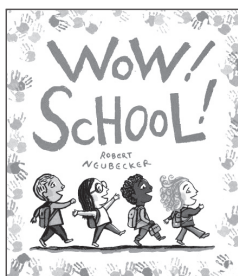


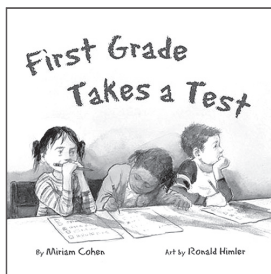
Schools are all about evaluation, especially in these days of standardized tests. It naturally follows that this issue's theme, "Evaluation @ Your Library," brings school stories to mind. These titles (some familiar, some new) are sure to get your kids buzzing about school.



**Wow! School!**  
Robert Neubecker  
2007  
9780786838967

**Sample Curriculum Links:**  
Primary Visual Arts  
Primary Media Literacy

**Summary:**  
It's Izzy's first day of school and, wow! She's excited! Bright, bustling illustrations paired with simple text make it a joy to follow Izzy through her special day. This is a great book to share with emergent readers who will love to read along and spot familiar objects, activities and books which include *No, David!*, *Madeline*, and the author's own *Wow! City!*

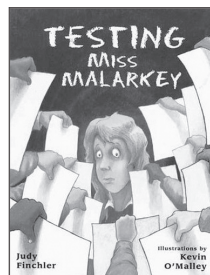


**First Grade Takes a Test**  
Miriam Cohen  
Illustrated by Ronald Himler  
2006  
9781595720542

**Sample Curriculum Links:**  
Kindergarten: Personal and Social Development  
Primary Language Arts: Reading

**Summary:**  
Originally published in 1980, this newly-illustrated version merits a second look. When a test comes to the first-graders from the principal's office, the children have a little trouble. The answers don't seem quite right. After the test, a student goes to a special class based on her high score. Name-calling and unrest follow, until the teacher explains that there is more to school and being a good person than tests.

This book emphasizes the importance of all types of learning. Cohen's sensitivity to the feelings of children, and Himler's perceptive illustrations make this a must-have for any library.

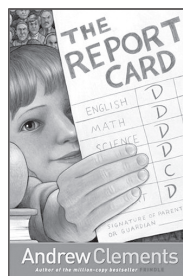


**Testing Miss Malarkey**  
Judy Finchler  
Illustrated by Kevin O'Malley  
2003  
9780802776242

**Sample Curriculum Links:**  
Grade 3 Language Arts:

Media Literacy  
Grades 3-6 Language Arts: Reading

**Summary:**  
Miss Malarkey's school year is off and running. Unfortunately, preparing for standardized testing isn't far behind. Teachers, students, and parents alike are preparing for "The Test" (think EQAO!) and the school is in chaos. The school staff and parents insist "The Test" is not important, but the bedtime story pop quizzes and "brain food" in the cafeteria suggest otherwise. The illustrations contribute to the over-the-top humor and provide fodder for discussion. Who is "The Test" really testing?



**The Report Card**  
Andrew Clements  
2005  
9780689845246

**Sample Curriculum Links:**  
Junior Language Arts: Reading

**Summary:**  
Nora Rowley is a genius. But she doesn't want that information to be too public since she's got a problem with grades... and testing. Ds and Cs make her happy because it makes her friend, Stephen, happy. She doesn't like how tests and grades make him feel dumb, so she hatches a plan to sabotage

test scores as the teachers prepare the kids at school for the state achievement test. This book highlights the timely topic of standardized testing and provides plenty of opportunity for lively discussion.



**The Mysterious Benedict Society**  
Trenton Lee Stewart  
Illustrated by Carson Ellis  
2008  
9780316003957

**Sample Curriculum Links:**  
Junior Language Arts: Reading  
Intermediate Language Arts: Reading

**Summary:**  
Are You a Gifted Child Looking for Special Opportunities? Reynie Muldoon is, so he answers this curious newspaper advertisement. After a series of mysterious tests, Reynie and four other kids are chosen by Mr. Benedict to infiltrate the "Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened" to sidetrack a plot to take over the world. Stewart's inventive use of common themes (orphans struggling against evil forces, abandonment, family, loyalty and facing one's fears) make this a joy to read and will make for an exciting read-aloud.