The 2014 Bell Awards Winners

READ: Open This Little Book, by Jesse Klausmeier, illustrated by Suzy Lee

Readers open the cover to discover five characters, each with their own little book, all within the pages of the first. Open This Little Book celebrates the pleasures of reading, sharing stories, and having a book of your own.

WRITE: The Things I Can Do, by Jeff Mack

Hand-written text and exuberant collages illustrate this story of a boy who takes great pride in his accomplishments. Reading skills and writing skills develop together, and the format of The Things I Can Do invites children to see themselves as authors as well as readers.

SING: Nighty-Night, Cooper, by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

A small kangaroo requests song after song to help him fall asleep, and his mother obliges by making up her own words to familiar tunes. Singing songs together is a powerful way to build phonological awareness skills and vocabulary, and Nighty-Night, Cooper models how a parent can use songs to create a comforting bedtime routine with a child.

TALK: Moo!, by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka

A very vocal cow commandeers the farmer’s car and sets off on an adventure. The entire story is told with just two words: Moo! and Baa! The speech bubbles and the very limited vocabulary help children make the critical connection between the words we say and the print on the page.

PLAY: Niño Wrestles the World, by Yuyi Morales

Niño takes on all the toys in his room with an amazing series of lucha libre wrestling moves. When his sisters wake up from their nap, they challenge him to a match, too! Who will be victorious? Niño Wrestles the World joyfully demonstrates the language-rich, open-ended play that contributes to a child’s narrative skills.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for activity sheets for each title, visit http://www.clel.org and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.