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CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS: CROSS-POLLINATION

See You Later, Alligator - a picture book for early primary

ART AND RHYME – The text of this picture book includes about a dozen rhyming ways that reptiles and amphibians say good-bye. My favorite bulletin board based on this book featured drawings of many kinds of birds with couplets like: "Stay loose, little goose." Such language play could add to the study of any ecosystem: jungle animals, fish, birds, etc.

One Lucky Summer – a novel for grades 3 to 5

NATURE JOURNALS – Andrea Hynes, librarian at Graham Elementary, used the Nature Journal illustrations of this book as a starting place. She wrote: "We were inspired by your work and made Nature Journal pages in our library class. Since the fifth graders were getting ready to go to Camp Cispus, we focused on animals of the Pacific Northwest. We used field guides, encyclopedias, reference books and the Internet to do our research."

Zelda and Ivy, Zelda and Ivy and the Boy Next Door, Zelda and Ivy One Christmas, Zelda and Ivy The Runaways, and, coming soon, *Zelda and Ivy Keeping Secrets* – early readers

FAIRY DUST – in the first book, Ivy makes fairy dust by grating a crayon on a screen door. Second graders in Iowa City invented their own fairy dusts – which looked suspiciously like laundry soap, glitter, sand, crushed cornflakes, etc – then drew pictures of what they would dream of, attaching the various "dusts" in baggies at the bottom of the drawings.

MATH – Students graphed how many wishes they predicted would come true vs. what actually happened.

P.E. – Zelda has inspired several homemade batons and some fantastic routines.

TIME CAPSULE – What would you put in a time capsule and why?

CREATIVE JUICE – Have you ever started out creating one thing and discovered it was something else, like Zelda does in "The Secret Concoction" story? My stories often take this route.

READERS' THEATRE – Many schools have staged chapters of the *Zelda and Ivy* books as short plays, including librarian Rae McDonald at Crestwood where an impromptu live performance of *Zelda and Ivy One Christmas* was part of a Reading Week pajama party.

ART – the medium I used to illustrate these books is gouache resist, a fun but messy process. The instructions are on my website. Also, I have seen many bulletin boards decked out in "doozied up" fox tails, and custom bandaid designs that Eugene would love.

FOX GALLERY – Email photos of your best fox paintings to Laura@LMKBooks to display on my website.

WRITING – Older students have written further adventures of *Zelda and Ivy*, demonstrating their understanding of the characters. Others have begun with the idea of a "sisters" story, and written about their own sibling experiences.

LIFE SKILLS – Students have written short statements about the ups and downs of being the oldest or youngest in a family, statements that led to some good discussions.

Frank and Izzy Set Sail - a picture book

WRITING – This book inspires writing projects with the theme of friendship. Students may wish to work with a friend on the project, or write a story and read it to a friend.

LIFE SKILLS – What would you pack for an overnight sailing trip to an island?

Really Truly Bingo – a picture book

WRITING – Like Bea in the story, invent an imaginary friend and see where it leads.