



Suggested Reading

1st to 2nd Grade

Grades on the threshold of 2nd grade, children possess a burgeoning love of story, an interest cultivated in part by rich Main Lesson content and also by caregivers sharing a love of reading and storytelling at home. This summer, whether read-aloud or read-alone moments are offered as quick intakes of breath in the middle of the day or as restful unfoldings at night before bed, the grade-school library would like to suggest books honoring a variety of interests.

First on the list are the Fairy and Folk Tales, followed by the Alphabet Books; while traditional in scope, they build on the 1st grader's recent acquisition of letters and their sounds—even proficient readers can revisit these. Next are Children's Poems to reinforce sensitivity to word play, prose rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration. Earliest Readers, with simple language, predictable plots, and supportive illustration come next and include the HarperCollins I-Can-Read Series and its literary cousins, such as Candlewick Sparks.

Children can then advance to Early Chapter Books (look for series such as Stepping Stones, Puffin Chapters, Harper Trophy), often housed on a separate carousel from older fiction. The summer reading list then expands to include Picture Books and Read-Aloud chapter-books, both Classic and Contemporary, of animals, adventure, friendship, fantasy, and family life. By no means inclusive, this list can guide you to the kinds of books housed in our Grade School Library, which children can check out during their first recess library visits next spring. Do visit the Rudolf Steiner Bookstore website for literature closely linked to the Waldorf pedagogy.

2017 Award-Winning Picture Books

- **Alfie: (The Turtle that Disappeared)**, by Thyra Heder (2017). Nia loves Alfie, her pet turtle. But he's not very soft, he doesn't do tricks, and he's pretty quiet. Sometimes she forgets he's even there! That is until the night before Nia's seventh birthday, when nAlfie disappears! Then, in an innovative switch in point of view, we hear Alfie's side of the story. He didn't leave Nia—he's actually searching for the perfect birthday present for his dear friend. Can he find a gift and make it back in time for the big birthday party?



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- **All Around Us**, by Xelena González (2017). Grandpa says circles are all around us. He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come. "Can you see? That's only half of the circle. That rest of it is down below, in the earth." He and his granddaughter meditate on gardens and seeds, on circles seen and unseen, inside and outside us, on where our bodies come from and where they return to. They share and create family traditions in this stunning exploration of the cycles of life and nature.
- **All the Way to Havana**, by Margarita Engle (2017). So we purr, cara cara, and we glide, taka taka, and we zoom, zoom, ZOOM! Together, a boy and his parents drive to the city of Havana, Cuba, in their old family car. Along the way, they experience the sights and sounds of the streets—neighbors talking, musicians performing, and beautiful, colorful cars putt-putting and bumpety-bumping along. In the end, though, it's their old car, Cara Cara, that the boy loves best. A joyful celebration of the Cuban people and their resourceful innovation.
- **The Book of Mistakes**, by Corinna Luyken (2017). As one artist incorporates accidental splotches, spots, and misshapen things into her art, she transforms her piece in quirky and unexpected ways, taking readers on a journey through her process. Told in minimal, playful text, this story shows readers that even the biggest "mistakes" can be the source of the brightest ideas—and that, at the end of the day, we are all works in progress, too.
- **Frida Kahlo and her Animalitos**, by Monica Brown (2017). Brown's story recounts Frida's beloved pets—two monkeys, a parrot, three dogs, two turkeys, an eagle, a black cat, and a fawn—and playfully considers how Frida embodied many wonderful characteristics of each animal.
- **Goodnight, Planet**, by Liniers (2017). When you go off to sleep, your toys go out to play! After a long day of jumping in leaves and reading her favorite books, this little girl is wornout, but her favorite stuffed animal, Planet, is just getting started. Planet befriends a dog, gobbles a cookie, and takes a leap into the unknown. This tender, gorgeous tale by the internationally renowned cartoonist



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Liniers will reveal to early readers the wonders that exist at night, in secret, after they close their eyes.

- **Home in the Rain**, by Bob Graham (2017). The rain is pouring down in buckets, and Francie and her mom are on their way home from Grandma's. As the little red car pulls into a picnic area to wait out the storm, the windows fog up, and Francie spells out Dad, Mom, and Francie with her finger. But the back window is waiting for another name, that of Francie's soon-to-arrive baby sister. What should they call her? Francie and her mother ponder this as they return to the road. Later, when they stop to fill up with gas, who will notice one mother lost in thought and a small girl dancing? Once again, as only he can, Bob Graham elevates a blink-and-you'll-miss-it moment into a sublime tale full of nuance and heart.
- **Jabari Jumps**, by Gaia Cornwall (2017). Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so he's not scared at all. "Looks easy," says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back. He needs to figure out what kind of special jump to do anyway, and he should probably do some stretches before climbing up onto the diving board. In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.
- **Life on Mars**, by Jon Agee (2017). A young astronaut is absolutely sure there is life to be found on Mars. He sets off on a solitary mission, determined to prove the naysayers wrong. But when he arrives, equipped with a package of cupcakes as a gift, he sees nothing but a nearly barren planet. Finally, he spies a single flower and packs it away to take back to Earth as proof that there is indeed life on Mars. But as he settles in for the journey home, he cracks open his cupcakes—only to discover that someone has eaten them all!
- **Now**, by Antoinette Portis (2017). Follow a little girl as she takes you on a tour through all of her favorite things, from the holes she digs to the hugs she gives in



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Now, a clever and poignant picture book by award-winning artist Antoinette Portis.

- **A Perfect Day**, by Lane Smith (2017). Today is a perfect day for Cat, Dog, Chickadee, and Squirrel. Cat is lounging among the daffodils. Dog is sitting in the wading pool, deep in the cool water. Chickadee is eating fresh seed from the birdfeeder. Squirrel is munching on his very own corn cob. Today is a perfect day in Bert's backyard. Until Bear comes along, that is. Bear crushes the daffodils, drinks the pool water, and happily gobbles up the birdseed and corn cob. Today was a perfect day for Cat, Dog, Chickadee, and Squirrel. Now, it's just a perfect day for Bear. Lane Smith uses perfect pacing and vibrant illustrations to emphasize the power of perspective in this hilarious picture book about the goings-on in Bert's backyard.
- **Windows**, by Julia Denos (2017). Walking his dog at dusk, one boy catches glimpses of the lives around him in this lovely ode to autumn evenings, exploring your neighborhood, and coming home.

Read-Aloud Folk- and Fairy-Tale Anthologies

Reading from a good collection of Grimms, Hans Christian Anderson Fairy Tales, or Russian Fairy Tales might make one book last the summer! The children will be hearing stories from Native American and African cultures next year.

- **The Seven Year Wonder Book** by Isabel Wyatt (1949). Here, in a Waldorf favorite, *Stories, We* follow the adventures of Emily, a child in her 7th year.
- **The Complete Brambly Hedge** by Jill Barklem. Eight favorite tales come together in this single volume celebrating the lives of mice during the four seasons and also by the sea, in the High Hills, and harboring a precious secret.
- **A Coat for the Moon and Other Jewish Tales** retold by Howard Schwartz (1999). Fifteen folk tales culled from Europe and the Middle East grace the pages of this work drawing on traditional lore, such as "The Fisherman and the Silver Fish" and "Queen of the Sea."



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- **James Herriot's Treasury for Children.** Farmyard life in Yorkshire, England, through the eyes of a beloved vet, is beautifully recorded in eight stories the author wrote specifically for a young audience.
- **Japanese Children's Favorite Stories** by Florence Sakade (1958) include classical tales, such as "The Toothpick Warriors," "The Little Peach Boy," "Silly Saburo," and "The Rabbit Who Crossed the Sea."
- **Nursery Tales Around the World**, selected and retold by Judy Sierra (1996). Divided into thematic sections—"Runaway Cookies," "Incredible Appetites," "The Victory of the Smallest," etc., this work mines its stories from cultures as diverse as England, the Cherokee Nation, the Philippines, Italy, and Jamaica.
- **Old Peter's Russian Tales**, by Arthur Ransome (2007). Ransome says in a note at the beginning that the stories in this book are those that Russian peasants tell their children and each other. It was written for English children who play in deep lanes with wild roses above them in the high hedges, or by the small singing becks that dance down the grey fells at home. The tales include "Baba Yaga," the story of the famous witch who lived in a house that walked on chicken feet. Ransome says in his autobiography that the English listeners know nothing of the world that in Russia listeners and storytellers take for granted. So rather than direct translation he read all the variants of the story and rewrote them with Old Peter, Vanya and Maroosia rather than the Ogre, the Elf and the Imp.
- **Granny's Wonderful Chair**, by Frances Browne (1924). Seven fairy tales, set in an interesting framework in which are related the adventures of the little girl Snowflower and her magical chair at the court of King Winwealth. When Snowflower, from her nook in the kitchen, said, "Chair of my grandmother, take me to the highest banquet hall," "instantly the chair marched in a grave and courtly fashion out of the kitchen, up the grand staircase, and into the highest hall." There it told the following stories to the king and queen, the fair lords and ladies, the many fairies, and notable people from other lands: The Christmas Cuckoo, The Lords of the White and Gray Castles, The Greedy Shepherd, The Story of Fairyfoot, The Story of Childe Charity, Sour and Civil, and The Story of Merry mind.



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Alphabet Books

The alphabet and its sounds may be mastered by your child, but it's still fun to travel through these beautifully imagined alphabet progressions. These can all be found on Amazon.

- The Waldorf Alphabet Book, by Famke Zonneveld.
- LMNOP and All the Letters A to Z, by Arthur Schrager
- The Wise Enchanter: A Journey Through the Alphabet, by Shelley Davidow
- The Alphabet: How Pine Cone and Pepper Pot learned Tom Nutcracker and June Berry

Earliest Readers

While there are many worthy reads in this genre featuring books children will want (and perhaps need) to read multiple times, choices below tend toward more traditional illustration and a gentler narrative voice. As you make your selections, try to avoid cartoon-like formats that sometimes over-simplify the beauty of nature or caricature the human form.

- **A Bargain for Frances** by Russell Hoban (1970). One of literature's favorite badgers has her heart thumped when a "friend" tricks her into an unfair exchange; how to stand up for herself? (Other Frances books are Bread and Jam for Frances and A Birthday for Frances. Also read Hoban's Arthur Series celebrating the shenanigans of a lively chimp.)
- **Cork & Fuzz: Short and Tall** by Dori Carconas and illustrated by Lisa McCue (1997). Cork is a short muskrat and Fuzz, a tall possum. So, if Cork is older, shouldn't he be taller? A puzzle worth figuring out as two good friends explore their differences. (Other titles in the series: Cork and Fuzz, Cork and Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson, Cork and Fuzz: The Collectors, and Cork and Fuzz: Good Sports).
- **Daniel's Duck** by Clyde Bulla (1982). A young boy wishes to enter his wood carving in a local fair and is teased for the simplicity of his first effort, until the town's esteemed wood carver takes notice and praises his work.



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- **Frog and Toad are Friends** by Arnold Lobel (1970). From going swimming and finding buttons to writing letters and telling stories, these two animals have a rich friendship, which lets any reader know what successful friendship looks like. (Other fine series by this author include *Mouse Tales*, *Grasshopper on the Road*, and *Uncle Elephant*). Also read *George and Martha* by James Marshall.
- **Harry in Trouble** by Barbara Ann Porte (1989). When Harry loses his library card for the third time, he is truly distressed. Fortunately, caring neighbors, a father, and friends help find a solution. Series includes titles: *Harry's Dog*, *Harry's Visit*, *Harry's Pony*.
- **Houndsley and Catina** by James Howe (2006). In this tale where one is a writer and one is a cook, two friends learn when it is best to hold one's tongue and craft very carefully what needs to be said (part of a delightful series).
- **Juan Bobo: Four Folk Tales from Puerto Rico** by Carmen Bernier-Grand (1994). Humor and vivid artwork abound as Juan Bobo is put in charge of selling his mother's sugar syrup, getting water from the stream, and taking care of his family pig.
- **Little Bear Series** by Else Minarek (1957). In this popular series, a small bear enjoys his animal family and friends as they enjoy moon adventures, picnics, and traveling kisses. Also read *No Fighting, No Biting*.
- **Mooch the Messy** by Marjorie Sharmat (1976). Only for love does a very messy rat clean his hole to make his father feel welcome. Amusing and touching moments occur as this young rodent moves from personal comfort to a sense of what another might need to be happy in his presence. Also read the author's *Nate the Great* series.
- **Park Pals Adventures: Lexi's Tale** by Johanna Hurwitz (2001-). Lexi, a street-smart squirrel, is wary of humans until a homeless person shows her a kindness; the squirrel then experiences a change of heart. Others in this Central Park series include "Peewee's Tale," "Squirrel World," and "Peewee and Plush."



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- **Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea** by Cynthia Rylant (1994). In this first book of the series, Mr. Putter considers bringing a cat into his life to help him feel less lonely; illustrator Arthur Howard uses transparent watercolor, pencil, and gouache to illuminate Rylant’s gentle, socially insightful prose.
- **Penny and Her Doll** by Kevin Henkes (2013). Given a beautiful doll by her grandmother, young mouse Penny struggles to find a worthy name for her most treasured possession. Simpler, outlined artwork here reveals reverence for its subjects. (Other books in this series are Penny and Her Marble and Penny and Her Song.)
- **Prairie Friends** by Nancy Levinson (2004). For the child who seeks “a story that seems true,” Levinson tells the tale of children seeking comfort in a new setting. In this case, the new setting is the prairie of mid-19th-century Nebraska, where Betsy tries to convince new arrival, Emmeline, to love her home through the gift of a corn husk doll, a game of high- grass tag, and buffalo-berry picking.
- **Tales of Oliver Pig**, written by Jean van Leeuwen and illustrated by Arnold Lobel (1979), is part of a series including titles More Tales of Oliver Pig and Oliver, the Mighty Pig. (Other books by this author include the Amanda Pig series.)

Early Chapter Books (Under 100 pages)

Readers ready for a slightly longer tale and few illustrations will enjoy these stories celebrating friendship, magic, adventure, and more. Partner reading—where a parent reads one paragraph and the child, the next—can be a fun way for both to engage in a new work and lead a child gently into emerging reading mastery.

- **Anna, Grandpa, and the Big Storm** by Carla Stephens, 1998, (64 pp.). Anna’s grandfather doesn’t take to city life until he can demonstrate his country skills while navigating a city storm. It’s the day of the spelling bee at her school in New York City and Anna must absolutely get there!
- **The Bears on Hemlock Mountain** by Alice Dalgleish, 1952, (64 pp.). When Jonathan’s mother says that only her sister’s pot will do for the preparation of a



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family dinner for 20, he must leave his farm chores to retrieve the pot, trusting he will meet no bears on the way.....Also read *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by the same author.

- **Cam Jansen Series** by David Adler, 1977, (58 pp.). Cam and her friend Eric solve multiple mysteries in this series featuring a girl with a big heart and a photographic memory.
- **Catwings** by Ursula LeGuin (1980s-90s). In this series, urban cats, born with wings in a city dumpster, venture into the assumed safety of the countryside. Even here, however, their bravery, resilience, and compassion are tested. What to do when confronted by a large owl? What food can they themselves forage?
- **Chang and the Bamboo Flute** by Elizabeth Starr Hill, 2002, (64 pp.). Born mute, Chang longs to train a cormorant to catch fish from his parent's houseboat on the Li River in China. A bullying neighbor, and brother of his best friend, however, plays a trick and Chang must think of a solution. (Also read Starr Hill's *Bird Boy*.)
- **Chester Cricket's Pigeon Ride** by George Selden, 1981, (illustrated by Garth Williams) (64 pp.). When Chester of Times Square begins to miss the country, a pigeon takes him on a restorative flight. Also read *Harry Kitten* and *Tucker Mouse*.
- **Daisy Dawson** by Steve Voake, 2009, (100 pp.). One day, when Daisy is late for school, an encounter with a butterfly leaves her suddenly able to communicate with animals, which proves particularly handy when she loses her best friend, Boom, to the pound. (Part of a Series.)
- **Donovan's Word Jar** by Andrew Clements, 1994, (80 pp.). When the jar Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he discovers a special means of giving his words away and receiving something wonderful in return.



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- **Encyclopedia Brown** by Donald Sobol, 1963, (96 pp.). Blessed with an incredible memory, Encyclopedia, who has his own detective agency, invites the reader to participate in solving each story's crime.
- **The Gingerbread Rabbit** by Randall Jarrell, 1964, (64 pp.). When a mother bakes a large gingerbread rabbit to give to her daughter, the rabbit jumps out into the forest, much to the mother's surprise. The rabbit is in for a surprise, too, when he visits some crafty foxes in this story that ends well for all.
- **The Hen Who Wouldn't Give Up** by Jill Tomlinson, 2004, (100 pp.). Hilda, a speckled hen, who likes corn flakes, fire engines, and exploring, is determined to visit her new cousins and weather mishaps along the way. Other books in this series: *The Otter Who Wanted to Know*, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*, *The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up*.
- **The Invisible Dog** by Dick King-Smith, 1993, (80 pp.). A young girl, whose parents are not able to afford a dog, must muster an imaginary Great Dane, Henry, to prove she can handle the job. Mystery of mysteries and a bit of luck: a dog miraculously appears. Also read *Princess Lollipop* and *A Mouse Called Wolf* by the same author.
- **The King's Equal** by Katherine Paterson, 1996, (64 pp.). When an entitled, haughty prince marries Rosamund, "his equal in many ways," he retires to the mountains to live with the goats, and there learns humility and what true beauty is....following the expected trials, which include a wolf.
- **The Lighthouse Series** by Cynthia Rylant, 2002, (64. pp.). Animals washed ashore on a remote island—a whale, a turtle, an eagle, a dog—learn to live together happily in their new setting.
- **Many Moons** by James Thurber with illustrations by Louis Slobodkin, 1973, (48 pp.). When Princess Lenore becomes ill from eating too many raspberry tarts, she believes that possessing the moon is the only thing that will cure her.



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- **My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett, 1948, (80 pp.). A young boy is determined to save a baby dragon, who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across a river on Wild Island—part of a trilogy.
- **A New Coat for Anna** by Harriet Ziefert, 1988, (40 pp.). In hard times following WWII, a mother is determined to provide a warm coat for her daughter, trading the few things she has for the services of a shearer, spinner, weaver, and tailor.
- **The Real Thief** by William Steig, 1984, (64 pp.). When Gawain the Goose is unjustly accused of stealing from his king, the real culprit is bitten by a guilty conscience.
- **The School for Cats** (and others in this series: *Jenny Goes to Sea*, *Jenny's Moonlight Adventure*, *The Hotel Cat*) by Esther Averill, 1969, (32 pp.). Reissued by the New York Children's Collection, this series celebrates the life of a black cat facing obstacles while traveling and at home in New York City.
- **Sophie's Snail** by Dick King-Smith, 1999, (96 pp.). When friendship between a young girl and her snail, begins to blossom, she decides she would like to become a farmer. (Also read *Sophie's Lucky*, *Sophie's Tom* and other books in this series).
- **Sprout Street Neighbors: Five Stories** by Anna Alter, 2015, (100 pp.). Living in the very same apartment building Henry the mouse professes a love of poetry; Violet, a love of knitting; shy Fernando the rabbit a passion for acting; Emma the bear a fondness for parties; and Wilbur the cat a talent for gardening.
- **The Stories Julian Tells** by Ann Cameron (1980). Seeing the world through a 7-year-old's eyes, with its humorous, trickster, daring perspectives is one of the delights of this book, which pairs Julian with his younger brother, Huey. Also read the author's series beginning with *Gloria Rising*.
- **Where are you Going, Baby Lincoln?** By Kate diCamillo (2017). Baby Lincoln's older sister, Eugenia, is very fond of telling Baby what to do, and Baby usually responds by saying "Yes, Sister." But one day Baby has had enough. She decides



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to depart on a Necessary Journey, even though she has never gone anywhere without Eugenia telling her what to take and where to go. And in fact Baby doesn't know where she is headed — only that she was entirely happy in the previous night's dream, sitting aboard a train with a view of shooting stars. Who might Baby meet as she strikes out on her own, and what could she discover about herself? Will her impulsive adventure take her away from Eugenia for good?

- **The White Stallion** by Elizabeth Shub, 1995, (62 pp.). When a girl falls asleep on the back of an old mare on a trip across the country, she wakes up in a herd of wild horses.

Read Aloud Classic Tales: Animals

- **Abel's Island** by William Steig (1976). A gallant mouse, attempting to rescue his wife's scarf from the winds of a passing storm, becomes stranded for a year on an island, where he must survive by his wits, rely on the wisdom of others, and overcome his loneliness. (Also read Amos and Boris.)
- **Along Came a Dog** by Meindert DeJong (1958). A friendless little red hen receives the protection of a homeless dog in this book that relates interesting details about chickens and also dogs. Better as a read-aloud for children who might be sensitive to animals suffering— all comes out well in the end.
- **A Bear Called Paddington** by Michael Bond (1958). Look for the new hardcover edition of this work about a stuffed bear from the darkest Peru, who ends up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown after having been discovered in the Paddington Train Station.
- **The Fairy Caravan** by Beatrix Potter (1929). The story of a highland terrier's miniature (and invisible to some) circus, which celebrates the author's known passion for the antics of animals and the natural world.
- **The Freddy Books** by Walter Brooks (1929). These works feature titles in which a detective pig assists others in need, often other animals. In *Freddy the Pied Piper*, for example Freddy helps a traveling circus rid its show of rats while in Freddy's



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Cousin Weedly, animals on Mr. Bean's farm prevent a house sitter from making off with a family heirloom.

- **Higglety, Pigglety, Pop!: Or, There Must be More to Life** by Maurice Sendak (1967). Jenny, a Sealyham terrier, leaves the comfort of her home to see if there is more to life and ends up as the lead performer in the World Mother Goose Theater.
- **Lassie** by Eric Knight (1938). The tale of a boy and his beloved collie, who braves a thousand miles to escape from Scotland to reunite with his owner. Look for the unabridged version or the shortened tale retold by Rosemary Wells and illustrated by Susan Jeffers.
- **Miss Hickory** by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey (1946). A doll made from an apple branch and a hickory nut must learn how to survive the rigors of a New Hampshire winter with the help of her animal friends.
- **The Mouse & the Motorcycle** by Beverly Cleary (1965). At Mountain View Inn, a boy and a mouse experience adventures together with the assistance of the boy's bright red motorcycle. Also read sequels, *Ralph S. Mouse* and *Run Away Ralph*.
- **Pinkie Pye** by Eleanor Estes (1958). Traveling with their father to study birds on Fire Island, the Pye children discover a very angry black cat on their doorstep and invite him into their family. Also read Newbery-winning *Ginger Pye*, a dog story by the same author, writer of the *Moffats*.
- **Mr. Popper's Penguins** by Richard Atwater (1938). An unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper.
- **Rabbit Hill** by Robert Lawson (1944). New folks are coming to live in the Big House and animal inhabitants wonder if they will plant a fertile garden and be good providers.



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Read Aloud Classic Tales: Fantasy & Magic

- **The Children of Green Knowe** by L.M. Boston (1955). When Tolly comes to live with his great Grandmother in an ancient manor house, he discovers and befriends three children from 17th century England. Also read other books in this series.
- **Finn Family Moomintroll** by Tov Jansson (1950). In this esteemed Finnish series, the magical Moomins gather together to locate a hobgoblin's top hat.
- **Half Magic** by Edward Eager, with illustrations by Quentin Blake (1951). Magic can be tricky if you are only granted half your wish—what might that look like, let's say, if you wanted to be invisible (also read other books in this series)?
- **The Light Princess** by George MacDonald (1864) illustrated by Maurice Sendak. When a princess is cursed at her christening by a witch, she loses her connection with gravity, later longing for what she is missing. Also read *The Golden Key*, which like the former, will have different meanings for people of different ages.
- **Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle** by Betty MacDonald (1947). Mrs. Piggle Wiggle, who lives in an upside-down house and smells like cookies, has brilliant solutions to childhood ailments that even the most intrepid and creative neighborhood parents can't seem to fix.
- **Wishworks Inc.** by Stephanie Tolan (2009). When third-grader Max is granted his hope for a dog from Wishworks, he is frustrated that the new arrival doesn't appear to match the dog he had imagined.
- **The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet** by Eleanor Cameron (1988). A mysterious man invites a boy to build a space ship and travel to Basidium to help the Mushroom people (part of a series including *Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet*).

Read-Aloud Classic Tales: Family & Friends

- **All-of-a-Kind Family** by Sydney Taylor (1951). Recounts the adventures of five young sisters—Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie—living on Manhattan's Lower East Side at the beginning of the 20th century.



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- **Betsy-Tacy Series** by Maude Lovelace (1940). Friendship begins with two girls, then expands to include three; children who like this also enjoy the more contemporary *The Cobble Street Cousins* by Cynthia Rylant.
- **The Borrowers** by Mary Norton (1953). Unfolds the adventures of a tiny family—Pod, Homily, and Arrietty—who survive by living under the floorboards and borrowing cast-offs from humans. Look for the 50th-anniversary edition featuring sepia-toned illustrations by original illustrator, Diana Stanley.
- **The Children of Noisy Village** by Astrid Lindgren (1988). The everyday life of six children on three farms is recorded in this rollicking work; also read the sequel: *Happy Times in Noisy Village*. And *Rasmus and the Vagabond* by the same author.
- **The Cottage at Bantry Bay** by Hilda van Stockum (1938). In a book settled in the old-fashioned comforts of home, the family tries to get by on just enough, set challenges for day-to-day living, and possibly even uncover a much-needed treasure.
- **The Secret Language** by Harper/Collins famed children's book editor, Ursula Nordstrom (1960). Off to boarding school at a young age, a girl finds her way into lasting friendships through a secret language.
- **Strawberry Girl** by Lois Lenski (1945—Newbery Medal). Birdie has just moved to the Florida backwoods looks forward to farming and harvesting strawberries while confronting heat, droughts, and cold snaps. Also read *Thimble Summer* by Elizabeth Enright (1939—Newbery Medal).

Read-Aloud Modern Tales: Animals

- **Gooseberry Park** by Cynthia Rylant (1998). A lovely collaboration between a well-intended Labrador retriever, a wise hermit crab, and a bat who eats Chinese food as they gather around a mother squirrel and her new babies. Also read *Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan* released this year.



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- **Pigs Might Fly** by Dick King-Smith (1980). The runt of the litter, Daggie Dagfoot, tries to escape execution by proving he is essential to the well-being of an entire farm following a disastrous flood.
- **Minnie and Moo: Hooves of Fire** by Denys Cazet (2014). A ridiculous romp centered around the First Annual Hoot, Holler, and Moo Talent Festival, has these two famous cows overseeing a judging event based on “whim.” Entries include hyenas telling jokes, a fox playing magic tricks, sheep reciting poetry, and a rooster playing bagpipes.
- **Nurk: The Strange, Surprising Adventures of a (Somewhat) Brave Shrew** by Ursula Vernon (2008). Nurk, a sort-of courageous rodent, packs up a few pairs of clean socks and sails off on an accidental voyage, guided by the wisdom found in the journal of his famously brave and fierce grandmother, Lady Surka the Warrior Shrew.
- **Thimbleberry Stories** by Cynthia Rylant (2006). Stories revolve around Nigel the Chipmunk, who lives in a quaint cottage on Thimbleberry Lane.
- **Tumtum and Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall** by Emily Bearn (2011). Comfortable, married mice, Tumtum and Nutmeg, secretly try to help a brother and sister living in a tumbledown cottage with their kind, but absent-minded father.
- **Ugly** by Donna Jo Napoli (2006). When a Tasmanian “duck” is rejected by his family (his neck is too long, he stays underwater for too many seconds), he finds solace in a blended family featuring a wallaby, maternal wombat, possum, and two wild geese.
- **Wild Times at the Bed and Biscuit** by Joan Carris (2009). Part of a series, this books celebrates the exploits of animals occupying a boarding house that has gone wild. Characters include Sir Walter (a very proper Scottie puppy), a cranky muskrat, a wounded Canada goose, and two starving but sassy fox kits.



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- **The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney (2004). A pet hamster, assigned to room 26, has a great deal to teach the students, who are discovering “that you learn a lot about yourself by studying another species.” Part of a popular series. Also read *Duck for a Day* by Meg McKinlay (2012).

Read-Aloud Modern Tales: Family & Friend

- **Fly Away** by Patricia MacLachlan (2015). All in Lucy’s family sing, even her younger brother who doesn’t speak. Lucy’s singing voice seems stuck inside her, but she must find it when North Dakota floodwaters rise and she must use a song to save her brother.
- **Gwinna** by Barbara Helen Berger (1990). Having grown wings and felt longing for freedom of the skies, Gwinna goes to the Mother of the Owls, who sends her on a mysterious quest.
- **Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World** by Mildred Pitts Walter (Winner of the 1987 Coretta Scott King Award). A boy, surrounded by women, visits his grandfather’s ranch expecting to ride horses and tend to livestock. But when he discovers even cowboys must clean house and bake, he is in for a surprise.
- **The Worry Week** by Anne Lindbergh (2003). Left alone for a week in their family’s summer house in Maine, Allegra and her two sisters forage for food and look for buried treasure, all the while gaining an growing appreciation for their dear parents.
- **The Year of the Book** by Andrea Cheng (2013). In Chinese peng you means friend, and Anna Wang must learn to turn away from books to discover a friend in the real world.

Picture Books: Fairy and Animal Tales

- **Ahmed and the Feather Girl** by Jane Ray (2010). Ahmed, a poor orphan who lives with a circus, finds life changes when he discovers an egg that hatches a feathered girl named Aurelia.



Suggested Reading

- **Brave Charlotte and the Wolves** by Ann Stohner (2009). A stoic sheep protects her flock from predators and challenges long-held views on the timidity of lambs.
- **City Dog, Country Frog** by Mo Willems (2010). A reflection on the natural course of friendship in the animal kingdom, where different creatures face varying life spans. A book that promotes flexibility in forming new allegiances.
- **Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A World-Wide Cinderella** by Paul Fleischman (2007). Each spread reveals a moment from Ashpet, Sootface, Catskin, Vasalisa, Cendrillon, among others, touching on regions as far apart as Appalachia, Korea, Russian, and Zimbabwe.
- **Gauchada** by Drew Lamm (2002). A necklace or gauchada (a selfless gift) is lovingly passed from one person to another until it finds itself in a land its Argentine cowboy could never have traveled himself.
- **The Jolly Postman** by the Ahlbergs. Any child who would like to read real letters written from one fairy tale figure to another will surely enjoy this book.
- **Little Gold Star: A Latin-American Cinderella** by Robert D. San Souci. Also read *The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story* by Rebekah Hickox, *Rough-Face Girl* by Rafe Martin, and *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe.
- **Mediopollito: Half-Chicken** by Alma Flor Ada. An explanation for why a weathervane has a rooster on the top.
- **Mr. Semolina-Semolinus** by Chrisoduola Mitakidou (Greek). A woman who wants a man "five times beautiful, ten times kind" fashions one from semolina, almonds, and sugar.
- **Snook Alone** by Marilyn Wilson (2010). Through the power of faith, a monk named Abba Jacob, and his royal rat terrier, Snook, are re-united after being separated by a ferocious storm.



Suggested Reading

- **Stonecutter: A Japanese Folk Tale** by Gerald McDermott. A stonecutter's intense and foolish longing for power leads him a humbling lesson.
- **The Talking Eggs** by Robert D. Blanche. Following the instructions of an old witch, a girl gains riches while her greedy sister gains sorrow.
- **The Three Golden Oranges** by Alma Flor Ada (1999). In this old Spanish tale, three brothers—Santiago, Tomas, and Matias—must travel far and face many adventures to find worthy wives.

Picture Books: Brave Children

- **The Apple Doll** by Elisa Kleven. A young girl, initially teased, overcomes her shyness in a new setting when she brings her homemade apple doll, Susanna, to school.
- **The Boy Who Held Back the Sea** written by Hort and illustrated by Thomas Locker (1987). The classic Dutch tale of a boy overnighting with his finger in a dike to keep the waters from flooding his village is beautifully illustrated by Locker in a style reminiscent of Vermeer and other Dutch masters: nature can overwhelm man.
- **Brave Irene** by William Steig. A courageous girl weathers a winter storm to help her sick mother deliver a dress to a neighbor.
- **Dust Devil** by Anne Isaacs. In the American tall-tale, tongue-in-cheek tradition, Isaacs tells a story of Swamp Angel's amazing horse who exceeds all expectations. Zelinsky's illustrations bolster an already good story.
- **Kami and the Yaks** by Andrea Stenn Stryer. The tale of a deaf boy, who brings a yak herd down from a mountaintop storm—earning a place of honor in his Tibetan village.
- **Peter and the Wolf** by Prokofiev, illustrated by Mikolaycak (1986). Compare with the pop-up version by Barbara Cooney.



Suggested Reading

- **Ruby the Copy Cat** by Peggy Rathmann. Excellent book about the dangers of copying and the importance of being oneself (also *A Bad Case of Stripes* by David Shannon).
- **The Sugar Child** by Monique de Varennes (2004). When a mother makes a daughter out of marzipan, the child is cautioned to not get water on her fragile skin. But when a dear boy becomes ill, Matine's tears of sympathy seem to have a strengthening effect.
- **Up** by Jim LaMarche (2006). Tired of being called "Mouse" by his family and staying home while his brother helps on the fishing boat, Daniel proves himself worthy when a problem arises that he can solve using his new extraordinary talent.
- **The Very Last First Time** by Jan Andrews (2003). A young Inuit girl embarks on her first journey to gather mussels on the seabed floor by being dropped through a hole in the ice by her mother during low tide, assisted by candlelight. When the tide turns and her candle goes out, Eva struggles to arrive safely "home" above the ice.
- **The Wild Swans** by Hans Christian Andersen, illustrated by Susan Jeffers (1981). The familiar tale of a loyal sister and a flock of swans, beautifully illustrated by Jeffers.

Picture Books: Family Life

- **Andrew Henry's Meadow** by Doris Burn (1965). 40th anniversary release of a book recounting a child's rustic, but eminently enjoyable life on an island in the San Juan, Washington, archipelago as he builds a house for himself and eventually for others.
- **A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams (1986). After her home is destroyed by fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save coins in a glass jar bit by bit to find a vibrant chair for their new home. Also read *Something Special for Me* and *A Chair for Always* by the same author.



Suggested Reading

- **Elise's Bird** by Jane Yolen (2010). Young Elise must find a way to adapt to her new home on the Nebraska prairie after she and her father move from a comfortable life in Boston.
- **Erandi's Braids** by Antonio Hernandez Madrigal (1999). When a mother wishes to sell her hair to buy a fishing net for her family in Mexico, she is told her hair is too short, but would her daughter like to contribute? What will Erandi tell the barber?
- **Mailing May** by Michael O. Tunnell (1997). It is 1914 and May's parents wish her to visit her grandmother in Idaho—but her parents don't have the money for a train ticket, so they buy a postage stamp and send her in the mail car, where she is very well taken care of. Based on a true story.
- **Mr. Carey's Garden** by Jane Cutler (1996). All of his neighbors have ideas for how Mr. Carey can rid of himself of his garden snails—but Mr. Carey treasures all creatures and likes to think outside the box when it comes to what is truly beautiful. "I see things in a different light," he says.
- **Mama Panya's Pancakes: A Village Tale from Kenya** by Mary Chamberlin (2005). A young girl's trip to a bustling market with her mother discloses a lively lesson about the rewards of community and sharing.
- **The Rag Coat** by Lauren Mills (1991). When a resourceful mountain girl, heading into winter, cannot afford a new coat, neighbors gather in the Appalachian community to ensure she stays warm.
- **Thy Friend, Obadiah** by Turkle (1982). A Quaker boy living on Nantucket is annoyed by a seagull that seems to perpetually follow him; but when the gull disappears, the boy misses him, welcoming the gull home when it returns, injured.
- **The Winter Wren** by Brock Cole (1984). "Simple" Simon and his little sister, Meg, were told that Spring is asleep at Winter's farm. When they arrive, Meg



Suggested Reading

vanishes. A wren intervenes, with the ending of the book having the feeling of a fable.

Noteworthy Picture Books: It Really Happened

- **Blackie: The Horse that Stood Still** by Christopher Cerf (2006). Born on the Kansas plains, Blackie prefers staying in one place rather than moving and missing anything—based on a true story of a horse in San Francisco.
- **Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York** by Janet Schulman (2008). A beautifully illustrated record of a red-tailed hawk, who makes his home in a Fifth Avenue apartment building, where he fathers 23 chicks over the years; in 2004, however, he must fight to stay.
- **The Man Who Walked Between** the Towers by Mordecai Gerstein (2003—Caldecott Medal). Book records the dramatic crossing in 1974 of French aerialist Philippe Petit between the World Trade Center's two towers.
- **Snowflake Bentley** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (1999-Caldecott Medal). From the time he was a young boy, Wilson Bentley was amazed at the varied beauty of snowflakes, devoting his entire life to photographing or freezing their crystalline form for the camera, images which we still admire today.