



1, 2, 3 ... By the Sea

by Dianne Moritz, illustrated by Hazel Mitchell

Jen Robinson's Book Page

If you have a child who loves beaches (and what child doesn't), and is learning to count, *1, 2, 3 ... By the Sea* would be an excellent choice.

The Topeka Capital-Journal

Bright illustrations depict fun at the beach, in the dunes and on the dock, making readers long for a day by the sea.

Margo Dill's Read These Books and Use Them!

If you are doing a unit on the beach/ocean, this is a must for your library ... a great book for developing early reading skills.

East Hampton Star

...a picture book charmingly illustrating all manner of sandy fun to be had down by the water.

Publishers Weekly

The paperback format is just right to slip inside a beach bag for a day at the shore.

NC Teacher Stuff

If you are tired of gray winter weather, count to three and head to the beach with *1, 2, 3 ... By the Sea*.

Above and Below

illustrated by Hanako Clulow

Publishers Weekly

Clulow brings a serene Peaceable Kingdom presence to each scene, amplified through the creatures' soft smiles and big, bright eyes.

Across the USA Activity Book

by Heather Alexander, illustrated by Michael Mullan

Publishers Weekly

Alexander integrates facts and insights into cultural and historical attractions across the states, and Mullan works in a playful art style that brings variety to each spread. ... Armchair travelers or readers on the road will find much to explore.



The Adventures of Alfie Onion

by Vivian French, illustrated by Marta Kissi

Literacy Daily "Worlds of Fantasy"

Black-and-white illustrations featuring the large cast of characters add to the fun of reading this rollicking adventure.

Booklist

Longtime author French ... kicks off a new series of stand-alone novels here, giving fairy-tale tropes funny and refreshing twists. Aided by simple black-and-white illustrations, the lively story offers readers plenty of fast-paced adventures and fun. This short novel is perfect for fans of Sarah Mlynowski's *Whatever After* series and Liesl Shurtliff's fractured-fairy-tale books.

Mom Read It

...so much fun to read and address modern-day problems in a fairy tale setting. ... Do you have readers who love *Whatever After?* *Grimmtastic Girls?* Hand them these, and tell them to enjoy. Have boys who think fairy tales are for girls? First, tell them they're clearly not reading the right fairy tales, and hand them these, too.

Alfie & Bet's ABC

illustrated by Maddie Frost

Kirkus Reviews

Two friends try to settle on favorite letters as they romp in rhyme through the alphabet...

Also an Animal

by Lynn Parrish Sutton, illustrated by Melissa Babcock Saylor

Midwest Reviews "Children's Bookwatch"

"Engagingly written ... joyful, entertaining, and unique animal ode to the love between a parent and child..."

Amelia Who Could Fly

by Mara Dal Corso, illustrated by Daniela Volpari

NC Teacher Stuff

... a delightful recreation of the childhood of Amelia Earhart.

Midwest Book Review

... an unusually imaginative child biography which will inspire and appeal to kids of every age.



Americanly

by Lynn Parrish Sutton, illustrated by Melanie Hope Greenberg

Nerdy Book Club

The language is both playful and informative ("I love you faithfully like Yellowstone's spout). The illustrations match the playfulness of the text with vivid colors. A must have for history/geography teachers and art teachers will find much to study, too.

Picture Book Illustration

Written in rhyme, with a quirky use of adverbs for every 'I love you,' AMERICANLY is a lullaby about the United States.

Ann Treacy's Doodles and Jots

... works well as an intro to our amazing country for the very young. I also feel that it works for older kids too. My kids, eight and eleven, both enjoyed this book and it served a fun reminder of places we have been (it mentions our home, Cape Cod!) and as a conversation starter for places and things we would like to visit and learn about.

NC Teacher Stuff

I can see sharing this with a class of 4th or 5th graders, and then asking them to create a page with two places in your state and a verse for each place. You could create a book with all of those pages. It would also be great as part of a lesson on adverbs. To sum up my feelings in a couplet: I love you *Americanly*, I must be confessin'. This is one sensational geography lesson.

Meridian Magazine "Newton's Book News"

There is much to love and learn here.

Animally

by Lynn Parrish Sutton, illustrated by Hazel Mitchell

NC Teacher Stuff

...a delightful book that can be used as a bedtime story for toddlers or for a grammar lesson with older students. You will love this book ferociously like a grizzly bear!

School Library Journal

A warm read-aloud with potential for teaching an English class.



Anna Hibiscus series

Anna Hibiscus

Hooray for Anna Hibiscus!

Good Luck, Anna Hibiscus!

by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia

The Horn Book, Starred Review

Tobia's detailed illustrations add depth and energy to the stories—showing Anna in all her emotional states and giving new readers the visual support they need. Readers ready for chapter books will love Anna and her sprawling family.

The Horn Book Fanfare

Anna and her sprawling, contemporary family are relatable, while Atinuke's focus on the everyday and her spot-on dialogue mesh flawlessly with Tobia's lively illustrations.

School Library Journal

Anna Hibiscus is a lovely, rare bird of a series, providing a modern view of another culture in warm, approachable language.

Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

A welcome window into an unfamiliar world.

Kirkus Reviews, Julie Danielson

...near to dripping with charm and warmth and child appeal.... what makes these books work is the universality of Anna's inner world, one full of exclamation marks and joy ... These are funny, delightfully child-centered stories.

Booklist

This is a rare little gem of a book ... Warm, funny and a completely unique beginning reader.... Anna's passion, imagination, enthusiasm, naiveté and fears are infectious ... Don't miss this outstanding and unique series.

Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices

...these books are a treat for newly independent readers, as well as children lucky enough to hear them read aloud.

A Fuse 8 Production

There's not a kid in this country that won't identify with Anna right off the bat, even if her life is entirely different from their own.... These are very careful little stories, but they really reinforce the message of being grateful for what you already have.... Memorable and enchanting!

The Washington Post

...each chapter is a self-contained story. Good to read aloud by age 5, but children up to 10 will be enchanted by Anna.



Library Media Connection

This easy reader series will make a nice addition to any collection. Recommended.

Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast

The series is top-notch reading for children...

James Patterson's ReadKiddoRead.com

Perfect for emergent readers to read on their own, this book and the rest of the series (*Hooray for Anna Hibiscus!*, *Good Luck Anna Hibiscus!*, and *Have Fun Anna Hibiscus!*) are also great read-alouds.

IRA Reading Today Online

Readers will love this spunky, independent girl...

Smithsonian Book Dragon

Atinuke's "Amazing Africa" becomes a vibrant celebration of family and home with "amazing" Anna Hibiscus as an adorable multicultural guide.

Africa Access Review (Hooray for Anna Hibiscus!)

...a simple and appealing style that renders Anna's world in fascinating detail ... the strength of the book lies in its positive and realistic depiction of an urban, middle-class African family.

Africa Access Review (Good Luck, Anna Hibiscus!)

...Atinuke continually reminds readers that Anna Hibiscus's experiences are common to children across the world ... uses poetic repetition to place characters within a global setting...

Jean Little Library (Anna Hibiscus, Hooray for Anna Hibiscus!)

...intriguing, different, and completely delightful.... Beginning readers will be charmed by this glimpse into a fascinating, warm, exciting, lively world, very different from their own lives.

Kids Lit

Beautifully written and wonderfully simple and straight forward, these books are something very special. Highly recommended, these books belong in all public and school libraries.

Biblio Reads (Anna Hibiscus)

Refreshing and appealing, filled with honesty, humor, charm and warmth, I found Anna Hibiscus to be outstanding and a world absolutely worth venturing into.

Biblio Reads (Good Luck, Anna Hibiscus!)

...fascinating, well-told and fun.



Bookmarkable

There's so much to love about this book. I love the strong sense of family, the interconnectedness of the extended family.

Rutgers University Project on Economics and Children

Many of the stories include some sort of an economics theme, including the role of markets, the contrast between abject poverty and wealth, and the gender division of labor within the home...

Waking Brain Cells (**Good Luck, Anna Hibiscus!, Have Fun, Anna Hibiscus!**)

The illustrations weave throughout the book, creating a window into the cultures shown in the stories. They make the book welcoming for newer readers who will find a great friend in Anna Hibiscus.

The Classroom Bookshelf (**Good Luck, Anna Hibiscus!, Have Fun, Anna Hibiscus!**)

Anna continues to explore issues of privilege, prejudice, and social class, learning a new life lesson at the end of each chapter. However, the set-up is entirely buoyant and engrossing—and Atinuke's voice so nuanced and captivating—that the books deftly avoid sounding didactic. If you or your students haven't yet made friends with Anna Hibiscus, get ready to be instantly charmed.

Meridian Magazine

The stories are rich and enriching as you begin to understand a different culture far away.

Growing Up Santa Cruz

Each chapter is a gem—autonomous—just enough for a bedtime read.... This charming, approachable, gentle series, with its warm, expressive language, is a welcome window into an unfamiliar, wholly-familiar world.

East Lansing Public Library

By getting to know Anna, readers take a look at our own American culture through her eyes, and see that there are many ways to live in our world.

BrownGirl BookSpeak

Anna Hibiscus is a fun, sweet character to fall in love with and one I certainly wish I could have gotten to know in my own childhood. Her Africa is one that Nigerian born author, Atinuke, gives permission to be beautiful, sweet, picturesque, lovely.

NC Teacher Stuff

Rich characters and settings abound...

In the Pages...

Don't miss any in this series!!



A Book and a Hug

...a joyful collage of tradition, wonder, and gratitude ... told with such insight into the universal hearts and minds of children and the messages are warm, wise and reassuring us that the world is truly a wonderful place to be. Heartwarming and not to be missed.

A Child's Bookshelf

My own family has fallen in love with the curiosity and effervescent energy of Anna Hibiscus.

Book Notes

Atinuke's love for "amazing Africa" and the people who live there shine through the pages and in the character of Anna.

Flowering Minds

...something for everyone.

The News Star

...a delightful way to introduce children to engaging stories and an adorable heroine while broadening their horizons at the same time.

Brentwood Public Library

...well-written and engaging...

Paper Tigers

Readers will take away not only a better understanding of the world, but also a better sense of what it means to live in an increasingly diverse world.

BNKIDS Blog, "11 Enchanting Series for Kids Ages 2 to 12!"

Here's a great first chapter book series to read aloud to your child and encourage them to read themselves. Exuberant Anna Hibiscus lives in "amazing Africa" with her father, mother, twin baby brothers, and lots and lots of other family. The books tell of gentle everyday adventures, some exciting, some plain old fun, and some moving, and the many illustrations help make these a lovely window into the life of a little girl who may live far away but who is utterly relatable! – *Charlotte Taylor*

The New York Times "Children's Books / Maria's Picks"

...This joyful series about a little African girl named Anna Hibiscus is a revelation – the books ring with laughter even as they stab (delicately) at your heart. In sprightly language and adorable line drawings, they tell the story of a young girl whose eyes are wide open to the beauty and the struggles of the place where she lives. A sense of strong community and mutual caring permeates throughout...



Anna Hibiscus

Welcome Home, Anna Hibiscus!

Go Well, Anna Hibiscus!

Love from Anna Hibiscus!

You're Amazing, Anna Hibiscus!

by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia

Kirkus Reviews

Welcome Home, Anna Hibiscus!

...these are sweet domestic stories North American readers will easily understand. Anna's adventures and worries are small, recognizable, and happily resolved. This simplicity ensures success for new readers. The repetitive vocabulary (adults are repeatedly "cross, very cross" at Snow White's antics) and simple sentence structure carry readers through the relatively lengthy chapters. Tobia's expressive pencil drawings provide additional context and break up the text. More Anna Hibiscus stories are certainly most welcome!

NC Teacher Stuff

Welcome Home, Anna Hibiscus!

I'm not sure I know of an early chapter book series that carries the depth of the *Anna Hibiscus* series. Big, big themes are present here even though the reading level fits nicely for readers in late first and early second grades. Great discussions about families and disparities in wealth could be had in the classroom as you read this book.

Kirkus Reviews

Go Well, Anna Hibiscus!

Tobia's grayscale illustrations parallel the story, with Anna and her winsome smile always at center stage. Readers will be thrilled to discover the next book in the series is already available.

NC Teacher Stuff

Go Well, Anna Hibiscus!

These books will transport readers and help them discover the similarities between themselves and Anna. All of us have times where we feel lonely, where we need to be brave, where we learn to be compassionate. Anna is all of us.

Kirkus Reviews

Love from Anna Hibiscus!

... an empathetic look at hard problems, beautifully modulated for chapter-book readers.

Children's Literature

Love from Anna Hibiscus!

Anna Hibiscus's approach to life is positive, helpful, and open-minded, and a great example to students.



Kirkus Reviews STARRED

You're Amazing, Anna Hibiscus!

... In the gentle, frank tone readers have come to expect, gifted storyteller Atinuke balances compassion and humor while tackling a sensitive subject, the death of Anna's beloved grandfather. ... The book ends with near-perfect modeling of shared grief and healing, as everyone tells their favorite grandfather story. Readers' understanding of Anna's genuine grief is amplified by Tobia's grayscale sketches.

NC Teacher Stuff

You're Amazing, Anna Hibiscus!

There are so many connections students will make with this book. Many have experienced the loss of a loved one. This would be a great mentor text for studying characters and how a character changes over time. It's amazing how rich and deep this book is emotionally and yet still accessible for young readers. ... I can't recommend this book series enough and this last book, in my opinion, is the best one.

Children's Literature

You're Amazing, Anna Hibiscus!

This touching story of family and friends is part of the Anna Hibiscus series and would make an excellent choice for schools and libraries.

Cooperative Children's Book Center, "Book of the Week"

Respect, compassion, and understanding are all things Anna is taught by example and through gentle conversation with adults in her life. They are values she easily, innately embraces in the context of stories that are joyful even as they address difficult realities. Anna is biracial (Black/white), while the intentionally unspecified settings, both city and village, underscore that across Africa there is urban and rural; poverty, wealth, and middle class life like that of Anna's family.

The Pirate Tree

Highly recommended!

Educating Alice

I absolutely adore these books... They are as warm, insightful, and real as the previous ones.

The Horn Book

Satisfying resolutions for most of the personal and broader troubles Anna Hibiscus faces arise through guidance from her elders and her own thoughtful introspection, along with large helpings of humor and goodwill from those around her, including her mischievous little brothers Double and Trouble. As her grandmother says to conclude this set of four books, 'Amazing Anna Hibiscus is busy growing up,' and it's clear that the amazing love surrounding her is key to this growth.



Orange Marmalade

A fantastic choice for a read-aloud or an early independent reader.

Mom Read It

This series is wonderful. ... Give this set to kids and broaden their horizons.

The Horn Book Guide

Satisfying resolutions for most of the personal and broader troubles Anna Hibiscus faces arise through guidance from her elders and her own thoughtful introspection, along with large helpings of humor and goodwill from those around her.

Architect Academy

by Steve Martin, illustrated by Essie Kimpimäki

Archimedes Notebook

Part activity book, part "training manual", this book presents architecture in a fun way. ... This is a perfect book for the kid who likes to build.

Astronaut Academy

by Steve Martin, illustrated by Jennifer Farley

Publishers Weekly

Throughout, Martin gives enthusiastic descriptions of the work that astronauts do ('The excitement, the beauty of space and the feeling of freedom stay with the space walkers for the rest of their lives'), and Farley's slightly retro illustrations harken to the early days of space flight.

Kid Lit Reviews

... full of information and activities perfect for the budding astronaut. While it looks like a book, the amount of creative activities kids will find themselves enjoying is amazing. ... I would recommend any new edition to this inventive series.

Axel & Beast series

The Grabbem Getaway

Antarctic Attack

Tropical Tangle

Robotic Rumble

by Adrian C. Bott, illustrated by Andy Isaac

Read with Me Now

Volumes 1-4 are out and will engage even the pickiest reader grades 1-5. This series is perfect for grade 5 readers who need simple sentence structure, large font and adequate spacing. Not intimidating in the least! Strong themes of science and technology, especially saving the



Earth's natural resources!

Kirkus Reviews

...reluctant readers seeking uncomplicated adventures will definitely enjoy the liberally illustrated, multifold tales of high-tech robots who fight environment-destroying corporate greed with the help of an introverted preteen.

School Library Journal

These action-packed volumes with large type and frequent illustrations will be popular with emerging and reluctant readers, particularly young gamers.

Ava's Spectacular Spectacles

by Alice Rex, illustrated by Angela Perrini

School Library Journal

A lighthearted and humorous use of story within a story to create a positive lesson on seeing clearly. A fun addition.

B Is for Bedtime

by Margaret Hamilton, Illustrated by Anna Pignataro

NC Teacher Stuff

If you want to win the baby shower, buy this book. Imagine the oohs and aahs and jealous looks that you will receive when your gift is opened. It will be passed around and fawned over as opposed to the pack of onesies or the diaper changer.

School Library Journal

This book is suitable for one-on-one sharing and is a solid choice for bedtime-themed storytimes.

Meridian Magazine

...has thicker pages enabling tiny hands to help turn pages. But the true magic in the book is the placement of the adorable paintings against the white pages. This helps each letter of the bedtime alphabet jump out for youngsters to grasp.

Babies Come from Airports

by Erin Dealey, illustrated by Luciana Navarro Powell

NC Teacher Stuff

...a good resource for an engaging point of view lesson. ... Written in rhyme, you can also use this book as a shared reading or in a small group/individual fluency lesson. ... "... a sweet tale about an important family moment.



Pitter Patter Art

... I'm super particular about books that portray adoption and I really loved this one.

Mom Read It

What a sweet addition to new baby/new sibling/adoption collections! The rhyming text keeps a nice rhythm through the story; the gentle artwork makes the adult sweet and soft, and the kids excited and enthusiastic. The scrapbook look and feel adds an element of fun to the story. This is a great book to give to kids who are adopted, whose families are in the process of adopting, or to explain international adoption in general to children.

A Field Trip Life

... a wonderful addition for family and library collections. It should be read to encourage all children to understand that although families are different, each has its own special story.

The Horn Book Guide

...spirited illustrations offer humorous glimpses of family life and make good use of "photos" from the children's adoption scrapbooks.

Be the Change, Make It Happen

by Bernadette Russell

Booklist

This volume playfully opens the door to meaningful activism for self-starters.

Bear Grylls Survival Camp

by Bear Grylls

Publishers Weekly

...presents fact-based scenarios, empowering readers with the tools and basic knowledge they need to be explorers themselves. Occasional photographs are gracefully integrated into spreads featuring simple, accessible art, while profiles of explorers from history—on journeys both ill-fated and victorious—may further spark readers' interest. Also available: *Extreme Planet: Exploring the Most Extreme Stuff on Earth*.

Bears Don't Read

by Emma Chichester Clark

Kirkus Reviews

Inherent to the story is the subtle message that there's a difference between not being able to read and not wanting to read. A combination of farce and fun, this will tickle pre-readers.



Booklist

Smoothly written and packed with dialogue, this disarming story will speak to kids who are learning to read, as well as those looking forward to gaining the skill.

School Library Journal

A delightful tale that cleverly demonstrates the joy of reading.

The Horn Book Guide

...features a strong central character and a gentle but pointed exploration of the value of thinking differently. The warm illustrations are filled with personality.

NC Teacher Stuff

...has a powerful message.

Midwest Book Reviews

... a wonderful teaching story with a positive empowerment message at its core.

Big and Little

by Ana Maria Larranaga

Washington Parent

Friendly parent-and-child critters accompany cheerful rhymes ... rollicking and reassuring, each romp ends with a cozy hug under a night-time sky.

Billie B. Brown The Extra-special Helper

by Sally Rippin, illustrated by Aki Fukuoka

Kiss the Book

With its large font, bold-faced words, and relatable topics, this beginning chapter book is good for new readers...

Billie B. Mystery Stolen Stash

by Sally Rippin, illustrated by Aki Fukuoka

The Pirate Tree

All four friends and readers, too, will discover Rippon's premise: true friends stand up for each other. Fukuoka's lively illustrations enhance this energetic story.

Billie's Great Desert Adventure

by Sally Rippin, illustrated by Alisa Coburn

Kirkus Reviews

... explores young frustrations and the power of imaginative play. ... a tiny gem of discovery.



.....
School Library Journal

The speech bubbles, emphasized text, and use of onomatopoeia will capture the attention of early readers and have them eager to read more about Billie B. Brown. VERDICT Fun, imaginative additions.

Kid Lit Reviews

After reading a Billie's Super-Duper Adventure story young children will be inspired to find and explore other worlds existing in their imaginations.

Kirkus Reviews

Billie is a spunky heroine who runs the gamut of a youngster's emotions. Here's hoping this adventure will be re-created in many classrooms using a simple blue cloth and a wallop of imagination.

School Library Journal

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Kid Lit Reviews

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Kirkus Reviews

Billie B. Brown continues to learn preschool lessons in this trim, little series ... In a simultaneous publication, *Billie's Wild Jungle Adventure* (2016), Billie and Jack get caught in another imaginative (yet not quite as much fun) escapade involving a pretend snake in the preschool's backyard. Larger, italicized type in both volumes highlights intriguing vocabulary, and Billie never fails to have a 'super-duper idea' to save the day. New-to-preschool tots will find a kindred spirit in both adventurous spirit and emotional development.

Billie's Outer Space Adventure

by Sally Rippin, illustrated by Alisa Coburn

School Library Journal

The smaller trim size and many details make these titles best for lap sharing and will prompt repeated readings. Billie is the character in Rippin's popular beginning-to-read series in Australia, and these selections will appeal to many readers in the United States.

Midwest Book Review

Also highly recommended is another title from this series, "Billie's Outer Space Adventure."



Kid Lit Reviews

After reading a *Billie's Super-Duper Adventure* story young children will be inspired to find and explore other worlds existing in their imaginations.

The Horn Book Guide

Colorful, retro-style illustrations reflect the energy and whimsy of these make-believe adventures.

Birdhouse

illustrated by Clover Robin

Publishers Weekly

A fun, fact-filled bird primer.

Notes from Dawn

These are two wonderful books that are educational and entertaining. ... Kane Miller books are books kids love to read.

Orange Marmalade

These stout, clever books are so very tantalizing!

Bob Is a Unicorn

by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt

Oneota Reading Journal

The readers will recognize Bob's confidence and hopefully connect with his power of imagination.

The Midwest Book Review

Bob is a Unicorn is a fabulous story to share with small and large children, for no one is too old to be immune to the magic of Let's Pretend.

Boy

by Phil Cummings, illustrated by Shane Devries

Kirkus Reviews

Cummings' fable rolls out with poetic economy, heightened by Devries' spacious page design. ... Deftly persuasive.

The Pirate Tree

This quiet, but heartwarming tale will help children to think about better ways to solve problems.



Imagination Soup

This is a story of physical disabilities, communication, and peace with warm, fairy-tale like illustrations.

Mom Read It

Boy is all about empathy. ...loved the poetic language... The subdued art is sweet and will appeal to kids who love dragons and knights, just on a calmer scale.

Midwest Book Review

... deftly crafted and unfailingly entertaining

Children's Book Council Bulletin

Boy is deaf and one day he runs into the middle of a battle... slight chaos ensues. The cute drawings make it a lovely read, but the deep message of diversity and the need for communication, all kinds of communication, is strong and ever-present. Charming story! – Laura Peraza

Busy Trucks on the Go

by Eric Ode, illustrated by Kent Culotta

Kirkus Reviews

...Ode's rhyming couplets will have readers bouncing right along with them...

Booklist

A playful, informative story with a quiet ending that's just right for bedtime.

Butterflies

by Susanne Gervay

Booklist

Katherine's journey—learning where contentment lies, and the truths she discovers—applies to us all.

School Library Journal (Starred Review)

This hopeful, heartfelt novel will give teens an understanding of what it means to have a reason to be self-conscious. Librarians won't be able to keep it on the shelf.

SWON Libraries

Kudos to Gervay for painting the reader a picture of a self-reliant teen girl who does not depend on a boy to make herself feel valuable. Highly recommended for libraries – school, public and personal – who want to add to their girl power collections.

Children's Literature

This book will help readers develop real empathy for those facing tough challenges, such as



disfiguring scars or disabilities.

Library Media Connection

The emotions that are shown by Katherine and her family are universal and her strength of character will pull in readers.

Bug Hotel

illustrated by Clover Robin

Archimedes Notebook

As you turn each page, you learn more about the bugs ... and you see what sort of accommodations they appreciate. The back spread provides a list of materials and encourages kids to build their own hotel to help create a sustainable and safe place for backyard bugs to live.

Notes from Dawn

These are two wonderful books that are educational and entertaining. ... Kane Miller books are books kids love to read.

Orange Marmalade

These stout, clever books are so very tantalizing!

Build Me a Home

by Emily Bannister, illustrated by Ana Sanfelippo

Kirkus Reviews

Where would you like to live? Just imagine... Ten fanciful four-line poems each imagine a different kind of home, one per double-page spread. ... Bannister's repeated invocation, 'Build me a...' sets a lovely dreaming tone. Sanfelippo's illustrations are appropriately busy and colorful, cheerfully populated with diverse humans and animals... Engaging as well as a nice springboard for creative play.

Bully on the Bus

by Kathryn Apel

Kirkus Reviews

Simply written in verse, this is a story many children will find familiar. An optimistic ending might be just the encouragement most kids need... Simple, hopeful, and positive.

School Library Journal

The honesty and rawness of Leroy's emotions expressed throughout each verse will stir compassion in young readers. For readers experiencing or witnessing bullying themselves, it will hopefully inspire and empower. VERDICT A short yet poignant title on a timely topic; a valuable addition to elementary school and public library collections.



Mom Read It

Told in verse from Leroy's point of view, *Bully on the Bus* is sensitive, often heartbreaking, and ultimately, hopeful. ... It's a story that encourages kids to seek help and assures them that someone out there wants to listen and wants to help.

Literacy Daily "Celebrating Poetry"

Reading this short chapter book in verse is a good opener for discussion of the issue of bullying.

SWON Libraries CLEAR Reviews

The flowing verse tells the story beautifully. I would recommend this book to any child who has been bullied or knows someone who has been bullied. It would also use it as a read aloud with elementary students to discuss bullying and being kind.

The Pirate Tree

This empowering story offers young readers not only strong characters overcoming an all too common school problem, but also gives them useful suggestions on how they could tame a bully themselves, without getting in trouble.

Can I Join Your Club?

by John Kelly, illustrated by Steph Laberis

NC Teacher Stuff

As a teacher, you need to build a strong classroom community where everyone feels included. Books like *Can I Join Your Club?* will help you create such an environment. Additional teaching points could include spotting patterns. ... There's a lesson on independence lurking there.

The Pirate Tree

Kelly's endearing story shares the importance of being more inclusive than exclusive and celebrates not only diversity, but how to understand the feelings of others.

Kid Lit Reviews

...belongs in schools, counselor offices, pediatrician offices, and anywhere else young kids can find themselves turned away by peers or looking for help. ... It is amazing how much a book with so few words can resonate with so many people.

School Library Journal Xpress Reviews

The onomatopoeia included in the animal sounds also makes this an entertaining choice for reading aloud. With a lighthearted but important message of tolerance and friendship, this is a solid addition to any library. Join the club!



Cats, Cats!

by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt

Picture Book Reviews

Simple, vibrant drawings attract the attention of young readers.

School Library Journal

Text set against plenty of white space, with a few sophisticated words to challenge youngsters, make these good choices for emerging readers. The bright, crisp illustrations are cheerful and attractive and will call out to children who want to look at playful pictures of cats and dogs. These books are also useful as introductions to adjectives, with the art adroitly reinforcing the texts. All in all, these are versatile titles that should find a home in most collections.

The Cherry Pie Princess

by Vivian French, illustrated by Marta Kissi

Literacy Daily "Worlds of Fantasy"

Kissi's humorous black-and-white illustrations complement this reimagined tale of Sleeping Beauty.

Mom Read It

Vivian French's fairy tales are so much fun to read. They've got wonderful heroines and heroes, and a dramatis personae of dramatic foils that are generally (comically) awful people. ... There's humor, fun and diverse characters – the three good fairy godmothers appear to be African-American – and Marta Kissi's entertaining black and white artwork make this a fun read for fantasy fans, princess fans, and readers who love a book with a message. Plus, there's a talking cat and a librarian. So, bonus.

The Children Who Loved Books

by Peter Carnavas

School Library Journal

This celebration of books and libraries is ideal for storytime or individual sharing.

Publishers Weekly

Without being overly sentimental, Carnavas pays tribute to the way books unite people ...

Kirkus Reviews

The catchy cover of this Australian import nicely sets up the warm and loving story within.



Book Dragon

Take a break from our over-wired, over-committed lives of constant accumulation, reconnect with those who matter most (who probably happen to be under the same roof with you, ahem), and enjoy together the unlimited adventures offered in books.

NC Teacher Stuff

This book is a superb metaphor for how books can bring us together.

Reading to Know

My kids love this book.

Waking Brain Cells

Warm and cheerful, this Australian import will have book lovers smiling.

Choose Your Own Journey

by Susie Brooks, illustrated by Tracy Cottingham

Midwest Book Review

...a fabulous, enticing interactive book ... told in illustrations and narrative for young readers, leaving some of the conclusions and details to each imaginative adventurer.

Coder Academy

by Sean McManus, illustrated by Rosan Magar

Archimedes Notebook

Part activity book, part "training manual", *Coder Academy* introduces young readers to the basics of computer code. You won't be a programmer by the end of the book, but you will have a good idea of what kinds of jobs are available in computer technology. And you'll get some hands-on practical coding experience. ... Like the other Academy books from Kane Miller, this one is a lot of fun - even if it is a bit more complex.

Publishers Weekly

Readers new to the world of coding will be at ease with the classlike structure of this workbook. The inclusion of a poster, and cutout game pieces to practice coding concepts, offers an additional, more tangible component.

Color & Pop-up Animals

by Elizabeth Golding, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Notes from Dawn

...a great resource for kindergarten and first grade home school art or for family time fun. Highly recommend.



Cordelia

by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt

NC Teacher Stuff

Give me a spunky, independent protagonist any day of the week! Discussions about believing in yourself and thinking independently are needed in every classroom. What's doubly nice about Cordelia is that it's written in rhyme which makes for a great shared reading experience.

Midwest Book Review Reviewers Choice

...an adventure that empowers and encourages every young reader to spin out their own dreams in exactly the same way, discovering their own amazing stores of vision, courage, belief, and bravery. It is a wonderful exercise of self-discovery, of immeasurable value to all ages and readers.

Counting Through the Day

by Margaret Hamilton, Illustrated by Anna Pignataro

Kirkus Reviews

A gentle counting book that adds some higher numbers to children's repertoires.

Publishers Weekly

Presented on card stock pages with rounded corners, Pignataro's cozy mixed-media artwork celebrates the familiar objects and moments that are central to a toddler's world.

Midwest Book Review

In addition to being an excellent and educational counting book for preschoolers, 'Counting Through The Day' is an impressive bed-time reading experience for parents and children. ... unreservedly recommended for family, preschool, and community library collections.

Create Your Own Pizzeria

by Gina Samba, illustrated by Marta Danza

Publishers Weekly

A recipe for pizza dough and a sample budget should appeal to would-be pizzaiolos and entrepreneurs alike.

Cuddle Bear

by Claire Freedman, illustrated by Gavin Scott

Sweet Silly Sara

I like that the story is simple and sweet and has a sing song feel to it. I would recommend this book to parents of preschool age children.



The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth

By Ellie Hattie, illustrated by Karl James Mountford

Unleashing Readers

...such a fun book that kids of so many different ages are going to love reading. ... It is This mix of adventure and facts makes this a perfect cross-curricular text to use or as an intro before a trip to a natural history museum.

D is for Duck!

By David Melling

NC Teacher Stuff

With just 33 words, this book opens a world of possibilities for skills lessons. It doesn't hurt that it's funny and adorable. Young readers will find it to be absolutely enchanting.

School Library Journal

This fine contribution to the alphabet canon is enlivened by funny characters and a compelling narrative. The pages are fun to pore over, and the images and text are large enough to share with a group.

Horn Book Magazine

This wild, fast-paced magic show offers a visual treat for those who already know the alphabet as well as for those who are just getting started.

Dan, The Taxi Man

by Eric Ode, illustrated by Kent Culotta

Kirkus Reviews

Written as a cumulative rhyme, the narrative barrels along just like the classic yellow cab in Culotta's high-energy cartoon illustrations.... Noisy fun, with a strong beat and a narrative pattern that even younger audiences will have no trouble catching.

Unleashing Readers

Dan, The Taxi Man celebrates music by bringing a band together and putting focus on each musician and their instrument. The onomatopoeias, the rhythm, and the repetition throughout makes this a book that kids will want to read over and over again...

Read These Books and Use Them!

...begs to be read out loud!

IRA Reading Today

...a great read aloud in primary classrooms because children will easily catch onto the pattern and begin to make the sounds and read along.



.....
Kids Book Review at SanFranciscoBookReview.com, reviewed by Grant, Age 5
The words and rhymes in the book make me want to tap my foot and sing along.

Booklist Online
...a rockin' good time.

The Bookworm Sez
For little musicians, future drivers, or any 2-to-5-year-old who loves fun books...

Arlington ISD Librarian's Book Review
...a great read aloud with props and an easy way to introduce onomatopoeia.

Michigan Reading Journal
The vibrant illustrations in this book will catch the reader's attention ... Filled with onomatopoeia, this story is great for chorale reading and dramatic interpretations.... a fantastic book to use with early grade students

The Crimson Review of Children's and YA Literature
A nice, subtle tale about inclusion, with vibrant images illustrating the lyrically-styled text...

Kirkus Reviews
As rhyming stories go, this one finds its rhythm early on and keeps on rockin' till the upbeat end. (iPad storybook app. 4-8)

Dinosaurs A Shine-A-Light Book
by Sara Hurst, illustrated by Lucy Cripps

Unleashing Readers
Shine-a-Light books take a topic that is already interesting and adds an interactive aspect to the book. ... I really liked that the authors didn't dumb down the book, including scientific names and information. All with things hidden behind the page that can only be seen when you shine a light.

Archimedes Notebook
I like that long, multi-syllabic names are included, because what kid doesn't want to learn how to pronounce *parasaurolophus*! Back matter adds some quick facts about some of the dinosaurs.

Do Nice. Be Kind. Spread Happy.
by Bernadette Russell

Kirkus Reviews
Small gestures have large rewards—everyone could do with a little inspiration of how to spread some happy.



Publishers Weekly

With bright juxtapositions of people, objects, and fonts, the energetic, posterlike presentation bolters the message about how much fun being kind can be...

Dog and Mouse

by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt

NC Teacher Stuff

...a celebration of friendship.... This is the kind of book that you want to read at the beginning of the year as you try to build a positive culture in your classroom.

The Midwest Book Review

The lilting verse and spare, bright illustrations allow the warm core truth in this story to shine.

Publishers Weekly

Nelson-Schmidt's bold, blocky images, a mix of large single frames and panel sequences, quietly convey the gentle togetherness of a friendship that doesn't know it is one.

Dragon Post

by Emma Yarlett

Imagination Soup

The story is cute — what to do with an unexpected dragon in your house — and the illustrations are delightful. But the selling point of the whole book is the five letters that kids can take out of the envelopes.

BNKids Blog "June's Best New Picture Books"

When Young Alexander finds an honest-to-goodness dragon in his cellar, he solicits professional advice immediately—and the responses to his letters fill every page of this clever epistolary tale. From the fire chief to the butcher, everybody weighs in with helpful advice, intriguing questions, and even some questionable commentary. But Young Alexander's closest pal offers the wisest counsel of all—read this sweet story to find out!

Storymamas

We recommend this book for kindergartners and up...

Ella Diaries Double Dare You

by Meredith Costain, illustrated by Danielle McDonald

Kirkus Reviews

Following the story, backmatter activities tie into the tale, including a make-your-own haiku, draw-your-own fashion, and a prompt for a top-10 list. Among a slew of other bubblegum-hued diary hybrids, this mean-girl tale is a gentle take, just right for a younger audience hankering for a fast, frothy read. ... Cute and effervescent.



School Library Journal

The illustrations and the use of lists and poetry make this a great pick for reluctant readers.

Engineer Academy

by Steve Martin, illustrated by Nastia Sleptsova

Ithaca Child, "Alexander's Library"

The book ends with the Engineers' Code, something we could all use in our lives. For example: working safely and keeping ourselves and other people free from harm, and making sure that we understand what needs to be done before diving into a project. – Sue Smith-Heavenrich

Everyone Poops

by Taro Gomi

The Expositor

...part biology textbook, part sociological treatise and all a celebration of a very natural process.

Extreme Adventures series

by Justin D'Ath

Crocodile Attack

Book Trends

Action, suspense and hair-raising... (Review written by 6th grade student)

Read Along with Biblio

...a cliff hanger all the way through.

San Francisco Book Review

...sure to capture audiences and not disappoint.

Reading Reviews

...stuffed full of adventure and dangerous situations. Anyone out there that is an adrenaline junkie will love this book.

Shark Bait

Children's Literature

Heart-pounding action characterizes the "Extreme Adventures" series of books ... with immense detail that allow the reader to envision every move and decision Sam makes.

Reading Review

This is action to the maximum!



Scorpion Sting

Children's Literature

...fast paced and contains some humor...

The Lorgnette - Heart of Texas Reviews

Readers will love to see what happens to Sam next.

Spider Bite

Reading Review

...packed with adrenaline-pumping events that will leave the reader breathless as the action unfolds before their eyes.

Jean Little Library

...a nice length for intermediate readers and a perfect way to relax on a hot summer afternoon..... I'll continue to add to the series and booktalk them to kids who like their adventure without angst and their survival stories snappy!

Man-Eater

Book Trends

...a fantastic book that anyone would enjoy reading.

Children's Literature

...highly recommended for reluctant readers

Reading Review

...starts off with a bang and never lets up.

Fast and Furry Racers: Cleopatra Bones and the Golden Chimpanzee

by Jonathan Emmett, illustrated by Ed Eaves

Midwest Reviews

... wonderfully entertaining and original will prove to be an impressively popular addition to family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library picture book collections.

Fast and Furry Racers The Silver Serpent Club

by Jonathan Emmett, illustrated by Ed Eaves

Mom-Spot

This book promotes fair play, cooperation, and fun!



Farmers Market Surprise!

by Hazel Mitchell

Meridian Magazine

The illustrations are bright and make you smile.

Fizz series

Fizz and the Police Dog Tryouts

Fizz and the Dog Academy Rescue

Fizz and the Show Dog Jewel Thief

Fizz and the Handbag Dognapper

by Lesley Gibbes, illustrated by Stephen Michael King

NC Teacher Stuff

...will work well in a lesson on story structure. ... engaging characters (heroes and villains) with an interesting plot that comes with a surprising twist at the end. ... This ball of fur is a ball of fun.

School Library Journal

The vocabulary and lighthearted themes are accessible to elementary grade readers while providing an engaging story. The experience is enhanced by King's vibrant, well-integrated illustrations, reminiscent of Quentin Blake's work in Roald Dahl's books. VERDICT A bit fluffy, like a sweet-natured lapdog. With all the excited energy of a happy puppy, these books are a fun and furry bunch.

Literacy Daily

After reading *Fizz and the Police Dog Tryouts*, newly independent readers will be eager to read the three other simultaneously-published Fizz Police Dog adventures.

Mom-Spot

Told in simple but very lively language, with lots of playful repetition, short chapters and Stephen Michael King's quirky cartoon-style illustrations throughout, we think this hilarious and action-packed series is perfect for newly confident readers.

Flippy Floppy Ocean Animals

by Anton Poitier, Illustrated by Sophia Touliatou

Midwest Book Review

...a delightful activity for the very young.



Fox's Box

by Emilia Zebrowska

Kirkus Reviews

The whole crew of animals gathers around in an unnamed celebration—making this book appropriate for discussing myriad milestones with children. There's a lot of learning packed into this little book, making it adaptable to many settings.

The Pirate Tree

...a real treat for any preschool, day care center, or home library.

The Gas We Pass

by Shinta Cho

School Library Journal

...adequately tells how gas is formed and its characteristics...

Publishers Weekly

Both informative and blunt, the book provides young readers with solid facts...

The Gobble Gobble Moooooo Tractor Book

by Jez Alborough

Jean Little Library

Guaranteed toddler grins! ... The growing cacophony of animal sounds will delight small listeners and encourage them to join in with their own animal - or tractor - sounds.

Kirkus Reviews

Young children are sure to be drawn to the genial animals and vibrant farmland...

Biblio Reads

...both fun and funny.

Parent Wise, Austin

...perfect for group reading or a bedtime story for preschool children.

Kids Lit

...text is simple and fast moving, taking readers directly to the humor and the action. His bright colored illustrations are zippy and jolly.

Young Readers

I loved this one. I just LOVED it!



YA Books Central

The illustrations are adorable and very kid-appealing. ... I think this book shows imagination and creativity at its best.

Reading Rockets, 2010 Buying Guide, Books as Gifts

Colorful, comic illustration and onomatopoeia encourage participation.

The Children's Bookwatch, Reviewer's Bookshelf

...going to give more than enough enjoyment for young elementary readers, highly recommended.

The Children's Bookwatch, The Preschool Shelf

Children will love the colorful foldout illustrations and the wildly funny sounds from all the different animals. *The Gobble Gobble Mooooooo Tractor Book* is a delightful experience for preschool children to read and love.

The Horn Book Guide

The littlest listeners and readers will be in hog heaven with the abundant imitable animal sounds and the mischief-spiked barnyard-set illustrations.

5 Minutes for Books

...a hands down winner in our household.

Grandma's Favorite

Grandpa's Favorite

by Erin Dealey, illustrated by Luciana Navarro Powell

Kirkus Reviews

Diversity, love and affection depicted visually, and a small format easily shared between an adult and a child add up to good choices for Grandparent's Day or the year round.

Multicultural Motherhood

...lively rhyming text that captures children's attention and makes it interesting for adults to read aloud. ... It is wonderful to see books which foster global awareness.

The Pirate Tree

Dealey's simple rhyming text paired with Navarro Powell's rich mixed-media illustrations will charm the preschool set and would be a fine addition to any home or school library.

Here and There

illustrated by Greg Paprocki

A Field Trip Life

... will be a great addition to and classroom or school library and will serve as a catalyst for fun activities and discussions about people, places, traditions, and customs. This is a book

.....

that will appeal to children who love to learn new facts, search detailed illustrations, and travel through the pages of books.

Here in the Garden

by Briony Stewart

School Library Journal

A gentle story about the cycle of nature and dealing with loss.

The Midwest Book Review

Heartfelt color illustrations add a poignant touch to the gentle storybook, especially recommended for parents to share with children who are learning to accept the loss of a treasured animal companion.

Waking Brain Cells

...the art remains resolutely lovely and cheery. Even the one in the dark of night is filled with a light that illuminates. A quiet story of grief, loss and the healing power of nature...

A Book and a Hug

The wonder of the natural world, the joy of a truly good friend, the deep love for a pet are all celebrated exquisitely in this delightful, poignant, heartrending story... For any child who is grieving for a loved one whether it be a pet, a family member, a very good friend, this is the book that will say, "I understand what you're going through and it matters."

Hey Jack! series

by Sally Rippin, illustrated by Stephanie Spartel

Oneota Reading Journal

While the books about Jack may appeal more to boys, and Billie's books may appeal more to girls, the two have remained best friends since they were babies and readers may enjoy all of the titles because they will recognize the long-lasting friendship of Billie and Jack.

Hey Jack! The Scary Solo

Kiss the Book

This early reader is a good introduction to overcoming jealousy and working as a team. Jack is a very sympathetic character, and his actions at the end will likely have some kids cheering.

Hey Jack! The Winning Goal

Kiss the Book

This early reader is a nice introduction to teamwork and being a good sport.



Hip and Hop, You Can Do Anything

by Akala, illustrated by Sav Akyüz

Kirkus Reviews

What news will amuse will be the spices the verse entices as it's read aloud. Akyüz's vibrant illustrations will push readers to stretch for those performance points. Featuring more ground-level break dancing than groundbreaking narrative, this humorous children's story puts a hip-hop spin on the plot staple of "practice makes perfect"—fun to read, best to rhyme.

How to Bathe Your Little Dinosaur

by Jane Clarke, illustrated by Georgie Birkett

Publishers Weekly

...sweet-as-can-be board book ...just upbeat enough to persuade some bath-resistant young humans to succumb to the inevitable.

How to Tuck in Your Sleepy Lion

by Jane Clarke, illustrated by Georgie Birkett

NC Teacher Stuff

...can be used with readers above the preschool age too. Try reading this board book to a kindergarten or first grade class as a precursor to a unit on creating how-to books. It would also work well as an introduction to a graphic organizer on sequence.

I Am Jack

by Susanne Gervay, illustrated by Cathy Wilcox

School Library Journal

While the message comes through clearly, it's lightened by Jack's antics and jokes. A welcome addition to books on the topic.

Arlington Independent School District

A good book for upper grades to read about bullying. Recommended.

I Say Ooh You Say Aah

by John Kane

Kirkus Reviews

Kane's invitation to silliness will, with a willing audience, lead to loads of laughter (and some pretty loud storytimes). The bright, simple, digitally created illustrations alternate with pages of plain text instructions (much of it in all-caps) to complete the package. A cockeyed call and response that can't be read just once.



Imagination Soup

Readers get to participate in telling this very silly story — and they'll be cracking up the whole time. Meet the narrator's best friend named OOH, who you'll scare away. Then you'll help him find his underpants... Or are they YOURS? What a crack up! I love it! Added to: The Best Interactive Picture Books for Kids.

Mom Read It

The book is bold and bright, and is made for read-alouds where you want to be as silly as possible (and isn't that what read-alouds should be?! The digital artwork is colorful and fun, and the fonts are bold, often in caps, and easy to read. It's great for sharpening verbal cues and teaching reading comprehension in the best way: the fun way!

I Want to Be a Lion Tamer

I Want to Be an Astronaut

by Ruby Brown, illustrated by Alisa Coburn

Unleashing Readers

The I Want to Be books can be used as a read aloud to begin a discussion of different types of careers and what students want to be when they grow up. You can use this time to talk about goals, how to reach them, and maybe even do a small research project where students find what the job they are interested in includes. Students can then use this information to write a 3 sentence poem following Ruby Brown's style explaining their dream job.

Publishers Weekly

...Coburn's cartoons are filled with visual jokes, such as a tiger tucking into a steak with fork and knife at the zoo or the cast-wearing bear reading a magazine in the vet's waiting room.

Kid Lit Reviews

Coburn's illustrations add humor and loads of detail young children will enjoy. ... Many a discussion can develop just from the exuberant illustrations. ... Teachers might find the series useful when discussing careers...

I'm a Dirty Dinosaur

by Janeen Brian, illustrated by Ann James

Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review

...cries out for toddler participation, with parts for everyone.... It is nearly impossible to look at without reading aloud, chanting aloud and even tapping and stamping and sliding: extreme joyousness.



.....

School Library Journal

This book will entertain kids in storytime as well as young independent readers. A solid general purchase for most libraries.

Publishers Weekly

Brian's narrative lends itself to reading aloud, and it invites both chiming in and imitating the dinosaur's movements (preferably sans mud). Better still, the sturdy pages are sufficiently coated for easy wiping off if muddy fingers do happen to turn them.

Meridian Magazine

The illustrations were cleverly created with mud as part of the medium, along with magic pencil and watercolor. As he becomes more muddy, the color of mud becomes more apparent on his body. Fortunately, he sees a swamp and cleans off the mud. The rhyming text is fun to read out loud with onomatopoeia found throughout.

Jen Robinson's Book Page

Toddlers will get a real kick out of the dirty dinosaur, and especially the energetic and colorful refrains.

Washington Parent

This book is as much fun to read aloud as it is to hear.

Oneota Reading Journal

Children can join the dinosaur in sniffing, shaking, stamping, sliding, and washing – because even dinosaurs know when it is time to bathe.

School Library Journal

This book will entertain kids in storytime as well as young independent readers.

Publishers Weekly

Brian's narrative lends itself to reading aloud, and it invites both chiming in and imitating the dinosaur's movements (preferably sans mud). Better still, the sturdy pages are sufficiently coated for easy wiping off if muddy fingers do happen to turn them.

Kirkus Reviews *STARRED REVIEW*

It is nearly impossible to look at without reading aloud, chanting aloud and even tapping and stamping and sliding: extreme joyousness.

I'm a Hungry Dinosaur

by Janeen Brian, illustrated by Ann James

School Library Journal

This story will delight toddlers and preschoolers with its rhythmic text and whimsical line drawings. As hungry dinosaur bakes a cake, each step is spelled out in large, bold

.....

multicolored text, creating a reading chant for read-alouds and storytime sessions. ... A playful addition. Dinosaur fans will frolic to the beat in this baking adventure.

Kirkus Reviews

The grime-loving young star of *I'm A Dirty Dinosaur!* finds fresh wallowing potential in the ingredients for a cake. ...The rhythmic patterned commentary invites young listeners to chant along and to join in the final demand to 'MIX, MIX, BEAT, BEAT, / MAKE ANOTHER CAKE!' ... [A] toddler-friendly celebration of messiness, with a yummy culmination.

The Impossible Quest Escape from Wolfhaven Castle

by Kate Forsyth

Kirkus Reviews

The fast-moving plot is filled with clever details and magical intrigue. Even when the not-so-surprising villain is finally revealed, this series opener maintains its charm. However, the characters are what set it apart ... creating an adventure that is more than just an exciting story ... Well-crafted heroic fantasy for readers just stepping into the genre.

Charlotte's Library

The characters are each given turns as the primary point of view, which helps make each one unique and compelling; the adventure never overshadows the personalities, and worries, and hopes of the adventurers. ... a fine introduction to fantasy questing, and Kate Forsyth does a very fine job at vivid descriptions.

Literacy Daily

...a good choice for introducing readers to the fantasy genre. It is a well-crafted, fast-paced, and short book with an interesting cast of heroes, villains, and mystical beasts and lots of action.

Kid Lit Reviews

...the reading is quick, yet the perfect length for a reluctant reader. Forsyth uses foreshadowing, red herrings, and humor to keep readers guessing and entertained. Several twists will keep astute readers in the adventure...

A Library Mama

...the tropes are used well, the magic draws solidly on herb lore and British mythology, and the language is very good. This is an excellent introduction to fantasy, both for independent and family reading.

.....

Jamie's Amazing Cape Series

Bug Brother

by Pete Johnson, illustrated by Mike Gordon

Midwest Book Reviews, "Books in Series"

"...a delightful blend of adventure, imagination, and humor that is unreservedly recommended for family, elementary school, and community library collections."

Jessica's Box

by Peter Carnavas

Kirkus Reviews

Carnavas' Bob Graham-esque cartoons use color and humor in equal measure to create a winning protagonist. The message is clear: Just be yourself, and friends will come.

Horn Book Magazine

The solidly straightforward story arc, simple mixed-media illustration, effective use of color, and ample white space are all strengths. Jessica's wheel chair is neither hidden in the background nor made star of the show: it is what it is, and Jessica finds – as do all children – that she can make friends just by being herself.

School Library Journal

A charming book that speaks to the desire of all children to be liked for who they are.

Publishers Weekly

Carnavas's loosely drafted and warmly painted images easily capture the story's emotional ups and downs ... [T]he story is valuable for its portrait of a believably nervous child whose physical disability is entirely incidental to the challenges she faces.

The Horn Book Guide

A straightforward story and simple mixed-media illustrations are strengths of this Australian import. Rating: Superior

NC Teacher Stuff

Do yourself a favor and ask your librarian for books by Peter Carnavas. It will be worth the effort.

Waking Brain Cells

A very inclusive book about school jitters and making friends, this will be a nice read aloud to share with kids about to enter school.



Jonathan James and the Whatif Monster

by Michelle Nelson-Schmidt

Picture Book Reviews

A brilliant message for all ages.

The Piggy Toes.com

This lesson in this book is just the best!

Reading Today Online

All of the “whatif” scenarios are ones that are present in the lives of all children and they will certainly identify with some of the fears presented here.

Just Imagine

by Pippa Goodhart, illustrated by Nick Sharratt

Kirkus Reviews

...there's a delightfully mirthful creativity at work ... Good fun for a broad range of ages.

Publishers Weekly

Sharratt's signature brand of simple, bright cartooning and Goodhart's reader-directed prompts and tidbits of information offer diversions aplenty.

Kiss the Book

My boys laughed and enjoyed this fun engaging book.

Oneota Reading Journal

The possibilities of responses to the commands or questions in each section are nearly unlimited. All fifty pictures will certainly prompt unusual and unique answers among readers. The final challenge in this book is to dream, something adults should encourage children to do.

Unleashing Readers

This book is everything the title promises. It will spark children's imaginations... The illustrations are absolutely stunning. It is a book that is made for both a child and the parent/teacher reading it.

Kooky Crumbs

by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Mary Uhles

NC Teacher Stuff

School used to be fun before this era of bubble, bubble in, toil, and test. Bring back some of that joy by introducing your class to *Kooky Crumbs*.



Literacy Daily

Rhyming couplets, concrete poems, and limericks are just a few of the forms of poetry found within. ... These zany poems can be used as starting points for having young children suggest other dizzy holidays and write poems to celebrate them.

School Library Journal

This cheerful, accessible collection of poems would be useful as a mentor text in guided instruction for elementary students or as pleasure reading.

Booklist

Former Children's Poet Laureate Lewis' one-page poems are funny, often evoking a Silverstein-like sense of humor. Mixed into the lot is the occasionally (and surprisingly) thoughtful poem, which is a welcome reprieve from the many jokes. Variations in format also add a nice touch to the verses ... Recommended for school and public libraries...

Mom Read It

The poems are fun, short, and perfect to punch up a storytime. You can build a theme around one ... or you can just add a poem to your normal storytime, mentioning a funny holiday and giving the kids and parents a good laugh. Mary Uhles' cartoony illustrations add to the fun of the poems.

Meridian Magazine

Chances are this amusing book just might motivate you to compose a fantastically inventive poem.

Kuromori Chronicles The Sword of Kuromori

Kuromori Chronicles The Shield of Kuromori

by Jason Rohan

School Library Journal

Percy Jackson fans will relish the familiar need to learn mythology and folklore as well as the fast-paced, ingenious fighting sequences. ...especially good for more reluctant readers.

Books YA Love

...filled with Japanese culture and mythological creatures, questions about loyalty and family, plus lots of adventure and humor.

VOYA

In Rohan's second volume, the action and adventure continue at breakneck speed. Though the story picks up where the first book left off, is not necessary to have read it to enjoy this one. ... Fans of James Dashner will enjoy the non-stop action and the Japanese mythology that underpins this book. — Etienne Vallée.

The characters are very believable and relatable to today's teens. Fans of cliffhangers will want to know what happens next. — Cassidy Sturgeon, Teen Reviewer.



Books YA Love

Ancient Japanese stories, modern technology, and ages-old greed of man – all collide as Kiyomi and Kenny must unpuzzle this devious plot before evil wins the day.

Let's Go to Playgroup!

by Caryl Hart, illustrated by Lauren Tobia

Kirkus Reviews

As an aid to teach empathy and cooperation to the under-4 set, this an excellent addition to a parent or caregiver's bookshelf.

NC Teacher Stuff

...will make for a great bedtime read because it will set you up for the next day's events. It's a welcome addition to preK book collections.

The Horn Book Guide

...bolstered by Tobia's wonderfully child-friendly illustrations, which highlight the diversity surrounding these urban toddlers.

Lemur Dreamer

by Courtney Ditmas

Kirkus Reviews

Ditmas' slight tale is a perfect vehicle for her imaginative illustrations and offbeat animals. Her friendly, loosely drawn shapes are colored in pastel blues, greens, and pinks, complemented by the rosy dawn as the sun comes up on Louis' adventures. Sweet and frolicsome.

School Library Journal

Pastel cartoons give each animal a clear personality and Ditmas balances their wide-eyed faces of fright with fond glances once everyone's out of peril. VERDICT The large comedic scenes will work well in storytimes and as one-on-one bedtime reads.

Booklist

Ditmas' droll, simple sentences are well matched by her pastel-colored, low-key (but big-eyed) illustrations. A good fit for storytime.

Literacy Daily "Meet Some Memorable Characters"

As Louis tells them about the amazing adventure he was having in his dream, he realizes his sleepwalking is causing a lot of trouble. Not to worry. The next day, the neighbors give Louis the perfect gift to keep him safe no matter where his dreams take him.



Unleashing Readers

...a fantastic read aloud. ...entertaining while also starting a conversation about something that kids often deal with and never find in conversations. It would also be good to read with siblings dealing with others sleepwalking. ...great cause and effect as well as problem and solution moments.

Midwest Book Review

... a unique and unreservedly recommended addition to family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library picture book collections.

Meridian Magazine "Newton's Book News"

...will have giggles galore. The captivating pictures cover the double pages and just might allure your little one to sleep.

Lifesize

by Sophy Henn

Booklist, **STARRED**

Full-color illustrations cover every page, and the adorable full-size panda face on the cover is hard to resist. The final pages pull all the examples into a comparison chart, and ask readers to estimate where they would fit. This is a great choice for a more STEM-focused storytime, and here's a helpful hint: make sure there's a mirror on hand so that kids can see how they compare for themselves.

Publishers Weekly **STARRED**

"A read-over-and-over-again delight."

Love You Hoo

by Rachel Bright

Kirkus Reviews

The loving parental sentiments ring true, and young listeners will chime in on the 'hoo' sounds throughout the story.

NC Teacher Stuff

We always ask teachers what we can do for our child. Instead of extra math or spelling words, maybe we can take a hint from these two owls and realize that time and unconditional love are the best homework support a parent can provide.



Ludwig the Sea Dog

by Henning Löhlein

Kirkus Reviews, STARRED

Even without the cardboard "sea goggles" Löhlein's illustrations are lively and at least mostly sharp. With the 3-D enhancement Ludwig and his animal friends (all of whom are portrayed as cutout figures) float convincingly among piles of closed and open volumes, dense swarms of fish and multitentacled creatures, droplets of water, and long trails of bubbles—so much so that for many viewers the actual surfaces of the pages will vanish. ... An exhilarating dive propelled by deft and clever use of its optical trick.

Ludwig the Space Dog

by Henning Löhlein

Kirkus Reviews, STARRED

The right stuff for all young would-be space explorers.

School Library Journal

...a satisfying story and unusual artwork—think the pages of an atlas, come to life—that will be made all the more compelling to children by the necessity of special glasses and the resulting "pop" of the images. ...a wise choice for reluctant readers.

Luna Loves Library Day

by Joseph Coelho, illustrated by Fiona Lumbers

Kirkus Reviews

This simple story of often familiar circumstances has many pluses—seemingly amicable separated parents who love their daughter, the story within a story, a plug for libraries (there's even a self-checkout) and reading—all of which generate an upbeat feeling. Reassuring, appealing, and endearing, especially for children in similar situations.

NC Teacher Stuff

This is a sweet, upbeat story about a tough situation. Many students will be able to make a connection and it allows a teacher or counselor to address a difficult topic.

School Library Journal

A celebration of libraries, families, and a powerful comforting statement of abiding parental love in one neat package.

Booklist

Coelho's spare text celebrates the joys of reading and family. ... Lumbers' upbeat watercolor-and-ink illustrations feature many fanciful details... This makes a good read-aloud choice, especially for book-themed story hours.



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Midwest Book Review

...a charming and inspiring story... highly recommended for family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library collections for children ages 3 to 5.

CCBC Choices 2018 "Picture Books for School-Age Children"

Although Luna's dad no longer lives with Luna and her mom, it's clear he still loves Luna very much. The illustrations show each book coming to life as Luna and her dad read, and the library (complete with self-checkout) is realistically contemporary. Luna is biracial (Black/white).

Imagination Soup

There's a sweetness in Luna's family situation as well as a playfulness around books that makes this a jewel of a book that shows a mixed race family. Love, love, love.

The Horn Book Guide

A delightful ode to the power of books and libraries as well as a reassuring portrayal of separated parents.

A Magical Adventure

by Marianna Oklejak

Imagination Soup

...the illustrations are amazing — bright colors with a folk art flair.

The Mapmaker Chronicles

Race to the End of the World

Prisoner of the Black Hawk

Breath of the Dragon

by A.L. Tait

Barb Hopkins Blog

Race to the End of the World

...a wonderful tale of adventure ... heroes to cheer, bad guys to dislike, and just the right balance of fantasy and reality. ... This book totally goes into my pile of books-I-will-read-again.

Barb Hopkins Blog

Prisoner of the Black Hawk

...a delightful combination of action, whimsy, and moments that made me thoughtful.



Barb Hopkins Blog

Breath of the Dragon

Like any good adventure story, author A.L. Tait gives readers exciting action sequences, exotic lands, priceless treasure, and heart-stopping heroics by the characters we've grown to love since first introduced in book one: *Race to the End of the World*. ...

Overall, I heartily recommended *Breath of the Dragon* and the entire *Mapmaker Chronicles* by A.L. Tait.

Mom-Spot

Your young reader will love the mystery, monsters murder and mayhem that appeals equally to girls and boys.

This Kid Reviews Books

I really liked this entire series. Five out of five bookworms all-around! Yay!

Mind Your Manners

by Nicola Edwards, illustrated by Feronia Parker Thomas

Kirkus Reviews

Rhyming text leads readers through spreads depicting all sorts of creatures living in a not-so-peaceable kingdom until they adopt polite behaviors that make for greater conviviality. ... Ensuing spreads encourage polite words such as "please," "thank you," "excuse me," and "sorry," as well as considerate behaviors that include respecting others' personal space, avoiding crude language, never littering, and using good table manners. Throughout, there's mild humor in depictions of misdeeds and comfort in resolutions showing the animals all interacting nicely with each other. A playful guide to etiquette.

Booklist

This vastly entertaining book doesn't reason with or cajole kids to have better manners. It unabashedly points out bad behavior—"Just stop right there!" is the opening salvo—and illustrates its consequences. ... The lushly painted backdrop of the jungle, with cartoon-like animals showcased, makes this a delightful, rather than a dutiful, read.

The Pirate Tree

Edwards' rhyming text will help implement good manners being taught by parents and teachers. Thomas' lively illustrations bring the text alive. This collaboration between the author and illustrator will help parents and teachers to introduce social skills to primary students.

Storymamas

Told in rhyme and accompanied by adorable illustrations, this book is perfect for kindergarten, preschool-aged, and younger. A repeat read with great messages throughout!



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Mini Machines

by James Croft

Washington Parent

Croft imbues his text with a Seussian energy that makes these books especially delightful to listen to and learn from.

My Beautiful Room

by Jasmine Orchard and Olivia Whitworth

Publishers Weekly

The activities, which include several pages to color and a mood board spread, should help get readers thinking creatively about how to tackle their own living spaces.

My Daddy is a Hero

My Mommy is a Hero

illustrated by Hannah Tolson

Kirkus Reviews

...two delightful books that celebrate parents who are in the military. ...both books highlight the leadership and bravery of both women and men in uniform. A comforting resource for military families coping with deployment and a worthwhile addition to any library.

School Library Journal

My Daddy is a Hero focuses more on nurturing qualities and is especially effective when the dads use those same skills to connect with their children at home. *My Mommy is a Hero* drives home themes of strength and leadership and deals more with being on the front lines and distance and danger. Not overtly patriotic, the first-person narratives keep the books grounded in things that matter to children – feeling safe and loved, even when a parent is off helping others.

The Pirate Tree

Otter's rhyming text shares with readers how important our military men and women are to the safety of our country. Tolson's simple illustrations bring the verses to life with her bold use of color. Highly recommended for any school or library, especially for the children of military personnel.

Publishers Weekly

In a heartening picture book, Tolson honors mothers in the armed forces. The rhymed lines have a smooth, easy cadence: "My mommy is a hero,/ her strength amazes me./ She dives into the ocean,/ to rescue those at sea." Tolson's friendly images show the figures in daring circumstances (jumping from planes), or serving communities (a medic listens to a child's chest with a stethoscope).



My First Kitten

My First Puppy

by Dr. Lisa Chimes, illustrated by Tina Burke

Midwest Book Review

...an excellent introduction to the responsibilities and rewards of good pet care...

Mom Read It

What I love most about the My First books? Dr. Chimes having her characters explore shelters and veterinarian offices for pets that need homes, rather than having the families to buy a cat or dog at a pet store.

The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow

The Mystery of the Jeweled Moth

The Mystery of the Painted Dragon

by Katherine Woodfine

Kirkus Reviews

...an entertaining new girl detective series...

School Library Journal

A truly exciting novel that will appeal to lovers of historical fiction as well as adventure and detective stories. It may also entice readers who enjoy fashion history and city life.

Semicolon

...the setting and characters are just so enchanting and delicious...

Orange Marmalade

Fast-paced, with a bit of an old-fashioned sensibility in the dialogue in keeping with their Edwardian time period, these will make excellent reads especially for younger girls who zip through books like a hot knife in butter. Advanced readers as young as 9 could enjoy these, as well as middle-graders and up who are looking for a mystery-adventure that's not overly-dark.

Historical Novel Review Issue 79 "The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow"

Sophie is a courageous heroine, and Lil and Billy are plucky, lovable sidekicks. The glamor of the fictional Sinclair's department store is beautifully presented, as are other setting details, bringing to life early 1900s London, when large department stores were new and exciting.

The Storytellers, newsletter of The Children's Hour

Readers will enjoy these intrepid heroes as they foil kidnappers, solve messages coded in ciphers, uncover police corruption, discover explosive devices, and devour iced buns, while attempting to bring the villainous Baron to justice.



Historical Novel Review Issue 79

The Mystery of the Jeweled Moth

... his is a fun, fast-paced story with enjoyable characters and a delightful mystery. I would definitely read more of this series. Even though I did not read Book 1, I had no trouble enjoying this book. I would recommend it for readers young and old!

Kirkus Reviews

The Mystery of the Painted Dragon

This old-fashioned whodunit is thoroughly satisfying to solve along with our heroes Jolly good fun.

Orange Marmalade

The Mystery of the Painted Dragon

It's a great choice for voracious readers ages 10 and up.

The Storytellers, newsletter of The Children's Hour

The Mystery of the Painted Dragon

Readers will enjoy this old-fashioned whodunit, including the interesting world of art, safecracking techniques, and the British Suffragettes.

Historical Novel Review

The Mystery of the Painted Dragon

...reads well as a stand-alone. ...a rollicking story with twists and turns... This is an excellent addition to readers who enjoy a good mystery.

Mythical 9th Division Operation Robot Storm

by Alex Milway

Kirkus Reviews

...a lickety-split set of chases, battles, captures and escapes...

Nibbles the Book Monster

by Emma Yarlett

Kid Lit Reviews

Nibbles is just the character to encourage young children to nibble their way through books (using their eyes to chomp each page).

Waking Brain Cells

Cleverly designed and immensely appealing, this picture book is worth a nibble or two. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

NC Teacher Stuff

Young readers will adore Nibbles because he connects them to familiar stories in a unique



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way. ... Naughty Nibbles keeps them on their toes because of his unpredictability. That makes reading a fun experience and why you should check out this chewing charmer.

Midwest Book Review

...wonderfully entertaining and very highly recommended.

Happily Ever Elephants

Simply put, this book is fabulous and Yarlett's kid-friendly artwork is nothing short of fantastic.

Unleashing Readers

This book could be used to start any fairy tale retelling unit! Readers of all ages will fall in love with Nibbles and want to participate in this adventure.

Meridian Magazine "Newton's Book News,"

This is a very ingenious book and the cutouts where Nibbles nibbles throughout make it great fun.

Nibbles: The Dinosaur Guide

by Emma Yarlett

Kirkus Reviews

A delicious escapade that young librivores (to use a more logical coinage) will snap up.

Unleashing Readers

...has a cross-curricular component to it with the inclusion of dinosaurs and specific information about the dinosaurs. This allows the book to be used in reading, writing, and science lessons. I also think it'd be so much fun to have students write their own Nibbles story with him eating into a different topic than dinosaurs

Waking Brain Cells

Along the way, various side characters offer puns and jokes that will have readers giggling. Still, there is real information on the various dinosaurs offered as well, creating a book that combines silliness and seriousness into just the right mix. ...Another delicious Nibbles book that combines interactive elements and dinosaurs for what is sure to be a popular pick.

Publishers Weekly

It's great fun to follow his path of destruction...

Mom Read It

...a dino book that kids will come back to again and again.



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No Worries! An Activity Book for Young People Who Sometimes Feel Anxious or Stressed

by Lily Murray, illustrated by Katie Abey

Publishers Weekly

...writing and art activities aimed at helping children tame their anxiety. ...Abey's doodlelike art sets a friendly tone. From getting active to mindfulness and focusing on gratitude, readers should come away with an empowering set of coping skills.

On the Construction Site, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Bee Johnson

Unleashing Readers

...a wonderful text to start conversations about shadows; construction of a skyscraper; and construction vehicles, planning, and careers.

The Horn Book Guide

Recommended

Massachusetts Librarians Youth Services Book Review

This is a fascinating book! ... Kids will be mesmerized. Recommend this to the entire young crowd who like trucks and bulldozers and construction.

On the Plane, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Bee Johnson

School Library Journal

...airplane enthusiasts and nervous first-time fliers will enjoy learning about the engines and storage compartments.

On the Space Station, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Bee Johnson

Mom Read It

...Shine-A-Light books continue working with the concept of object permanence for younger readers while adding a new dimension of interactivity to older readers. ... The artwork is wonderful and fluid ... The language is great for young audiences; direct, with fun "flicks", "swishes", and "wheees!" to add some zing to the nonfiction text.

School Library Journal

Children will enjoy the clear and colorful illustrations, which are crucial to getting a sneak peek at what happens behind the scenes.



Pandamonia

by Chris Owen, illustrated by Chris Nixon

Kirkus Reviews

Somersaulting hippos, trumpeting elephants, and hopping kangaroos rendered in vivid, matte colors all add to the party atmosphere. Packed with fun animal noises and dynamic actions to mimic, it may be the ultimate read-aloud. Children will clamor to join in the wild rumpus.

NC Teacher Stuff

Full of quick-witted quatrains, *Pandamonia* offers many opportunities for fun learning... *Pandamonia* shows animal anarchy can actually be quite useful in the classroom.

School Library Journal

The wood block-style illustrations on a solid color background are a jumble of animals, colors, and plants that all perfectly represent the chaos following waking a panda. VERDICT An excellent storytime read-aloud and great starting point for learning about animals from all over.

The Horn Book

"his visually and aurally pleasing package offers a wild and silly zoo for young armchair travelers to discover and visit.

Midwest Book Review

Thoroughly 'kid friendly' in tone, story content, and presentation, "Pandamonia" is wholeheartedly recommended for family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library picture book collections.

Unleashing Readers

The illustrations are really colorful, the text is alliterative with a ton of onomatopoeias, and there's lots of fun to be had! In addition to alliteration and sound words, it can also be a way to talk about animals or zoos.

PSLA Teaching and Learning – Literature Review

Children will find this book enjoyable, especially where zoo stories are popular.

The Horn Book Guide

The funny rhymes have a speedy rhythm that matches the exuberance of the art.

Pet Vet series

by Darrel and Sally Odgers

Daily Record

...not only tell charming animal stories, but also convey some valuable lessons about pets



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and the responsibilities that come with owning them.... Short sentences and manageable chapters make the books young reader friendly.

Motorbike Bob

Curled Up With a Kids Book

...works fine on its own.

The Python Problem

BookViews by Alan Caruba

There's a lot of fun to be had...

The Kitten's Tale

Biblio Reads

The quirks of each animal (and human) are pitch-perfect, the story carries along and is a page-turner.

Pilot Academy

by Steve Martin, illustrated by Chris Andrews

Publishers Weekly

...signing off on completed pages with accompanying stickers and earning an "airline pilot graduate" certificate will offer readers a sense of accomplishment.

Pink Lion

by Jane Porter

Kirkus Reviews

Throughout, the illustrations' boldly colored, limited palette and loose style add exuberance and fun to the telling of the story about identity and belonging. It does indeed seem that it's love that makes a family.

School Library Journal

A terrific read-aloud, this is a story of courage, questioning, and belonging. Great for starting conversations with young children.

NC Teacher Stuff

...a great read aloud for a lesson on being yourself. ...perfect to convert into a Reader's Theater script for working on fluency. Another use would be to compare Arnold and his lion cousins using a Venn diagram. No lion, this book will charm your socks off.

The Horn Book

This upbeat, empowering story begins: "Arnold's life was just right. His family loved him." It ends the same way, but with more family to love. And that seems just right.



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PSLA Teaching and Learning – Literature Review

A nice book about adoption, acceptance, and families.

The Horn Book Guide

Porter's uncomplicated story alludes to questions about identity and belonging without putting undue weight on the topics; uncluttered illustrations feature cheery, brightly colored animals on lots of white space.

Play Me Some Music

by Emily Bannister, illustrated by Julia Woolf

Kirkus Reviews

This rousing, upbeat, participatory invitation to make music should entice budding musicians.

The River

illustrated by Hanako Clulow

Mom Read It

I love this book and would love to see more in a series for little ones. It's a great way to introduce nature and nonfiction in a fun, interactive way.

Kirkus Reviews

A glimmering fish travels downriver, descending snowy mountains, rushing past lush woods and wide meadows, and out to the open sea, wriggling alongside changing flora and fauna all the while. This fishy flips and flops throughout, swimming thanks to lenticular technology. She appears as a wriggling hologram within a die-cut hole that allows her to surface midstream on each page, surrounded by a new habitat. Tilting the book, angling it to quicken or slow the fish's pace, makes her journey interactive and engaging, particularly to young readers used to visual bells and whistles.

Orange Marmalade

A beauty for ages 15 months and up.

Scribble & Author

by Miri Leshem-Pelly

Kirkus Reviews

Vivid, offbeat, and instructive.

NC Teacher Stuff

So, so, clever is this story! This is a terrific way to introduce young readers to how narratives work. I can easily see using this as a template for writing a story. You could even create a River of Questions on a wall and place possible questions on it and also have a Mountain of Challenges. I would follow a couple of readings of this text with a shared writing. Maybe a



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Scribble story with different challenges. So many teaching possibilities with this wonderful book!

The Pirate Tree

This encouraging book will be a perfect way to introduce self-reliance and independent thinking so young readers can conquer their own challenges.

Children's Literature

Vibrant watercolor backgrounds, realistic writing tools, and the graphic art of Scribble, make a lively narrative between the reader, the author, and Scribble. A wonderful way to demonstrate how to write a story to children.

Bookworm for Kids

...suitable for two types of audiences. Kids ages 3 and up will find the story simple cute. The writing is perfect for this audience ... On the other side, this book teaches the basic structure of a plot. It gives a light-hearted example of how the basic story structure is laid out, and opens the door for class discussions.

Secrets of Animal Camouflage, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown illustrated by Wesley Robins

Midwest Book Review "The Pets/Wildlife Shelf"

...an excellent introduction to nature's mysterious protections

Secrets of the Apple Tree, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, Illustrated by Alyssa Nassner

"How Does This Translate?" Bridges, USBBY

...provides an interesting perspective to the representation of nature with its beauty and complexity.

Booklist Online

Readers will delight in discovering the wide variety of hidden life within this apple tree. In addition to mammals, birds, and reptiles, invertebrates, plants, and fungi are examined in the clever nature book for the inquisitive preschool audience.

Secrets of Our Earth

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Wesley Robins

Booklist

Worthwhile additions to a series that spurs curiosity.



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Secrets of the Rain Forest, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Alyssa Nassner

Horn Book Magazine

In Nassner's eye-catching illustrations, the lush foliage of the tropical rainforest, filled with abstract, bright-green leaves and brown branches and trunks, hides a host of living organisms ... [T]he book succeeds at providing an overall sense of a rainforest teeming with life.

Secrets of the Seashore, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Alyssa Nassner

Publishers Weekly

A diverting interactive introduction to several coastal species, from otters to oystercatchers.

Oneota Reading Journal

Habitats of ocean life are cleverly illuminated in this unique picture book ...

Secrets of the Vegetable Garden, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown illustrated by Giordano Poloni

School Library Journal

Simple text, vivid illustrations, and an interactive seek-and-find feature invite youngsters to take a closer look at garden flora and fauna. ... Observation skills and curiosity are piqued...

School Library Journal

Vegetable Garden features a plethora of insects and plants, using short, friendly sentences to introduce a large, diverse ecosystem within a small plot of land – this is a great read-aloud for the start of a gardening unit.

Secrets of Winter, A Shine-a-light Book

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Alyssa Georgina Tee

Booklist Online

An inventive, behind-the-scenes look at nature during wintertime.

Snappers series

Squawk, Toucan!

by Teresa Bellón

Publishers Weekly

Artist Bellón's polished and playful art style features boxy animals, some with eyes that resemble black and white cookies, and pale green, yellow, and peach backgrounds. Toucan doesn't make a sound until the final spread: "Squawk!" A pull tab makes Toucan's



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beak open and close, creating a modest but satisfying snapping sound, which will be fun for readers to anticipate in subsequent readings.

Star of Deltora
Shadows of the Master

Two Moons

The Towers of Illica

The Hungry Isle

by Emily Rodda

Charlotte's Library

If you have already read Emily Rodda, you won't be disappointed. And if you haven't, this series is a fine place to start. Give the books to any nine or ten year old who pretended the bed was a boat back when they were littler. They are good ones for the older elementary school kid wanting to read books of more substance; the covers don't look like "kids" books, yet the content is still kid friendly...

Charlotte's Library

...this is my current go-to recommendation for anyone looking for a series to offer a nine or ten year old--lots of excitement, interesting setting and magic, characters to care about, and a strong girl protagonist. And I say this even as one who is not drawn to seafaring stories!

Story Path

illustrated by Madalena Matoso

Unleashing Readers

This book could take narrative writing to a new level in the early elementary classroom!

Take Ted Instead

by Cassandra Webb, illustrated by Amanda Francey

Kirkus Reviews

Children will read the pictures and easily begin chiming in on the recurring text. Engaging and attractive for young bedtime deniers.

NC Teacher Stuff

...having to go to bed is a universal concern so *Take Ted Instead* will easily connect to your young reader. Can I be the bearer of some good news? This book is a super slumber time choice.

Imagination Soup, "Noteworthy Fall 2017 Picture Books"

Easy to read, great rhymes, and a relatable story is sure to make this a new bedtime story favorite.



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Midwest Book Review

Very highly recommended for family, elementary school, and community library collections...

Meridian Magazine "Newton's Book News"

This book is not only good for a quick read at bedtime, but also excellent for new readers because of the simple rhyming and repeating pattern.

The Horn Book Guide

Soft, homey illustrations depict a large household of rhyming-named humans, pets, and toys in this gently humorous bedtime book.

A Tale of Two Beasts

by Fiona Robertson

Kirkus Reviews, STARRED

Robertson's premise is as sublime as it is simple, with a subtle message. Brilliantly, the illustrations vary just slightly from one version of the story to the next; it's their juxtaposition with the radically different textual perspective that generates the laughs. Totally delightful.

Publishers Weekly

It's a smart and not-too-serious introduction to the idea of empathy—and boundaries.

School Library Journal

This fun walk on the wild side will be a solid addition to most collections.

School Library Journal, "Outstanding International Books: Presenting the 2016 USBBY Selections"

This funny, thought-provoking British story exquisitely demonstrates the importance of understanding multiple perspectives.

The Children's Book Review

The illustrations are beautiful and colorful, and the book is of a sturdy construction that won't rip easily. The wording is perfectly executed, balancing cuteness with easy-to-read prose.... Highly recommended.

NC Teacher Stuff

With the Common Core emphasis on comparing two texts, how great is it that you can get this in one book?

Waking Brain Cells

Robertson could have kept this book solely about perspectives and had it be full-on humor, but instead she manages to imbue the book with a real heart.... Cleverly crafted and told...



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Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Review

Both the stories are funny, and together they will help children to see that there are always at least two sides to every story.

The Horn Book Guide

...this amusing lesson on perspective is illustrated with equally amusing cartoony illustrations...

The Thank You Dish

by Trace Balla

Kirkus Reviews

A gentle lesson, deftly told.

NC Teacher Stuff

The *Thank You Dish* is a great lesson in gratitude. Take time to be thankful. It's also a nice mentor text for teaching the skill of cause and effect. ... I also think there's a discussion to be had about sustainability.

The Pirate Tree

Balla's delightful text and soothing illustrations will hopefully launch a resurgence in more interactive family meals.

Mom Read It

I adore this book. This is a great storytime selection – see if kids can think of all the contributions made to their dinner tables! – and a great classroom circle time book.

School Library Journal

A playful story that can be used with groups or individuals to introduce the concept of thankfulness.

Meridian Magazine

...a small book to bring out appreciation for all that surrounds us and for being grateful. It also points out saying “thank you” out loud.

Booktalk, #kidlit

A playful mealtime conversation becomes a joyful act of giving thanks.

Imagination Soup, “Noteworthy Picture Books from Earlier in 2017”

This warmly-illustrated picture book is sure to spark your own creative ways to be more thankful and kind.



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PSLA Teaching and Learning – Literature Review

...a nice concept book about what it takes to create a meal and also how to show gratitude for what one has. It would be good to read around Thanksgiving or with a kindergarten class learning about kindness.

Shelf Awareness for Readers "Great Reads - Check Out These Fantastic Moms for Mother's Day"

Balla's sweet illustrations depict Grace's stories as *The Thank You Dish* shines a light on all the beautiful things that come together to create the ordinary.

This Is Not a Math Book

by Anna Weltman

Good Reads with Ronna

Kudos to Weltman for coming up with this unique, hands-on math/drawing activity book that is sure to be a hit with children and parents alike.

This is Not Another Math Book

by Anna Weltman

Publishers Weekly

...Weltman's projects ably demonstrate how creative mathematics can be.

Tom and Tallulah and the Witches' Feast

by Vivian French, illustrated by Marta Kissi

Mom Read It

Tom and Tallulah are a smart sibling team that work together to get the job done. Tallulah stubbornly tries to do it all on her own, but she has to grow up enough to understand reason and admit her weaknesses. We've got villains with ulterior motives, talking animals, and a loving grandmother that needs saving; all good story elements that come together to give readers a magical adventure. Black and white illustrations throughout bring the text to life and create a relationship between readers and characters.

Booklist Online Exclusive

Black-and-white spot art interspersed throughout the text illustrate Tallulah and Tom's misadventures and add levity to this charming magical story of teamwork and sibling love.



Too Many Questions!

by Kathryn Dennis

NC Teacher Stuff

Kathryn Dennis ... writes a clever tale with a surprise ending in a very short text. This is probably one of the most difficult tasks you can give a writer. ...a very entertaining book.

School Library Journal, Picture Books Xpress Review

A fun offering to share with curious children, and an appropriate title for library tours.

Too Many Tomatoes

by Eric Ode, illustrated by Kent Culotta

Jama's Alphabet Soup

Ode's pitch perfect toe-tapping rhymes and Culotta's exuberant illustrations invite the reader to jump right in and join all the fun. The boy's enthusiasm is positively contagious ... I love how this story is infused with the warmth of family and community, how a seed of good intentions blossoms into gestures of outreach and interaction. All kinds of people were able to enjoy the tomatoes in their own distinctive ways.

NC Teacher Stuff

...an enjoyable read aloud in your classroom. With the rhymes, you can touch on phonemic awareness. Too Many Tomatoes is also full of rich parts of speech. Vivid verbs and abundant adjectives will invigorate the pencils of young writers. If you have a plant and/or foods unit, this book needs to be a part of it.

Midwest Book Review

The simple yet charming color artwork adds just the right touch to this exuberantly playful storybook.

School Library Journal

Simple rhyming couplets flow nicely throughout. Bright, upbeat and cheerful spreads celebrate life and its bounty. VERDICT A fun-filled tale about family and gardening, recommended for storytime and gardening units.

The Pirate Tree

Through lively text and engaging illustrations readers will not only laugh at this preposterous dilemma, but will learn how gardening often results in generosity and sharing bounty with others. Primary teachers and librarians will find the book the perfect springboard to introduce a unit on plants or communities as well as encouraging the value of sharing.

Meridian Magazine

What he does with all these plump vegetables will inspire more of us to share our abundant gardens as well. The illustrations fill each page with color and the text rhymes making this a

.....

terrific read-out-loud.

Uncle Shawn and Bill and the Almost Entirely Unplanned Adventure

by A. L. Kennedy, illustrated by Gemma Correll

Literacy Daily "Meet Some Memorable Characters"

Correll's clever black-and-white cartoons add to the fun of reading this laugh-out-loud story.

Booklist Online Exclusive

Kennedy's madcap yarn has something of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* about it.

Correll's frequent cartoon line drawings showcase many of the story's absurdities, giving them hilarious labels and captions to boot. Vaguely sinister and overtly ridiculous, it's a riot of a read for those looking for an off-kilter adventure.

Mom Read It

This book is bananas, and I mean that in the most loving sense of the word. ... Black and white cartoons throughout the book add to the laughs. ... Give this to your Roald Dahl and David Walliams fans and expand their global literary palate!

New York Times Book Review, "Turning Myths and Fairy Tales on Their Heads"

Oh, how odd and wonderful children will love a perfectly odd and wonderful little book by the acclaimed Scottish novelist A. L. Kennedy, UNCLE SHAWN AND BILL AND THE ALMOST ENTIRELY UNPLANNED ADVENTURE... The climax of escape is indeed a triumph, with the McGloones meeting an end befitting their outrageous terribleness. But the real fun here is the divinely cracked world Kennedy creates, matched nicely with Gemma Correll's very funny illustrations. ... Kennedy's ability to uncork all this cockamamie and turn it into an artful, and quite dear, breeze of a tale is a delight.

Vet Academy

by Steve Martin, illustrated by Angela Keoghan

Ithaca Child Finger Lakes Family Fun 2017 "Alexander's Library"

This hands-on "training manual" is perfect for young animal lovers who want to become veterinarians.

Publishers Weekly

With soft-spoken humor, Edwards conveys how relatable experiences connect human beings across languages and cultures while shedding light on the *whimsy* ("playfully quaint or fanciful behavior or humor") and complexity of evolving language.



What a Wonderful Word

by Nicola Edwards, illustrated by Luisa Uribe

Kirkus Reviews

A word rests prominently on the page, with some text to sketch its origins or context, while the splendid pictures depict people from around the world. ... A fine, informative read that may spur young readers to pursue more words unfamiliar to them.

Booklist

Kids who like trivia and linguistics will enjoy this unusual book.

The Pirate Tree

This book introduces readers to thirty unusual words from around the globe and proves how beautiful and rich languages can be. Edwards' text is both informative and playful and celebrates the diversity of our fascinating world. Uribe's detailed illustrations treat readers to windows into other places and people."

BookDragon

In addition to providing linguistic enlightenment, Edwards and her artistic co-hort, Luisa Uribe, personify *whimsy* (English for '[playfully quaint or fanciful behavior or humor]'). Each word is presented on a two-page spread complete with originating language, definition, and additional context, history, factoids, and all manner of tidbits to enhance your understanding. Some words are just jaw-droppingly funny: *poronkusema* – Finnish for the 'distance a reindeer can walk before needing to use the bathroom.' Some are thoroughly heart-melting: *ishq* – Arabic for a 'perfect love without jealousy or inconsistency that holds two people together.' Some are spot-on perfection: *pelinti* – Buli for '[t]o move food that is too hot around your mouth as you wait for it to cool down.'

Waking Brain Cells

The words come from all over the globe, and while some may be familiar others are entirely surprising and fascinating. Perhaps the most interesting part is how these unique words offer a glimpse into the culture they come from.

Publishers Weekly

With soft-spoken humor, Edwards conveys how relatable experiences connect human beings across languages and cultures while shedding light on the *whimsy* ("playfully quaint or fanciful behavior or humor") and complexity of evolving language.

A Field Trip Life

This book is suggested for children in grades 5-8 but I have shared it with children in early elementary grades as well as adults. This is a book for everyone who loves words and learning about other people and places. I hope there will be a sequel."



.....
Horn Book, "Language and Literature"

... unusual, untranslatable foreign words are introduced in this delightful book. Each two-page entry includes cultural background (in tiny print) and lively retro illustrations. Pronunciation guidance appended.

Wonders of Our World

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Stef Murphy

Publishers Weekly

Murphy's gentle, bright color illustrations depict ancient structures and organic marvels. Brown writes in a q&a format, hinting at the wonders to be revealed... ...invites further discovery of the monolithic constructions and remarkable vistas. Brown also reminds readers to look within their own communities: 'The world is full of small wonders too—remember to watch out for them!'

Wonders of the USA

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Bee Johnson

Booklist

...armchair travelers will glimpse sites such as Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Grand Canyon, Denali, the Everglades, Carlsbad Cavern, Yellowstone National Park, and a bald eagle. Worthwhile additions to a series that spurs curiosity.

Words of Wisdom

Inspirational Quotes

Literary Quotes

YAYOMG!

Since these are posters and not just coloring pages, the designs really pop. ... You're definitely going to want to hang these on your bedroom walls and in your locker to keep you inspired wherever you go.

What Will Danny Do Today?

by Pippa Goodhart, illustrated by Sam Usher

Kirkus Reviews

...Usher's shaggy, busy illustrations, bristling with visual foolishness and populated by a multiracial cast, are a delight.

School Library Journal

Perfect for toddlers and preschoolers who are learning to navigate the art of decision-making.



Orange Marmalade

Sam Usher has given it an immensely energetic vibe with his scribbly black line, crammed-in compositions, vibrant colors, and perspectives that plunge us right into the scenes. ... Great fun and another book that I'd guess would become a well-worn favorite for ages 18 months and up.

Wheelnuts! Rain Forest Rumble

by Knife and Packer

Kid Lit Reviews

If you love adventure, fast-paced action, goofy out-of-this-world characters and situations, and unpredictable endings, Wheelnuts is the chapter book to read.

Who's Next? Guess Who!

by Anton Poitier, illustrated by Sophia Touliatou

Publishers Weekly

Before long, the pages are crowded with Touliatou's wide-eye, goofy-looking animals, though some of them slip away, too ("Who left?" asks Poitier), adding a memory-building component to the raucous fun.

Who's Ready to Play?

by Anton Poitier, illustrated by Tracy Cottingham

Publishers Weekly

...a lively guessing game book ... It's an appealing memory exercise, and a closing "Who's who?" page identifies each animal for readers who are just encountering peacocks, chameleons, and kangaroos for the first time.

Youth Services Book Review

This is a great book for developing speech and language with toddlers and with students who are learning English.

Youth Services Book Review

I read it with a 4-year-old who was captivated to find the questionable animal to answer the question. It has the quality of a "Search Waldo type book" but involves more interaction, language, reasoning and classifications. It can be read multiple times to amuse and entertain.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

by Mem Fox, illustrated by Julie Vivas

School Library Journal

The illustrations splashy, slightly hazy watercolors in rosy pastels contrast the boy's fidgety



.....
energy with his friends' slow, careful movements and capture the story's warmth and sentiment.

The Boston Sunday Globe

A wonderful tale that celebrates both the exuberance of childhood and the dignity of old age.

KidLit

...a tremendous story of empowerment.... Setting the story in an old folks' home does much to dispel the view of these homes in a negative light.... Watercolor illustrations are softly and beautifully done.

Our Alzheimer's

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge is everything a children's book should be. It was a classic the day it was first published, and will be a classic decades from now.... The physical attractiveness, the tasty words, the rhythm and the message all make this a book every child - and adult - should read.

Reading Rockets

There's a special kind of magic in the story of friendship between a young boy (with a big name) and his 96-year old friend in *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* (Kane Miller).

If the book fits...Read it

...a fine example of the best of what Children's Literature has to offer us. Originally published in 1989, it has withstood the test of time, and will remain to delight and teach children for generations to come.

Lehigh Valley Express-Times

Tender, heartwarming and perfectly wrought in every way, it's no wonder librarians have been recommending this wonderful book for more than two decades.

The Los Angeles Times

For a topic often spoken of in euphemism, the author has displayed warmth, wit and dignity without being sappy. The spongeable cover and dreamy watercolors complement this uplifting tale.

Kristi's Book Corner

...heart warming...a beautiful story of love and respect for your elder.

scrumdilly-do!

...a tear-worthy tale of joy, wisdom and loss.

Proper Noun

...a sweet intergenerational story that you don't want to miss.



A Year in My Life

by Lucy Menzies, illustrated by Tilly

YAYOMG

...a super fun journal filled with idea starters and unique prompts for both writing and drawing that will keep you inspired all year long. ... The only rules for using this journal are to have fun, think big, and trust your ideas.

Publishers Weekly

Printed in black and gold, Tilly's quirky cartoon spot illustrations and decorative frames play into the offbeat, free-association tone struck by the questions and suggestions. ... the notebook could easily serve as a springboard for external creative projects, as well as a log of moments and ideas to revisit.

You Choose

by Pippa Goodhart, Illustrated by Nick Sharratt

Booklist

Part Where's Waldo?, part Choose Your Own Adventure, this ingenious British import offers hours of self-made, sky's-the-limit storytelling.

Education Resource Center

...a great way to introduce children to storytelling and to let their imaginations go wild.... This whimsically illustrated book will provide endless hours of story-telling, and no two stories will ever be the same!

School Library Journal

This highly entertaining book would work best for small groups or one-on-one sharing. Kids will love to return to it again and again.

Meridian Magazine

This clever book encourages speech and language development, independent thinking and decision making.

Unleashing Readers

I can't get enough of this book. It makes reading incredibly fun... ... would make wonderful texts for creative writing units and courses.