

Help My Nooks to Read Hook Cook Books

My students need easy to read and interesting books. However, it is hard to find books that are interesting and easy to read while still giving examples of literary devices. This is why the collection of Dr. Seuss's books would be an excellent choice for my students.

I am a second grade teacher at West Elementary in Warren County, Tennessee. West Elementary contains four hundred and eighty-five students with 92.2% of them being economically disadvantaged. As a result, many students parents cannot afford to buy books for their children to read. Our school has a great library, but we do not have as many books as we need for our students, especially for them to take home. Out of the books our school does have it is hard to split between the three first grade teachers the level appropriate and educational books for our students. They have often already been checked out or are not able to be checked out. However, if a student does get the chance to take a book home their parents are often too busy or tired to sit down with them and help them read through their book alongside with their homework. So even if they do get to take them home they do not always get the extra help they need.

Out of the four hundred and eighty-five students one hundred and thirty-six are Hispanic or Latino and eighty-one are English learners. I have several Hispanic students in my classroom who are also English learners. Their parents do not speak English nor do they have the money to get receive extra tutoring or lessons for their children to learn English outside of school. Therefore, their reading levels are lower than expected for average second graders. They are not able to comprehend some of the more complex vocabulary we use let alone the literary devices we cover.

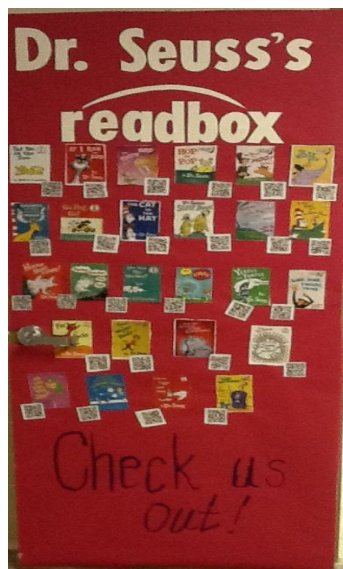
As you have read my students struggle in reading and language arts. Unfortunately, I am not able to spend as much time as they need to improve. Having to split my time in various periods we only get thirty to forty-five minutes out of the day to read and cover literature. The TVAAS composite scores for West Elementary for literacy are at a mere one. This means they are below the expected growth. I believe the TVAAS scores are so low because we are not able to give them as much time or practice they deserve. As a result they are continuing to struggle when they reach third grade and have to enter state testing. Only 26.2 percent of West Elementary School students get proficient or advanced on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program.

I would be able to use the various books from Dr. Seuss's collection to not only teach basic English words to my Hispanic students but also literary devices to those struggling in literature. They would be able to see and read alliteration in Dr. Seuss's *ABC*, personification in *The Cat in the Hat*, onomatopoeia in *Mr. Brown Can Moo Can You?*, repetitive rhyme in *Green Eggs and Ham*, and symbolism in *Horton Hears a Who!* Are just a few examples of simple vocabulary involving literary devices Dr. Seuss utilizes. We would get to read the books as a class and tell examples of literary devices the books use. Since the books are so short we would have the time to have group discussions and small group activities concerning the complexity of the books.

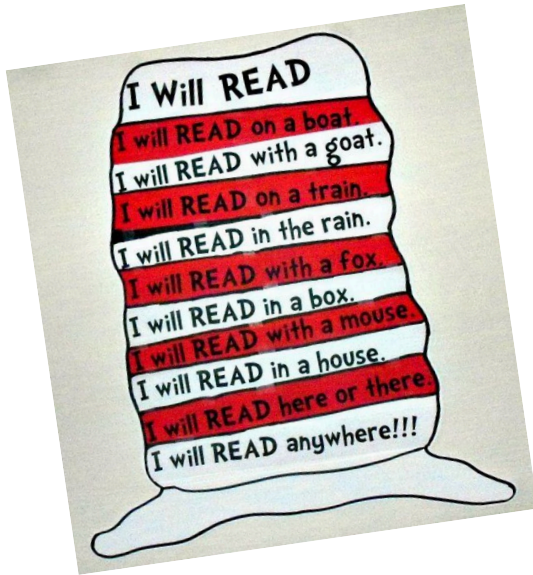
If I were able to have my own collection of Dr. Seuss's books in my classroom, my students would then be able to check them out as if they were library books. We would also be able to read them as a class and have class discussions over them. My students need improvement!! They deserve improvement!! These books can help me as a teacher get my students interested into reading while learning literary devices for their upcoming years in language arts.



Thank you so much AKJ Books for donating the *Dr. Seuss's Second Beginner Book Collection* and the *Who's Who in the Dr. Seuss Crew* box set to my classroom!! My students have thoroughly enjoyed the new books and have actually been looking forward to our reading time! From your donation my students reading levels and vocabulary skills have already increased. Moreover, their literacy comprehension is increasing as well their excitement to see more examples of literary devices through Dr. Seuss's books. They have never been so eager to learn from reading their books!



I have also incorporated a fun way for the students to check out some of the Dr. Seuss books donated. Now they are able to take them home overnight instead of just getting time during school. Many of the hispanic families have loved their children bringing home their books from school and have spent more time reading with them because of it. Previously m students did not have many books, if any, at home they could read due to money or language barriers. However, since your donation I have had many compliments from other students family members saying how much of joy it is to see their students getting to bring books home they are interested in.



Since the Dr. Suess books are short we have more time to do some fun interactivities. They have a much better understanding of rhyming because of your donations. They actually made Hats like the Cat had in *Cat in the Hat* by putting together rhyming words. My students even got to eat green eggs and ham! Now my Nooks are on their way to reading Hook Cook Books thanks to your donation!!



With Gratitude,

Awesome Future Teacher!