional Skills Book List: Courage



**Lions of Little Rock (C)** Marlee wishes she had Liz's courage. Liz helped Marlee overcome her fear of speaking. When Liz leaves school one day, without even a good-bye, it is rumored Liz was really a colored girl who got caught passing for white. Both girls must find their courage to maintain their friendship.

**Wonder (B/C)** Auggie has to be courageous when starting at a public school for the first time especially with his facial deformity.

**Hunt for the Seventh (C)** Jim has to work up his courage to find the seventh dead child of the manor he moved to.

**Bamboo People (C)** Chiko is no fighter, but forced into the Burmese army, he learns to stand up for what is right.

**A Strong Right Arm (B)** "Peanut" Johnson has courage in the face of gender and racial inequality to play ball.

**Number the Stars (B)** Annemarie has the courage to defy the Nazis by taking in her Jewish best friend Ellen Rosen and pretending she is her real sister.

**Ways to Live Forever (C)** Sam has the courage to ask himself questions about living and dying that the grown-ups won't answer

**One (M)** "1" has the courage to stand up to bullies and show the other colors/characters that everyone counts.

\*C = Caudill    B = Bluestem    M = Monarch

## More... Social Emotional Books

*Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* - Pam Munoz Ryan (600 L; F&P P)

*The Bracelet* - Yoshiko Uchida (710L; F&P R)

*Bravery Soup* - Maryann Cocca-Leffler

*Coolies* - Yin (660L; F&P N)

*Courage* - Bernard Worber

*Follow the Drinking Gourd* - Bernardine Connelly (630L; F&P M)

*Knots on a Counting Rope* - Bill Martin (480L; F&P M)

*The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom* - Bettye Stround (680L; F&P N)

*Sadako* - Eleanor Coerr (500L; F&P R)

*Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* - Deborah Hopkinson (680L; F&P S)

*The Wednesday Surprise* - Eve Bunting (540L; F&P K)

As a result of the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003, the Illinois State Board of Education adopted the Illinois Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards. Drafting of the 10 SEL standards, along with goals, age-appropriate benchmarks, and performance descriptors, was a collaborative effort between ISBE and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership with technical support from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). <http://www.isbe.net/learningsupports/html/sel.htm>

## The Write Stuff Literary Magazine... Call for Submissions!

The Youth Services desk will be accepting submissions from kids grades 3-6 for the Write Stuff Literary Magazine from November 1 - December 31. The magazine will be published in January. Each author may submit original work up to four pages. Questions? Email Elisa Gueffier at [edgueffier@lvdl.org](mailto:edgueffier@lvdl.org). Students can pick up an information sheet at the Youth Services desk.

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