

***The Brain Power Story Hour: Higher Order Thinking with Picture Books.* By Nancy J. Polette. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Company, 2012. 175 pp. US\$45.00 soft cover ISBN 9780786468539**

Excited by the prospect of a title that suggested picture books could be successfully used to assist in the development of higher order thinking and multiple intelligences, it was interesting to discover how the author was able to use recommended stories to contribute to young children's emergent thinking skills and to encourage the 21st century skills of problem-solving, creative thinking, analysis and critical thinking. By classifying the skills under a variety of clearly defined areas and chapters, specific thinking skills were identified and targeted through purposeful questioning and activities.

Although it is not a new concept to suggest that children learn through play, Nancy Polette takes this idea into the realm of reading for pleasure. *The Brain Power Story Hour* provides a resource of many titles and associated activities with suggestions on how to take advantage of the engagement generated through sharing picture books with young children, while maintaining the enjoyment of story-time.

This book could be useful to teachers or librarians who have ready access to a large variety of book titles. The professional background to be able to transfer the ideas offered to a variety of books, other than those titles suggested by the author, would also be an advantage. As the idea of using picture books to develop higher order thinking should not necessarily be restricted to young children, by including suggestions for picture books suitable for older students (e.g., *The Rabbits* by John Marsden, illustrated by Shaun Tan or *The Watertower* by Gary Crew, illustrated by Steven Woolman) *The Brain Power Story Hour: Higher Order Thinking with Picture Books* would have relevance to a wider audience.

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