LEARNING STANDARD QUESTIONS:
Why did the author write this book?
Possible answers: to teach about the importance of collecting knowledge; to teach that words are important and awesome; to teach that words can connect, transform and empower us; to introduce the idea of poetry ...

Explain why a character or object is important to the story?
Possible answers: WORDS – they connect us; they can transform us; they can empower us; words are powerful; if not used carefully they can hurt; if used well they can create beautiful things ...

ACTIVITY (with connection to the story):
With a stack of construction paper (cut into strips) in hand, students are to name and write out as many of their favorite words as they can – in a set amount of time (3-5 minutes, perhaps). As words fill pieces of paper, the papers should be taped to a wall, the chalk board or perhaps the classrooms windows. 

Next, students are asked to select one of their own favorite words, along with three additional words that now adorn the classrooms walls (or board), and write a short poem/rap/song. Their piece of writing must include these four words.

*The first part of the activity can be done as a full class or in small groups.
*White/smart boards can be used in lieu of paper.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
Construction paper in many colors, markers and tape (or the classrooms white board/chalk board)

SHARE YOUR CREATION!
theREP would love students to share their poetry with us, or photos of (or short videos using) reciting their poem/rap/song! They can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org