Suggested Text Sets

Here are several suggestions for thematically grouped books for a wide range of reading levels (including picture books). Bibliographies such as *Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Booklist for Grades K-8* and *Adventuring With Books: A Booklist for PreK-Grade 6*, both published by the National Council of Teachers of English, are useful resources to create such groupings to fit your students and your curriculum.

Contemporary fiction dealing with family relationships:
- *Bone Dance* by Martha Brooks
- *Flower Garden* by Eve Bunting
- *Smoky Night* by Eve Bunting
- *Anne Is Elegant* by Mary Louise Cuneo
- *Out of the Blue* by Sarah Ellis
- *Yolanda’s Genius* by Carol Fenner
- *Breath of the Dragon* by Gail Giles
- *Over the Joshua Slope* by Lyman Hafen
- *Torn Away* by James Heneghan

Historical fiction:
- *Tusk and Stone* by Malcolm Bosse
- *So Far From the Sea* by Eve Bunting
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Nim and the War Effort* by Milly Lee
- *Sister Anne’s Hands* by Marybeth Lorbiecki
- *Run Away Home* by Patricia C. McKissack
- *Across the Lines* by Carolyn Reeder
- *Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule* by Harriette Robinet
- *A Place Called Freedom* by Scott Russell Sanders
- *The Walking Stick* by Annouchka Gravel Galouchko

Some teachers find author studies appealing to their students. You may wish to refer to *The Allure of Authors: Author Studies in the Elementary Classroom* by Carol Brennan Jenkins to help plan such literary experiences. Almost any author can be focused on productively as long as he or she has published enough books to give your students opportunities for extended exploration.

Mem Fox Author Study
- *Koala Lou*
- *Possum Magic*
- *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*
- *Hattie and the Fox*
- *Tough Boris*
- *Sophie*
- *Time for Bed*
- *Night Noises*

Patricia Polacco Author Study
- *The Bee Tree*
- *Thunder Cake*
- *Pink and Say*
- *The Keeping Quilt*
- *Chicken Sunday*
- *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother*