



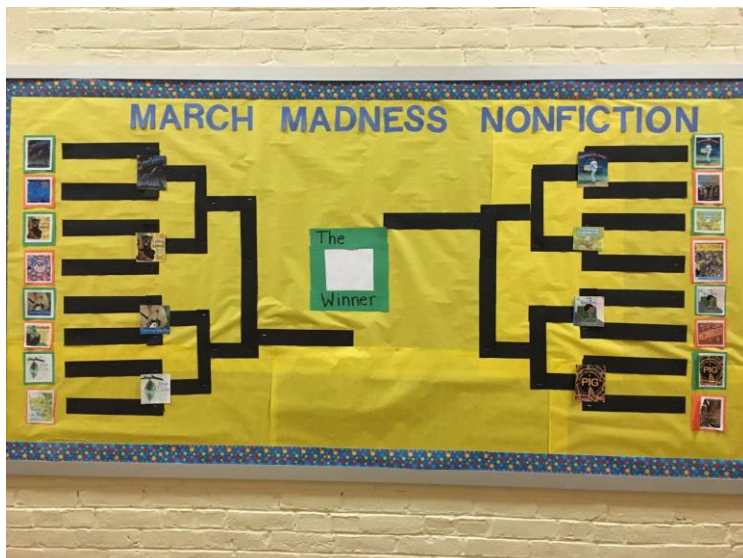
### March Madness Nonfiction

In the spirit of the annual March Madness basketball tournament, Valerie Glueck and Shelly Moody of Williams Elementary School in Oakland, ME, selected sixteen of their favorite nonfiction picture books and designed a fun, whole-school reading activity.



During the first week of March, half the classrooms read aloud the eight picture books on the right-hand side of the bulletin board. The rest of the classes read aloud the eight picture books on the left-hand side of the bulletin board.

Classrooms discussed not only the content and structure of each book, but also their favorite features. Then students voted between pairs of books to determine which nonfiction books would move on to “The Elite Eight.”



During the second week of March, teachers read aloud the four Round 1 winners from the opposite side of the bulletin board. Then students participated in rich classroom discussions to select our “Final Four.”

During the third week of March, classrooms discussed the Round 2 winners and then voted for their favorite title of all.

What are the benefits of an activity like this?

“March Madness has not only created an energy and excitement for read aloud; it has also exposed students to more nonfiction. [It has been] a springboard for discussions of text features and structures, vocabulary and author's purpose.” –Shelly Moody, Instructional Coach

“Readers have been inspired to look up extra information about topics after read aloud.” –Fifth-grade teacher

“I like that these nonfiction books really make you think about things for a while and then sometimes your thinking changes.” –Fifth-grade student