

**What books
do you remember?**

**What kind of conversations
can we have with books?**

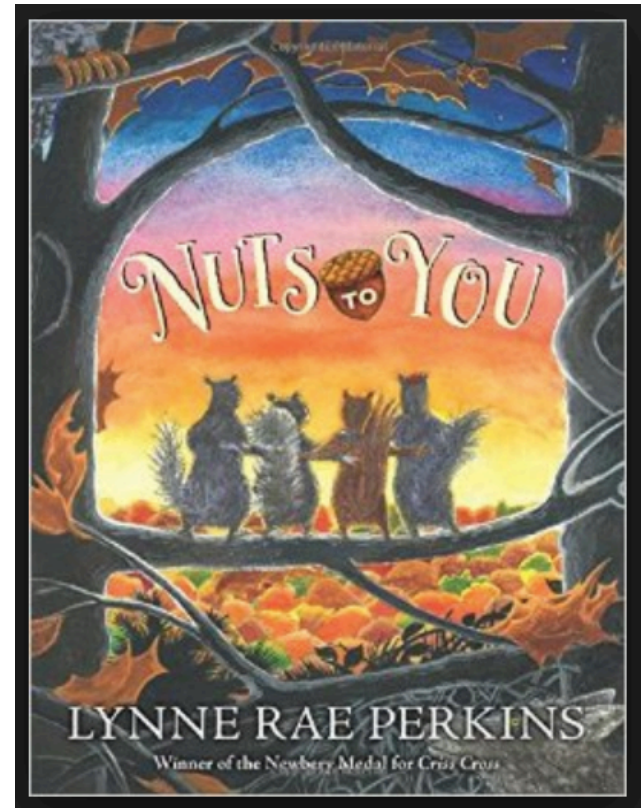
Four Functions of Reading



Entertain the Mind

All narratives – novels, biographies, movies – start at the same place: entertainment.

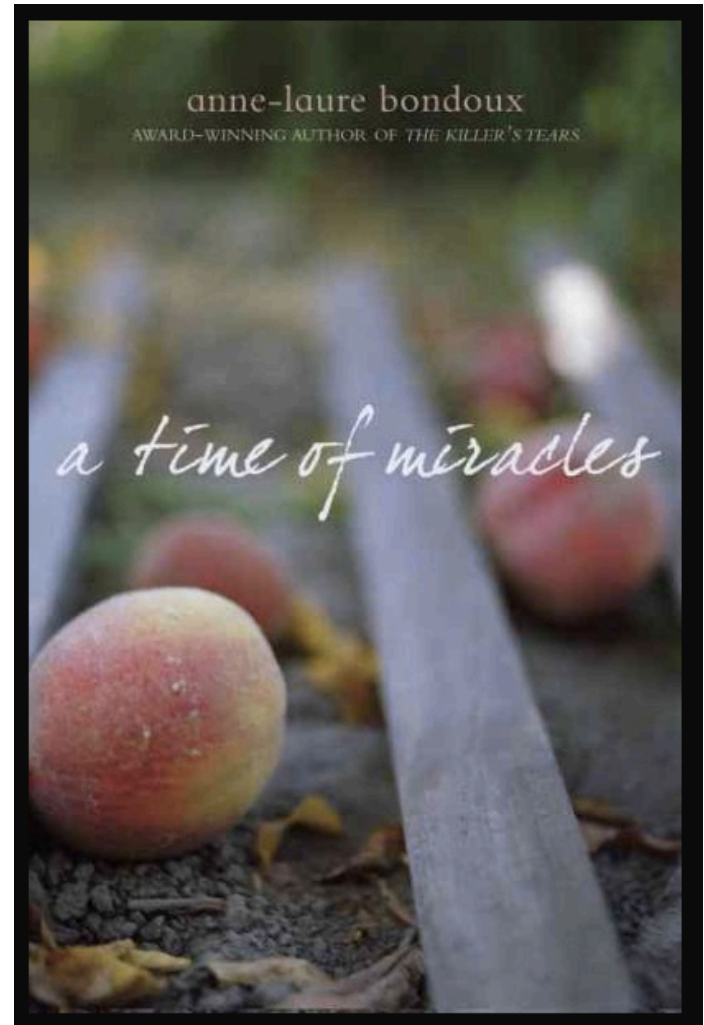
If a story can't hold our attention, we won't finish it. So the basic requirement for a good story is that it must be interesting.



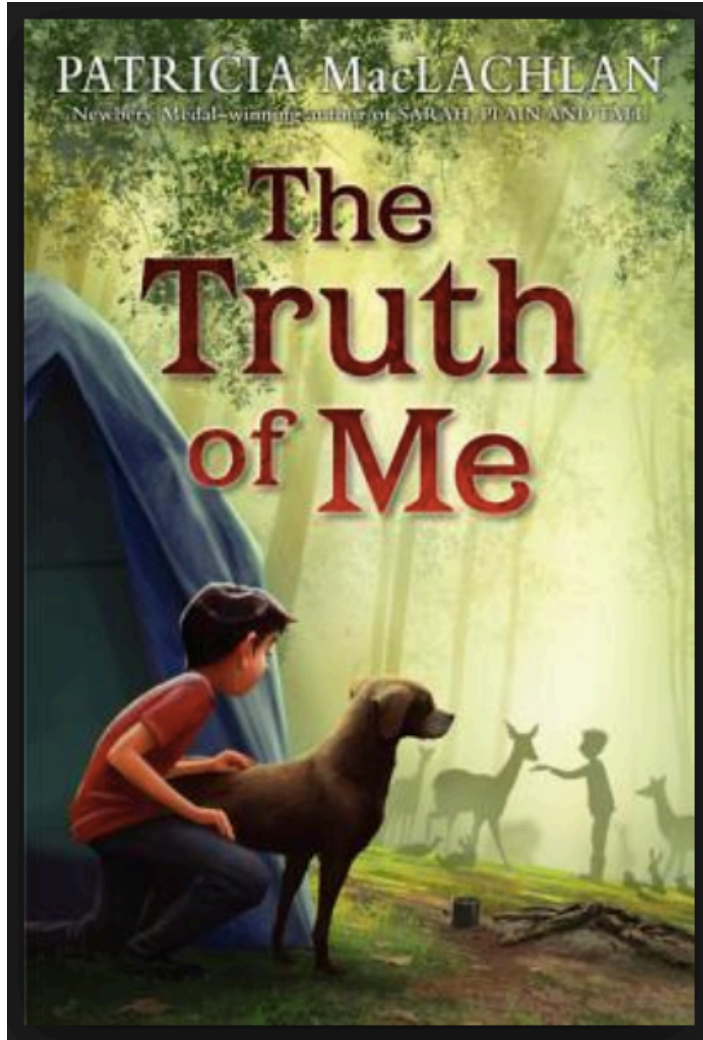
Inform the Mind

Some narratives tell us
more about another time
or place or introduce us
to new ideas.

We learn something
and expand our
general knowledge.



Heal the Heart



Some stories make us feel better.

They help us recover from the emotional wounds of life, encourage us, and make us feel more hopeful.

They give us energy to face the challenges and difficulties of real life.

Feed the Soul

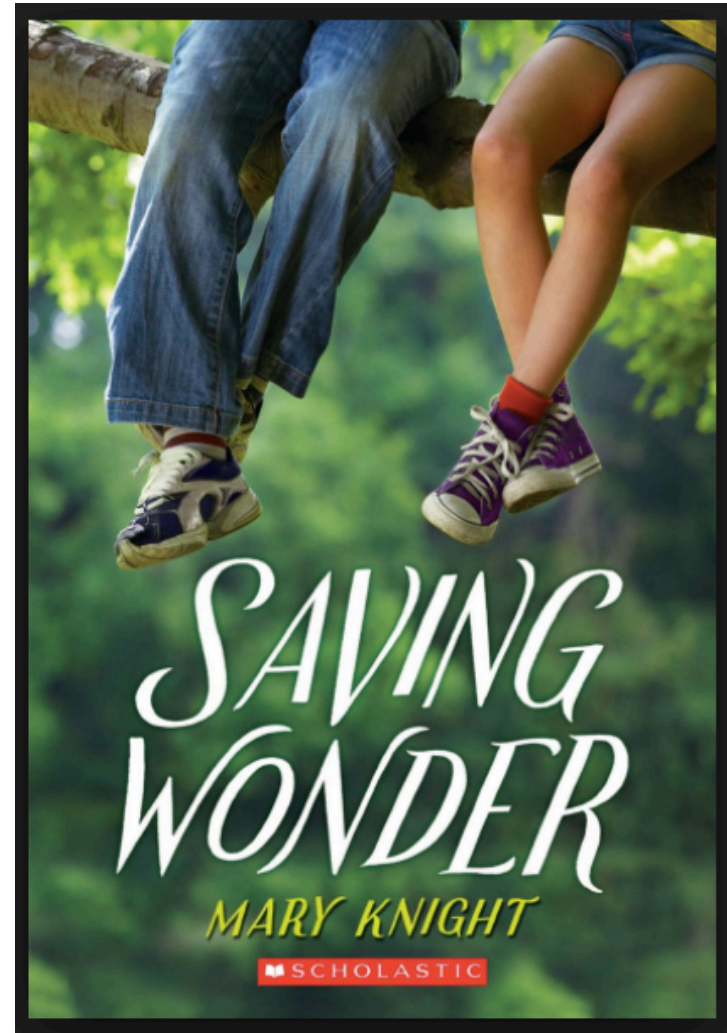
Sometimes stories change
us.

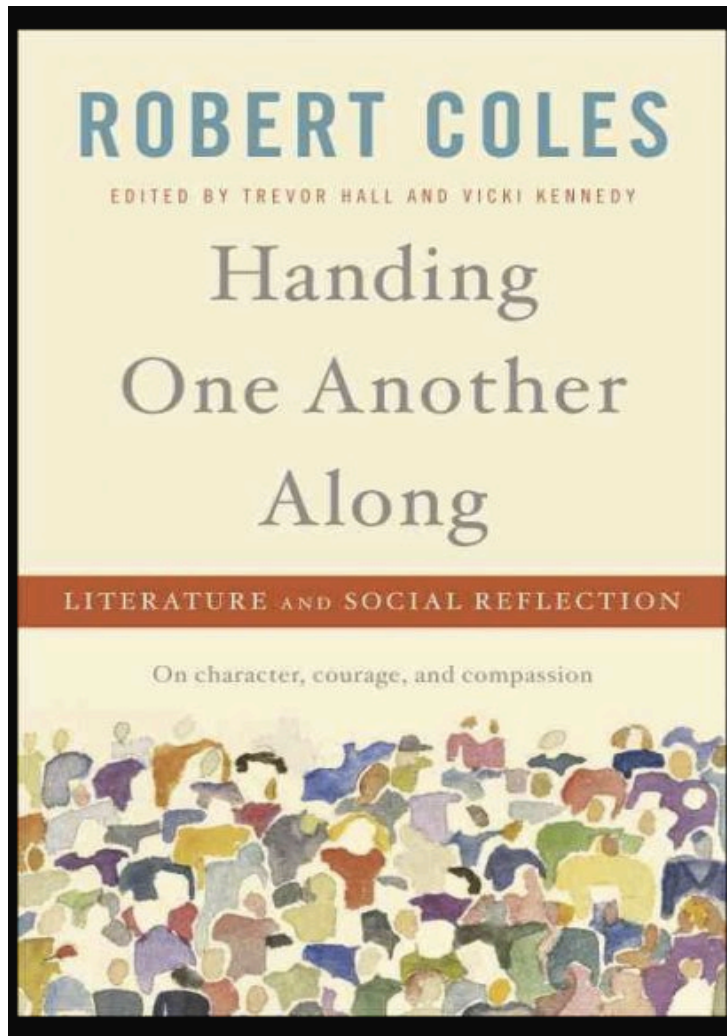
After reading them, we see
life differently.

We behave differently,
becoming more patient,
compassionate, and grateful.

We become stronger
and more able to take on the
challenges of life.

These stories help us
become wiser human beings.





“Novels and stories are renderings of life; they can not only keep us company, but admonish us, point us in new directions, or give us courage to stay a given course.”

- Robert Coles

Sort the stories in your memory...

- Entertain the Mind
- Inform the Mind
- Heal the Heart
- Feed the Soul

“Stories make us more alive, more human, more courageous, more loving.”

-Madeleine L'Engle

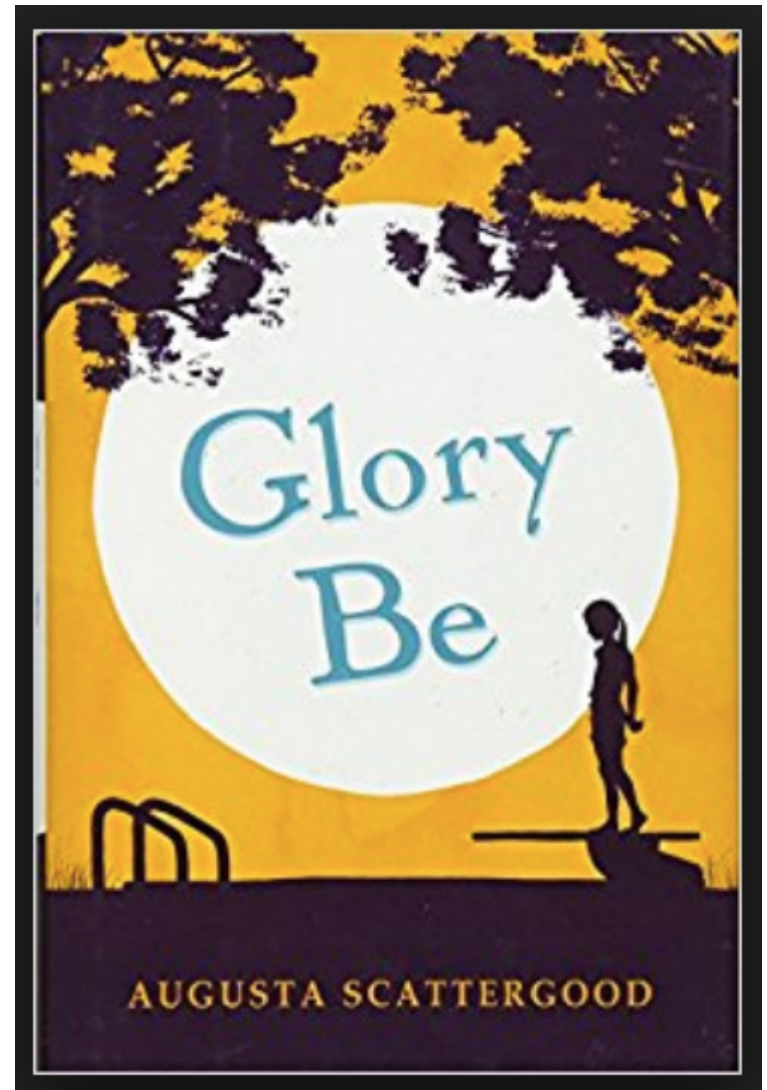
Strategy: Find the Truth

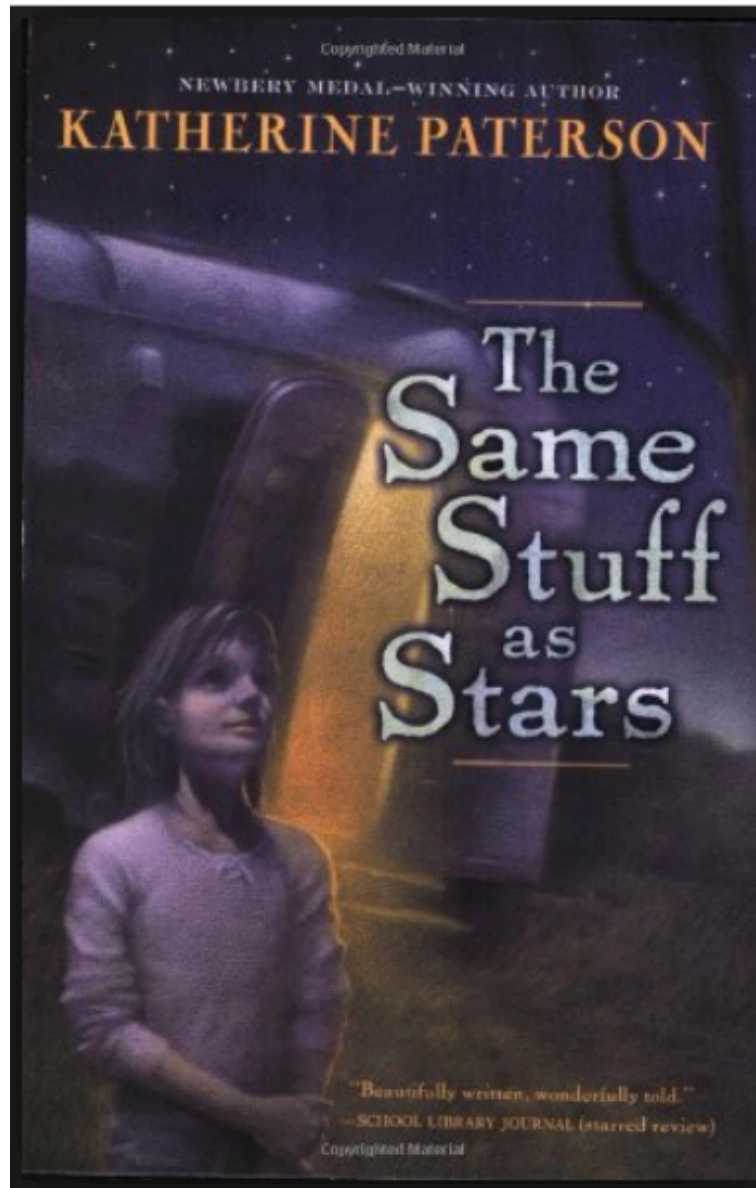
1. Read the sentences taken from stories.
2. Notice how the sentences can be turned into questions that cause a reader to reflect on real life.

“Always a good idea to start with saying something nice. Leave your vinegar till the end.”

Have you ever started a difficult conversation by being pleasant?

Scattergood, Augusta. Glory Be. New York: Scholastic Press, 2012, p. 76.





"Would she ever know what the right thing was?"

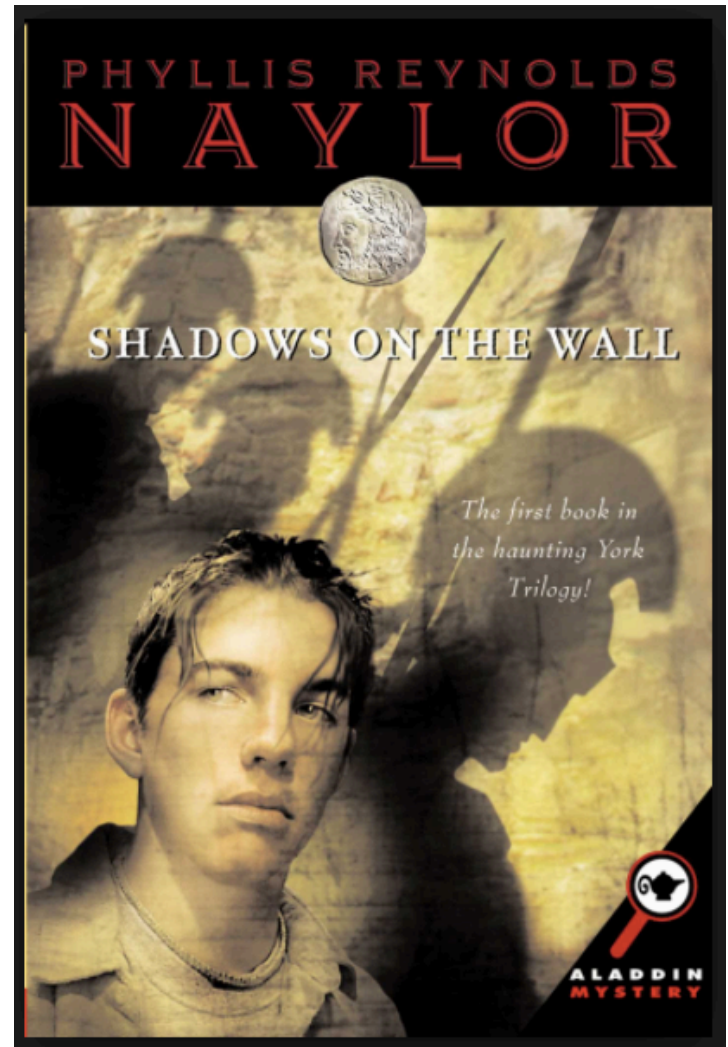
Have you ever faced a problem for which there was no clear answer?

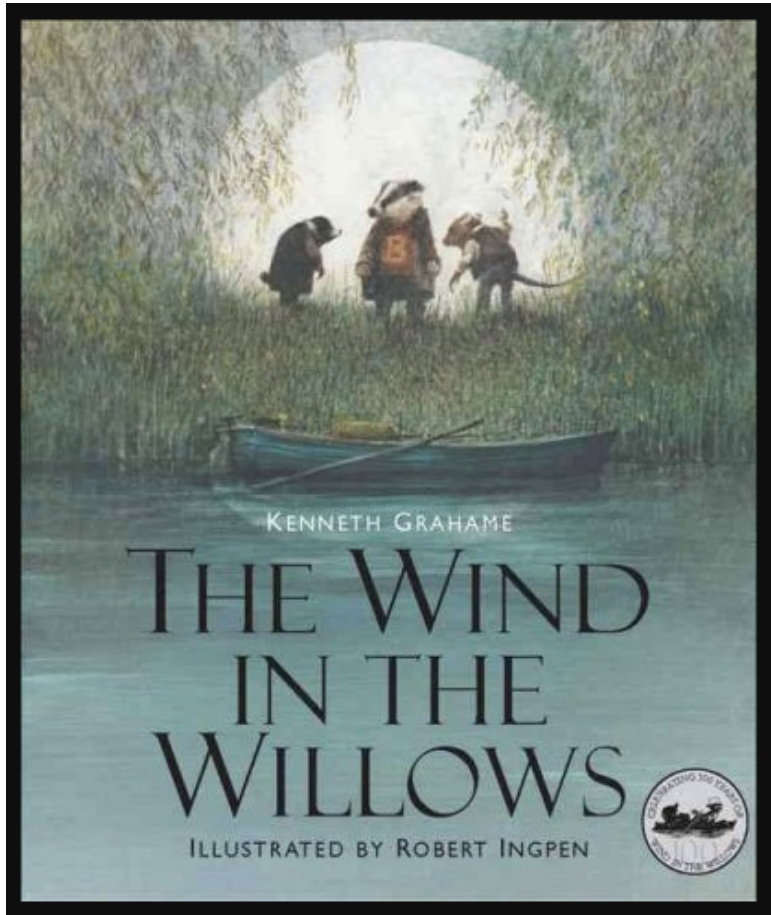
Paterson, Katherine. The Same Stuff as Stars. New York: Harper Collins, 2002, p. 234.

“It was a comfort being there with each other, a comfort to know that they were all in it together.”

Have you ever felt safer just because you were with people you trusted, even if your situation was still dangerous?

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Shadows on the Wall. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1980, p. 169.

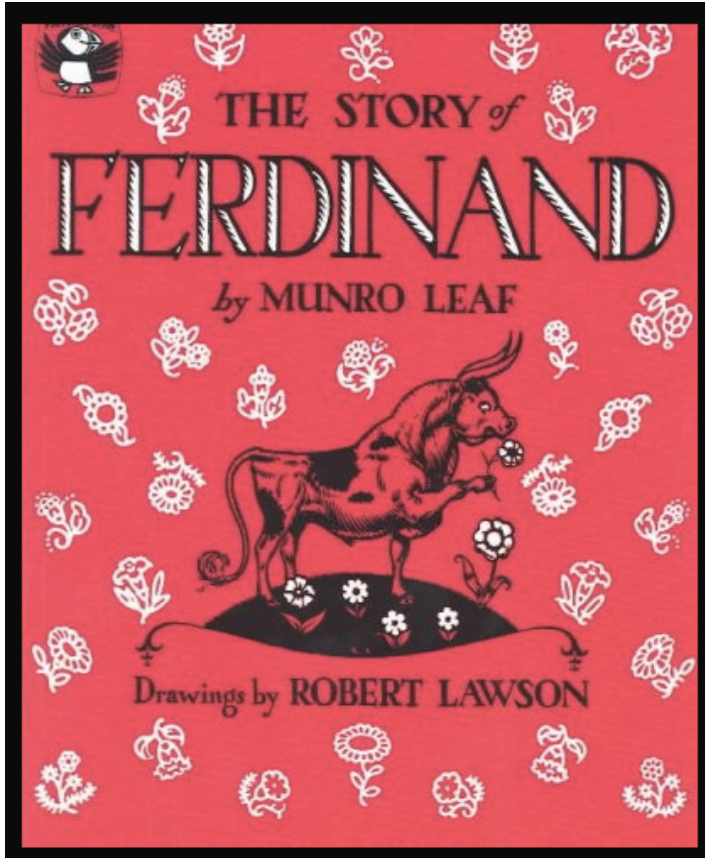




“It’s never the wrong time to call on Toad. Early or late he’s always the same fellow. Always good-tempered, always glad to see you, always sorry when you go!”

Do you have any friends who are always glad to see you? Who always have time for you?

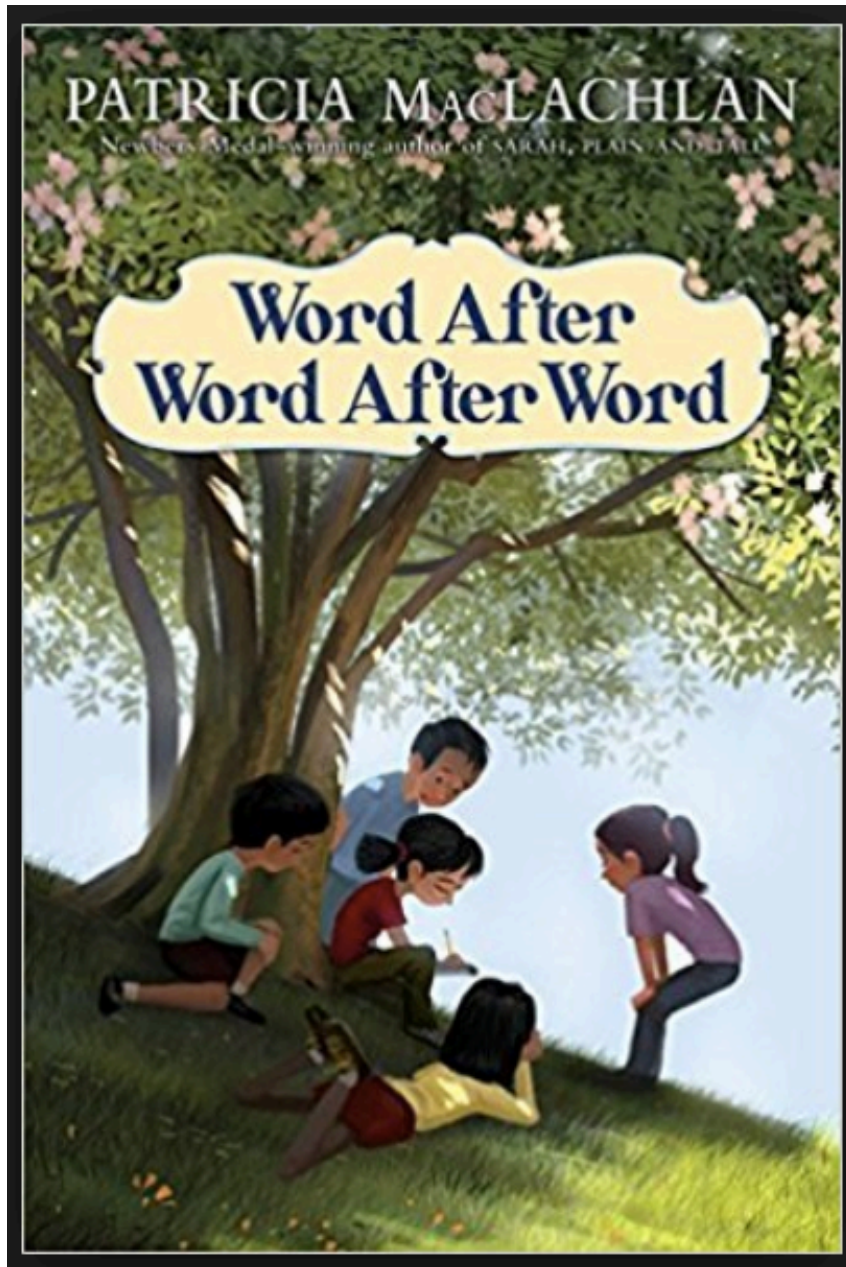
Kenneth Grahame,
The Wind in the Willows



“I like it better here
where I can sit just quietly
and smell the flowers.”

*Do you ever get tired of being
around other people and
doing what is expected of
you? Do you ever want to get
away for awhile?*

Munro Leaf, The Story of Ferdinand



"You don't have to like everything."

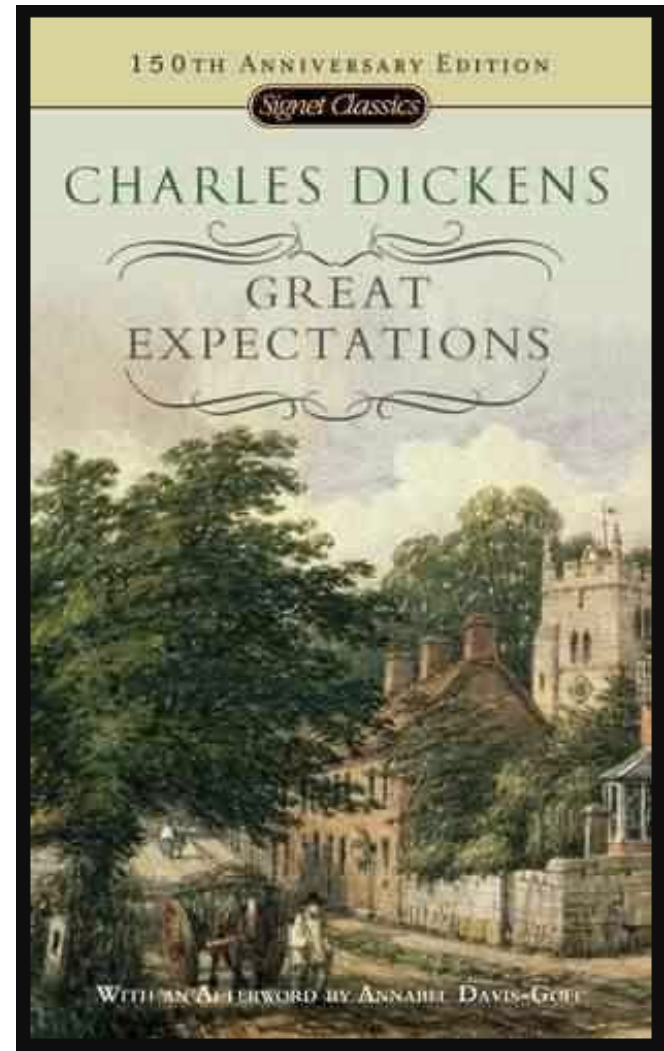
Have you ever realized that even if you don't want to do something, you will have good results if you do what is right?

MacLachlan, Patricia. Word after Word after Word. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2010, p. 30.

“Her contempt for me was so strong, that it became infectious, and I caught it.”

Has anyone ever treated you so unkindly - or spoken to you so harshly - that you started to doubt your own abilities or your own worth in life?

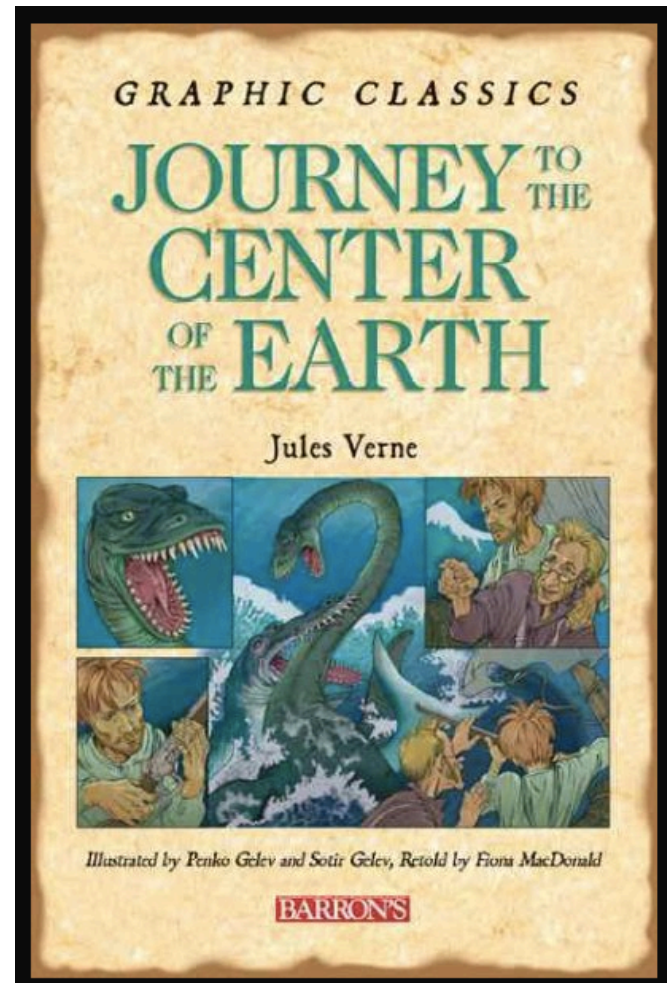
Charles Dickens, Great Expectations



“Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth.”

What mistakes have you made that have led you to learn more about the reality of life?

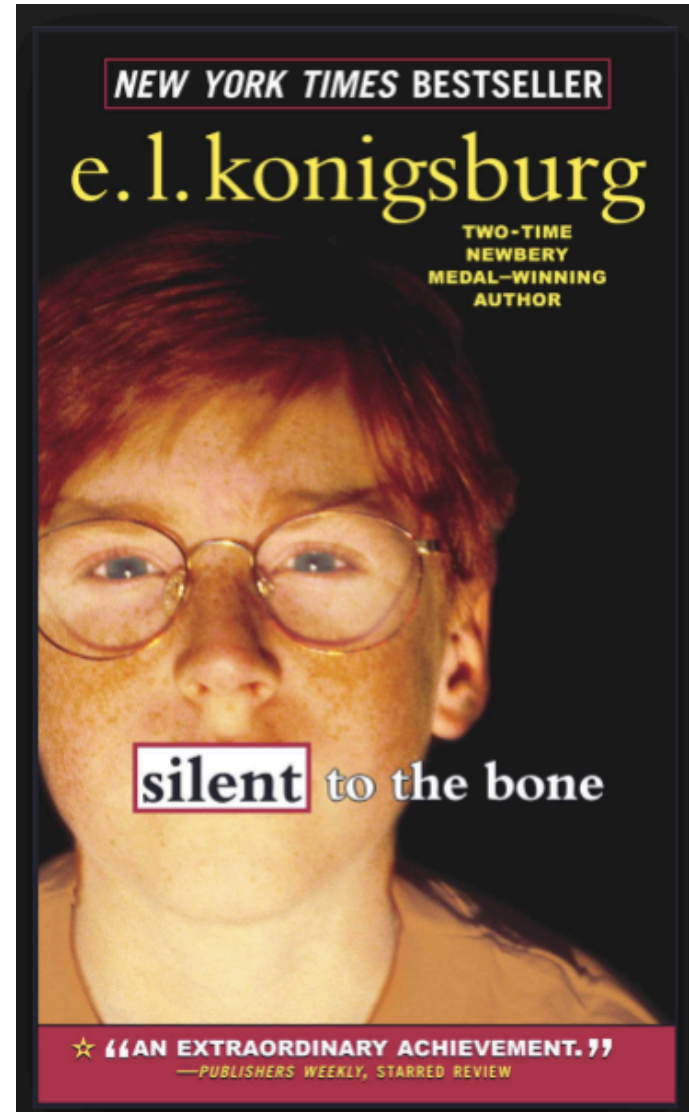
Jules Verne, Journey to the Center of the Earth

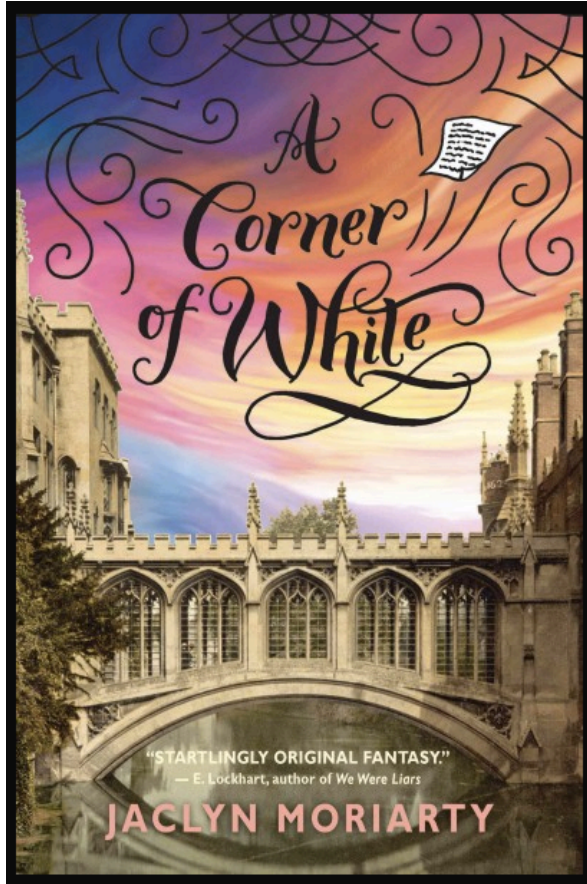


"Talk was like
the vitamins of our
friendship: Large daily
doses kept it healthy."

*Have you ever lost a friend
because you did not have
enough time to talk
together?*

Kongisburg, E.L. Silent to the Bone. New
York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2000, p. 7.





“We must think outside of *ourselves*, Madeleine,’ he’d say,... ‘Live for *others*, not just yourself.’....’If you do not learn this thing,’ her father used to say, ‘people will give up on you. You only get so many chances”

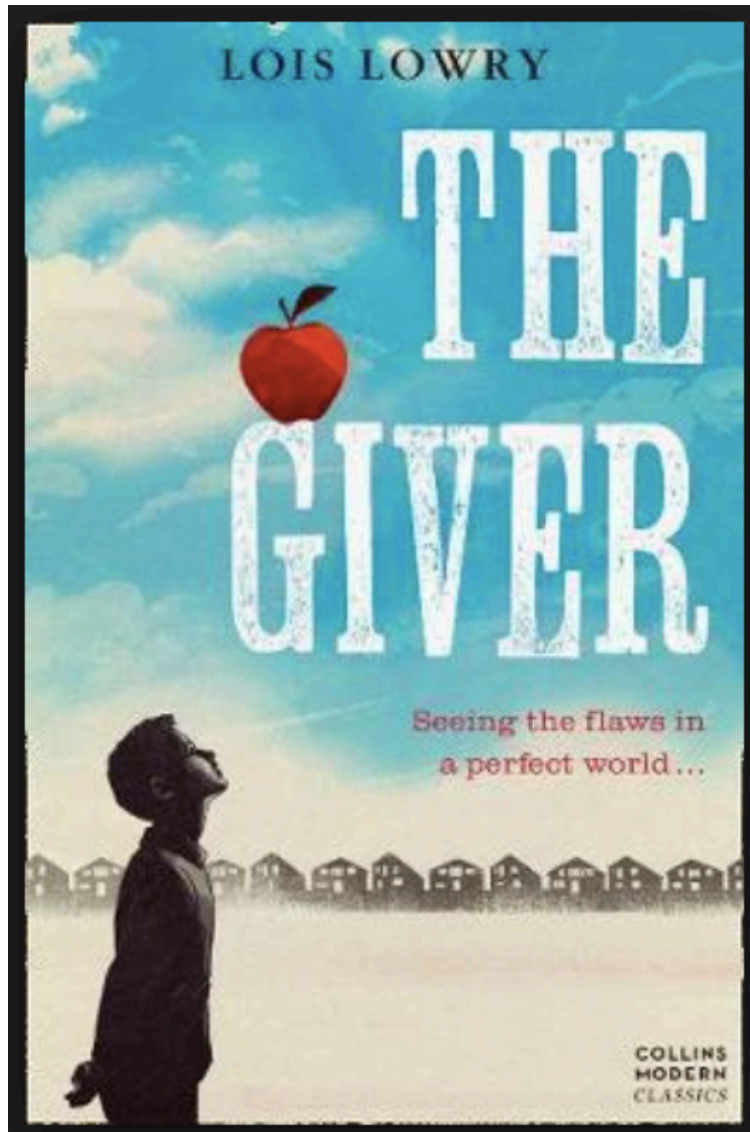
Have you ever quietly decided not to trust someone – or be friends with someone – because you’d too often been disappointed by their self-centredness?

Moriarty, Jaclyn. A Corner of White. p. 245-246.

“...it is human nature to secretly suspect that the things that happen to people are really their own fault in some way. That we bring our misfortunes upon ourselves. Even if the bad things that happen to us are clearly just a case of bad luck, there’s a kind of underlying belief that there’s a certain amount of bad luck in the world and it attaches to people who are less deserving.”

Polly Horvath, Polly. One Year in Coal Harbour.
p. 80.



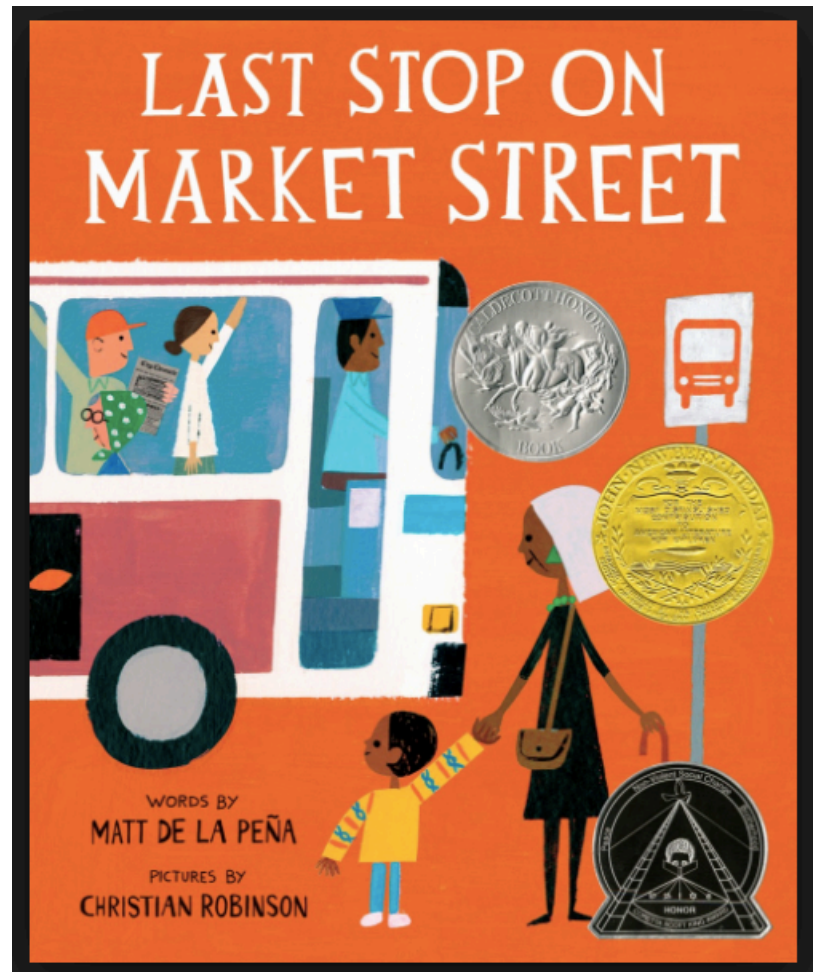


'The worst part of holding memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared.'

Lowry, Lois. The Giver. New York: Laurel-Leaf, 1993, p. 154.

“Sometimes when
you’re surrounded by
dirt...you’re a better
witness for what’s
beautiful.”

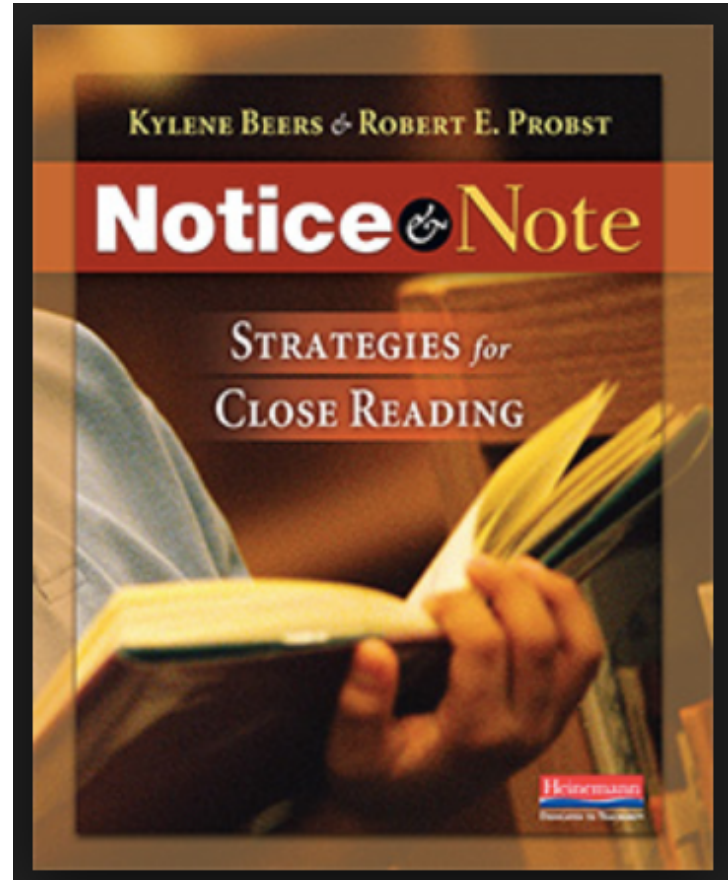
de la Peña, Matt. Last Stop on
Market Street. New York: G.P.
Putnam’s Sons, 2015.



The sentences that make us think
deeply are the ones that...

heal our hearts
and
feed our souls.

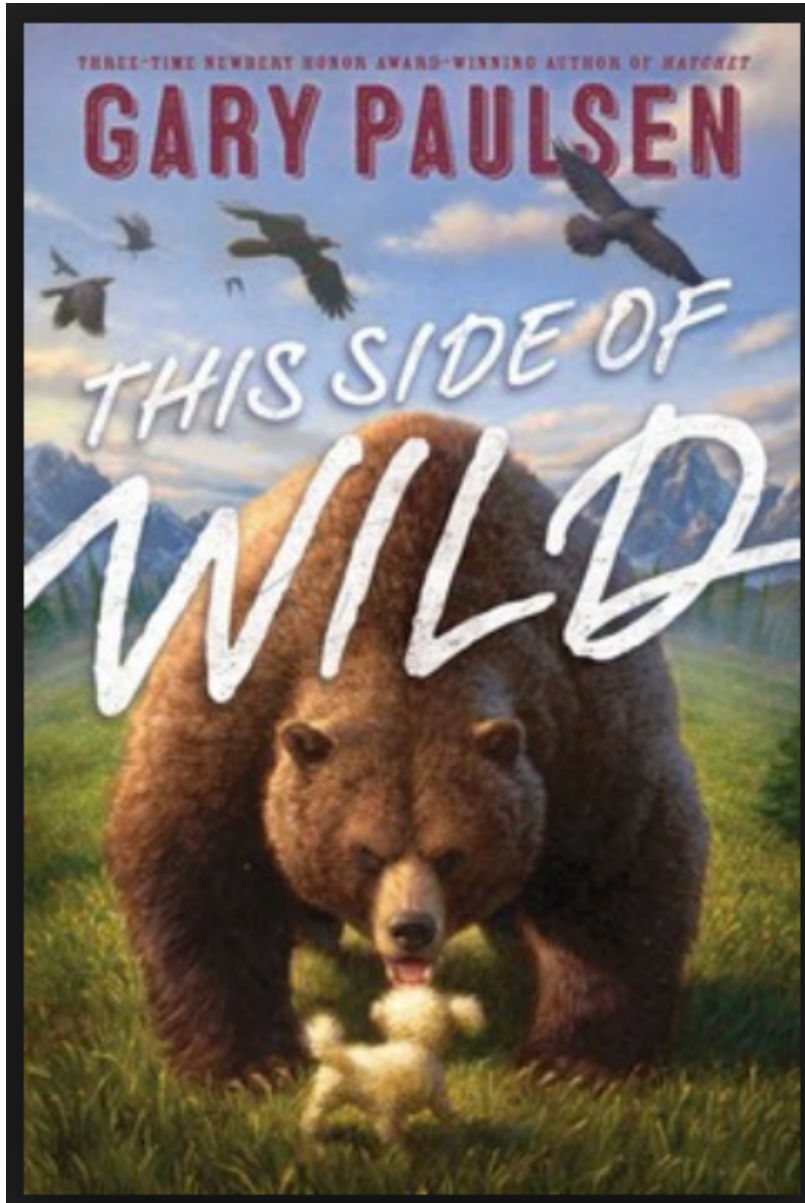
How can we
connect to
that deep
meaning to
our own
lives?



Strategy: Notice and Note

1. The main character does something unexpected.
2. The main character figures out something difficult.
3. The main character asks himself a difficult question.
4. Someone wiser offers advice to the main character.
5. Words or situations keep appearing over and over.

Beers, Kylene & Robert E. Probst. Notice and Note. Portsmouth, NH: Heineman, 2013.



Paulsen, Gary.
This Side of Wild:
Mutts, Mares, and
Laughing Dinosaurs.
New York: Simon &
Schuster Books
for Young Readers,
2015.

Step 1: Notice and Take Notes

- "I was...even more tiny [than the ship], so that one would think that I would feel dwarfed, alienated in some way. In fact, just the opposite happened: I loved it" (ix).
- "The incredible blue...made me feel that I was a part of it,..." (ix).
- He found himself "marveling that such a thing...could be" (ix).
- "The ocean...drew me...Later, it...was like coming home" (x).
- "...I would come to know to know how small a part of everything I really happened to be" (x).
- "...thinking in all the world...I was alone, completely and vastly and wonderfully alone. Alone" (x).
- "And precisely at that moment a young gray whale...came alongside and lay his or her head across the stern of the boat, virtually in my lap..." (xxi).
- "...I realized we are never quite alone" (xi).

Step 2: Tell Your Main Idea

We are never really alone in this world.

Step 3: Tell What You Used to Believe

I used to think that I had goals to reach in life and that while people might help me reach those goals, really, I was on my own. It was my journey. My life. I believed that adulthood was about about taking care of myself, about reaching my goals, about being independent.

Step 4: Tell What Changed Your Mind

Gary Paulsen writes about aloneness in his book *This Side of Wild*. He tells how, when he was only seven years old, he and his mother crossed the Pacific Ocean in a small ship on their way to join his father in the Philippines. He writes that "one would think that I would feel dwarfed, alienated in some way. In fact, just the opposite happened: I loved it" (ix). He adds that the "incredible blue...made me feel that I was a part of it,..." (ix).

Later, as an adult, Paulsen says that he was on his own boat on the Pacific when he came "to know to know how small a part of everything I really happened to be" (x). He was feeling all alone on the ocean when a grey whale "came alongside and lay his or her head across the stern of the boat, virtually in my lap..." (xxi). And, Paulsen says, he "realized we are never quite alone" (xi).

Step 5: Tell How You See the World Now

Reading that short chapter, I realized that somewhere along that way I stopped believing life is about being independent and pursuing goals. I still think that it is important to work hard and take care of myself. But I also know that life is not about me and my goals. Each of our bodies contain more cells that belong to viruses and bacteria than cells that belong to us. Each of us affect other lives every day. Always, all around us, there are plants and animals and people reminding us that we are part of a vast universe.

Step 6:

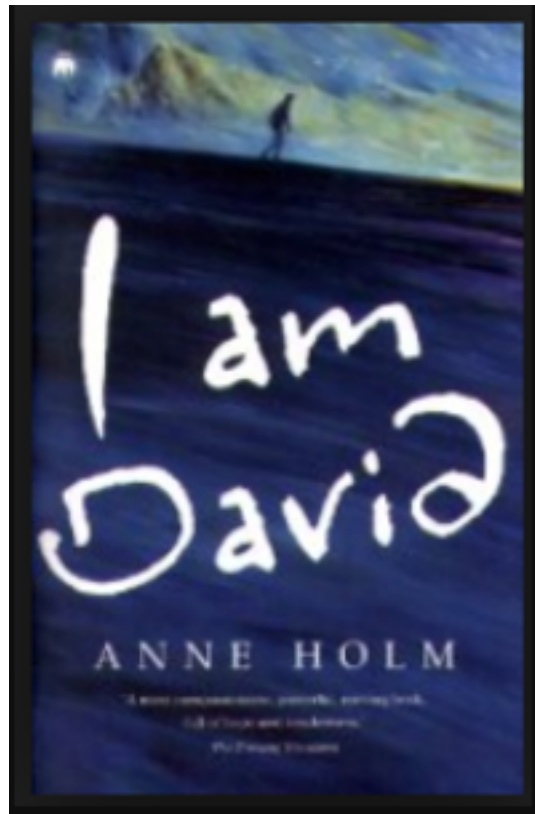
Tell How You Will Behave Differently From Now On

So, the next time I am in this classroom alone, marking assignments or preparing lessons, I will take time to notice the plants around me. How are they doing? Do they need water? Would they like a bit of care? And the next time I look out at the night stars, I will remind myself how there are so many precious lives in this unimaginably huge universe. We are all important. We are all a part of the whole. We are not alone.

How can we find the right stories for our readers?

“I suggest that the only books that influence us are those for which we are ready, and which have gone a little further down our particular path than we have yet gone ourselves.”

— *E.M. Forster*



“David...is a very patient boy. He is slow to anger and is polite to strangers and does not show anger.. Patience is not my strongest characteristic and I feel I must work on it more.”

“I now know [more] about the history of racism against Jews, and I have an idea of how people would have escaped from the camps.... From how David acts in the novel,...I now know to try harder, and not give up.”

“...before I read this book, I did not pay much attention to scenery. Now, I look at everything and enjoy its beauty.”

“In *The Austere Academy* by Lemony Snicket (Scholastic Inc., 2000) Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are attending Prufrock Preparatory School where everything seems to go wrong: snapping crabs, unjust punishments, dripping fungus, comprehensive exams, violin recitals and, worst of all, S.O.R.E. The only good thing that seems to happen is meeting the Quagmire triplets. But then Count Olaf, the man who has been trying to kill them, arrives, disguised as a gym teacher. This outrageous story is one that, surprisingly enough, heals the heart because whenever I’m bored or sad, I’ll curl up with it and see that my situation, compared to the Baudelaire’s, isn’t that bad.”

“I recently read a great book called ***All But Alice*** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. The author has written a lot of series, and I like these books because Alice does what I do and we both get embarrassed easily. But the book ***All But Alice*** relates to my life. Alice goes through a time of wanting to be someone else, of wanting to be a copy of someone. That is the feeling I am experiencing now. It feels like if I try and be myself, I will do embarrassing things. But after I read how Alice went through difficult times being a copy of someone, I decided that being myself is better. So I think the author’s message is ‘be yourself’ and that is exactly what I needed to hear.”

Strategy: Read and Share

1. Pick a book and read it with a partner or alone.
2. Take notes about what you notice.
3. Be ready to share your ideas later:
 - What do you notice?
 - What is the main idea of your observations?
 - How does it connect to your ideas about life?
 - What level does the book reach for you?
 - entertain the mind
 - inform the mind
 - heal the heart
 - feed the soul

“Books saved my life.

“First reading them, then writing them.”

“I owe everything I am and everything that I will ever be to books.”