



Integrated, Cross-Curriculum Student and Teacher Guides  
for the 2003 Newbery Medalist, *Crispin*  
and the 2004-2005 Texas Bluebonnet Books

by Suzy Red

Enriching, Skill-Building, Cross-Curriculum, Character-Building Activities

Keyed into Objectives at the top of each page and Gardner's Multiple Intelligences at the bottom of each page:



Interpersonal



Intrapersonal



Spatial



Bodily-  
Kinesthetic



Musical



Linguistic



Naturalist



Logical-  
Mathematical

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**Mountains and Valleys**

Bluebonnet Celebrations, Volume 10

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- Crispin, The Cross of Lead** by Avi (The Newbery Medal/Fiction)..... 12-41  
 Asta's son, a poor peasant in 14th Century England, is only 13 when his mother dies and his whole world crumbles. His mourning is soon replaced by inexplicable terror when, it seems, the whole world is suddenly determined to kill him! But, why? Where can he go? His escape from the only home he has ever known leads him into an adventure YOU won't want to miss!
- Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart** by Vera B. Williams (Poverty, Blank Verse Poetry).....42-50  
 Life changed for Amber and Essie when their daddy went to jail. There was not much food, and they were often alone. But they were happy. They could make a "Best Sandwich". Together. Plus, there was a teddy bear and a friend upstairs. Would their daddy come home? Would he find a job. Would there be enough food? Can this special friendship between sisters keep hope alive?
- Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio** by Tony Johnston (Fiction, Mexican Americans, Barrio)... ..51-66  
 Living in a Los Angeles barrio may not sound like much fun to you. It probably makes you think of poor people, gangs, and freeway chases, but that's because you haven't yet met Arturo Rodriquez. Arturo is quick to spot any small goodness...and there are many. His family, a coach, a librarian, the cat, the band, and hot peppers. Will they be enough to keep his spirits high when gangs do threaten their family?
- Arctic Lights, Arctic Nights** by Debbie S. Miller (Arctic Climate, Calendar ).....67-73  
 Month by month, the Arctic changes. From the northern lights to extreme temperature changes to 21 hours of light and dark, the Arctic offers uniqueness! Beautiful descriptions and illustrations accompany each month's documentation of hours of daylight, sunrise, sunset, average highs, and average lows. Here you will meet the beauty of nature and of the living creatures who are specially adapted to live in this extreme environment.
- Danitra Brown Leaves Town** by Nikki Grimes (Poetry, Friendship).....74-76  
 It's vacation time, and Danitra Brown is going to the country to spend the summer with her aunt. What will Zuri do there in the city without Danitra? Letters between the girls describe the different kinds of fun. Written as a collection of poems, the story of friendship from a distance is sweet.
- Dirty Laundry Pile: Poems in Different Voices** Compiled by Paul B. Janeczko (Poetry, Voice)..... 77-83  
 If your washing machine could talk, what would it say? If you were a snowflake, what would you pray? What words from a vacuum cleaner would make you run? Does a crayon talk about having some fun? Hearing their voices in poems isn't frightening. You'll love this book! It's really enlightening!
- Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia** by Barbara O'Connor (Fiction, Rejection, Friendship).....84-97  
 Bird is a kid with no friends at school, but she does have her dreams of fame and glory...and she has a Miss Delphine. Harlem, that new, tall, skinny boy with long dirty hair is unpopular, too. Everyone in school makes Bird's and Harlem's lives miserable with their taunts and put-downs. That's why Bird gets the idea of making Harlem her friend. She even has a plan, but will she be able to crack through Harlem's tough shell? Will she find fame and glory...or something better?
- George Washington's Teeth** by Deborah Chandra and Madeleine Comora (History in Rhyme).....98-102  
 Did you know that of all the wars and problems George Washington lived through, it was his teeth that gave him the biggest problems? When a tooth began to hurt, the dentists had no way to help except to pull it. One by one. Toothless. This book will make you thankful for today's dentists!
- The Gorillas of Gill Park** by Amy Gordon (Fiction, Adventure, Music).....103-121  
 Willy's life is orderly and planned, carefully directed by his parents...until he goes to spend the summer with his eccentric Aunt Bridget. Will this shy kid find the courage necessary to meet the demands he finds thrust upon him in Gill Park? What part do dancing fountains, music, and gorilla costumes play in Willy's attempt to solve a mystery, help a friend, and save the park at the same time?
- Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez** by Kathleen Krull (Biography, Mexican Farmworkers)..122-126  
 What if you lost your beautiful home and had to move to a strange new place? What if your new house was filthy and had no doors? What if your boss wouldn't give you any food or clean water to drink? What would you do? Would you be courageous enough to do something about it? Would you have enough character to find nonviolent ways to make changes? Cesar Chavez did. This is the story of his life. The story of a man who many call a HERO.



**Lewis and Clark and Me: A Dog's Tale** by Laurie Myers (Historical Fiction Told by Lewis's Dog)..... 127-133

The Lewis and Clark Expedition had one special member of the team: a huge Newfoundland dog that Meriwether Lewis named "Seaman". How do you think the dog felt about exploring 7000 miles of wilderness with 33 men in the early 1800s? Fortunately, this story just happens to be written by Seaman himself. Settle down under the covers with this dog story, and you'll learn a lot of history in the process!

**Locomotion** by Jacqueline Woodson (Poetry, Foster Home)..... 134-139

When his mother and father die in a fire, 7 year old Lonnie Collins Motion (Locomotion) and his little sister, Lili, are sent to different homes to live. Lonely and sad, Lonnie yearns to be reunited with his sister. By reading his poems, you understand about his life, his growing faith in God, his friends, his teacher, Miss Edna, and his family. Perhaps, his poems will help you discover a new way to tell about your own life.

**Lord of the Deep** by Graham Salisbury (Fiction, Deep Sea Fishing, Growing Up)..... 140-145

Thirteen-year-old Mikey is the youngest deckhand to work on a charter fishing boat in this Hawaiian harbor. Mikey and his stepfather, Bill, set out on a fishing expedition they will never forget. Fishing is great, but there is a lot to learn about people, even the ones you think you know.

**My Chimp Friday: The Nana Banana Chronicles** by Hester Mundis (Science Fiction, Genetic Engineering)..... 146-162

A mysterious scientist delivers a **top secret** baby chimp to Rachel's family. When the scientist doesn't show up to reclaim his ape after a week, the Stelson family has a new problem: what to do with a top secret baby chimp! Animal antics, genetic engineering, inventions, endangered species, and murder produce an incredibly exciting mix in this humorous story about family, friendship, science projects, and making tough decisions.

**Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science** by John Fleischman (Biography, Brain Science)..... 163-173

If an explosion sent a steel rod through your head, would you be able to get up? Would you be able to walk and talk? Could you tell your doctor what happened to you? Amazingly, Phineas Gage did! But, could he make a complete recovery with a big hunk of his brain missing? Through the unfolding, fascinating story of Phineas Gage's life, you will see the growth of doctors' understanding of the brain and how it works.

**The Pot that Juan Built** by Nancy Andrews-Goebel (Pottery, Combined-Text)..... 174-179

How can a piece of broken pottery found in the hills near his home change the life of a twelve-year old boy? Why does the world celebrate the work of Juan Quezada? This four-story book will help you answer those questions as you get to know this celebrated Mexican potter.

**Runaway Radish** by Jessie Haas (Easy Chapter Book, Fiction, Horses)..... 180-188

Bouncy, red Radish is just a young pony when he gets his first owner, Judy. He teaches her many lessons and scares her just a little. They become best friends. Then, one spring Judy discovers she had grown too big for Radish. What will Radish do if Judy gets a new horse? You will love this easy-reading "biography" of a smart, brave little pony with a mind of his own.

**A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson** by Michelle Y. Green (History, Baseball, Integration) ..... 189-197

Mamie Johnson thought perhaps that she had been born with a baseball in her hand because she had always loved the game. Growing up pitching a rock to the batter holding a branch, her dream was to play professional baseball. But, she was colored, and a girl. Could she use a baseball to break through the segregation wall and destroy the Jim Crow Laws? If anyone could, "Peanut" could!

**Tippy Lemmey** by Patricia C. McKissack (Civil Rights/Bus Boycott/Fiction) ..... 198-204

The monster has jumped the fence! He is chasing Leandra and her friends as they ride past his house! Who is this monster with the heart of an alligator? It's Tippy Lemmey, the new neighborhood dog! Little do they know this dog will lead them into frightening life-and-death struggle that requires great courage and quick-thinking.

**TOGO** by Robert J. Blake (Historical Fiction, Dog Sled Rescue)..... 205-210

An unlikely sled dog, TOGO proves to have the heart of a hero as he leads a sled team through a dangerous blizzard. Will he and his team be able to get the medicine to Nome in time to save a city from diphtheria?

**Where I'd Like To Be** by Frances O'Roark Dowell (Fiction, Foster Children)..... 211-223

When Maddie comes to the East Tennessee Children's Home, she and little Ricky Ray begin work on two scrapbooks that holds their dreams: The Book of Houses and the Book of People. Maddie hopes the new girl, Murphy, will be a person who feels like home and will appreciate their scrapbooks. Along with two other kids and an obnoxious misfit from school, Maddie and Murphy set out to build a home of their own....a fort...where their stories and dreams can be shared

