

Books for Beginning Readers

A Bibliography of Trade Books for Young Children

Selected by
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October 15, 1997

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As a young child approaches the process of reading a book independently, the newly independent reader brings a unique set of skills, a personal understanding of what reading is, and a level of confidence which can differ from day to day. It is the task of the adult to provide a selection of trade books with a variety of characteristics and to encourage the child to examine the books, observing the illustrations as well as the texts. It is the child's task to be willing to try to read on any particular day, being open to the new challenge and using the newly learned word identification strategies. The adult should anticipate that the process of reading a book will change as the child grows in his or her skill, understanding, and confidence. The selection process, too, will change each time the child has the opportunity to select her or his books to read independently.

Rhythm, rhyme, repetition, a controlled vocabulary and a text with a clear context and picture clues are each characteristic of trade books appropriate for beginning readers. Relatively few trade books contain all the above characteristics, although more than one of these characteristics can be identified in many books.

The books selected for this bibliography are categorized according to the dominant characteristic even though many of the books listed here could possibly be listed in more than one category. *Within each category the titles are listed in order of difficulty.* Each list begins with those books which are easier to read and ends with titles more difficult for beginning readers.

The books listed are selected with the interests of primary aged children in mind. Almost all of these books can be found in most elementary school libraries and public libraries. The lists are not comprehensive. Adults using this bibliography will want to identify other trade books with one or more of these characteristics and make their own additions to each section of the bibliography.

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Rhythm and Rhyme

What Rhymes With Snake? by Rick Brown. Tambourine Books, 1994.

What Rhymes With Eel? by Harriet Ziefert and Rick Brown. Viking, 1996.

One word and one image are pictured. The rhyming word and picture for that word are seen when the flaps are opened.

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker. Harcourt, Brace, 1994.

The traditional counting rhyme is boldly illustrated.

Mary Wore Her Red Dress by Merle Peek. Clarion Books, 1985.

Each animal heads to Katy's birthday party decked out in a colorful party outfit.

Mary Had a Little Lamb by Sarah Josepha Hale. Photo-illustrations by Bruce McMillan. Scholastic, 1990.

Each line of this traditional poem is interpreted with modern-day images.

Who Is the Beast? by Keith Baker. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990.

The animals fear the tiger as it passes, noting its particularly scary features. As the tiger retraces its steps, we see the features that are common to each animal.

My Crayons Talk by Patricia Hubbard. Illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Henry Holt, 1996.

Each of twelve crayons expresses the joys of its particular color.

Down By the Bay by Raffi. Illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Crown, 1987.

The traditional song is delightfully illustrated.

Four Fur Feet by Margaret Wise Brown. Illustrated by Remy Charlip. Hopscotch Books, 1989.

Four Fur Feet. Illustrated by Woodleigh Marx Hubbard. Hyperion, 1994.

A creature walks around the world, seeing boats and trains and grass and sunshine but never making a sound -- O.

Amazing Anthony Ant by Lorna and Graham Philpot. Random House, 1993.

There are four twists to each verse of this traditional ants go marching song.

Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. HarperCollins, 1995.

Flying pools, family rides, laughing sounds, and mama's arm are among the things dearly loved by the narrator of this poem.

Morning, Noon, and Night: Poems to Fill Your Day selected by Sharon Taberski. Illustrated by Nancy Doniger. Mondo Publishing, 1996.

Twenty-nine poems celebrate the joys of family and school life.

Repetition

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1994.

A mischievous gorilla brings all the zoo animals to the zookeepers home only to have them returned to their cages by the zookeeper's sleepy wife.

Repetition, continued

Who Ate It? by Taro Gomi. Millbrook, 1991.

Who Hid It? by Taro Gomi. Millbrook, 1991.

The answer to the question on the left page is answered in the graphic on the right page.

The Tree Stump by Chris Forbes. Illustrated by Don Sullivan. Scott Foresman, 1994.

Five animals move into the tree stump hole until a porcupine joins them.

Who Is Coming? by Patricia C. McKissack. Illustrated by Clove Martin. Children's Press, 1986.

Little Monkey runs to escape the animals but sits still when told that the tiger is coming. The monkey knows that there are no tigers in Africa.

I Spy on the Farm by Richard Powell. Illustrated by Steve Cox. U.S. edition: Penguin, 1997.

The traditional I Spy game challenges readers to use the beginning letter clue to guess what's hiding.

Turning the half page not only reveals the object but also the rest of the letters in the word that names the object. (Also *I Spy in the Garden*)

Lin's Backpack by Helen Lester. Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger. Scott Foresman, 1994.

Is there an animal in Lin's backpack or is Lin herself making it jump?

I Can Roar by Frank Asch. Crown, 1985.

On each page, the reader can become the animal and make the appropriate sound.

The Cat Sat on the Mat by Alice Cameron. Illustrated by Carol Jones. Houghton Mifflin, 1994.

Peek through the hole in each page and guess what the cat is sitting on next.

Do Pigs Have Stripes? by Melanie Walsh. Houghton Mifflin, 1996.

The reader plays a question and answer game about the special features of a variety of animals.

Me Too by Susan Winter. U.S. edition: Dorling Kindersley, 1993.

A younger brother tries to do all the things his older brother can do so well.

Biscuit by Alyssa Satin Capucilli. Illustrated by Pat Schories. HarperCollins, 1996.

It's time for the little puppy to settle down to sleep but instead he wants to play, eat snacks, and hug.

Roll Over! by Mordicai Gerstein. Crown, 1984.

One member of the family after another rolls out of bed until only one remains. The last page shows them all back in bed and ready to say good-night.

Larry and the Cookie by Becky Bring McDaniel. Illustrated by Clovis Martin. Children's Press, 1993.

Larry puts a cookie in his pocket to save for later. He checks on it repeatedly but one time cannot find it. Digging deeper into the pocket, Larry finally finds his cookie....crumbs!

Daisy Thinks She Is a Baby by Lisa Kopper. Alfred. A. Knopf, 1994.

Daisy tries to do all the things the baby does. Then the day comes when Daisy can't be a baby anymore - she's a new mommy!

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Repetition, continued

Hide-And-Seek by Jez Alborough. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1993.

Frog is *it* in a game of hide-and-seek and he has lots of trouble finding his friends.

"Hi, Pizza Man!" by Virginia Walter. Illustrated by Ponder Goebel. Orchard, 1995.

Playing a game while waiting for the pizza to be delivered, a mom and her daughter imagine all kinds of creatures who might be delivering pizza.

"Pardon?" Said the Giraffe by Colin West. Harper and Row, 1986.

An inventive frog rises to meet the challenge of talking to a giraffe.

Can You Spot the Spotted Dog? by John Rowe. U.S. edition: Doubleday, 1996.

The cumulative text asks the reader to find all kinds of animals in each new illustration.

The Little Red Hen retold by Margot Zemach. Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1983.

The industrious hen plants, hoes, harvest, threshes, and grinds the wheat without the help of friends. The friends are willing to eat the bread she has baked but their offers of help are turned down.

Any Kind of Dog by Lynn Reiser. Greenwillow, 1992.

Mom tries to satisfy her son's wish to have a dog by giving him all kinds of (stuffed) animals. None will do. Finally she gives him the dog of his dreams.

I Had a Hippopotamus by Hector Viveros Lee. Lee and Low, 1996.

The young boy has all kinds of interesting pets which he gives away to his family and friends. He keeps the "small, scampering, sly, naughty, loveable kitten" for himself.

A House for Hickory by Kelly Mazzone. Illustrated by Pat Reynolds. Mondo Publishing, 1995.

Hickory finds many possible homes but each one is occupied. Finally he finds an abandoned cozy bedroom slipper just right for a mouse's home.

The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle. HarperCollins, 1977.

From sun-up until sun-down, the grouchy ladybug tries to pick a fight with each creature it meets.

However, it always moves on, seeking a more worthy opponent. A slap from a whale's tail sends the ladybug back to where it started.

That's What Friends Are For by Florence Parry Heide and Sylvia Worth Van Clief. Illustrated by Brinton Turkle. Scholastic, 1968.

All of Theodore's friends offer advice on how he can meet his cousin now that he has hurt his leg and can't walk to the end of the forest.

Dance Away by George Shannon. Illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow, 1982.

Rabbit's annoying habit of making everyone dance is the thing that saves all his friends from being eaten by the fox.

Red is Best by Kathy Stinson. Illustrated by Robin Baird Lewis. Annick Press, 1982.

Kelly has a reason why every red thing she wants is better than any of the things her mother suggests.

Repetition, continued

Once Around the Block by Kevin Henkes. Illustrated Victoria Chess. Greenwillow, 1987.

Annie is lonely and walks around the block while waiting for her dad to come home from work. Each neighbor offers Annie something to help cheer her up. Each gift becomes a double treat as she shares it with her family.

Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper by Tololwa M. Mollel. Illustrated by Barbara Spurll. Clarion, 1991.

In this Maasai tale, Rabbit finds her den inhabited by a creature who says it "eats rhinos for lunch and elephants for supper." None of Rabbit's friends can help in this battle of wits. Frog comes along and uses just the right words to scare that creature out.

Picture Clues

One Bear, One Dog by Paul Strickland. U.S. edition: Dutton, 1997.

Bear leads a parade of all kinds of interesting animals.

Afro-Bets A B C Book by Cheryl Willis Hudson. Just Us Books, 1987.

Things common to life in the United States and objects from Africa are pictured and clearly labeled.

Afro-Bets 1 2 3 Book by Cheryl Willis Hudson. Just Us Books, 1987.

The Afro-Bets kids make the shapes of numbers 1 through 10. Each page shows various things to count.

One Yellow Lion by Matthew Van Fleet. Dial, 1992.

Number and color words are displayed. Then the reader unfolds the flaps to find the animals hiding there.

Jelly Beans for Sale by Bruce McMillan. Scholastic, 1996.

Each combination of coins can be used to buy colorful jelly beans.

Little Fish, Big Fish by Frank Asch. Scholastic, 1992.

Little things are changed into big things as the reader unfolds the flap on each two page spread.

Short Train, Long Train by Frank Asch. Scholastic, 1992.

Short things are transformed into the longer version by unfolding the flaps.

I Hunter by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow, 1982.

On every page, there are animals hiding from the hunter only to reveal themselves on the next page when the hunter has passed by.

Color Farm by Lois Ehlert. HarperCollins, 1990.

As each shape frame changes, a new farm animal is presented.

Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert. Lippincott, 1989.

As each shape frame changes, a new zoo animal is presented.

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Picture Clues, continued

Look Once Look Twice by Janet Marshall. Ticknor and Fields, 1995.

Each letter of the alphabet is boldly displayed. The decoration offers a hint about the kind of animal pictured on the following page.

Moonbear's Books by Frank Asch. Simon and Schuster, 1993.

Moonbear loves old and new books, thick and thin books, tall and short books, and happy and sad books. He loves to read.

A Book of Fruit by Barbara Hirsch Lember. Ticknor and Fields, 1994.

A close-up photograph of each fruit is juxtaposed to a photograph of the place where such a fruit grows, including orchards, fields, and groves.

When This Box Is Full by Patricia Lillie. Illustrated by Donald Crews. Greenwillow, 1993.

Items appropriate to each month, such as a red foil heart for February or a wishbone for November, fill the box and it is all meant to be shared with you, the reader.

Red Cat White Cat by Peter Mandel. Illustrated by Clare Mackie. Henry Holt, 1994.

Each two page spread shows just how opposite two cats can be.

I Like It When by Mary Murphy. U.S. edition: Harcourt Brace, 1997.

A young penguin comments on all of the enjoyable activities shared with a loving adult.

My Puppy by Inez Greene. Illustrated by Larry Nolte. ScottForesman, 1994.

A bouncy puppy licks its owner "all over the place."

From Head to Toe by Eric Carle. HarperCollins, 1997.

Animals encourage children to copy how they make their characteristic movements.

Shhhh by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow, 1989.

Everyone and everything is sleeping until the girl wakes them with a boisterous good-morning.

I Love Animals by Flora McDonnell. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1994.

The young girl states her love for all the farmyard animals, which are pictured doing just what each one does so well.

Add It Dip It Fix It by R. M. Schneider. Houghton Mifflin, 1995.

An alphabetical list of verbs are all actively engaged with the word "it."

What Am I? by N.N. Charles. Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Scholastic, 1994.

The reader can peek through the hole to get a hint about the fruit which answers each riddle rhyme.

Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young. Philomel, 1992.

Throughout the week, each of the seven mice try to identify the strange Something found by their pond. The mice learn that one must know the whole in order to know truly.

Picture Clues, continued

One Hot Summer Day by Nina Crews. Greenwillow, 1995.

The joys of a summer day in the city are highlighted by exciting color photo collages.

Clive Eats Alligators by Alison Lester. Houghton Mifflin, 1985.

Seven friends share their favorite breakfasts, clothing, things to do, lunches, shopping trips, pets, treats, and bedtime habits. The reader can delight in each child's particular tastes.

Sight Vocabulary

Three Yellow Dogs by Caron Lee Cohen. Illustrated by Peter Sís. Morrow, 1986.

Three puppies romp and play all day, returning home at sunset. Only five words are used to tell of their adventures.

Big Dog and Little Dog by Dav Pilkey. Harcourt Brace, 1997.

Big Dog and Little Dog find ways to share and share alike!

Who Is Who? by Patricia C. McKissack. Illustrated by Elizabeth M. Allen. Children's Press, 1983.

Although Bobby and Johnny are identical twins, they each like particular things.

The reader is given some information about each boy and then asked to guess who is who based on what each child is doing in the picture.

Black Dog Red House by Lizi Boyd. Little, Brown, 1993.

Black dog and a toddler are inseparable as they play together all day long.

Follow the Leader by Miela Ford. Greenwillow, 1996.

Color photographs of polar bears show them doing the things one would do when playing follow the leader.

All By Myself by Mercer Mayer. Western, 1983.

Little Critter can do so many things all by himself but he can't get to sleep without a story from dad.

Monster Can't Sleep by Virginia Mueller. Viking/Penguin, 1986.

In spite of mother and father monster's best efforts, Monster can't sleep until he takes care of his stuffed spider's bedtime needs.

It's Not Easy Being a Bunny by Marilyn Sadler. Illustrated by Roger Bollen. Random House, 1983.

P.J. Funnybunny thinks that he wants to be some other kind of animal. He tries to live with a variety of animals, only to end up being very happy to be just a bunny.

The Show-and-Tell Frog by Joanne Oppenheim. Illustrated by Kate Duke. Bantam, 1992.

Allie wants to bring her frog to school for show and tell. However, the frog has hopped away. It shows up during sharing time, causing quite a stir in the classroom.

Willie's Wonderful Pet by Mel Cebulash. Illustrated by George Ford. Scholastic, 1993.

Willie doesn't think his worm can do much but it certainly does get things started with the other pets at school for pet day.

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Sight Vocabulary, continued

The Blue Balloon by Mick Inkpen. U.S. edition: Little, Brown, 1989.

A soggy old balloon leftover from a birthday party can do some fantastic things, changing both size and shape, but never, ever, bursting.

Once Upon a Golden Apple by Jean Little and Maggie De Vries. Illustrated by Phoebe Gilman. U.S. edition: Viking, 1991.

Dad entertains the family with his versions of familiar fairy tales. His son and daughter have their own interpretations of what is happening throughout Dad's story.

Will Goes to the Post Office by Olof and Lena Landstrom. Translated from the Swedish. R & S Books, 1994.

Will receives a special package. After carrying the large package home, Will opens it with his mom and friends and finds that Uncle Ben has sent him a globe that lights up!

Where's My Teddy? by Jez Alborough. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992.

Eddie has lost his teddy. He sets off into the forest to look for it, only to find a gigantic teddy. Soon he meets a gigantic bear with a tiny teddy. After trading teddies, both bear and boy return home to snuggle in bed with their own special teddy.

Tom's Fish by Nancy Coffelt. Harcourt, Brace, 1994.

Tom thinks his birthday fish was perfect until he notices that it swims up-side-down! Getting the fish to swim right-side-up is no easy feat!

Eek! There's a Mouse in the House by Wong Herbert Yee. Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

One animal after another comes in to try to rid the house of the mischievous mouse, only to add to the goings on. Elephant finally clears the house of all the animals, except, of course, the mouse!

The Last Puppy by Frank Asch. Simon and Schuster, 1980.

The runt of the litter is always getting in trouble and therefore never getting chosen until just the right boy comes along, ready to choose his *first* puppy.

Goose by Molly Bang. Scholastic, 1996.

An egg rolls into the hole of the woodchuck family who adopts the gosling. In spite of her family's loving care, the goose is sad and lonely. She sets off to figure something out. After a long, fateful journey, she finds what she's been looking for and flies all the way back to her woodchuck home.

Jack and Jake by Aliko. Greenwillow, 1986.

The older sister knows just which child is her brother Jack and which one is Jake, but everyone else always gets the twin boys mixed up.

We Are Best Friends by Aliko. Greenwillow, 1982.

Peter has to move and leave his best friend, Robert. Robert is sad and lonely and hurt that Peter has quickly made a new friend at his new home.

Best Friends Together Again by Aliko. Greenwillow, 1995.

Peter and Robert share a day remembering the things that are still the same and noticing the things that have changed since the last time they were together.

Sight Vocabulary, continued

My Shadow by Susan Winter. Doubleday, 1994.

Rosie has lost her beloved shadow and seaches everywhere for it. She finally finds it when the sun pops out from behind the clouds.

Monkey-Monkey's Trick by Patricia McKissack. Illustrated by Paul Meisel. Random House, 1988.

Hyena thinks that he has tricked Monkey-Monkey into giving up his food and home. Monkey-Monkey thinks of his own trick to scare Hyena away forever.

Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London. Viking, 1992.

Froggy wants to play in the snow but keeps forgetting to put on some of his winter clothing. After many trips back to the house, Froggy finally remembers everything but is too tired to go out anymore.

Snowshoe Thompson by Nancy Smiler Levinson. Illustrated by Joan Sandin. HarperCollins, 1992.

Danny O'Riley misses his dad who is prospecting for gold in California. He wants to send him a letter but can't because no one can cross the snow-covered Sierra Nevada mountains. Snowshoe Thompson agrees to try, and Danny sends off his letter with great hope. This advernture is based on the true story of John Thompson who immigrated to California from Norway in the late 1850's.

On a White Pebble Hill by Chyng Feng Sun. Illustrated by Chih sien Chen. Houghton Mifflin, 1994.

A girl begins her magical adventure on a pile of white pebbles and ends up being trapped by a huge dinner fork. Hiding just in time, she escapes the giant's reach and returns to her family's dinner table in time to be asked to pass the salt, please.

Be Ready at Eight by Peggy Parish. Illustrated by Cynthia Fisher. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

All of Miss Molly's friends assure her that they will see her at eight, but Miss Molly can't remember why they will be stopping by.

Luka's Quilt by Georgia Guback. Greenwillow, 1994.

At first, Luke is excited about the quilt her grandmother is making. She imagines all the colorful flowers it will have. However, Tutu has made the quilt in the traditional way, using only two colors. A day together to celebrate Lei day helps heal feelings and leads to an idea for a new kind of quilt.

Pioneer Bear by Joan Sandin. Illustrated by Random House, 1995.

John Lacy goes out to photograph the famous dancing bear and the family who claims it as a pet. Everyone gets into fancy clothes but the bear is nowhere to be found.

Where Indians Live: American Indian Homes by Nashone. Illustrated by Louise Smith. Sierra Oaks, 1989.

Fourteen traditional houses are shown and briefly described. A photograph of historic and modern Indian people is paired with a drawing or photograph of each kind of home. The last home to be described is a modern day ranch home, pointing out that an Indian today lives in a home just like any other person.

Where's That Insect? by Barbara Brenner and Bernice Chardiet. Illustrated by Carol Schwartz. Scholastic, 1993.

Twelve insects are hiding in the Illustrated. Brief descriptions and interesting facts accompany each illustration.

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Clear Context and Sight Vocabulary

Little Bear by Diane Namm. Illustrated by Lisa McCue. Children's Press, 1990.

Little Bear's parents try to coax their bear into eating all kinds of things. They are successful only when they offer some honey.

Joshua James Likes Trucks by Catherine Petrie. Illustrated by Jerry Warshaw. Childrens Press, 1982.

No matter the color, shape, or size of the truck, Joshua James will love it.

What Game Shall We Play? by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow Books, 1990.

Duck and Fro ask their friends to play but Owl has the idea for a good game of hide-and-go-seek.

Sharing Danny's Dad by Angela Shelf Medearis. Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist. Scott Foresman, 1994.

Danny's dad fills the day with activities for his son and his son's friend whose dad works during the day.

Winter Rabbit by Patrick Yee. Viking, 1994.

Bear and Squirrel build a hug snow rabbit and enjoy the winter day with their new friend.

I See Something You Don't See by Robin Michal Koontz. Dutton, 1992.

The answer to each riddle can be found in the illustration on the opposite page.

What Am I? Very First Riddles by Stephanie Calmenson. Illustrated by Karen Gundersheimer. Harper and Row, 1989.

Objects common to a young child's life are the answers to each riddle. Read the riddle and turn the page to find the answer.

It Begins with an A by Stephanie Calmenson. Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Hyperion, 1993.

Twenty-six riddles provide clues to things that appear in alphabetical order. Four clues are given on each thing. Three illustrations lead the reader to the fourth picture which identifies the answer.

Elephant and Envelope by Barbara Gregorich. School Zone, 1985.

Elephant listens seriously to advice, a habit that makes his work quite challenging.

Snow on Snow on Snow by Cheryl Chapman. Illustrated by Synthia Saint James. Dial, 1994.

While enjoying the winter's day sledding with friends, Clancy, the dog, disappears in the snow. He is found again and they "all lived happily ever after ever after ever after."

I Want to Be Somebody New by Robert Lopshire. Random House, 1986.

The creature changes into an elephant, a giraffe, and a mouse only to find that being himself is just the right thing to be.

New Tricks I Can Do by Robert Lopshire. Random House, 1996.

Tired of putting spots everywhere, Spot changes colors and designs instead and winds up on television!

Clear Context and Sight Vocabulary, continued

Fish Eyes: A Book You Can Count On by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990.

A swim in the sea brings sightings of bold, fancy fish.

Shrinking Mouse by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow, 1997.

As Owl flies to the far off woods, his friends believe that he is shrinking. They set off to rescue him, only to feel that they are shrinking, too.

Cat and Dog by Peta Coplans. Viking, 1996.

Dog joins Cat at the beach and, with a few tricks, manages to eat most of her picnic lunch!

The Surprise Family by Lynn Reiser. Greenwillow, 1994.

A chick hatches and claims a boy as her parent. In turn, she becomes the parent to a family of ducklings.

I Have a Friend by Keiko Narahashi. Macmillan, 1988.

A shadow can be a very special friend.

Here Comes Kate! by Judy Carlson. Illustrated by Gordon Kibbee. Steck-Vaughn, 1989.

Kate races around her house ruining her family's projects. They agree to take her to some real wheelchair races, if she slows her own wheelchair down.

Good-bye, Curtis by Kevin Henkes. Illustrated by Marisabina Russo. Greenwillow, 1995.

The people in the neighborhood gather to honor Curtis on his last day of carrying mail for the past 42 years.

Where Did You Get Your Moccasins? by Bernelda Wheeler. Illustrated by Herman Bekkering. Pemmican Publications, 1986.

A boy tells his classmates how his kookum, his grandmother, made the moccasins he brought for sharing time that day.

I Can't Have Bannock But the Beaver Has a Dam by Bernelda Wheeler. Illustrated by Herman Bekkering. Pemmican Publications, 1984.

Detail by detail, the story tells of how the power line has been downed, causing a power outage, making it impossible for the boy's mother to make bannock for him.

You're a Hero, Daley B.! by Jon Blake. Illustrated by Axel Scheffler. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1992.

Daley B. is not sure what kind of animal he is or why his feet are so big. One day he meets Jazzie D., a weasel ready to eat him, and without thinking, Daley B. kicks her back where she came from!

This and That by Julie Sykes. Illustrated by Tanya Linch. Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1996.

Cat collects things from each farmyard friend, never letting on that she is making a cozy place in which to have her two kittens.

Con Mi Hermano = With My Brother by Eileen Roe. Illustrated by Robert Casilla. Bradbury, 1991.

A pre-schooler tells of the special things he does with his older brother.

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Clear Context and Sight Vocabulary, continued

Dear Annie by Judith Caseley. Greenwillow, 1991.

Annie receives letters from her grandfather and she takes 86 of them to school to tell about her special pen pal.

Goldilocks and the Three Hares by Heidi Petach. Putnam & Grosset, 1995.

All of the characters have something to say about the twists in this take-off on the traditional Three Bears tale. There is even a family of mice that has a few things to say about what is happening in this story.

Nate's Treasure by David Spohn. Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1991.

Nate's dog has a run-in with a skunk. Days later, Nate's dad carries the dead skunk to the edge of the windbreak. In the spring, Nate finds the bones, cleansed by a fall grassfire and winter's snow.

Two and Too Much by Mildred Pitts Walter. Illustrated by Pat Cummings. Bradbury, 1990.

Brandon has to babysit his two year old sister. Gina is full of energy and the day is a challenge, causing Brandon to observe lovingly that "she is only two, but she is too much."

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

Lilly can't wait to share her purple plastic purse, her movie star sunglasses and her three shiny quarters. She disrupts the class and Mr. Slinger says that he will keep her special things safe until school is over for the day. Lilly is mad and strikes back. With the help of her parents and her understanding teacher, Lilly figures out a way to make up for her actions.

Putting It All Together

Be Gentle! by Virginia Miller. U.S. edition: Candlewick, 1997.

Bartholomew tries to show his new kitten a very good time but it's all too much for the kitten. Feeling sad and sorry, Bartholomew and George look everywhere for the little pet, finally finding him in Bartholomew's secret hiding place.

Henry and Mudge: The First Book by Cynthia Rylant. Illustrated by Suçie Stevenson. Bradbury, 1987.

Henry loves his dog, Mudge. Mudge loves his boy, Henry. When Mudge gets lost, Henry is willing to search everywhere for him.

The Outside Dog by Charlotte Pomerantz. Illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. HarperCollins, 1993.

Marisol wants a dog more than anything and takes special care of the stray that shows up in her yard one day. Pancho, the dog, alerts grandfather that something is burning on the stove and wins his way into grandfather's heart.

The Smallest Cow in the World by Katherine Paterson. Illustrated by Jane Clark Brown. HarperCollins, 1991.

Marvin has to move and dearly misses Rosie, the cow. He copes with his loss by creating a new imaginary Rosie, not only the smallest, but the meanest, cow around.

Once in a Wood Ten Tales from Aesop by Eve Rice. Mulberry, 1979.

Ten tales from Aesop, both well-known and less familiar, are retold.

Putting It All Together, continued

Greg's Microscope by Millicent E. Selsam. Illustrated by Arnold Lobel. HarperCollins, 1963.

Dad brings Greg a microscope and he learns about crystals, hair, cells, and even air bubbles.

Lucy's Picture by Nicola Moon. Illustrated by Alex Ayliffe. Dial, 1995.

Lucy chooses to make a collage while the others in her class paint. She is creating a special picture for her grandfather, who is blind.

Ant Plays Bear by Betsy Byars. Viking, 1997.

A big brother tells stories about the joys and frustrations of having a quirky little brother like Anthony.

Father's Rubber Shoes by Yumi Heo. Orchard, 1995.

Yungsu is lonely for his friends in Korea and the way life used to be. His father shares a story about his own childhood to help his son understand why their family made the move to the United States.

Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie by Peter and Connie Roop. Carolrhoda, 1985.

Abbie has to keep her family safe and the lighthouse lights burning while her father is stuck on the mainland.

Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat by Sara Swan Miller. Illustrated by True Kelley. Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

Stories about tolerating rainy days, stalking intriguing bugs, and keeping busy through a lonely day are sure to be three of your cat's favorites.

Aki and the Fox by Akiko Hayashi. Doubleday, 1989.

Young Aki and Kon, her stuffed fox, have an adventure-filled journey to grandma's village. Fortunately, Grandma knows just the right way to fix all the injuries Kon endures along the way.

Granddaddy's Stars by Helen C. Griffith. Illustrated by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 1995.

Granddaddy's visit turns all of Janetta's important places into the best ever places in Baltimore.

Margaret and Taylor by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow, 1983.

Margaret seems to get the best of her younger brother, Taylor, as they celebrate Grandfather's birthday. Taylor's tolerance pays off in the end.

Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express by Margaret K. Wetterer. Illustrated by Karen Ritz. Carolrhoda, 1990.

Kate risks the dangers of an Iowa thunderstorm to help rescue injured railroad men from the creek and to contact the station master so the passenger train will not also tumble into Honey Creek.

Everett Anderson's Goodbye by Lucille Clifton. Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1983.

Everett mourns his father's death but comes to know that his father's love will always be with him.

Buttons for General Washington by Peter and Connie Roop. Carolrhoda, 1986.

John Darragh carries secret messages hidden in his coat buttons to General George Washington's quarters and gets to meet the General himself.

Books for Beginning Readers by Margaret Jensen, page 14

Putting It All Together, continued

How My Parents Learned to Eat by Ina R. Friedman. Illustrated by Allen Say. Houghton Mifflin, 1984.

A girl tells the touching story of how her mother learned to use a knife and fork and how her father learned to eat with chopsticks.

When I was Little by Toyomi Igus. Illustrated by Higgins Bond. Just Us Books, 1992.

When Noel and grandpa go fishing, grandpa tells about how things were when he was little. Most things have changed, but the joy of catching a first fish is always the same.

Meet Tricky Coyote! by Gretchen Will Mayo. Walker, 1993.

That Tricky Coyote! by Gretchen Will Mayo. Walker, 1993.

There are five tales in each book that show must how mischievous Coyote can be.

Here Comes Tricky Rabbit! by Gretchen Will Mayo. Walker, 1994.

Big Trouble For Tricky Rabbit! by Gretchen Will Mayo. Walker, 1994.

Rabbit knows how to take care of himself, but the consequences of his tricks last a long, long time.

Alison's Wings by Marion Dane Bauer. Illustrated by Roger Roth. Hyperion, 1996.

Alison wishes for wings more than anything else. With the help of Grampa's swing and her own dreams, Alison learns that she can fly.

The Twins Strike Back by Valerie Flournoy. Illustrated by Melodye Rosales. Just Us Books, 1994.

Nicole and Natalie are twins who use their look-alike appearances to play tricks on their family and friends.

King Emmett the Second by Mary Stolz. Illustrated by Garth Williams. Greenwillow, 1991.

Emmet has to move and he misses life in his old home and he misses his pet pig, King Emmet, who has died. Emmet's parents are understanding and patient as Emmet slowly makes friends and settles into his new life.

No One Is Going to Nashville by Mavis Jukes. Illustrated by Lloyd Bloom. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.

Sonia needs a dog. After all, she is going to be a veterinarian someday! She tries to use her wits to convince her father and step-mother that she should keep the stray she has found. She keeps the dog but only because of an emotional decision made at the last minute by her step-mother.

Margaret Jensen is a teacher of first and second graders at Madison's Huegel School. She has spent most of her 26 years as an educator focusing on new readers. Margaret also teaches children's literature to both young children and college students. A former president of the Madison Area Reading Council, Margaret was the first recipient of the Celebrate Literacy Award given by that organization in 1982.

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