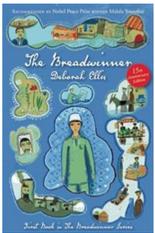


WOTP Mentoring: Communities of Practice
Day 4: February 7, 2018
ELA Breakout Session: “Book Pass” Notes from Teachers

ELA teachers participating in the breakout session “*Serravallo’s Reading and Writing Strategies: Share and Create*” briefly shared their thoughts with respect to the reading level, interest level and/or potential use of seven different books. The book choices included a simple picture book, a photography book, an optical illusion book, a non-fiction book of science facts and three novels. Book titles and responses are in alphabetical order below.



The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis.

ISBN-13: 9781554987658

The first novel in Deborah Ellis' Breadwinner series is an award-winning novel about loyalty, survival, families and friendship under extraordinary circumstances during the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan. As of Feb. 7th, no teacher had used this novel in his or her classroom. One teacher mentioned it had been used with their children’s literature class at McGill. Teachers noted that it would be at an appropriate reading level for, and of interest to, some of their students. It was also shared that this novel now exists in the form of a graphic novel and has also been made into a film.



The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

ISBN-13: 9780544107717

This novel is recommended by the Quebec Reading Connection under Diverse Texts for Secondary students. Told entirely in verse, it is the story of fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan and features their highs and lows on and off the court. The novel received the 2015 Newbery Medal and the 2015 Coretta Scott King Honor Award.

In general, teachers thought it would be of interest to their students and at an appropriate reading level for some or all students in their classes. A few teachers seemed enthusiastic to introduce to their classes.



Imagine by John Lennon, Illustrated by Jean Jullien
ISBN-13: 9781328808653

Featuring the lyrics of John Lennon's iconic song and illustrations by the award-winning artist Jean Jullien, this poignant picture book dares to imagine a world at peace. **Imagine** is published in partnership with the human rights organization Amnesty International.

Teachers responded to the following two questions:

Can you “imagine” putting this book in your classroom library?

How could you introduce it to students?

- One teacher recommended introducing the book to students in four steps:
 - 1 – Listen to the music without lyrics and share
 - 2 – Listen to the music with lyrics and encourage students to share their mental images of what they see or think
 - 3 – Look at the book and analyze the images. For example, Why birds? Colours? Text?
 - 4 – Have students make their own book with a song of their choice, to illustrate how they imagine it.
- “No! Great book, but my students would look at the text and feel insulted!”
- “No, but amazing art work. However, they may say it’s too ‘babyish’.”
- “Yes, but it would need introduction and further understanding of the meaning/impact of the song.”



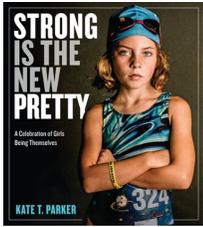
Mighty Optical ILLUSIONS by Steven Estep
ISBN-13: 9781632205858



In **Mighty Optical Illusions**, Estep presents more than two hundred photographs, drawings, sculptures, and paintings that may make you scratch your head, squint your eyes, and doubt yourself. These images are known as optical illusions: items that deceive the eye by appearing to be other than they really are.

Teachers responded to the following question: “Is there a student in your class who might be intrigued to turn the pages of this book?”

- “Yes, students would really like this book and you could challenge them to make their own optical illusions.”
- “Yes! 100% My students love books that they can pick up and discuss with others.”
- “I do not believe so.”
- “Yes, I think so.”
- “Wonderful!!”



Strong is the New Pretty by Kate T. Parker

ISBN-13: 9780761189138

Real beauty isn't about being a certain size, acting a certain way, wearing the right clothes, or having your hair done (or even brushed). Real beauty is about being your authentic self and owning it. Parker is a professional photographer who captures that real beauty in candid and arresting images.

Teachers in the breakout sessions had the following impressions about, or ideas for using, this book:

- “As a writing prompt (e.g. journal, reflection). Would copy those images that relate to older students (there are many pics that are for younger audiences).”
- “Teach students to look at themselves differently.”
- “Photography is amazing.”
- “Awesome, I think it’s wonderful.”
- “Ask students to create a photo of their own.”

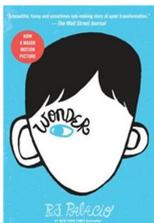


Weird but true! 9, by National Geographic Kids

ISBN-13: 9781426328930

A fun, quirky reference book which contains 300 surprising and amazing facts. Topics include science, space, weather, geography, food, pop culture presented with weird photos and illustrations. This is the 9th in the series, published in 2017. This book, and the whole series of *Weird but true!* received enthusiastic thumbs up from teachers, along with the following comments:

- “Great research project opportunity (Science fair? Geography fair?) etc.”
- “It presents facts in an interesting way.”
- “Definitely grabs their attention.”
- “Good for A5 Read & Converse”
- “It would be a good conversation starter.”



Wonder, by R.J. Palacio

ISBN-13: 9780375869020

While some WOTP teachers have read this well-known novel out loud with their classes, no one at the breakout session had used this novel yet with their class.

There seemed to be a consensus that the reading level would work for some students and it would be of interest to at least some students. One teacher noted that

- “It would be too hard for me to get through”.