The 2019 Bell Awards Winners

READ: Llama Llama Loves to Read
by Anna Dewdney and Reed Duncan, illustrated by JT Morrow

While at school, Llama Llama begins to learn how letters make words, how words become sentences and finally how sentences become books. After a day of reading, writing, singing and even a trip to the library, Llama Llama shares his new reading skills with Mama as they walk home. Just like Llama Llama, children must master many individual skills to become good readers.

WRITE: Can I Be Your Dog? by Troy Cummings

Arfy is a dog who lives in a box in an alley. As he explores his neighborhood looking for a new home, Arfy write letters to everyone he meets describing the ways he’d be a great pet. This story models many different styles of writing and how writing is used to communicate with others.

SING: Kat Writes a Song, by Greg Foley

Kat is feeling sad, so she decides to write a song to make herself feel better. When she sings it, the sun comes out and she wonders if her “Amazing Song to Make Things Better” will work for everyone. Singing is a great way to introduce children to sound recognition and listening skills.

TALK: Grandma’s Purse, by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

When Grandma Mimi comes to visit her granddaughter, she always brings her magical purse! As they explore her purse together, the little girl learns about her grandma and what is important to her. Talking together with the adults in their lives helps children build vocabulary and think creatively as they start to understand the world around them.

PLAY: Crash! Boom! A Math Tale, by Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Chris Chatterton

A little elephant uses blocks to make a tower as tall as he is. When his first attempt goes Crash! Boom! he starts to experiment with different strategies to achieve success. This book models a variety of ways that adults and children can play with blocks, building language skills as they create plans, make choices, and talk about cause and effect.

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.