

Using Cantata Books from Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

Emerging readers and seasoned readers alike are the perfect audience for a Cantata Learning book. From fun sing-alongs that help build fluency and reading confidence to content rich titles on Math, Science, Language Arts, Emotions, Classroom Management, and others – students in K through 2 will love the variety a Cantata book brings to classroom curriculum. From assisting in the development of important reading skills such as identifying syllables in words, recognizing words in similar families, learning to predict text, and even aiding in the retention of information and ideas, the inclusion of music helps to bring a whole new element to classroom teaching supporting multiple learning styles and bolstering student engagement, mastery and retention.

How to use Cantata Learning books with Kindergarten to 2nd Grade Students:

Read for Enjoyment - The books can be used purely for enjoyment to engage new readers in individual, small group, and large group read-along and sing-along. Books and words come to life as emergent readers build confidence through both group and individual reading guided by song. The lyrics provide a backdrop for memorization, word recognition through rhythm and rhyme, and growth of a lexicon of new words and ideas. Seasoned readers sharpen fluency, increase vocabulary skills, and are more likely to venture into independent reading with the music as a support system. Struggling and fluent readers alike find connection and common ground as books can be read and sung in unison providing a level “reading” playing field for all involved... bolstering self-assurance and instilling a joy for reading that is unmatched.

Teach Concepts: From life cycle science concepts to math and manners, singing your lessons takes on a whole new meaning. A book with a sing-along song provides opportunities to introduce new concepts, and deepen the learning. The book itself provides opportunities to discuss characters, topics, and extend the story elements through play acting and drawing.

Cantata books are a perfect way to introduce classroom concepts in an attempt to boost excitement and engage even the most reluctant of learners. The rhythm and rhyme of each book is the perfect spring-board for a poetry or creative writing unit. Math concepts can be taught using catchy phrases and learning mnemonics that aid in retention. Even important events and people in history can be introduced using a fine

arts musical approach that helps bring characters and concepts to life. Children will be excited to explore concepts in song, add lyrics of their own, or memorize lesson essentials in a whole new way.

Play and Learn through Music: Not only will the playful music engage children of this age, but it will encourage dance and movement, a kinesthetic element that provides another level of learning and concept retention for students. Creating classroom instruments to play and sing-along is a wonderful way to engage students in the music experience while enhancing the learning of a new concept. The act of creating instruments requires planning, measurement, problem solving, and math skills. It can be done as a group encouraging cooperation or individually encouraging creative thinking. The instruments and music become a memory and retention enhancer as they can be re-used to aid in the introduction of new concepts throughout the year.

Extend the Experience: Invite students to become inspired by the music, illustrations, and song. This is the perfect way to incorporate a whole-language aspect into the classroom. Allow students who are new readers or seasoned readers to create their own lyrics by playing with rhyming words and phrase endings, illustrating their own versions of Cantata books by listening carefully to the music and lyrics, and finding new ways to incorporate music and mnemonic devices into everyday lessons helping with memory and retention.

Music not only soothes the soul, it transforms the learner. By adding beautifully illustrated books, set to music to your everyday lessons – you not only bring the fine arts into your classroom, but provide yet another way for your students to engage, learn, grow and succeed.