



## Books That Help Cultivate Awareness

### Picture Books

*The Paper Bag Princess*, Robert Munsch

*Chrysanthemum*, Kevin Henkes

*The Birthday Thing*, SuAnn and Kevin Kiser

*Thunder Cake*, Patricia Polacco

*A Day's Work*, Eve Bunting

### Longer Books

*Baseball, Snakes, and Summer Squash: Poems About Growing Up*,  
Donald Graves (80 pages)

*Two-Minute Mysteries*, Donald J. Sobol (158 pages)

*Homeless Bird*, Gloria Whelan (186 pages)

*Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Paterson (128 pages)

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C. S. Lewis (206 pages)

## Tips

- When you're engaged with the text, you recognize when meaning wavers.
- It is the reader's job to know when the text makes sense and when it doesn't.
- When readers have trouble visualizing what's going on, are unable to retell what they've read, lack questions or predictions, can't find connecting points, haven't learned anything new, and aren't enjoying what they are reading, it means they need to apply fix-up options.
- Being aware of when you're connecting with what you read is key.
- Good readers stop when there's a comprehension breakdown, take stock of the situation, and figure out how to fix the problem.

Fix-up options include the following:

- Rereading
- Reading ahead
- Raising new questions
- Drawing inferences
- Making predictions
- Figuring out unknown words
- Seeking help from an outside source
- Stopping to think
- Connecting the reading to background knowledge
- Trying to get a mental image
- Looking at sentence structure
- Inspecting pictures and other text features
- Reading the author's note
- Writing about confusing parts
- Consciously thinking about the piece's message
- Defining the purpose for why we're reading in the first place