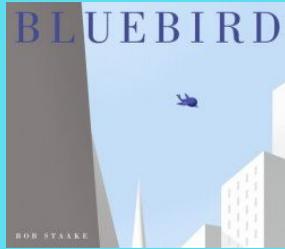


Secondary English Language Arts Cycle One

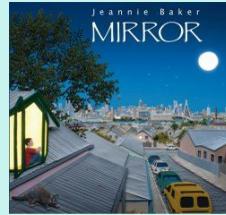
Illustrated Texts for Response to Literature



Bluebird Bob Staake

In this monochromatic wordless story, a bluebird befriends a sad and lonely boy and hangs out with him against the backdrop of New York City.

Mirror Jeannie Baker



This wordless picture book traces the parallel lives of two culturally different families, one from Australia and one from Morocco.



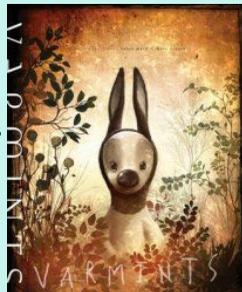
Black and White David Macaulay

Readers are asked to follow four storylines presented in non-linear fashion in this wordless picture book about a group of cows, robbers, train commuters, and a young girl.

Learning Goal: Readers draw on the structures, features, codes, and conventions of texts, and they make connections between their own experiences and the world of the text in order to make meaning.

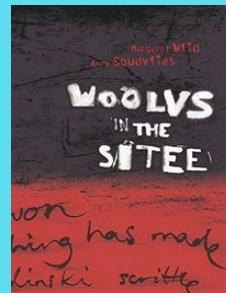
Varmints Helen Ward

In a world filled with tall buildings and noise, one “varmint” cares for a small potted plant in his apartment, a gesture that ultimately returns the threatened world to its beginnings.



Woolvs in the Sitee Margaret Wild

In a mostly abandoned city, Ben lives in a musty basement room, terrified of the “woolvs” that dwell in the shadows outside.



The Girl in Red Aaron Frisch

A contemporary version of Little Red Riding Hood offers detailed illustrations and language that creates a connection between the text and the original fairy tale.



Sample Questions to Guide Discussion:

What do you notice? What could it mean? Why does it matter?

How do the illustrations support the meaning of the story? What is the relationship between print and image?

What were you reminded of as you read the story? What connections can be made to other texts (spoken, written, or media) that you have read?

Sample Activities to Complement Discussion:

Explore features such as front and back covers, endpapers, title page, dedications, prologue and author's notes. How do these elements contribute to the meaning of the text?

With a partner choose a page in one of the stories and consider the way print and image work together to convey meaning. How does this page impact the rest of story? Present your findings to the other students.

Suggested Keywords: response, postmodern texts, wordless texts, relationships, communities, urban life, environment.

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