

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE
BOOK OF THE MONTH
2011 - 2012

Month	Title/Author/Illustrator	Theme/Message
September	<i>14 Cows for America</i> By Carmen Agra Deedy Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez In Collaboration with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah	An extraordinary true story of generosity, compassion and hope in the wake of 9/11
October	<i>Have You Filled a Bucket Today?</i> By Carol McCloud Illustrated by David Messing	Encourage positive behavior as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love.
November	<i>Say Something</i> By Peggy Moss Illustrated by Lea Lyon	A young narrator describes different examples of bullying that she witnesses at school and on the bus, but remains silent.
December	<i>The Important Book</i> By Margaret Wise Brown Illustrated by Leonard Weisgard	If you are a teacher who recognizes the importance of SUMMARIZING after each lesson (Learning Focused Model) than this book is just the thing to have in your classroom! Just read the book, and have your students follow it's pattern to relate "The most important thing about...(insert topic here)"
January	<i>The Day it Snowed Tortillas: Folktales told in English and Spanish</i> By Joe Hayes and Antonio Castro Lopez	Joe Hayes is one of America's premier storytellers. He grew up in a small town in southern Arizona where he learned Spanish from his classmates. As he got older, Joe began gathering old stories from the Southwest. Joe has earned a distinctive role as a bilingual storyteller.
February	<i>Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave</i> By Laban Carrick Hill Illustrated By Bryan Collier	Enslaved potter Dave produced thousands of beautiful pieces of pottery over the course of his life, a true accomplishment given that the institution of slavery denied most African Americans access to skilled trades. Dave's pottery is even more extraordinary given that a number of pieces were inscribed with poems he wrote himself at a time when southern states prohibited the education of slaves.
March	<i>Math Potatoes: Mind Stretching Brain Food</i> By Greg Tang	Contains 16 poems of "mind-stretching brain food." Through cleverly written rhymes, Tang offers kids a way to understand what is being asked and find the answer using problem solving techniques that make math smarter, easier, and a lot more fun!
April	<i>Rocks in His Head</i> By Carol Otis Hurst Illustrated by James Stevenson	Follow your dreams and passions through hard times and no matter what other people may say.
May	<i>Otis</i> By Jamie Bynum	Those of us who find ourselves different from others in one or more ways can identify with Otis. He gives us hope that we can find others to relate to.