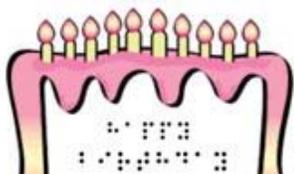




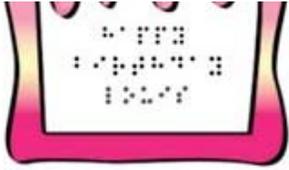
Welcome back and Happy New Year!
We look forward to working together with you to have a wonderful spring semester. Please feel free to contact AIM-VA for any questions or consultation needs you might have. Let Us Help You!

Did You Know?



Happy Birthday Louis Braille!

In honor of Louis Braille's birthday, January 4th, January is designated as Braille Literacy Month. Use



this month to introduce your students to Louis Braille and teach the significance of his work for reading and writing. Explore the Braille code with your students! Many websites are available with wonderful classroom ideas.

[A good site is Paths to Literacy](#)

News You Can Use



The Farmer and the Clown
Book by Marla Frazee

How Wordless Books Can Help Your Kid Learn to Read

Regan McMahon in a blog on Common Sense Media states that, "Some of the greatest stories have been told in pictures". She discusses how providing children with wordless books (picture books) help to promote a positive association with books enhancing skills such as: literacy, vocabulary and verbal skills. She also offers a listing and description of Caldecott Medal winning wordless books one might find helpful in promoting early reading skills.

[Read More](#)

Order Now!



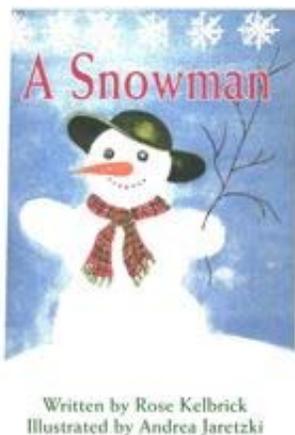
Martin's Big Words:
The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.
by Doreen Rappaport

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

A wordless book honoring Dr. King can be ordered from Learning Ally through the AIM-VA ordering Portal. This book is a "picture book biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Brings his life and the profound nature of his message to young children through his own words. Martin Luther King, Jr., Was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. Doreen Rappaport uses quotes from some of his most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way. Bryan Collier's stunning collage art combines remarkable watercolor paintings with vibrant patterns and textures. A timeline and a list of additional books and web sites help make this a standout biography of Dr. King."

[Find Other Wordless Books About Dr. King](#)

Book Review



Look at A Snowman

A sweet emergent reader level book written from a snowman's perspective. The reader learns the parts of a snowman in this short 12-page book. Available in PDF: Accessible from AIM-VA.

Wright Group: McGraw-Hill
Foundations Leveled Reader
Level C: Word Count = 59

Spotlight



Meet Donna Waldman

As the Division Administrator for AIM-VA in Newport News Public Schools, Assistive Technology Coordinator Donna Waldman created a guidance document for her division so that Digital Rights Managers can review the process for obtaining Accessible Instructional Materials from AIM-VA or our partners Learning Ally, Bookshare, DBVI and the NIMAC. This guidance document also helps educators determine if a student is eligible for AIM-VA.

Donna has trained and placed a Lead DRM within each school in her district. These Lead DRMs are usually a special education teacher. One tip that Donna has found from using AIM-VA for many years is that the Newport News VI students tend to prefer reading their books using AIM-VA's PDF:Accessible format on iPads through the app, Voice Dream. "I think the ability to have the books read [out loud] and easily making the text larger is the appeal to the students with visual impairments," Donna says. Students in her division who have other print disabilities find PDF:Accessible formats and the app Read&Write for their Google Chromebooks and classroom computers to be effective. This has been important for Newport News as the entire division is becoming more "Google" directed, with all of the schools eventually using android-based apps and devices.



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AIM-VA is a service of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) through a grant to The Kellar Institute for Human disabilities at George Mason University.