



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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YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!



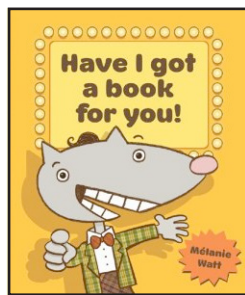
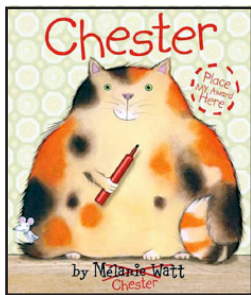
Our Bunny speaks to us about our tardiness in having taken so long to come to visit him in the book. He even wants us to sign a contract about staying there. But, he gets so involved in a phone call that he ignores us, and, in the end, we leave.

Melanie Watt, Kids Can Press, ©2011, 9978-1-55453-590-3

FOURTH WALL

Breaking the 4th wall (the imaginary wall we are behind when we are watching a movie or a play) is unconventional, and a favourite strategy of Melanie Watt. Two other books she has done that do this are:

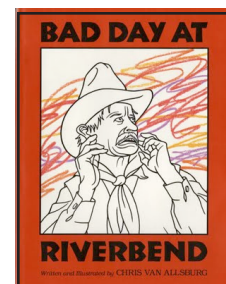
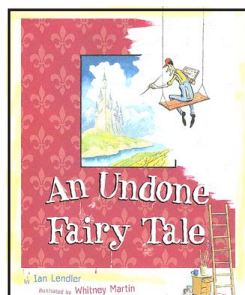
- *Have I Got a Book for You!*
- *Chester* (and *Chester's Masterpiece*)



Other books breaking the fourth wall include:

- *The Monster at the End of This Book*
- *Bad Day at Riverbend*
- *Undone Fairy Tale*

This is an excellent style for students to attempt their own writing.



PERSONAL WRITING (EXTREME WRITING)

Some possible personal writing topics are:

- Times I have to wait and what I am thinking.
- Times that are really boring.
- Times that I was treated unfairly.

HAVE I GOT A BOOK FOR YOU!

This would be an excellent book for studying the characteristics of false logic in sales. Our Fox salesman uses all of the strategies that, in particular, are used on shopping channels.

There is also a terrific YouTube of students reading the book. Perhaps your students would like to create and post a version of *You're Finally Here!* Actually, it would be better to just use the crazy rabbit character in many different poses to write a new book, and then use that to create the YouTube...as "inspired by" Melanie Watt's book.



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USING THE CHARACTER

The character is drawn in many simple poses in the book. Scan or trace them onto a single sheet of paper and then make copies for students creating their own version of the rabbit story.

The pattern of this book is easy to imitate. In the centre of the book the rabbit is complaining:

- * ..."how long I've been waiting in here?" Long enough to...(4 times)
- * ..."how unfair it is to keep me waiting?" As unfair as...(4 things)
- * ..."how rude it is to make me wait?" As rude as...(4 things)

This could be a springboard for any character complaining about something. Imagine it is a rabbit who is unhappy with his school lunch.

How many weeks have I had the same lunch?

- since Christmas
- since my birthday
- since i accidentally said I liked bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwiches, etc.

How much don't I like lettuce?

- As little as I like liver
- As little as fried jelly beans, etc.

How long does it take me to eat it?

- Until all the other kids are already finished the first inning of baseball
- Until my teeth wear out from chewing, etc.



THE IDIOM

There are only a few idioms in the story:

- *Like looking for a needle in a haystack*
- *Like watching paint dry*

Still, you could introduce the concept of the idiom ...which is an expression that, if it were literally true, would be ridiculous.

- *Raining cats and dogs*
- *It's a piece of cake*
- *They're a dime a dozen*

Give students a list of them and ask them to write what they mean. (See the attached exercise..but lots more can be made.)

Also, Wallace Edwards, Kids Can Press, wrote *The Cat's Pajamas*, an absolutely visually gorgeous book illustrating common idioms.

CONTRACTS

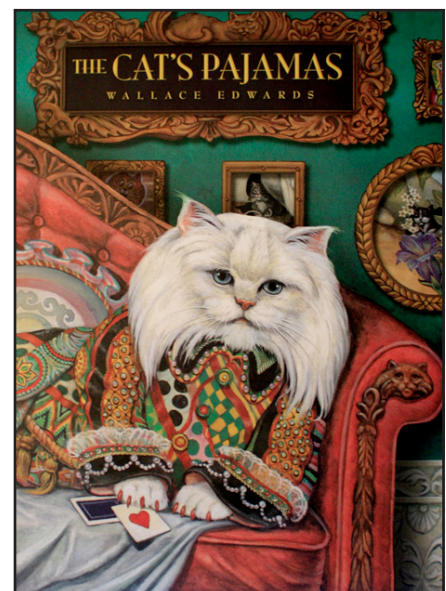
Bunny tries to get "you the reader" to sign an agreement to devote complete attention to the Bunny, never keep him waiting again, and bring him carrot treats.

Discuss with students the elements of a "real" contract. It has a date, a length of time the contract is good for, what the person will do, what the other contracting person will do in return, two signatures (in this case of the bunny and the reader).

Students could write a story the involves a mock contract, in the doing of which the character gets into a lot of trouble.

SOCIAL RELATIONS - BEING LATE

Discuss with students the issue of "being late" - late for class, late for school, late to meet for friends when you promised a certain time, etc. What are the reasons we consider being late a rude form of behaviour? What about other things that are rude?



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It's raining cats and dogs.



THOSE CRAZY IDIOMS

Explain the meaning of each idiom. Idioms are expressions that would look very strange if they were literally true.

1. She was *tickled pink* by the good news.

(made really happy)

2. You were *hands down* the best player on the team.

3. I've been feeling pretty *down in the dumps* lately.

4. I'm feeling *sick as a dog!*

5. I've been feeling *under the weather*.

6. *Rise and shine!*

7. I could play outside *till the cows come home*.

8. Wow! It's *raining cats and dogs* out there!

9. That sound is *driving me up the wall!*

10. This assignment is *a piece of cake*.

11. Although he broke the rules, he was only given
a slap on the wrist.

12. Yikes! This shirt *costs an arm and a leg*.

13. No, I was just pulling your leg.

14. *Keep your chin up*.

15. *Hold your horses*.

16. We're all *in the same boat*.

17. He's a bit of a *loose cannon*.

18. I will clean my room *when pigs fly*.