

**W**elcome to the debut of Book Buzz @ your library, a new column devoted to showcasing the best of the best books, across the grades and across the curriculum. These are the titles to put at the top of your shopping list if you don't already have them! Publication information is included for each book, as are sample curriculum links, a summary, and some suggestions for how the book can be used.

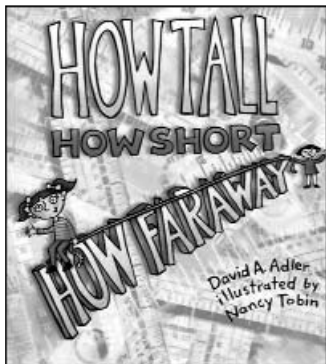
And now, on to the first Book Buzz @ your library...

**How Tall How Short How Far Away**

David A. Adler. Illustrated by Nancy Tobin. 1999. 0-8234-1375-6

**Sample Curriculum Links:**

- \* Primary/Junior Math: Measurement
- \* Grade 5 Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations



**Summary:**

This book teaches the reader how people have been measuring things for thousands of years. Topics include measurement in ancient Egypt and Rome, why measuring sticks were created, and the Imperial and metric systems.

**How to Use This Book:**

This book is an excellent way to demonstrate the necessity of standard units of measure in an interactive way. As a bonus, it's cross-curricular, because it includes information that can be used in the Grade 5 ancient civilizations unit.

**Diary of a Worm**

Doreen Cronin. Illustrated by Harry Bliss. 2003. 0-439-67774-2

**Sample Curriculum Links:**

- \* Grade 3 Science: Soils
- \* Junior Language Arts: Writing



**Summary:**

This book is a humorous rendition of a young earthworm's supposed diary from March 20 to August 1. The illustrations are hilarious, and even older students enjoy it.

**How to Use This Book:**

This book can be used for a variety of purposes. It is an excellent example of voice and character, a model for journal writing, and a good demonstration of how to use speech bubbles. It is also a

fun teacher read for the Grade 3's soil unit. Students LOVE it.

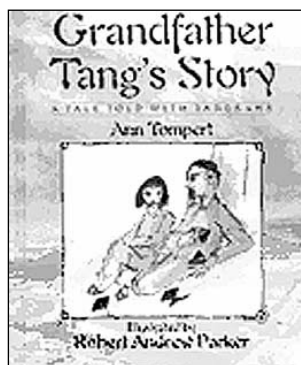
Other “must haves” by this author are *Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type*, *Giggle Giggle Quack* and *Vote for Duck* (great for the grade 5 government unit).

**Grandfather Tang's Story: A Tale Told With Tangrams**

Ann Tompert. Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker. 1990. 0-517-5487-x

**Sample Curriculum Links:**

- \* Primary-Junior Math: Geometry



**Summary:**

Grandfather Tang and Little Soo are making tangram puzzles. They decide to tell a story about the fox fairies using tangrams. The story Grandfather Tang recreates is one about Chou and Wu Ling. These two fox fairies are best friends who like to compete, until one tragic moment when their friendship is tested.

**How to Use This Book:**

This book is a wonderful way to introduce tangrams. While the book is being read, the students can be challenged to recreate the tangram puzzles. Later students can use diagrams to replicate other

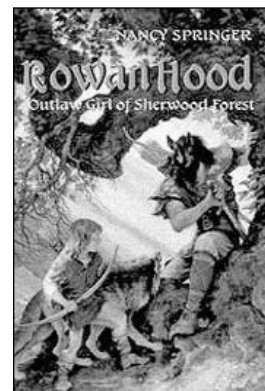
tangram puzzles, or they can create their own.

**Rowan Hood: Outlaw Girl of Sherwood Forest**

Nancy Springer. 2001. 0-439-38774-4

**Sample Curriculum Links:**

- \* Grade 4 Social Studies: Medieval Times
- \* Grade 4 Language Arts: Reading



**Summary:**

A young girl named Rowan finds herself forced to live alone in Sherwood Forest. As a result, Rowan sets out to find her father, Robin Hood. While on her adventure, Rowan is forced to pretend to be a boy. Will her father accept her if she finds him, and how will he react when he discovers she is not a boy?

**How to Use This Book:**

This book lends itself nicely to discussion and literature circles. It presents many opportunities for discussing the role of women in medieval society. It can easily be used as a comparison to *Robin Hood* or as part of a Robin Hood unit. Check out the sequel, *Outlaw Princess of Sherwood: A Tale of Rowan Hood*.