

Dear Educator,

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to receive 20 FREE copies of one of two new captivating titles from HarperCollins Children's Books that are sure to engage your students' imaginations.

Introduce students to two different kinds of animal stories—the funny, heartwarming antics of Stick Dog in the series by Tom Watson, and the exciting and mysterious world of *Wing & Claw*, the first book in a new series by Newbery Award-winning author Linda Sue Park.

In addition, you can use these thought-provoking and engaging activities that focus on both titles to reinforce language arts skills and encourage creative thinking. The activities, developed by curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI), are Common Core Standards-based and designed specifically for grades 3-5.

You can request 20 FREE COPIES of either of these two titles. To receive your FREE set, just return the enclosed reply card or fill out the online request form at www.ymiclassroom.com/SDWC. Request supplies are limited so send your request today. Offer expires October 15, 2016.

We hope that you will share this program and the FREE offer from HarperCollins with other teachers in your school. The activity materials are copyrighted, but you may make as many copies as necessary to meet your students' needs.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

REQUEST 20 FREE BOOKS TODAY!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! OFFER ENDS 10/15/16.

Target Audience

This program is designed for students in elementary grades 3-5.

Program Objectives

- To use bestselling chapter books to encourage reading and imagination.
- To engage children in new reading adventures that will encourage a lifelong love of reading.
- To familiarize students with elements of fiction such as character traits and genres.
- To encourage students to practice and improve their narrative writing skills.

Common Core Alignment: The activities align with Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. For details, visit www.ymiclassroom.com/SDWC.

How to Use This Program

Review the titles available through this program and request your FREE set of 20 books by 10/15/16. Make copies of the three activity sheets for your students. The activities are designed not to give away any spoilers, so you can use them to introduce both titles, or complete them after the set of books you have selected arrives.

Activity 1 Talent Search

Focusing on the *Stick Dog* series
by Tom Watson

Use this activity to introduce the concept of character traits. Tell students that we are all unique, and ask students to share their special talents. Explain that the narrator of *Stick Dog* admits that he does not have a talent for drawing, but he can tell a great story. *Stick Dog* and his friends have a variety of talents, too. Tell students that these are called character traits, and that each dog's talent helps it contribute to the success of the group.

Read aloud the following synopsis of *Stick Dog*, the first book in the series. *Stick Dog* is a stray dog, but he is happy with his cozy home in an empty drainpipe and his gang of loyal friends—a dalmatian named Stripes, a dachshund named Karen, a mutt named Mutt, and a poodle named Poo-Poo. One day, *Stick Dog* catches the tantalizing aroma of grilled hamburgers. Following his nose to a nearby park, *Stick Dog* leads his friends on a quest to snag some burgers—but it won't be easy. They need a plan, but *Stick Dog's* friends aren't the best at coming up with workable plans. Still, no matter how crazy the idea, *Stick Dog* encourages his friends with kind words, motivating his friends to work as a team to achieve their goal of hamburgers for all—and perhaps earn an even greater reward as well.

Discuss with the class how one of *Stick Dog's* talents—being a good friend—helps the



group achieve its goals. Pass out the activity sheets and have students write a narrative about how one of their talents helped achieve a group goal. Then have students complete the activity by creating a canine character representing themselves, and have them draw a picture and write a description, including character traits. Ask them to write an episode in which they join *Stick Dog's* gang.

Extension: *Stick Dog's* friends use their individual talents to distract a family from their meal so they can get the family's hamburgers. In the end, the dogs get affection and words of praise from the family along with burgers, which they decide is even better. Ask students whether words of praise are more meaningful than tangible prizes, and why.

Activity 2

Our Own Forest of Wonders
Focusing on *Wing & Claw: Forest of Wonders*, by Linda Sue Park

Read aloud the following synopsis of *Wing & Claw*.

Raffa Santana has always loved the mysterious Forest of Wonders. For a gifted young apothecary like him, every leaf has the potential to unleash a kind of magic.

When an injured bat crashes into Raffa's life, he invents a cure from a rare crimson vine that he finds deep in the Forest. The powers of the vine are stronger than Raffa could have imagined. His remedy saves the animal but also transforms it into something much more than an ordinary bat, with far-reaching consequences.

Discuss Raffa's power to unleash a kind of magic and transform animals into something much more than ordinary. Then have students debate how wild animals should be treated in our society. In the book, certain characters try to sedate, tame, and train wild animals with special abilities to serve, hunt, and even attack humans. Should wild animals be left alone, or should we train wild animals to serve humans, as long as they are treated well?

Pass out the activity sheet and have the students read about Raffa's discovery of a mysterious red vine. Ask them to choose a plant from the list on the activity sheet, research that plant, and then answer questions about its discovery, healing properties, and its use as a medicine.

Answers: *Cinchona trees:* Discovered by natives of Peru and Bolivia. The bark is used to treat malaria and as a muscle relaxant. Quinine is the primary compound. *Aloe plants:* Origin of use is unknown but can be dated to 1550 BC. The inner sap is used as a topical ointment to relieve pain and inflammation and help minor cuts heal.

Pacific yew: First modern discovery in 1962 by the USDA researchers funded by the U.S. National Cancer Institute. The bark is used to treat certain cancers. Paclitaxel is the primary compound. *Wintergreen:* First used by Native Americans in northeastern U.S. It's an essential oil, methyl salicylate, taken from leaves and branches and used as an anti-inflammatory to treat aches and pains.

Extension: Ask students to imagine that their pet suddenly develops the ability to talk in short, simple sentences. Have the students write a dialogue between themselves and their pets.

Activity 3 All about Genres

Have students describe the types of books they like to read—funny, exciting, clever, adventurous, etc. If they have read *Stick Dog* or *Wing & Claw*, ask them to share examples from the books to illustrate their choices of adjectives.

Explain that books usually fit into different genres, or types, and that each genre has its own characteristics. For example, *Stick Dog* might fit best into the humorous fiction genre. In *Wing & Claw*, magic abounds, and the main character goes on an exciting adventure. This book fits into two genres: action/adventure and fantasy/science fiction. Tell students that many books fit into more than one genre. Brainstorm other characteristics of humorous fiction and action/adventure and write them on a smartboard or chalkboard. Add other genres, such as mystery and historical fiction.

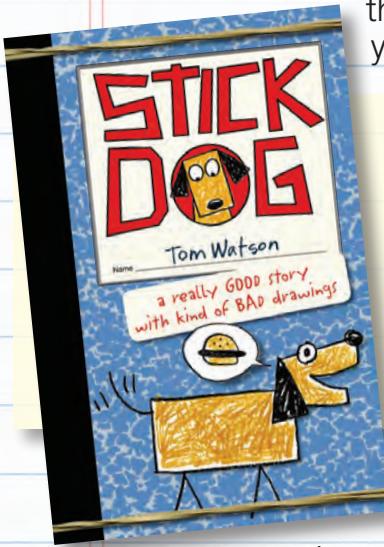
Pass out the activity sheet. Then ask the students to write about which genre is their favorite, and why. Have them use the characteristics written on the board and examples from *Stick Dog*, *Wing & Claw*, and other books to support their opinion.

Extension: Ask students to select one of the genres and write a short narrative piece in that genre.

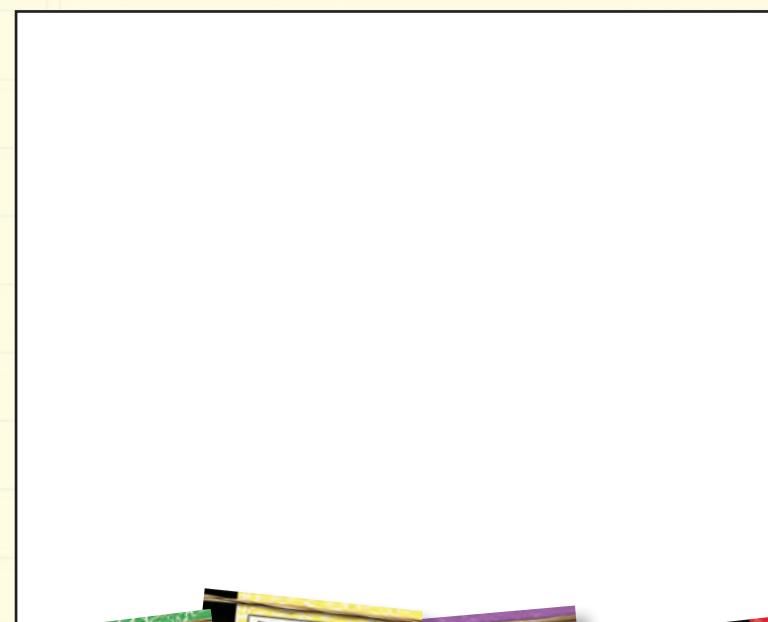
TALENT SEARCH

Stick Dog by Tom Watson is a really funny book! Stick Dog and his friends use some of their very silly talents when they work together to get what

they want. Think about your talents and write about a time when one of your talents helped achieve a group goal.



It's fun to be part of a team! Imagine you are a part of Stick Dog's gang. What kind of dog would you be? What would your canine character's special talent be? Draw a picture of yourself as part of Stick Dog's gang, and write a description of yourself next to the picture. Then on the back of this sheet, write a story about how you were part of Stick Dog's gang.





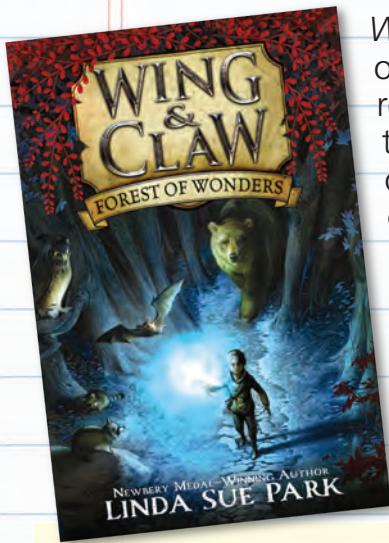
There's a
new pet
in town!



HarperCollinsPublishers

Find more Stick Dog adventures at www.stickdogbooks.com

OUR OWN FOREST OF WONDERS



Wing & Claw: Forest of Wonders by Linda Sue Park is an amazing story of mystery and magic. The main character, Raffa, discovers a mysterious red vine with healing properties in the Forest of Wonders. Did you know that many of our own medicines come from plants found in forests here on Earth? Choose a plant from the list and research it. Draw a picture of your plant in the box below and answer the questions about its discovery, healing properties, and use as a medicine.

- Cinchona tree (*Cinchona spp.*)
- Aloe plant (*Aloe vera* or *barbadensis*)
- Pacific yew (*Taxus brevifolia*)
- American wintergreen plant (*Gaultheria procumbens*)

The plant I chose is:

When and/or where was it discovered?

Which part of the plant is used?

How is it used?



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Look out for *Wing & Claw #2: Cavern of Secrets*,
coming March 2017. Go to www.harpercollinschildrens.com

ALL ABOUT GENRES

The word genre means a type or category of film, music, or writing. As a class, discuss some different genres of books and the characteristics of each. Then on a separate sheet, write about which genre is your favorite. Use the characteristics written on the board and examples from *Stick Dog*, *Wing & Claw*, and other similar books to support your opinion.



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Find out more about the adventures of *Stick Dog* at www.stickdogbooks.com

Find out more about *Wing & Claw* at www.hc.com

Look out for *Wing & Claw #2: Cavern of Secrets*, coming March 2017. Go to www.harpercollinschildrens.com



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