

**Do It, Read It, Write it: integrating hands-on experiments with great stories and kids' writing**  
**Presented by Jane Snell Copes, Science Outside the Box, fall 2012**

I've recently taught children's classes for The LOFT Literary Center mixing up science, reading, and writing. I'm happy to share ideas for experiments, books, and writing exercises and to hear your ideas as well. Feel free to contact me about details: e-mail [profsepoc@scienceoutsidethebox.com](mailto:profsepoc@scienceoutsidethebox.com), website [www.scienceoutsidethebox.com](http://www.scienceoutsidethebox.com) , phone 651-357-3316

Do it	Read it	Write it
paper chromatography "color UNmixing"	<u>Purple, Green, &amp; Yellow</u> , Robert Munsch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4-fold book with direction boxes</li> <li>• Beginning/Middle/End exercise</li> </ul>
color mixing	<u>Little Blue &amp; Little Yellow</u> , Leo Leoni	• write directions in boxes
	<u>Mouse Paint</u> , Ellen Stoll Walsh	• color word un-scrambling
	<u>The Red Book</u> , Barbara Lehman	• crayon-bound book with colored pages
purple cabbage indicator + kitchen acids and bases	<u>Harold &amp; Purple Crayon</u> , Crockett Johnson	• write/draw a new adventure for Harold
insta-snow, snow globes, Dry Ice/wet ice, blow bubbles outdoors below zero, throw water into the air below zero, paper snowflakes	<u>Axle Annie</u> , Robin Pulver	• word web with SNOW in center
	<u>The Snowy Day</u> , Ezra Jack Keats	• seasonal haiku (3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables)
	<u>Snowflake Bentley</u> , Jacqueline Briggs Martin	• go outdoors to collect words for a group poem
	<u>My Brother Loved Snowflakes</u> , Mary Bahr Fritts	
kitchen volcanoes	<u>Volcano Wakes Up</u> , Lisa Westberg Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acrostic poems, "texting" poems, shape poems</li> <li>• "write like a _____"</li> </ul>
Oobleck, silly putty	<u>Bartholomew &amp; the Oobleck</u> , Dr. Suess	• weather haiku
Inventions, building	<u>Flight of the Dodo</u> , Peter Brown	• invent a new alphabet
	<u>On Beyond Zebra</u> , Dr. Suess	• write in code
	<u>Eddie's Tool Box</u> , Sarah Garland	• imagine new tools and super powers
	<u>Marvelous Mattie</u> , Emily Arnold McCully	• make a paper bag book
mythical beasts	<u>Dragons, Dragons</u> , Eric Carle	• make a flip book or Exquisite Corpse book
	<u>Fantastic Beasts &amp; Where to Find Them</u> , Newt Scamander (J.K. Rowling)	• invent a new creature and write about it

food experiments	<u>How Pizza Came to Queens</u> , Dayal Kaur Khalsa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write step-by-step recipes and directions</li> <li>• alphabet of foods</li> </ul>
	<u>Fanny and May</u> , Jon Buller	
	<u>Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs</u> , Judi Barrett	
	<u>Strega Nona</u> , Tomie DePaola	
	<u>Magic School Bus Gets Baked in a Cake</u> , Linda Beech (Joanna Cole)	
	<u>Green Eggs and Ham</u> , Dr. Suess	
tangrams	<u>Three Pigs, One Wolf, and Seven Magic Shapes</u> , Grace Maccarone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write shape poems: square, triangular, parallelogram-ular</li> <li>• rearrange story parts or poem lines</li> </ul>
forensic experiments	Lu and Clancy series, 5 books by Pat Cupples and Louise Dickson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• code writing</li> <li>• write mystery stories, emphasizing shape of the plot</li> </ul>
	Cam Jensen, Encyclopedia Brown, Nate the Great series	
optical illusions with colors	<u>Hello, Red Fox</u> , Eric Carle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• write w/ 2 colors of pencil, use colored acetate to hide half the words</li> <li>• surprise endings</li> </ul>

### Some web references you might like (checked 2/2013)

- Insta-Snow is a Steve Spangler Science product you can find here: <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/product/instant-snow>
- a good Tangram site is [http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangram\\_puzzles.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangram_puzzles.htm)
- <http://www.bookmakingwithkids.com/> is a great place to find ideas for making books with kids including 6 single-sheet books: <http://www.bookmakingwithkids.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/single-sheet-instructions.pdf>
- Several Japanese poetry forms here: [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_curr/curr052.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr052.shtml)
- Great tips for beginnings and endings and revising: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/lessonplans/instructor/power.htm>

Do you have other book/project/writing ideas that have worked for you? Please let me know about them! Jane Copes (e-mail at top of p. 1)