

Implementing a Multilingual Perspective in Selecting Children's Literature

Teaching for Biliteracy Summer Institute
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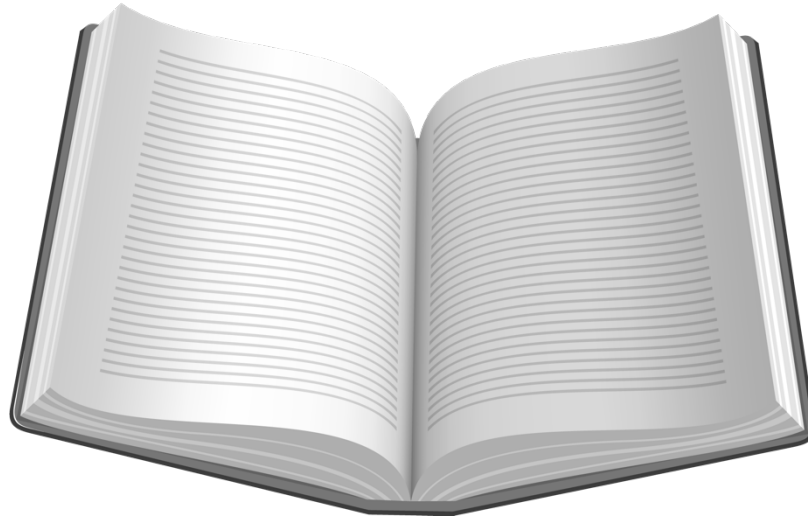
Focus Questions

- Why use children's literature?
- Why use *authentic* children's literature?
- What should be considered when selecting books?
- How can children's literature be used in standards-based biliteracy units?
- How can we plan for language, literacy *and* content development using children's literature?

Why Use Children's Literature?

“Trade books are written by people who have something to say and hope their words appeal to readers who seek personal knowledge, insight, and pleasure ”

(Jacobs & Tunnell, 1996)



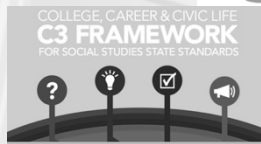
*"Reading the world always precedes reading the word,
and reading the word implies continually reading the world."
(Freire, 1987)*

Why Use Children's Literature?

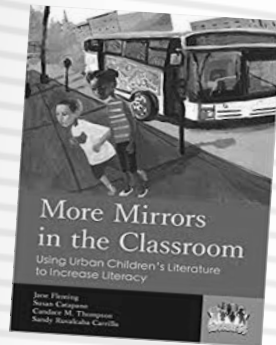
- Real stories by real authors are just **more interesting**
- Real authors **go deep** with the topics they write about
- Real literature explores **complex themes** that encourage extended and multifaceted exploration around a central question or big idea

Selecting Children's Literature

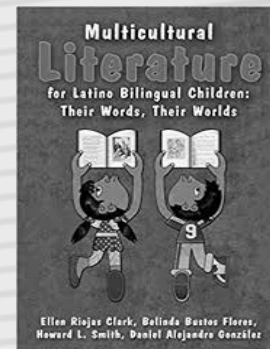
3 Lenses



Curriculum



Culture



Language

Why Use *Authentic* Texts?

Discourse patterns vary among languages.

Students need exposure and experience with the discourse patterns of both languages in order to develop their biliteracy.

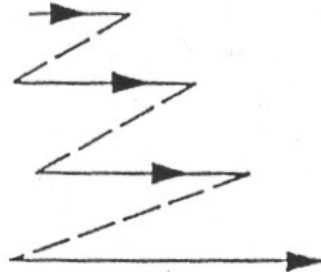
Teachers benefit from interacting with linguistically authentic texts too!

Why Use *Authentic* Texts?

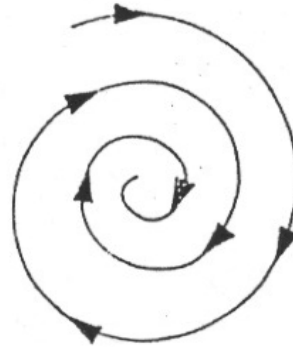
English



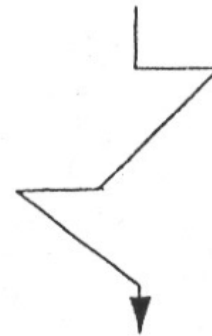
Semitic



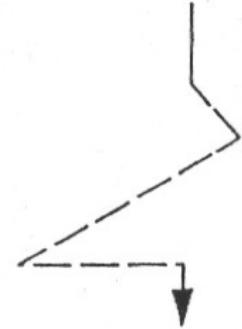
Asian



Romance



Russian



**"...linear,
tolerating little
deviation from
one main path
of expository
development."**

**"...use parallel
restatements
of an idea to
develop it."**

**"...spiral in
around a thesis,
avoiding a head
on attack as too
direct."**

**"...proceed to a
point via
digressive
zigzags that, to
English
speakers, seem
extraneous and
confusing."**

**"...do likewise
[as Spanish],
but with
complex mega-
sentences."**

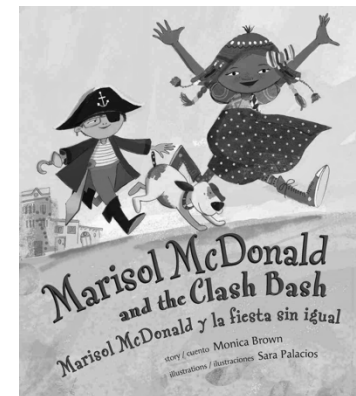
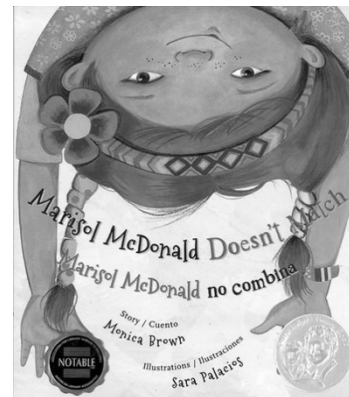
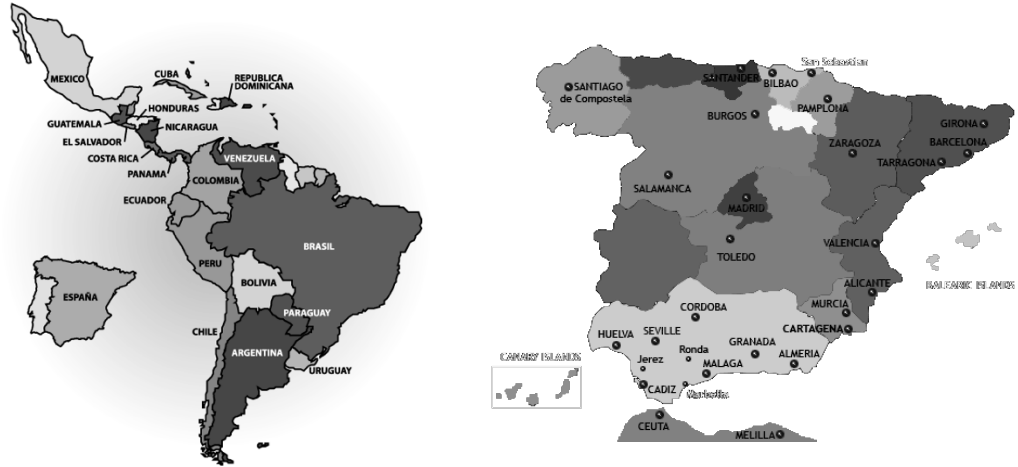
A word about

Linguistic Complexity in Authentic Texts

- Linguistic complexity affects how comprehensible the input is
 - **NOT** a reason to exclude or alter authentic texts
- Tendency to scaffold for unfamiliar vocabulary
 - What other linguistic factors require scaffolding to increase comprehensibility?
- Consider what features of the book/story can be used to ‘counterbalance’ linguistic complexity
 - familiar topic
 - repetitive or predictable text
 - detailed illustrations

The Many Forms of Authenticity

- Linguistic
- Cultural
- Personal Relevance



Authentic Texts in a US Context

- Subject matter in a book for younger children that in US may only be considered appropriate with older children
- Text in cursive
- Different systems of mathematical notation
- Words with different meanings across countries/regions
- Notions of modesty
- Religious themes

What About *Translated* Texts?



Why even consider using translated texts in a biliteracy unit?

Translated Texts

Important Considerations



- Where was the text translated?
- Does the translation go beyond literal translation?
- Does the language flow?
- Does the translation preserve the linguistic complexity and rigor of the original?

Translated Texts

Important Considerations



- Where was the text translated?

When in doubt, ask an Elena!

- Does the translation preserve the internal translation?

- Does the translation flow?

...maybe 2 or 3 Elenas

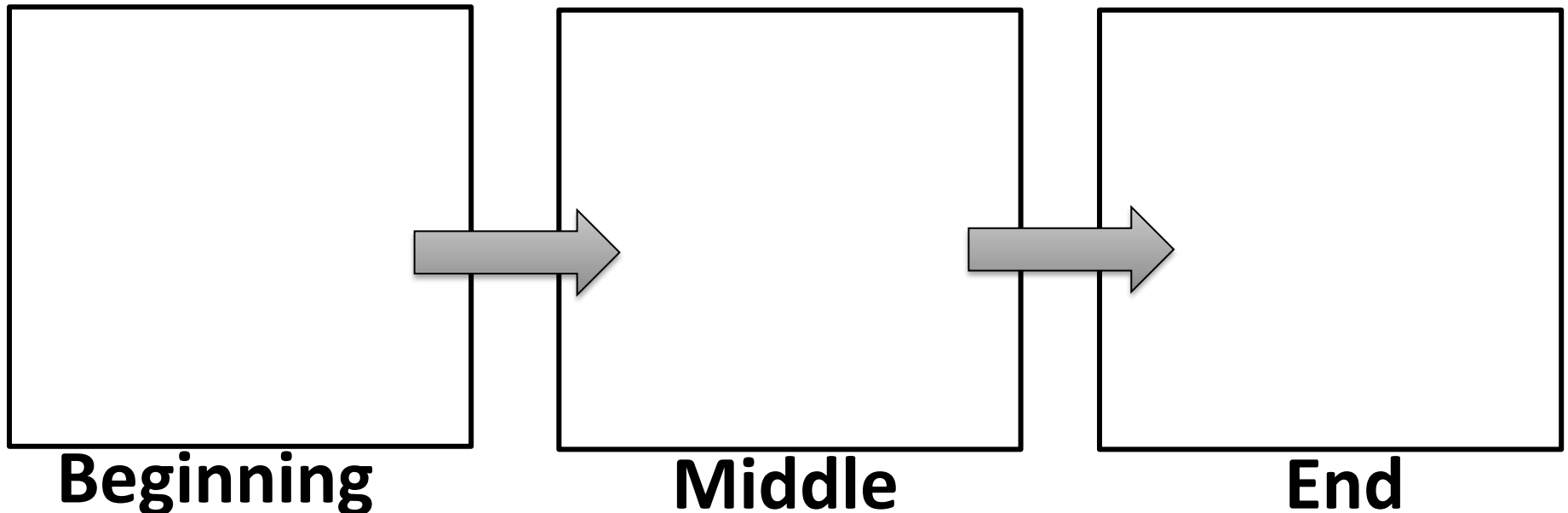
- Does the translation preserve the linguistic complexity and rigor of the original?



Let's Explore Some Books!

What is this book about (big idea)?
What happens in this story?

This text is about _____
_____.



Publishers of *Authentic* Texts



Kalandraka



Ediciones la fragatina



Tramuntana

Distributors of *Authentic* Texts



Publishers of *Translated* Informational Texts

Teacher Created Materials
PUBLISHING

Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students



Tend to be literal translations; I recommend ordering review copies

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