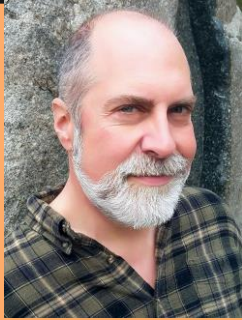




**Charles
Waters**



**Matt Forrest
Esenwine**

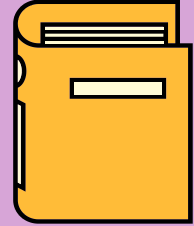


**Laura Purdie
Salas**



**Michelle
Schaub**

**Poems and Picture Books as Writing Prompts
and Conversation Starters**



**Want to
download our
slides?**



SCAN ME

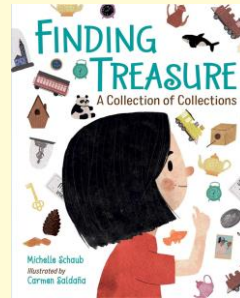
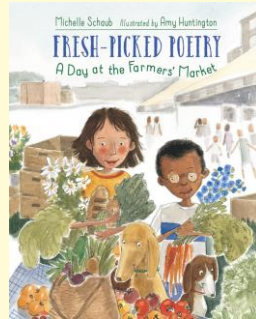
Michelle Schaub



Teacher/Author/Poet

www.MichelleSchaub.com

www.PoetryBoost.com





Goal

To share ways students can compare and contrast events, emotions, and character traits in books and poems to those in their own lives to better understand themselves and the world around them.

Agenda

Each author will provide...

- **Autobiographical Information**
- **A Peek into Their Books**
- **Example Activities**
- **“Try It” Audience Participation**
- **More Classroom Connections**

Why Poetry?

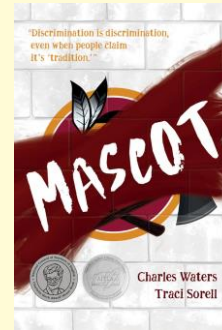
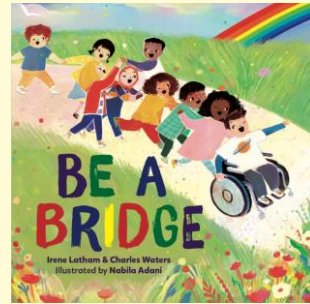
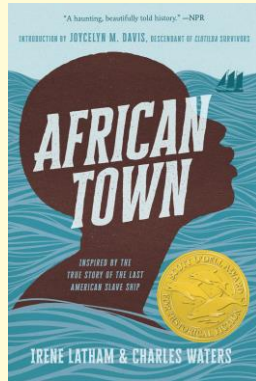
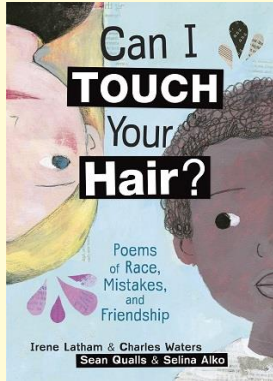
“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.”

-Rita Dove

- **Concise**
- **Precise**
- **Mirror**
- **Bridge**

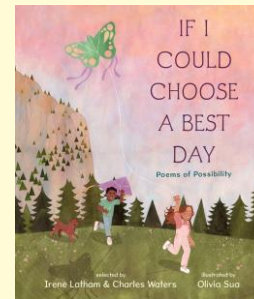
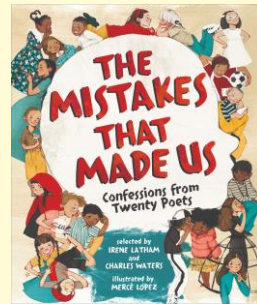


Charles Waters



Author/Poet/Anthologist

www.charleswaterspoetry.com



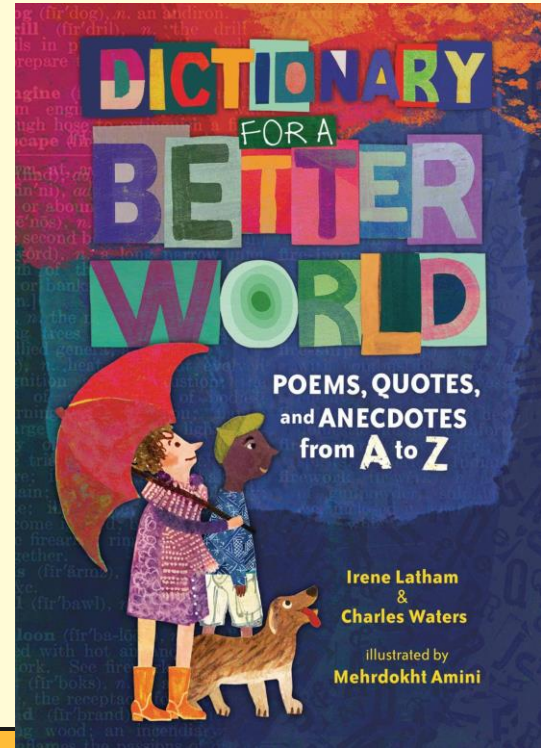
Dictionary For A Better World



Irene Latham



Mehrdokht Amini



Dictionary For A Better World Recognition

4 State Lists

Alabama

Alabama Camellia Award

Indiana

Read Aloud Indiana Book Award

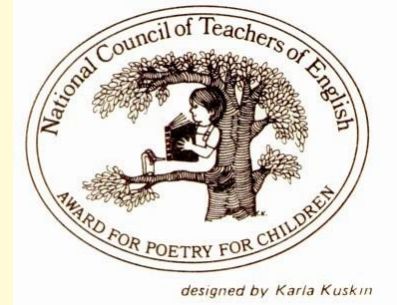
2021 AISLE Read Aloud Indiana, Upper Elementary

Pennsylvania

Best of 2020, Grades K-12

Utah

Beehive Award, 2022, Poetry, Grades K-9



**Notable Poetry
and Verse Novels
Selection**

Free Teachers Guide and Authors Q & A

Free and Downloadable Teachers Guide and Authors Q & A at:
<https://www.charleswaterspoetry.com/books>



CONTENTS

WORDS FOR A BETTER WORLD	7
ACCEPTANCE	8
ALLY	10
BELONGING	12
COMPASSION	14
COURAGE	16
CREATE	18
DIALOGUE	20
DIVERSITY	22
DREAM	24
EMPATHY	28
EQUALITY	30
EXERCISE	32
EXPERIMENT	34
FORGIVENESS	36
FREEDOM	38
FUEL	40
GRATITUDE	42
(EPITAPH FOR) HATE	44
HOPE	46
HUMILITY	48
INTENTION	50
JUSTICE	52
KINDNESS	54
LAUGHTER	56
LISTEN	58
LOVE	60
MINDFULNESS	62

Irene Latham wrote the poems with red titles. Charles Waters wrote the poems with blue titles. The poets jointly wrote the poems with purple titles.

NATURE	64
NETIQUETTE	66
OPEN	68
PAUSE	70
PEACE	72
QUESTION	74
REACH	76
RELEASE	78
RESPECT	80
SERVICE	82
SHERO	84
TEAM	86
TENACITY	88
UPSTANDER	90
VOICE	92
VULNERABLE	96
(BEAR) WITNESS	98
WONDER	100
XENIAL	102
YES	104
ZEST	106
THE ETYMOLOGY OF PROGRESS	108
AUTHORS' NOTE	110
BOOKS, POEMS, AND SPEECH REFERENCED	112
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED BOOKS	113
POETRY RESOURCES	115
INDEX OF POETIC FORMS	116
GRATITUDE LIST	117
ADDITIONAL GRATITUDE	118

WONDER

I sit on my bed, staring out at apartment complexes across a sea of grass as skeletal branches shiver against the cold snap enveloping our neighborhood. I'm curious about many things. I possess such an array of questions dealing with this life of mine, I can barely keep up with the speed of my own thoughts.

These are some of the things I wonder about.

Why am I burdened with this constant need to talk? Consistently testing the patience of even the kindest of humans? I wonder when I grow up am I going to be a firefighter, helping to extinguish blazes while saving lives? Or become a stutter-step, spinning, slam-dunking basketball player in the NBA? Or will I still be an unpopular, dragon-breath-smelling, yellow-teeth-having pip-squeak?

These are some of the things I wonder about.

I could, at least, attempt to reduce my constant jabbering, become better friends with a toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, and floss. I realize, to quote Grandpa, "In the end, everything will be all right." However, I'm still curious about the person I will morph into; if life will be kind to me. I hope so.

These are some of the things I wonder about.

The Bop: a form with three stanzas. There is a refrain after each stanza. The first stanza consists of a problem being presented in six lines. The second stanza expands the problem through exploration in eight lines. The third stanza either shows the failed attempt to resolve the problem or presents a solution in six lines.

“Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher,
and philosophy begins in wonder.”

—Socrates, in Plato's *Theaetetus*

CHARLES SAYS . . .

When I was a child, I would stand next to my bedroom window, staring out into the world and wondering what my life would be like when I grew up. The older I've gotten, the more my sense of wonder has expanded: I'm now fascinated by everything from how leaves change their color to how we're all made of star stuff and live our lives on a planet spinning through space. I've always been a curious person, and it's served me well because I don't like boredom. I've encountered people who project their boredom onto others, including me, by being negative about *everything*. I realized the more wonder you have, the more self-awareness you have, and the more engaged you are with life. It's a great thing to possess.

TRY IT!

Keep a list of wonders on your phone, on your computer, or in a notebook. The next time you feel bored, take out the list and choose at least one wonder to research and explore. Then put your findings into action.

Starters Writer's Prompt - Create a "Wonder" List

What do you wonder about?

Write down one "Wonder" for each of these things:

Friends. Family. Nature.

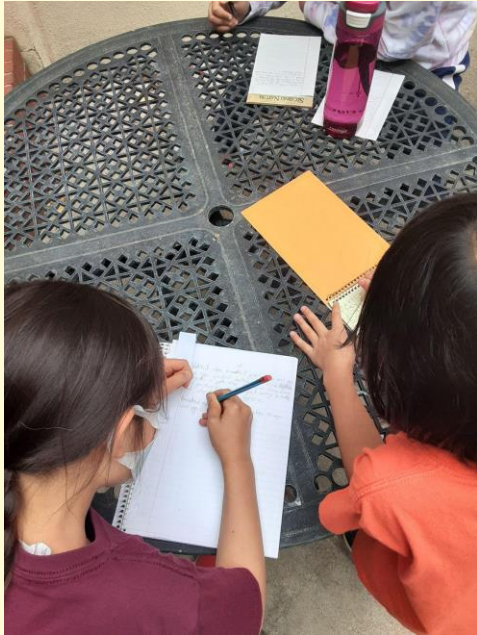
****You have one minute to write these down****

Try It! Idea from the book

Keep a list of wonders on your phone, on your computer or in a notebook. The next time you feel bored, take out the list and choose at least one wonder to research and explore. Then put your findings into action.



Write, edit, repeat!



Give students 10 minutes to free write.

Have them make as many mistakes as possible on the page.

That's what revision is for!



Student Sharing on “Wonder”



Students could be divided into pairs or small groups, reading their poem one at a time and sharing what they’ve learned about themselves from their poem.

Hive Mind Poetry Activity

**Gathering a list from friends, family
or your own memories of life
moments.**



Self-Questioning Poetry Activity

Asking questions of yourself, the world, and your place in it?

Will I have an impact on society in a positive way?

When I grow up will I become a fundamentally different person than who I currently am?

Using a poetry form, in the case of "Wonder" - The Bop - to help structure your thoughts in a way where you're not flailing in your writing.



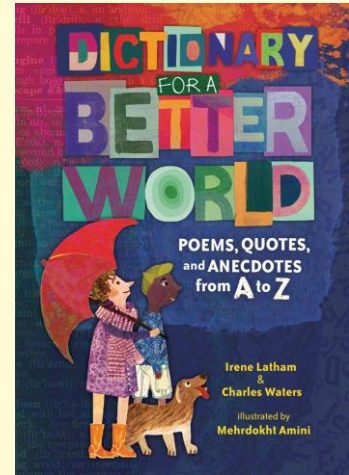
**“Children’s poets
are the
investigative
reporters of our
universe.”**

**- Charles Waters
Humble Human**

More Classroom Connections

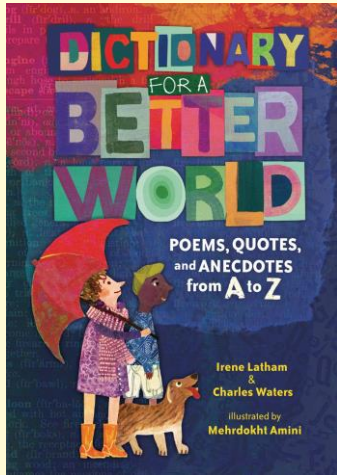
Create a classroom “Better World” Dictionary

- Each student takes a letter of the alphabet.
- Brainstorm other “better world” words for that letter.
- Write a poem for that word using one of the poetry forms in the book.
- Collect all poems in a classroom book.



More Classroom Connections

Use this template to write a BOP poem:



Poetry Boost
BOP TEMPLATE

Directions:
The Bop is a three-stanza poem with a refrain after each stanza.

- ✓ The first stanza is six lines long. Present the problem in this stanza.
- ✓ The second stanza is eight lines long. Expand and explore the problem in this stanza.
- ✓ The third stanza is six lines long. Show the solution or the failed attempt to solve the problem in this stanza.

[present the problem]

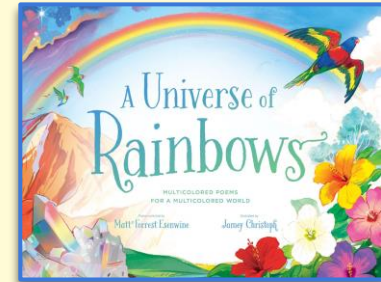
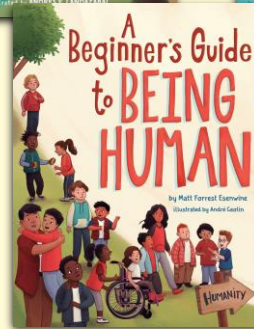
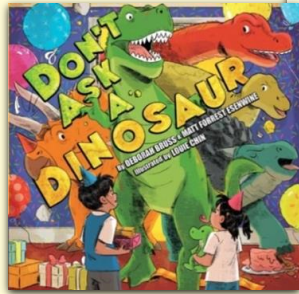
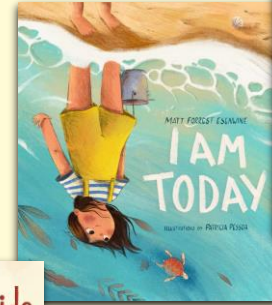
[expand and explore the problem]

[show solution or failed attempt]

[refrain]

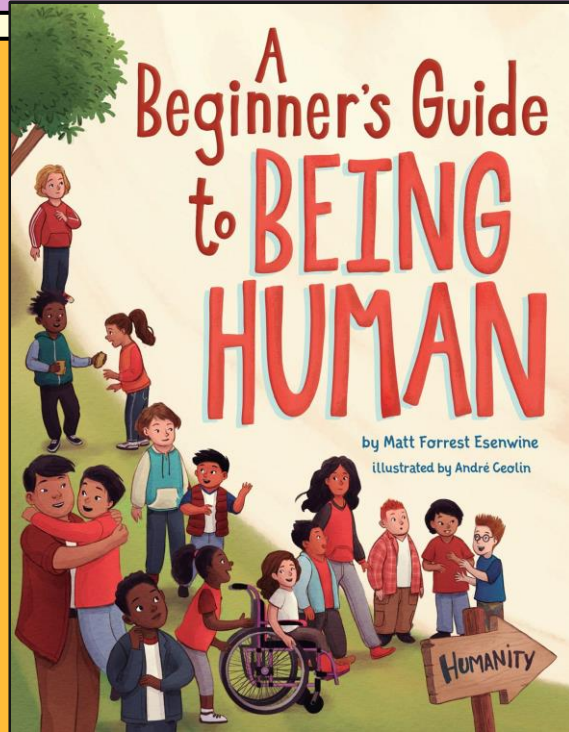
From www.poetryboost.com by Michelle Schaub. Permission to reprint for classroom use.

Matt Forrest Esenwine



Author - Poet - Presenter

Matt Forrest Esenwine



- **Family** (you don't need to be related!)
- **Kindness** (kindness is always possible)
- **Empathy** (imagine how the other person feels)
- **Compassion** (put empathy into action)
- **Forgiveness** (this goes for grown-ups, too!)
- **Love** (can be kindness, empathy, compassion, etc.)

"We all feel/experience the same things"

Picture books as mirrors

If you enjoyed *kindness*, you'll love *empathy*. *

* Pro Tip: A little empathy can produce BIG results!

Imagine how you would feel if you were someone else . . .

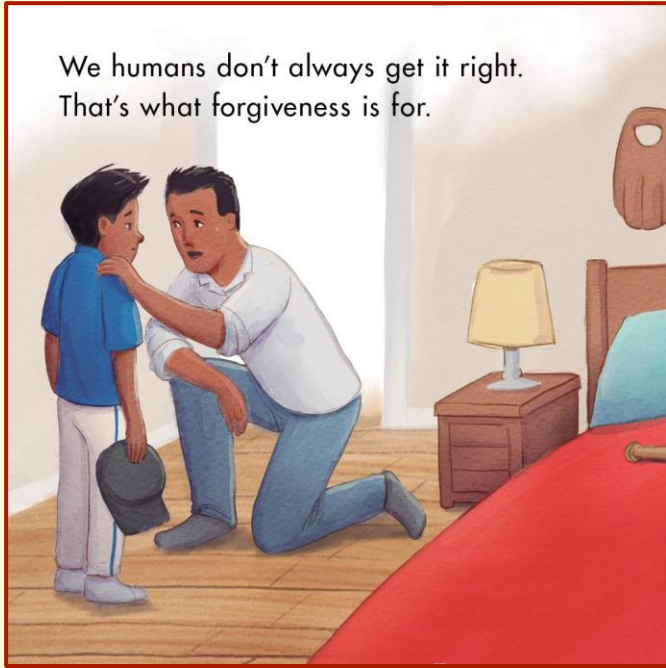


Classmate cut in front of the line? Maybe they were hungry because school lunch is the only meal they get all day.

Another kid bump into you? Maybe they lost their glasses.

Picture books as mirrors

We humans don't always get it right.
That's what forgiveness is for.



Kindness means more than just
being polite.
Share a book or toy.
Give your sister the last pancake.



Poetry as a mirror

“Home”

Give me room to be your friend;
give me space to stretch and run,
a place to sleep, time to mend.

Yes, I owe so much to you.
I am not ungrateful, no –
though I’m tired, and starving, too.

My whole world has been a cage,
cold and cramped. I should not ask
for anything, at my age,

nor should I expect concern,
love, or care – yet, very soon
a new home, rules, words to learn.

Neither knows how this will end,
but I am loyal. Trust me, please.
Give me time; I’ll be your friend.

– ©2024 Matt F. Esenwine

Activity: “What If?”

- Pick a subject, location, activity, & problem
- Ask questions: Why? How? When?
- What might the subject do (or never do)?

Then...put yourself in the scene: What if you were the subject? What if you were *with* the subject? What if you were a bystander? You now have a writing prompt!

-- Share answers, or work together in pairs --

More Classroom Connections

Continue to Build Empathy with Personification Poems!

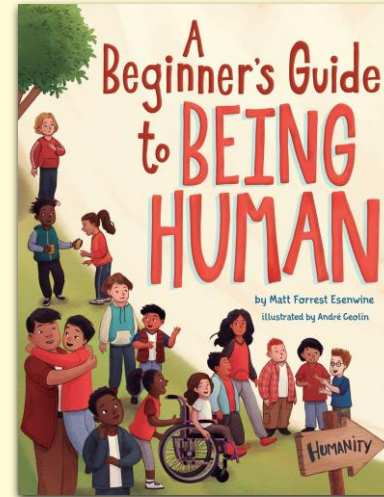
Poetry Boost
Personification Poem Planner

My poem will personify: _____
(Aim for at least 3 ideas in each box.)

Where might you find it?	How would you describe its look? Sound? Texture?
What actions does it take? Why?	What emotions does it feel and why?
What are its wishes/dreams/goals?	What challenges or successes does it experience?

Font

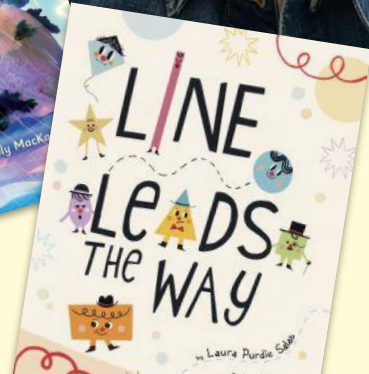
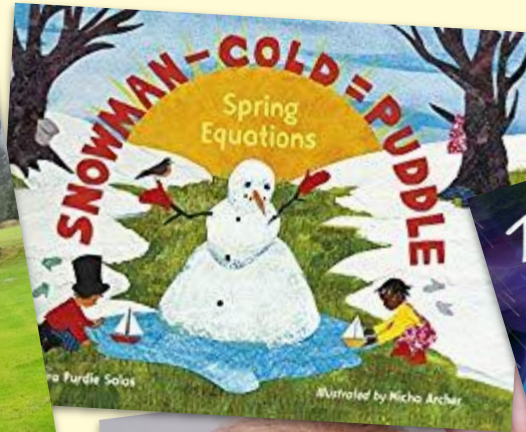
FROM POETRY BOOST WWW.POETRYBOOST.COM PERMISSION TO REPRINT FOR CLASSROOM USE



www.poetryboost.com

Laura Purdie Salas

writer * poet * visiting author



laurasalas.com
(sign up for my
newsletter :>)
@LauraPSalas



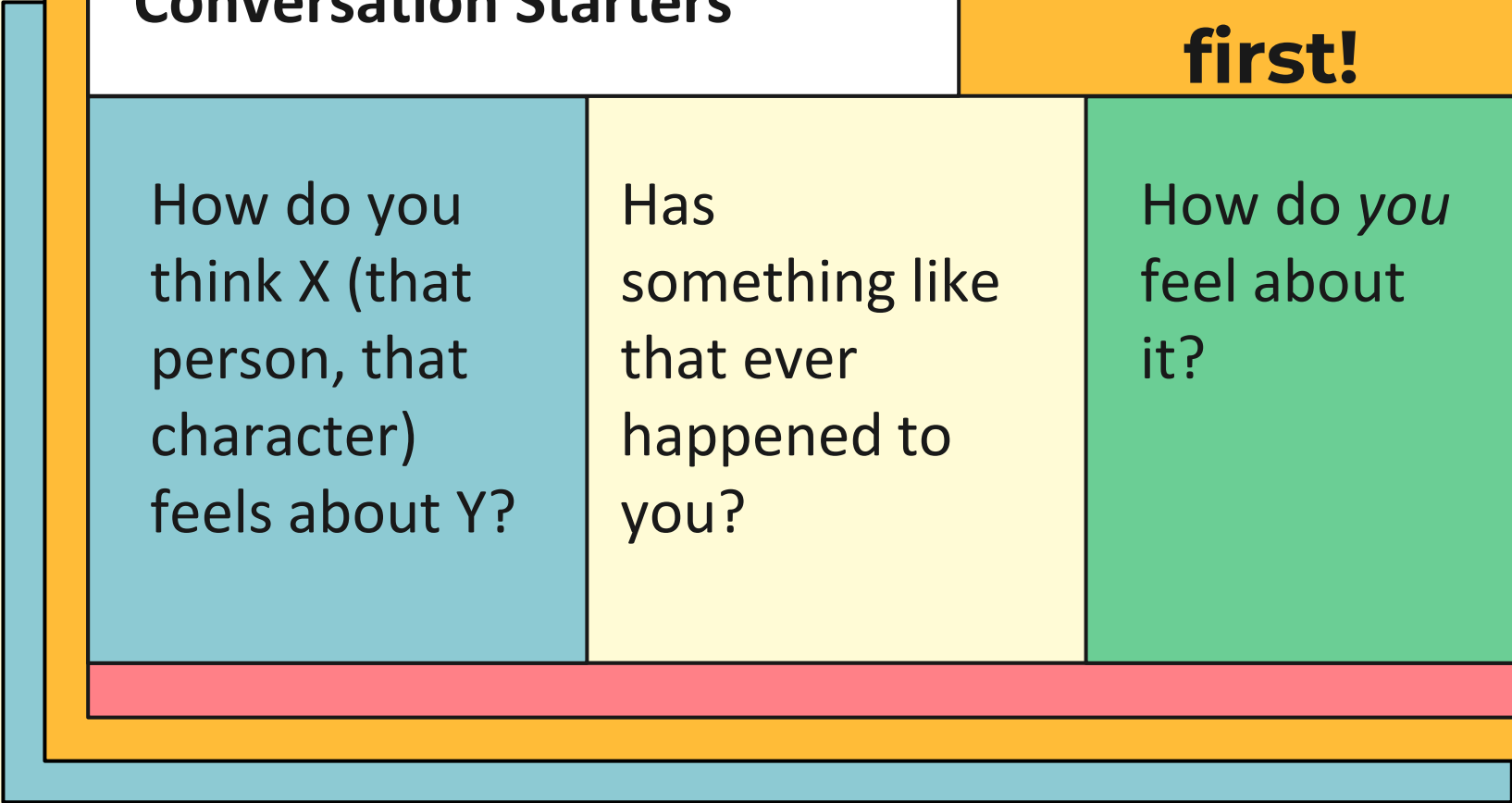

Conversation Starters

**YOU share
first!**

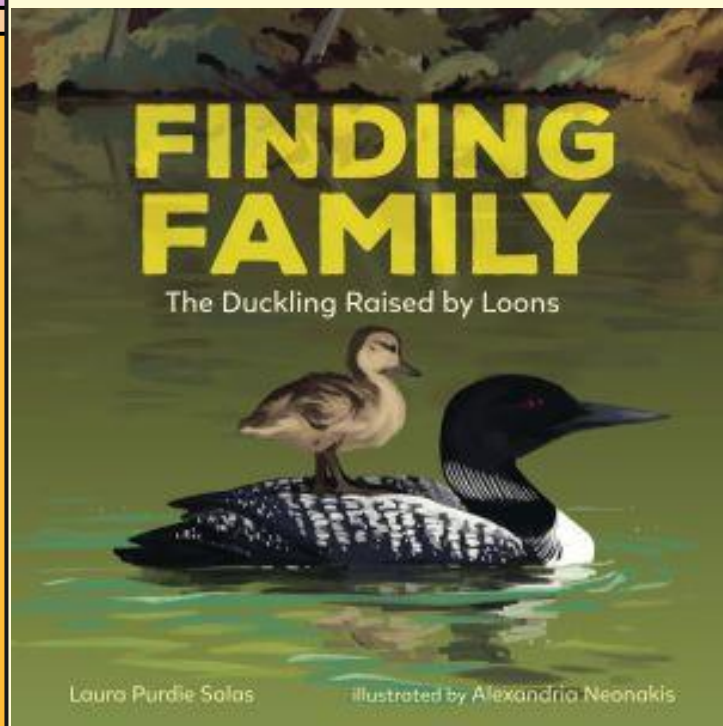
How do you think X (that person, that character) feels about Y?

Has something like that ever happened to you?

How do *you* feel about it?



Finding Family



- Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book
- CCBC Best Books of 2024
- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection
- Minnesota Book Award Finalist
- California Reading Association: Eureka! Gold Medal
- 2024 ALSC Summer Reading List
- Minnesota Star of the North

Nominee
laurasalas.com/finding

Themes in Finding Family

1

Family

Traditional and chosen

2

Loss

Of family, expected life, etc.

3

Uncertainty

Even scientists can't answer everything. Even Google can't!

4

Mindfulness


We have this moment.

JUNE 23

a mallard duckling!

But
where's her mother?
Where's the rest of her brood,
bobbing on the water like tub toys?
And . . . what happened to the two loon chicks?

Nobody knows.



Loons and mallards—
not close relatives
nor close neighbors.
More like enemies.
But gliding through rippling stripes of
pine,
maple,
and aspen,
the unlikely family sails the lake.

Is everyone in your family alike? How are you different from each other?



The future is
a perfect mystery
of possibilities,

like an unhatched egg.

Mother and Father and Duckling
have only now:
a family created
one dabble and dive,
one piggyback ride,
one slippery minnow at a time.

What do you wonder about the future? What's the difference between wondering and worrying? What do you do to help you focus on what's happening right now?

Activity: Poetryaction

Read a book.

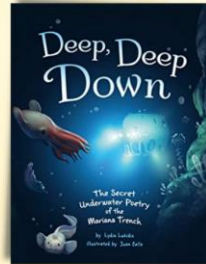
Ask some questions:

- What does it make me think of?
- Which part stands out to me?
- What does it remind me of in my own life?
- What did I learn?

Write a brief poem.



poetryaction



Ode to a Crinoid

Oh, clinging crinoid,
dancing creature of the dark,
you are a fountain of feathers,
a sea-cret spiraling sun.
Thank you for dazzling
the deep.

--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: Write an ode to one of the creatures of **Deep, Deep Down** (Lukidis/Calle).

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

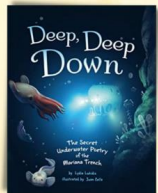


Ways To Use Poetryactions

- Reader reflection
- Introduce book to others
- Practice a writing skill
- Class response to one book

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

Ode to a Crinoid



Oh, clinging crinoid,
dancing creature of the dark,
you are a fountain of feathers,
a sea-cret spiraling sun.
Thank you for dazzling
the deep.

--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: Write an ode to one of the creatures
of **Deep, Deep Down** (Lukidis/Calle).

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

Somewhere, Mom Is Sewing



Mom's across the country.
My voice, a thin, strong thread,
Carries my love
To her hospital bed.
My phone is wet in my dry hand.

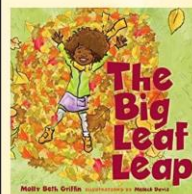
Mom is gone,
Stitching clouds into quilts,
Mending birds' wings,
Forever fixing the world
With an endless pool of love.
--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: Write about a time you've had to say
goodbye in some way to a person, a pet, or a place

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

Five Fall Favorites



The lonely train
of geese above
The tang of apples
in my mug
The scent of woodsmoke
on the breeze
The scarlet spin
of falling leaves
The clouds of mittens
knitted with love

If the world has these,
that is enough

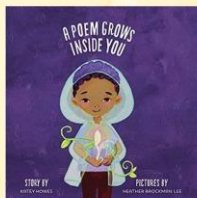
--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: Write about your favorite season, focusing
on five sensory details.

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

The Idea



rests,
a thought,
in a tiny metal pot
over a campfire.

It listens
to branches creak,
watches
stars blaze,
and waits
for me to stir.

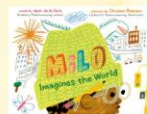
--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: Write a poem comparing an idea to
something else--like a seed or something cooking.

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

Imagine...



I imagine me
relaxing in a treehouse,
sharing donuts
with chickadees,
and reading the light
on the leaves

--Laura Purdie Salas,
all rights reserved

Prompt: What would you like to see in your
future? Start a poem with "I imagine me."

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

KID-LIT **Combos** poetryaction

My Friend's House



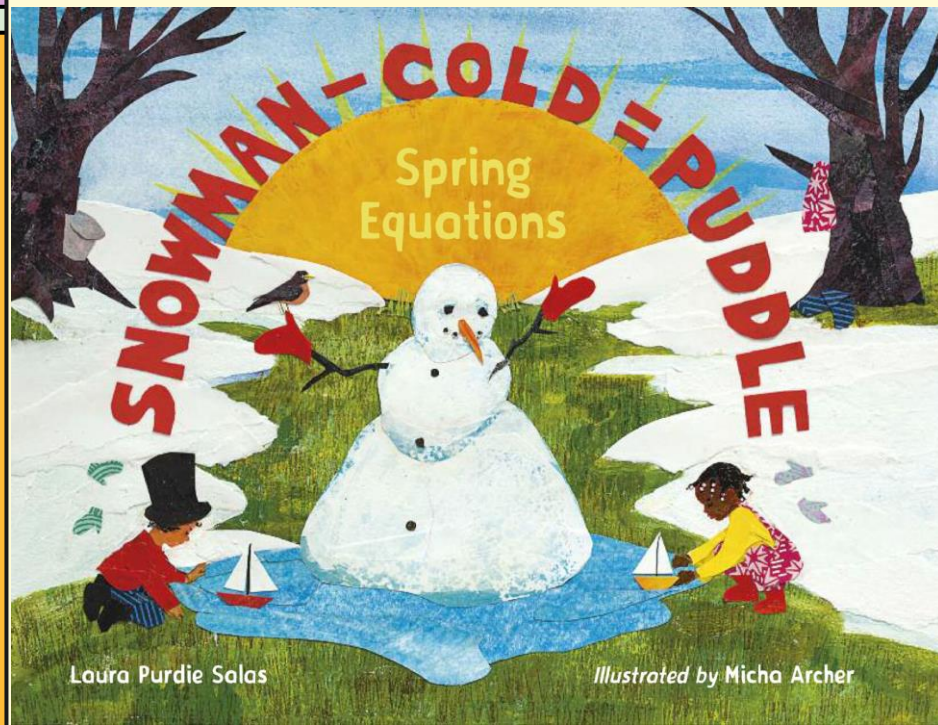
is a mystery.
Her doorway has no wooden door.
Her rooms sit, chilly and still.
Her chandeliers drip with wet darkness.
Her curtains never sway in breezes.
The art she hangs is always stone.
I love slipping down to Earth's home...
full of mystery,
underground.

--Laura Purdie Salas, all rights reserved

PROMPT: Write a poem describing a place you
love as if it is a friend's home.

a poem in reaction to a book * laurasalas.com

Snowman-Cold=Puddle (Equation Poems)



- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection
 - 2020 Bank Street Best Books
 - New York Public Library's list of Best Books for Kids
 - NCTE Poetry Notable
 - ALA-CBS's #ReadingBeyond Advanced Reader List
- laurasalas.com/snowman



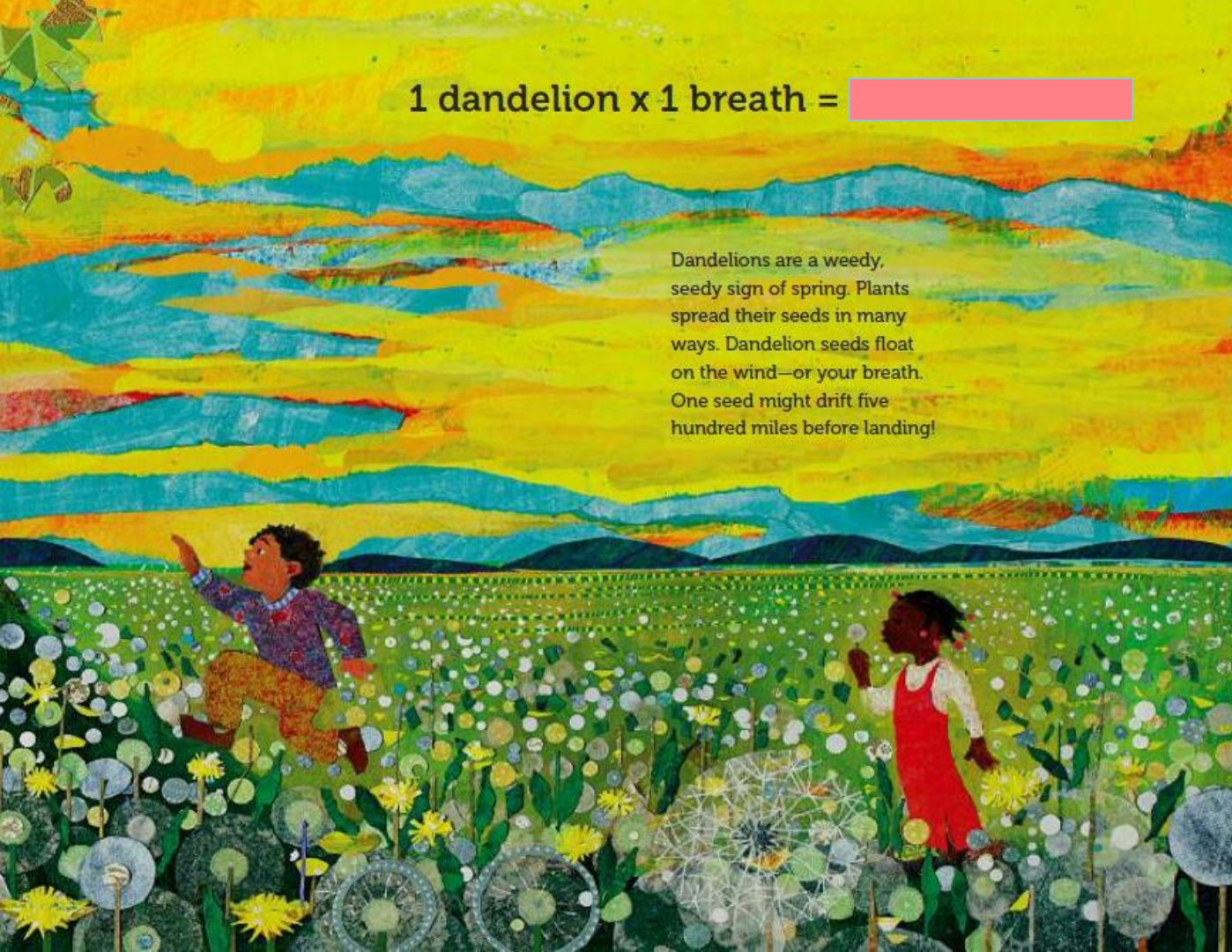
talons + pond = fast food

In spring, bald eagles that wintered down south fly north again. On their way to the northern United States and Canada, they swoop down to scoop up tasty fish dinners.

An artistic illustration of a woman with dark skin wearing a bright yellow raincoat and hood. She is shown in profile, looking towards the left. Her hair is adorned with colorful beads in red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The background is a vibrant purple and blue sky with numerous blue raindrops falling. In the foreground, there is a patch of green grass and a small stream with a brown log. The overall style is painterly and colorful.

sun – storm = rainbow

Rainbows also need rain. (It's right there in their name!) A rainbow appears when it's sunny where you are, but it's raining nearby. Raindrops bend sunlight, so it separates into different colors before bouncing back to your eyes. Rainy spring days are perfect for rainbow spotting.



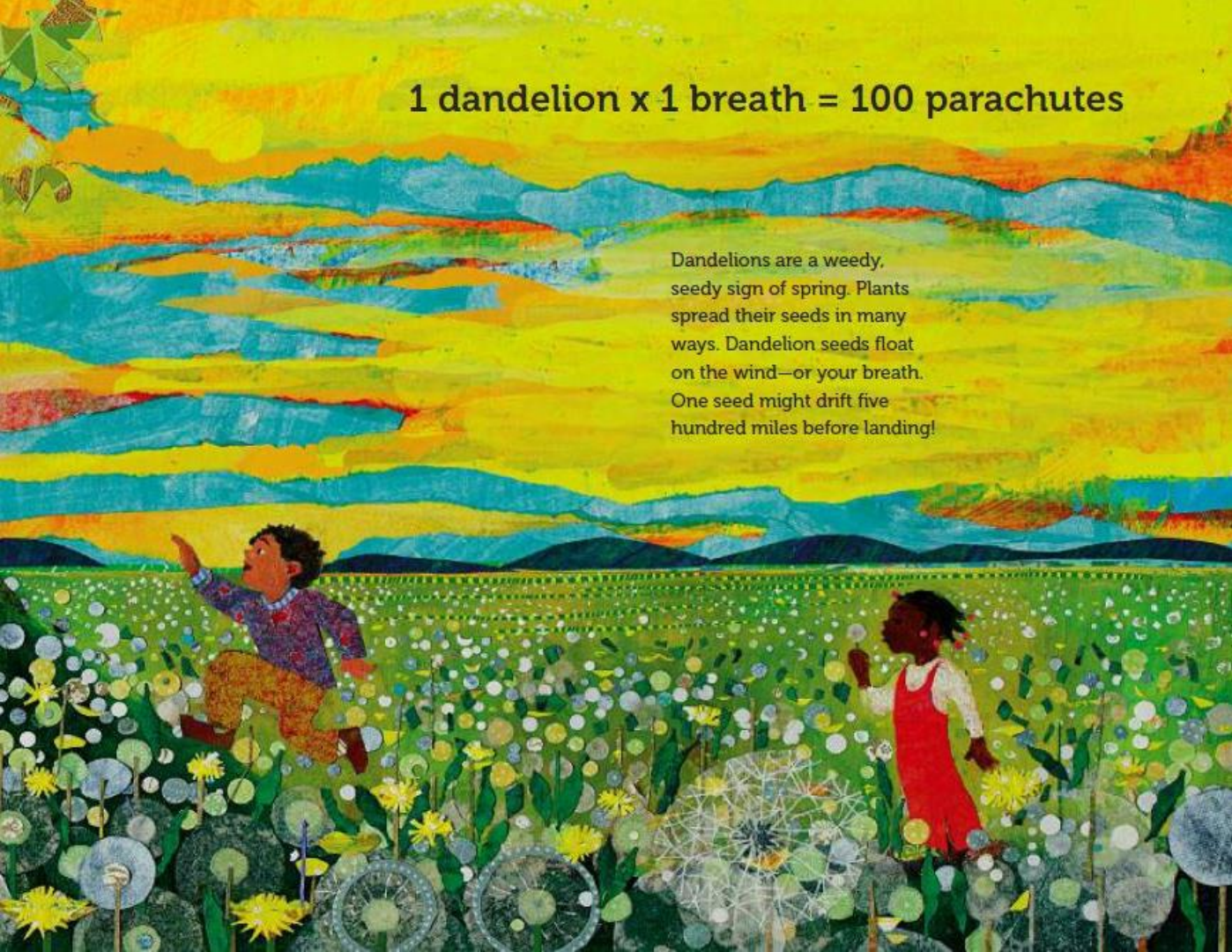
1 dandelion x 1 breath =

Dandelions are a weedy, seedy sign of spring. Plants spread their seeds in many ways. Dandelion seeds float on the wind—or your breath. One seed might drift five hundred miles before landing!

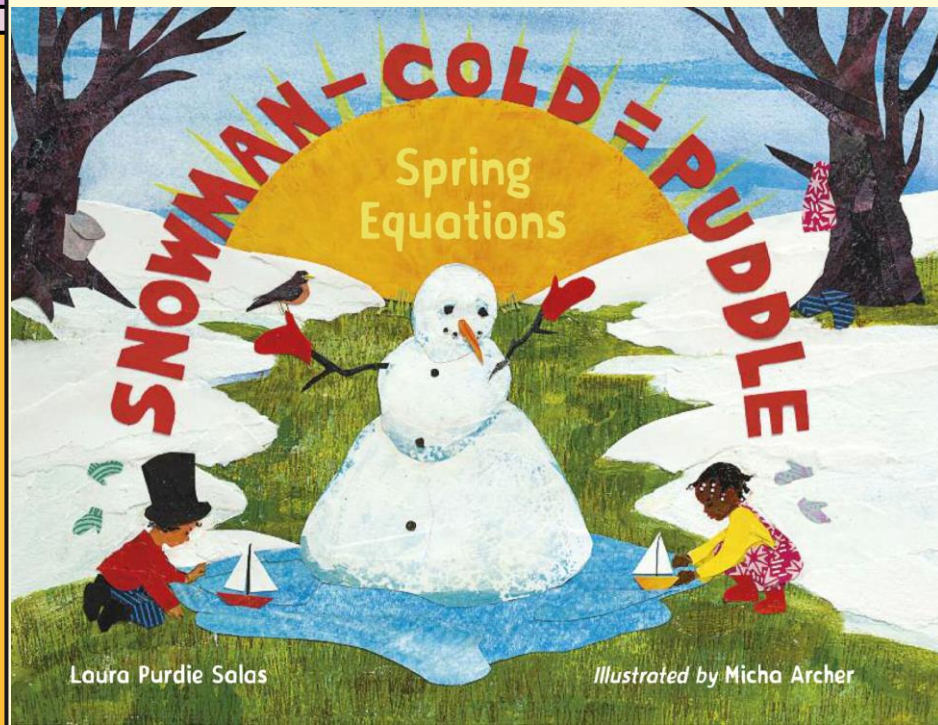
- Have you ever picked dandelions?
- What did you do with them?
- How would YOU “solve” this equation?

1 dandelion x 1 breath = 100 parachutes

Dandelions are a weedy, seedy sign of spring. Plants spread their seeds in many ways. Dandelion seeds float on the wind—or your breath. One seed might drift five hundred miles before landing!



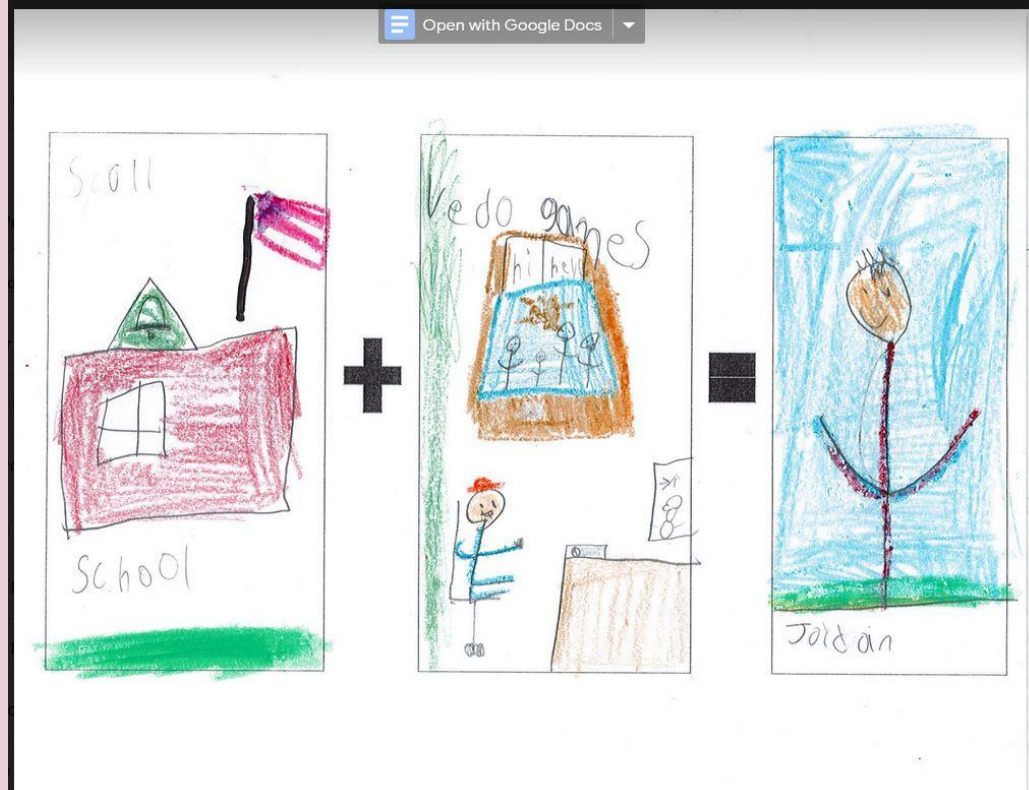
Snowman-Cold=Puddle (Equation Poems)



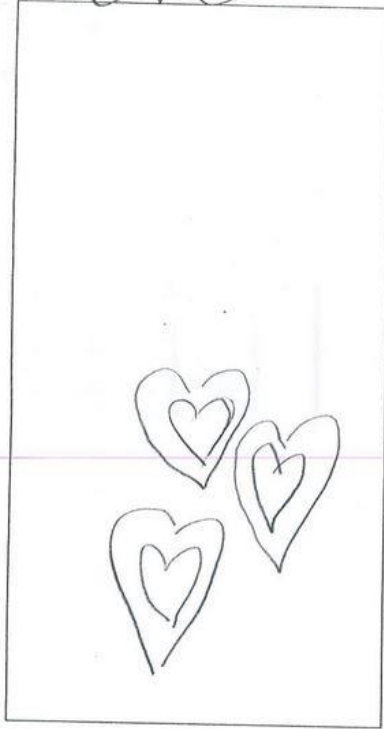
- Expressing things in new ways
- No single right answer
- We reveal ourselves in our writing
- We can write about personal things

laurasalas.com/snowman

Let kids share how they see themselves



love



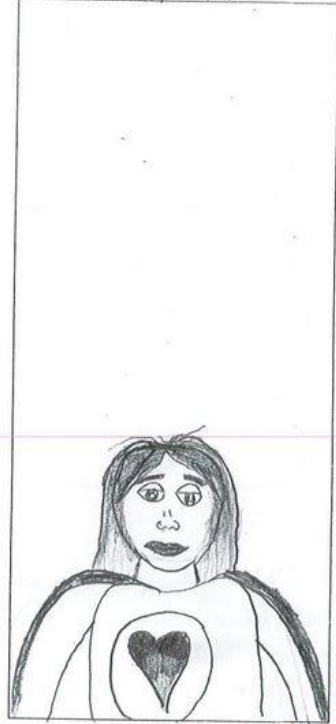
+

Outside



=

Autumn



1500

+

1,008 x 21 =
21,168

x

÷

math

+

⚾

⚾

⚽

🏈

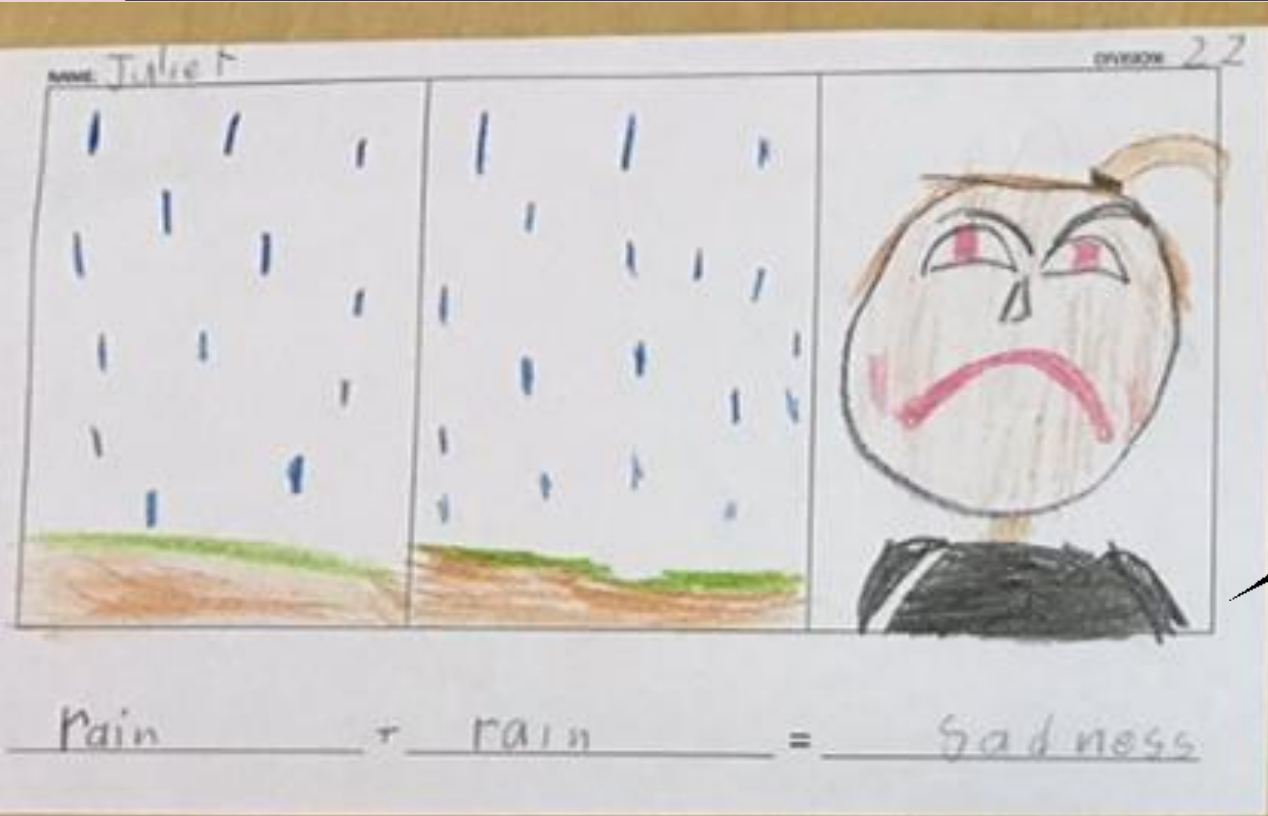
sports

=



Blake

Prompt/invite more info



Uh oh, that's not a happy face! Did the rain ruin something?

Are you ever
scared when
you try new
tricks?

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a bright pink sticky note. The person has red and black nail polish. The sticky note is folded and has handwritten text in black ink. The text reads "Flips x Dance" on the top line and "= Floor routine" on the bottom line. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Flips x Dance
= Floor routine

Activity: Equation Poem

- Think about a topic.
- Brainstorm what you know and think and feel.
- Think about the relationships between some of the things you brainstormed. How do they affect each other?
- Write equation poems to reflect those relationships.

_____ + _____ = [my name]

_____ + _____ = Thanksgiving

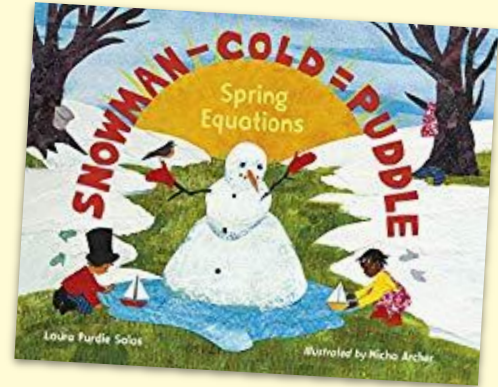
Travel - _____ = _____

More Classroom Connections

Use Equation Poems For:

- Cross-curricular Topics (science, social studies, literature, SEL)
- Exit or Entrance Slips
- Ice Breakers
- Brain Breaks

Use poetryaction and equation poem mentor texts: laurasalas.com/poetry



**Want to
download our
slides?**



SCAN ME

Stop by and say “Hi!”

Charles Waters TODAY:

11:30am - The Mistakes That Made Us Book Signing with Irene Latham - Location: Lerner Booth #833

12:30pm - Children’s Book Award Luncheon - Location: Room 210 B (Level 2)

4:15pm - Notables Awards Session - Location: 157 C (Level 1)

Matt Forrest Esenwine TODAY:

2-3pm: “The Thing to Remember about Stargazing” (Tilbury House) signing
Location: **W.W. Norton Booth #823**

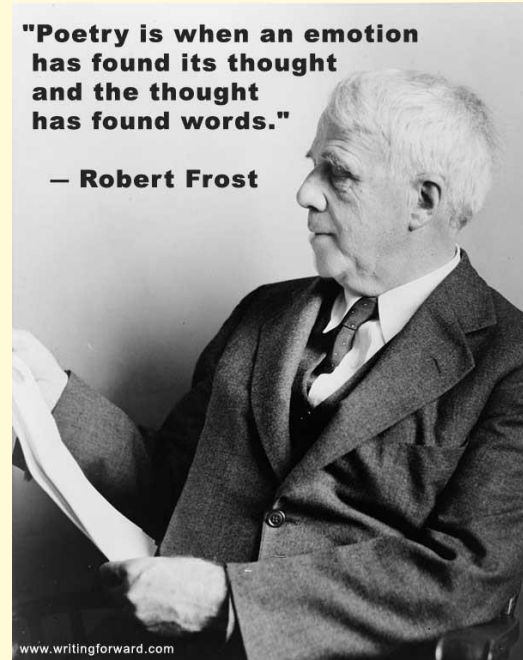
3:30-4:30pm: “A Universe of Rainbows” (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers) ARC signing
Location: **Eerdmans Booth #208**

YOU ALL ARE AWESOME!!!!!!!



**"Poetry is when an emotion
has found its thought
and the thought
has found words."**

— Robert Frost



www.writingforward.com