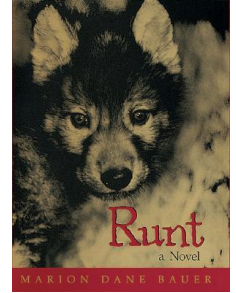


Novel Title: Runt
Author: Marion Dane Bauer
Theme(s): Community, friendship, family, courage/bravery, individual strengths
Pages: 144 pages



Criteria to consider when choosing a novel for students with significant disabilities:

- ✓ Age respectful topic and format
- ✓ A compelling storyline with substance to support 'big questions'
- ✓ Credible characters
- ✓ Topic or issue that readers can make personal connections to
- ✓ Careful introduction and reinforcement of difficult vocabulary and concepts
- ✓ Straightforward plot development (e.g., avoiding flashbacks, time shifts, and confusing changes in point of view)
- ✓ Simple sentence structure
- ✓ Illustrations, audio support and/or video versions available
- ✓ Reasonable length (e.g., less than 200 pages)

Plot summary:

Born the smallest in a wolf litter, Runt struggles to belong amongst his normal-sized brothers and sisters. However through a moving set of events, Runt discovers self-worth and the true meaning of bravery.

Big questions to explore

- How do we build a community where everyone belongs?
- What does it mean to be brave?
- We all have special gifts. What is yours? How do you share it with others?

Related books, websites, photos and videos:

(Teacher's guide)

<http://www.mariondanebauer.com/pdf/Runt%20Teaching%20Guide.pdf>

Books:

Grassroots –Animal Pack

<http://www.grassrootsbooks.net/ca/grass-roots-readers/animal-series/wolves.html>

Wolf Island by Celia Godkin

Walk with a Wolf by Janni Howker

Look to the North: A Wolf Pup Diary by Jean Craighead George

The Littlest Wolf by Larry Dane Brimner

Video available for Runt? Yes / No

Adapted from "Hooking Struggling Readers: Using Books They Can and Want to Read" in Reading Rockets website by Lori Rog and Paul Kropp (2001)

Background knowledge and experience			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of different animals in novel • understanding of seasons and implications for animals • basic knowledge and understanding of food chain 			
Key vocabulary			
• wolf	• pub	• howl	• human
• pack	• brave	• raven	
• runt	• den	• belong	
Writing activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a class book of wolf facts • Describe Runt’s gifts. Now describe three gifts you have. • Write about three ways Runt was brave. How are you brave? 			
Numeracy connections			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How big is a wolf? How much does it weigh? Compare this to a dog, yourself? • Look at graphs that show the population of wolves over time in North America/Canada 			
Science connections			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a class poster that shows a food chain in a woodland setting. How do the larger predators fit into the chain? • Facts about Wolves: Find out key information, food, home, friends and enemies –display in cube or poster report. • Look at pictures of different kind of wolves (gray, timber, red etc.). How are they the same? How are they different? Where do they live? • What does it mean to be a pack animal? What other animals live in packs? 			
Community connections			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edmonton Valley Zoo –Arctic Wolf Talk • Royal Alberta Museum – Wild Alberta Gallery 			
Opportunities to support individual student goals			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah – vocabulary development • Pete – beginning research skills • John – question asking 			

The choice of novel and related learning are:

- ✓ Personally meaningful
- ✓ Socially relevant
- ✓ Opportunities for social interaction
- ✓ Age respectful
- ✓ Developmentally appropriate

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