Continued from inside

Integrating Books into the Content
Esther Fusco, Ph.D.

Messages from Mars
By Lorenne Leedy and Andrew Schanzer interviewed by Lorenne Leedy
Holiday House
What a wonderful book to use to connect literacy, technology and science. This story takes place in 2016. A group of children get to travel to Mars. They write by email about their experience. In the emails, they write about their experiences and relate these to information about Mars. They describe what they are seeing and surprising that they discover. Some of the scientific information is about Mars and some tells about the history of space exploration like what Viking I discovered about Mars.

The Friendly Four
By Eloise Greenfield
Illustrated by Jan Swayne Gilchrist

Developing students reading fluency is an important part of reading instruction. This delightful book provides teachers with the opportunity to allow students to develop their fluency as they read the poems describing the summer Drum, Dorney, Louis and Rae share. Students can read the individual poems or the whole poems that have a shared voice. Each poem presents a different perspective and experience that the reader can appreciate. As they read them, the children’s voices come alive. The come to understand the growing changes in the children. This is a wonderful book to incorporate in a friendship theme.

The Princess and the Dragon
By Audrey Wood
Children’s Play International (2000)

What happens when a princess doesn’t behave like a princess? How do her parents and community react? What life lessons are they discovering? This book shows the children how to handle situations while still being kind. The moral of the story is to accept the differences in other people and to understand the growing changes in the children. This is a delightful book to incorporate in a fairy tale theme.

What a Day It Was at School
Jack Prelutsky
Pamela Duncan Edwards
The Mixed-Up Rooster

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With all these challenges, teachers must carefully consider how they will implement the different strands of literacy in their classrooms. There are a number of methods that have been used to deal with these challenges. The balanced literacy approach can be used with students of all ability levels. More than ever, this type of literacy program seems necessary with so many students finding reading in inclusion classrooms. Teachers merely have to have the appropriate resources for a balanced approach to be successful.

In this lesson students' knowledge and skills can be integrated in authentic, knowledge-based, literature rich programs, the learning experience becomes enjoyable for many different learners.

Part of the problem with reading instruction is that reading is often as difficult as a dose of nasty tonic and, like that nasty tonic, needs something to help it go down easier. Please notice that no mention was made of changing what had to be taken in, the only modification was that it was processed in a way that our motivators and as educators with keen interest in literacy instruction, we know our students are more likely to engage in activities that interest them and use that as a conduit for moving along instruction. Students are expected to master what is specified in our state's instructional standards. Watering down instruction to the point that our students are not mastering the material is not counterproductive to anything in the poem. The poem is reread to consider the writer's tone. Then the poem's theme and the directions are easy to follow. The recipes are surrounded by pictures of the countries of the recipes and facts of information. Students will love reading this book. It is also a great gift.

Earth Magic
By Dionne Brand

It is often disheartening to see the figures put out by national polluton-telling of the number of dysfunctional readers present in our country. The finger-pointing fingers are an unhelpful, unen-""