



# LOW HANGING FRUIT

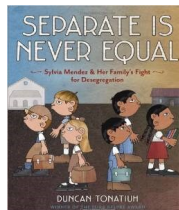
## Picture Books for All

By Jeannie Standal

Think your students are too old for picture books? While picture books are usually targeted to the youngest readers (or listeners), they can also be used effectively with students through high school! Amazing! A well-written and illustrated picture book is, like universal design, necessary for those for whom it was made, and really very helpful for everyone else.

There are a couple ways picture books can be especially helpful for any age group:

**Learning English:** picture books can provide an entry point to the Idaho Core Standards Anchor Standards for Reading for those who are learning English. They can also be used to meet a content standard, depending on the book. STEM picture books provide tools to build background knowledge about topics that are new to students.

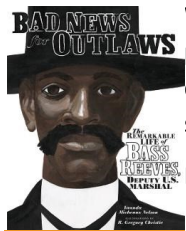


*Separate is Never Equal* by Duncan Tonatiuh

**Vocabulary Building:** Students, especially those with limited exposure to vocabulary at home, will

find a treasure trove of rare words in picture books.

Want vocabulary builders? Break out the nonfiction picture books. \*Not all children's nonfiction is created equal, so ask your school librarian to recommend some high-quality titles on your topic.



*Bad News for Outlaws* by Vaunda Micheaux-Nelson

**Introduction to a New Topic:** A good picture book is written clearly, so that everyone can understand.

The text and illustrations work together and lead to even better understanding of a topic. Consequently, a picture book can make a great introduction to a new topic for any age group. A picture book that

would make a good read-aloud can be even better.

Nearly everyone likes to be read to, even if they roll their eyes first.

**Interest Levels:** There are even picture books out there that are written at a very sophisticated level with smaller print and less white space than you would think. They are written for an older reader, and still a picture book.



*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick

**Authentic Reading:** Unlike some sets of books that are contrived stories designed to cover a specific skill or sound, a picture book tells a real story. It allows students the opportunity to become immersed in a great story, and perhaps change attitudes toward reading.

## LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



### November is Picture Book Month!

Find loads of information on the virtues of picture books here:

<http://picturebookmonth>

### Caldecott Award Winners and Honor Books

Find all the winners and honors from 1938! Some have fallen into obscurity, and some are still as popular as ever.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal>

### This is Your Child's Brain on Reading by Carina Storrs, Special to CNN.

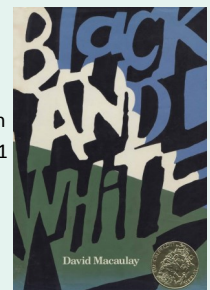
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/05/health/parents-reading-to-kids-study/index.html>

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



### Picture Books in Middle School:

Want an example of how this would look? Check out this lesson plan called Post Modern Picture Books in Middle School using the 1991 Caldecott Winner, *Black and White* by David Macaulay: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/postmodern-picture-books-middle-66.html>.



## DIGITAL TOOLS



### Novelist K-8 Picture Book Extenders:

Use these activities to build on and further explore the themes of a picture book.

Access Novelist K-8 at [www.lill.org](http://www.lill.org). To access the picture book extenders, click on the Quick Links tab on the top left and select Picture Book Extenders.



