

## 2005 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Books for Preschool—Primary

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### INFORMATION

- Arnold, Katya. **ELEPHANTS CAN PAINT TOO!** Atheneum. \$16.95. 0-689-86985-1.  
Stunning side-by-side photographs show the author's students painting in Brooklyn and her elephant "students" painting in Thailand as well. Amazing.
- Collard, Sneed B. **A PLATYPUS, PROBABLY.** Ill. Andrew Plant. Charlesbridge. \$16.95. 1-57091-583-0.  
Surprising information about Australia's fascinating platypus. Sidebar information on most pages provides more detailed information. Occasionally, however, the text is difficult to see against the dark background.
- Cowley, Joy. **CHAMELEON, CHAMELEON.** Photog. Nic Bishop. Scholastic. \$16.95. 0-439-66653-8.  
Gorgeous photographs and a brief text describe a chameleon cautiously negotiating the dangerous animals of the forest. Two pages of additional information conclude the book.
- Giganti, Paul. **HOW MANY BLUE BIRDS FLEW AWAY?** Ill. Donald Crews. Greenwillow. \$15.99. 0-06-000762-1.  
A book that combines counting skills—how many flags, how many flagpoles—with subtraction skills—how many more flags than flagpoles?
- Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. **I SEE A KOOKABURRA! DISCOVERING ANIMAL HABITATS AROUND THE WORLD.** Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-50764-7.  
On double-page spreads, six habitats in different parts of the world are shown, with eight animals in each, most quite difficult to find. The animals are shown more fully following each habitat, and additional information about them can be found in the back of the book. Illustrated in Jenkins' trademark paper collages.
- Jenkins, Steve. **PREHISTORIC ACTUAL SIZE.** Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-53578-0.  
Similar to his award winning *Actual Size*, only with paper collages of prehistoric animals. If only these books could hold up better to library use.
- Kerley, Barbara. **YOU AND ME TOGETHER: MOMS, DADS, AND KIDS AROUND THE WORLD.** National Geographic. \$16.95. 0-7922-8297-3.  
Beautiful color photographs that show parents and children around the world. The book ends with the settings of the photographs identified and with a heartfelt essay by Marian Wright Edelman on how we need to do a better job of caring for the world's children. A companion to Kerley's *A Cool Drink of Water*.
- Kudlinski, Kathleen V. **BOY, WERE WE WRONG ABOUT DINOSAURS.** Ill. S. D. Schindler. Dutton. \$15.99. 0-525-46978-8.  
Excellent discussion of what we thought we knew about dinosaurs over the years, and how what we know has changed—and continues to change—as new scientific information is unearthed.
- Markle, Sandra. **A MOTHER'S JOURNEY.** Ill. Alan Marks. Charlesbridge. \$15.95. 1-57091-621-7.  
Yet another amazing picture book about the emperor penguins and their breeding ground, but this one focuses on what happens to the mother after the egg is actually laid. Watercolor and ink paintings.

- McNulty, Faith. **IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MOON**. Ill. Steven Kellogg. Scholastic. \$16.99. 0-590-48359-5.  
What it would be like to go to the moon, walk on it, and come back to earth again. Since the text is told in second person, the reader feels very involved, and the text relates experiences and concepts to what a child would understand. Kellogg's mixed media illustrations are some of his best.
- Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. **AND TANGO MAKES THREE**. Ill. Henry Cole. Simon & Schuster. \$14.95. 0-689-87845-1.  
The story of how two male penguins in New York's Central Park Zoo adopted, hatched, and raised a chick, named "Tango" by the zoo-keeper. Since the Author's Note states that "all of the events in this story are true," it is a mystery why the Library of Congress put it in "E."
- Sayre, April Pulley. **STARS BENEATH YOUR BED: THE SURPRISING STORY OF DUST**. Ill. Ann Jonas. Greenwillow. \$15.99. 0-06-057188-8.  
Who knew dust could be so interesting, or that it can last for hundreds of thousands of years? Jonas's watercolors are ideal for this short, poetic text. An additional note explains how dust helps create beautiful sunsets.
- Tildes, Phyllis Limbacher. **EYE GUESS: A FOLDOUT GUESSING GAME**. Charlesbridge. \$9.95. 1-57091-650-0.  
A close-up of a forest animal's eyes are shown along with a rhyming clue. When the page is folded out, the entire animal is revealed. The final double page spread shows all the animals in the forest setting.

## BIOGRAPHY

- Adler, David A. **JOE LOUIS, AMERICA'S FIGHTER**. Ill. Terry Widener. Harcourt. \$16.00. 0-15-216480-4.  
Picture book biography of the fighter who gave hope to African Americans in the 1930s, and later to all Americans when he fought the German boxing champion. Other new sports biographies are Paula Yoo's **SIXTEEN YEARS IN SIXTEEN SECONDS: THE SAMMY LEE STORY** (Lee & Low, 2005), about a Korean American Olympic swimming champion, and Jonah Winters' **ROBERTO CLEMENTE: PRIDE OF THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES** (Atheneum, 2005), about the Puerto Rican baseball player.
- Bryant, Jen. **GEORGIA'S BONES**. Ill. Bethanne Andersen. Eerdmans. \$16.00. 0-8028-5217-3.  
Quiet, lyrical language reveals how artist Georgia O'Keefe saw the world she was in. Andersen's bold images offer her own interpretations of O'Keefe's work.
- Dooling, Michael. **YOUNG THOMAS EDISON**. Holiday House. \$16.95. 0-8234-1868-5.  
Focusing on the childhood and youth of the prolific inventor, the reader gets a sense of the importance of Edison's mother to his life, and of his persistence to pursue his dream. As always, Dooling's oil paintings reflect "olden days" perfectly.
- Jurmain, Suzanne Tripp. **GEORGE DID IT**. Ill. Larry Day. Dutton. \$16.99. 0-525-47560-5.  
Even though George Washington did not want to become President, he was the "go to" person and didn't have much choice. Many interesting, little known facts about Washington and his times are in this chatty book that pairs wonderfully with Deborah Chandra's *George Washington's Teeth*.
- Reich, Susanna. **JOSÉ! BORN TO DANCE!** Ill. Raúl Colón. Simon & Schuster. \$16.95. 0-689-86576-7.  
A picture book biography of José Limón, a Mexican who came to America to pursue his dream of becoming a dancer and choreographer. Use with Veronica Chambers' **CELIA CRUZ, QUEEN OF SALSA** (Dial, 2005).

White, Linda Arms. **I COULD DO THAT! ESTHER MORRIS GETS WOMEN THE VOTE.** Ill. Nancy Carpenter. Farrar. \$16.00. 0-374-33527-3.

A highly fictionalized account of how Esther Morris and her can-do attitude, which she exhibited throughout her life, got Wyoming women the right to vote for territorial offices in 1870. She also became a judge, making her the first woman in the country to hold public office. Told in a more narrative style than Connie Woodriddle's *When Esther Morris Headed West*.

## FRIENDSHIPS

Agee, Jon. **TERRIFIC.** Hyperion. \$15.95. 0-7868-5184-8.

Eugene is the cynical, sarcastic winner of a trip to Bermuda, but when he shipwrecks on a deserted island with a talking parrot, his luck and attitude change.

Asher, Sandy. **TOO MANY FROGS.** Ill. Keith Graves. Philomel. \$15.99. 0-399-23978-2.

Rabbit is perfectly happy with his quiet, uncluttered life, ending each day with reading a story by the fire. Then Froggie appears at the door and invites himself in, not just once but night after night. Hilarious illustrations show Rabbit getting more and more frustrated. This is a terrific story of friendship, about opening one's self to change, and even a little bit about assertiveness and manners. In Suzanne Bloom's *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Honor Book* for beginning readers, **A SPLENDID FRIEND, INDEED** (Boyd's Mills, 2005), a chatty Goose can't seem to leave Bear alone.

Fleming, Candace. **SUNNY BOY! THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A TORTOISE.** Ill. Anne Wilsdorf. Farrar. \$16.00. 0-374-37297-7.

A tortoise enjoys a charmed, genteel life with various owners until he is inherited by Biff, a daredevil who goes over Niagara Falls in a barrel with the tortoise. Told in the cultured voice of Sunny Boy, this witty story concludes that a little adventure in one's life is often enough. The Author's Note tells the amazing story of a real tortoise that went over Niagara Falls in 1930.

Gorbachev, Valeri. **THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR.** Philomel. \$15.99. 0-399-23966-9.

When Goat looks out his window, he sees that Friend Pig, who has invited Goat to dinner later that day, is crying in the kitchen. A warm story of how friends will go out of their way to help each other.

Horning, Sandra. **THE GIANT HUG.** Ill. Valeri Gorbachev. Knopf. \$15.95. 0-375-82477-4.

When Owen wants to send a real hug to his granny for her birthday, he hugs Mr. Nevin behind the post office counter, who hugs the mail sorter, who hugs the mail truck driver. . . and on and on to granny. A heart-warmer, for sure, with anthropomorphic animals that could be used with an even younger audience than Michael O. Tunnels' *Mailing May* (Greenwillow, 1997) or Eileen Spinelli's *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* (Bradbury, 1991).

Ó Flatharta, Antoine. **HURRY AND THE MONARCH.** Ill. Meilo So. Knopf. \$14.95. 0-375-83003-0.

Hurry, the tortoise, has always lived in the same garden in Wichita Falls, where a monarch butterfly stops briefly on her long winter flight between Canada and Mexico.

Ogburn, Jacqueline K. **THE BAKE SHOP GHOST.** Ill. Marjorie Priceman. Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-44557-9.

The ghost of baker Cora Lee Merriweather haunting her bake shop keeps others from buying it, until new owner Annie Washington figures out why Cora Lee won't leave the shop. A surprisingly touching story.

Reynolds, Aaron. **CHICKS AND SALSA.** Ill. Paulette Bogan. Bloomsbury. \$15.95. 1-58234-972-X.

First the rooster, then the ducks, then the pigs raid the garden to make tasty southwestern cuisine, only to have the garden cleaned out by the farmer and his wife for their own tamales before the animals finish planning for their own fiesta. A clever bit of a pattern, a surprise ending, and farm animals that behave like people would make this good to use with Doreen Cronin's *Click Clack Moo*. Bonus: Recipes on the end papers and a poster under the dust jacket.

Rodman, Mary Ann. **MY BEST FRIEND**. Ill. E. B. Lewis. Viking. \$15.99. 0-670-05989-7.

Lily, a first-grader, is crushed when the girl she wants to be her best friend, Tamika, a second-grader, either ignores her or makes fun of her. Lewis's watercolors, particularly the swimming pool pictures, absolutely shimmer.

Valckx, Catharina. **LIZETTE'S GREEN SOCK**. Clarion. \$15.00. 0-618-45298-2.

Quirky little book originally published in France, in which Lizette finds one green sock outside on the ground and, while trying to find its mate, faces bullies and is helped by a creative friend and a clever mother. A simple story of friendship with simple watercolor art.

Willis, Jeanne. **TADPOLE'S PROMISE**. Ill. Tony Ross. Atheneum. \$15.95. 0-689-86524-4.

Rather than a gimmick, the vertical format is ideal for this book since the gutter separates the water, home of Tadpole, from land, home of the Caterpillar. They fall in love, and the Caterpillar makes Tadpole promise to never change. Nature being nature, the promise can't be kept, of course. But the surprise ending will either send listeners into gales of laughter or they will gasp in shock! Use with Aileen Fisher's illustrated poem about the food chain, **THE STORY GOES ON** (Roaring Brook, 2005).

Yee, Wong Herbert. **UPSTAIRS MOUSE, DOWNSTAIRS MOLE**. Houghton. \$15.00. 0-618-47313-0.

In this beginning-to-read story, new upstairs/downstairs neighbors Mouse and Mole learn how to compromise and how to be considerate of each other. In Shirley Mozelle's **THE BEAR UPSTAIRS** (Henry Holt, 2005), a nice quiet bear's life is disrupted by a noisy bear who moves in upstairs.

## USING THE IMAGINATION

Banyai, Istvan. **THE OTHER SIDE**. Chronicle. \$15.95. 0-8118-4608-3.

For those readers who like puzzling over illustrations, this wordless book shows various points of view and connections among scenes that are on "the other side." Norman Messenger's complex **IMAGINE** (Candlewick, 2005) is also full of visual puzzles.

French, Jackie. **PETE THE SHEEP-SHEEP**. Ill. Bruce Whatley. Clarion. \$14.00. 0-618-56862-X.

The Australian sheep shearers and their sheep dogs don't take kindly to the new shearer, Shaun, and his sheep sheep, Pete, who have new, creative ideas about fashionable shearing styles.

Geisert, Arthur. **LIGHTS OUT**. Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-47892-2.

In this nearly wordless book, a young piglet shows the elaborate contraption he invented to turn off the light after he has fallen asleep. Good for those science teachers who want stories portraying simple machines or inventions.

Grey, Mini. **TRACTION MAN IS HERE!** Knopf. \$15.95. 0-375-83191-6.

A boy has fun playing with his new action toy, though neither he nor Traction Man is thrilled when Granny knits Traction Man a green one-piece romper suit. Detailed pictures show a very British household and stories within the story add to the humor. Use with George O'Connor's *Kapow* and **KER-SPLASH** (Simon & Schuster, 2005).

Hicks, Barbara Jean. **JITTERBUG JAM**. Ill. Alexis Deacon. Farrar. \$16.00. 0-374-33685-7.

Published in Great Britain in 2004, the basic plot—a little monster, Bobo, is afraid of a boy he thinks lives under his bed—will sound familiar, but the illustrations are quite arresting. For other tales about fear, see Mo Willems' **LEONARDO THE TERRIBLE MONSTER** (Hyperion, 2005), about a monster that can't scare anyone and Mara Bergman's **SNIP SNAP! WHAT'S THAT?** (Greenwillow, 2005), which has an alligator creeping, creeping up the stairs.

Kasza, Keiko. **THE DOG WHO CRIED WOLF**. Putnam. \$15.99. 0-399-24247-3.

When his owner reads him a book about wolves, Mouka, a dog, runs away to live the free life of a wolf, until he is frightened by real wolves and thinks better of his decision. Predictable to a point, but a twist at the end.

Meade, Holly. **INSIDE, INSIDE, INSIDE.** Cavendish. \$16.95. 0-7614-5125-0.

A brother and sister play a game where they put a marble inside a salt shaker, which they put inside a cereal box, leading to, eventually, their need to draw a picture of the universe. What makes this story special is the design. It's told in dialogue, with the words the children speak matching the color of their pajamas.

O'Malley, Kevin. **ONCE UPON A COOL MOTORCYCLE DUDE.** Ill. Carol Heyer and Scott Goto. Walker. \$16.95. 0-8027-8947-1.

A boy and girl share the story they wrote together, with the girl starting her part of the tale with a story about a fairy princess and the boy taking over with his addition of a motorcycle dude. The book is all dialogue, cartoon style, with three different illustrators—O'Malley illustrates the two children, while Heyer illustrates the fairy tale and Goto the motorcycle story. Teachers and librarians will find many ways to use this book.

Polacco, Patricia. **EMMA KATE.** Philomel. \$16.99. 0-399-2442-2. \$16.99.

In this tale about an imaginary friend, the reader obviously assumes that the girl's imaginary friend is Emma Kate, the Elephant. It isn't until the end that we discover that it is the girl who is the imaginary friend. Wonderful use of a red and blue print for the girl's dress and the Elephant's coverlet in this otherwise mostly black-and-white book. For a more traditional imaginary friend story, see Eric Rohmann's **CLARA AND ASHA** (Roaring Brook, 2005), about a girl and a giant fish.

San Souci, Daniel. **SPACE STATION MARS.** Tricycle Press. \$15.95. 1-58246-142-2.

One in a series of Clubhouse Books, based on Daniel and brother Robert's childhood and neighborhood. In this book, the friends hope to find a flying saucer and meet aliens. A celebration of unstructured, imaginative playtime.

Stevens, Janet and Susan Stevens Crummel. **THE GREAT FUZZ FRENZY.** Harcourt. \$17.00. 0-15-204626-7.

When a green fuzzy tennis ball bounces down a prairie-dog hole, the once cooperative community begins to fight over the fuzz and chaos reigns. Gatefolds and an occasional vertical orientation add to the humor of the story.

## FAMILIES

Best, Cari. **ARE YOU GOING TO BE GOOD?** Ill. G. Brian Karas. Farrar. \$16.00. 0-374-30394-0.

Robert is excited about attending his first nighttime party for his great-grandmother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Even with dozens of warnings about how to behave, he can't help from cutting loose when the music starts—and neither can the Guest of Honor.

Graham, Bob. **OSCAR'S HALF BIRTHDAY.** Candlewick. \$16.99. 0-7636-2699-6.

An urban family walks to Bellevue Hill to picnic and celebrate baby Oscar's half-birthday, an event in which fellow picnickers join in. A loving, bi-racial family is shown in the illustrations.

Griessman, Annette. **THE FIRE.** Ill. Leonid Gore. Putnam. \$16.99. 0-399-24019-5.

Maria, her mother and little brother, Pepito, realize how lucky they are even though they lose their house and possessions in a fire. Could be used with Jane Kurtz's *River Friendly*, *River Wild*, Vera Williams' *A Chair for my Mother*, or with Jean Gralley's *The Moon Came Down on Milk Street*, which shows a community coming together after a disaster.

Jenkins, Emily. **THAT NEW ANIMAL.** Ill. Pierre Pratt. Farrar. \$16.00. 0-374-374430-0.

Two dogs, FudgeFudge and Marshmallow, are not crazy about the new animal, a baby, that joins their household. Even when you think you've reached the end, remember to turn to the final page. Another new book on a similar theme is Yelena Romanova's **THE PERFECT FRIEND** (Farrar, 2005).

Juster, Norton. **THE HELLO, GOODBYE WINDOW**. Ill. Chris Raschka. Hyperion. \$15.95. 0-7868-0914-0.  
A little girl tells how much she enjoys visiting and staying with her grandparents, and all the wonderful times they have at or near the kitchen window. Raschka's childlike illustrations portray a bi-racial, loving family, using mixed media against a bright white background. *Caldecott Medal*.

Pham, Le Uyen. **BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER**. Hyperion. \$15.99. 0-786-85182-1.  
The little sister contrasts how different her life is from that of her big sister's, but how they learn from each other. The cartoon art, with only a few colors on a matte paper, is done with a Japanese brush pen and ink, with the color added digitally. For another story about sisters, with a very bossy older sister, see Margot Zemach's **EATING UP GLADYS** (Scholastic, 2005). For a story about brothers, see Miriam Cohen's **MY BIG BROTHER** (Star Bright, 2005), in which a boy talks about his older brother, who has recently joined the Army.

Waddell, Martin. **SLEEP TIGHT, LITTLE BEAR**. Ill. Barbara Firth. Candlewick. \$15.99. 0-7636-2439-X.  
Little Bear decides to spend the night alone in a little cave he made for himself, then decides Big Bear would be too lonely without him. Another successful bedtime story in the Little Bear series.

## HISTORICAL FICTION

Armstrong, Jennifer. **MAGNUS AND THE FIRE**. Ill. Owen Smith. Simon & Schuster. \$15.95. 0-689-83922-7.  
Magnus, the mighty fire horse who has pulled the steam pumper for years, is put out to pasture when a new motorized fire truck is brought to the firehouse. Use with *Fireboat*, another book about an out-dated rescue vehicle that serves an important function when new technology can't do the job.

Birtha, Becky. **GRANDMAMA'S PRIDE**. Ill. Colin Bootman. Albert Whitman. \$16.95. 0-8075-3028-X.  
Two African American sisters travel south to visit their grandmother in 1956 and experience not only segregation but their grandmama's pride, which motivates her to walk rather than ride at the back of a bus. The details in the watercolor paintings help capture the time period.

Ormerod, Jan. **LIZZIE NONSENSE: A STORY OF PIONEER DAYS**. Clarion. \$15.00. 0-618-57493-X.  
Set in the Australian bush, Lizzie, Mama and the baby are left to fend for themselves when Papa is away for several weeks. Pair with other books about women on the prairie, such as Deborah Hopkinson's *A Packet of Seeds* and Eve Bunting's *Dandelions*.

Priceman, Marjorie. **HOT AIR: THE (MOSTLY) TRUE STORY OF THE FIRST HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE**. Atheneum. \$16.95. 0-689-82642-7.  
On September 19, 1783, thousands of people are at the Palace of Versailles outside Paris to watch the first hot air balloon ascension. The bulk of the story is wordless, focusing on the panicky expressions on the faces of the balloon passengers, a duck, sheep, and rooster. *Caldecott Honor*.

Raven, Margo Theis. **LET THEM PLAY**. Ill. Chris Ellison. Sleeping Bear. \$16.95. 1-58536-260-3.  
The story of how an African American Little League team in South Carolina in 1955 was discriminated against in the South and not allowed to play in the League's world series in Pennsylvania. The less than straightforward telling of this event will probably require some background building and clarification as the story unfolds. Interesting and helpful Epilogue.

## FOLKLORE, FOLKLIKE

Hoberman, Mary Ann. **YOU READ TO ME, I'LL READ TO YOU: VERY SHORT MOTHER GOOSE TALES TO READ TOGETHER**. Ill. Michael Emberley. Little Brown. \$16.99. 0-316-14431-2.  
Third in the series of fractured tales with color coded lines to help determine who reads what.

- Johnson-Davies, Denys, ret. **GOHA THE WISE FOOL**. Ill. Hany El Saed Ahmed and Hag Hamdy Mohamed Fattouh. Philomel. \$16.99. 0-399-24222-8.  
Fifteen short tales feature the Middle Eastern wise-fool, Goha. The illustrations are hand sewn khiyamiyas by two Cairo men who work in a market once known for its tent makers. Simms Taback's **KIBITZERS AND FOOLS; TALES MY ZAYDA TOLD ME** (Viking, 2005) has thirteen brief Jewish tales that each end with a moral.
- Kloske, Geoffrey. **ONCE UPON A TIME, THE END (ASLEEP IN 60 SECONDS)**. Ill. Barry Blitt. Atheneum. \$15.95. 0-689-86619-4.  
A dad, frustrated this his child won't fall asleep, reduces folktales to their bare essentials.
- McKissack, Patricia C. and Onawumi Jean Moss. **PRECIOUS AND THE BOO HAG**. Ill. Kyrsten Brooker. Atheneum. \$16.95. 0-689-85194-4.  
When sick Precious is left home alone while her family goes to work, her mother and brother warn her not to let anyone in, especially the shape-shifting Boo Hag. This is a not-too-scary tale that's good to use with other knock-at-the-door stories. Many of the collage and oil illustrations are framed so the reader is looking inside a window, just as the Boo Hag is.
- Meddaugh, Susan. **THE WITCH'S WALKING STICK**. Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-52948-9.  
A witch thinks she has tricked a girl into finding her magic stick, which has been taken by a dog, but the girl ends up tricking the witch.
- Muth, Jon J. **ZEN SHORTS**. Scholastic. \$16.95. 0-439-33911-1.  
Three siblings meet their new neighbor, a Zen practicing panda, Stillwater, who shares a story with each of them. The main story is illustrated with Muth's beautiful watercolors, while Stillwater's "shorts" are illustrated in black ink. An Author's Note provides information about the practice of Zen and the background of these stories. *Caldecott Honor*.
- Palatini, Margie. **THE THREE SILLY BILLIES**. Ill. Barry Moser. Simon & Schuster. \$15.95. 0-689-85862-0.  
The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack pool their resources so they can pay the Troll's toll and get over the bridge. This book is full of puns.

## POETRY AND LANGUAGE PLAY

- Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. **NOBODY'S DIGGIER THAN A DOG**. Ill. Beppe Giacobbe. Hyperion. \$15.99. 0-786-81824-7.  
While having fun with language to describe the characteristics of dogs, the illustrations also show another story, a dog chasing a cat while being chased by the dogcatcher. Companion book to *Nobody's Nosier Than a Cat*. Another lost dog is found in Carol Foskett's nostalgic story in rhyme, **THE MILKMAN** (Dutton, 2005).
- Beaumont, Karen. **I AIN'T GONNA PAINT NO MORE!** Ill. David Catrow. Harcourt. \$16.00. 0-15-202488-3.  
This is a funny, bouncy rhyming story that invites children to participate not only in the verse, but in anticipating what's going to happen next. Exuberant, black and white ink drawings splashed with color support this perfect read-aloud.
- George, Kristine O'Connell. **FOLD ME A POEM**. Ill. Lauren Stringer. Harcourt. \$16.00. 0-15-202501-4.  
These animal poems are about, and show, a child making origami animals. An author's note includes websites and books about origami.
- Hines, Anna Grossnickle. **WINTER LIGHTS: A SEASON IN POEMS AND QUILTS**. Greenwillow. \$16.99. 0-06-00817-2.  
Seasonal and holiday poems are illustrated with Hines' stunning quilts. A companion to her *Pieces: A Year in Poems and Quilts*.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **WALTER WAS WORRIED**. Roaring Brook. \$15.95. 1-59643-068-0.

Clever story in which various characters show their emotions, expressed through alliteration, as a storm gathers and then ends. The children's faces are made with alphabet letters.

Sweet, Melissa. **CARMINE, A LITTLE MORE RED**. Houghton. \$16.00. 0-618-38794-3.

A Red Riding Hood parody where Carmine, on her way to Granny's house to eat alphabet soup, dilly dallies while painting pictures in the woods. This is also a story that introduces, in alphabetical order, some fun words and uses them in sentences, such as "nincompoop," "pluck," and "voila."

## BEGINNING READERS

Arnold, Tedd. **HI! FLY GUY**. Scholastic. \$5.99. 0-439-63903-4.

A boy, Buzz, makes a pet out of a fly. *Geisel Honor Book*.

DiCamillo, Kate. **MERCY WATSON TO THE RESCUE**. Ill. Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick. \$12.99. 0-763-62270-2. 69p.

The first in a new series about Mr. and Mrs. Watson, their buttered-toast loving pet house pig, Mercy, and their elderly neighbors, the Lincoln sisters.

Rylant, Cynthia. **HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE GREAT GRANDPAS**. Ill. Suçie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster. \$14.95. 0-689-81170-5.

Henry and Mudge have fun visiting Great-Grandpa Bill and a house full of other active grandpas. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award* winner for the most distinguished beginning reader.

Silverman, Erica. **COWGIRL KATE AND COCOA**. Ill. Betsy Lewin. Harcourt. \$15.00. 0-15-202124-8.

The adventures of Cowgirl Kate and her talking, hungry horse, Cocoa. *Geisel Honor Book*.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **AMANDA PIG AND THE REALLY HOT DAY**. Ill. Ann Schweninger. Dial. \$14.99. 0-8037-2887-5.

Amanda and her friends try to beat the heat. *Geisel Honor Book*.

## TRANSITIONAL READERS

Cox, Judy. **CRAZY EDDIE AND THE SCIENCE PROJECT OF DOOM**. Ill. Blanche Sims. Holiday House. \$15.95. 0-8234-1931-2. 88p.

When Matt and his best friend, Eddie, have a fight, their science project—an erupting volcano—seems doomed to failure.

Edwards, Michelle. **STINKY STERN FOREVER (A JACKSON FRIENDS BOOK)**. Harcourt. \$14.00. 0-15-216389-1. 50 p.

Pa Lia and her classmates have to deal with the death, on school grounds, of the class bully. Winner of the 2006 *Gryphon Award* for transitional reading from the Center for Children's Books, University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. **MICHAEL ROSEN'S SAD BOOK** (Candlewick, 2005) is also a profound recognition of the pain of loss.

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. **ANDY SHANE AND THE VERY BOSSY DOLORES STARBUCKLE**. Ill. Abby Carter. Candlewick. \$13.99. 0-763-61940-X. 56p.

Andy has a hard time at school with Dolores Starbuckle always bossing him and others around, but a technique he learns from his grandmother leads him to believe there's a chance they might even become friends.

Napoli, Donna Jo and Robert Furrow. **SLY THE SLEUTH AND THE PET MYSTERIES**. Ill. Heather Maione. Dial. \$15.99. 0-8037-2993-6. 92p.

The authors of this new series are a mother-and-son writing team. Sylvia (aka Sly) solves three neighborhood mysteries, involving a fat cat, angry fish, and leaping frogs.

Rodowsky, Colby. **THE NEXT-DOOR DOGS**. Ill. Amy June Bates. Farrar. \$15.00. 0-374-36410-9. 104p.

Sara is afraid of dogs, but when she gets a fun new neighbor, Ms. Harrington, with two big dogs, an emergency forces Sara to overcome her fears.

Seuling, Barbara. **ROBERT FINDS A WAY**. Ill. Paul Brewer. Cricket. \$15.95. 0-8126-2734-2. 150p.

Robert has a very, very bad day in this eighth book in the series.

Warner, Sally. **ONLY EMMA**. Ill. Jamie Harper. Viking. \$14.99. 0-670-05979-X. 116p.

Eight-year-old Emma, an only child living with her divorced mother, has a difficult time, at first, adjusting to having a 4 year-old boy staying with them for a week, while also coping with her volatile best friend. Followed by **NOT-SO-WEIRD EMMA** (Viking, 2005).

Wojciechowski, Susan. **BEANY AND THE MEANY**. Ill. Susanna Natti. Candlewick. \$15.99. 0-763-62630-9. 104p.

When Beany's best friend chooses a new classmate as her partner for her science fair project, Beany is stuck with Kevin, the class bully and a science nerd.

## HOLIDAYS

Duval, Kathy. **THE THREE BEARS' CHRISTMAS**. Ill. Paul Meisel. Holiday House. \$16.95. 0-8234-1871-5.

The Three Bears go for a walk while waiting for their gingerbread to cool, but when they return, they find they had a visitor. Marla Frazee's **SANTA CLAUS, THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE TOY EXPERT** (Harcourt, 2005) is another fun Santa story—pay attention to Santa's shorts.

Grambling, Lois G. **T. REX TRICK-OR-TREATS**. Ill. Jack E. Davis. HarperCollins. \$12.99. 0-060050252-5.

T. Rex can't decide on a scary outfit to wear trick-or-treating with his dinosaur friends.

Palatini, Margie. **THREE FRENCH HENS**. Ill. Richard Egielski. Hyperion. \$15.99. 0-786-85167-8.

When three French hens meant for a Parisian mademoiselle's true love are misdirected to America, they end up in the impoverished home of Phil Fox. He, of course, plots to eat them while Colette, Poulette, and Fifi perform miracles in decorating, cooking, and personal hygiene. Hysterical holiday fun, a treat to read aloud.