

# STEPPING STONES™

educators guide



Illustration © 2009 by Tim Jessell.

Build the bridge from our Step into Reading series to our Stepping Stones series of early chapter books that will intrigue any reader. With engaging plots and contributions from the best writers in children's books, Stepping Stones books are the perfect tools for exploring the different genres in literature. The books' "buttons" for the seven different genres highlight the innovative genre-study approach, making them perfect for any genre unit for any curriculum.



# Journey through the genres with

To enrich your genre-study units, use this guide to help students discover all the wonderful genres in literature. Take your class on a journey through the genres by sharing an example of each one in our Stepping Stones line—classic, fantasy, fiction, history, humor, mystery, and true stories.

Ask students to pick their favorite genre type, then graph their favorites on a chart. (Visit [www.randomhouse.com/kids/books/steppingstones](http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/books/steppingstones) to download a chart.) Once students have identified the genres they enjoy most, encourage them to read more books in that genre. The books are easy to identify, just have the students pick the books with the same genre button! Use the title list in the back to keep your classroom library up to date with the newest Stepping Stones books and to ensure that your students will have the books they love to read.



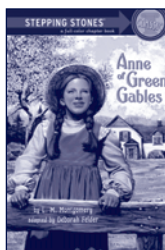
Illustration © 2009 by Lesley Harker.

## CLASSIC



### The Jungle Book

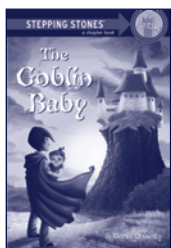
At the end of *The Jungle Book*, readers learn that Mowgli becomes a great leader in the jungle and has many adventures. Have students draw pictures of the journeys they imagine that Mowgli goes on, being sure to include the animals he encounters.



### Anne of Green Gables

Share with the class that L. M. Montgomery wrote *Anne of Green Gables* 100 years ago. Why is this story considered a classic? What is it about this story that makes readers still connect to it generations later? What stories of today do you think will resonate with future generations of readers?

## FANTASY



### Goblin Baby

Tam must take the Green Passage to the magical land of the fairies to rescue his sister and return the goblin baby. Read the book aloud to the class and then have students draw a map of Tam's journey that includes important landmarks such as the Sapphire Lake, the Fairy Castle, the Baby Glade, and the Secret Tower.



### Monsters

The author explores monsters on land, monsters at sea, and flying monsters. Have students write a journal entry from the point of view of one of the monsters featured in the book. Are these creatures as scary as they are imagined to be by the Greek gods, sailors, and soldiers?

Also available: *Dragons and Mermaids*

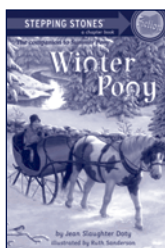
## FICTION



### Look at Lucy!

Bobby enters his dog, Lucy, in the Pet-o-Rama spokespet contest. The winning pet and his owner are to be featured in a TV commercial. Break your class into groups and have each one act as an advertising agency trying to win the Pet-o-Rama account. Each agency should create a storyboard for the commercial and act it out.

Also available: *Absolutely Lucy* and *Lucy on the Loose*



### Winter Pony

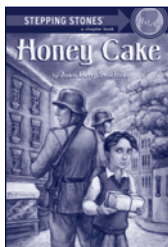
Hold up the covers for *Winter Pony* and its companion book, *Summer Pony*. Have the class predict what the books are about based on the covers. After reading the books, divide the class into groups and have them write and illustrate *Spring Pony* and *Fall Pony*.

Also available: *Summer Pony*

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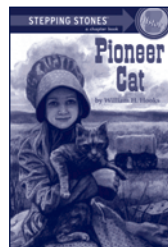
## HISTORY



### Honey Cake

In Nazi-occupied Copenhagen, young David Nathan is asked to run a very special errand. It's an errand that will change his life forever. After your students read this book, discuss the character traits that David exhibits throughout the story, including courage, citizenship, and perseverance. Have students give evidence from the book

to demonstrate the different character traits.



### Pioneer Cat

Kate Purdy travels along the Oregon Trail as many did to follow their dreams to go westward in the mid 1800s. The trip took many months and supplies were needed to make such a journey. Discuss with the class the lack of space, but the importance of bringing basic supplies. Have students make a list of items they would bring on their trip if

they were to go west on the Oregon Trail.



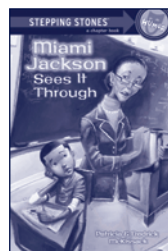
## HUMOR



### Aliens for Breakfast

Richard Bickerstaff is able to save Earth from aliens because his mom buys him new cereal named Alien Crisp. Even though his mom knows that Richard hates cereal, she still buys it for him, perhaps because the box catches her eye. Have students design their very own eye-catching boxes for Alien Crisp.

Also available: *Aliens for Lunch* and *Aliens for Dinner*



### Miami Sees It Through

Miami decides to see it through even though his brand-new teacher, Miss Spraggins, is as tough as nails, and it all turns out well in the end. Ask students to write about a time when they decided to stick it out because things were difficult. Did everything work out in the end? Have the students share their experiences with the class.

Also available: *Miami Gets It Straight* and *Miami Makes the Play*



## MYSTERY



### The Red Ghost

Break students into three groups and assign one of the ghost books—*The Red Ghost*, *The Blue Ghost*, or *The Green Ghost*—by Newbery Honor-winning author Marion Dane Bauer to each group. Have each group write a brief plot summary of their book and choose a representative to read it aloud to the class. Lead a discussion about the common thread between these companion books. What is the significance of the color of each ghost?

Also available: *The Blue Ghost* and *The Green Ghost*



### The Case of the Elevator Duck

Have students take on the role of Gilbert and have them write down what kind of detective notes they think he would take to help him solve the mystery of how the duck got in the elevator and to whom he belongs.

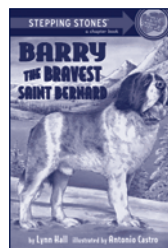


## TRUE STORIES



### Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse

After reading and discussing the book, tell your class about another famous baseball curse—the Chicago Cubs' Curse of the Billy Goat. Have students find information about this curse and jot down a few interesting points. Come together as a class and make an outline for a Stepping Stones chapter book on this topic.



### Barry: The Bravest St. Bernard

Barry, the bravest dog in the Saint Bernard Monastery, saved more than 40 lives of travelers making their way through the Saint Bernard pass in the Swiss Alps. Have students write an obituary for Barry, following the style typically used in newspaper obituaries.

# Stepping Stone Books by Genre



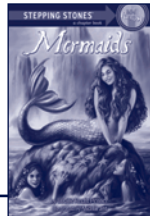
## CLASSIC



- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer . . . 978-0-679-88070-7  
 Anne of Green Gables . . . 978-0-679-85467-8  
 Black Beauty . . . 978-0-679-80370-6  
 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde . . . 978-0-394-86365-8  
 Dracula . . . 978-0-394-84828-0  
 Frankenstein . . . 978-0-394-84827-3  
 Great Expectations . . . 978-0-679-87466-9  
 The Hunchback of Notre Dame . . . 978-0-679-87429-4  
 Jane Eyre . . . 978-0-679-88618-1  
 The Jungle Book . . . 978-0-375-84276-4  
 Knights of the Round Table . . . 978-0-394-87579-8  
 The Last of the Mohicans . . . 978-0-679-84706-9  
 Les Misérables . . . 978-0-679-86668-8  
 A Little Princess . . . 978-0-679-85090-8  
 Little Women . . . 978-0-679-86175-1  
 Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes . . . 978-0-394-85086-3  
 Oliver Twist . . . 978-0-679-80391-1  
 Peter Pan . . . 978-0-679-81044-5  
 The Phantom of the Opera . . . 978-0-394-83847-2  
 Robin Hood . . . 978-0-679-81045-2  
 The Secret Garden . . . 978-0-679-84751-9  
 Swiss Family Robinson . . . 978-0-375-87525-0  
 Tales of Terror . . . 978-0-375-84055-5  
 The Three Musketeers . . . 978-0-679-86017-4  
 The Time Machine . . . 978-0-679-80371-3  
 Treasure Island . . . 978-0-679-80402-4  
 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea . . . 978-0-394-85333-8  
 The War of the Worlds . . . 978-0-679-81047-6



## FANTASY



- Dragons . . . 978-0-307-26417-6  
 The Goblin Baby . . . 978-0-375-85841-3  
 GLB: 978-0-375-95841-0  
 The Magic of Merlin . . . 978-0-307-26403-9  
 Mermaids . . . 978-0-375-83936-8  
 GLB: 978-0-375-93936-5  
 Monsters . . . 978-0-375-85675-4  
 GLB: 978-0-375-95675-1  
 Water Wishes . . . 978-0-679-89216-8



## FICTION



- Absolutely Lucy . . . 978-0-307-26502-9  
 The Annoying Team . . . 978-0-307-26512-8  
 The Boy Who Ate Dog Biscuits . . . 978-0-394-84778-8  
 The Chalk Box Kid . . . 978-0-394-89102-6  
 Gloria Rising . . . 978-0-440-41998-3  
 Julian, Dream Doctor . . . 978-0-679-80524-3  
 GLB: 978-0-679-90524-0  
 Julian, Secret Agent . . . 978-0-394-81949-5  
 Julian's Glorious Summer . . . 978-0-394-89117-0  
 Look at Lucy! . . . 978-0-375-85558-0  
 Lucy on the Loose . . . 978-0-307-26508-1  
 More Stories Huey Tells . . . 978-0-679-88363-0  
 More Stories Julian Tells . . . 978-0-394-82454-3  
 The Paint Brush Kid . . . 978-0-679-89282-3  
 Silver . . . 978-0-394-89611-3  
 The Stories Huey Tells . . . 978-0-679-88559-7  
 The Stories Julian Tells . . . 978-0-394-82892-3  
 Summer Pony . . . 978-0-375-84709-7  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94709-4  
 Winter Pony . . . 978-0-375-84710-3  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94710-0



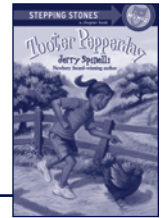
## HISTORY



- Gold Rush Winter . . . 978-0-307-26413-8  
 Hannah . . . 978-0-679-82698-9  
 Honey Cake . . . 978-0-375-85190-2  
 HC: 978-0-375-85189-6  
 GLB: 978-0-375-95189-3  
 A Horn for Louis . . . 978-0-375-84005-0  
 The Minstrel in the Tower . . . 978-0-394-89598-7  
 Next Spring an Oriole . . . 978-0-394-89125-5  
 Night of the Full Moon . . . 978-0-679-87276-4  
 A Picture for Marc . . . 978-0-375-85225-1  
 HC: 978-0-375-83253-6  
 GLB: 978-0-375-93253-3  
 Pioneer Cat . . . 978-0-394-82038-5  
 The Shadow of the Wolf . . . 978-0-679-88108-7  
 A Spotlight for Harry . . . HC: 978-0-375-85869-7  
 GLB: 978-0-375-95869-4



## HUMOR



- Aliens for Breakfast . . . 978-0-394-82093-4  
 Aliens for Dinner . . . 978-0-679-85858-4  
 Aliens for Lunch . . . 978-0-679-81056-8  
 Blue Ribbon Blues . . . 978-0-679-88753-9  
 Fossil Fever . . . 978-0-307-26400-8  
 Miami Jackson Gets It Straight . . . 978-0-307-26501-2  
 Miami Jackson Makes the Play . . . 978-0-307-26505-0  
 Miami Jackson Sees It Through . . . 978-0-307-26513-5  
 Smasher . . . 978-0-679-88330-2  
 Snake Camp . . . 978-0-307-26406-0  
 Tooter Pepperday . . . 978-0-679-84702-1



## MYSTERY



- The Blue Ghost . . . 978-0-375-83339-7  
 GLB: 978-0-375-93179-6  
 The Case of the Elevator Duck . . . 978-0-394-82646-2  
 Ghost Horse . . . 978-0-307-26500-5  
 The Green Ghost . . . 978-0-375-84084-5  
 HC: 978-0-375-84083-8  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94083-5  
 The Ink Drinker . . . 978-0-440-41485-8  
 The Red Ghost . . . 978-0-375-84082-1  
 HC: 978-0-375-84081-4  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94081-1  
 The Secret of the Painted House . . . 978-0-375-84080-7  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94079-8



## TRUE STORIES



- Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse . . . 978-0-375-85603-7  
 GLB: 978-0-375-95603-4  
 Balto and the Great Race . . . 978-0-679-89198-7  
 Barry: The Bravest Saint Bernard . . . 978-0-375-84439-3  
 The Curse of King Tut's Mummy . . . 978-0-375-83862-0  
 Finding the First T.Rex . . . 978-0-375-84662-5  
 GLB: 978-0-375-94662-2  
 Ice Wreck . . . 978-0-307-26408-4  
 The Titanic Sinks! . . . 978-0-679-88606-8

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