

## **Theme in the Literature Program**

Theme is very evident in the Literature Program at UCDS. Books are selected for their value in adding depth to the student's understanding of theme. Students read books at home and discuss them at school with a teacher and small literature circle groups of peers. Books relate to the theme in a variety of ways, including childhood experiences, historical perspectives, literary themes, and give opportunities to teach specific literary analysis skills.

## **Early Elementary Literature Circles (Pre-K/K)**

Forms of Families:

*And Tango Makes Three*, by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell

*Guji Guji*, by Chih-yun Chen

*What a Family*, by Rachel Isadora

Forms of Invention:

*Marvelous Mattie*, by Emily Arnold McCully

*Sally Jean the Bicycle Queen*, by Cari Best

*Inventor McGregor*, by Kathleen T. Pelley

Forms of Friendship:

*Peach and Blue*, by Sarah S. Kilborne

*Owen and Mzee*, Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Forms of Imagination:

*The Sound of Colors*, by Jimmy Liao

*Scribbleville*, by Peter Holwitz

*Weslandia*, by Paul Fleischman

Generations:

*The Memory Box*, by Mary Bahr

*The Keeping Quilt*, by Patricia Palacco

## **First Floor Literature Groups (1-2/2-3)**

First Floor students met in cross-level literature circles weekly to discuss themes of how characters evolve.

*The Iron Giant: A Story in Five Nights*, by Ted Hughes

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (a Stepping Stone Classic,)* Jules Verne, Adapted

by Judith Conaway

*The Whipping Boy*, Sid Fleischman

*Sarah, Plain and Tall*, Patricia MacLachlan

*The Gold Threaded Dress*, Carolyn Marsden

*Gloria Rising*, Ann Cameron

*The Chocolate Touch*, Patrick Skene Catling

*Catwings*, Ursula K. Le Guin

*The Mushroom Man*, Ethel Pochocki

### **Second Floor Literature Groups (3-4/4-5)**

Second floor students looked at character development in the fall and books were chosen for elements of the character's self-discovery and character transformations. Selections included:

*The Fledgling*, by Jane Langton  
*The Great Gilly Hopkins*, by Katherine Patterson  
*The Wanderer*, by Sharon Creech  
*Bud, Not Buddy*, by Christopher Paul Curtis  
*Seedfolk*, by Paul Fleischman  
*Same Stuff as Stars*, by Katherine Patterson  
*Maniac McGee*, Jerry Spinelli  
*Walk Two Moons*, by Sharon Creech

In the spring, books were chosen to support the curriculum and a planned trip to The Grand Coulee Dam and the channeled scablands. Books, both fiction and non-fiction titles, related to spring trip themes. The focus was how the land was formed and the formation of regional culture. Selections included:

*The Jar of Dreams*, Yoshiko Uchida  
*The Circuit*, Francisco Jiminez  
*Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*Children of the Great Depression* (non-fiction)  
*Children of the Dust Bowl* (non-fiction)