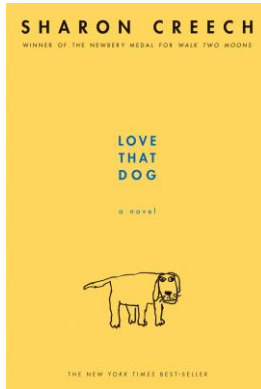


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Textbook Assignment #6

Sharon Creech, *Love That Dog*



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on April 12, 2015.

Creech, S. (2001). *Love that dog*. New York: HarperCollins.

Love That Dog screams out for a reluctant reader to pick it up! The length of the book isn't imposing, the title is simple and appealing to those who like pets, and once they open up the book, they will see that the journal style entries, even though they are written in free verse, are inviting and accessible. The first two journal entries will hook many students who feel the same way about reading and writing poetry as our narrator Jack. As readers get farther into the book, poems they may have encountered will give them pause, and the later inclusion of a favorite young adult author, Walter Dean Myers, into the storyline should sell it completely.

An interesting way to "sell" this book to students could be to surround it with poems featured in the book as well as books by Walter Dean Myers. Other well-known books by Sharon Creech, such as *Walk Two Moons*, could also be set up around it to use as attention grabbers.

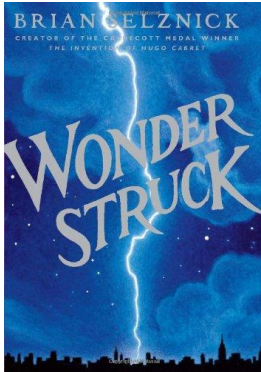
Three other works by this author:

Hate That Cat is definitely similar to *Love That Dog*. Jack and his writing journal have returned to Miss Stretchberry's classroom, and Jack still doesn't love poetry, even though he seems rather comfortable writing it. Readers who enjoyed the book in verse style of the first will definitely enjoy this.

Walk Two Moons appears to be very different in style and subject matter. The main character in this book is a thirteen-year-old girl, and there are two tales told, one within the other.

The Wanderer is also very different in style and subject matter. In this story the main character is a thirteen-year-old girl who goes on a sailing voyage from Connecticut to England on a 45-foot sailboat.

Brian Selznick, *Wonderstruck*



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on April 12, 2015.

Selznick, B. (2011). *Wonderstruck: A novel in words and pictures*. New York: Scholastic.

Many young readers would be reluctant to pick up this book due to its size (608 pages), but once they crack open the cover, they will be hard-pressed to put it down again. Selznick has created a work of breathtaking beauty with *Wonderstruck*. The book tells two separate stories, one in words and one in pictures. While Ben's written story is compelling, readers will be fascinated by how completely Rose's story is told without using any traditional text whatsoever. The two stories flow back and forth, with increasing similarity, until that moment when they dovetail perfectly together. To top it all off, Selznick offers readers a glimpse into Deaf culture that many of us know little about. He helps us to understand this world as we share Ben's confusion when he realizes his world has gone quiet and also the moment we understand the look of horror on Rose's face when she realizes her movie theater is installing a sound system.

One way to encourage students to read this book would be to set up a display of books which feature persons with disabilities. This would also have the side benefit of students with disabilities seeing themselves represented prominently in our library.

Another method would be to show a book trailer. There are several available, but my favorite is Brian Selznick's own book talk trailer available at this URL: <https://vimeo.com/25236357>

Three other works by this author:

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, similarly to *Wonderstruck*, is told in a combination of words and pictures, with Selznick's unique style of illustration sharing a significant portion of the tale.

The Houdini Box is a much shorter work, only 64 pages, and here the illustrations are designed to complement the text instead of telling their own story. Not unlike *Wonderstruck*, a young boy with big dreams features prominently in the tale.

The Boy of a Thousand Faces is another picture book of shorter length, 48 pages. It too features a young boy who doesn't quite fit in but knows there is something bigger awaiting him. Unlike the other books, Selznick's illustrations provide the background to the written word here.