

Contemporary Realistic Fiction Authors

Betsy Byars - Pinballs, Cracker Jackson

Katherine Paterson - Great Gilly Hopkins, Lyddie, Flip Flop Girl, Jacob Have I Loved, Bridge to Terabithia

Cynthia Voigt - Dicey's Song, Homecoming

Walter Dean Myers - Fallen Angels, Scorpions, Slam!

Paula FOX - Monkey Island, One-Eyed Cat

Avi - Nothing but the Truth, The Barn, The Devil's Race

Virginia Hamilton - Cousins, M.C. Higgins the Great

Anthony Browne - Piggybook, Voices in the Park, Zoo

Jane Yolen - Encounter, Sky Dogs, All Those Secrets of the World

Judy Blume - Are you There God? It's me Margaret, Tiger Eyes

Beverly Cleary - Ramona, Henry Huggins, Dear Mr. Henshaw

Lois Lowry - Anastasia Krupnik, Summer to Die

Cynthia Rylant - Fine White Dust, Van Gogh's Cafe, Missing May, When I was Young in the Mountains, The Relatives Came

Patricia MacLachlan - Baby, Sarah Plain and Tall, Journey

Ann Martin - The Babysitter's Club series

Jane Conly - Crazy Lady, Trout Summer

Sharon Creech - Walk Two Moons, Chasing Redbird

Jerry Spinelli - Crash, Maniac McGee

Karen Hesse - Out of the Dust, Phoenix Rising

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor - Shiloh, Keeper, The Fear Place

Robert Newton Peck - Soup, The Day No Pigs Would Die

Paula Danziger - Amber Brown, The Cat Ate My gymsuit

E.L. Konigsburg - Mixed up Files of Mrs Basil E Frankweiler, A View from Saturday

Eve Bunting - The Wall, Fly Away Home, Wednesday's Surprise, Smoky Night, Going Home

Kevin Henkes - Chrysanthemum, Weekend with Wendell, Julius baby of the World, Owen

Ezra Jack Keats - Snowy Day, Peter's Chair, Regards to the Man in the Moon

Leo Lionni - Swimmy, Frederick, Alexander and the Wind-up Mouse

David Shannon - No! David, David Goes to School

Colin Thompson - Tower to the Sun, Looking for Atlantis, The Paradise Garden

Helen Lester - Tacky the Penguin, Listen Buddy, Me First

Phil Mendez - The Black Snowman

Thomas Locker - Where the River Begins, The Young Artist

Rachel Isadora - Ben's Trumpet, Max

Emily Arnold McNully - Mirette on the High Wire, Sequel ?

Barbara Cooney - Miss Rumphius, Roxaboxen

Barbara Ambercrombie - Charlie Anderson

Tomie DePaola - The Art Lesson, Tom

Mem Fox - Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge, The Straight Line Wonder, Feathers and Fools

Richard Albert - Alejandro's Gift

Judith Viorst - Alexander and the terrible..., My Mama Says, I'll Fix Anthony

Ken & Debby Buchanon - It Rained on the Desert Today, This House is Made of Mud

Judy Finchler - Miss Malarkey Doesn't Live in Room 10

Tim Egan - Metropolitan Cow

Valerie Flourney - The Patchwork Quilt

Chris Van Allsburg - Just a Dream, The Wretched Stone, Ben's Dream, Polar Express

Jane Cutler - Darcy and Gran Don't Like Babies

Rosemary Wells - Night Sounds Morning Colors, Lucy Comes to Stay,

Chris Raschka - Yo! Yes?

Tom Birdseye - Airmail to the Moon

Definition: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

For the purposes of this assignment, I have defined contemporary realistic fiction as books that have a realistic theme in a contemporary setting. The characters may be portrayed by animals ect, but the issues involved are ones that students and children have to deal with. Many of these stories center around friendship and school life, two important themes for children. I have chosen books that represent as many different cultures as possible in my collection. Some of the books may be more fictional than realistic, in that the stories could not happen in “real life”, but the message is a contemporary issue and one that I feel is worth discussing in many classrooms.

Contemporary realistic fiction picture books are fictionalized narratives based on socially significant events, especially in the lives of children, stories that are convincingly true to life and help people see their own lives, empathize with others and understand complex human actions and concepts.

Criteria for Selecting Books

The stories must be contemporary, having a relationship with the types of social and personal issues that children are dealing with today. Characters must be well-developed and present a balanced representation of minority groups. Themes must be enduring and reflect the values and beliefs of the cultures portrayed. Historical accuracy of events and settings. Should not preach to the reader, but allow multiple views to develop during the reading. Must have interesting plot twists, unexpected turns, not always too predictable. Illustrations should enhance story and be high quality. Language should not be offensive to groups of people. Gender roles portrayed accurately and well balanced representations. The theme of the story should be worthwhile and relevant to the lives of my students.