Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

H. Diana Cruchley©2016, dianacruchley.com

THE CAT, THE DOG, LITTLE RED, THE "EXPLODING" EGGS, THE WOLF, AND GRANDMA
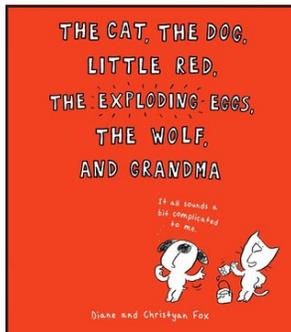
The cat tries to tell the Little Red Riding Hood story while the Dog, who loves superheroes, criticizes, adds his own thoughts, and questions the morality of the story. Lots of fun...very post-modern.

Diane and Christyan Fox, Scholastic Press, ©2014, 978-0-545-69481-0

EXTREME WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Dog interrupts the story constantly. Write stories about times when you were interrupted constantly while trying to do something.

2. Dog loves stories about Superpowers. What superpowers would you most like and what would you do with them?

3. Cat loves to read stories, and Dog likes to be read to. Write stories about times in your life when you read to others, what your favourite books or stories are, or any stories about books in your life.

FRACTURED RED RIDING HOOD

There are many picture books, and even a movie about Little Red Riding Hood:

1. *The Wolf's Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood?* This is one for which I have written teaching ideas.(See dianacruchley.com)
2. *Little Red* (a Favourite Tale With a Twist)
3. *The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood*
4. *Hoodwinked* (the movie)
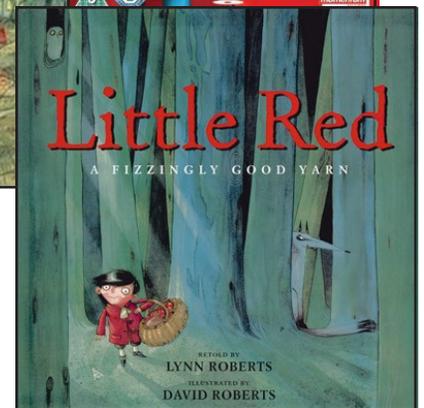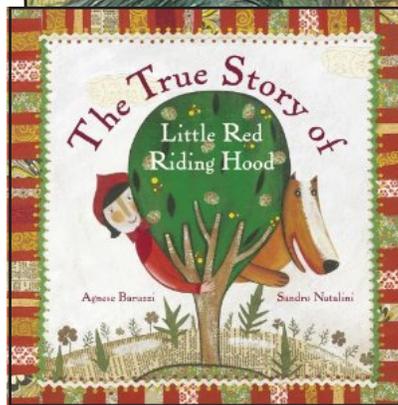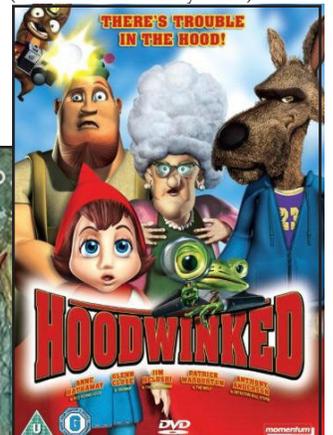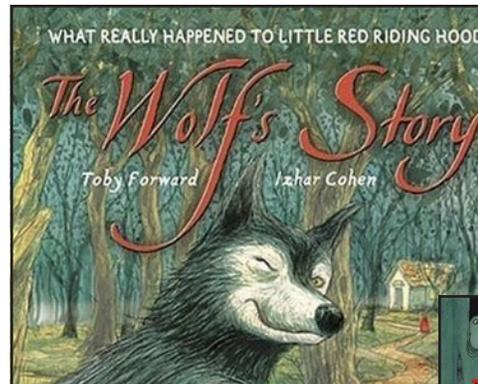
THE ORIGIN OF LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

There is a long oral tradition for this story, all of which have:
- talking animals
- the little girl with the hood
- the dangerous predator
- the need to listen to your parents

The oldest written story is a Latin version in the 11th century. In the 1600's there were two simultaneous versions in widely separated places:
- A Chinese version by the poet Huang Zhing
- A *published* French version by Charles Perrault

Post Modern Picture Books

Post-modernism includes several features:

- The manipulation of existing conventional forms, sometimes combining several.
- Speaking out to the audience across what is called "*The Fourth Wall*"...meaning that in a theatre we see three sides, and we are on the 4th side. To speak to the audience is to break the 4th wall. It often happens now in TV shows like: **The Middle**, or **Modern Family.**

Ask students why this book might be considered post-modern.

Some other examples of Post-modern picture books, among many, are:

- **The Wolf's Story** (I have teaching ideas for this book. See dianacruchley.com))
- **PleaseDo Not Open This Book!**
- **Bad Day at Riverbend**
- **An Undone Fairy Tale** (See dianacruchley.com)
- **Chester**
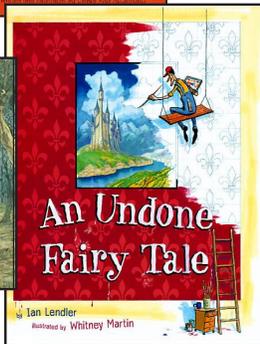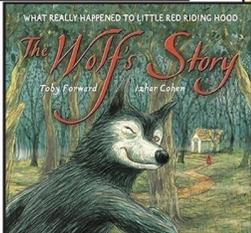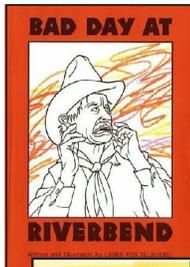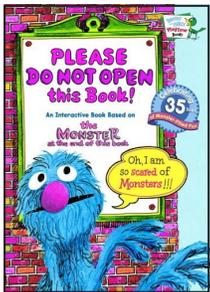
The Authors, Diane and Christyan Fox

The website doesn't have much for teachers, BUT the blog h blog, *Boy Bites Horse* section is great. Read "*The Blankey Game*" for sure.

Fairy Tale Poetry or Fairy Tale Slang

Working in pairs, ask students to write rhyming versions of the following list of 14 fairy tales. Just rhyming couplets is fine. It's much easier for them to do than to write an original story in rhyme because they know the plot already.

Alternatively, the class could brainstorm slang expressions and words, and write a slang version of the fairy tale. In either case, the object is to make amusing veresions of all 14 of the stories:

1. The Three Little Pigs
2. Snow White
3. Cinderella
4. Beauty and the Beast
5. The Three Billy Goats Gruff
6. The Gingerbread Man
7. The Boy Who Cried Wolf
8. Jack and the Beanstock
9. Little Red Ridng Hood
10. Goldilocks
11. Rumpelstiltskin
12. Rapunzel
13. The Ugly Duckling
14. Hansel and Gretel

The Favourite Fairy tale Survey

Design a survey form to allow students to conduct a survey of students in the school to identify the top 3 fairy tales - or to rank them from most to least favourite. For math, students could construct a chart of their results.

For fun, students could carry random copies of each of the fairy tale or slang versions they and their classmates wrote, and give one as a "prize" to each survey participant. To add to the sense of adventure, save some of those miniature Halloween candies. Tell students who can find a partner with the same story to meet at by the front office to "meet the authors", get their autographs, and receive a prize. Alternative prizes could be a juice bottle, or a free coupon for french fries, or a really cool bookmark.

Teach the students the "manners of conducting a survey" - "*May I have a few moments of your time for a simple survey about favourite fairy tales?*", t*he results of th survey will be announced over the PA in two days."* Record the results in the correct column. "*Thank you very much. Here is a randomly chosen fairy tale for you to read. If you can find someone else who got the same fairy tale, go together to the Principal's Office and have your versions signed by the authors , and recieve a candy prize."*