The Booklist Project

Focus: Titanic
Developed by: MaryElizabeth Melillo
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Exploring The Titanic by Robert D. Ballard begins with an account of Dr. Ballard's dream to locate the Titanic. Throughout the book, it provides a detailed description of the history of “the Unsinkable Ship,” its design, the eloquence of its stately rooms, its splendor, and the events of the night the ship sank. In addition to the story of the Titanic, the story of its discovery is unveiled and overshadowed by the hour it was found, which was close to the actual sinking time of this vessel. The pictures of its brilliance and its wreckage provide perspective on the events of the Titanic's magnificent birth followed by a tragic demise. This realistic chronicle of events demonstrates the importance of this find and its history.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it provides an account of this ship’s story both historically and visually. The pictures help the student understand today’s discovery of the Titanic and its historical yet tragic existence and maiden voyage.

**WIDA Proficiency Level:** Bridging  
**Reading Level:** 6.7  
**Lexile Measure:** 980L  
**DRA:** 40  
**GRL:** Q  
**Language:** English  
**Available format:** paperback and hardcover  
**ISBN paperback:** 0-590-41952-8  
**ISBN hardcover:** 0-590-41953-6

**Teacher Resources:**


Ghost Liners Exploring the world's greatest lost ships by Robert D. Ballard and Rick Archbold enables the reader to further understand some of the world's worst shipwrecks. It documents the loss of the R.M.S. Titanic, the Empress of Ireland, the Lusitania, the H.M.H.S. Britannic, and the collision of the Stockholm and the Andrea Doria. This compilation describes the events of those tragic instances, and some of the mistakes made that caused those catastrophic events. The history and pictures explain what the ships once were and what became of them.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it documents the worst shipwrecks and the mistakes that caused them. Additionally, the pictures reinforce their stories. Here, an English Language Learner will better understand that the Titanic was not the only ship to tragically sink and why ships like the Titanic sank.

**WIDA Level:** Reaching  
**Reading Level:** 6.1  
**Lexile Measure:** 1100  
**Language:** English  
**Available format:** hardcover and paperback  
**ISBN hardcover:** 0-31608020-9  
**ISBN paperback:** 978-031608020-0

**Teacher Resources:**

http://www.theeducationcenter.com/print/editorial_content/44139#/44139

http://naturalsciences.org/search/node/titanic
Finding The Titanic by Robert D. Ballard with Nan Froman and Ken Marchall is a simplistic account of the discovery of the Titanic. It begins with Dr. Ballard sharing his dream of finding the Titanic. After Dr. Ballard's story, the reader follows Ruth Becker's journey, a passenger on the ship, from her boarding to the ship’s sinking. The final chapters of the story explain the search and location of the Titanic. Throughout the book, there are illustrations so that the reader comprehends what the Titanic looked like, the grandeur of the ship, the people who were on the ship, the icebergs, the sinking, and the research involved to locate the ship.

This book is good for English Language Learners because they can better understand that tragic event through a passenger’s experience. In addition, the pictures illustrate the appearance of the ship, the people, the icebergs, the sinking, and the research that has been done since that awful night.

**WIDA Level:** High Emerging/Developing  
**Reading Level:** 4.0  
**Lexile Measure:** 540  
**GRL:** Q  
**Language:** English (This book is available in Spanish.)  
Available format: paperback  
**ISBN paperback:** 0-590-47230-5  
**ISBN for Spanish version:** 0-590-92630-6  

**Teacher Resources:**

http://gardenofpraise.com/lesson11.htm

Titanic A picture history of the shipwreck that shocked the world by Sean Callery offers the reader a wonderful assembly of facts depicting its construction, voyage, passengers, sinking, and survivors' stories. It offer pages of information detailed with pictures and diagrams to help the reader understand the topic. Additionally, there are questions asked and answered throughout this book. Along with an index, a glossary can be found at the end of the book to ensure understanding of terms that are not commonly used.

**WIDA Level:** Expanding to Reaching  
**Reading Level:** 7  
**Lexile Measure:** 980  
**Language:** English  
**Available format:** hard cover  
**ISBN:** 978-0-545-50512-3

**Related Teacher Resources:**

http://www.discovery.com/search.htm?terms=titanic

http://www.sharemylesson.com/TaxonomySearchResults.aspx?area=resources&keywords=Titanic+discover+more
Titanic, by Anna Claybourne and Katie Daynes is the third book in the Usborne Young Reading series. It begins with the need for the ship, the building of both the Olympic and Titanic, its design for three classes of passengers, its entertainment, and its triumphant sea trials. Once the reader is aware of the magnificence of this ship, there is an account of its maiden voyage. However, the perfection of the maiden voyage is interrupted by the iceberg sighting, the need to call for help, and evacuation of the ship. The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912 at 3:00 a.m. The Carpathia was able to rescue some passengers, but many lives were lost. Today the Titanic lives on in movies and through the research of Dr. Robert Ballard.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it sequences the events of the Titanic’s tragedy from its beginning to its end. The time span involved is very explicit so the reader understands exactly when the Titanic was built and when it sank.

**WIDA Level:** High Developing-Expanding  
**Reading Level:** 5.9  
**Lexile Measure:** 910  
**DRA:** 60  
**GRL:** W  
**Languages:** English  
**Available format:** hard cover  
**ISBN:** 978-0-79451269-9

**Teacher Resources:**


In the book, *The Titanic Sinks!: Experience The Titanic's Doomed Voyage In This Unique Presentation of Fact and Fiction*, by Barry Denenberg, the reader encounters the history of the Titanic, the life of the Titanic from birth to death, the beauty and eloquence of this ship, the journal of S.F. Vanni, the Chief Correspondent, and an hour by hour account from the iceberg sighting to its actual sinking along with the rescue of some passengers by the Carpathia. This book describes the Titanic from its preliminary sketches to its amazing launch. The speculation behind Captain Smith's ability to command such a magnificent ship at the age of sixty-two and so near retirement is documented as well. The Titanic had undergone sea trials prior to her tragic voyage, and it was believed all necessary repairs had been made. In addition, the aristocratic passengers are described in this book as well. This ship was majestic in every way and allowed passengers of all levels of society to set sail in luxury. Unfortunately, the Titanic met its demise regardless of its prestige.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it historically narrates the events of that tragic incident and includes the human side of the story through S.F. Vanni’s journal and the speculation involving Captain Smith.

**WIDA Level:** Developing to Reaching  
**Reading Level:** 8.2  
**Lexile Measure:** 790  
**GRL:** U  
**Language:** English  
**Available format:** hard cover  
**ISBN:** 978-0-670-01243-5

**Teacher Resources:**

http://www.wegivebooks.org/books/titanic-sinks

http://www.slj.com/2012/04/collection-development/focus-on-collection-development/the-titanic-unsinkable-focus-on/

*Ladders The Sinking of the Titanic* is a book from the National Geographic series which shares the story of building, framing, and fitting out process of the Titanic, its maiden voyage, its collision with the iceberg, its evacuation, the survivors' stories, Alvin's discovery of the shipwreck and its artifacts. The history of this wondrous ship from its beginning to its tragic end is captured in this book with pictures, portraits, and commentary from the survivors. This ship had a story, and it is told in the pages of this book. Additionally, bold-faced words, discussion questions and a glossary are available to assist with comprehension.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it chronicles the events of Titanic from its birth to its unfortunate end. The bold-faced words, discussion, glossary will help an English Language Learner with comprehension of the text.

**WIDA Level:** Developing-Expanding  
**Reading Level:** 5  
**Lexile Measure:** 940  
**Language:** English  
**Available Format:** Paperback  
**ISBN:** 978-1-2853-5926-7

**Related Teacher Resources:**

http://ngl.cengage.com/

http://www.rmwexplorations.com/
Titanic Ghosts Of The Abyss by Mireille Majoor and Ken Marschall is a story of the Titanic from its construction to its maiden voyage which ended with tragic accident and its sinking. The book recounts the greatness of the Grand Staircase, Reading and Writing Room, and gymnasium. The passengers on this ship were divided by classes and experienced the luxuries of it by their class. In addition, James Cameron and Bill Paxton visited the Titanic in order to create an authentic movie. A plaque was left by Cameron and his crew on the Titanic’s stern to memorialize those who perished. This ship's ruins serve as a ghost to what was.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it tell the story of the Titanic and its grandeur. In addition, the story continues with how the Titanic has been brought to life through the 3-D images and an authentic movie. Finally, a plaque has placed on its stern to memorialize those who died. It is imperative people understand this ship’s story for its magnificence and its heartbreak.

WIDA Level: Expanding to Bridging
Reading Level: 7
Lexile Measure: 1130
Language: English
Available format: hard cover and paperback
ISBN hard cover: 0-75678237-6

Teacher Resources:


http://www.brimfulcuriosities.com/2012/03/titanic-educational-resources-for.html
Iceberg Right Ahead! The Tragedy of the Titanic by Stephanie Sammartino McPherson depicts the construction, voyage, accident, and tragic sinking of the Titanic. Throughout the book, the reader comprehends the story through words, photographs, maps, timelines, and darkened sections of the pages that further question and explain the information on the page. In addition, there is a section about Dr. Ballard's discovery of the Titanic, life for the survivors, a nautical glossary, and fates of other ships which have sank. Everything the reader could possibly want to know and explore about the Titanic is provided in this book.

This book is good for English Language Learners because there are useful learning tools to help the reader with understanding the construction, voyage, accident, and sinking of the Titanic. Through words, photographs, maps, timelines, and darkened sections of the pages, the reader visually experiences the story of this great ship.

WIDA Level: Bridging to Reaching
Reading Level: 8.1
Lexile Measure: 1070
Language: English
Available format: hard cover
ISBN: 978-0-7613-6756-7

Teacher Resources:

http://www.slj.com/2012/04/collection-development/focus-on-collection-development/the-titanic-unsinkable-focus-on/

http://lindaslinkstoliterature.wordpress.com/2012/04/02/reading-connections-the-sinking-of-the-titanic/

http://www.sharemylesson.com/teaching-resource/Titanic-Activities-6080336/

*The Titanic An Interactive History of Adventure* by Bob Temple is an interactive book that enables its readers to select how they would like to read the book. The passengers of the ship were divided by classes. As the reader, the travels of the first class, third class, or crew member can be followed by his or her choice. Additionally, the reader is invited to turn the pages and continue the story or join another story by making another selection. The book contains black and white pictures and is written like a journal with factual information about the ship and its voyage.

This book is good for English Language Learners because it contains many stories. The English Language Learner is able to decide how to experience the story and can choose to read the story in multiple ways. Additionally, there are pictures and journals to enhance this experience of this story.

**WIDA Level:** Developing  
**Reading Level:** 3-4  
**Lexile Measure:** 650  
**GRL:** T  
**Language:** English  
**Available format:** hardcover and Kindle  
**ISBN:** 978-1-4296-0163-4

**Related Teacher Resource:**

Free download: [http://www.ultimatetitanic.com](http://www.ultimatetitanic.com)  
The Booklist Project
A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,
Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

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