



CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

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.

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FU FINDS THE WAY



Fu, bored while planting rice, throws a rice plant out of the paddy into the path of a warrior who challenges him to a duel. The patient Master teaches him

through pouring tea to approach life with purpose, flow, and patience...and saves his life.

John Rocco, Disney-Hyperion Books, 2009, ISBN 978-1-4231-0965-5

37 THINGS THAT ARE MORE INTERESTING THAN...

The opening line of the book is “*Fu could think of at least thirty-seven things that were more fun than planting rice.*” Students could write a clever set of mini-stories of the **37 Things More Interesting Than...** (washing dishes, cleaning your room...something they find boring).

DRINKING TEA

While not a tea ceremony, there may be students in your class who have never tried Chinese tea, so that serving it could be an interesting experience for them - perhaps while you read the story?

PERSONAL WRITING

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

1. Gong Fu - what is the skill you are slowly developing - showing patience, flow, and purpose.
2. Times when you were careless or maybe had an accident.
3. Times when someone was really mad at you, for something you did.
4. A personal story and the moral you learned from it.

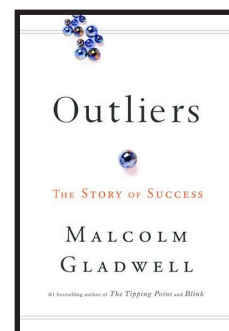
JOHN ROCCO'S BOOKS

John Rocco has a very nice website for his three books: *Wolf! Wolf!*, *Fu Finds the Way*, and *Moonpowder*. He has been an art director at Disney working on the *Shrek* series, and other Disney productions. His “trailer” for the books is very clever. Download for students. Also the “making of” section has a nice explanation, with illustrations, of what an author-illustrator does.



GONG FU

Gong Fu, John Rocco says, is a philosophy of being “in the moment” - doing whatever you are currently doing with all your heart. It refers to a skill acquired through long practice. Gladwell's book, *Outliers*, at a more scientific level, talks about the importance of 10,000 hours of experience to become proficient at anything. Discuss being “in the moment” with your students - and its value for learning.



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SIMILES

There are three important similes in this story:

- *just as a bamboo grows upward to reach the sun - you must have purpose.*
- *like a stream that flows from the mountain to the valley, the tea must flow from you to the cup.*
- *just as a caterpillar patiently waits in its cocoon to become a butterfly, you too must be patient.*

Try discussing what a simile is, and then talking about the meaning of these similes, BEFORE you read the story to the students.

DUELING RESEARCH

There are many famous duels students could be asked to prepare a 1-page ‘poster’ for with an internet picture and about 4 paragraphs of writing. They could research in teams, but write individually. It could make a single powerpoint class presentation with each trio of students preparing 5 frames (illustrated). The whole powerpoint could be shown to the class to build cultural literacy in general - and as a method of “publishing” your work.

- Miyamoto Musashi vs. Sasaki Kojio (two famous samurai, 1612, there is a YouTube of the fight)
- David vs. Goliath
- Gunfight at the OK Corral
- Achilles vs. Hector (Trojan war; YouTube available)
- Clement-Charles Sabrevois Bleury vs. Charles Ovide Perrault (Canadian, 1936)
- Dooley vs. Healey (Canadian, last duel, 1873)
- “Humanity Dick” (Richard Martin vs. George “Fighting Fitzgerald” 1783. Richard Martin was one of the founders of the SPCA - connect to the picture book *The Wonder Horse*)
- Aleksandr Pushkin vs. Georges d’Arthur (Russian, 1837, Pushkin is a famous author)
- Alexander Hamilton vs. Aaron Burr (American, Hamilton was a former Secretary of the Treasury, Burr was Vice-President, 1804))

WRITING A TRAILER

Just as movies have trailers for TV and in movie theaters, so does John Rocco (who has worked for Disney) constructed two wonderful “movie” trailers for his books *Fu Finds the Way* and *MoonPowder*. Talk about what a trailer does: gives you a hint of the movie, tries to get you excited about seeing it, doesn’t give away the plot, etc.

These are the words for the trailer for *Fu Finds the Way*:

- *A story of a distracted boy*
- *a mighty warrior*
- *and a duel*
- *the Teacher who trains him*
- *and the pot of tea that saves him*
- *Fu Finds the Way*

Ask students to work in pairs to write a trailer for each other’s most recent published story. Ask students to read them out to the class.



Miyamoto Musashi

Sasaki Kojio