

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Bibliotherapy Curricular Task #4

Jen Flo

Grade Level 3-5

About the Book

“Snow in Vermont is as common as dirt. Why would anyone want to photograph it? But from the time he was a small boy, Wilson Bentley thinks of the icy crystals as small miracles and he determines that one day his camera will capture for others their extraordinary beauty. Often misunderstood in his time, Wilson Bentley took pictures that even today reveal two important truths about snowflakes: first, that no two are alike and second, that each one is startlingly beautiful. Here is the story of a simple farmer who not only had a scientist's vision and perseverance, but a clear passion for the wonders of nature.”

(Polette, 2009)

<http://www.nancypolette.com/LitGuidesText/snowflake.htm>

Book Themes:

- * Persistence
- * Family support
- * Belief in one's self
- * Interest & Passion into Learning & Creativity
- * Overcoming failure/obstacles
- * Self-fulfillment
- * Self-taught
- * Internal motivation

Major Characters

Wilson Bentley: A quiet young man that enjoys nature and the outdoors. When he is given a microscope on his 15th birthday, he discovers the complexity and beauty of snowflakes. He sketches them, but is frustrated by his drawing ability. He decides to try photography.

Mrs. Wilson, his mother: A former teacher that homeschooled both of her sons. On Wilson's 15th birthday, she gave him an old microscope of hers.

Mr. Wilson, his father: A hard-working farmer that felt his son's desire to take photos of snowflakes was worthwhile. At the time, cameras were expensive and considered new technology.

Suggestions for Use

*Write Snowflake Bentley a letter, as a friend, offering him advice on what to do at one of the periods of his life (*student should choose the point that resonates with them*)

*After he receives the microscope

*When he receives the camera, but it doesn't work

*Student Selects a point in the story that engages and connects with a student

*Share about a collection that you have or had. Do you still collect items for it? Do you feel supported and encouraged to continue? After hearing about Snowflake Bentley, would you do something different?

*Does his story remind you of others? Thomas Edison? Albert Einstein? Marie Curie? Jane Goodall? Galileo? Emily Dickinson?

*Students could reflect on their own uniqueness, strengths and interests and create a “Talent Development Plan” for a year and include steps they will take to further their interests. (VanTassel-Baska, Cross & Olenchak, 2009, p. 118)

	<p>*Host an open house in the classroom inviting students to bring in a collection or interest of their own to share in the classroom.</p>
Discussion Techniques	<p>Circle of Viewpoints: Exploring perspectives http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03e_FairnessRoutines/CircleViewpoints/CircleViewpoints_Routine.html</p> <p>What Makes You Say That: Interpretation with Justification Routine http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03d_UnderstandingRoutines/WhatMakes/WhatMakes_Routine.html</p> <p>Tug of War: Exploring the Complexity of fairness dilemmas http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03e_FairnessRoutines/TugOfWar/TugOfWar_Routine.html</p> <p>http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/ Visible Thinking: Routines to engage students and reveal thinking</p>
Resources for book	<p>http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/snowflake-bentley#cart/cleanup</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqqlLa1Ga-M</p> <p>http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/westonwoods/study_guides/snowflake_bentley.pdf</p> <p>http://bentley.sciencebuff.org/bio.htm</p> <p>http://publicdomainreview.org/2011/02/14/the-snowflake-man-of-vermont/</p> <p>http://www.nancypolette.com/LitGuidesText/snowflake.htm</p> <p>http://snowflakebentley.com/WBsnow.htm Primary Resource: Article written by Bentley and published in the “History of Jericho” Volume 1</p>
Text Resources	<p>Karnes, F. and Bean, S. (2009) Methods and materials for teaching the gifted, third edition. Prufrock Press: Waco, TX.</p> <p>Martin, J.B. (2009) Snowflake Bentley. Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston, MA.</p> <p>VanTassel-Baska, J., Cross, T. and Olenchak, F. (2009) Social-emotional curriculum with gifted and talented students. Prufrock Press: Waco, TX.</p> <p>Ritchart, R., Church, M., Morrison, K. (2011) Making thinking visible. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, CA.</p>

Interesting fact: Wilson Bentley did not copyright his photos and they are in the public domain.