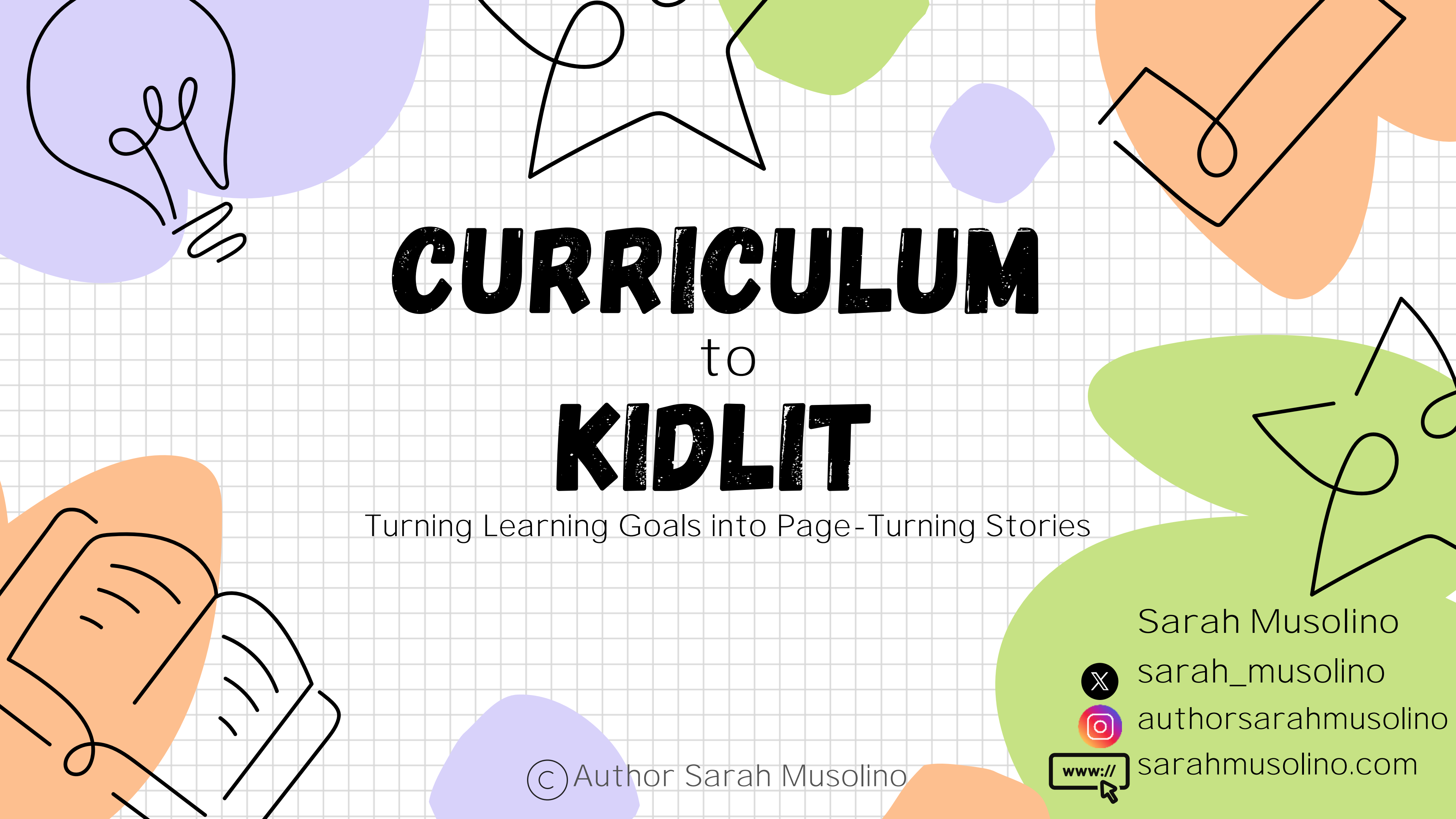


**POUR YOUR TEA, STIR YOUR  
THOUGHTS,  
AND FIND YOUR SEAT...  
THE IDEAS START BREWING AT  
7:35!**



# **CURRICULUM** to **KIDLIT**

Turning Learning Goals into Page-Turning Stories

© Author Sarah Musolino

Sarah Musolino



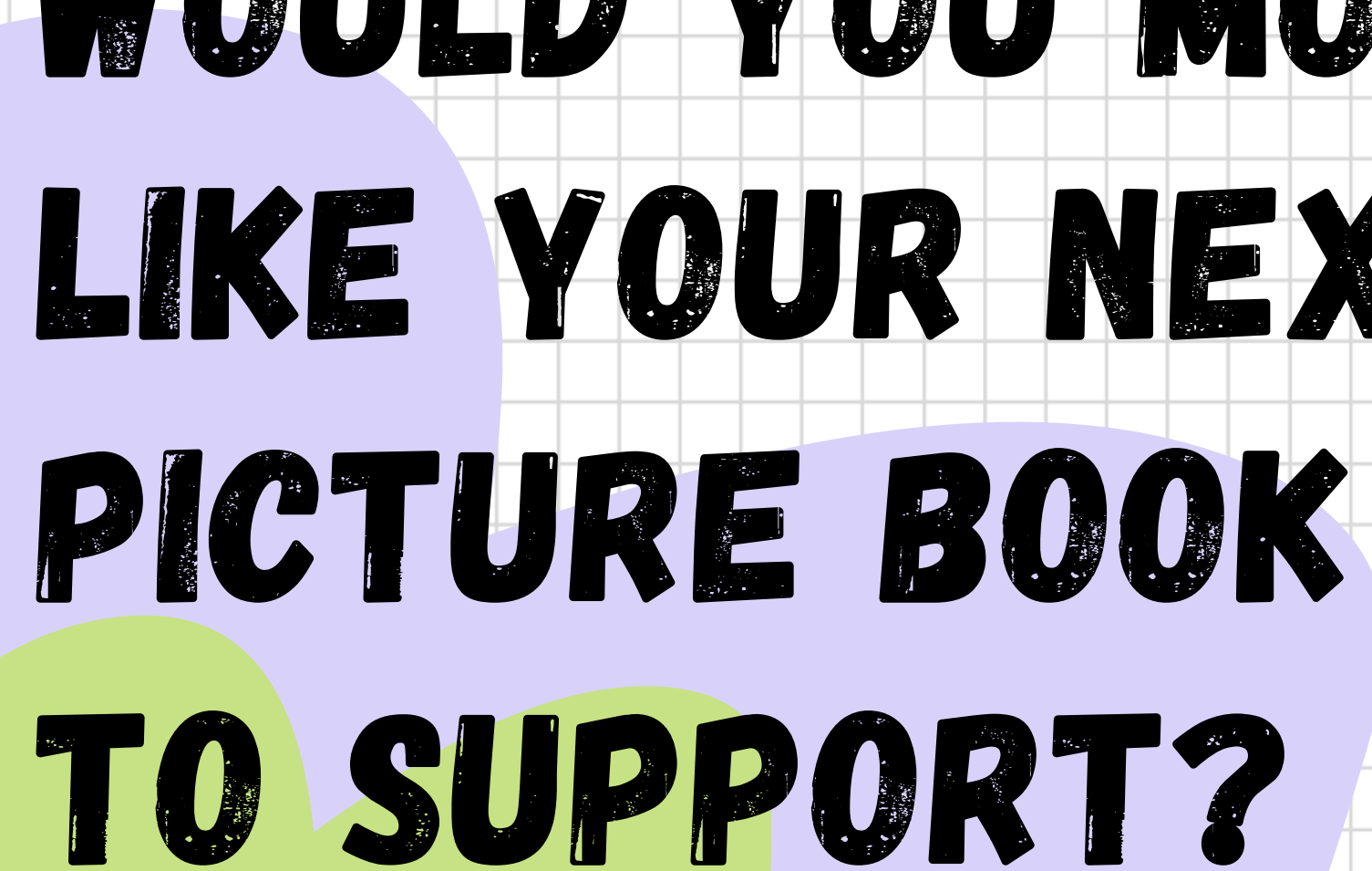
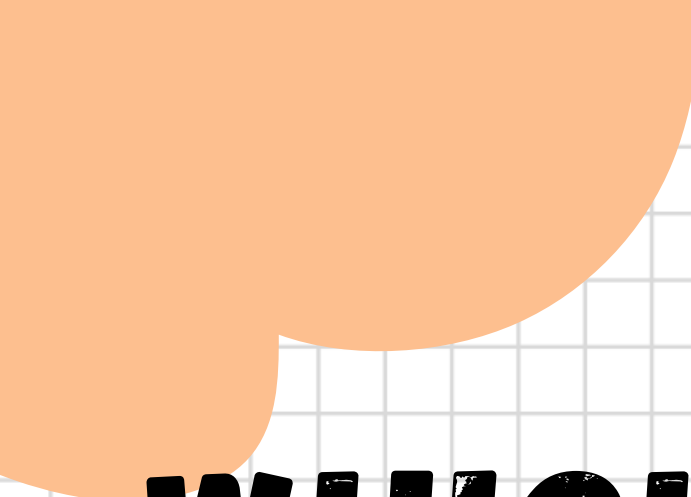
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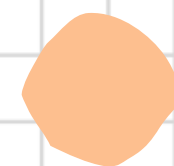
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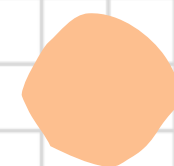
sarahmusolino.com



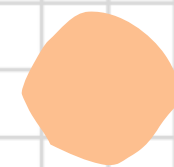
# **WHICH OF THESE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE YOUR NEXT PICTURE BOOK TO SUPPORT?**



Science



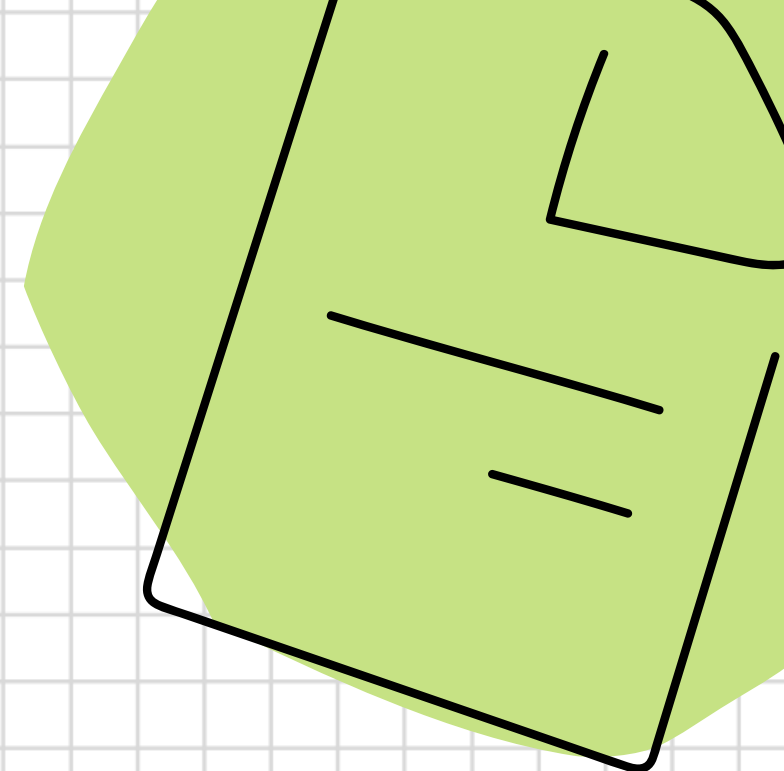
Social Studies



Reading/Literacy



Social-Emotional Learning





# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**01**

Understand how curriculum standards influence classroom content and instruction

**02**

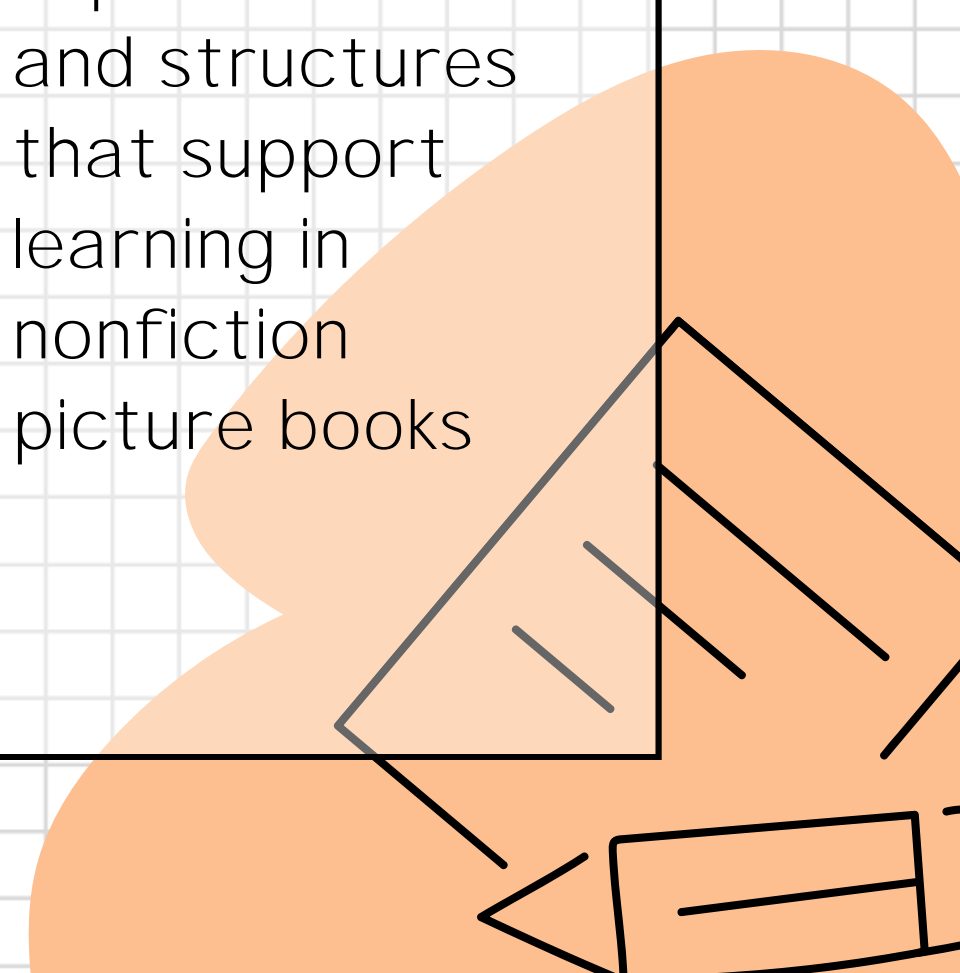
Identify key educational standards relevant to nonfiction picture books

**03**

Translate curriculum standards into engaging and age-appropriate story ideas

**04**

Explore formats and structures that support learning in nonfiction picture books



# WHY CURRICULUM MATTERS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CURRICULUM IN SCHOOLS:

- Curriculum provides a road map for what students need to learn at each grade level.
- It ensures consistency, equity, and accountability in education.
- Teachers use curriculum standards to guide lesson planning, assessments, and material selection.
- Picture books that support these goals are more likely to be used in classrooms.

## WHY ALIGNING YOUR BOOK WITH STANDARDS MATTERS:

- Teachers look for books that reinforce specific skills or concepts they're required to teach.
- Librarians are more likely to recommend books that support curriculum topics or reading goals.
- Publishers value books with clear market applications, especially those that can be promoted as “classroom-ready” or “standards-aligned.”
- Alignment increases your book's usefulness, longevity, and sales potential in the school and library market.



# WHAT IS A CURRICULUM STANDARD?

## **SIMPLE DEFINITION:**

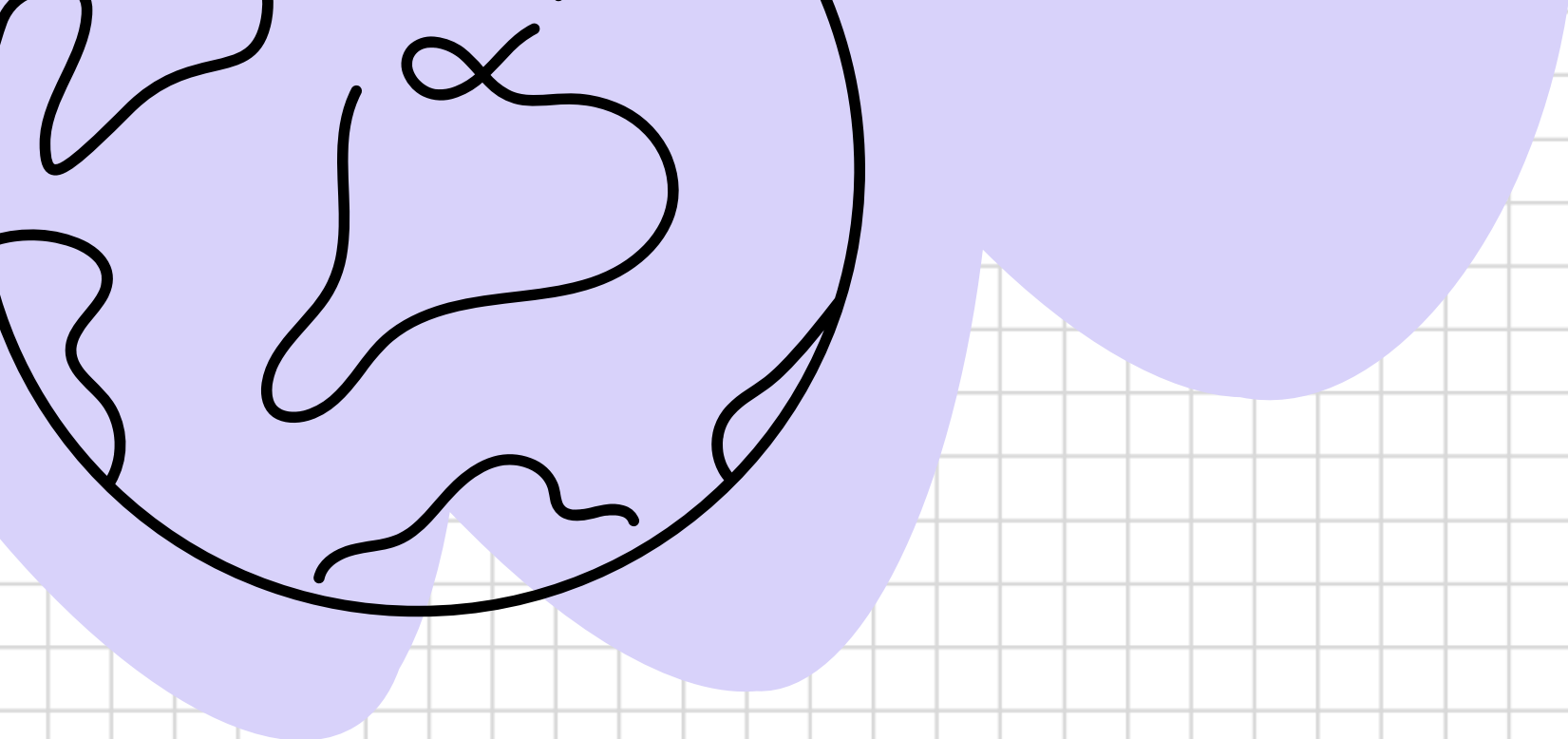
Guidelines that outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level across different subject areas.

## **WHY THEY MATTER FOR WRITERS:**

They shape what teachers teach and what kinds of books they need in the classroom.

## **GRADE-LEVEL SPECIFIC**

Standards are written for each grade level, from Pre-K to 12th grade, with expectations increasing in complexity as students grow.



# **TYPES OF STANDARDS TO KNOW**

Common Core: ELA (English Language Arts), Math

NGSS: Next Generation Science Standards

C3 Framework: Social Studies

CASEL Framework: SEL (Social Emotional Learner)



# HOW TO FIND CURRICULUM STANDARDS



## Common Core State Standards (ELA & Math)

- Website: [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)
- Includes detailed standards for each grade, K–12
- Focus on reading, writing, speaking/listening, and math



## Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

- Website: [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org)
- Browse by grade, topic, or “Disciplinary Core Idea”
- Also includes performance expectations and science/engineering practices



## C3 Framework for Social Studies

- Website: <https://gadoe.org/learning/social-studies/>
- Focus on civics, economics, geography, and history
- Framework supports inquiry-based learning



## CASEL Framework for Social-Emotional Learning

- Website: [casel.org](http://casel.org)
- Core SEL competencies: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making
- Not grade-specific but widely used in K–12



# TRANSLATING STANDARDS INTO STORY IDEAS

Grade 2 Science (NGSS): “Students will understand that animals need food, water, shelter, and space in a habitat to survive.”

Story Idea:

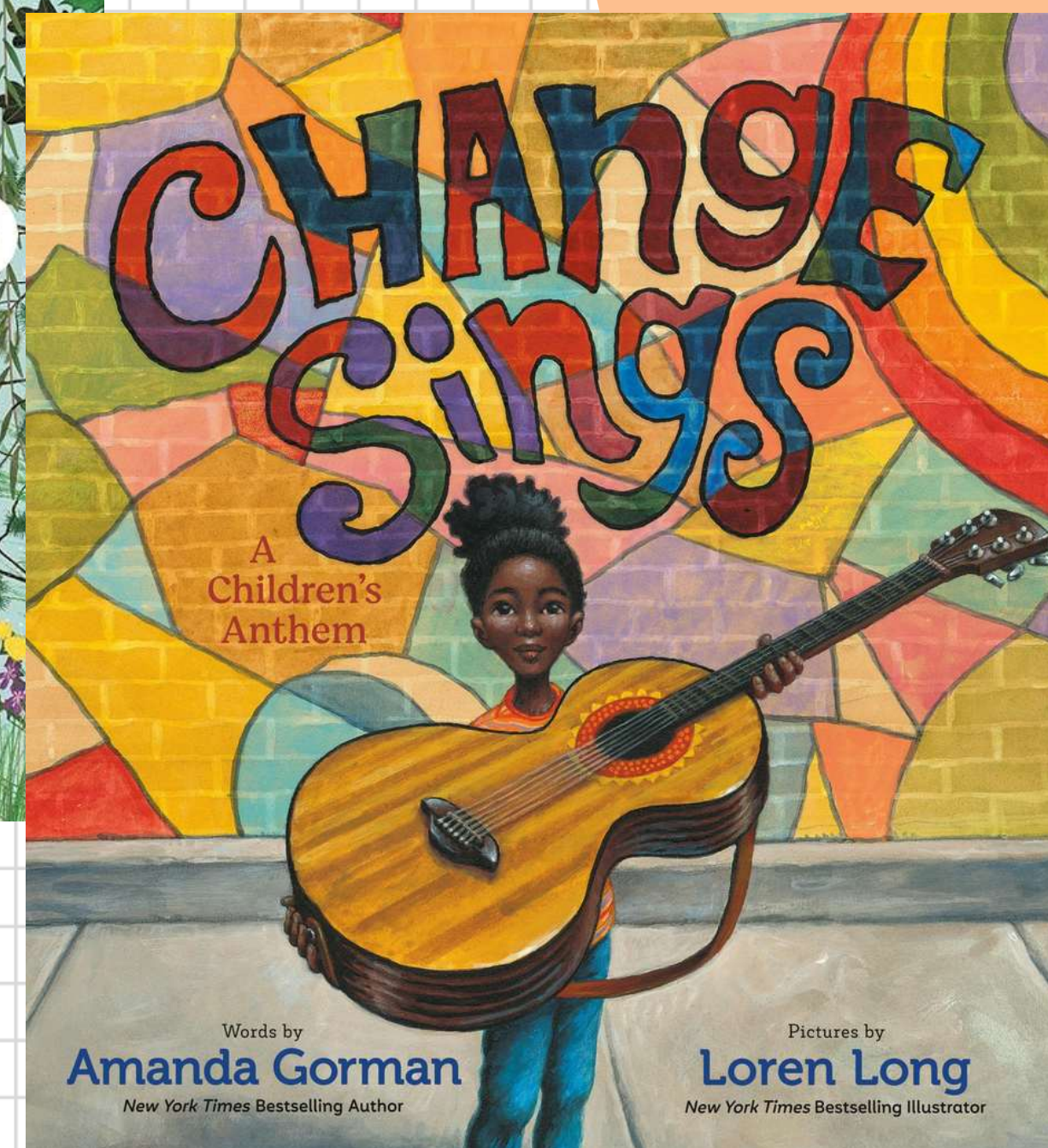
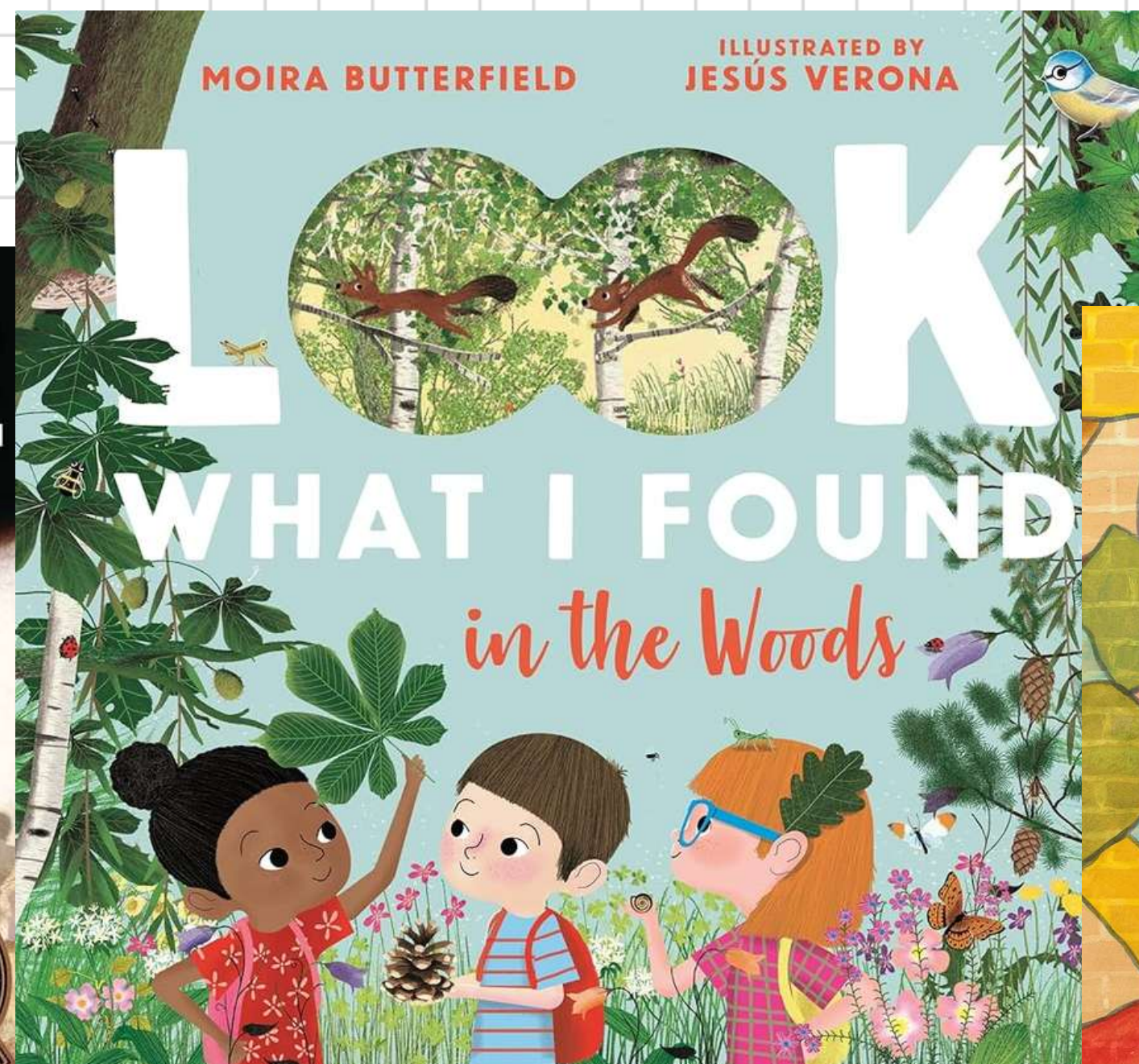
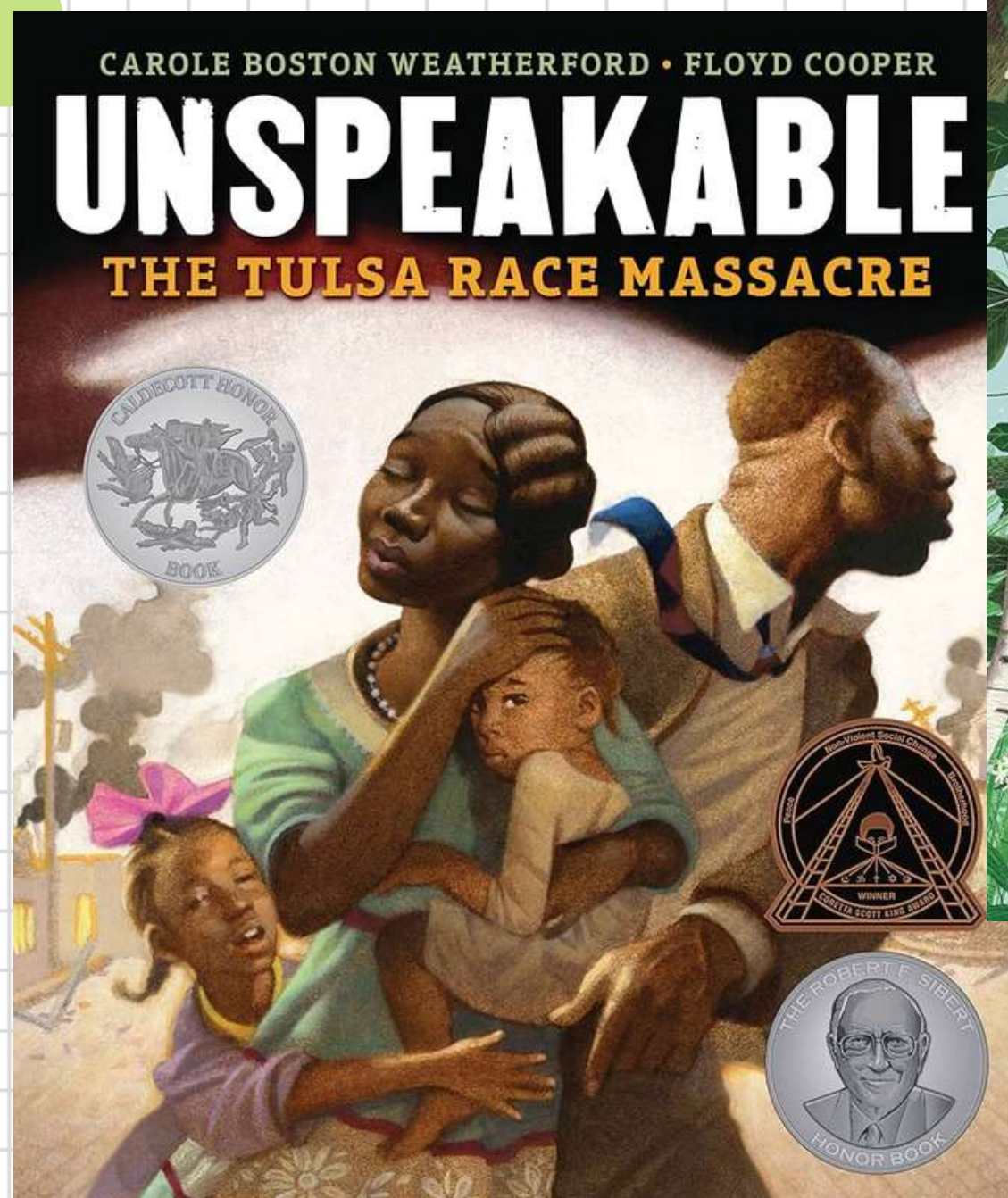
- A nonfiction picture book about a day in the life of a beaver building a dam, showing how it creates shelter, finds food, and survives in its environment.

Writing Tip: Look for action verbs in standards like:

- describe
- explain
- compare
- investigate
- identify

These verbs show you what the book needs to do, not just what it needs to say—perfect for shaping your plot or structure!





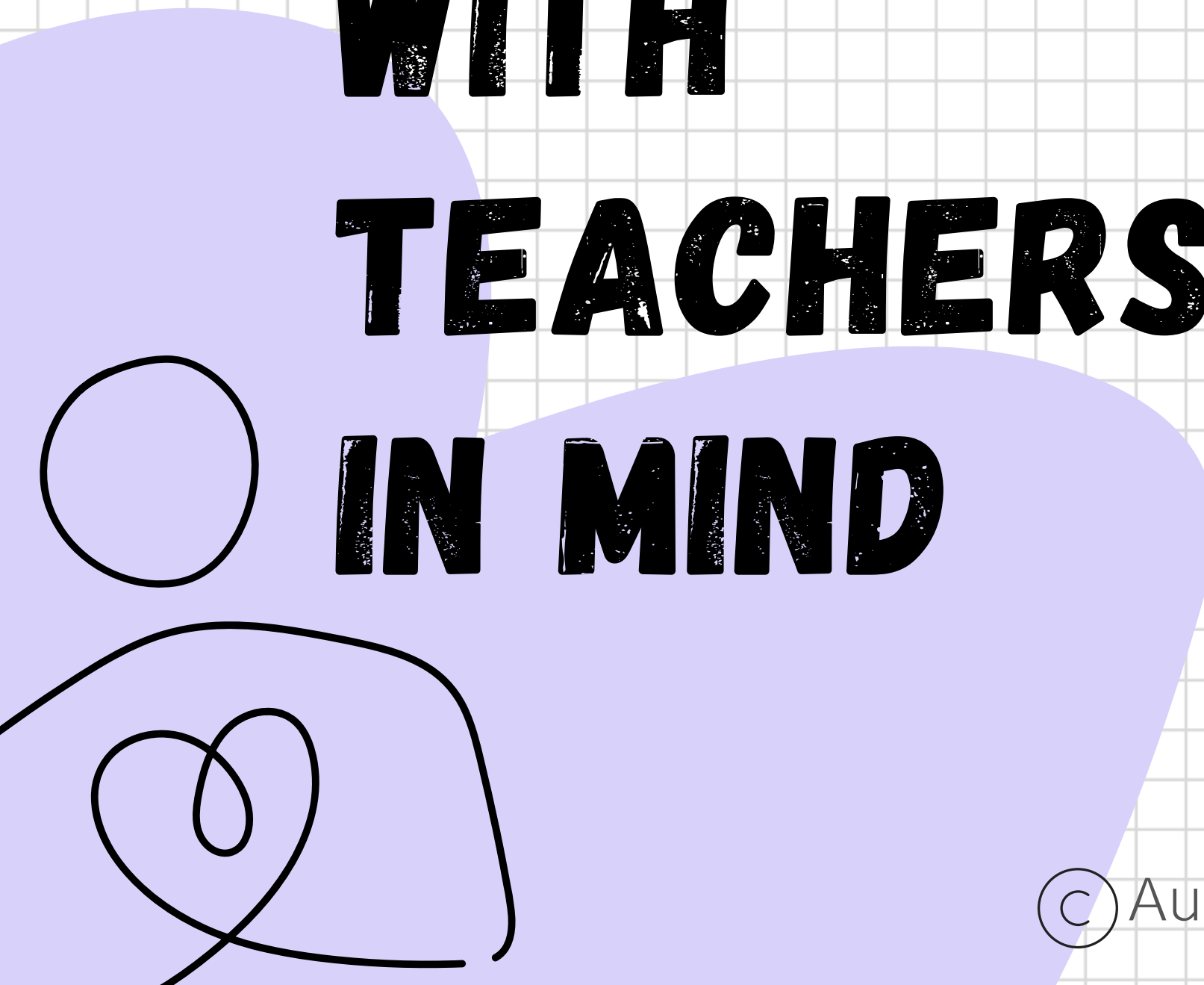

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# **CURRICULUM-FRIENDLY FORMATS**

- Narrative nonfiction
- Concept books
- Biography
- Poetry + fact combos
- Interactive nonfiction (questions, activities, backmatter)





# **WRITE WITH TEACHERS IN MIND**

What educators look for:

- 1.** Accuracy
- 2.** Age-appropriateness
- 3.** Clear structure
- 4.** Supports literacy skills  
(vocabulary, comprehension)

# BRAINSTORM ACTIVITY

## BRAINSTORM ACTIVITY

Pick a grade level and subject. Look up a standard. What's a possible book idea?



## YOUR WRITING CHECKLIST

- Does this book align with a real standard?
- What will kids learn?
- Can a teacher use this in a lesson?
- Is it engaging and educational?





# MARKETING

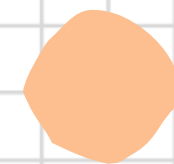
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# SUBMISSION

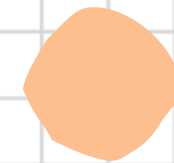
# TIPS



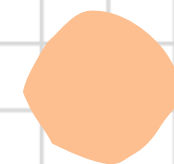
Mention how your picture book aligns with curriculum:



Query letters



Back matter



Website or teacher guide

# RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

- SCBWI
- Nonfiction PB webinars
- Curriculum databases


## Teacher-Created Resources:

- Read Write Think: [www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org) – Lesson plans tied to standards
- Teachers Pay Teachers: [www.teacherspayteachers.com](http://www.teacherspayteachers.com) – See what teachers are searching for by grade and subject


# QUESTIONS + CONTACT INFO

**You're** not just  
writing a book—  
**you're building a**  
bridge between  
story and learning.

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