This bibliography supplements Books for Beginning Readers, which was originally created in 1996. This edition features newer books, published from 1998 to the present, selected to meet the needs of children learning to read.

A child beginning to read brings a unique set of skills, a personal understanding of what reading is, and a level of confidence that may differ from day to day. 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 of 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 section begins with those books that are easier to read and ends with titles more difficult for beginning readers.

The books listed were chosen with the interests of primary-aged children in mind. Almost all of these books can be found in most elementary school libraries or public libraries. The list is 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.

You can find an online version of this bibliography with CCBC annotations for most of the books on the CCBC web site. Go to [www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/](http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/) Click on Site Index and scroll down to “Bibliographies and Booklists.” You can also access the original bibliography on our web site.

**Categories**

1. **Rhythm and Rhyme**
2. **Repetition**
3. **Picture Clues**
4. **Sight Vocabulary**
5. **Clear Context and Sight Vocabulary**
6. **Putting It All Together**

**Rhythm and Rhyme**


*Tanka Tanka Skunk* by Steve Webb. Scholastic, 2004

*We’re Going on a Lion Hunt* by David Axtell. Henry Holt, 1999
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Rap a Tap Tap: Here’s Bojangles – Think of That! by Leo and Diane Dillon. Blue Sky Press / Scholastic, 2002

This Jazz Man by Karen Ehrhardt. Illustrated by R. G. Roth. Harcourt, 2006


Repetition

Tuck Me In! by Dean Hacohen and Sherry Scharschmidt. Candlewick Press, 2010


The Busy Little Squirrel by Nancy Tafuri. Simon and Schuster, 2007

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis. HarperCollins, 2006

The Doghouse by Jan Thomas. Harcourt, 2008

Let’s Play in the Forest While the Wolf Is Not Around by Claudia Rueda. Scholastic Press, 2006

When I Grow Up by Leonid Gore. Scholastic, 2009

I’m the Best by Lucy Cousins. Candlewick Press, 2010

All for Pie, Pie for All by David Martin. Illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev. Candlewick Press, 2006

“Slowly, Slowly, Slowly,” said the Sloth by Eric Carle. Philomel, 2002

We’re Going on a Picnic by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow / HarperCollins, 2002

Wait! I Want to Tell You a Story by Tom Willans. Simon and Schuster, 2005


The Mitten by retold by Jim Aylesworth. Illustrated by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic Press, 2009

Picture Clues


First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press, 2007

This Train by Paul Collicutt. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999

Maybe a Bear Ate It! by Robie H. Harris. Illustrated by Michael Emberley. Orchard, 2008


Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse by Lindsay Barrett George. Greenwillow / HarperCollins, 2004

Play Ball with Me by Lynn Reiser. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006


Mama Cat Has Three Kittens by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt, 1998


Please Take Me for a Walk by Susan Gal. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010


Firefighters A to Z by Chris L. Demarest. Margaret K. McElderry, 2000

Sight Vocabulary

Brave Bear by Kathy Mallat. Walker, 1999

See Pip Point by David Milgrim. Atheneum, 2003
(check out David Milgrim’s other books featuring these same characters)

(check out other “Elephant and Piggie” books by Mo Willems)


The Thingamabob by Il Sung Na. Alfred A. Knopf, 2010
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Why is Blue Dog Blue? A Tale of Color by George Rodrigue and Bruce Goldstone. Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2002

When It Starts to Snow by Phillis Gershator. Illustrated by Martin Matje. Henry Holt, 1998


Hello, Bumblebee Bat by Darrin Lunde. Charlesbridge, 2007

Clear Context and Sight Vocabulary

No by Claudia Rueda. Groundwood, 2010


Pouch! by David Ezra Stein. Putnam, 2009

I Spy Fly Guy! by Tedd Arnold. Scholastic, 2009 (check out other “Fly Guy” books by Tedd Arnold)


Close Your Eyes by Kate Banks. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster Books / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002

Don’t Worry Bear by Greg Foley. Viking, 2008


Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow / HarperCollins, 2004

Dog and Bear: Two’s Company by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press, 2008

Fred Stays With Me! by Nancy Coffelt. Illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Little, Brown, 2007

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same! by Grace Lin. Little, Brown, 2010

Gotta Go! Gotta Go! by Sam Swope. Illustrated by Sue Riddle. Little, Brown, 2000
Putting It All Together

*I Am a Backhoe* by Anna Grossnickle Hines. Tricycle Press, 2010

*City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems. Illustrated by Jon J Muth. Hyperion, 2010


*Fox Tale Soup* by Tony Bonning. Illustrated by Sally Hobson. Simon & Schuster, 2002


*All the Way to Lhasa: A Tale from Tibet* by Barbara Helen Berger. Philomel, 2002

*Max’s Starry Night* by Ken Wilson-Max. Jump at the Sun / Hyperion, 2001

*Aggie the Brave* by Lori Ries. Illustrated by Frank W. Dormer. Charlesbridge, 2010

(Remark: check out the other “Aggie” books by Lori Ries)


*Guess the Baby* by Simon French. Illustrated by Donna Rawlins. Clarion, 2002

*Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Partners* by Erica Silverman. Illustrated by Betsy Lewin. Harcourt, 2006

(Remark: check out the other “Cowgirl Kate” books by Erica Silverman)


(Remark: check out other “Cork & Fuzz” books by Dori Chaconas)

*Dorothy & Mikey* by Keiko Kasza. Putnam, 2000

*Next Stop!* by Sarah Ellis. Illustrated by Ruth Ohi. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2000

*A Beach Tail* by Karen Lynn Williams. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Boyds Mills Press, 2010

*The Day Leo Said I Hate You* by Robie H. Harris. Illustrated by Molly Bang. Little, Brown, 2008

*Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon. The Blue Sky Press / Scholastic, 2002

*Pie in the Sky* by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt, 2004
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Wolf Pie by Brenda Seabrooke. Illustrated by Liz Callen. Clarion, 2010


Margaret Jensen was a teacher of first and second graders for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) in Wisconsin for thirty-eight years. Believing in the power of a great story, in 1973 Margaret began seeking literature to use to teach young children how to read. She continues to find and share new titles with beginning readers. 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.

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is a noncirculating examination, study and research library for librarians, teachers, and other adults who work with children and teens or have an interest in literature for youth. The CCBC is a library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and receives additional support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction through the Division of Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning.