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Our professional collection specializes in books for K-12 arts educators and teaching artists focused in each arts discipline (dance, music, theater, media and visual arts), arts integration, and American Indian people and cultures. Our Children's Arts and Diversity collection of picture books has hundreds of books for students of all ages.

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10 Tips for Using a Picture Book with Students in Grades 6-12

Young children LOVE picture books! Yes, *and...* these books can have a relevant place in middle school and high school classrooms, as well.

1. Use a picture book as the anticipatory set of your lesson!
2. Using picture books often increases student interest and engagement at all levels of instruction.
3. Picture books can help students build background knowledge about a person, culture, place, concept, and more.
4. Both text and illustrations contribute to meaning.
5. Using picture books can build a sense of community in the classroom through shared reading and discussion. Picture books can unite the class on an emotional level.
6. Picture books lend themselves to an aesthetic reading experience—one that readily taps into students' emotions, attitudes, and beliefs.
7. Visual learners, especially, may respond positively to picture books.
8. Picture books create a safe and accessible entry point for all students, including English Learners and struggling readers.
9. Picture books offer pathways to deeper emotional connections and high order thinking skills for all students.
10. Secondary students usually spend less time reading for pleasure—surprise them!

It's important to know your purpose for using a picture book, too!

Older students may question the use of a picture book, or think of it as too easy or a waste of time. Know your purpose for choosing a book and share that purpose with students.

Reiker, Melissa, "The Use of Picture Books in the High School Classroom: A Qualitative Case Study" (2011). Master of Liberal Studies Theses. 5. <http://scholarship.rollins.edu/mls/5>

Springer, Sheree, "50 Ways to Use Picture Books in Secondary Classrooms" (2015). University of Utah. <http://ucte.info/new/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/50-Ways-to-Use-Picture-Books-w-ELA-Students-Final-Handout.pdf>