

## GREAT BOOKS FOR AGES 3-5

Compiled by Grace Greene and Virginia Golodetz, 2000

### STORIES

Bemelmans, Ludwig. *Madeline*. Viking, 1993.

Rhymed text tells the tale of the spunky Madeline who had her appendix out.

Blegvad, Lenore. *Anna Banana and Me*. McElderry, 1985.

Anna Banana 's fearlessness inspires a playmate to face his own fears.

Brown, Marc. *D. W. Rides Again!* Little, 1993. And other books about D.W. and Arthur.

D. W. has graduated from a tricycle to her first two-wheeler and is ready to ride off into the sunset. But first she needs to find out where the brakes are!

Burton, Virginia Lee. *Katy and the Big Snow*. Houghton, 1973.

When all the other snowplows are defeated by the snow, only Katy can get everyone out.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Putnam, 1970.

With humor and great appeal, this traces the development of a caterpillar from egg to butterfly.

Christelow, Eileen. *Five Dog Night*. Clarion, 1993.

Cantankerous Ezra keeps rebuffing his nosy neighbor, old Betty, when she tries to give him advice on how to survive the cold winter nights, until she finally discovers that his five dogs are his source for warmth.

Christelow, Eileen. *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*. Clarion, 1993.

The familiar counting rhyme is expanded into an amusing story.

Clements, Andrew. *Workshop*. Illustrated by David Wisniewski. Clarion, 1999.

Rhyming text and illustrations describe the characteristics of tools commonly found in most toolboxes.

Crews, Donald. *Bigmama's*. Greenwillow, 1991.

Visiting Bigmama's house in the country, young Donald Crews finds his relatives full of news, and the old place and its surroundings just the same as the year before.

Crews, Donald. *Sail Away*. Greenwillow, 1995.

- A family rows a small dinghy out to a sailboat to spend the day on the water, only to have the bright sky turn dark as high winds churn up an angry sea.  
Crews, Nina. *One Hot Summer Day*. Greenwillow, 1995.  
A child 's activities in the heat of a summer day are punctuated by a thunderstorm.
- Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. Illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton, 1991.  
While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over New York City.
- Ehlert, Lois. *Hands*. Harcourt, 1997.  
When a child works alongside her parents doing carpentry, sewing, and gardening, she thinks of being an artist as well when she grows up.
- Ehlert, Lois. *Snowballs*. Harcourt, 1995.  
Some children create a family out of snow and decorate them with seeds, buttons, nuts, and other found objects.
- Emberley, Ed. *Go Away, Big Green Monster!* Little, Brown, 1993.  
Die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed are designed to help a child control nighttime fears.
- Feiffer, Jules. *Bark, George*. HarperCollins, 1999.  
“Bark, George,” George’s mother repeats as George responds with a “Meow” and various other animal noises until a vet finds out why.
- Fleming, Denise. *Time to Sleep*. Holt, 1997.  
When Bear notices the winter is nearly here, he hurries to tell Snail, after which each animal tells another until finally the already sleeping Bear is awakened in his den with the news.
- Fox, Mem. *Koala Lou*. Illustrated by Pamela Lofts. HBJ, 1989.  
A young koala, longing to hear her mother speak lovingly to her as she did before other children came along, plans to win her distracted parent's attention by winning a contest.
- Freeman, Don. *Corduroy*. Viking, 1968.  
A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.
- Grossman, Bill. *My Little Sister Ate One Hare*. Crown, 1996.  
Little sister has no problem eating one hare, two snakes, and three ants, but when she gets to ten peas, she throws up quite a mess.
- Guarino, Deborah. *Is Your Mama a Llama?* Illustrated by Steven Kellogg. Scholastic, 1989.  
A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals.

Haas, Irene. *The Maggie B.* McElderry, 1975.

A little girl 's wish to sail for a day on a boat named for her, “with someone nice for company” comes true.

Havill, Juanita. *Jamaica and Brianna.* Illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. Houghton, 1993.  
And others about Jamaica.

Jamaica hates wearing hand-me-down boots when her friend Brianna has pink fuzzy ones.

Henkes, Kevin. *Julius, the Baby of the World.* Greenwillow, 1990.

Lilly is convinced that the arrival of her new baby brother is the worst thing that has happened in their house, until Cousin Garland comes to visit.

Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse.* Greenwillow, 1996.

Lilly loves everything about school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her to wait a while before showing her new purse, she does something for which she is very sorry later.

Henkes, Kevin. *Owen.* Greenwillow, 1993.

Owen's parents try to get him to give up his favorite blanket before he starts school, but when their efforts fail, they come up with a solution that makes everyone happy.

Henkes, Kevin. *Sheila Rae, the Brave.* Greenwillow, 1987.

When brave Sheila Rae, who usually looks out for her sister Louise, becomes lost and scared one day, Louise comes to the rescue.

Hesse, Karen. *Come on, Rain!* Illustrated by Jon J. Muth. Scholastic, 1999.

A young girl eagerly awaits a coming rainstorm to bring relief from the oppressive summer heat.

Hest, Amy. *In the Rain with Baby Duck.* Illustrated by Jill Barton. Candlewick, 1995. And sequels.

Although her parents love walking in the rain, Baby Duck does not - until Grandpa shares a secret with her.

Hurd, Edith Thacher. *I Dance in My Red Pajamas.* Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. Harper, 1982.

A young girl visits with her grandparents who feel the best day is a noisy day.

Hurd, Thacher. *Art Dog.* HarperCollins, 1996.

When the Mona Woofa is stolen from the Dogopolis Museum of Art, a mysterious character who calls himself Art Dog tracks down and captures the thieves.

Hurd, Thacher. *Mama Don't Allow.* Harper, 1984.

Miles and the Swamp Band have the time of their lives playing at the Alligator Ball, until they discover the menu includes Swamp Band soup.

- Johnson, Crockett. *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Harper, 1958.  
Everything Harold draws with his purple crayon becomes real.
- Johnson, Angela. *One of Three*. Illustrated by David Soman. Orchard, 1991.  
A series of candid reflections by the youngest of three sisters on her daily relationships with her older sisters.
- Johnson, Angela. *Tell Me a Story, Mama*. Illustrated by David Soman. Watts, 1989.  
A young girl and her mother remember together all the girl 's favorite stories about her mother 's childhood.
- Lester, Helen. *Tacky the Penguin*. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Houghton, 1988. And sequels.  
Tacky the Penguin does not fit in with his sleek and graceful companions, but his odd behavior comes in handy when hunters come with maps and traps.
- Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. Knopf, 1963.  
When Swimmy is left alone in the ocean, he must devise a clever plan to keep from being eaten.
- London, Jonathan. *Froggy Gets Dressed*. Illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz. Viking, 1992. And sequels.  
Rambunctious Froggy hops out into the snow for a winter frolic, but is called back by his mother to put on some necessary clothing.
- Loomis, Christine. *Cowboy Bunnies*. Illustrated by Ora Eitan. Putnam, 1997.  
Little bunnies spend their day pretending to be cowboys: riding their ponies, mending fences, counting cows, eating chow, and singing cowboy tunes.
- Mathers, Petra. *Lottie's New Beach Towel*. S&S, 1998. And sequels.  
Lottie the chicken has a number of adventures at the beach, during which her new towel comes in handy.
- McCloskey, Robert. *Blueberries for Sal*. Viking, 1948.  
Little Sal and Little Bear both lose their mothers while eating blueberries and almost end up with the other's mother.
- McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way for Ducklings*. Viking, 1941.  
Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring.
- McDonald, Megan. *Insects Are My Life*. Orchard, 1995.  
No one at home or school understands Amanda Frankenstein 's devotion to insects until she meets Maggie.

- McKissack, Patricia C. *Flossie and the Fox*. Illustrated by Rachel Isadora. Dial, 1986.  
A wily fox, notorious for stealing eggs, meets his match when he encounters a bold little girl in the woods who insists upon proof that he is a fox before she will be frightened.
- McLerran, Alice. *Roxaboxen*. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. Lothrop, 1991.  
A hill covered with rocks and wooden boxes becomes an imaginary town for Marian, her sisters, and their friends.
- Meade, Holly. *John Willy and Freddy McGee*. Cavendish, 1998.  
Two guinea pigs escape from their safe but boring cage and have an adventure.
- Mora, Pat. *Pablo's Tree*. Illustrated by Cecily Lang. Macmillan, 1994.  
Each year on his birthday, a young Mexican-American boy looks forward to seeing how his grandfather has decorated the tree he planted on the day the boy was adopted.
- Moss, Lloyd. *Zin, Zin, Zin: A Violin*. Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman. S&S, 1995.  
Ten instruments take their parts one by one in a musical performance.
- Narahashi, Keiko. *Is That Josie?* McElderry, 1994.  
Josie pretends to be various animals in this guessing game book.
- Numeroff, Laura Joffe. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. Illustrated by Felicia Bond. Harper, 1985.  
Giving a mouse a cookie can lead to all sorts of amazing things.
- Palatini, Margie. *Piggie Pie*. Clarion, 1995.  
Gritch the witch flies to Old MacDonald 's farm for some pigs to make a piggie pie, but when she arrives, she can ' t find a single porker.
- Pinkney, Brian. *Max Found Two Sticks*. S & S, 1994.  
Although he doesn't feel like talking, a young boy responds to questions by drumming on various objects, including a bucket, hat boxes, and garbage cans, echoing the city sounds around him.
- Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Benjamin Bunny*. Warne, 1904.  
When the scarecrow in Mr. McGregor's garden has Peter Rabbit's clothes, his cousin Benjamin comes to the rescue.
- Potter, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Warne, 1903.  
In this classic adventure tale, Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and has a scary encounter in Mr. McGregor ' s garden.
- Priceman, Marjorie. *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*. Knopf, 1994.  
Since the market is closed, the reader is led around the world to gather the ingredients for making an apple pie.

- Raschka, Chris. *Can't Sleep*. Orchard, 1995.  
The moon comforts bedtime fears.
- Raschka, Chris. *Yo! Yes?* Orchard, 1993.  
Two lonely characters, one black and one white, meet on the street and become friends.
- Rathmann, Peggy. *Good Night, Gorilla*. Putnam, 1994.  
An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.
- Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. Putnam, 1995.  
The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle 's safety tips, until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches.
- Rathmann, Peggy. *10 Minutes Till Bedtime*. Putnam, 1998.  
A boy 's hamster leads an increasingly large group of hamsters on a tour of the boy=s house, while his father counts down the minutes to bedtime.
- Rosen, Michael. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. McElderry, 1989.  
Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.
- Rylant, Cynthia. *The Relatives Came*. Illustrated by Stephen Gammell. Bradbury, 1985.  
The relatives come to visit from Virginia and everyone has a wonderful time.
- Sathre, Vivian. *On Grandpa's Farm*. Illustrated by Anne Hunter. Houghton, 1997.  
A day is spent helping Grandpa with chores on the farm.
- Saul, Carol P. *Barn Cat*. Illustrated by Mary Azarian. Little, 1998.  
Because she 's looking for something special, the great barn cat notices, but shows no interest in, the activities of the animals that can be counted around her.
- Schertle, Alice. *Down the Road*. Harcourt, 1995.  
Hetty is very careful with the eggs she has bought on her very first trip to the store, but she runs into trouble when she stops to pick apples.
- Schoenherr, John. *Bear*. Philomel, 1991.  
Searching for his mother, a young bear finds his own independence.
- Scott, Ann Herbert. *On Mother's Lap*. Illustrated by Glo Coalson. Clarion, 1992.  
A small Eskimo boy discovers that Mother's lap is a very special place with room for everyone.

- Sendak, Maurice. *In the Night Kitchen*. Harper, 1970.  
In this dream fantasy a little boy helps three fat bakers get milk for their cake batter.
- Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*. Harper, 1963.  
A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.
- Seuss, Dr. *Green Eggs and Ham*. Random, 1960.  
Sam - I - am persists in offering green eggs and ham in this funny rhymed story.
- Shaw, Nancy. *Sheep in a Jeep*. Illustrated by Margot Apple. Houghton, 1986. And sequels.  
Records in crisp rhyme the misadventures of a group of sheep.
- Shulevitz, Uri. *Snow*. Farrar, 1998.  
As snowflakes slowly come down, one by one, people in the city ignore them, and only a boy and his dog think that the snowfall will amount to anything.
- Silverman, Erica. *Don't Fidget a Feather*. Illustrated by S. D. Schindler. Macmillan, 1994.  
Their contest to decide who is the champion of champions almost has disastrous consequences for Gander and Duck.
- Smalls-Hector, Irene. *Jonathan and His Mommy*. Illustrated by Michael Hays. Little, 1992.  
As a mother and son explore their neighborhood, they try various ways of walking - from giant steps and reggae steps to crisscross steps and backward steps.
- Steig, William. *Pete's a Pizza*. HarperCollins, 1998.  
When Pete feels miserable because rain makes it impossible to play ball outdoors, his father finds a fun indoor game to play with his son.
- Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms*. Harcourt, 1995.  
Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the rich and lazy bear down the road.
- Stevenson, James. *Don't Make Me Laugh*. FSG, 1999.  
Readers are requested not to laugh or do anything to influence the behavior of various animal characters in this book.
- Stoeke, Janet Morgan. *Minerva Louise*. Dutton, 1988. And sequels.  
A hen has fun exploring the house with the red curtains and misinterprets everything she sees.
- Sturges, Philemon. *The Little Red Hen (Makes a Pizza)*. Dutton, 1999.  
In this funny version of the traditional tale, the duck, the dog and the cat refuse to help the Little Red Hen make a pizza, but do get to participate when the time comes to eat it.

- Turkle, Brinton. *Deep in the Forest*. Dutton, 1976.  
A curious bear explores a cabin in the forest with disastrous results in this wordless reverse three bears story.
- Voake, Charlotte. *Ginger*. Candlewick, 1997.  
When Ginger the cat gets fed up with dealing with his owner's new kitten, it takes drastic measures to make the two of them friends.
- Waber, Bernard. *Lovable Lyle*. Houghton, 1977. And sequels.  
Lyle the crocodile thought everyone loved him until the day he received a hate note from an anonymous despiser.
- Waddell, Martin. *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* Illustrated by Barbara Firth. Candlewick, 1992.  
And sequels.  
When bedtime comes Little Bear is afraid of the dark, until Big Bear brings him lights and love.
- Wells, Rosemary. *Bunny Cakes*. Dial, 1997.  
Max makes an earthworm cake for Grandma's birthday and helps Ruby with her angel surprise cake. At the store, the grocer can't read all of the shopping list, until Max solves the problem by drawing pictures.
- Wells, Rosemary. *McDuff Moves In*. Illustrated by Susan Jeffers. Hyperion, 1997. And sequels.  
A little white dog that nobody seems to want finds just the right home - and a name.
- Williams, Vera B. *A Chair for My Mother*. Greenwillow, 1982.  
A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.
- Winters, Kay. *The Teeny Tiny Ghost*. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. HarperCollins, 1997.  
A teeny tiny ghost who is having trouble learning how to be scary is inspired by a Halloween visit from his ghost friends.
- Wolff, Ashley. *Stella and Roy*. Dutton, 1993.  
Even though Stella's bike is much faster than Roy's, he manages to win their race around the park because she keeps stopping, in this modern tortoise and hare story.
- Wood, Audrey. *The Napping House*. Illustrated by Don Wood. HBJ, 1984.  
In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

## FOLKTALES

- Ata, Te. *Baby Rattlesnake*. Illustrated by Veg Reisberg. Children's Book Press, 1989.  
Willful baby rattlesnake throws tantrums to get his rattle before he's ready, but he misuses it and learns a lesson.
- Barton, Byron. *The Little Red Hen*. HarperCollins, 1993.  
The little red hen finds none of her lazy friends willing to help her plant, harvest, or grind wheat into flour, but all are eager to eat the bread she makes from it.
- Brett, Jan. *The Mitten*. Putnam, 1989.  
Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki=s lost mitten until the bear sneezes.
- Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*. Scribner's, 1979.  
When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup from water and stones, and all the town enjoys a feast.
- Bruchac, Joseph. *The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story*. Illustrated by Anna Vojtech. Dial, 1993.  
A quarrel between the first man and the first woman is reconciled when the Sun causes strawberries to grow out of the earth.
- Diakite, Baba Wague. *The Hatseller and the Monkeys*. Scholastic, 1999.  
An African version of the familiar story of a man who sets off to sell his hats, only to have them stolen by a treeful of mischievous monkeys.
- Ehlert, Lois. *Moon Rope*. Harcourt, 1992.  
An adaptation of the Peruvian folktale in which Fox and Mole try to climb to the moon on a rope woven of grass.
- Galdone, Paul. *The Three Bears*. Houghton, 1972.  
Three bears return from a walk and find a little girl asleep in baby bear 's bed.
- Galdone, Paul. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Houghton, 1979.  
Three clever billy goats outwit a big ugly troll that lives under the bridge they must cross on their way up the mountain.
- Kimmel, Eric. *Anansi and the Talking Melon*. Illustrated by Janet Stevens. Holiday House, 1994.  
A clever spider tricks Elephant and some other animals into thinking the melon in which he is hiding can talk.

- Kimmel, Eric. *The Gingerbread Man*. Illustrated by Megan Lloyd. Holiday House, 1993.  
A freshly baked gingerbread man escapes when he is taken out of the oven and eludes a number of animals until he meets a clever fox.
- Marshall, James. *Red Riding Hood*. Dial, 1987.  
A little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest on her way to visit her grandmother.
- Marshall, James. *The Three Little Pigs*. Dial, 1989.  
Retells the familiar tale in which one of three brother pigs survives a wolf's attacks by using his head and planning well.
- Seeger, Pete. *Abiyoyo*. Illustrated by Michael Hays. Macmillan, 1986.  
Banished from the town for making mischief, a little boy and his father are welcomed back when they find a way to make the dreaded giant Abiyoyo disappear.
- Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for Sale*. HarperCollins, 1968.  
Some monkeys steal a peddler's caps while he is asleep, and he must figure out how to get them back.

## SONGS AND RHYME

- Cole, Joanna and Stephanie Calmenson. *The Eentsy, Weentsy Spider: Fingerplays and Action Rhymes*. Morrow, 1991.  
A collection of play rhymes intended to be accompanied by finger plays and other physical activities.
- Cole, William. *A Zooful of Animals*. Houghton, 1992.  
A collection of animal poems.
- de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. *Sing a Song of Popcorn*. Scholastic, 1988.  
A collection of 128 poems by a variety of well-known authors with illustrations by nine Caldecott medalists.
- Hart, Jane, ed. *Singing Bee!: A Collection of Favorite Children's Songs*. Lothrop, 1982.  
A collection of over one hundred songs, including lullabies, holiday and traditional songs, singing games, and finger play.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Side by Side: Poems to Read Together*. S&S, 1988.  
A collection of poems especially chosen to be read aloud, by authors ranging from Lewis Carroll and Robert Louis Stevenson to Gwendolyn Brooks and David McCord.
- Kennedy, Jimmy. *The Teddy Bears' Picnic*. Illustrated by Alexandra Day. Green Tiger, 1983.  
Everyone's favorite teddy bear song with endearing pictures.

- Kennedy, X. J. *Talking Like the Rain: A First Book of Poems*. Illustrated by Jane Dyer. Little, Brown, 1992.  
A beautifully illustrated collection of poems for very young children, including works by Robert Louis Stevenson, Edward Lear, Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky.
- Langstaff, John. *Oh, A-Hunting We Will Go*. Atheneum, 1974.  
Old and new verses for a popular folk song about hunting and capturing an animal - and then letting him go.
- Mattox, Cheryl W. *Shake It To the One You Love the Best*. Warren-Mattox, 1990.  
Play songs and lullabies from Black musical traditions. Game instructions appear with each song.
- Opie, Iona. *Here Comes Mother Goose*. Illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Candlewick, 1999.  
Presents more than sixty traditional nursery rhymes, including "Old Mother Hubbard," "I'm a Little Teapot," and "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe," accompanied by illustrations of various animals.
- Opie, Iona. *My Very First Mother Goose*. Illustrated by Rosemary Wells. Candlewick, 1996.  
A collection of more than sixty nursery rhymes, including "Hey Diddle, Diddle," "Pat-a-Cake," "Little Jack Horner," and "Pussycat, Pussycat."
- Prelutsky, Jack. *The Random House Book of Poetry*. Random, 1983.  
Opening poems for each section were especially written for this anthology by Jack Prelutsky.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young*. Knopf, 1986.  
A collection of more than 200 short poems by both known and anonymous American and English authors.
- Westcott, Nadine Bernard. *Peanut Butter and Jelly: A Play Rhyme*. Dutton, 1987.  
Rhyming text and illustrations explain how to make a peanut butter jelly sandwich. Includes instructions for accompanying hand and foot motions at the end of the book.



This program supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries.