

# central message anchor chart

**central message anchor chart** is an essential tool used by educators to help students identify and understand the core idea or main lesson of a text. In classrooms, anchor charts visually organize information, making abstract concepts more tangible and accessible for all learners. This article explores the definition and purpose of central message anchor charts, their benefits in literacy instruction, effective strategies for creating and using them, and practical tips for implementation. Whether you are a teacher seeking to enhance reading comprehension, a curriculum developer, or a parent supporting your child's literacy, this comprehensive guide provides actionable insights and expert advice. Read on to discover how central message anchor charts can transform your approach to teaching and learning, fostering deeper understanding and engagement.

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## What Is a Central Message Anchor Chart?

A central message anchor chart is a visual representation used to help students pinpoint the underlying message, lesson, or moral within a story or text. Often displayed on large paper or a digital board, it outlines key parts of a text that contribute to understanding its central message. Teachers use these charts to break down complex reading comprehension tasks, making it easier for students to grasp foundational literary concepts such as theme, author's purpose, and main idea. By focusing on the central message, the anchor chart encourages learners to think critically, justify their interpretations with evidence, and articulate their understanding clearly.

# Why Central Message Anchor Charts Matter in Literacy Instruction

Central message anchor charts play a pivotal role in literacy instruction by supporting students as they develop essential reading skills. These charts provide a scaffold that guides learners toward deeper comprehension, fostering the ability to identify significant themes and lessons in various genres. The visual and interactive nature of anchor charts makes abstract concepts more concrete, helping students internalize strategies for analyzing texts. Used consistently, central message anchor charts can improve overall reading proficiency, boost confidence in interpreting literature, and support standards-based instruction in elementary and middle school classrooms.

## Benefits of Using Anchor Charts

- Enhances reading comprehension and retention of key ideas
- Encourages student participation and collaborative learning
- Supports differentiation by catering to diverse learners
- Serves as a reference tool for independent and group work
- Helps build vocabulary and academic language

## Key Components of Effective Central Message Anchor Charts

Creating an effective central message anchor chart involves careful planning and purposeful design. The most impactful charts clearly outline the steps for identifying the central message, display relevant textual evidence, and use visuals or graphic organizers to aid comprehension. Teachers may include guiding questions, sentence frames, and examples to ensure students understand how to connect details from the text to its overall message. Consistency in structure helps students know what to expect and how to use the chart as a learning tool.

## Essential Elements to Include

- Title: Clearly labeled as “Central Message Anchor Chart”
- Definition: Brief explanation of the central message

- Steps: Sequential process for determining the message
- Evidence: Prompts for citing text details that support the message
- Visuals: Icons, diagrams, or color coding for clarity
- Examples: Sample central messages from familiar texts

## **How to Create a Central Message Anchor Chart Step by Step**

Creating a central message anchor chart requires thoughtful preparation and student involvement. Begin by selecting a grade-appropriate text that offers a clear lesson or theme. Read the text together, discussing key events and character actions. Guide students to identify the problem, solution, and how characters change, as these often reveal the central message. As you construct the chart, use simple language, engaging visuals, and interactive elements. Involve students in adding ideas, drawing connections, and summarizing the message in their own words.

### **Step-by-Step Process**

1. Choose a story or text with a discernible central message.
2. Read the text aloud or together as a group.
3. Discuss the problem, solution, and character changes.
4. Ask guiding questions (e.g., “What lesson did the character learn?”).
5. Record student responses and textual evidence on the chart.
6. Summarize the central message in a concise statement.
7. Decorate the chart with visuals or icons for engagement.

## **Strategies for Using Anchor Charts in the Classroom**

Central message anchor charts are versatile instructional tools that can be used in whole group, small group, or independent reading activities. Teachers may display the chart during read-alouds, use it for guided practice, or

reference it during literature discussions. Incorporating student contributions ensures the chart reflects classroom learning and encourages ownership. Anchor charts can also be updated throughout the year as students encounter new texts and deepen their skills.

## **Classroom Implementation Ideas**

- Interactive read-alouds with anchor chart documentation
- Literature circles referencing the chart for analysis
- Writing activities where students explain the central message
- Anchor chart station for independent review and practice
- Digital anchor charts for remote or blended learning

## **Tips for Engaging Students With Anchor Charts**

Student engagement is key to making central message anchor charts effective. Involve students in the creation process, allow them to add illustrations, and use real-life examples from popular stories or classroom experiences. Encourage students to reference the anchor chart when discussing books, completing assignments, or working collaboratively. Regularly revisit and revise the chart to reflect new learning and insights. Use color, graphics, and interactive elements to maintain interest and reinforce understanding.

## **Best Practices for Student Engagement**

- Solicit student input and ideas during chart construction
- Use familiar stories and connect messages to real-life situations
- Encourage students to paraphrase the central message in their own words
- Incorporate drawing, coloring, or digital design elements
- Provide opportunities for peer teaching using the anchor chart

# Examples and Ideas for Central Message Anchor Charts

Effective central message anchor charts vary by grade level, text complexity, and instructional goals. For early grades, charts might focus on simple morals like sharing or honesty, while older students can analyze themes such as perseverance or empathy. Teachers often use well-known stories, fables, or class favorites to model the process. Visuals such as story maps, flow charts, and “Somebody-Wanted-But-So-Then” organizers are popular choices for displaying information. Adapting anchor charts for diverse learners, including English language learners and students with special needs, ensures accessibility and equity in the classroom.

## Sample Central Messages for Anchor Charts

- The importance of friendship (e.g., *Charlotte’s Web*)
- Never give up, even when things are difficult (e.g., *The Little Engine That Could*)
- Helping others brings happiness (e.g., *The Rainbow Fish*)
- Be honest and truthful (e.g., *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*)
- Teamwork leads to success (e.g., *Stone Soup*)

## Q: What is the purpose of a central message anchor chart?

A: The purpose of a central message anchor chart is to help students visually organize and clarify the main lesson or underlying theme of a text, making it easier to understand and discuss.

## Q: How do you introduce central message anchor charts to students?

A: Teachers introduce central message anchor charts by reading a story together, discussing its key elements, and collaboratively building the chart using guiding questions and student responses.

## **Q: What texts work best for central message anchor charts?**

A: Stories with clear morals, fables, folktales, and picture books are ideal for creating central message anchor charts, especially for younger students or those new to identifying themes.

## **Q: How can anchor charts support English language learners?**

A: Anchor charts benefit English language learners by providing visual cues, structured language support, and repeated exposure to academic vocabulary related to central messages.

## **Q: Can digital anchor charts be effective in remote learning?**

A: Yes, digital anchor charts are effective for remote learning because they can be easily shared, edited collaboratively, and accessed by students at any time for reference.

## **Q: What are some common mistakes to avoid when making anchor charts?**

A: Common mistakes include overcrowding the chart with information, using unclear language, and failing to engage students in the creation process.

## **Q: How often should anchor charts be updated?**

A: Anchor charts should be updated regularly to reflect new texts, student insights, and evolving classroom learning, ensuring they remain relevant and useful.

## **Q: What visual elements make anchor charts more engaging?**

A: Color coding, icons, story maps, and graphic organizers make anchor charts visually engaging and easier for students to understand.

## **Q: How do anchor charts help with writing assignments?**

A: Anchor charts provide a reference for students when explaining the central

message in their writing, supporting evidence-based responses and clear organization.

## **Q: Can students create their own central message anchor charts?**

A: Yes, having students create their own anchor charts fosters ownership, reinforces understanding, and allows them to demonstrate their comprehension in creative ways.

## **Central Message Anchor Chart**

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## **Central Message Anchor Chart: Unlock the Power of Clear Communication**

Finding the core message in any text, whether it's a short story, a news article, or a complex research paper, is crucial for comprehension and analysis. But how do you effectively teach students, or even refine your own understanding, of this vital skill? This blog post dives deep into the concept of a central message anchor chart, exploring its benefits, various design approaches, and practical applications. We'll equip you with the tools and knowledge to create your own powerful central message anchor chart, enhancing reading comprehension and critical thinking skills.

## **What is a Central Message Anchor Chart?**

A central message anchor chart is a visual aid designed to help students (and adults!) identify and articulate the main idea or central message of a text. Unlike simple summaries, which might recount details, a central message anchor chart focuses on the core argument or key takeaway the author wants to convey. It acts as a roadmap, guiding readers toward a deeper understanding of the text's purpose and meaning.

# Why Use a Central Message Anchor Chart?

The benefits of using a central message anchor chart are numerous:

**Enhanced Comprehension:** Visually representing the central message reinforces understanding and makes it easier to recall.

**Improved Critical Thinking:** Students learn to differentiate between main ideas and supporting details, fostering critical analysis skills.

**Effective Communication:** The chart provides a framework for articulating the central message concisely and clearly, both orally and in writing.

**Collaborative Learning:** Anchor charts can be created collaboratively, encouraging discussion and shared understanding.

**Differentiated Instruction:** The visual nature of the chart caters to diverse learning styles.

## Designing Your Central Message Anchor Chart: Key Components

A successful central message anchor chart incorporates several key elements:

### #### 1. The Title: "What's the Big Idea?"

Clearly label your chart to indicate its purpose. A simple title like "Central Message Anchor Chart" or "What's the Big Idea?" works well.

### #### 2. Defining the Central Message:

Include a concise definition of "central message." For example: "The central message is the most important idea the author wants you to understand. It's the main point the author is trying to make."

### #### 3. Visual Representation:

Use visuals to reinforce the central message. This could be:

**A central image:** A picture related to the main idea.

**Keywords:** Key words or phrases that encapsulate the central message.

**Mind map:** Branching out from the central message to supporting details.

**Graphic organizer:** A visual framework for organizing thoughts related to the central message.

### #### 4. Example Texts:

Include examples of texts with clearly identified central messages. This helps students recognize patterns and apply the concept to different reading materials.

### #### 5. Step-by-Step Process:

Outline a step-by-step process for identifying the central message:

Read actively: Take notes and highlight key information.

Identify the main topic: What is the text mainly about?

Look for repeated ideas: What points are emphasized throughout the text?

Summarize in your own words: What is the author's overall message?

## **Applying the Central Message Anchor Chart in the Classroom**

The versatility of the central message anchor chart makes it adaptable across various subjects and grade levels. Here are some application ideas:

Reading comprehension lessons: Use the chart to guide students through identifying the central message in different types of texts.

Writing assignments: Use it to help students craft compelling thesis statements and maintain focus on their central argument.

Critical analysis: Encourage students to use the chart to analyze the central message and evaluate the author's effectiveness in conveying it.

Cross-curricular activities: Integrate the chart into history, science, or social studies lessons to analyze primary source documents or research findings.

## **Conclusion**

Creating a central message anchor chart is a powerful strategy to boost reading comprehension and enhance critical thinking. By following the design principles outlined above and adapting them to your specific needs, you can create a valuable tool to help students (and yourself!) unlock the power of clear communication and deep understanding. Remember, the key is to make it visual, engaging, and easily accessible for learners of all levels.

## **FAQs**

1. Can I use digital tools to create a central message anchor chart? Absolutely! Tools like Canva, Google Slides, or even a simple whiteboard app can be utilized to create visually appealing and interactive charts.
2. How can I adapt a central message anchor chart for younger students? Simplify the language, use more visuals, and focus on shorter texts. You could also incorporate interactive elements like stickers or manipulatives.
3. What if my students struggle to identify the central message? Provide explicit instruction, model the process, and offer guided practice. Start with simpler texts and gradually increase complexity.

4. Can a central message anchor chart be used for non-fiction texts as well? Yes, the principles apply equally well to non-fiction. Focus on identifying the main claim or argument the author is making.
5. How can I assess student understanding of the central message using the anchor chart? Observe their participation in creating the chart, evaluate their ability to identify the central message in sample texts, and assess their ability to articulate the central message in their own words.

**central message anchor chart: Strictly No Elephants** Lisa Mantchev, 2015-10-27 A sunny, smart, tongue-in-cheek tale. --The New York Times Book Review Sweet and affirming. --Kirkus Reviews When the local Pet Club won't admit a boy's tiny pet elephant, he finds a solution--one that involves all kinds of unusual animals in this sweet and adorable picture book. Today is Pet Club day. There will be cats and dogs and fish, but strictly no elephants are allowed. The Pet Club doesn't understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends. Now it is time for a boy and his tiny pet elephant to show them what it means to be a true friend. Imaginative and lyrical, this sweet story captures the magic of friendship and the joy of having a pet.

**central message anchor chart: Each Kindness** Jacqueline Woodson, 2012-10-23 WINNER OF A CORETTA SCOTT KING HONOR AND THE JANE ADDAMS PEACE AWARD! Each kindness makes the world a little better This unforgettable book is written and illustrated by the award-winning team that created The Other Side and the Caldecott Honor winner Coming On Home Soon. With its powerful anti-bullying message and striking art, it will resonate with readers long after they've put it down. Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.

**central message anchor chart: The Great Fuzz Frenzy** Susan Stevens Crummel, 2005-09-01 Deep, deep down in their underground town, the prairie dogs live in harmony--until a mysterious, fluorescent, very fuzzy thing (otherwise known as a tennis ball) rolls down their hole. When the prairie dogs discover that they can pluck and pull the fuzz into fabulous fashions, their fear quickly turns to curiosity, then delight, then pure greed. The frenzy that erupts threatens to tear apart the prairie-dog town forever. But when mean ol' Big Bark is kidnapped after taking all the fuzz for himself, the prairie dogs come to the rescue and remember the true meaning of community.

**central message anchor chart: Smarter Charts, K-2** Marjorie Martinelli, Kristine Mraz, 2012 Your charts don't need to be perfect, just thoughtful. You don't even have to be able to draw. Just put the child before the chart. Marjorie Martinelli and Kristine Mraz Listen to an interview with Marjorie and Kristi, the Chartchums, on Education Talk Radio. Commercially available charts leave you hanging? Want the secret to jump-off-the-wall charts that stick with kids? Trust Smarter Charts. Did you ever want to know: What do great charts look like? How many is too many? Where are the best places for them in my classroom? How long do I keep them? How do I know if they are working? Then you'll want to meet Marjorie Martinelli and Kristine Mraz, the Chartchums. They struggled with the same questions, and Smarter Charts shares not only the answers, but the best practices they've discovered as well. Amp up the power of your charts with tips on design and language, instructional use, and self-assessment. Even better, discover surprising strategies that deepen engagement, strengthen retention, and heighten independence--all by involving students in chart making. Packed with full-color sample charts from real classrooms, Smarter Charts shares simple, brain-based strategies proven to make your classroom an even more active, effective space for literacy instruction and classroom management.

**central message anchor chart: The Hope Chest** Karen Schwabach, 2009-03-12 A perfect Common Core tie-in, The Hope Chest includes nonfiction backmatter with period photographs, historical notes about the suffrage movement, and a Voting in America timeline. It's also a New York

State Curriculum title for fourth grade. Eleven-year-old Violet has one goal in mind when she runs away from home: to find her sister, Chloe. Violet's parents said Chloe had turned into the Wrong Sort of Person, but Violet knew better. The only problem is that Chloe's not in New York anymore. She's moved on to Tennessee where she's fighting for the right of women to vote. As Violet's journey grows longer, her single-minded pursuit of reuniting with her sister changes. Before long she is standing side-by-side with her new friends—suffragists, socialists, and colored people—the type of people whom her parents would not approve. But if Violet's becoming the Wrong Sort of Person, why does it feel just right? This stirring depiction of the very end of the women's suffrage battle in America is sure to please readers who like their historical fiction fast-paced and action-packed. American Girls fans will fall hard for Violet and her less-than-proper friends.

**central message anchor chart: Rain School** James Rumford, 2010-10-25 Shows how important learning is in a country where only a few children are able to go to school.

**central message anchor chart: The Stories Julian Tells** Ann Cameron, 1989-01-21 Ann Cameron's beloved and bestselling chapter book series about Julian, his brother Huey, and his friend Gloria all begins right here! Julian has a big imagination. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people—especially his younger brother, Huey—believe just about anything. Like the story about the cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble, and that's exactly where Julian and Huey end up! This book has been selected as a Common Core State Standards Text Exemplar (Grades 2-3, Stories) in Appendix B. You have to go a long way these days to find a book that leaves you feeling as happy as this one. —The New York Times There's a glow here that's hard to resist. —Booklist

**central message anchor chart: Long Way Down** Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 “An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger.” —Booklist (starred review) “Astonishing.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) “A tour de force.” —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017 A BuzzFeed Best YA Book of 2017 An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, Long Way Down is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

**central message anchor chart:** *The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever* Steven Kroll, 2012-12-01 Get ready for the newest installment of the New York Times Bestselling Biggest Ever series! It's the day after Thanksgiving, and Clayton and Desmond feel the chill in the air. The cool weather makes them think of Christmas . . . and Christmas makes them think of Christmas trees! Who'll find the biggest one? In the newest installment of this beloved, bestselling series, Clayton the town mouse and Desmond the country mouse team up to bring the spirit of Christmas to Mouseville-in a BIG way.

**central message anchor chart: Teaching Evidence-Based Writing: Nonfiction** Leslie Blauman, 2016-10-14 At heart, learning to read and write analytically is learning to think well. For Evidence-Based Writing: Nonfiction, renowned teacher Leslie Blauman combed the standards and her classroom bookshelves to craft lessons that use the best nonfiction picture books, biographies, and article excerpts to make writing about reading a clear, concrete process. Students learn to analyze and cite evidence about main idea, point of view, visuals, and words and structure. And best of all, your students gain a confidence in responding to complex texts and ideas that will serve them well in school, on tests, and in any situation when they are asked: What are you basing that on? Show me how you know.

**central message anchor chart: Reading with Meaning** Debbie Miller, 2023-10-10 Ten years since her first edition, author Debbie Miller returns with *Reading with Meaning, Second Edition: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades* to share her new thinking about reading comprehension strategy instruction, the gradual release of responsibility instructional model, and planning for student engagement and independence. *Reading with Meaning, Second Edition* delves into strategy and how intentional teaching and guided practice can provide each child a full year of growth during their classroom year. New in this edition are lesson planning documents for each chapter that include guiding questions, learning targets, and summative assessments, as well as new book title recommendations and updated FAQ's from the first edition. Also included are strategic lessons for inferring, determining the importance in each text, and synthesizing information. Teachers can help students make their thinking visible through oral, written, artistic, and dramatic responses and provide examples on how to connect what they read to their own lives. In this book, Miller reflects on her professional experiences and judgement along with current research in the field. She provides a guide for any teacher hoping to build student relationships and develop lifelong independent learners.

**central message anchor chart: Razzle Dazzle Writing** Melissa Forney, 2001 Good writing is more than we say; it is how we say it. This book shows how to master fifty key target skills that will improve their writing and raise their assessment scores.--Editor.

**central message anchor chart: Classroom Discussions** Suzanne H. Chapin, Mary Catherine O'Connor, Nancy Canavan Anderson, 2009 Based on a four-year research project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, this book is divided into four sections: Talk in the Mathematics Class (introducing five discussion strategies, or "moves," that help teachers achieve their instructional goal of strengthening students' mathematical thinking and learning), What Do We Talk About?, Implementing Talk in the Classroom, and Case Studies.--pub. desc.

**central message anchor chart: Waiting for the Biblioburro** Monica Brown, 2013-04-24 Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros--all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own. Inspired by the heroic efforts of real-life librarian Luis Soriano, award-winning picture book creators Monica Brown and John Parra introduce readers to the mobile library that journeys over mountains and through valleys to bring literacy and culture to rural Colombia, and to the children who wait for the BiblioBurro. A portion of the proceeds from sales of this book was donated to Luis Soriano's BiblioBurro program.

**central message anchor chart: Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up** Melissa Thomson, 2009-07-09 Keena Ford doesn't mean to be a troublemaker, but sometimes things get out

of hand. Lucky for her, it's the beginning of the second grade and Keena's got a clean slate. So when her new second-grade teacher, Ms. Campbell, mistakenly thinks it's her birthday and brings in a huge chocolate cake, Keena realizes that she's gotten herself into a sticky situation. She knows she has to tell the truth, but it's not easy to turn down her very own birthday cake and a chance to wear a sparkly crown. How will Keena get out of this mess?

**central message anchor chart:** Nerdy Birdy Aaron Reynolds, 2015-09-22 Nerdy Birdy likes reading, video games, and reading about video games, which immediately disqualifies him for membership in the cool crowd. One thing is clear: being a nerdy birdy is a lonely lifestyle. When he's at his lowest point, Nerdy Birdy meets a flock just like him. He has friends and discovers that there are far more nerdy birdies than cool birdies in the sky.

**central message anchor chart:** *Nasreen's Secret School* Jeanette Winter, 2011-06-28 Renowned picture book creator Jeanette Winter tells the story of a young girl in Afghanistan who attends a secret school for girls. Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared. In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness? Based on a true story from Afghanistan, this inspiring book will touch readers deeply as it affirms both the life-changing power of education and the healing power of love.

**central message anchor chart:** *The Great Kapok Tree* Lynne Cherry, 2000 The many different animals that live in a great Kapok tree in the Brazilian rainforest try to convince a man with an ax of the importance of not cutting down their home.

**central message anchor chart:** *Memoirs of a Goldfish* Devin Scillian, Tim Bowers, Michael Gillick, 2019-01-16 Read Along or Enhanced eBook: Day One I swam around my bowl. Day Two I swam around my bowl. Twice. And so it goes in this tell-all tale from a goldfish. With his bowl to himself and his simple routine, Goldfish loves his life..until one day... When assorted intruders including a hyperactive bubbler, a grime-eating snail, a pair of amorous guppies, and a really crabby crab invade his personal space and bowl, Goldfish is put out, to say the least. He wants none of it, preferring his former peace and quiet and solitude. But time away from his new companions gives him a chance to rethink the pros and cons of a solitary life. And discover what he's been missing. Devin Scillian is an award-winning author and Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist. He has written more than 10 books with Sleeping Bear Press, including the bestselling *A is for America: An American Alphabet* and *Brewster the Rooster*. Devin lives in Michigan and anchors the news for WDIV-TV in Detroit. Early in his career Tim Bowers worked for Hallmark Cards, helping to launch the Shoebox Greetings card line. He has illustrated more than 25 children's books, garnering such awards as the Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best list. He also illustrated the widely popular *First Dog*. Tim lives in Granville, Ohio.

**central message anchor chart:** *Cloudette* Tom Lichtenheld, 2016-04-12 Cloudette, the littlest cloud, finds a way to do something big and important as the other clouds do.

**central message anchor chart:** *Barnacle Is Bored* Jonathan Fenske, 2016-05-10 Barnacle is bored. Bored. Bored. Bored. Barnacle is stuck on the underside of a pier, wishing he had something to do. Every day is exactly the same. The tide comes in and Barnacle gets wet. The tide goes out and Barnacle dries off. Boring! Barnacle wants something EXCITING to happen. Then a colorful fish swims by. Barnacle bets the fish doesn't have a boring life. In the end, it turns out exciting isn't always better. . .

**central message anchor chart:** Stellaluna Janell Cannon, 2007 After she falls headfirst into a bird's nest, a baby fruit bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother.

**central message anchor chart:** *The Day You Begin* Jacqueline Woodson, 2018-08-28 A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! Featured in its own episode in the Netflix original show *Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices!* National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson and two-time Pura Belpré Illustrator Award winner Rafael López have teamed up to create a poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone. There

will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway. (This book is also available in Spanish, as *El Día En Que Descubres Quién Eres!*)

**central message anchor chart:** *The Recess Queen* Alexis O'Neill, 2016-06-28 An irrepressible new girl dethrones the reigning recess bully by becoming her friend in this infectious playground romp. Mean Jean was Recess Queen and nobody said any different. Nobody swung until Mean Jean swung. Nobody kicked until Mean Jean kicked. Nobody bounced until Mean Jean bounced. If kids ever crossed her, she'd push 'em and smoosh 'em lollapaloosh 'em, hammer 'em, slammer 'em kitz and kajammer 'em. Until a new kid came to school! Parents and teachers will appreciate the story's deft handling of conflict resolution (which happens without adult intervention). A lively story about the power of kindness and friendship -- Publishers Weekly A lighthearted look at a serious topic in schools and on playgrounds everywhere... -- School Library Journal Great for reading aloud and joining in. -- Booklist

**central message anchor chart:** *Reading Wonders Literature Anthology Grade 2* McGraw-Hill Education, 2012-04-16 Bursting with stories and informational text selections by award-winning authors and illustrators, the Wonders Literature Anthology lets students apply strategies and skills from the Reading/Writing Workshop to extended complex text. Integrate by reading across texts with the Anchor Text and its Paired Selection for each week Build on theme, concept, vocabulary, and comprehension skills & strategies of the Reading/Writing Expand students' exposure to genre with compelling stories, poems, plays, high-interest nonfiction, and expository selections from Time to Kids

**central message anchor chart:** *The Crossover* Kwame Alexander, 2014 New York Times bestseller • Newbery Medal Winner • Coretta Scott King Honor Award • 2015 YALSA 2015 Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults • 2015 YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers • Publishers Weekly Best Book • School Library Journal Best Book • Kirkus Best Book A beautifully measured novel of life and line.--The New York Times Book Review With a bolt of lightning on my kicks . . . The court is SIZZLING. My sweat is DRIZZLING. Stop all that quivering. Cuz tonight I'm delivering, announces dread-locked, 12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

**central message anchor chart:** *Silver Packages* Cynthia Rylant, Chris K. Soentpiet, 1997 Every year at Christmas a rich man rides a train through Appalachia and throws gifts to the poor children who are waiting, in order to repay a debt he owes the people who live there.

**central message anchor chart:** *Tacky in Trouble* Helen Lester, 2005-05 Tacky the exuberant penguin accidentally goes sailboarding and winds up on a tropical island, where he meets an elephant who demands proof of Tacky's identity.

**central message anchor chart:** *Have Fun, Molly Lou Melon* Patty Lovell, 2012-10-25 A creative companion to *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* Molly Lou Melon's grandma taught her to be happy with herself no matter what, but that's not all she learned. Molly Lou heard all about how her grandma didn't have fancy store-bought toys when she was little. She made dolls out of twigs and flowers and created her own fun in her backyard. So Molly Lou does just that, proving that the best thing to play with is a huge imagination!

**central message anchor chart:** *Maps and Globes* Perfection Learning Corporation, 1986

**central message anchor chart:** *Because of Winn-Dixie* Kate DiCamillo, 2009-09-08 A classic

tale by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, America's beloved storyteller. One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie. Featuring a new cover illustration by E. B. Lewis.

**central message anchor chart: Sun and Moon** Lindsey Yankey, 2015 Although he has always stayed in his own place in the sky, Moon asks to trade places with Sun for one day, but when Sun asks Moon to carefully examine the night, Moon has a change of heart.

**central message anchor chart: Reading, Writing, and Rigor** Nancy Boyles, 2018-04-12 What does rigor, a word that frequently pops up in conversations about education, really mean? More specifically, what does it mean for literacy instruction, and how does it relate to challenging standards-based assessments? In this informative and practical guide, literacy expert Nancy Boyles uses the framework from Webb's Depth of Knowledge (DOK) to answer these questions, offering experience-based advice along with specific examples of K-8 assessment items. Boyles defines rigor and shows how it relates to literacy at each DOK level and explains the kind of thinking students will be expected to demonstrate. She then tackles the essence of what teachers need to know about how DOK and its associated rigors are measured on standards-based assessments. Specifically, readers learn how each DOK rigor aligns with • standards, • text complexity, • close reading, • student interaction, • the reading-writing connection, and • formative assessment. Teachers, coaches, and administrators will find clear guidance, easy-to-implement strategies, dozens of useful teaching tools and resources, and encouragement to help students achieve and demonstrate true rigor in reading and writing.

**central message anchor chart: *Little Tree*** Loren Long, 2015-10-27 For graduates, for their parents, for anyone facing change, here is a gorgeously illustrated and stunningly heartfelt ode to the challenges of growing up and letting go. A story of the seasons and stepping stones as poignant for parents as for their kids, from the creator of *Otis the tractor* and illustrator of *Love* by Matt de la Pena. Long's gentle but powerful story about a young tree who holds tight to his leaves, even as everyone else lets theirs drop, takes on nothing less than the pain and sorrow of growing up. . . . As in Long's unaccountably profound books about *Otis the tractor*, a pure white background somehow adds to the depth.—The New York Times Book Review In the middle of a little forest, there lives a Little Tree who loves his life and the splendid leaves that keep him cool in the heat of long summer days. Life is perfect just the way it is. Autumn arrives, and with it the cool winds that ruffle Little Tree's leaves. One by one the other trees drop their leaves, facing the cold of winter head on. But not Little Tree—he hugs his leaves as tightly as he can. Year after year Little Tree remains unchanged, despite words of encouragement from a squirrel, a fawn, and a fox, his leaves having long since turned brown and withered. As Little Tree sits in the shadow of the other trees, now grown sturdy and tall as though to touch the sun, he remembers when they were all the same size. And he knows he has an important decision to make. From #1 New York Times bestselling Loren Long comes a gorgeously-illustrated story that challenges each of us to have the courage to let go and to reach for the sun. Praise for Little Tree \* The illustrations are beautifully rendered . . . Understated and inviting, young readers will be entranced by Little Tree's difficult but ultimately rewarding journey.—Booklist, starred review Long's gentle but powerful story about a young tree who holds tight to his leaves, even as everyone else lets theirs drop, takes on nothing less than the pain and sorrow of growing up. Season after season, Little Tree clings to his brown-leaved self until he can take a leap and shed his protection. He feels 'the harsh cold of winter,' but soon grows tall and green, and it's not bad at all. As in Long's unaccountably profound books about *Otis the tractor*, a pure white background somehow adds to the depth.—The New York Times Book Review \* [Long's] willingness to take his time and even test the audience's patience with his arboreal hero's intransigence results in an ending that's both a big relief and an authentic triumph. Long's earnest-eloquent narrative voice and distilled, single-plane drawings, both reminiscent of an

allegorical pageant, acknowledge the reality of the struggle while offering the promise of brighter days ahead.—Publishers Weekly, starred review Long is sparing with the text, keeping it simple and beautifully descriptive. Brilliantly colored illustrations done in acrylic, ink, and pencil stand out on bright white pages, with Little Tree taking the center position in each double-page spread. Tender and gentle and altogether lovely.—Kirkus Reviews Children will see the tree facing the scariness of change; adult readers may well feel wistful as the story underscores the need to let their babies grow toward independence. Beautiful. Grade: A—Cleveland Plain Dealer

**central message anchor chart: Enemy Pie (Reading Rainbow Book, Children S Book about Kindness, Kids Books about Learning)** Derek Munson, 2000-09 A Reading Rainbow book for your child Recommend by experts for children who are reading independently and transitioning to longer books. Teach kindness, courtesy, respect, and friendship: It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story one little boy learns an effective recipe for turning a best enemy into a best friend. Accompanied by charming illustrations, Enemy Pie serves up a sweet lesson in the difficulties and ultimate rewards of making new friends. The perfect book for kids learning how to make friends or deal with conflict Ideal as a read aloud book for families or elementary schools Created by Derek Munson who has directly shared his children's stories with over 100,000 kids across the globe Fans of Last Stop on Market Street, Have You Filled a Bucket Today, and First Day Jitters will love this Reading Rainbow classic, Enemy Pie. Recommend by experts for children who are reading independently and transitioning to longer books and perfect for the following reading categories: Elementary School Chapter Books Family Read Aloud Books Books for Kids Ages 5-9 Children's Books for Grades 3-5

**central message anchor chart: Falling in Love with Close Reading** Christopher Lehman, Kate Roberts, 2014 Love brings us in close, leads us to study the details of a thing, and asks us to return again and again. These are the motivations and ideas that built this book. -Chris Lehman and Kate Roberts You and your students will fall for close reading. In Falling in Love with Close Reading, Christopher Lehman and Kate Roberts show us that it can be rigorous, meaningful, and joyous. You'll empower students to not only analyze texts but to admire the craft of a beloved book, study favorite songs and videogames, and challenge peers in evidence-based discussions. Chris and Kate start with a powerful three-step close-reading ritual that students can apply to any text. Then they lay out practical, engaging lessons that not only guide students to independence in reading texts closely but also help them transfer this critical, analytical skill to media and even the lives they lead. Responsive to students' needs and field-tested in classrooms, these lessons include: strategies for close reading narratives, informational texts, and arguments suggestions for differentiation sample charts and student work from real classrooms connections to the Common Core State Standards a focus on viewing media and life in this same careful way. We see the ritual of close reading not just as a method of doing the academic work of looking closely at text-evidence, word choice, and structure, write Chris and Kate, but as an opportunity to bring those practices together to empower our students to see the subtle messages in texts and in their lives. Read Falling in Love with Close Reading and discover that the benefits and joy of close reading don't have to stop at the edge of the page. Read a sample from the book to learn more about Chris and Kate's close-reading ritual for students and for an annotated text that shows how it works.

**central message anchor chart: The Good Egg** Jory John, 2019-03-05 A #1 New York Times bestseller! An Amazon Best Books of the Year 2019 selection! From the bestselling creators of The Bad Seed, a timely story about not having to be Grade A perfect! Meet the good egg. He's a verrrrrry good egg indeed. But trying to be so good is hard when everyone else is plain ol' rotten. As the other eggs in the dozen behave badly, the good egg starts to crack from all the pressure of feeling like he has to be perfect. So, he decides enough is enough! It's time for him to make a change... Dynamic duo Jory John and Pete Oswald hatch a funny and charming story that reminds us of the importance of balance, self-care, and accepting those we love (even if they are sometimes a bit

rotten). Perfect for reading aloud and shared story time!

**central message anchor chart: Summer Sun Risin'** W. Nikola-Lisa, 2002 An African American boy enjoys a summer day on his family's farm, milking the cows, fishing, and having fun.

**central message anchor chart: The Signmaker's Assistant** Tedd Arnold, 1997 A young signmaker's apprentice dreams of having his own sign shop but creates havoc when he is left in charge by himself.

**central message anchor chart: Project-Based Learning in the Math Classroom** Telannia Norfar, Chris Fancher, 2022-03-14 Project-Based Learning in the Math Classroom: Grades 3-5 explains how to keep inquiry at the heart of mathematics teaching in the upper elementary grades. Helping teachers integrate other subjects into the math classroom, this book outlines in-depth tasks, projects and routines to support Project-Based Learning (PBL). Featuring helpful tips for creating PBL units, alongside models and strategies that can be implemented immediately, Project-Based Learning in the Math Classroom: Grades 3-5 understands that teaching in a project-based environment means using great teaching practices. The authors impart strategies that assist teachers in planning standards-based lessons, encouraging wonder and curiosity, providing a safe environment where mistakes can occur, and giving students opportunities for revision and reflection.

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