

Point of View

K-2

Hurst, Carol Otis. **TERRIBLE STORM.** Greenwillow, 2007.

From their creaky front-porch rocking chairs, Walt (a social butterfly) and Fred (his polar opposite) recall New England's Great Blizzard of 1888, when they were young men. Based on a real storm, this story captures how differing natures view the same event.

Kuklin, Susan. **FAMILIES.** Hyperion, 2006.

Fifteen nurturing families representing a broad range of characteristics are featured in double page spreads. Each has a group family picture, a cut-out shot of the children, an album photo, and text in the children's own words. Authentic voices of a variety of children in a variety of families. Nonfiction, perfect for social studies units.

3-4

Hobbs, Valerie. **SHEEP.** Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006.

On a California ranch, a border collie pup begins to learn to herd sheep, and that dream of work stays with him after a fire destroys the ranch and he is sold to a pet store. He finds some kindness with a series of owners, and he even falls in love, but he also endures wretched cruelty, especially when he refuses to dance for a brutal circus master. Finally, he saves the life of a lost orphan boy, bonds with him, and helps find a family for them both. The dog's first-person voice captures his struggle for food, shelter, and love. A wonderful read-aloud.

Pennypacker, Sara. **CLEMENTINE.** Hyperion, 2006.

"Clementine, you need to pay attention!" But she is paying attention, just not to the regular things. As Clementine says, "Spectacularful ideas are always sproinging up in my brain." Reminiscent of both Ramona and Junie B. Jones, Clementine is an ingenuous third-grader with a good heart and talent for trouble. Clementine's observations are novel and funny. Her first-person narrative gives great insight into her world; the way she sees herself, the way she sees others, and the way she perceives others see her. Touching and frequently amusing, this transitional chapter book will be a fun one to recommend.

5-6

Gutman, Dan. **THE HOMEWORK MACHINE.** Simon & Schuster, 2006.

In this story, the nontraditional narrative unfolds through the words of a large cast of characters, from a teacher to the police chief to the students in a fifth-grade class. Each chapter is a series of first-person entries, from a single line to a page in length, focusing primarily on four very different students who are assigned to the same group in school. Although they are not friends at the beginning of the book, they form an alliance of convenience that grows into something more after the temptation of a homework machine draws them together. Fast-paced and entertaining, this story has convincing characters portrayed through their own words, points of discussion on ethics and student computer use, and every student's dream machine.

Pearsall, Shelley. **ALL OF THE ABOVE.** Little, Brown, 2006.

This story starts with a lame math class and a pretty lame math teacher. In desperation, the teacher comes up with an idea to break the world record for making four-sided tetrahedrons. Somehow, James, Rhondell, Marcel, and Sharice end up doing it. As each character "talks" in first person, different points of view are presented. Can they do it? Is it a dumb idea? What's the point? Is it really helping anyone learn math (or anything else)? What happens if they accomplish it? And, if you are a clever reader, you'll see that the story itself is a kind of tetrahedron--four characters, four sides...