

Book Lists

Books for Reading Aloud

TO PRIMARY READERS: KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 2

- Bryan, Sean (2005) *A boy and his bunny* (sequel: *A girl and her gator*). One morning, a boy wakes and discovers a bunny on his head. He convinces his mother that the rabbit would be worth keeping because of all the things they can do together.
- Burningham, John (2006) *Edwardo: The horriblest boy in the whole wide world*. Edward's behavior grows from bad to worse—until he accidentally does good deeds that get him many compliments.
- Cronin, Doreen (2003) *Click, clack, moo: Cows that type* (also: *Thump, quack, moo: a whacky adventure; Giggle, giggle, quack; Duck for president*). When he refuses to comply with their demands, Farmer Brown's cows decide to take action.
- Cousins, Lucy (2002) *Jazzy in the jungle*. A baby lemur plays hide and seek with Mama Jojo. Cut-pages and liftable flaps invite participation as readers investigate the world forest fauna and wild creatures.
- Grant, Joan (2005) *Cat and fish* (sequel: *Cat and fish go to see*). The adventures of an unlikely pair, from different worlds, who discover that new experiences can bring many pleasures.
- Niemann, Christoph (2008) *The pet dragon: A story about adventure, friendship and Chinese characters*. A young Chinese girl searching for her pet dragon meets a witch who helps her with her quest. A bonus feature of this picture book are the Chinese calligraphy characters on each page.
- Prelutsky, Jack (1986) *Read-aloud rhymes for the very young*. A collection of more than 200 short poems by both known and anonymous American and British authors.

To Young Readers: Grades 3–5

- Avi (2004) *The end of the beginning: Being the adventures of a small snail (and an even smaller ant)*. (sequel: *A beginning, a muddle and an end*). A modern fable about a young snail who is convinced that having adventures is the key to a happy life.
- Babbitt, Natalie (2007) *Jack Plank tells tales*. When Jack Plank is dismissed from his pirate ship, he sets off to find himself a new job.
- Browne, Anthony (2004) *Into the forest*. After his father disappears, a young boy travels through the forest in order to take a cake to his sick grandmother.
- Cumyn, Alan (2002) *The secret life of Owen Skye* (sequels: *After Sylvia; Dear Sylvia*). An episodic story of three brothers who keep themselves entertained with a number of wacky adventures.
- DiCamillo, Kate (2006) *The miraculous journey of Edward Tulane* (also: *The Tale of Desperaux*). A proud rabbit who loves himself is separated from the little girl who owns him. In his travels he acquires new owners and listens to their histories, their hopes, and their dreams.
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin (2000) *Enchantment: Fairy tales, ghost stories and tales of wonder*. A collection of folk and fairy tales, silly, magical, and scary.
- Lester, Julius (2005) *Let's talk about race*. In this autobiographical picture book, the author helps readers explore what makes each of us special.

- Lowry, Lois (2008) *The Willoughbys*. The four Willoughby children set out to become “deserving orphans” after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure.
- McBratney, Sam (2005/2008) *One voice, please: Favourite read-aloud stories*. There are more than 30 stories in this collection, each taking a few minutes to read out loud imparting bits of wisdom and much amusement.
- McLeod, Bob (2006) *Superheroes ABC*. Twenty-six superhero characters are introduced to readers in colorful comic format.
- Polacco, Patricia (1998) *Thank you, Mr. Falker* (also: *Chicken Sunday; The keeping quilt; Mr. Lincoln’s way*). Trisha loves school until she reaches fifth grade, when her difficulties learning to read make her feel inadequate. A caring teacher gives the young girl support and helps her to overcome her problems.
- Scieszka, Jon (1998) *Squids will be squids*. A humorous twist on the world of fables.
- Steig, William (1985) *Abel’s island*. A mouse is separated from his wife during a terrible storm. In his new life, Abel learns to conquer many challenges and gains insight into his own true self.
- Yolen, Jane (1987) *Owl moon*. Late one winter full-mooned night, a young girl and her father trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl
- Wild, Margaret (2001) *Fox*. Dog and Magpie are friends, but when sly Fox enters the bush, friendship, loyalty, and betrayal are put to the test.

To Older Readers: Grades 6–8

- Almond, David (1998) *Skellig*. Michael’s world changes when he steps into a crumbling garage and encounters what seems to be a human being, or strange kind of beast.
- Bunting, Eve (2001) *Riding the tiger* (also: *Smoky night*). Bored and lonely, Danny hops climbs on the back of a scary tiger who offers him a ride.
- Gaiman, Neil (2003) *The wolves in the walls*. Lucy can hear wolves hustling and haunting, crawling and crackling in the walls of the old house where her family lives. This book has been described as being the “stuff of nightmares.”
- Crossley-Holland, Kevin (2005) *The Outsiders*. A collection of tales that depict communities that encounter an outsider in their midst, some strange, some wild.
- Howe, James (2003) *Thirteen*. Thirteen stories that capture the agony and ecstasy of being 13 years old.
- Janeczko, Paul (2002) *Seeing the blue between: Advice and inspiration for young poets*. Sample selections, along with advice on writing poetry, from thirty-two renowned poets.
- Muth, Jon (2002) *The three questions*. Based on story by Leo Tolstoy, Nikolai asks his animal friends the answer to three important questions.
- Nichol, Barbara (2006) *The Tales of Don Quixote (Books 1 and 2)*. Barbara Nichol retells stories written by Miguel de Cervantes four centuries ago.
- Rylant, Cynthia (2006) *Ludie’s life*. The powerful story, told through a series of poems, of one woman’s experiences in a mining town in West Virginia.
- Yolen, Jane (1998) *Here there be ghosts* (also: *Here there be witches; Here there be dragons; Here there be unicorns; Here there be angels*). A collection of stories, interspersed with poetry, by master storyteller Jane Yolen.