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CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS: CROSS-POLLINATION

Most of these ideas were invented by librarians and teachers who so creatively extend the uses of my books in preparation for a school visit. Thanks!

See You Later, Alligator - a picture book for early primary

ART AND RHYME – The text of this picture book includes about a dozen rhyming ways that reptiles and amphibians say good-bye. My favorite bulletin board based on this book featured drawings of many kinds of birds with couplets like: "Stay loose, little goose." Such language play could add to the study of any ecosystem: jungle animals, fish, birds, etc.

One Lucky Summer – a novel for grades 3 to 5.

NATURE JOURNALS – Andrea Hynes, librarian at Graham Elementary, used the Nature Journal illustrations of this book as a starting place. She wrote: "We were inspired by your work and made Nature Journal pages in our library class. Since the fifth graders were getting ready to go to Camp Cispus, we focused on animals of the Pacific Northwest. We used field guides, encyclopedias, reference books and the Internet to do our research... Can you believe after all their research, most of them only spotted centipedes and one snake?"

WRITING – Continue the story. What happens to Steven and Lucinda when school starts? Are they able to remain friends?

Zelda and Ivy, Zelda and Ivy and the Boy Next Door, Zelda and Ivy One Christmas

– a series of picture books, each has three short chapters

FAIRY DUST – in the first book, Ivy makes fairy dust by grating a crayon on a screen door. Second graders in Iowa City invented their own fairy dusts -- which looked suspiciously like laundry soap, glitter, sand, crushed cornflakes, etc -- then drew pictures of what they would dream of, attaching the various "dusts" in baggies at the bottom of the drawings.

GRAPHING – A math class graphed their predictions of how many dreams would come true vs. what actually happened.

TWIRLING – A baton figures largely in *Zelda and Ivy*, which has inspired several home-made batons and routines. Perhaps a renaissance of baton twirling is at hand?

READER'S THEATRE – Many schools have staged chapters of the *Zelda and Ivy* books as short plays, including librarian Rae McDonald at Crestwood where an impromptu live performance of *Zelda and Ivy One Christmas* was part of a reading week pajama party.

ART – the medium I used to illustrate these books is gouache resist, a fun but messy process. The instructions are on my website. Also, I have seen many bulletin boards decked out in "doozied up" fox tails, as in chapter two of the first book, and custom bandaid designs, such as Eugene might include in his collection in the second book.

WRITING – Older students have written further adventures of *Zelda and Ivy*, demonstrating their understanding of the characters. Other students have begun with the idea of a "sisters" story, and written about their own sibling experiences.

LIFE SKILLS – Students have written short statements about the ups and downs of being the oldest or youngest in a family, statements that led to some good discussions.

Frank and Izzy Set Sail - a picture book

WRITING – This book inspires writing projects with the theme of friendship. Students may wish to work with a friend on the project, or write a story and read it to a friend.

LIFE SKILLS – What would you pack for an overnight sailing trip to an island?