



# Your Voice

Welcome back to “Your Voice,” the new platform dedicated to sharing opinions and thoughts from Instructors.

In the last issue, this column featured a reflective submission from Instructor Manju Kapur in response to questions on the RRL and encouraged you to share your own. In this issue, we are again pleased to present two more insightful responses to those same questions from Instructors Husna Lapidus of the DeWitt Center in Syracuse, New York, and Anita Ajay of the Sayreville-Parlin Center in Parlin, NJ.

These submissions consider two very different titles from distant blocks of the RRL and outline the values of each. *Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers*, adapted by Merle Peek (RRL 4A-4), is the remodeling of a well-loved folk song into published print. As Instructor Lapidus explains, this title may be beneficial and enjoyable to emergent readers.

*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (Level I1, set 131; RRL I-10) is a canon of gothic/science fiction. Written in the early 19th century, this novel continues to appear on high school and college syllabi, presenting lessons on literary elements such as setting and narration, while also examining the potential hazards of science and technology. Perhaps the most pertinent aspect of this novel, however, is its role as a parable, which will be detailed by Instructor Ajay.

**SPOILER ALERT:** *You'll learn more about the creation of this literary classic in the revised AI-CII.*



## Husna Lapidus

**Branch:** Ridgefield Park

**RRL Title:** *Mary Wore Her Red Dress and Henry Wore His Green Sneakers*

**Kumon Book Level:** RRL 4A

### Why do you personally enjoy this book?

This book is about a group of children all joyfully heading over to celebrate a birthday for Mary. The illustrations are brilliant and give the reader so much to imagine about the characters and the fun they are all having. It includes the musical notation for the lyrics, which are the same as the text of the book. Put to song, the story can be sung and played along to in many creative ways. I especially love this book for how it enables pre-readers to feel confident reciting the entire book due to its repetitive and musical nature.

### Why do you think students would enjoy this book?

It's simple to read, rhythmic, musical, colorful, and full of joyful imagery. Families, when they realize the depth of fun they can get from this book, will turn it into a household meme. In my home, we make up our own lyrics to the tune of that song, and it gets my child's attention every time.

### What skills and/or values might students gain by reading this book?

Students will develop their memory through rhythmic recitation, deepening the skills we instill at levels 7A and 6A. They will also develop comprehension by practicing their observational abilities, simply by looking at the pictures and noticing how colors are added on each page and how there is meaning to a story even beyond the written words. Students should learn from a young age that reading is meant to evoke feelings, upon which we can base all meaning in the world. This book is a great start for young students on their life-long journey of reading to learn.