NEW from Stenhouse!

The Castle in the Classroom

Story as a Springboard for Early Literacy

Ranu Bhattacharyya

Foreword by Georgia Heard

“Here is my wish for all young children—that they too can experience a class as inspiring as Ranu’s. Here is my wish for all teachers—when you read The Castle in the Classroom, let Ranu’s wise teaching be your guide.”

— Georgia Heard

The Castle in the Classroom describes a year in a kindergarten classroom as the children embark on literary exploration. Each child approaches the journey from a different perspective—some are self-sufficient, others more hesitant; some are literary adventurers, others shyly reluctant. The detailed focus lessons throughout the book use the power of stories—personal narratives, folktales, and fairy tales—to deepen the literary experience so that reading and writing become as much a part of kindergarten as playing and pretending are.

As the book progresses through the year, teachers will find a wealth of resources, including practical models to teach strategies and skills; effective teaching schedules; ways to address, challenge, expand, and celebrate student learning; examples of student work; parent education materials; and ideas on how to manage assessment. By the end of the year, your students—like those in Ranu’s class—will have built on their love of storytelling to establish a strong literacy foundation.

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