

A NOT-JUST-FOR-HOLIDAYS BOOK LIST:

150+ Best Recent Children's Books to Read Over and Over for Grades PreK-6



COMPILED BY JUDY FREEMAN WINTER, 2011-2012

The titles on this list are all marvelous recently published read-alouds and read-alones, books that children in grades PreK-6 will enjoy reading over and over. Use the list for holidays, birthday parties, and other special day presents, and for all the kids in your life, not just your own!

If you're in the mood to read and don't want to break the bank at the bookstore, don't forget to support your school and public libraries who will go to the ends of the earth to get your kids reading. (NOTE: Books designated *S* are part of a series. Look for others in the series, too.)

JUDY FREEMAN, children's literature consultant and workshop presenter (www.JudyReadsBooks.com), is the author of *Once Upon a Time: Using Storytelling, Creative Drama, and Reader's Theater with Children in Grades PreK-6* (Libraries Unlimited, 2007; www.lu.com), *Books Kids Will Sit Still For* (1990); *More Books Kids Will Sit Still For* (1995); *Books Kids Will Sit Still For 3* (2006), and *The Winners Handbook 2010* (2011). Judy's online book review columns include "Desperate Librarians" for the online database *NoveList*, and "What's New" for *School Library Journal's Curriculum Connections*. Judy has contributed more than 400 children's book reviews, plus articles, annotated booklists, and other content to author James Patterson's spectacular website for parents, teachers, librarians, and kids: www.ReadKiddoRead.com, which was named one of ALA's Great Web Sites for Kids and won the first annual Innovations in Reading Prize from the National Book Foundation in 2009.

EASY FICTION / PICTURE BOOKS

- Animal Crackers Fly the Coop* by Kevin O'Malley. Walker, 2010. (Gr. 1-4)**
Hen, Cat, Hound, and Cow take to the road, dreaming of opening an animal comedy club.
- April and Esme, Tooth Fairies* by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Seven-year-old tooth fairy, April Underhill, and her little sister Esme fly off to bring home their very first tooth.
- Are You a Horse?* by Andy Rash. Scholastic, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2)**
For his birthday, Roy's friends give him a saddle, which comes with instructions: "1. Find a horse. 2. Enjoy the ride." "What's a horse?" he wants to know.
- Art & Max* by David Wiesner. Clarion, 2010. (Gr. PreK-6)**
Max, a desert lizard, wants to learn to paint from a real artist, Art, a horned lizard.
- The Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man* by Michael Chabon. Illus. by Jake Parker. Balzer + Bray, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Superhero, Awesome Man and his superpet, Moskowitz the Awesome Dog, demonstrate how they take on bad guys like Professor Von Evil.
- Bailey* by Harry Bliss. Illus. by the author. Scholastic, 2011. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Bailey, a yellow and brown spotted dog, spends a busy day at school.
- Banana!* by Ed Vere. Henry Holt, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1)**
One monkey has a banana; another monkey wants it.
- A Bedtime for Bear* by Bonny Becker. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2) *S***
Mouse comes to spend the night at Bear's house.
- Bink and Gollie* by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee. Illus. by Tony Fucile. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Share three adventures with two best friends: short, spiky-haired Bink, who loves bright-colored socks, and lanky, toothpick-legged Gollie, who doesn't.
- Binky to the Rescue* by Ashley Spires. Kids Can, 2010. (Gr. PreK-3) *S***
Binky, a plump black and white kitty who considers himself an official space cat, falls out the first floor window and finds himself outside for the first time.
- The Bippolo Seed and Other Lost Stories* by Dr. Seuss. Illus. by the author. Random House, 2011. (Gr. PreK-6)**
These seven wonderful little rhyming stories haven't been seen since they were originally published in magazines from 1948 to 1959.
- The Boy from the Dragon Palace: A Folktale from Japan* by Margaret Read MacDonald. Illus. by Sachiko Yoshikawa. Albert Whitman, 2011. (Gr. PreK-4)**
The Dragon King's who lives in the sea rewards a poor flower seller with a snot-nosed little boy who will bring him luck.
- Can I Play, Too?* by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1) *S***
Playing catch with a ball, Elephant and Piggie are surprised when a snake wants to play, too, since snakes don't have arms.
- Cat the Cat, Who Is That?* by Mo Willems. Balzer + Bray, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1) *S***
In this first book in the Cat the Cat easy reader series, Cat the Cat introduces her friends, including Mouse the Mouse, Duck the Duck, and Fish the Fish.
- Chalk* by Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish, 2010. (Gr. PreK-3)**
Finding a bag of chalk hanging from the dinosaur ride at the playground, three children draw pictures on the blacktop that come to life.
- City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems. Illus. by Jon J Muth. Hyperion, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Through the seasons, City Dog and his new friend, Country Frog, play games and revel in their time together.
- Clever Jack Takes the Cake* by Candace Fleming. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2010. (Gr. PreK-3)**
When Jack, a poor boy, receives an invitation from His Majesty the King to attend the princess's tenth birthday party at the castle, he decides to make her a cake as his gift.
- Dog in Boots* by Greg Gormley. Illus. by Roberta Angaramo. Holiday House, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**
"Bow WOW!" Dog exclaims when he buys a splendid set of boots to wear, just like the ones he saw in the book, Puss in Boots.

EASY FICTION / PICTURE BOOKS, cont.

- Duck! Rabbit!* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. Chronicle, 2009. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Look at the white animal head on the cover. Is it a duck or is it a rabbit? It all depends on your perspective.
- Dust Devil* by Anne Isaacs. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. (Gr. K-4) *S***
When the worst dust storm ever tears across the Montana prairie, Angelica Longrider, AKA Swamp Angel, mounts the howling whirlwind and rides it like a horse.
- 11 Experiments that Failed* by Jenny Offill. Illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. (Gr. PreK-4)**
A determined young scientist works her way through eleven of her own experiments with food, animals, motion, and household objects, all of which get her in big trouble.
- Epossumondas Plays Possum* by Coleen Salley. Illus. by Janet Stevens. Harcourt, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2) *S***
Mama warns Epossumondas not to go into the scary and dangerous swamp by himself, but he doesn't listen.
- Even Monsters Need Haircuts* by Matthew McElligott. Walker, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**
A young boy takes over his father's barbershop on the night of the full moon to trim and style the locks of grateful customers like Frankenstein, Cyclops, Medusa, and his vampire friend, Vlad.
- Ferret Fun* by Karen Rostoker-Gruber. Illus. by Paul Ratz de Tagyos. Marshall Cavendish, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Ferret pals, Fudge and Einstein, are terrified of Marvel, the big, hungry bully of a cat their owner, Andrea, is petsitting.
- Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed* by Eileen. Christelow. Illus. by the author. Clarion, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2) *S***
Mama says to her five noisy monkeys, "Lights out! Sweet dreams! No more reading in bed!"
- The Haunted Hamburger and Other Ghostly Stories* by David LaRochelle. Illus. by Paul Meisel. Dutton, 2011. (Gr. 1-3)**
Father Ghost tells his ghostly, wide-awake young'uns, Frannie and Frankie three scary bedtime stories.
- Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator* by Mo Willems. Illus. by the author. Balzer + Bray, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**
In "6 1/2 Surprising Stories about Two Surprising Friends," get to know a little girl and her best friend, a turquoise stuffed alligator.
- How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1)**
A determined little yellow bird gives reading lessons to Rocket, a gray and white dog.
- If Rocks Could Sing: A Discovered Alphabet* by Leslie McGuirk. Photos by the author. Tricycle, 2011. (Gr. PreK-3)**
Look closely at this unusual alphabet—all of the objects are actually rocks.
- Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Little Red Chicken can't stop interrupting Papa's bedtime fairy tale book and giving advice to the characters.
- Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* By Jan Thomas. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, 2011. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Three brown cows announce it is time to "JUMP! Up and down, up and down. Let's all jump up and down! On Chicken's sofa!"
- Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion* by Mo Willems. Balzer + Bray, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2) *S***
On a trip to see her grandparents in Holland, Trixie leaves her beloved stuffed Knuffle Bunny on the plane.
- Let's Do Nothing!* by Tony Fucile. Candlewick, 2009. (Gr. K-3)**
Skinny red-haired Sal and his bespectacled, chubby blond pal, Frankie, try to do absolutely nothing, but it's not easy.
- The Lion & the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney. Little, Brown, 2009. (Gr. PreK-3)**
This wordless "retelling" of the Aesop fable about the lion that spares a mouse and is, in turn, saved by the mouse, is told entirely in magnificent watercolors.
- Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney. Viking, 2009. (Gr. PreK-K) *S***
On his first day of preschool, everything seems strange and unfamiliar to little Llama Llama, and he wants his Mama Llama.
- LMNO Peas* by Keith Baker. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**
In an active alphabet, little green peas showcase their many jobs, from acrobats to zoologist.

EASY FICTION / PICTURE BOOKS, cont.

***Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes* by Margie Palatini. Illus. by Barry Moser. Simon & Schuster, 2009. (Gr. PreK-3)**

In a comical reworking of the well-known fable, Fox, who considers himself sly, clever, and smart, makes a plan to reach a bunch of grapes

***Love, Mouserella* by David Ezra Stein. Illus. by the author. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen, 2011. Gr. PreK-2)**

Mouserella writes a newsy letter to her Grandmouse and tells her, "I mouse you."

***Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)* by Barbara Bottner. Illus. by Michael Emberley. Knopf/Borzoi, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Though her book-crazy school librarian dresses up as book characters and reads book after book to her class, picky Missy, a first grader, can't find a single book she loves.

***Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India* by Gerald McDermott. Illus. by the author. Harcourt, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**

"Now I'm going to eat your heart," says Crocodile to Monkey, but quick-thinking Monkey fools him again and again.

***Neville* by Norton Juster. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**

It's not easy to be the new kid, but a brown-haired boy finds an unusual way to make friends.

***Oh No!, or, How My Science Project Destroyed the World* by Mac Barnett. Illus. by Dan Santat. Disney/Hyperion Books, 2010. (Gr. PreK-3)**

"I never should have built a robot for the science fair," says a brown-haired girl as she surveys the destruction the robot has caused in his rampage, and now she has to figure out how to fix it.

Otis* by Loren Long. Philomel, 2009. (Gr. PreK-1) *S

A friendly little tractor named Otis befriends a baby calf on the farm.

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin. Illus. by James Dean. HarperCollins, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1) *S

Sauntering down the street in his brand-new lace-up white sneakers, does Pete the Cat cry when he steps in strawberries, blueberries, and mud? "Goodness, no!" He just keeps on singing.

***Pig Kahuna* by Jennifer Gordon Sattler. Illus. by the author. Bloomsbury, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Fergus and his baby brother, Dink, two big-eared, big-eyed piglets, are at the beach collecting treasures when a white surfboard slides into shore.

***Press Here* by Hervé Tullet. Trans. by Christopher Franceschelli. Illus. by the author. Handprint, 2011. (All Ages)**

"Press here and turn the page," it says, and when you press the yellow dot, cool stuff happens.

***The Princess and the Pig* by Jonathan Emmett. Illus. by Poly Bernatene. Walker, 2011. (Gr. PreK-3)**

A farmer's piglet and a baby princess get switched.

Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane, 2009. (Gr. PreK-1) *S

According to the scruffy, bulbous-nosed, googly-eyed dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, "We rhyme . . . all the time!"

***Rubia and the Three Osos* by Susan Middleton Elya. Illus. by Melissa Sweet. Disney/Hyperion, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**

In a charming Spanish language-laden, rhyming retelling of "The Three Bears," the family Oso heads out for a walk and Little Miss Rubia comes in for a look around their casita.

***The Runaway Wok: A Chinese New Year Tale* by Ying Chang Compestine. Illus. by Sebastia Serra. Dutton, 2011. (Gr. PreK-4)**

On Chinese New Year's Eve, Mama Zhang sends her son, Ming, to the market where he trades his eggs for a magic wok.

***Shark Vs. Train* by Chris Barton. Illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. Little, Brown, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Shark and Train, two boys' toys, compete to see who is better at contests including racing, bowling, roasting marshmallows, and basketball.

***Should I Share My Ice Cream?* By Mo Willems. Illus. by the author. Disney/Hyperion, 2011. Gr. PreK-2)**

Elephant can't decide if he should share his ice cream cone with Piggie, his best friend or eat it all himself.

***The Snow Day* by Komako Sakai. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, 2009. (Gr. PreK-1)**

With Kindergarten closed and Daddy's flight canceled, a little rabbit spends the day with Mama watching and then playing in the snow.

EASY FICTION / PICTURE BOOKS, cont.

***Splinters* by Kevin Sylvester. Tundra, 2010. (Gr. 1-4)**

Made to clean the uniforms and tape the hockey sticks by mean Coach Blisters, who favors her own two daughters, Cindy Winters is at last aided by her fairy goaltender.

***The 3 Little Dassies* by Jan Brett. Putnam, 2010. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Three furry little brown dassies—Mimbi, Pimbi, and Timbi—set out across the Namib Desert on their own to find a place to build their houses where they will be safe from big eagles.

***The Three Little Tamales* by Eric A. Kimmel. Illus. by Valeria Docampo. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Three little tamales build casitas of sagebrush, corn husks, and cactus, respectively. When Señor Lobo comes calling, he says, “Señora Tamale, por favor, I want to come in, so open the door.”

Tortuga In Trouble* by Ann Whitford Paul. Illus. by Ethan Long. Holiday House, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2) *S

Iguana, Conejo (Rabbit), and Culebra (Snake) sure would like a taste of the goodies that Tortuga (Tortoise) is taking in a basket as supper for Abuela (Grandmother), and so would that devilish fellow, Coyote.

***Trouble Gum* by Matthew Cordell. Feiwel & Friends, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2)**

When Grammy gives gum to Julius and Rube, first the piglets chew it—SMAK SMAK SMIK SMAK—and then they break all of Mom’s rules about not swallowing, playing, or blowing bubbles with it.

***Tyrannosaurus Dad* by Liz Rosenberg. Illus. by Matthew Myers. Roaring Brook, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Tobias is a regular baseball-loving kid, but his dad is a tyrannosaurus Rex.

***The Voyage of Turtle Rex* by Kurt Cyrus. Illus. by the author. Harcourt, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**

In prehistoric times, a baby sea turtle hatches, makes her way into the ocean, and grows to be a two-ton archelon, a fifteen-foot prehistoric turtle.

***Where’s Walrus?* by Stephen Savage. Illus. by the author. Scholastic, 2011. (Gr. PreK-1)**

A big gray walrus escapes from his pool at the zoo, camouflaging himself in plain sight as the zookeeper chases him through the city.

You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You Very Short Fables to Read Together* by Mary Ann Hoberman. Illus. by Michael Emberley. Little, Brown, 2010. (Gr. PreK-3) *S

You can perform these thirteen funny rhyming fables, told by pairs of animal characters, with your friends.

FICTION BOOKS

- The Adventures of Nanny Piggins* by R. A. Spratt. Illus. by Dan Santat. Little, Brown, 2010. (Gr. 3-7) *S***
A chocolate-loving four-foot pig whose last job was flying pig at the circus takes the job of nanny for Mr. Green's three children.
- The Adventures of Sir Gawain the True (The Knights' Tales series)* by Gerald Morris. Illus. by Aaron Renier. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011. (Gr. 3-5) *S***
When King Arthur's nephew, Sir Gawain the Undefeated, saves a damsel from a fire-breathing dragon, he is too self-involved to accept her gift of gratitude.
- Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* by Lenore Look. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. (Gr. 1-4) *S***
Second grader Alvin Ho, a Chinese American boy, is afraid of many things, including elevators, airplanes, substitute teachers, wasabi, shots, and, most important, school, where he has never uttered a single word.
- Amazing Monty* by Johanna Hurwitz. Illus. by Anik McGrory. Candlewick Press, 2010. (Gr. K-3) *S***
In a day full of surprises, first grader Monty Morris's loses his first tooth and learns he will soon be a big brother.
- Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook, 2008. (Gr. 1-4) *S***
This companion book to *Bad Kitty* and *Poor Puppy* is a little graphic novel, filled with lots of zany black and white illustrations. Bad Kitty needs a bath? Uh, oh. Don't you know CATS HATE BATHS?
- Big Nate: In a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins, 2010. (Gr. 3-6) *S***
Sixth grader Nate Wright's fortune cookie fortune reads, "Today you will surpass all others," but the only thing he seems to be excelling at today is getting in trouble and getting detention.
- Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading* by Tom Greenwald. Illus. by J.P. Coovert. Roaring Brook, 2011. (Gr. 4-7)**
"My name is Charlie Joe Jackson and I hate reading." Charlie Joe, a middle school student, is determined to keep his perfect record and his reputation as a kid who's never read a book.
- City of Orphans* by Avi. Illus. by Greg Ruth. Atheneum, 2011. (Gr. 5-8)**
In 1893, New York City newsboy, or "newsy," thirteen-year-old Maks Geless, is cornered in an alley by the Plug Ugly Gang that's been beating up newsies, stealing their money, and destroying their papers.
- Clementine: Friend of the Week* by Sara Pennypacker. Illus. by Marla Frazee. Hyperion, 2010. (Gr. 1-4) *S***
Picked to be Friend of the Week by her third grader teacher, Clementine looks forward to being the center of attention.
- Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. Illus. by Juan Wijngaard. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. 1-4)**
When her mother falls ill, young Tashi tries to take her place picking tea leaves, and is aided by the wild monkeys she has befriended.
- Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce. HarperCollins/Walden Pond, 2010. (Gr. 5-8)**
Along with four other kids, twelve-year-old Liam Digby is now on board the Infinite Possibility, a rocket spinning hopelessly out of control about 200,000 miles above Earth, lost in space.
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid, #6: Cabin Fever* by Jeff Kinney. Amulet, 2011. (Gr. 3-6) *S***
Worried about Santa's "Naughty or Nice" list, Greg is trying to be good for Christmas, knowing that Mom's creepy doll, Santa's Scout, is watching him.
- Down Girl and Sit: Home on the Range* by Lucy Nolan. Illus. by Mike Reed. Marshall Cavendish, 2010. (Gr. 1-4) *S***
Down Girl, a black and white dog, describes her adventures at the Cowpoke Dude ranch with her best friend, Sit, where the two city dogs are befriended by a country dog named Git Along.
- The Dragon of Trelian* by Michelle Knudsen. Candlewick, 2009. (Gr. 4-7)**
When Calen, slacker apprentice to the castle's mage, is befriended by Meg, AKA Her Royal Highness Princess Meglynnne, she's confides a secret: she's been hiding a young dragon in a cave deep in the forest.
- Dragonbreath: Curse of the Were-wiener* by Ursula Vernon. Dial, 2010. (Gr. 3-5) *S***
In the school cafeteria, Danny Dragonbreath's weird blood red hot dog bites Wendell's finger, and now his iguana friend is growing hair.
- The Dunderheads* by Paul Fleischman. Illus. by David Roberts. Candlewick, 2009. (Gr. 2-4) *S***
When teacher Miss Breakbone calls her students "dunderheads" and confiscates Theodore's one-eared china cat, the whole class, led by a boy they call Einstein, plans a heist to get it back.
- 11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass. Scholastic, 2009. (Gr. 4-6) *S***
When Amanda awakens the morning after her awful eleventh birthday, she is astonished to realize that it's her birthday all over again.

FICTION BOOKS, cont.

The Emerald Atlas* by John Stephens. Knopf, 2011. (Gr. 4-8) *S

After ten years in dreary orphanages, Kate, Michael, and Emma are packed off to yet another one in remote Cambridge Falls, New York, in a huge and mysterious old house where there are no other children.

***Everything for a Dog* by Ann M. Martin. Feiwel & Friends, 2009. (Gr. 4-7)**

In alternating chapters, meet Bone, a stray dog; fourth grader Charlie Elliot, whose beloved older brother, RJ, has just died; and 11-year-old Henry, who has wanted a dog for as long as he can remember

***Extra Credit* by Andrew Clements. Illus. by Mark Elliott. Atheneum, 2009. (Gr. 4-6)**

Sadeed Bayat, the best student in his mountainous Afghani village, and Abby Carson, from rural Linsdale, Illinois, an indifferent sixth grader whose best part of the school day is gym, become unwilling pen pals.

***Faith, Hope, and Ivy June* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Delacorte, 2009. (Gr. 4-7)**

Ivy June Mosley, who lives with her grandparents off a dirt road in the coal mining town of Thunder Creek, and Catherine Combs, from a middle class family in Lexington, are selected for a student exchange program between their two Kentucky schools.

The Familiars* by Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson. Illus. by Bobby Chiu. HarperCollins, 2010. (Gr. 4-7) *S

Aldwyn, a mangy but personable black-and-white alley cat, is chosen as a companion by Jack, a wizard apprentice celebrating his eleventh birthday.

***The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman* by Meg Wolitzer. Dutton, 2011. (Gr. 5-8)**

Duncan has a strange little power—he can read with his eyes closed. Will he have to use his power at the Youth Scrabble Tournament in Florida?

***The Flint Heart: A Fairy Story* by Katherine Paterson and John Paterson. Illus. by John Rocco. Candlewick, 2011. (Gr. 3-6)**

In this classic English story, first published in 1910, whoever possesses the small black heart made of flint becomes instantly cruel and power-hungry.

Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom* by Eric Wight. Simon & Schuster, 2009. (Gr. 2-4) *S

Franklin Lorenzo Piccolini, AKA Frankie Pickle, a daydreamy kid who imagines himself an adventurer and superhero, makes a deal with his mom not to clean his own bedroom.

***The Friendship Doll* by Kirby Larson. Random House, 2011. (Gr. 4-6)**

During the Great Depression in America, Miss Kanagawa, a Japanese doll standing three feet tall, helps four girls in need.

***Heart of a Samurai: Based on the True Story of Nakahama Manjiro* by Margi Preus. Illus. by Nakahama Manjiro and others. Abrams/Amulet, 2010. (Gr. 5-8)**

In January of 1841, after spending five months shipwrecked on an island, fourteen-year-old Nakahama Manjiro and four other Japanese fishermen are rescued by an American whaling ship.

***Hidden* by Helen. Frost. Farrar, 2011. (Gr. 6-9)**

Now 14, Wren Abbott looks back on the terrifying year she was 8, when her mother's van was hijacked while Wren was hiding in the back.

How Tía Lola Learned to Teach* by Julia Alvarez. Knopf, 2010. (Gr. 3-6) *S

Tía Lola, Miguel and Juanita Guzman's adored aunt from the Dominican Republic, agrees to teach Spanish to all the students at their school in Vermont.

***Ivy's Ever After* by Dawn Lairamore. Holiday House, 2010. (Gr. 4-7)**

Headstrong Princess Ivy of Ardendale is appalled to learn that on her fourteenth birthday she is to be locked in a tower that will be guarded by a dragon until a prince can come to her rescue.

***Justin Case: School, Drool, and Other Daily Disasters* by Rachel Vail. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. (Gr. 3-5)**

Justin K.'s diary of his third grade year is filled with worries as he tries to earn Superstars in Ms. Termini's classroom.

***Liesl & Po* by Lauren Oliver. Illus. by Kei Acedera. HarperCollins, 2011. (Gr. 4-7)**

Three days after Liesl's father dies, two ghosts from the Other Side appear in her attic bedroom: a child named Po and little, shadow-like ghost-pet named Bundle.

***The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Yoko Tanaka. Candlewick, 2009. (Gr. 3-6)**

In the city of Baltese, Peter Augustus Duchene, a ten-year-old orphan, asks a fortuneteller if his younger sister is alive and is told, "She lives . . . You must follow the elephant. She will lead you there."

Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel!* by Nikki Grimes. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Putnam, 2009. (Gr. 2-4) *S

Since moving from Brooklyn to Washington Heights with her single-parent mom, Dyamonde misses her best friend but soon finds a place for herself.

FICTION BOOKS, cont.

***Mockingbird: (Mok'ing-bûrd)* by Kathryn Erskine. Philomel, 2010 (Gr. 4-7)**

Since her brother Devon died in a school shooting, Caitlin, a fifth grader with Asperger's, has no one to teach her how to behave and feel, especially when she has to return to school.

***Mousenet* by Prudence Breitrose. Illus. by Stephanie Yue. Disney/Hyperion, 2011. (Gr. 3-7)**

When Uncle Fred gives ten-year-old Megan his new invention, a miniature computer, a talking mouse named Trey befriends the human girl so the Mouse Nation can learn how to produce a Thumbtop for every mousehole.

***My Life As a Book* by Janet Tashjian. Illus. by Jake Tashjian. Henry Holt, 2010. (Gr. 4-7)**

Derek, twelve and a devoted cartoonist, insists there's no way he will read three books on his summer reading list and report on them, and he's doing everything he can to avoid it.

***A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home* by Henry Cole. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)**

On a New Orleans plantation, Celeste, a basket-weaving house mouse finds safety and friendship with Joseph, the 14-year-old assistant to bird painter, Mr. Audubon.

***The Ogre of Oglefort* by Eva Ibbotson. Illus. by Lisa K. Weber. Dutton, 2011. (Gr. 3-6)**

The Hag of the Dribble's young friend, an orphan named Ino, comes with her to the Summer Meeting of Unusual Creatures where they are instructed to rescue a princess and kill a hideous ogre.

***Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt. Illus. with paintings by John James Audubon. Clarion, 2011. (Gr. 5-8)**

In the companion book to *The Wednesday Wars*, 12-year-old Doug Swietek moves with his family to "stupid Marysville," NY, where the only saving graces are a girl named Lil and an elderly librarian, Mr. Powell, who gives him drawing lessons.

***One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia. HarperCollins/Amistad, 2010. (Gr. 5-8)**

In 1968, eleven-year-old Delphine shepherds her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, from their home in New York to spend a month with their mother, Cecile, in Oakland, California.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper. Atheneum, 2010. (Gr. 4-8)**

Eleven-year-old Melody, who has cerebral palsy, may not be able to walk or talk, but she remembers everything she hears, and is about to be mainstreamed into a regular fifth grade class.

The Penderwicks on Gardam Street* by Jeanne Birdsall. Knopf, 2008. (Gr. 4-7) *S

Four years after their mother's death, the four Penderwick sisters, appalled when their father plans to start dating, come up with the Save-Daddy Plan, to fix him up with awful women so he won't get remarried.

***Pie* by Sarah Weeks. Scholastic, 2011. (Gr. 4-6)**

In the summer of 1955, when Alice's beloved Aunt Polly, owner of the legendary pie shop, PIE, dies unexpectedly, she leaves her cantankerous white cat, Lardo to Alice in her will, and her famous pie crust recipe to Lardo.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang* by Amy Ignatow. Amulet Books, 2010. (Gr. 3-6) *S

Best friends Lydia and Julie keep a notebook of research, observations, and drawings of their encounters with the popular kids in school.

The Red Pyramid* by Rick Riordan. Disney/Hyperion, 2010. (Gr. 5-9) *S

Fourteen-year-old Carter and twelve-year-old Sadie Kane are with their Egyptologist dad on Christmas Eve when he unwittingly unleashes an ancient god and destroys the British Museum.

***Scat* by Carl Hiaasen. Knopf, 2009. (Gr. 5-8)**

When Nick's biology teacher, Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared teacher at the Truman School in Naples, Florida, disappears on a field trip to the Black Vine Swamp, Nick and his best friend, Marta, investigate.

***School!: Adventures at the Harvey N. Trouble Elementary School* by Kate McMullan and George Booth. Illus. by George Booth. Feiwel and Friends, 2010. (Gr. 2-5)**

On Hotsy-Totsy Monday, Ron Faster, a very fast runner, starts his week by taking the school bus driven by Mr. Stuckinaditch, which gets stuck in a ditch.

***The Silver Bowl* by Diane Stanley. Harper, 2011. (Gr. 5-8)**

The youngest of seven siblings, seven-year-old Molly, a girl who has a gift of hearing voices and seeing visions of what is going to happen, is to be sent away by her father to work as a scullery maid at Dethemere Castle.

***Smile!* by Raina Telgemeier. Graphix, 2010. (Gr. 5-8)**

In a graphic novel based on the author's life, 11-year-old Raina falls and knocks out her two front teeth, and spends middle and high school juggling friendship, boys, and endless dental work.

FICTION BOOKS, cont.

- Spaceheadz. (SPHDZ, Book #1!) by Jon Scieszka and Francesco Sedita. Illus. by Shane Prigmore. Simon & Schuster, 2010. (Gr. 3-5) *S****
New kid Michael K. is stuck sitting at the back of the room with two strange kids, Bob and Jennifer, who tell him they are Spaceheadz from another planet and need his help to save the world.
- Squish: Super Amoeba, No. 1 by Jennifer L. Holm. Illus. by Matthew Holm. Random House, 2011. (Gr. 2-5)***
Squish, a green-tinged blob in a baseball cap, and his best friends, a lunch-mooching amoeba named Pod, and Peggy, a bubbly paramecium end up in detention with that big, bad boy amoeba, Lynnwood.
- Stink: Solar System Superhero by McDonald Megan. Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. 1-4) *S****
Stink Moody and his new friend Nick, AKA Skunk, are mad when Riley Rottenberger, AKA Miss Know-It-All, comes to school with a T-shirt that says “PLUTO IS DEAD.”
- The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger. Amulet, 2010. (Gr. 3-6) *S****
The Yoda finger puppet worn by Dwight, the weirdest kid at McQuarrie Middle School, offers life-changing advice to any student who asks.
- Stuck on Earth by David Klass. Farrar/Frances Foster, 2010. (Gr. 6-9)***
Ketchvar III, a snail-like creature from the planet Sandoval IV, takes over the brain of Tom Filber, a 14-year-old boy known as Alien, to evaluate if the people on planet Earth should be destroyed.
- Swindle by Gordon Korman. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 4-7) *S****
When sixth grader Griffin Bing is swindled out of a million dollar Babe Ruth baseball card by a local baseball card dealer, he assembles a crack team of talented classmates to steal it back.
- Sylvia & Aki by Winifred Conkling. Tricycle, 2011. (Gr. 3-6)***
During World War II, third grader Sylvia Mendez moves with her family to a farm in southern California, staying in the bedroom that belonged to another girl just her age, Aki Munemitsu, who has been sent with her family to a Japanese relocation camp in the desert.
- A Tale Dark & Grimm by Adam Gidwitz. Dutton, 2010. (Gr. 5-7)***
Royal children, Hansel and Gretel, journey through eight dangerous fairy tales (based on stories by the Brothers Grimm) in search of better parents and to save their kingdom.
- Tall Story by Candy Gourlay. Random House/David Fickling, 2011. (Gr. 5-8)***
In London, thirteen-year-old Andi can't wait to be reunited with her sixteen-year-old half-brother, Bernardo, who has grown up Philippines, but is shocked when he turns out to be eight feet tall.
- Thunder from the Sea: Adventure on Board the HMS Defender by Jeff Weigel. Putnam, 2010. (Gr. 4-7)***
In 1805, during the Napoleonic Wars, twelve-year-old Jack Hoyton joins the crew of the HMS Defender, a British naval ship, as laid out in this action-jammed, oversized graphic novel.
- Toys Come Home: Being the Early Experiences of an Intelligent Stingray, a Brave Buffalo, and a Brand-New Someone Called Plastic by Emily Jenkins. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)***
See how a little girl's toys—StingRay, Lumphy the buffalo, and the little red ball called Plastic—came together for the first time.
- The Trouble with Chickens by Doreen Cronin. Illus. by the author. Balzer + Bray, 2011. (Gr. 2-5)***
Detective J.J. Tully, a retired search-and-rescue dog, takes on the job of finding the two missing chicks of a chicken named Millicent.
- Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall by Emily Bearn. Illus. by Nick Price. Little, Brown, 2009. (Gr. 1-5) *S****
In three short adventures, meet Mr. and Mrs. Nutmeg, a mouse couple who live in a thirty-six room mansion called Nutmouse House, located in the broom closet off the kitchen of Rose Cottage.
- Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer L. Holm. Random House, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)***
In 1935, ten-year-old Turtle heads to Key West, Florida to live with her aunt and boy cousins who call themselves the Diaper Gang.
- When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead. Random House/Wendy Lamb, 2009. (Gr. 4-8)***
Sixth grader Miranda relates the story of her past year in her Manhattan neighborhood and school to an unidentified someone who has sent her notes that have correctly predicted some of those events.
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin. Little, Brown, 2009. (Gr. 2-5)***
On her quest to find Never-Ending Mountain and the Old Man of the Moon to ask how she might change her family's bad fortune, Minli, a poor young girl, rescues a red dragon.
- Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick. Illus. by the author. Scholastic, 2011. (Gr. 4-8)***
Two deaf children, fifty years apart—in 1927 and 1977—run away to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

NONFICTION BOOKS

(Including poetry and biography)

***Adventures in Cartooning* by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost. First Second, 2009. (Gr. 2-6)**

A little green-clad Magic Cartooning Elf, gives an education in cartooning to a young princess who is discouraged that she can't draw well enough to make a comic.

***Bones: Skeletons and How They Work* by Steve Jenkins. Scholastic, 2010. (Gr. 2-5)**

Compare the bones in the human body with those of different animals and see what you look like from the inside out.

***Can We Save the Tiger?* by Martin Jenkins. Illus. by Vicky White. Candlewick, 2011. (Gr. K-4)**

Learn about a fascinating variety of endangered, extinct, and rescued animals and what we are doing to help some creatures survive.

***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors* by Chris Barton. Illus. by Tony Persiani. Charlesbridge, 2009. (Gr. 3-6)**

In a nonfiction picture book, meet the brothers, Bob and Joe Switzer, who wanted to be a doctor and a magician, respectively, but ended up inventing Day-Glo paint in 1935.

***The Day Roy Riegels Ran the Wrong Way* by Dan Gutman. Illus. by Kerry Talbott. Bloomsbury, 2011. (Gr. 1-5)**

Grandpa tells his grandson the true story of college football player, Roy Riegels, whose play during the 1929 Rose Bowl made football history.

***Dear Hot Dog: Poems About Everyday Stuff* by Mordicai Gerstein. Illus. by the author. Abrams, 2011. (Gr. PreK-4)**

A trio of children celebrate and appreciate some of the ordinary objects that take them through the day and the seasons.

***Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea* by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. (Gr. 2-6)**

Illustrations done in cut and torn paper collage depict some of the ocean life to be found in the Pacific Ocean, the largest body of water on Earth, as we descend from sea level to 35,000 feet.

***Every Thing On It* by Shel Silverstein. Illus. by the author. Harper, 2011. 811 (Gr. K-6)**

More than 130 never-before-seen poems from the late Silverstein, the master of funny verse.

***The Fastest Game on Two Feet: And Other Poems About How Sports Began* by Alice Low. Illus. by John O'Brien. Holiday House, 2009. (Gr. 3-6)**

In a collection of twenty winning poems, find out how each of 19 sports came to be, including skiing, swimming, gymnastics, bowling, soccer, lacross, and even frisbee.

***A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout* selected by Paul B Janeczko. Illus. by Chris Raschka. Candlewick, 2009. (Gr. 3-6)**

These 37 splendid poems, with splashy collage illustrations, include tongue twisters, list poems, bilingual poems, and limericks.

***The Hallelujah Flight* by Phil Bildner. Illus. by John Holyfield. Putnam, 2010. (Gr. K-4)**

Two African American fliers—stunt pilot, James Banning, and his mechanic, Thomas Allen—set off to fly their two-person, open cockpit plane from Los Angeles to New York City in 1932.

***Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African-Americans* by Kadir Nelson. Illus. by the author. Balzer + Bray, 2011. (Gr. 4-8)**

This riveting overview of African American history, with glorious paintings, is told in the voice of an

***Henry Aaron's Dream* by Matt Tavares. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

Hank Aaron's dream of becoming a big-league baseball player started to seem possible when Jackie Robinson became the first African American in the majors in 1957.

***Henry Knox: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot* by Anita Silvey. Illus. by Wendell Minor. Clarion, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)**

In the winter of 1775, Henry Knox devised a plan to transport cannons and other weapons captured from the British at Fort Ticonderoga, New York to Boston, three hundred miles away.

***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It . . . What to Feed It . . . Why It Sleeps All Day* by Jackie French. Illus. by Bruce Whatley. Clarion, 2009. (Gr. 4-8)**

The author combines anecdotes, facts, and Bruce Whatley's charming black and white drawings to introduce wombats she has encountered over 30 years, from Bad Bart the Biter to Pudge, who could count.

NONFICTION BOOKS, cont.

- I Feel Better with a Frog in My Throat: History's Strangest Cures* by Carlyn Beccia. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)**
In a collection of crazy cures from prehistoric times to the nineteenth century, see which ones actually worked.
- I Spy with My Little Eye* by Edward Gibbs. Illus. by the author. Templar, 2011. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Look at its eye, read the clue, and guess which animal is on each page.
- If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States* by David J. Smith. Illus. by Shelagh Armstrong. Kids Can, 2009. (Gr. 3-6)**
America's 306 million residents are transposed into a village of 100 people, with each person representing 3 million Americans, to show fascinating statistics on who we are and how we live.
- The Incredible Life of Balto* by Meghan McCarthy. Illus. by the author. Knopf, 2011. (Gr. K-4)**
As the leader of the final dogsled team that made it through blinding snow to deliver lifesaving serum to the people of Nome, Alaska in 1925, Balto became the most famous dog in America.
- Inside-Outside Dinosaurs* by Roxie Munro. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. (Gr. PreK-2)**
In a veritable visual panorama of dinosaurs, eight classic dinosaurs are presented first as skeletons and then as living creatures.
- Julie Andrews' Collection of Poems, Songs and Lullabies* by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton. Illus. by James McMullan. Little, Brown, 2009. (Gr. K-6)**
Look no further if you've been wanting to buy a gift-worthy anthology of poetry, a stunning collection of 136 poems and watercolor illustrations, for all the kids in your life.
- Just a Second: A Different Way to Look at Time* by Steve Jenkins. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. (Gr. PreK-4)**
An amazing collection of facts about animals, people, and the world, and what happens in a single second, minute, hour, day, and year.
- Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot (Scientists in the Field series)* by Sy Montgomery. Photos by Nic Bishop. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. (Gr. 4-8) *S***
Discover what scientists are doing to save the 87 existing kakapo, the world's heaviest, rarest, and only flightless parrot, found only in New Zealand.
- Me . . . Jane* by Patrick McDonnell. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown, 2011. (Gr. PreK-3)**
A charming picture book account of the childhood of primatologist Jane Goodall shows her as a young girl making observations about the wildlife around her and dreaming of a life in Africa living with the animals.
- Mermaid Queen: The Spectacular True Story of Annette Kellerman, Who Swam Her Way to Fame, Fortune, & Swimsuit History!* by Shana Corey. Illus. by Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic, 2009. (Gr. 2-5)**
Born in 1886 in Sydney, Australia, swimmer Annette Kellerman set records, originated water ballet, and revolutionized bathing suit fashions for women.
- Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse*, by Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Josée Masse. Dutton, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)**
Fourteen reverso poems—read first from top to bottom, and then rearranged so the bottom line becomes the top—retell fairy tales, from “Cinderella” to “Little Red Riding Hood.”
- Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11* by Brian Floca. Atheneum, 2009. (Gr. 1-5)**
Follow the preparations of Aldrin, Armstrong, and Collins on their historic July, 1969 mission to the moon and back in this handsome, oversized nonfiction picture book.
- Mummies!: Dried, Tanned, Sealed, Drained, Frozen, Embalmed, Stuffed, Wrapped, And Smoked . . . And We're Dead Serious* by Christopher Sloan. Illus. with photos. National Geographic, 2010. (Gr. 3-6)**
Bone-filled color photos offer a worldwide look at mummies through history.
- National Geographic Kids Almanac 2011*. National Geographic, 2010. (Gr. 3-7)**
Trivia lovers will find more than 500 color photographs and information-filled chapters about animals, ecology, science, geography, history, cultures, adventure, nature, and the future.
- A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis*. Pena, Matt de la. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. Dial, 2011. (Gr. 2-5)**
A picture book biography about the life of African American boxer, Joe Lewis, who in 1938 fought a rematch with German fighter, Max Schmeling to win back the world heavyweight title he had lost to him.
- The Neighborhood Sing-Along* by Nina Crews. Photos by Nina Crews. Greenwillow, 2011. (Gr. PreK-3)**
Each of 34 mostly well-known folksongs is paired with a color photograph of the children from Nina Crews's own Brooklyn neighborhood.

NONFICTION BOOKS, cont.

***Never Smile at a Monkey* by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. (Gr. PreK-3)**

In another Steve Jenkins gem, the paper and torn paper collage artist cautions his readers to beware of 17 dangerous, poisonous, and/or deadly animals.

Nic Bishop Lizards* by Nic Bishop. Photos by the author. Scholastic, 2010. (Gr. PreK-4) *S

Sharing the page with meaty facts about some of the 5,000 types of lizards are Nic Bishop's extraordinary full-page color photographs.

***Nursery Rhyme Comics: 50 Timeless Rhymes from 50 Celebrated Cartoonists* edited by Chris Duffy. Illus. by Patrick McDonnell et al. First Second, 2011. (Gr. PreK-1)**

Fifty well-known cartoonists each picked a favorite Mother Goose rhyme and illustrated it, cartoon style.

***Olivia's Birds: Saving the Gulf* by Olivia Boulter. Illus. by the author. Sterling, 2011. (Gr. 2-5)**

Olivia Boulter was all of eleven when she wrote and illustrated this book about the birds she loves as a way to inspire other kids to get involved with protecting wildlife.

***Orangutan Tongues: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue* by Jon Agee. Disney/Hyperion, 2009. (Gr. 1-5)**

The 35 tongue twisting poems and funny watercolors in this seriously silly book are best read aloud.

***Panda Kindergarten* by Joanne Ryder. Illus. by Katherine Feng. HarperCollins/Collins, 2009. (Gr. PreK-3)**

The cute factor is off the charts in this entrancing nonfiction color photo essay about the giant pandas at the Wolong Nature Reserve in China.

***Pelé, King of Soccer / Pelé, El Rey del Fútbol* by Monica Brown. Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez. Trans. by Fernando Gayesky. HarperCollins/Rayo, 2009. (Gr. 1-4)**

Though it's been three decades since Pelé dominated professional soccer, this electric picture book biography, written in both English and Spanish, shows why his fame still endures.

***Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes* by Sally Mavor. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1)**

The five dozen nursery rhymes selected for this handsome collection are illustrated with adorable hand-stitched fabric and yarn scenes.

***Pop!: The Invention of Bubblegum* by Meghan McCarthy. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, 2010. (Gr. K-4)**

In the "Wow! I never knew that!" department, find out how Walter Diemer, an accountant at the Fleeer family's candy factory in Philadelphia, came up with a whole new kind of gum in 1928.

***Redwoods* by Jason Chin. Roaring Brook/Flash Point, 2009. (Gr. 1-4)**

While a dark-haired young Asian-American boy is reading a fact-filled book about redwood trees, everything in the book appears to come to life around him.

***The Secret Cave: Discovering Lascaux* by Emily Arnold McCully. Farrar, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

In 1940, four boys in the French village of Montignac were the first in 17,000 years to find their way into caves containing 600 cave paintings and 1,500 engravings on the walls.

***Shake, Rattle & Turn that Noise Down!: How Elvis Changed Music, Me, and Mom* by Mark Alan Stamaty. Knopf, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

In an autobiographical graphic picture book, it's 1955 and Mark gets his own radio for his birthday, leading to a lifelong passion for the music of the great Elvis Presley.

***Sharing the Seasons: A Book of Poems*, compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by David Diaz. McElderry, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

A sunstorm of colors pours from every page of this magnificent poetry collection, with twelve well-chosen poems for each of the four seasons.

***Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down* by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Little, Brown, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

On February 1, 1960, four courageous African American college freshmen began their peaceful sit-in at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, to protest segregation.

***Soar, Elinor!* by Tami Lewis Brown. Illus. by Francois Roca. Farrar, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**

On Sunday, October 21, 1928, sixteen-year-old Elinor Smith, then the youngest flyer in the U.S., undertook a stunt to fly her biplane underneath all four New York City bridges.

***Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant* by Kate Klise. Illus. by M. Sarah Klise. Dial, 2010. (Gr. 1-5)**

"When I was seven, I started growing at a most startling rate," says Ella Kate, in this fictionalized picture book biography about the world's tallest woman, born in 1872.

***The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder* by Mark Cassino, with Jon Nelson. Illus. by Nora Aoyagi; photos. by Mark Cassino. Chronicle, 2009. (Gr. PreK-5)**

Gray and lavender-toned watercolor and ink illustrations and color photographs show how snow crystals grow.

NONFICTION BOOKS, cont.

- Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Maria Merian* by Margarita Engle. Illus. by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt, 2010. (Gr. 1-4)**
In the mid seventeenth century, thirteen-year-old Maria Merian discovered the connection between caterpillars and butterflies.
- Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems*, edited by Jane Yolen. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Candlewick, 2010. (Gr. PreK-1)**
Sixty sweet, simple, and often surprising bedtime poems are paired with gorgeous full-page paintings.
- That's Awesome!: The World's Most Amazing Facts & Records by Time for Kids*. Time Inc., 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**
Crammed with multiple glossy color captioned photos and irresistible facts, this is a browser's paradise of animals, sports, forces of nature, technology, the human body, and way more.
- Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators* by Jim Arnosky. Illus. by the author. Sterling, 2011. (Gr. 1-6)**
A stunning introduction to eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, vultures, herons, egrets, loons, cormorants, and gannets, many painted life-sized, along with fascinating facts and the author's own first-hand observations
- The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps* by Jeanette Winter. Illus. by the author. Schwartz & Wade, 2011. (Gr. K-3)**
Follow the life of Jane Goodall, from her childhood in England where she watched the animals around her, to her camp in remote Gombe in Tanzania, where she made new discoveries about chimps.
- We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2008. (Gr. 3-12)**
This imposing and stately sports book is filled with stories about the Negro Leagues and breathtaking full-page oil paintings.
- What Bluebirds Do* by Pamela F. Kirby Boyds Mills, 2009. (Gr. PreK-5)**
A pair of eastern bluebirds that nested in the author's backyard in North Carolina is the subject of a rivieying full color photo essay that follows them over the course of several months.
- A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood & Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison* by Don Brown. Houghton Mifflin, 2010. (Gr. K-4)**
This brief picture book biography hits the highlights of Edison's life, which he spent experimenting, tinkering, inventing, and reading.
- Wonder Horse: The True Story of the World's Smartest Horse* by Emily Arnold McCully. Henry Holt, 2010. (Gr. K-4)**
At the turn of the 20th Century, Bill "Doc" Key, an African American veterinarian, taught his Arabian colt, Jim Key, to pick out letters and colors, add and subtract, and dance to music.
- World of Wonders: The Most Mesmerizing Natural Phenomena on Earth* by Elisabeth Roman. Illus. with photos. Abrams, 2010. (Gr. 2-6)**
On each of the more than 80 double-page spreads are dramatic full-page color photographs of animals and natural wonders, trivia questions, and amazing facts.
- Wow! Ocean!* by Robert Neubecker. Illus. by the author. Disney/Hyperion, 2011. (Gr. PreK-2)**
Izzy and her little sister Jo have a Wow! experience looking at all the wonders at the ocean.
- You Are the First Kid on Mars* by Patrick O'Brien. Putnam, 2009. (Gr. 2-5)**
Follow an unnamed boy space traveler as he takes a Nuclear Thermal Rocket and travels four months and 35 million miles to spend time at a space colony on the red planet
- You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!* by Jonah Winter. Illus. by Andre Carrilho. Schwartz & Wade, 2009. (Gr. 3-8)**
An unnamed narrator and teammate covers the career of the greatest lefty pitcher ever, from first joining the Dodgers as a "nineteen-year-old squirt" to his surprise retirement at the top of his game in 1966.

AN ALPHABET OF READING IDEAS AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, PARENTS, AND ALL OTHER GROWN-UPS WHO LOVE CHILDREN AND THEIR BOOKS

by Judy Freeman
www.JudyReadsBooks.com

ALPHABET

START WITH THE ABC'S AND THEN KEEP READING!

BOOKS

DEMONSTRATE WHY BOOKS ARE VITAL IN OUR LIVES; EXAMINE NEW ONES FROM COVER TO COVER.

CREATIVE DRAMA

ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO ACT OUT STORIES.

DRAWINGS

APPRECIATE REMARKABLE ILLUSTRATIONS IN BOOKS AND DRAW NEW ONES.

EXPRESSION

PASS ALONG GOOD ADVICE: ALWAYS READ WITH EXPRESSION!

FOLKLORE

TELL YOUR CHILDREN STORIES OF WORLD FOLKLORE THAT THEY CAN RETELL.

GOLD MEDAL

BE FAMILIAR WITH THE BEST OF THE CALDECOTT, NEWBERY, AND OTHER AWARD-WINNING TITLES.

HUMOR

LOOK FOR SILLINESS IN WORDS AND PICTURES, READ RIDDLES, CRACK JOKES, AND LET KIDS LAUGH AS THEY LEARN.

IMAGINATION

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO USE THEIRS WHEN LISTENING TO STORIES OR WRITING THEIR OWN.

JUGGLE

REARRANGE YOUR SCHEDULE SO THERE'S TIME TO READ ALOUD EVERY DAY.

KNOWLEDGE

LOOK FOR A NEW FACT EACH DAY. INCORPORATE NONFICTION BOOKS INTO YOUR READ-ALOUNDS.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

IF YOUR SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE A LIBRARY OR A PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN, LOBBY FOR IT. THE LIBRARY SHOULD BE THE SCHOOL'S SHOWPLACE.

MAGIC & MYSTERY

LOOK FOR STORIES WITH DEPTH AND STAYING POWER. STRETCH YOUR LISTENERS AND WEAVE A SPELL WHEN YOU READ TO THEM.

NURSERY RHYMES AND NONSENSE

RECALL AND REPEAT THEM, SING, CHANT, AND HUM.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

INTRODUCE KIDS TO THE BOOKS YOU LOVED AS A CHILD.

POETRY

READ OR RECITE A POEM A DAY, WRITE NEW VERSES TO SONGS, AND FOOL WITH RHYMING WORDS.

QUOTATIONS

LOOK FOR AND SHARE MEMORABLE LINES IN BOOKS WITH MEMORABLE CHARACTERS.

READ ALOUD

SHARE BOOKS—YOU READ SOME TO THEM, THEY READ SOME TO YOU. MAKE YOUR READ-ALoud TIME THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR DAY.

SCHOOLS

KIDS LOVE TO HEAR STORIES ABOUT OTHERS AT SCHOOL.

TRAVEL

EVERYWHERE WE GO IS AN EVENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION.

UNEXPECTED

LOOK FOR STORIES THAT WILL SURPRISE YOUR CHILDREN, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO LOOK FOR PATTERNS, PREDICT OUTCOMES, AND MAKE INFERENCES.

VOCABULARY

PLAY WITH NEW WORDS TO BUILD UP YOUR STUDENTS' VOCABULARY.

WHAT'S NEXT?

LOOK FOR SEQUELS TO BOOKS YOUR KIDS LOVE OR OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

X-ERCISING YOUR OWN JUDGMENT

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS WHEN PICKING BOOKS TO READ OR BUY.

YACKETY-YAK

TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT EVERYTHING.

ZOOS

VISIT THE ZOO AND THE LIBRARY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL THE ANIMALS THAT PIQUE YOUR CHILD'S CURIOSITY.