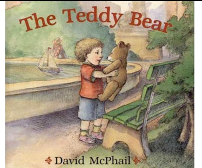

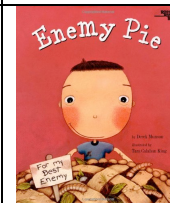
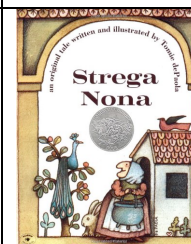


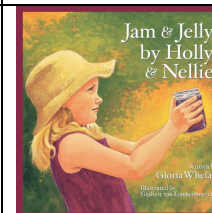
Recommended Mentor Texts for Gr 2 “Characters Face Bigger Challenges-and So Do Readers”

In this unit children will be retelling as they read by determining importance in their longer texts, thinking about how several pages or chapters go together. They will be thinking about how characters respond to major events/challenges/bigger problems. They will talk about how characters feel, why they are acting in particular ways, and if and when they changed over the course of the book. Deepening the comprehension, readers will need to read carefully for when character traits are driving the character’s actions and when he starts to act outside of those traits, looking for when a character is expressing strong emotion or noting that something important is happening. Finally, the students will be looking closely at different parts of the text to use as evidence for their thinking and ideas. Students are thinking deeply about how their characters can teach us about our own feelings and the world around us.

Level	Lexile	Title, description, and teaching points	Author/Pub	Type	Picture
F	420	<p><i>The Teddy Bear</i></p> <p>A young boy leaves his beloved teddy bear in a diner. A homeless man finds it in the trash can and takes care of it by tucking it in his coat pocket and sleeping with it in the dumpster. One day, he leaves the teddy bear on a park bench just when the child and his parents happen to be passing by. The youngster is pleased to find his old friend and rescues him, but when the man cries out, "Where is my bear?" the child returns the stuffed animal to him. This act of sharing and compassion will be treasured by young and old. The basic lost-and-found teddy bear story is reminiscent of Don Freeman's <i>Corduroy</i> (Viking, 1968). This book, however, adds</p>	David McPhail, Square Fish 2005	Picture book	

		<p>another dimension to the theme, and discussion is sure to follow as the artist gives a face and emotion to the homeless population.</p> <p>Teaching Points:</p> <p>Adding information about setting and the characters' lives to what we know so far</p> <p>Noticing characters' feelings and how they change across a book</p> <p>Talking with a partner about characters to grow big ideas</p> <p>Thinking about big ideas in our books</p> <p>Learning from characters and their stories</p>			
	AD 590	<p><i>Millie Fierce</i></p> <p>Millie is an ordinary girl who often feels ignored; she is "too short to be tall, too quiet to be loud, and too plain to be fancy." Tired of the indifference of others, she decides to stop being subdued and polite and start being fierce. Her change in attitude gets plenty of attention, though not the type that she hopes for. Millie crushes her neighbor's flowers, creates messes in the kitchen, and even eats the birthday boy's cake. When her bad behavior causes her to lose friends and be shunned again, Millie learns that doing good deeds can be a better way to get others to notice her.</p> <p>Teaching Points:</p> <p>Getting to know characters by wants and problems</p> <p>Noticing characters feelings and how they change across book</p>	Jane Manning, Philomel 2012	Picture Book	

		Noticing when characters act out of character Learning from characters and their stories			
L	AD 330	<p><i>Enemy Pie</i></p> <p>It was the perfect summer. That is, until Jeremy Ross moved into the house down the street and became neighborhood enemy number one. Luckily Dad had a surefire way to get rid of enemies: Enemy Pie. But part of the secret recipe is spending an entire day playing with the enemy! In this funny yet endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipe for turning your best enemy into your best friend. Accompanied by charming illustrations, <i>Enemy Pie</i> serves up a sweet lesson in the difficulties and ultimate rewards of making new friends.</p> <p>Teaching Points: Making, confirming, revising predictions Getting to know characters by understanding their wants and problems Noticing characters feelings and how they change across book Learning from characters and their stories</p>	Derek Munson, Chronicle Books, 2000	Picture Book	
M	800	<p><i>Strega Nona</i></p> <p>Strega Nona -- "Grandma Witch" -- is the source for potions, cures, magic, and comfort in her Calabrian town. Her magical ever-full pasta pot is especially intriguing to hungry Big Anthony. He is supposed to look after her house and tend her garden but one</p>	Tomie dePaola		

		day, when she goes over the mountain to visit Strega Amelia, Big Anthony recites the magic verse over the pasta pot, with disastrous results. In this retelling of an old tale, author-illustrator Tomie dePaola (whose middle names "is" Anthony) combines humor in the writing and warmth in the paintings as he builds the story to its hilarious climax.			
L	490	<p><i>Jam and Nellie by Holly and Nellie</i></p> <p>Holly's family lives a simple life in northern Michigan, enjoying the bounty of the earth and very much in step with the rhythm of the changing seasons. But times are hard and a cold winter is coming. Without a warm coat, Holly might not be able to start school. Readers will delight in Mama's solution to Holly's predicament. National Book Award winner Gloria Whelan's lyrical prose is beautifully matched by detailed paintings from Michigan artist Gijbert van Frankenhuyzen.</p> <p>Teaching Points: Following tricky words (good context clues as support) Thinking about big ideas Getting to know characters by their wants and problems</p>	<p>Gloria Whelan Sleeping Bear Press 2002</p>		
		<i>*All descriptions taken from Amazon.com</i>			