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## Point of View

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### K-2

Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. *Same, Same but Different*. New York: Henry Holt, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-8050-8946-2. Two young pen pals from across the globe compare drawings of their homes and ask questions about each others' lives concluding their lives are the same, same but different.

Czekaj, Jef. *A Call for a New Alphabet*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. ISBN: 918-1-58089-228-5. The letter X is sick and tired of being stuck near the end of the alphabet and only starting Xylophone and X-ray in alphabet books. He riles up the other letters so much that they decide to have a vote to rearrange alphabet completely. While teaching us alliteration, grammar and spelling rules and some fun vocabulary, the letter X finally realizes that having the same job as other letters might not be as great as he originally thought.

### 3-4

Cameron, A. *Spunky Tells All*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-374-38000-7. Spunky is a "middle aged" dog who relates his story of living with his family who often misunderstand him. He tries to live by the Dog customs and traditions, including *Always Smell Everything and Learn* even though it sometimes gets him in trouble. His family decides he needs a cat to keep him company and Spunky has to deal with foolish cat Fiona as they slowly begin to understand and befriend each other.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Waiting for the Magic*. New York: Atheneum, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-41692-745-7. William and Elinor's father leaves "for awhile" and to cope, their mom decides they need a dog. At the animal shelter, they select not one dog, but four... and a cat. As the family tries to cope with the uncertainty of the separation and the realization that there is a baby on the way, William and Elinor find that they can hear their new pets' thoughts and perspectives on the situation. In the end, their father returns when he realizes he was trying to find the magic for his career as a writer elsewhere while it was at home with his family all along.

### 5-6

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Bird in a Box*. New York: Little Brown and Company, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-316-07403-2. Three black children growing up during the Depression are united by the historic boxing matches of Joe Louis. Each chapter is told by one of the children – Willie, a young boxer with a mean daddy, Otis, an orphan who loves riddle-jokes, and Hibernia, who loves to sing and whose father is a preacher. Tragedies lead the two boys to living at a Negro Orphanage where war-widow Lila befriends them and brings Hibernia's youth choir into their lives. The three children celebrate small victories and establish big dreams for their lives to come.

Rocklin, Joanne. *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street*. New York: Random House, 2011. ISBN:978-0-307-87973-8. The children (and adults) who live on Orange Street love the last remaining Valencia orange tree on the empty lot. One day, a strange man and an orange cone arrives. An omniscient narrator tells the tale of that day from the perspective of the residents of each address – including one chapter from the tree itself. The historic tree remains the focus as stories unfold of childhood illness, anxieties about family and friendship, and the struggles of memory in old age.