

**Westwood Intermediate Picture Books
to Teach the Word Choice Trait**

Absolutely Awful Alphabet

Gerstein, M Bookroom

An alliterative alphabet book presents mean and monstrous letters, from A (an awfully arrogant amphibian) to Z (a zigzagging zoological zany).

Adelita

DePaola, Tomie Bookroom

After the death of her mother and father, Adelita is badly mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters until she finds her own true love at a grand fiesta.

Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds

Rylant, Cynthia 974 RYL

Illustrates the moods, sounds, and feel of the Appalachian region. The words are straight from the heart and chosen to bring this special place to life.

Ashantito Zulu

Mugrove, M E MUG

This is an alphabet book of African traditions.

Baloney (Henry P).

Scieszka, Jon E SCI

While coming up with an excuse for being late, Henry introduces the reader to his unusual language. The words seem to be gibberish, but are actually synonyms from around the world.

Cloud Dance

Locker, Thomas E LOC

The author uses extremely visual language in a book that is a blend of history, science, art, and sheer magic.

Faraway Home

Kurtz, Jane Bookroom

Desta's father, who needs to return briefly to his Ethiopian homeland, describes what it was like for him to grow up there.

Gold Fever

Kay, Verla E KAY

Jasper heads to California during the gold rush. He finds that life as a digger has many drawbacks, such as snakes and grizzlies, grumpy miners, and costly provisions. A cautionary tale, written in poetic form, about the grass being greener over the hill.

I Love You the Purplest

Joose, Barbara Bookroom

Two boys discover that their mother loves them equally but in different ways.

Insectlopedia

Florian, Douglas Bookroom

Presents twenty-one short poems about such insects as the inchworm, termite, cricket, and ladybug.

Kites Sail High

Heller, Ruth Bookroom

Rhyming text and colorful drawings explaining the "variety of uses and meanings an individual verb may have." Use also with Convention trait.

Lincoln: A Photobiography

Freedman, 921 LIN
Russell

This book teaches us that good descriptions not only come in words, but also in photographs.

Magic Fan

Baker, Keith Bookroom

Guided by a magic fan, Yoshi uses his building skills to make a boat to catch the moon, a kite to reach the clouds, and a bridge that saves the villagers from a tidal wave. Use also with Presentation trait.

Many Luscious Lollipops

Heller, Ruth 428.2 HEL

One of a series of books focusing on parts of speech. This one deals with adjectives. Use also with Convention trait.

Mirandy and Brother Wind

McKissack, P E MCK

This tale of life 40 years after the official end of slavery sweeps the reader away with its words and images. The author uses a blend of African American vernacular language of the time alongside lyrical everyday language.

Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster

Frasier, Debra E FRA

The language is playful, but at the same time there is a serious subtext about the pressure students feel when learning vocabulary. Sage places a great deal of importance on the learning of isolated vocabulary words.

Miz Berlin Walks

Yolen, Jane Bookroom

Mary Louise gradually gets to know and love her elderly neighbor lady who tells wonderful stories as she walks around the block of her Virginia home

More than Anything Else

Brady, Marie E BRA

The power of reading is the spotlight on this fictional account of the life of Booker T. Washington.

Mountain Dance

Locker, Thomas Bookroom

A poetic description of various kinds of mountains and how they are formed. Includes factual information on mountains.

My Mama Had a Dancing Heart

Gray

E GRA

A ballet dancer recalls how she and her mother would welcome each season with a dance outdoors.

The Old Woman Who Named Things

Rylant

E RYL

An old woman who has outlived all her friends is reluctant to become too attached to the stray dog that visits her each day.

Piggie Pie

Palatini

E PAL

Gritch the witch flies to Old MacDonald's farm for some pigs to make a piggie pie, but when she arrives she can't find a single porker.

Possum Magic

Fox, Mem

Bookroom

Two Australian possums go in search of the magic that will make the invisible one of them visible.

Quiet Place

Wood

E WOO

Text and illustrations describe some of the special places that one can go to be quiet and alone and to imagine, such as a woods, a seashore, a library, or inside oneself.

Quick as a Cricket

Wood, Audrey

Bookroom

A young boy describes himself as "loud as a lion," "quiet as a clam," "tough as a rhino," and "gentle as a lamb.

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Raising Sweetness

Stanley, Diana

Bookroom

Sweetness, one of eight orphans living with a man who is an unconventional housekeeper, learns to read and writes an important letter to improve their situation.

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Secret Footprints

Alvarez, Julia

Bookroom

A story based on Dominican folklore, about the ciguapas, a tribe of beautiful underwater people whose feet are attached backwards,

Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School

Sierra

E SIE

A boy sends off for "Professor Swami's Super Slime" to use as his science fair project and then has to cope with the funny disaster that follows.

Shrek! Steig E STE
Horribly hideous Shrek leaves home and terrifies everyone he encounters in his search for his equally ugly bride.

Sky Sweeper Gershater, P. Bookroom
Despite criticism for his lack of "accomplishments," Takiboki finds contentment sweeping flower blossoms and raking the sand and gravel in the monks' temple garden. Use also with Organization trait.

Some Smug Slug Edwards, Pamela Bookroom
A smug slug that will not listen to the animals around it comes to an unexpected end

Storm Harshman, Marc Bookroom
Though confined to a wheelchair, Jonathan faces the terror of a tornado all by himself

Story of Ferdinand Leaf, Munro E LEA
Ferdinand is a bull who prefers to sit in the shade and smell the flowers, rather than put on a good show in the bull ring.

Subway Sparrow Torres, Leyla E TOR
A small sparrow flies into a subway car and is trapped, forcing communication between people who normally ride the subway in complete silence. As they work together to save the sparrow, the passengers develop an understanding and appreciation for the very human need to communicate – no matter what language we speak.

Under the Quilt of Night Hopkinson, D. E HOP
Powerful book about the Underground Railroad. This is the story of a young black girl running from slavery. The author's careful choice of words creates tension and energy.

Up, Up and Away Heller, Ruth Bookroom
Rhyming text and colorful drawings define adverbs and explain when and how to use them. Use also with the Convention trait.

Where have all the Unicorns Gone? Yolen E YOL
The unicorns flee from the noise, violence, and destruction of civilization and find refuge in the sea.

Why the Banana Split Walton, Rick E WAL
The author teaches students how to use powerful verbs in their writing.

Wilfred Gordon MacDonald Partridge

Fox, Mem

Bookroom

A small boy tries to discover the meaning of "memory" so he can restore that of an elderly friend. Use also with Idea Trait

Wilma Unlimited

Krull, Kathleen 921 RUD

Biography of Wilma Rudolph, who overcame polio to become an Olympic champion.

Witch Who Wanted to Be a Princess

Gambling, Louise E GAM

Bella is a modern witch in every way, except that she has the age-old dream of becoming a princess. Even graduation top of her witch's class doesn't give her the ability to transform herself, so she does the next best thing – she sets out to marry a prince

Z was Zapped

Van Allsburg, C Bookroom

Depicts how A was in avalanche, B was badly bitten, C was cut to ribbons, and the other letters of the alphabet suffered similar mishaps.

Yo, Yes?

Raschka, Chris E RAS

This Caldecott honor book explores the tentative beginnings of a friendship, using the sparest of language.