

# Author's Guys Like Chris Van Allsburg



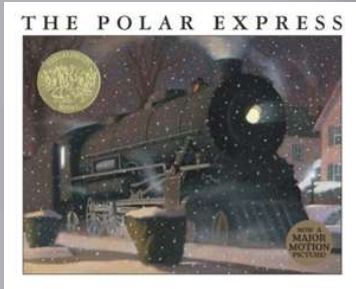
By Anne Stewart

# Results Of Survey



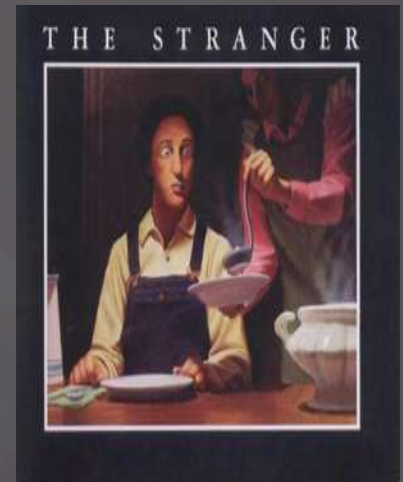
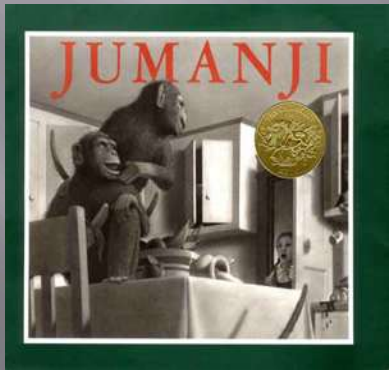
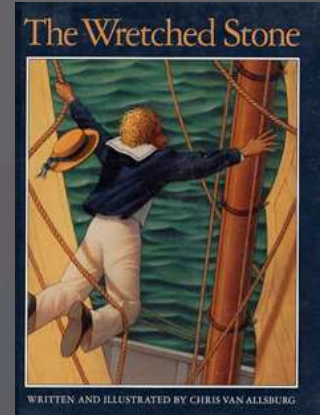
- Boys don't read much
- Too many other things to do
- Play videos
- Ride their Bikes
- Look at T.V.
- Boys like books about animals, action/adventure, fantasies, thrillers and mysteries

# Author's Work

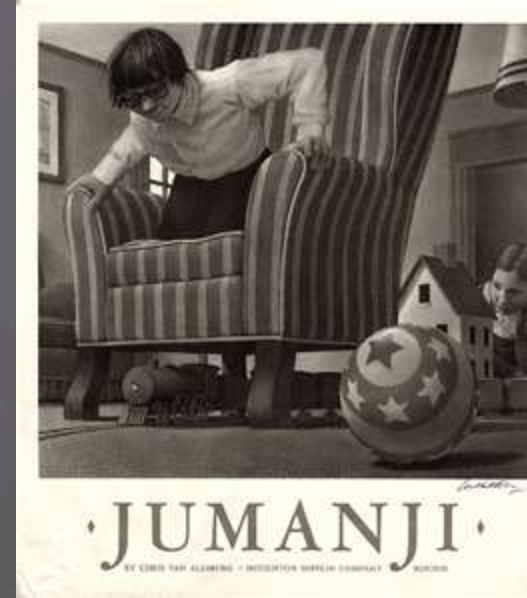


## Books by Chris Van Allsburg

- *The Garden Of Abdul Gasazi*
- *Jumanji*
- *The Polar Express*
- *Two Bad Ants*
- *Zathura*
- *Probuditi*
- *The Stranger*
- *The Wretched Stone*
- *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*
- *The Z was zapped*
- *The Sweetest Fig*
- *Just a Dream*



# Illustrator/Illustrations



Chris Van Allsburg is the illustrator of all his books: he has also illustrated books for other authors. He was awarded the Caldecott Honor Medal for illustrations in his book *The Garden Abdul Gasazi*. Van Allsburg has a distinct style of drawing, his drawings have a mysterious quality about them. Van Allsburg produces some of his drawings in black and white images, but when they are black and white they are highly detailed and very realistic. His drawings are usually drawn from a child's eye height.

# Author's Reason for Writing

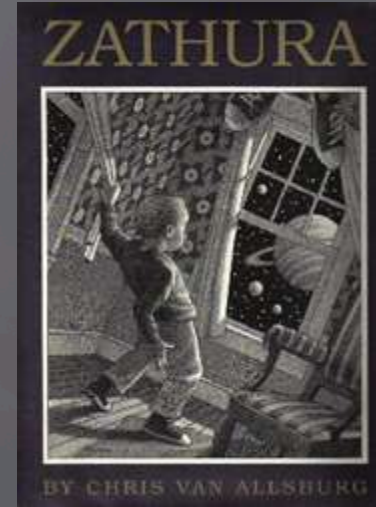


Chris Van Allsburg writes because he loves to tell stories through his pictures. He has a vivid imagination and he allows his drawings to create a lure of mystery and suspense. He creates stories by posing questions to himself, such as What if?

# Author's Characters and Scenes Preferred



- His character are mysterious
- Sometimes his characters are strange
- His characters deal with the human side of nature, issues such as: boredom, selfishness, looking at too much T.V.



# Applications in the Classroom

## Lesson Plan/Unit

### Story Map with Polar Express

Grades 2/3

**Objective:** Elements of a Story - Students will analyze the structure and elements of a story by noting the setting, characters, problem, events and resolution.

**Materials:** Train pattern of engine-with the words title and author with blanks for student to fill in. 4 Box car patterns with the words setting, characters, problem, and resolution- one word on each car with space for the student to fill in the information.

-Large 12" x 18" black construction paper.

-Green construction paper

-Small pine tree pattern

-Crayons, scissors and glue

### Activity:

Teacher reads "The Polar Express" by Chis Van Allsburg.

The teacher discusses the story elements of characters, setting, problem and resolution with the students. The teacher will model the lesson by placing the train cars she has prepared on the chalk board as she discusses each element. The teacher will then explain to the students the activity they will do.

Each student will need to fill in the information for each train car: setting, character, problem, and resolution. The engine has the author and title. Next, they color and cut out the train cars. The student will color a mountain on the large piece of black construction paper. (Using the white crayons) Tracks can also be drawn going up and down the mountain. Then the student will glue their prepared train onto the paper. The engine with title and author and then the box cars with setting, characters, problem and solution. Finally the students can use the pine tree patterns and glue them around the page to finish their work.

**Assessment:** Students will use their story maps to retell the story to the teacher or fellow students. Story mapping helps students internalize the structure of stories and is useful for aiding understanding of new stories.

**Submitted by:** Sheryl



# My Personal Response

- Although Chris Van Allsburg books are picture books and are thought of as books for children, they can be for people of all ages. His books really make you think and peaks your imagination. His themes include dreams, the environment, magic, mysteries and even the darker side of human nature. He writes because he wants his audience to think and his illustrations help to set the mood for most of his works. He likes to leave the reader thinking. He wants people to have questions about his stories.
- Many of the ideas for his books stem from his childhood and his imagination, such as board games and train rides. The characters in Van Allsburg books range from boys and girls to witches, old men and women, to Jack Frost. Chris Vans Allsburg is great writer and a terrific illustrator. His stories usually lend itself to depicting some sort of moral implication at the end of the story pertaining to human nature.



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