

STARRMATIC STEM-SPARATION FOR AUTHORS



~EMILY STARR~
EDUCATOR, AUTHOR &
STEM CURRICULUM COACH



WELCOME!



Welcome the first edition of StarrMatica's STEM-spiration monthly newsletter for authors! I'm excited to share resources to help you brainstorm new ideas, create meaningful connections with educators, and discover new ways to approach your craft.

Without further ado, let's get inspired!

(Photo is of one of my many library hauls this month.)

AN ARTICLE TO SHARE

The Research Basis for Reading Aloud

Of course we want children to experience daily read alouds because it is what's best for their growing brains. (Plus, it's enjoyable for everyone involved!) However, as authors, we also know we need to foster a love of reading because children, and the book-buying adults who read to them, are our target market.

According to research, reading aloud is one of the most effective brain building activities we can do with children. And yet, educators can feel like they are "taking a break" when reading aloud. That's why I put together a blog post that shares the deep and wide research basis for reading aloud.

Be sure to download the printable handout that summarizes the research. And please share this post with colleagues, educators, parents, and community members. The more adults who read aloud to children, the more brains that benefit from our books!

DON'T MISS WEBINAR REPLAYS

K-5 Science Standards Master

Have you ever wanted to know more about the Next Generation Science Standards? Are you looking for new story sparks or wondering what books teachers are searching for but can't find?

In January, I offered a six week webinar series exploring each of the 78 NGSS. We also examined back matter, debated sidebars, dove deep into curriculum guide options, and mined misconceptions for ideas.

It is only \$30 for all six sessions, and you have the replays for life. Here's what another author said about the series:

Emily Starr's Master Webinar on K-5 standards was beyond anything I'd expected. Emily is not just terrifically well-informed and knowledgeable, but she's patient, kind and generous. She's truly a star! I came away feeling informed and empowered. I look forward to putting all my new knowledge into use in my work.

~ Shruthi Rao, author of *Kadooboo*, *When Science Stood Still*, and more

You can learn more and sign up by clicking the button below.

Learn About the Webinar Series

K-5 Science Standards Master Class

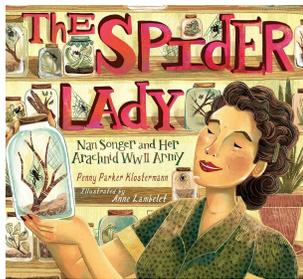
Kindergarten



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS BOOK?

Nonfiction/Informational Fiction I Can't Stop Thinking About

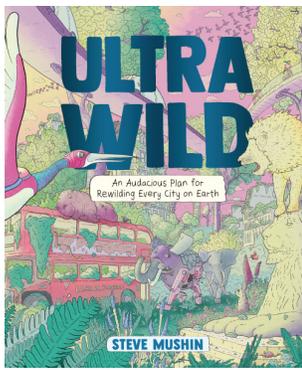
I check out dozens of books from the library each month. So many that I just walk in and they start checking out my online reservations - no card needed. It is difficult to narrow my extensive list to a few recommendations, yet I must, so here are two books I can't stop thinking about.



The Spider Lady: Nan Songer and Her Arachnid World War II Army by Penny Parker Clostermann

The story blows my mind. First of all, who knew that spider silk was used to create the cross hairs in weapon sights! Secondly, you can collect a spider's silk? What?! And finally, the process of scientific investigation is on full display along with quotes that showcase the author's deep research.

[Check out my sneak peek video on Facebook.](#)



Ultra Wild: An Audacious Plan for Rewilding Every City on Earth by Steve Mushin

Set aside a few hours for this one. Every bit of white space is filled with detailed illustrations and text. Yet what impressed me most was the amount of research Steve must have done to support his "crazy" planet-saving plans with solid science.

HELPFUL RESOURCE

Back Matter Break Down

In one of my K-5 Science Standards Master webinars (see above), we talked about how to determine if content belongs in back matter or a curriculum guide. During my back matter research, I came across Julie Campbell Smith's blog and her Back Matter Break Down Series. Julie interviews authors about their back matter decisions, and the series is a gold mine of information!



[Browse the Back Matter Break Down Series](#)

THANK YOU

Thank you for joining me for the inaugural addition of my monthly newsletter! I look forward to popping in your inbox once a month with helpful resources. In the meantime, please feel free to email me with questions. I would be thrilled to support your writing journey!

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