



## Teaching the Classics: Curriculum Guide

Here is a list of children's titles specially chosen to support *Teaching the Classics* lessons plans for the five structural elements of fiction: Conflict, Plot, Setting, Characters and Theme.

A note to seminar alumni: once you've finished teaching the books we read together in the live seminar, you may find that your students still need practice recognizing and identifying the five elements of fiction.

Remember, our goal is to provide **as much repetition** as is necessary to make recognition of these elements second nature to the student. The following quality children's books will give you multitudes of opportunities to be sure your student masters the basics of literary analysis and interpretation before he moves on to works at his own reading level.

Each of these books may be used to teach several different elements of fiction, of course, but we have found that they are particularly helpful in the following categories:

### **Conflict & Plot**

*Babushka Baba Yaga* by Patricia Polacco  
*Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister  
*Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Burton  
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter  
*The Story About Ping* by Marjorie Flack and Kurt Wiese  
*A Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban

### **Setting**

*All the Places to Love* by Patricia MacLachlan  
*Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco  
*Saint George and the Dragon* by Trina Schart Hyman  
*Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak  
*Cinnamon, Mint and Mothballs - A Trip to Grandma's House* by Ruth Tiller  
*Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen

### **Characters**

*The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf  
*Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox  
*Brave Irene* by William Steig  
*Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney  
*Olivia* by Ian Falconer  
*The Gardener* by Sarah Stewart

### **Theme**

*Sam, Bangs and Moonshine* by Evaline Ness  
*Clown of God: An Old Story* by Tomie di Paolo  
*All Those Secrets of the World* by Jane Yolen  
*Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss  
*Little Toot* by Hardie Gramatky  
*The Biggest Bear* by Lynd Ward