

Read-Alouds: For Grades 2-3

Books to read-aloud to different ages of children and to different grade levels

A DOG FOR LIFE - L.S. Matthews, 2006. Two brothers, John and Tom, have a dog, Mouse, who is able to communicate with them psychically. When Tom becomes ill, the doctor tells the family that the dog must go. John and Mouse go on an adventure to find John's uncle who they hope will be able to save Mouse from going to the pound.

AMAZING GRACE - Mary Hoffman, 1991. Grace loves stories and likes acting out the different characters. When the school announces they are doing a production of Peter Pan, she desperately wants to play the lead role. When the kids at school tell her she can't play Peter Pan because she's a black AND a girl she goes home quite sad.

ANANSI AND THE MOSS COVERED ROCK - Eric Kimmel, 1988. Anansi the spider uses a "magic" rock to trick his animal friends, one by one, into falling asleep so that he may take the food they have saved up. A little deer secretly watches and ends up turning the tables on Anansi so that all the food could be returned to their rightful owners.

ANANSI THE SPIDER: A Tale from the Ashanti - Gerald McDermott, 1972. This Caldecott Honor-winning book is a Tale from the Ashanti – a West African folktale depicting Anansi the spider who must choose which of his six sons to reward for saving his life.

BAKE SHOP GHOST - Jaqueline K. Ogburn, 2005. Miss Cora Lee Merriweather used to make the best cakes in town – until she dies that is and begins to haunt her bake shop.

BLUE WILLOW - Pam Conrad, 1999. A Chinese folktale about a king's daughter who falls in love with a local villager, despite her father's disapproval. Through a tragic event, the king realizes too late the value of really listening to his daughter.

BROTHERS - Yin, 2006. Ming leaves China to go to San Francisco to work in his older brother's store. However, the store isn't doing well and Ming is very lonely. Eventually Ming meets and befriends an Irish boy, Patrick, who helps him come up with a way to save the store.

BY THE DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT: THE STORY OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER - Steve Kroll, 1994. An account of how Francis Scott Key came to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

CLEVER BEATRICE - Margaret Willey, 2001. Beatrice uses her wits to outsmart a giant so that she can put food on her family's table.

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS - Judi Barrett, 2009. A grandfather tells a story to his grandchildren about the town of Chewandswallow – which is like many other towns, except for the

weather. Not only does it come three times a day, at breakfast, lunch and dinner, it rains all kinds of foods and beverages. See what happens when it gets REALLY stormy.

[DEAR FISH](#) - Chris Gall, 2006. One day while at the beach, a small boy throws a bottle into the ocean containing an invitation for the fish to come and visit him. The fish start visiting beyond anyone's expectations.

[DOCTOR DE SOTO GOES TO AFRICA](#) - William Steig, 1992. Doctor DeSoto's services have been requested in Africa to treat an elephant with a toothache. However, once the world-renowned dentist gets to West Africa, he is kidnapped by the elephant's arch nemesis.

[DOUBLE TROUBLE IN WALLA WALLA](#) - Andrew Clements, 1997. Walla Walla is like every other town, except for the day it got infected with a word virus that has everyone walking around town duplicating everything they say.

[ENEMY PIE](#) - Derek Munson, 2000. This Reading Rainbow Selection is about a little boy's father who helps him to get rid of his worst enemy by making a pie with a secret recipe. What the little boy doesn't realize is that part of the secret recipe has him spending the day with his enemy, who eventually becomes his friend.

[FACES OF THE MOON](#) – Bob Crelin, 2009. With gentle interactive elements and rhymed verse, this picture book strikes a reflective tone while providing an effective lesson on the moon and its phases. A boy, a girl and a dog gaze up at the moon and wonder "just why her face is curved, or round,/ or why she sometimes can't be found?"

[FIDDLIN' SAM](#) - Marianna Dengler, 1999. Sam is a fiddle player who travels from place to place entertaining people with his music. As he gets older, he goes on a search to find someone to take his place and carry on his music.

[GRANDPA'S TEETH](#) - Rod Clement, 1997. Grandpa has the finest set of handmade teeth in town, until they go missing. Who took them? In addition to Grandpa suspecting everyone in town, he now talks with a funny lisp. Will Grandpa ever see his beautiful teeth again?

[HARVEY POTTER'S BALLOON FARM](#) - Jerdine Nolen, 1993. A little African-American girl ventures out at night to see how Mr. Potter grows balloons on his farm. Eventually he takes her under his wing to teach her his balloon-farming magic.

[IF NOT FOR THE CAT: HAIKU](#) - Jack Prelutsky, 2004. Haiku-like poems describe a variety of animals.

[JUMANJI](#) - Chris Van Allsburg, 1981. In this Caldecott Medal -winning book, two kids find a board game in the park and take it home to play. However, this is no ordinary game!

[LAUGH-ETERIA: POEMS AND DRAWINGS](#) - Doug Florian, 1999. A book of silly verses guaranteed to have everyone rolling with laughter.

LON PO PO: A RED-RIDING HOOD STORY FROM CHINA - Ed Young, 1989. This Caldecott Medal winner is a Chinese adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood, who has three sisters home alone who become endangered by a hungry wolf disguised as their grandmother.

LOST! A STORY IN STRING - Paul Fleischman, 2000. During a storm when the power goes out, a young girl is entertained by her grandmother's story about a young girl who gets lost in the forest in a winter snow storm trying to find her dog and how she makes her way home. The afterword of the story includes instructions for creating a number of the string figures mentioned in the story.

LUNCH MONEY AND OTHER POEMS ABOUT SCHOOL - Carol Diggory Shields, 1995. The daily events of school life inspire these 23 humorous poems.

MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE - Emily Arnold McCully, 1992. This Caldecott Medal book is about a little girl who learns to walk a tightrope from a man who is staying in her mother's boarding house.

MISS RUMPHIUS - Barbara Cooney, 1982. This American Book Award winner is told as a flashback. It is a story about Great-Aunt Alice's girlhood dreams of wanting to visit faraway lands, live by the sea and make the world a more beautiful place. Discover what Alice Rumphius did with her life.

MOSS GOWN - William H. Hooks, 1987. A southern Cinderella- type folktale wherein a young woman is banished from her home when her father fears she does not love him as much as his other daughters do. With the help of a witch and a magical gown, she falls in love with a young plantation owner and reunites with her father.

NO DOGS ALLOWED - Howie Schneider, 1994. The Arbuckles must disguise their dog as a mysterious Frenchman who cannot speak English in order to stay at a hotel that does not allow pets.

ONE GRAIN OF RICE: A MATHEMATICAL FOLKTALE - Demi, 1997. A re-telling of a mathematical folktale from India. A clever girl saves her village by outsmarting a very selfish raja. When offered a reward, she asks for one grain of rice to be doubled each day for 30 days. You do the math... at the end of 30 days, there will be enough rice to feed her village for a long time.

PIERRE'S DREAM - Jennifer Armstrong, 1999. A man who has no job, no interests and no hobbies enjoys sitting under olive trees thinking about dinner. One day he watches as a circus comes to town. He believes he must be dreaming as he stops a lion from escaping and walks a tightrope with no fear. It's only after he wakes up to find the circus gone and a ringmaster's hat sitting next to him that he realizes it was real.

SCARED SILLY! A BOOK FOR THE BRAVE - Marc Brown, 1994. A collection of scary stories, poems and riddles that help kids laugh away their fears.

SOOTFACE: AN OJIBWA CINDERELLA STORY - Robert D. San Souci, 1994. An Ojibwa Indian adaptation of the classic Cinderella story features a girl whose face is always covered in soot and whose hair is always

singed from working near the fire. Can Sootface win the heart of the powerful Invisible Being with her kind and honest heart?

TALLCHIEF: AMERICA'S PRIMA BALLERINA - Maria Tallchief, 1999. An autobiography of Maria Tallchief, who describes her childhood living on an Indian reservation, her love of dance, and how she became a successful ballerina.

THANK YOU, MR. FALKER - Patricia Polacco, 1998. Based on the author's own struggle and subsequent triumph over dyslexia, this story is about Trisha who loves school but is having problems reading, making her feel dumb. A new fifth-grade teacher helps her makes sense of what she sees on the page and Trisha begins to find her self-confidence.

THE GHOST-EYE TREE - Bill Martin, Jr., 1985. A delightfully chilling story about a brother and sister walking down a dark lonely road and arguing over who is more afraid of the dreaded "ghost-eye" tree. While appropriate any time of year, it's especially fun for Halloween.

THE GREAT KAPOK TREE: A TALE OF THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST - Lynne Cherry, 1990. A man is in the Amazon Rain Forest to chop down a Kapok tree. As the man tires himself out, he decides to nap at the foot of the tree. The animals that live within the tree each whisper, into the sleeping man's ear, a message as to why he should not chop down the tree. When the man awakens, he has a new appreciation for the Kapok tree and all its inhabitants.

THE KING OF THE BIRDS - Helen Ward, 1997. Unable to agree on who should be king, it is decided that the one who can fly the highest shall be king. Of all the birds in the land, which bird do you think wins the competition? It's probably not the first bird that comes to mind.

THE POLAR EXPRESS - Chris Van Allsburg, 1985. In this Caldecott Medal winning book, a boy takes a magical train ride to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. A great Christmas selection.

THE POTATO MAN - Megan McDonald, 1991. A grandfather relays stories to his grandchildren about his boyhood experiences with the fruit and vegetable vendors that were prevalent in his neighborhood at the turn of the century.

THE RAFT - Jim LaMarche, 2000. While not thrilled by the prospect of spending the summer with Grandma (who doesn't even have a TV), Nicky has no idea how much fun is in store for him. Grandma lets him explore river life on his own terms and Nick has a change of heart.

THE RELATIVES CAME - Cynthia Rylant, 2001. A fatherless family gets a visit from distant relatives who have a wonderful time during their extended family reunion.

THE ROUGH-FACE GIRL - Rafe Martin, 1992. An Algonquin Indian adaptation of the classic Cinderella story features two cruel yet beautiful older sisters and their younger sister the Rough-Face Girl, who has been scarred from working by the fire. Can the Rough-Face Girl win the heart of the powerful Invisible Being, where her sisters have failed?

THE SEVEN SILLY EATERS - Mary Ann Hoberman, 1997. A mother's seven fussy eaters find a way to surprise her on her birthday.

THE SMUSHY BUS - Leslie Helakoski, 2002. This fun mathematical book is about the end of a school day when teachers are exhausted and the bus driver is running late with the one 4-seat bus that has to take home 76 kids.

THE STRANGER - Chris Van Allsburg, 1986. A suspenseful story about a stranger that Farmer Bailey accidentally hits with his truck and takes home to recuperate.

THE TWO BROTHERS - William Jaspersohn, 2000. Based on a true story, two Prussian brothers travel at different times to America but end up working on adjacent farms in Vermont and reunite one day while mending fences between their farms.

THE UGLY DUCKLING - Hans Christian Andersen, 1999. The classic tale of an ugly little bird that is picked on by his duckling peers, until the day that ugly little bird grows into one of the most beautiful birds on the farm, much to everyone's amazement.

THE WARLORD'S PUZZLE - Virginia Walton Pilegard, 2000. As a way to hopefully avoid punishment, an artist suggests that a Chinese warlord hold a contest to see who can mend the beautiful blue tile the artist accidentally broke. The square tile was broken into 7 pieces, a parallelogram, five triangles and one square. Who can piece it back together again?

THE WRETCHED STONE - Chris Van Allsburg, 1991. A ship's log details how its crew was mystically transformed after they find an odd glowing stone on a deserted island and bring it aboard.

THREE PERFECT PEACHES: A FRENCH FOLKTALE - Cynthia DeFelice, 1995. A princess is sick in bed and tells her father, the king, that only three perfect May peaches will cure her. The king offers his daughter's hand in marriage to the man who can produce three perfect peaches. Once a man produces the three perfect peaches, the King makes him perform other tasks to prove he's worthy.

TOO MUCH NOISE IN THE LIBRARY - Susan Margaret Chapman, 2010. A town's school library is visited by the mayor who is distressed that it is just too noisy in there. He turns off all the computers and locks up all the books and sends the students and teachers on their way. The mayor has a change of heart when he realizes that a library is useless if no one is using it.

TWO BOBBIES - Kirby Larson, 2008. Bobbi and Bob Cat are the best of friends. When their hometown of New Orleans was struck by Hurricane Katrina, many lost everything. But not Bobbi and Bob Cat--they still had each other. Only by staying together could they survive. This is the story of their remarkable friendship.

WIZZIL - William Steig, 2000. A bored witch takes her pet parrot's advice to find someone to irritate. She transforms herself into a fly and annoys an ornery old left-handed man; the next day she turns

herself into a left-handed glove which wreaks havoc on the man as soon as he puts it on. Can you guess at the happy ending on the horizon?