

2009 BOOKS FOR PRESCHOOL—PRIMARY

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POETRY AND RIDDLES

Agee, Jon. **ORANGUTAN TONGS: POEMS TO TANGLE YOUR TONGUE**. Hyperion.

A few dozen illustrated humorous poems that are challenging to read aloud.

Bennett, Mac. **GUESS AGAIN!** Ill. Adam Rex. Simon & Schuster.

Rhyming riddles seem like they should be obvious, but they all end with a surprise. Hysterical.

Franco, Betsy. **MESSING AROUND ON THE MONKEY BARS AND OTHER SCHOOL POEMS FOR TWO VOICES**. Ill. Jessie Hartland. Candlewick.

Nineteen poems meant to be read by two readers, set on the playground and in the classroom.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **CITY I LOVE**. Ill. Marcellus Hall. Abrams.

A collection of poems, some published previously, celebrating the energy of urban life. The illustrator has chosen to illustrate each poem in a different unidentified city as a dog with a backpack travels from place to place, beginning and ending in NYC. The map on the endpapers locates each city. Ideal for research.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, sel. **INCREDIBLE INVENTIONS**. Ill. Julia Saccone-Roach. Greenwillow.

Sixteen poems about blue jeans, roller coasters, Fig Newtons and other creations, with information about who invented them in the back matter.

Hughes, Langston. **MY PEOPLE**. Photog. Charles R. Smith. Atheneum.

Smith's gorgeous portraits in shades of brown interpret the faces and souls that Hughes celebrates in this short poem. It just doesn't get any more beautiful or moving than this. *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award*. Another beautiful Hughes poem, **THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS**, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Jump at the Sun), was a *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor*.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. **ALL THE WORLD**. Ill. Marla Frazee. Beach Lane.

Through its illustrations, this poem about the wonders of the world and how it is all around us is turned into a story. It shows all kinds of people and families enjoying their seaside community and each other through the course of a day. Readers can follow some of the people throughout the book. Cynthia Rylant's **ALL IN A DAY** (Abrams) sounds a companion theme. *Caldecott Honor*.

Schertle, Alice. **BUTTON UP!** Ill. Petra Mathers. Harcourt.

Poems about clothing told from the POV of the clothes themselves. *Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award*

Sidman, Joyce. **RED SINGS FROM TREETOPS; A YEAR IN COLORS**. Ill. Pamela Zagarenski. Houghton Mifflin.

The seasons are seen as a series of colors in these poems, with each color looking and behaving differently with each season. Whimsical mixed media illustrations. *Caldecott Honor*.

ANIMAL FANTASIES

Bauer, Marion Dane. **THE LONGEST NIGHT**. Ill. Ted Lewin. Holiday House.

On a cold, cold night in the forest, the animals argue over who is the one who can bring the sun up and end winter. Lewin used only three colors for most of the illustrations. It's impossible not to think of Jane Yolen's *Owl Moon* when sharing this very blue winter story.

Brun-Cosme, Nadine. **BIG WOLF AND LITTLE WOLF**. Ill. Olivier Tallec. Trans. Claudia Bedrick. Enchanted Lion.
Big Wolf has always lived alone under a tree at the top of a hill and isn't at all sure what to make of Little Wolf's quiet arrival. This story of a slow, cautious friendship is translated from the French. Use with other friendships-take-time books like Bonny Becker's *A Visitor for Bear* and Sandy Asher's *Too Many Frogs*. **Batchelder Honor**

Cordell, Matthew. **TROUBLE GUM**. Feiwel.

The cover, with the title in a huge bubble gum bubble, will make it easy for readers to make predictions. As Ruben teaches his young brother, Julius, about how big pigs chew gum, he breaks Mom's three gum rules. Margaret Mahy's **BUBBLE TROUBLE** (Clarion) shares the idea of floating away in a bubble, but a soap bubble.

Darbyshire, Kristen. **PUT IT ON THE LIST!** Dutton.

Who can't identify with this family of chickens who can't quite get it together to have everything they need for a meal at the same time—milk, but no cereal, pancakes, but no syrup. Perhaps diligently maintaining a shopping list will help. . .

Ericsson, Jennifer. **WHOO GOES THERE?** Ill. Bert Kitchen. Roaring Brook.

In this pattern story, an owl sits on a tree branch waiting for his dinner. Each noise he hears leads him to hope his meal is near, but he is always disappointed. Beautiful realistic paintings.

McElligott, Matthew. **THE LION'S SHARE: A TALE OF HALVING A CAKE AND EATING IT, TOO**. Walker.

When Ant is invited to the Lion King's dinner party, he is shocked by the rude behavior of the other guests. They try to make it look like Ant is unwilling to share a cake that the other animals keep cutting in half and passing on, but Ant gets the last laugh. Fractions and multiplication are used to tell this story. Use with Demi's *One Grain of Rice*.

Meschenmoser, Sebastian. **WAITING FOR WINTER**. Kane Miller.

Squirrel has never seen it snow and he is determined to stay awake—along with friends Hedgehog and Bear—to see it, though they have different ideas of what snow will look like. Rough pencil sketches give all the animals a tired, rumpled look. The punchline is on the endpapers. First published in Germany in 2007. Melanie Watt's **SCAREDY SQUIRREL AT NIGHT** (Kids Can) is also about a squirrel who wants to stay awake.

Portis, Antoinette. **A PENGUIN STORY**. HarperCollins.

A quirky story about Edna the penguin who sets off to find a color other than the white of ice, the black of night, and the blue of the sea. Surprises await.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **LITTLE OINK**. Ill. Jen Cordce. Chronicle.

Third in the series, Little Pig has problems with his parents because he wants to be neat and clean and they are trying to raise a proper, messy pig. Mo Willems' **NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED** (Hyperion) is also about a non-conformist.

Stein, David Ezra. **POUCH**. Putnam.

Kangaroo baby Joey wants to hop out and see the world but each time he does, something scares him and he hops back into Mama's pouch. Opportunities for audience participation.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **CHICKEN SOUP**. Ill. David Gavril. Abrams.

When the chickens hear Mrs. Farmer has taken out the big soup kettle, it can only mean one thing. The chickens run for their lives but poor Little Chickie, who is suffering from a cold and keeps sneezing, gives their hiding places away.

PETS

Crum, Shutta. **THUNDER BOOMER**. Ill. Carol Thompson. Clarion.

The heat of a summer day on the farm is broken when a sudden thunderstorm not only brings cooler temperatures but the discovery of a stray kitten. The front matter and endpapers show how the kitten came to arrive on the farm. Another book about an approaching storm is Nancy Tafuri's **THE BIG STORM** (Simon & Schuster)

Dennis, Brian, Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery. **NUBS: THE TRUE STORY OF A MUTT, A MARINE, AND A MIRACLE.** Little, Brown.

The true story of a Marine who befriends, against regulations, a wild dog in Iraq. When the Marine is sent elsewhere, the dog treks 70 miles through the desert to find him. Photographs.

Fraser, Mary Ann. **PET SHOP LULLABY.** Boyds Mills.

The animals in the pet shop try different techniques to get the hamster to sleep at night like they do. A simple, funny story, perfect for pre-schoolers.

Hucke, Johannes. **PIP IN THE GRAND HOTEL.** Ill. Daniel Muller. NorthSouth.

As Mary is showing her pet mouse to her friends, it escapes and runs into the fancy grand hotel where the horrified Hotel Manager joins the search. Readers can search for Pip in the detailed watercolors of the hotel's kitchen, pantry, and other hotel rooms. Another search-and-find book, though easier, is Terry Golson's **TILLIE LAYS AN EGG** (Scholastic).

Newbery, Linda. **POSY.** Ill. Catherine Rayner. Atheneum.

Two words per page describe a kitten named Posy, such as "sandwich checker, board-game wrecker." A good writing model.

Saltzberg, Barney. **GOOD EGG.** Workman.

A pull-the-tab book that features an egg obeying commands like a trained dog.

USING ONE'S IMAGINATION

Brown, Peter. **THE CURIOUS GARDEN.** Little, Brown.

A curious boy exploring the city slowly begins to develop a garden on an abandoned raised railroad track. When others see what he has done, it inspires residents to create lush gardens throughout the city. The author himself was inspired by the Highline in Manhattan, which was inspired by the Promenade Plantee in Paris. Use with books on community and social responsibility.

Fucile, Tony. **LET'S DO NOTHING.** Candlewick.

Two brothers who can't think of what to play next decide to just do nothing, but their attempts fail when Frankie's active imagination interferes. This is Fucile's first book, but his experience as a film animator can be seen.

Patricelli, Leslie. **HIGHER! HIGHER!** Candlewick.

A little girl keeps asking her father to push her higher, higher on the swing as she soars past buildings and high-fives with a swinging space girl before swinging back down to Earth again. A circular story with only a few words that pairs nicely with books like Istvan Banyai's *Zoom* and Joan Sweeney's *Me on the Map*.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **DUCK! RABBIT!** ill. Tom Lichtenheld. Chronicle.

Two off-page voices argue about that they are looking at, a duck or a rabbit. The simple line drawing of the duck/rabbit remains the same on each double-page spread while what surrounds it sometimes changes. A great surprise ending. Wonderful to teach perception and how people can experience the same thing differently. Use with *The Blind Men and the Elephant*.

Tafolla, Carmen. **WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A PALETA?** Ill. Magaly Morales. Tricycle.

A bilingual story set in the barrio that shows the popsicle truck arriving and the fun—beyond just eating one—that the children can have with a paleta. Additional information about paletas is provided. **EL BARRIO** by Debbi Chocolate (Henry Holt) also shows a vibrant Latino neighborhood.

Thomas, Jan. **CAN YOU MAKE A SCARY FACE?** Beach Lane.

A giant ladybug speaks directly to readers and involves them in a game of pretend. Perfect for preschool storytime.

Werner, Sharon and Sarah Forss. **ALPHABEASTIES AND OTHER AMAZING TYPES.** Blue Apple.

Using a wide range of fonts, animals are created from a letter of the alphabet while a single letter is used to create other objects. In addition to stretching children's imagination, they can get a good grounding in fonts with this book.

BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

Gerstein, Mordicai. **A BOOK.** Roaring Brook.

Everyone in this family, who lives in a book, knows what his or her story is except for the daughter. As she runs through the pages in search of her story she encounters characters from fairy tales, mysteries, adventure stories, historical fiction, science fiction, and even from *Alice in Wonderland*. Use with other post-modern books and when teaching creative writing.

Gravett, Emily. **SPELLS.** Simon & Schuster.

A little frog finds a book of magic spells but tears the pages into pieces to create a paper boat. When he attempts to reconstruct the pages to find a spell for becoming a prince, split pages create different combinations of spells that turn him into peculiar creatures until he finally turns into a (naked!) prince. But he is doomed because he doesn't read the fine print, found on the endpapers. . .

Lewis, J. Patrick. **SPOT THE PLOT: A RIDDLE BOOK OF BOOK RIDDLES.** Ill. Lynn Munsinger. Chronicle.

Riddles and illustrations are clues to children's books from *Cinderella* to *Click, Clack, Moo*. Two child detectives are depicted looking for clues for each verse. The answers are presented as a stack of books at the end.

Mora, Pat. **BOOK FIESTA! CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY/BOOK DAY.** Ill. Rafael Lopez. Rayo.

This bilingual book shows children reading all kinds of books in all kinds of places to celebrate Mexico's Day of the Child on April 30th. *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award*

LOOKING BACK: HISTORICAL FICTION, SORT OF

Davies, Jacqueline. **TRICKING THE TALLYMAN.** Ill. S. D. Schindler. Knopf.

Phineas, one of the first marshals to count all the people in the U. S., is thwarted in his attempts to count the residents of Turnbridge by a couple of residents who misunderstand the purpose of the census. Not realistic historical fiction, granted, but readers can still learn something from this funny tale. The endnote information about the first census and how the census has changed is fascinating. Perfect to use this year.

Pennypacker, Sara. **SPARROW GIRL.** Ill. Yoko Tanaka. Hyperion.

When the sparrows are eating so much of China's crops, it is decided to set off firecrackers and make lots of noise to scare the sparrows to death. This action has unintended consequences when the crops are then overrun with locusts, worms, and weevils. This amazing story about the balance of nature is based on China's Sparrow War of 1958 (who knew?!). Use with Mordicai Gerstein's *Sparrow Jack*.

FOLKLORE, FOLKLIKE

Aylesworth, Jim, ret. **THE MITTEN.** Ill. Barbara McClintock. Scholastic.

This retelling of the Ukranian folktale is quite different from Jan Brett's version. A pattern and repetition make for a good read-aloud or an easy reader's theater script. A recipe for hot cocoa is on the back cover.

Cousins, Lucy. **YUMMY! EIGHT FAVORITE FAIRY TALES.** Candlewick.

Short versions of familiar tales stripped to their basics are supplemented with bright primary colored illustrations that are perfect for preschoolers, though with some surprising (albeit bloodless) images.

Emberley, Rebecca and Ed Emberley. **CHICKEN LITTLE.** Roaring Brook.

In this retelling of Chicken Little, the silly creatures are only saved by dumb luck. The colorful papercut illustrations emphasize the goofiness of Chicken Little, Turkey Lurky, and pals. Valeri Gorbachev's **DRAGON IS COMING** (Houghton) is about a similar misunderstanding of impending doom.

Grey, Mini. **EGG DROP.** Knopf.

This is the story of Egg who always wanted to fly. One day he climbed to the top of a tower and jumped off—"Whee! I'm flying!" Which is how he ends up on someone's breakfast plate. This tale has a message about listening to your elders, but its wit and puns make the moral easy to take. Use with other books where a demise is met unexpectedly such as Chris Raschka's *Arlene Sardine* and Kara LaReau's *Ugly Fish*, and with the Humpty Dumpty tales like Jeanie Franz Ransom's **WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO HUMPTY?** (Charlesbridge) and Dave Horowitz's *Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again*.

Heide, Florence Parry. **PRINCESS HYACINTH, THE SURPRISING TALE OF A GIRL WHO FLOATED.** Ill. Lane Smith. Schwartz & Wade.

Princess Hyacinth's problem is that unless she wears a very heavy crown and clothes with weights sewn into the hems, she'll float away. Another book about a princess and her clothes is Margery Cuyler's **PRINCESS BESS GETS DRESSED** (Simon & Schuster), and another book about a floating-away rescue is **MOLLY WHO FLEW AWAY** by Valeri Gorbachev (Philomel).

Kajikawa, Kimiko. **TSUNAMI!** Ill. Ed Young. Philomel.

In this Japanese tale, an old man and his grandson burn their rice harvest high on a hill to warn the villagers on the beach of a coming tsunami. Illustrated with Young's mixed media collage.

Oppel, Kenneth. **THE KING'S TASTER.** Ill. Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. HarperCollins.

This is told from the pov of Max, the Chef's dog but the King's taster, who joins the Chef on his international travels to find recipes to please the unhappy little boy King, until Max solves the mystery of why the King won't eat. Another royal picky-eater is **THE DUCHESS OF WHIMSY** by Randall and Peter deSeve (Philomel).

Palatini, Margie. **LOUSY ROTTEN STINKIN' GRAPES.** Ill. Barry Moser. Simon & Schuster.

A retelling of Aesop's "The Fox and the Grapes," with Fox developing an elaborate plan to reach the grapes. Moser's realistic watercolors contrast mightily with the nonsense. Would work well as reader's theater.

Paul, Ann Whitford. **TORTUGA IN TROUBLE.** Ill. Ethan Long. Holiday House.

A Southwestern variation of "Little Red Riding Hood" stars Tortuga taking food to his abuela, but saved from the Coyote by his amigos. A glossary of Spanish words is on the copyright page.

Pinkney, Jerry. **THE LION & THE MOUSE.** Little, Brown.

This wordless retelling of the Aesop fable uses the African Serengeti as its backdrop. Interesting book design. Contrast Pinkney's full-color, detailed illustrations with the minimalist version by Ed Young. *Caldecott Medal*

ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES

Cruise, Robin. **BARTELBY SPEAKS.** Ill. Kevin Hawkes. Farrar.

Even though Bartelby is about to celebrate his 3rd birthday, his very noisy family is troubled that he still doesn't talk. This funny story makes a point about the beauty of quietness and the value of listening.

Gal, Susan. **NIGHT LIGHTS.** Knopf.

A girl and her mother bicycle home as it is getting dark and spend the night enjoying different types of light while celebrating the girl's birthday. The only words are the types of light.

- Lyon, George Ella. **YOU AND ME AND HOME SWEET HOME**. Ill. Stephanie Anderson. Atheneum.
Sharonda's and her mother's church help them build a house of their own. As Sharonda assists, readers learn about construction and safety issues. Based on the author's experience with Women Build.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **SPOON**. Ill. Scott Magoon. Hyperion.
Spoon has been feeling blue lately imagining all the fun things knife, fork and chopsticks can do that he cannot, not realizing that they envy him, too.
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **YES DAY!** Ill. Tom Lichtenheld. HarperCollins.
The endpapers show a monthly calendar filled with the many ways parents say "no," but the last day of the month is labeled "Yes Day." In the story, everything the boy asks is answered with "yes," from pizza for breakfast to "can we have a food fight?" to "does this day have to end?" Cartoon art.
- Weeks, Sarah. **SOPHIE PETERMAN TELLS THE TRUTH**. Ill. Robert Neubecker. Beach Lane.
Sophie tells the brutal truth about what it's like to have a little brother. Contrast with Diane Landolf's **WHAT A GOOD BIG BROTHER** (Random House).

INTERESTING INFORMATION

- Brown, Craig. **MULE TRAIN MAIL**. Charlesbridge.
Brown's book shows-and-tells how America's only mule train delivers mail to the Havasupai Indian Reservation at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. As the carrier descends down the Canyon, the illustrations' orientation turns from horizontal to vertical. Use with Deborah Hopkinson's fictionalized account, based on a true story, of another daring mail carrier, **STAGECOACH SAL** (Hyperion).
- Cassino, Mark and Jon Nelson. **THE STORY OF SNOW: THE SCIENCE OF WINTER'S WONDER**. Ill. Nora Aoyagi. Chronicle.
With three texts in three fonts, this book can be read at three levels of complexity to explain how snow crystals form. The actual crystal photographs make this an ideal companion for Jacqueline Briggs Martin's *Snowflake Bentley*. Ends with instructions on how to catch crystals.
- Chin, Jason. **REDWOODS**. Roaring Brook.
In this genre-bending book, an informational text about the redwoods is given a fantastical twist through the illustrations. A boy finds a book about the redwoods while taking the subway and emerges from the subway into a redwood forest.
- Deedy, Carmen Agra with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah. **14 COWS FOR AMERICA**. Ill. Thomas Gonzalez. Peachtree.
A true, deeply moving story of how a Kenyan college student in the U. S. returned to visit his Maasai community after the events of 9/11/01. His re-telling of the events of that tragic day inspire the tribesmen to present 14 cows to the people of America to show their compassion. While the symbolism may be a little hard to grasp, the gorgeous paintings—colored pencil, pastel and airbrush—are breathtaking. Another look at the Maasai can be seen in **FIRST COME THE ZEBRA** (Lee & Low), by Lynne Barasch.
- Floca, Brian. **MOONSHOT: THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11**. Atheneum.
The story of how Armstrong, Collins, and Aldrin landed on the Moon in July 1969 is explained in elegant prose that primary aged children can understand, with the artwork providing some of the emotional impact. Use with Robert Burleigh's **ONE GIANT LEAP** (Philomel), Buzz Aldrin's **LOOK TO THE STARS** (Putnam's), and Bob Crenin's **FACES OF THE MOON** (Charlesbridge). *Sibert Honor*.
- Franco, Betsy. **ZERO IS THE LEAVES ON THE TREE**. Ill. Shino Arihara. Tricycle.
The concept of "0" is explained as four children experience nature and the seasons. The illustrations have an old-fashioned, unsophisticated quality.

- Goodman, Emily. **PLANT SECRETS**. Ill. Phyllis Limbacher Tildes. Charlesbridge.
A simple text focuses on the development of a rose, oak tree, peas, and a tomato from seed to plant to flower to fruit to seed again. Use with Molly Bang's book on photosynthesis, **LIVING SUNLIGHT** (Blue Sky).
- Hatkoff, Juliana, et al. **WINTER'S TAIL: HOW ONE LITTLE DOLPHIN LEARNED TO SWIM AGAIN**. Scholastic.
How a baby Atlantic bottlenose dolphin was rescued from a trap and learned to swim again with a prosthetic tail. Photographs.
- Jocelyn, Marthe. **SAME SAME**. Ill. Tom Slaughter. Tundra.
Presents set theory to preschoolers. Simple, brightly colored illustrations.
- Markle, Sandra. **HOW MANY BABY PANDAS?** Walker.
Follows a year in the development of baby pandas at the Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Center in China. Is there anything cuter? *Orbis Pictus Honor Book*.
- McLaren, Chesley and Pamela Jaber. **WHEN ROYALS WORE RUFFLES**. Schwartz & Wade.
The alphabet and cartoon art are used to look at the history of fashion, from bustles and flappers to unmentionables.
- St. George, Judith. **ZARAFI: THE GIRAFFE WHO WALKED TO THE KING**. Ill. Britt Spencer. Philomel.
How the Viceroy of Egypt gave a giraffe to King Charles X of France, necessitating a long, strenuous journey to Paris by Zarafa and her entourage, but allowing the French to see a giraffe for the first time.
- Stewart, Melissa. **UNDER THE SNOW**. Ill. Constance R. Bergum. Peachtree.
Shows what happens under the snow to animals in fields, forests, ponds and wetlands. The watercolor illustrations and text are ideal for teaching habitats.
- Winter, Jeanette. **NASREEN'S SECRET SCHOOL: A TRUE STORY FROM AFGHANISTAN**. Beach Lane.
Told in first person in the voice of Nasreen's grandmother, readers learn how Nasreen stops speaking when her parents are taken away by the Taliban. It isn't until Nasreen starts attending a secret girls' school that she starts to come to life again. Use with books like Greg Mortenson's **LISTEN TO THE WIND** (Dial) and other books that show the struggle of obtaining an education. An Author's Note provides background information about pre-and-post Taliban education and about the dangers that still exist.

INTERESTING PEOPLE

- Bond, Rebecca. **IN THE BELLY OF AN OX: THE UNEXPECTED PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURES OF RICHARD AND CHERRY KEARTON**. Houghton Mifflin.
Picture book biography of the British Kearton brothers and the disguises they created that allowed them to photograph birds' nests and eggs, leading them to publish the first such field guide in 1895. Lovely pastoral watercolor illustrations. Ends with photographs showing them at work. Use with *Snowflake Bentley* as well as when studying birds, eggs, and nests. A new collection of bird poems is Michael J. Rosen's **THE CUCKOO'S HAIKU AND OTHER BIRDING POEMS** (Candlewick).
- Brown, Don. **TEEDIE; THE STORY OF YOUNG TEDDY ROOSEVELT**. Houghton Mifflin.
This biography emphasizes how, even though TR was smart, curious and wealthy, he had to work hard to be healthy and strong. For an older audience, see Ginger Wadsworth's **CAMPING WITH THE PRESIDENT** (Calkins Creek) about TR's outing with John Muir at Yosemite. Another book about a future President as a young man is Anne Rockwell's **BIG GEORGE: HOW A SHY BOY BECAME PRESIDENT WASHINGTON** (Harcourt).
- Brown, Monica. **PELE, KING OF SOCCER**. Ill. Rudy Gutierrez. HarperCollins.
Bi-lingual biography of the poor Brazilian boy who became the King of Soccer and popularized the sport around the world.

- Cook, Michelle. **OUR CHILDREN CAN SOAR.** Ill. Various children's book illustrators. Bloomsbury.
Illustrations by thirteen renowned African American illustrators highlight historical figures, each standing on the shoulders of a predecessor—"Rosa sat. . . so Ruby could learn." Concludes with additional information about the "pioneers of change" and the artists.
- Corey, Shana. **MERMAID QUEEN.** Ill. Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic.
Biography of Annette Kellerman, an Australian who learned to swim as a sickly child and went on to invent water ballet and the "modern" women's swimming suit in the early 1900s. Use with other books about women athletes and swimmers, such as David Adler's *America's Champion Swimmer*, *Gertrude Ederle*, and books about women's fashion mavericks such as Elizabeth Matthews' *Different Like Coco* and the author's previous *You Forgot Your Skirt*, *Amelia Bloomer*.
- Judge, Lita. **YELLOWSTONE MORAN, PAINTING THE AMERICAN WEST.** Viking.
City-slicker artist Thomas Moran joined a dangerous scientific expedition out West that included exploring Yellowstone in 1871. His paintings influenced Congress and President Grant to protect Yellowstone by making it America's first national park.
- Winter, Jonah. **YOU NEVER HEARD OF SANDY KOUFAX?** Ill. Andre Carrilho. Schwartz & Wade.
As told by an imaginary teammate, readers learn of the contributions this quiet and unpredictable baseball player made to the Dodgers. Stunning, stylized artwork with gold accents. Small boxes hold baseball statistics and historical notes. Use with other books about the Dodgers, baseball players, and the history of baseball and baseball fields. This has a "lenticular" cover.
- Yoo, Paula. **SHINING STAR: THE ANNA MAY WONG STORY.** Ill. Lin Wang. Lee & Low.
Anna May Wong was born in 1905 in Los Angeles's Chinatown and grew up to become the first Chinese American movie star, struggling with discrimination and humiliating stereotypical roles.

BEGINNING-TO-READ

- Arnold, Tedd. **I SPY FLY GUY!** Scholastic. Lexile 310
Buzz nearly loses Fly Guy forever. *Geisel Honor*
- Becker, Bonny. **A BIRTHDAY FOR BEAR.** Ill. Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick. Lexile 520
A sequel to *A Visitor for Bear* presented as a beginning-to-read book in four chapters. Bear is very busy cleaning house and attempts to rebuff every attempt by a very persistent Mouse to celebrate Bear's birthday.
- Egan, Tim. **DODSWORTH IN LONDON.** Houghton Mifflin.
Duck gets lost in London, has his identity mistaken, and ends up being a guest at Buckingham Palace.
- Hayes, Geoffrey. **BENNY AND PENNY IN THE BIG NO-NO.** Toon/Raw.
A beginning graphic novel (aka cartoon strip) in which Benny and Penny get off on the wrong foot with their new neighbor. *Geisel Award*
- Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. **ANDY SHANE AND THE BARN SALE MYSTERY.** Ill. Abby Carter. Candlewick. Lexile 540
Andy needs to find a gift for Granny Webb, but even when he finds the perfect gift other problems develop. Reminiscent of "The Gift of the Magi."

- Lasky, Kathryn. **POODLE AND HOUND**. Ill. Mitch Vane. Charlesbridge. Lexile 500
Three short stories about the friendship of Poodle and Hound who are very different from each other and who sometimes annoy each other, but who keep finding new things they enjoy about each other. Sonya Sones' **VIOLET AND WINSTON** (Dial), illustrated by Chris Raschka, is another beginning-to-read story about two loving friends who also have their disagreements.
- McMullan, Kate. **PEARL AND WAGNER: ONE FUNNY DAY**. Dial. Lexile 210
Wagner doesn't like being the butt of April Fool's Day jokes.
- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **DOG AND BEAR: THREE TO GET READY**. Roaring Brook.
Three very short stories told as dialogue between best toy friends, about a bucket, a bed, and a missing sock monkey. Third in this excellent series.
- Willems, Mo. **PIGS MAKE ME SNEEZE**. Hyperion.
When Gerald starts sneezing, he thinks he must be allergic to pigs and needs to end his friendship with Piggie. Also new to the series are **ELEPHANTS CANNOT DANCE** and **WATCH ME THROW THE BALL**. Amy Schwartz's **TINY AND HERCULES** (Roaring Brook) is a beginning-to-read book about a friendship between an elephant and a mouse.
- Yee, Wong Herbert. **MOUSE AND MOLE: FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS**. Houghton Mifflin.
Mouse and Mole solve the problem of birds flying away as they try to draw them, and combine their talents to create a book. *Geisel Honor*

NOVELS

- Barrows, Annie. **IVY + BEAN, DOOMED TO DANCE**. Ill. Sophie Blackall. Chronicle. 130p.
Sixth in the series, Ivy and Bean promise their mothers that if they can take ballet lessons, they will not quit prematurely. However, when ballet isn't what they expected, they have to come up with a plan to break their promise without it looking like they're breaking their promise.
- Becker, Bonny. **THE MAGICAL MS. PLUM**. Ill. Amy Portnoy. Knopf. 104p. Lexile 670
Whenever Ms. Plum assigns a student to retrieve something from the supply closet, the student returns with a small animal that reflects some aspect of the troubled student's personality.
- Betancourt, Jeanne. **AVA TREE AND THE WISHES THREE**. Ill. Angela Dominguez. Feiwel. 130p. Lexile 410
On her 8th birthday, Ava discovers that she has wishing power. This is a poignant story of a girl dealing with grief.
- Durand, Hallie. **DESSERT FIRST**. Atheneum. Ill. Christine Davenier. 152p. Lexile 750
Dessert is a 3rd grader whose teacher encourages the children to march to their own drummer, not realizing the trouble Dessert, with her sweet tooth, can get herself into when following such advice.
- Grimes, Nikki. **MAKE WAY FOR DYAMONDE DANIEL** (74p. Lexile 620) and **RICH** (96p.) Ill. R. Gregory Christie. Putnam.
Dyamonde is an African American 3rd grader with the confidence to form friendships with new, troubled students in her school even though she is new, too.
- Hannigan, Katherine. **EMMALINE AND THE BUNNY**. Greenwillow. 96p. Lexile 410
Emmaline lives in a town where her desire for a pet rabbit is in conflict with the rules of the Mayor, Orson Oliphant, who demands that his town be tidy, tidy, tidy. Use with *The Araboolies of Liberty Street*, by Sam Swope.
- Harper, Jessica. **UH-OH CLEO: UNDERPANTS ON MY HEAD**. Ill. Jon Berkeley. Putnam. 60p. Lexile 630
Cleo and her family get caught in a summer blizzard while hiking and resort to unusual means to stay warm.

- Look, Lenore. **ALVIN HO: ALLERGIC TO CAMPING, HIKING, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS.** Ill. LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade. 170p. Lexile 570.
Alvin, who is afraid of almost everything, is not thrilled when his father wants to take him camping. Alvin and Watt's Scaredy Squirrel could almost be best friends!
- Mills, Claudia. **HOW OLIVER OLSON CHANGED THE WORLD.** Ill. Heather Malone. Farrar. 103p. Lexile 730
Oliver's parents like to do everything for him, including his homework, but he learns to assert himself while working on a project with a classmate. One of the secondary stories is the controversy of Pluto's status as a planet.
- Schertle, Alice. **LOOK OUT, JEREMY BEAN!** Ill. David Slonin. Chronicle. 60p. Lexile 420
In these three stories, Jeremy comes up with an idea for a collection to take to school, thinks a dust bunny would make a good pet, and forgets to wear green on St. Patrick's Day.
- Tolan, Stephanie S. **WISHWORKS INC.** Ill. Amy June Bates. Levine. 146p. Lexile 680
When Max and his recently divorced mother and sister move to a new neighborhood, Max wishes for a dog to keep him company. The dog he gets, however, is nothing like the dog of his imagination or what he wished for.
- Warner, Sally. **EXCELLENT EMMA.** Ill. Jamie Harper. Viking. 130p. Lexile 890
Emma hopes to impress her divorced father, who lives in England, by winning a prize at Winter Games Day.
- Weeks, Sarah. **OGGIE COODER: PARTY ANIMAL.** Scholastic. 166p. Lexile 860
Oggie is an odd guy, no doubt about it, but he doesn't know that his classmate and neighbor, who has invited Oggie to her birthday party when forced to by her mother, is trying everything she can to sabotage his attendance at the party.