



Further Notes and Ideas

Books

The Secret River
By Marjorie Kinnan
Rawlings

There's just not enough...not enough money, not enough food, not enough fish for her daddy to sell at the market. Hard times have come to the forest, but Calpurnia wants to turn them back into soft times. With her little dog Buggy Horse and a tip from old Mother Albirtha, the wisest person in the forest, Calpurnia finds a secret river and uses the pink paper roses from her hair to catch enough beautiful catfish to feed the whole swamp land —with some left over for Daddy to sell.

- *Discussion: How did Calpurnia's fish help everyone in the town, not just her family? What do you think the hard times would have been like without Calpurnia's fish?*

Hungry Planet: What the World Eats
By Peter Menzel

The age-old practice of sitting down to a family meal is undergoing unprecedented change. *Hungry Planet* profiles 30 families from around the world - including Bosnia, Chad, Egypt, Greenland, Japan, the United States, and France - and offers detailed descriptions of weekly food purchases; photographs of the families at home, at market, and in their communities; and a portrait of each family surrounded by a week's worth of groceries.

- *Discussion: What causes some families to have so much food and some to have so little? Do you think pictures of different Oklahoma families with their week's worth of food would look very different from each other?*

The Quiltmaker's Journey
By Jeff Brumbeau

Escaping from the protective walls of wealth and privilege, a young girl discovers the harsh world outside, where some people don't have as much as others. When she realizes that she has the power to help them, the young girl finds a strength and peace she never knew before. Making the loveliest quilts in all the land, the young girl decides to give them away.

- *Discussion: What did the girl learn when she left her city? How can we learn more about the things that other people need? In the story, the girl found a way to help others. How can you help others?*

Gregory, the Terrible Eater
By Mitchell Sharmat

Gregory, the Terrible Eater, wants orange juice and eggs for breakfast. His parents are terribly upset! Why can't Gregory eat striped ties and violins, like the rest of the goats? Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey have entered into the spirit of Mitchell Sharmat's upside-down, turned-around world with bold, wacky, expressive illustrations. The trio's exuberant collaboration provokes healthy laughter and even includes a colorful chart which gives fresh meaning to the concept of "junk food."

- *Discussion: How is Gregory's balanced meal different than a person's balanced meal? Why is it important to eat a balanced meal?*

HUNGER 101: TEACHER RESOURCES

The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need

By Stan and Jan
Berenstain

Stuff in the closets, stuff in the drawers, stuff in the attic - too much stuff everywhere! Mama Bear convinces the family that cleaning out the house can not only simplify their cluttered lives, but also benefit those who are in need!

- *Discussion: How did the Berenstain Bears help themselves when they got rid of their stuff? How did they help others? Do you think anything they did helped hungry people? How?*

Sam and the Lucky Money

By Karen Chinn,
Cornelius Van
Wright, and Ying-
Hwa Hu

This year Sam gets to spend his New Year's gift money any way he chooses. Shopping carefully in his favorite Chinatown stores, he is disappointed to find that everything he wants is too expensive. Deciding to forgo a tasty sweet or a new toy for himself, Sam donates his money instead to a barefoot homeless man.

- *Discussion: Do you think Sam's four dollars meant more to Sam or to the barefoot man? How did Sam feel after he gave away his lucky money?*

Stone Soup

By Marcia Brown

When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup of water and stones, and all the town enjoys a feast.

- *Discussion: How did sharing their food with the soldiers help the whole town? What new things do you think the people in the town learned?*

The Peace Book

By Todd Parr

"Peace is making new friends. Peace is giving shoes to someone who needs them. Peace is a growing garden. Peace is having enough pizza in the world for everyone." *The Peace Book* delivers positive and hopeful messages of peace in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colors and silly scenes. Targeted to young children first beginning to read, this book delivers a timely and timeless message about the importance of tolerance.

- *Discussion: What is peace? How will everyone getting enough food make the world a more peaceful place?*

One Potato, Two Potato

By Cynthia DeFelice

Mr. and Mrs. O'Grady are so poor they have just one of everything to share – one potato a day, one chair, one blanket full of holes, and one gold coin for a rainy day. After digging up the last potato in their patch, Mr. O'Grady comes upon a big black object. It's a pot – no ordinary pot, for what they soon discover is that whatever goes into it comes out doubled! Suddenly the O'Grady's aren't destitute anymore. But what they really long for is one friend apiece. Can the magic pot give them that?

- *Discussion: How did getting more food make the O'Grady's life better? What do you think would have happened to them if they hadn't found the magic pot?*