1. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

*Author:* Dr. Seuss  
*Illustrator:* Dr. Seuss  
*Publication Date:* 1990  
*Genre:* Traditional Literature (fable)  
*Recommended Grade Range:* Preschool-1st

*Oh, the Places You'll Go!* is set in a strange land of creatures and the main character of a young boy is trying to find his way. Throughout the plot he runs into several obstacles in his path and not-so-good places, but eventually makes the right choices that make him successful on his journey and he starts to have the courage to 'move mountains'. The theme of this story is hope, and knowing it is okay to be scared when bad things happen, but that everything happens for a reason and that it will all work out in the end.

*Oh, the Places You'll Go!* is an original story with creative illustrations and wording. Dr. Seuss is responsible for creating these wonderful stories enchanted with pastel colors that add to the reader’s visual comprehension. People of all ages can easily relate to the story, and students will understand it better and better as they grow older.

**Quality of Elements** in the book: This book brings the world of the young traveler to life through the words of Dr. Seuss and the *vivid illustrations* that hook the readers into the quality literature that teachers hope to present to their students. The *timelessness* of this book is enchanting as it takes the reader on the journey of the main character. It is not only a good story but is also very relatable. We all go through trials and fall short of our goals but it shows that if we pursue our dreams we can move mountains too. We make a *connection* to the main character and aspire to have the *characteristics* that they have in the down fall. The *values* are greatly shared to give the readers the right message for them to keep working for what they want in life.

**Reader Response Activity:**

This book is all about making mistakes, getting through obstacles and having that knowledge that you can conquer all your trials in life, you just have to keep going. I would have my students make up their own story and put trials that they think they will have or even making up their own story that shows
trials in life and being able to “move mountains” like the character does in this book. This book is inspiring and leads students to know that there are trials in life but none are impossible to overcome.

2. Green Eggs and Ham

Sam, a persistent character, tries to convince a reluctant creature to have some green eggs and ham, set in a fantasyland. After consistently asking multiple times throughout the plot and offering to have the creature eat them with other animals or at other places, the creature finally gives in and takes a bite. Much to everyone’s surprise, this character actually enjoys the green eggs and ham and wishes he had tried them sooner so that he could eat them with other animals and at other places, creating a theme of trying new things. Not being afraid of things that seem different but enjoying different experiences and doing something out of the normal comfort zone.

Quality of Elements: Green Eggs and Ham is an original story and is a fun experience for children of all ages. The theme is easily relatable, the connection is made because everyone at one point has to try something that they wouldn’t have easily taken to but just needed a little support. The illustrations really add to readers’ visual comprehension because the characters and setting are truly unique and have this detail that is really unlike anything readers have seen before.

Reader Response Activity: This children’s book is always fun to bring into the classroom. I would bring in green eggs and ham and show them it wasn’t so bad. It really gets kids to realize that there is so much more out there to try and sometimes you won’t like the new experience and other times you will love them but you won’t know until you try.

3. The Invention of Hugo Cabret
The main character, Hugo finds himself an orphan living alone in a train station with nothing more of his father than a mechanical automaton. It seemed like a dead end because his father had been working to fix before his death. The setting is in Paris in the year 1931, Hugo barely gets by as he normally goes hungry and fends for himself without anyone to take care of him. An old mad has a toy shop in the train station that is full of new gadgets and gears that immediately attract attention from Hugo because he loves to build things and has always had an interest in clock work. He has become pretty good at stealing from shops around the station but is caught by the old man that ran the toy shop. Hugo always kept his notebook on hand as he found new things, this notebook was also full of notes about the automaton that his father had made, Hugo’s ultimate goal was to finally repair the machine because maybe just maybe there could be a message from his father that could help guide him in his life. Between making a deal for Hugo’s freedom and notebook versus being shipped away to an orphanage by the train station police he chose to work out his punishment for stealing from the old man.

**Quality of Elements:** The plot takes a 360 when the boy finds out that the old man is not just any ordinary old man working a toy shop but is in fact a famous director and maker of the first movies. His work inspired Hugo’s father and many others. The climax comes when Hugo decides to confront the old man about his past throwing the story into a traumatic story that takes the reader on an exciting. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* contains unwinding suspense about a boy on the run, what the automaton is capable of after all these years, and how the drawing makes everything tie back to his new friend Isabelle and reveals that her Papa is not who he claims to be. The theme of the story is about discovering yourself and achieving your dreams. Features of quality are seen in this story and hits many elements and qualities that literature rich books possess. One of the highest is of the *illustrations* that define the book; these images really help the reader visualize what words can’t always describe. The readers’ imagination takes over as they visual the great detail that both the images and text present. This book would be an very enjoyable read because students love books that hook their attention and that they can see illustrations that inspire their imagination as they hang on every word said. That goes to say that *timelessness* is definitely a defining quality that is present in this book because this story is one that going to stick around in children’s literature rather than fade away because it is not only a fun read but has true events as it goes back in time to Paris and shares a quality and literature rich story. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is an original story with simple, yet detailed *illustrations* that really add to readers’ visual comprehension of this book. Students and teachers are sure to find the book an enjoyable read.
Reader Response Activity:

This book shows readers that books don’t always have to be mainly pictures or just text that both can coexist. I would have my students pick their favorite part in the book and make a vivid illustration of their own and write why they decided to pick that scene from the book.

4. Guess How Much I Love You

This enchanting picture book *Guess How Much I Love You* tells a tender story of a Big Nutbrown Hare and Little Nutbrown Hare one night at bedtime. The question is asked as this “Guess how much I love you,” the Little Nutbrown Hare asks. He then describes his love the best that he can: as far as he can run, reach and jump. But the Big Nutbrown Hare answers his son with those same exact things but so much bigger, Big Nutbrown Hare can always jump, run, or reach just a little further than Little Nutbrown Hare. All that matters though are that they can’t even show how much they love each other because there is no way that physical things can describe them. This book is a classic and is filled with beautiful water coloring pictures that depict the tender images that bring this story to light.

Qualities of elements in this book are *timelessness*, *exploration*, the vivid *illustrations*, and the many *connections* made throughout the book. The *setting* of the text can be enjoyed by the current generation and many generations to come. The book brings the reader into the book with its beautiful water colored *illustrations*. The reader can make *connections* with the book and their own personal experiences through the *value* of the message presented in the book.

Reader Response Activity:

This activity will be a print out of the two hares and they can make up a story and a drawing of a new way of how they could describe how they love their parents or how much the parents love the student. It reiterates how much their parents love them and will be a fun activity for them to show their parents when they go home.
5. Madeline

Author: Ludwig Bemelmans
Publication Date: 1939
Genre: Fiction
Recommended Grade Range: k-3

Madeline seems to be one of the most unique characters in children's literature. Set in exquisite city of Paris, this story of a brave little girl's adventure to the hospital was an enchanting tale and has had made a big impact on the reader’s of today as it did then. The combination of a spirited heroine, timeless art, humor, and text that hooks the reader’s attention. The watercolor illustrations bring the readers in and create a suspense that makes them want to read more and more. All of these aspects make Madeline an adventurous story for all ages to read and enjoy. The characters and themes are unique and inspire children to be adventurous and brave in the face of trials and things that can make life tough. It shows that characters anywhere in different settings can be relatable to children in their own countries, cities and schools.

Quality of elements discovered in the book, are discovered as the reader is taken on a journey with Madeline as she demonstrates why this book is filled with beautiful illustrations, connections to the reader, and explorations. Creating an engaging plot that takes the reader on an adventure of events and experiences with a wide variety of places that keeps the reader guessing of what will happen next; she is always trying something new. As she is on the move, there is always a message to be found and a moral to be learned in her adventures in Paris. Readers aspire to be like her fearless and care free as she is the heroine against the villains in her characterization throughout the book. There are values and connections to the reader to be made in this timeless story. The illustrations grasp the reader’s attention as they are stuck at cliffhangers waiting to find out what happens next.

Reader Response Activity:
Madeline goes on countless adventures and is always doing something that will test her bravery. I would have my students create a new adventure for them to go on with Madeline. These responses would reflect the outcome of the story and will encourage the students to be adventurous but make smart decisions at the same time.
6. Curious George

**Author:** H.A. Rey  
**Publication Date:** 1991  
**Genre:** Fiction  
**Recommended Grade Range:** k-2nd

In this, the original book about the curious monkey, George is taken from the jungle by the man in the yellow hat to live in a new home, but--oh, what happened! Though trying to be good, George is still very curious and takes a swim in the ocean, escapes from jail, and goes for a flying ride on a bunch of balloons. This treasured classic is where it all began for the curious, loveable monkey and is a must have for any children's book collection.

**Quality of Elements:** Curious George is an *original story* that brings new meaning to children’s imagination. It has and always will be an enjoyable read for students and the *illustrations* really provide better visual comprehension needed to help readers get inside the mind of curious George. Readers can relate and have an enjoyable experience reading these books. The *timelessness* of this book brings back memories of when this was one of my favorite books to read.

**Reader Response Activity:** Curious George can’t help his curiosity and neither can early elementary school children. Even though the character is an animal students love to read about a character that is having fun and learning different things whenever he tries something new. I would have the students make their own curious George
7. **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs**

**Author:** Judi Barrett  
**Illustrator:** Ronald Barrett  
**Publication Date:** 1982  
**Genre:** Fantasy Fiction  
**Recommended Grade Range:** K-3rd

While making breakfast one morning, Grandpa accidentally flipped a pancake through the air and straight onto the character of Henry’s head. The whole family laughed, and later that night Grandpa told an incredibly story set in the faraway town of Chewandswallow. The plot of begins to tell the story of how in Chewandswallow, food falls from the sky and the town people prepare themselves daily for whatever breakfast, lunch, and dinner the skies might bring.

Over time, the food begins to create crazy weather like Tomato Tornadoes and giant pancakes falling on the school, and soon the people of Chewandswallow must leave to find a better life in a new land where food is kept at the store and the clouds are not made of fried eggs. The theme of the book is to learn about the elements of nature and, even though, our weather is completely different than Chewandswallow’s, we need to be prepared for the worst of conditions. **Quality of elements** of *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* is an **original** story that brings out the best of children’s imagination. Without a doubt, it is an enjoyable read for students and the **illustrations** really provide better visual **comprehension** of the chaotic weather that happens in the town of Chewandswallow.

**Reader Response Activity:** This book is really unique and really speaks to children in a way to extend their way of thinking and tap into their imagination. They will get the opportunity to write about their own island that has their own special characteristic about it. Instruments, their favorite sport or even go with a food like the story. They get to make this story their own and use their imaginations.
In this story this little golden puppy takes the reader on an adventure as he races his way through these three stories. The first is all about its time to go to bed and Biscuit isn’t tired. He wants to do everything he can without going to bed. He goes through snacks, bed time stories and playing with his favorite toys before he runs upstairs to snuggle up on his owners’ blanket. The next story is all set to entail about how biscuit finding a friend; his friend is a little lost duck that they return to his family. All biscuit wants to do is play but knows it’s time to return home. The third story entails the thing that dogs hate most, sitting still for a bath. Biscuit wants to play with his friend puddles and gets into all kinds of mischief before going back for their bath. Reluctantly going back to the tub puddles and biscuit play tug of war with his owner and let go

Sending the little girl flying into the tub drenched in the soapy water! These stories are wonderful and leave a lasting impression; its original story gives depth in its beautiful illustrations and really adds to the reader’s visual comprehension. The timelessness of this book brings readers back the first time they read their favorite book and brings simple yet intriguing stories into children’s literature.

**Qualities of elements** found in this book were literature rich fiction that creates a heartwarming story. The comedy of this silly puppy brings the reader in as the illustrations do most of the talking and lets the reader have a creative imagination of what might happen next in biscuits fun tales told back to back. The *timelessness* will really speak to the reader.

**Reader Response Activity:** This story is a fun read and a good activity would be to them write their own adventure that Biscuit goes on. They would have the opportunity to add their own characters and new friends that he will meet on his way. This activity would be written on a cut out of a picture of biscuit with lines to write from his chin to his paws. Also another activity would be for them to write about their own pet or a pet that they wish that they had and create a story that their pet would be in.
9. The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree creates the story of a young character who enjoyed being outside with this special tree. Always in the setting of being around this tree, the plot continues throughout this boys’ life as he grows up and keeps asking things of the tree and to give him more and more of itself until it becomes nothing more than just a stump in the ground. By this time, the child is now an old man who wants nothing more than to just sit and rest, which also makes the tree very happy and still feels as though it has something left to give to this boy. The author tells this inspiring tale and dedicates this charming book to his mother and by the end of the book, readers can realize that the theme is aimed to give light to the ever growing warmth of a mother’s love and generosity is truly unconditional.

Quality of elements in The Giving Tree is an original story with beautiful illustrations that add to the reader’s visual comprehension experience throughout the book. Although it may take teacher assistance for younger students to understand these inspiring concepts of the book, they will no doubt love the story as they grow older. The timelessness of this book shows that we are still learning good morals and values even after 1964. These lessons are being constantly taught.

Reader Response Activity: As a class we would discuss the quality of selflessness that was demonstrated in the book. The importance of these positive qualities and the impact it can have on the people around you and you as a person. I would make up a worksheet with pictures in the book that they can identify and comprehension questions to know if they understood the moral of the story.
A cozy cottage in the deep forest is the natural setting for these characters to be in. The three bears Mama Bear, Papa bear and little baby bear are each different size the baby bear is the smallest of the group, Mama bear at a medium size, and then The really big Papa bear who is the leader of the family. The character that causes all the trouble in the book is a blonde haired bouncy girl named Goldilocks. The story brings us into one sunny morning where the three bears decided to go for a walk in the deep forest to wait for their porridge to cool. With no one home Goldilocks decides to invite herself into the bears home. She was hungry and noticed the three bowls of porridge and decided to try them all. The first was Papa bear’s which was way too hot for her, mama bears was too cold, little baby bears was just right and she ate it all without another thought about it. Then she saw some chairs, the first one was too big, the next was too soft and the last one was just right. But to her surprise the chair couldn’t hold her after awhile and broke into pieces on the cottage floor. She got tired and went to find a place to sleep. She first climbed up to papa bears, mama bears, but found out that little baby bears was just right. The rising climax comes up when the bears return to find that someone had eaten baby bears porridge, broken his chair and was now asleep in his bed. She awoke and ran away when she realized that she had stepped foot into the cottage of three bears! After that they always locked their home when they left it. The parents were upset but little baby bear was calm throughout the incident.

Quality of Elements: This classic fairy tale story of goldilocks and the three bears has been told and retold throughout the years being changed up and altered but remains with the quality of timelessness because it is a top choice for children’s literature in the classroom. There is evidence of various elements of quality in this story The illustrations really speak to the reader as each page is full of pictures to keep the reader interested and really shows the scene by scene. The detail in the story shows the size of the beds, chairs and porridge that Goldilocks is up against. The characterization shows the readers that each and every character is different and that they have distinctive qualities that differ from little bear to papa bear to mama bear and also the detail on Goldilocks. The parents were really upset and concerned but the littlest bear was calm and accepting of the situation. He really shows this throughout the story because Goldilocks comes out of nowhere, sits and breaks his chair, eats his porridge and sleeps in his bed which he never once complained about the outcome. It provides a good moral to the story.
that even though things may not go our way and people may break our things and hurt our feelings we can decided to take the high road and be accepting of it. It gives the impression that it is okay to share with our peers and not overreact about situations that we cannot control. Getting angry with someone else doesn’t resolve the problem but can often create more problems than needed.

**Reader Response Activity:** Students could take this opportunity to write their reaction to the story and to create their own version of what they think the bear’s reaction should’ve been and they can have the opportunity to read their stories aloud to their classmates.

11. **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish:**

   **Author:** Dr. Seuss  
   **Genre:** Children’s literature  
   **Publication Date:** 1988  
   **Recommended Grade Range:** early elementary

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish is a nonsensical exploration of rhymes and colour, ideal for children learning to read independently. The story follows a loose plot of two children and the array of amazing creatures they have as friends and pets. Moving through a series of rhymes the story progresses from fish to imaginary animals the children have named such as the 'wump' owned by Mr Gump with seven humps, and the Gox who loves to box. As well as rhyme, the book uses humor and captivating *illustrations* to motivate the reader. Moreover, the heavy use of rhyme in the story could also be seen as helping to develop children's phonic strategies for word recognition, and the inclusion of nonsensical rhyming words as helping early readers to learn to read words by analogy.

**Quality of elements:** This book is a wonderful story time book! In its *illustrations* it presents colors, counting, rhyming, and letter repetition. The *illustrations* are wonderfully entertaining and colorful. The story itself is full of laughs that keep children on the edge of their seats. Children can find *connections* between what they have previously been taught and what is being reiterated in the book. This book brings value and depth to Dr. Seuss’s contribution to *children’s literature*. This *timeless* classic will be a child’s favorite read because these books always create a mental image of the engaging plots. It will take the reader on an adventure of wide variety. The *setting* of the text will be enjoyable to readers and will be that way for several generations.
The Three Pigs

This house made out of sticks, asked if he could come in and the little pig said no. Meanwhile the little pig that built his house out of straw came through the back and warned the pig with the sticks to escape before the wolf blew down his house. He did just that he huffed and puffed and blew the house down and the pigs were nowhere to be seen. They got into a story about a cow jumping over the moon decided to get out of there and make it back to their own story. Now the third pig built his house out of bricks and before the wolf could stop by all three houses the pigs, they left the story and went to explore. The first story was about a cow jumping over the moon but they decided to get out of there. Then the next story was about a great dragon that was there to guard a rose that was made out of the purest of gold. The king wanted this rose so he had to send his son who was the oldest to slay the dragon and bring back the beautiful rose. The three pigs decided to save the dragon from its certain fate and got him out of the story. After the dragon story they decided that they were done with their adventure of exploring and needed to go home. The rising climax comes when the wolf stopped at the third pigs house and told them to let him in. When they said no! He huffed and puffed but suddenly stopped when he saw the dragon. They had soup inside and were able to live happily ever after. The theme in the story includes being creative, having a vivid imagination, being clever and responsibility. The Three Pigs is demonstrates several elements of quality in children’s literature.

**Quality of elements:** The illustrations throughout the book have the ability to make a lasting impression on its readers and make it an enjoyable read. They give insight of what the wolf looks like, also the pigs and their homes. The pictures bring the story to life as reader reads and takes in vivid images that describe this literature rich story. The books themes have taught the readers to be helpful to others in need, friendly and kind, and being clever and thinking of things before it ever enters another readers mind. The curriculum could really use a book like this to enhance maybe even a science lesson. The timeless proves that authors can take a simple myth like this and make it into a creative version of its original. This book has had many versions made, even though there are these versions the story is able to be a top story for all children in the early elementary school level. This story is a classic and students would love to read this entertaining book.
Reader Response Activity: I would have my students create their own little house. They would have the option of toothpicks, straw, or sugar cubes. Each would be representing their own house apart of the story, sticks, straw and brick. The students get to be creative and test their little homes for the three pigs out with a either a fan, the wind outside or them trying to huff and puff and blow the house down on their own. They would be in groups of three and each person would get a different house to build as to give them the experience of why the first two houses made out of straw and sticks was so easy to blow down versus the house made out of brick or in this case out of sugar cubes. This activity brings the story to life as they get to make their own homes and really get into the story. Students want to be in the story and use their imagination to really connect to what they are reading.

13. Because of Winn-Dixie

**Author:** Katie DiCamillo  
**Publication Date:** 2000  
**Genre:** Fiction  
**Recommended Grade Range:** 3-6

The summer Opal and her father, the preacher, move to Naomi, Florida. Opal goes into the Winn-Dixie supermarket--and comes out with a dog. A big, really ugly, suffering dog with a sterling sense of humor. A dog she dubs Winn-Dixie. Because of Winn-Dixie, the preacher tells Opal ten things about her absent mother, one for each year Opal has been alive. Winn-Dixie is better at making friends than anyone Opal has ever known, and together they meet and leave a lasting impression on the people around them. Opal spends all that sweet summer collecting stories about her new friends and thinking about her mother. But because of Winn-Dixie or perhaps because she has grown, Opal learns to let go, just a little, and that friendship and forgiveness was always there she just needed someone like Winn-Dixie to guide her.

*Quality of elements* displayed in this book is of a story set in Florida where Opal changes and grows into a loving person that Winn-Dixie is able to create by his unconditional love for her. The values taught in this book leave a lasting impression through the exploration of her variety of experiences that she has with her dog. The *timelessness* shows the *characterization* of a good hearted animal leaving his mark on this world. He changes Opal’s life and makes her transition easier in this new place she is unfamiliar
with. There are no *illustrations* throughout the book but the words bring such vivid images in your mind that there isn’t a need to paint the picture in front of you.

**Reader Response Activity:**
This story is rather sad but deserves a good reader response activity. The character of Winn-Dixie really impacted Opal and without her moving to Florida and that big ugly dog barreling through the grocery store their lives would’ve been different. The students can write about a specific person in their life that was there for them in their time of need or someone that has been an impact of changing their life. Finding that person in their life and how they connect to the book.

14. **The Rainbow Fish**

![The Rainbow Fish Book Cover]

*Author:* Marcus Paster  
*Publication Date:* 1995  
*Genre:* fiction  
*Recommended Grade Range:* K-2

The most beautiful fish, the rainbow fish is set in the ocean and is asked to share one of his shining scales with a little blue fish that had always admired him from afar. The rainbow fish refuses and swims away with his scales shimmering in the light. All the other fish in the sea leave him alone, and he is confused why no one will admire his beautiful scales anymore. He sets off to find the wise octopus for advice, she tells him to give away all of his beautiful shiny scales to the fish that have always admired him. Rainbow Fish reluctantly does just that and ends up with only one shiny scale. In the end, he realizes that he isn’t the most beautiful fish in the sea, but he has new friends that can be just like him and is now the happiest fish in the sea.  

**Quality of elements:** The theme is sharing with others and being kind to the people around us. This original story brings to light wonderful morals to real life experiences for these early elementary school students, teaching them to share and to be like the rainbow fish when he realized having friends and one scale is more fun than showing off all his beautiful scales and being only admired for a little while and from afar by his peers. These *illustrations* create beautiful water color pictures for the readers to take in as they read the story of this fish that finds the true meaning to having all those wonderful scales.

**Reader Response Activity:**
I want my students to use arts and crafts to express themselves often. I would use this opportunity to have them create their own rainbow fish on a paper plate. The drawing of the fish would be on it already and one shiny scale like the story. The students get to decorate the picture however they want making beautiful colors and seeing that they can be like the rainbow fish and still be beautiful but share things that make them happy and could make their friends happy as well. Thinking of others and desiring friendship over material things.

Author: eric carle
Genre: primary fiction
Illustrator: Bill Martin
Recommended Grade Range: Pre-K to 1

This book rather simple and incorporates different animals and colors. Each page is a prediction for the next by asking each animal what they see is coming up next. The book has a lasting impression on its reader. Its quality of elements demonstrates timelessness has been in its reader’s memory since they were children. The illustrations show whichever animal is mentioned and the specific color it is. This book is something that teachers and parents can go back to teach their children about different animals and colors that we have in the world.

Reader Response Activity:
This book brings colors and animals to life as it illustrator doesn’t give the traditional colors to the animal that usually has it. For example the blue horse, which is not an ordinary color for that animal but it gives both teachings into both color and animals and teaches students to be creative in picking colors and animals to try different things out and experience new ideas.
I chose these books because it hit different elements of quality literature rich stories. These books have had a positive impact of students in the elementary setting through its timelessness story for many years. These books were specific chosen for the purpose that I believe that they are stories that have ability to make a lasting impression on upcoming generations that will inspire them to continue their own adventure in reading books in their lives throughout school. Stories, fables, fantasies and several different books are meant to entice the imagination of students and bring them into a whole new world that will teach them morals to their story with or without their knowledge of it at first because of that lasting impression through books these lessons are possible. As a future teacher I can take that extra stride to create a quality literature rich collection of books in my classroom to enhance the learning of my students.