

# Reading and Writing with the Caldecotts

"That isn't are popo". Shang whisperd.  
"It's a wolf. Tao and Pootze where  
surprised. "I have a plane". whisperd Shang  
"What is it?" asked Pootze and Tao.

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## *Books and Writing Ideas*

*Coming on Home Soon* (Honor Book, 2005) – Dialogue

*Lon Po Po* (Medal Winner, 1990) – Dialogue

*The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* (Medal Winner, 2004)– Dialogue, Point of View

*Officer Buckle and Gloria* (Medal Winner, 1996) – Dialogue, Point of View

*Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* (Honor Book, 2001) – Point of View, Letter Writing

*The Gardner* (Honor Book, 1998) – Letter Writing

### *Coming on Home Soon- Writing Dialogue*

Woodson, Jacqueline. 2004. *Coming on Home Soon*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Putnam.

#### *Summary*

During World War II when the men were overseas fighting, women filled their jobs and in this story, a mother leaves her rural homestead for Chicago to take a job working for the railroad leaving behind her daughter and her mother. A homeless kitten that appears on their doorstep assuages their loneliness. Throughout the story the refrain, “coming on home soon” resounds with hope for the mother’s return. Lewis’s earth-toned watercolors have a lifelike quality to them that encourages readers to step into the book and become part of this loving family.

Note: On Jacqueline Woodson’s website (<http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com>) she has information about her books including the setting, where she wrote the book, and why she wrote the book. She also has answers to frequently asked questions, a list of awards she has won, and information on how to contact her.

#### *Examine the Text*

Woodson uses italics and indentations to indicate dialogue. She uses only a few dialogue tags and no quotation marks. Use a document camera to project one of the pages with dialogue, such as page three. Then, ask the students to read the page with you and look for parts of the text where they think either Ada Ruth or Mama are speaking. Why do you think the author decided not to use quotation marks? How do you know which character is speaking? What clues help you determine which character is speaking? Through dialogue, authors develop their characters. What do you learn about Ada Ruth and Mama through their conversation? Notice that when the characters speak they sometimes speak in short phrases rather than complete sentences, which is how we normally talk with our family members and friends.

#### *Model Writing Dialogue*

Model the writing for the students before you ask them to write. In order to model writing natural sounding dialogue for the students, recall a conversation you recently had. Open a word processing program and project the image on a large screen as you begin writing the conversation, or write the conversation on the board or an overhead. As you write the

dialogue, replay the conversation in your head, and try to transcribe the conversation. The dialogue should be clear and sparse with no extraneous words.

### *Practice Writing Dialogue*

In order to get the students started on the writing assignment, suggest that they think about a recent conversation they had with someone. Ask them to turn to their neighbors and tell them about the conversation before they begin writing. As the students write, remind them to just write the conversation down and not to worry about where to put the punctuation marks, as the focus of this exercise is on creating natural sounding dialogue. If they do not remember exactly what was said, they can just write down what they remember and make up the rest of the conversation. Alternately, you can project an illustration from the book and ask the students to write dialogue for the picture. Have the students retell what was happening in the story based on the picture before they write the dialogue. As the students write their dialogue, write your own dialogue. Writing with your students shows them that you value the assignment.

### *Share the Dialogue*

Ask the students to share their dialogue in small groups or by reading their dialogue to the whole class.

## *Space for Writing*



## Sampling of Caldecott Books and Writing Ideas

Chapter 1 Realistic Fiction		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>Officer Buckle and Gloria</i>	Medal Winner, 1996	Persuasion
<i>Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale</i>	Honor Book, 2005	Story Map
<i>Ella Sarah Gets Dressed</i>	Honor Book, 2004	Repeated Refrain
Chapter 2 Historical Fiction		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>The Man Who Walked Between the Towers</i>	Medal Winner, 2004	Point of View
<i>Smoky Night</i>	Medal Winner, 1995	Creating Suspense
<i>Coming On Home Soon</i>	Honor Book, 2005	Dialogue
Chapter 3 Traditional Literature		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>The Three Pigs</i>	Medal Winner, 2002	Retelling
<i>Joseph Had a Little Overcoat</i>	Medal Winner, 2000	Cumulative Tale
<i>Rapunzel</i>	Medal Winner, 1998	Characteristics of Fairy Tales
Chapter 4 Memoirs, Autobiographies, and Biographies		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>Snowflake Bentley</i>	Medal Winner, 1999	Research
<i>Song and Dance Man</i>	Medal Winner, 1989	Sensory Words
<i>Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra</i>	Honor Book, 1999	Idioms
Chapter 5 Poetry		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>The Spider and the Fly</i>	Honor Book, 2003	Rhyming Words
<i>A Child's Calendar</i>	Honor Book, 2000	Quatrains
<i>Harlem: A Poem</i>	Honor Book, 1998	Personification
Chapter 6 Fantasy		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>Kitten's First Full Moon</i>	Medal Winner, 2005	Repeated Refrain
<i>My Friend Rabbit</i>	Medal Winner, 2003	Circle Tale
<i>Tuesday</i>	Medal Winner, 1992	Story Structure
Chapter 7 Information		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>So You Want to Be President?</i>	Medal Winner, 2001	Compare and Contrast
<i>What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?</i>	Honor Book, 2004	Questions as Leads
<i>The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins</i>	Honor Book, 2002	Narrative Report
Chapter 8 Letters and Diaries		
Books	Awards	Lessons
<i>Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type</i>	Honor Book, 2001	Persuasive Letters
<i>Tibet: Through the Red Box</i>	Honor Book, 1999	Observations
<i>The Gardener</i>	Honor Book, 1998	Letter Writing Conventions

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 Stewart, Sarah. (1997). *The Gardener*. Illustrated by David Small. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.  
 Woodson, Jacqueline. (2004). *Coming on Home Soon*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Putnam.  
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