

Read-Alouds: For Grades K-1

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

19 GIRLS AND ME - Darcy Pattison, 2006. John is worried that he's the only boy in his kindergarten class and his older brother fears all those girls will make him a sissy. After the first week of school, no one is worried anymore.

365 PENGUINS - Jean-Luc Fromental, 2006. A family of four mysteriously receives a box containing a penguin on New Year's Day. Each day they get a new box and a new penguin. You'll be amused to watch how the family handles their growing penguin population.

A BAD CASE OF STRIPES - David Shannon, 1998. In an attempt to please others, Camilla's appearance keeps transforming to others' wishes. Not until she expresses her own individuality does she return to her "normal" self.

A BALLOON FOR ISABEL - Deborah Underwood, 2010. Isabel and Walter both want a balloon for graduation day just like their friends; however, their porcupine quills seem to make this request impossible. Isabel's ingenuity creates the perfect solution.

A POCKET FULL OF KISSES - Audrey Penn, 2004. Chester the raccoon must adjust to having a new baby brother and worries that his mother doesn't have enough love for both of them.

A VISITOR FOR BEAR - Bonny Becker, 2008. A cranky bear who prefers to be alone is visited by a persistent mouse who soon becomes a dear friend.

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY - Judith Viorst, 2009. This humorous story recounts a day in the life of Alexander, and this is turning out to be one bad day.

ALLIGATOR BOY - Cynthia Rylant, 2007. After a trip to a natural history museum, a boy's aunt sends him an alligator head and tail which transform him into an alligator boy.

ARE YOU A HORSE? - Andy Rash, 2009. A man gets a saddle for his birthday, but doesn't know what to do with it. He follows the instructions that came with a gift but is perplexed by step one, "find a horse," since he has no idea what a horse is.

AXLE ANNIE - Robin Pulver, 2005. The kids in Burskyville rarely get a snow day thanks to the efforts of Axle Annie, the bus driver who can make it up any snow-covered hills. But Axle Annie needs to watch out, because Shifty Rhodes, a competing bus driver, is trying to spoil Annie's perfect record.

BABY BRAINS: THE SMARTEST BABY IN THE WHOLE WORLD - Simon James, 2004. A story about the smartest baby in the whole world who ends up walking in space and realizes he's just a baby and misses his mommy.

BAD KITTY - Nick Bruel, 2005. A delightful ABC book about a good natured kitty who turns mischievous when her owners runs out of good food to eat.

BAD KITTY VS. UNCLE MURRAY: THE UPROAR AT THE FRONT DOOR - Nick Bruel, 2010. Look out! Bad Kitty's owners have gone on vacation and have left her and Puppy alone for a week with Uncle Murray. Uncle Murray is nearly driven insane by Bad Kitty's antics.

BEDTIME FOR FRANCES - Russell Hoban, 1995. This story is about a little girl, Frances, who just doesn't want to go to sleep. While in her room she sings herself a song until her imagination gets the best of her. Tigers and other imagined obstacles prevent her from falling asleep.

BEST PET OF ALL - David LaRochelle, 2004. A young boy's mother won't let him have a dog for a pet, they're too messy. He then asks his mom if he can have a dragon as a pet. If he can find one, his mother agrees that he can have a dragon. This plan backfires on the mom, as the boy is able to find a very messy dragon to take home. In the end, mom gives in when she realizes that dogs aren't as messy as dragons.

BOO'S DINOSAUR - Betsy Byars, 2006. A story about a little girl who, while playing outside, finds a dinosaur that no one else can see.

BOOTSIE BARKER BITES - Barbara Bottner, 1992. The child narrator of this story does not look forward to her daily play dates with Bootsie Barker. Don't let her bouncy locks and frilly dresses fool you: as soon as the adults disappear, so does Bootsie's sweet demeanor. During a sleepover the narrator learns how to good naturedly confront conflict from her frenemy Bootsie.

BORREGUITA AND THE COYOTE - Verna Aardema, 1991. This Reading Rainbow selection is a Mexican folktale about a crafty little lamb and her new unlikely friend, the coyote.

CARMINE: A LITTLE MORE RED - Melissa Sweet, 2005. On a spin of Little Red Riding Hood, a little girl who loves to paint AND dilly-dally gets easily distracted on a trek to Grandma's house and doesn't sense the trouble that's just around the corner.

CASTAWAY CATS - Lisa Wheeler, 2006. Fifteen cats find themselves on a deserted island after being tossed from their sinking ship. Now what do they do?

CHICKEN SOUP - Jean Van Leeuwen, 2009. When the chickens hear that Mrs. Farmer is making soup, they scatter to and fro to avoid the dreaded soup pot. However, Mr. Farmer finds Little Chickie, who has a terrible cold, and takes her to the kitchen for some nice hot VEGETABLE soup.

CHICKS AND SALSA - Aaron Reynolds, 2005. Farmer Nuthatcher's chickens have become tired of their chicken feed and the rooster has been watching a lot of cooking shows, so he suggests that they whip up some tortilla chips and salsa. Soon after, all the other animals start craving southwestern cuisine. See what happens when Mrs. Nuthatcher wants to make tamales but she cannot find any of the ingredients she needs.

CHRYSANTHEMUM - Kevin Henkes, 1991. Chrysanthemum thought she had the perfect name until she got to school. Now she has to find ways to deal with giggles behind her back and being teased for having such a unique name.

CINDY ELLEN: A WILD WESTERN CINDERELLA - Susan Lowell, 2000. In a Wild West adaptation of Cinderella, Cindy Ellen shows up at the rodeo despite her Step-mother's meddling. I think you can guess what happens next when Cindy Ellen loses one of her diamond spurs.

CLICK, CLACK, MOO: COWS THAT TYPE - Doreen Cronin, 2000. This Caldecott Honor book is about Farmer Brown's cows who find an old typewriter and teach themselves to type. They leave demanding messages for the farmer and when one of their demands is ignored, the cows go on strike. A neutral third party, the Duck, helps the cows and Farmer Brown come to agreeable terms. But look out Farmer Brown, someone else on the farm has learned to type.

ONE SMART COOKIE: BITE SIZE LIFE LESSON - Amy Krouse Rosenthal, 2006. This book uses cookies as a vehicle to introduce concepts such as values and good behavior.

DIARY OF A FLY - Doreen Cronin, 2007. The literal ups and downs of a young fly's life are documented on the pages of her diary, including getting along with her 327 brothers and sisters who make her crazy, her various "landing" technique lessons, school lunches and a challenging babysitter.

DOG AND BEAR - TWO FRIENDS - THREE STORIES - Laura Vaccaro Seeger, 2007. Follow the adventures of best friends, Dog (a frisky daschund) and Bear (an adorably brave teddy bear).

DOG BREATH! THE HORRIBLE TERRIBLE TROUBLE WITH HALLY TOSIS - Dav Pilkey, 1994. Hally, the family dog, has such bad breath the family considers giving her away. This pun filled adventure has Hally Tosis proving she's an invaluable watchdog.

DUCK ON A BIKE - David Shannon, 2002. One day a duck gets the silly idea to ride a bike. The animals on the farm think he's crazy until a few bikes get left behind and all sorts of barnyard animals try two-wheeling it.

DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE? - Katya Arnold, 1997. Goose is not happy with the way she looks. She decides to swap parts of herself with what she considers are the best parts of different animals (a swan's neck, a peacock's tail, a pelican's beak, etc.). However she soon learns that these swaps aren't practical – she now can't eat grass like she usually does and she can't fly from predators. Eventually she returns all of her mismatched body parts and delights in being herself.

DUKE, THE DAIRY DELIGHT DOG - Lisa Campbell Ernst, 1996. The owner of an ice cream shop doesn't want a dirty dog, Duke, hanging around, but Duke tries every trick in the book to show Darla that he is where he belongs.

FARFALLINA AND MARCEL - Holly Keller, 2002. A caterpillar meets a baby goose and they become friends. Over time, both start to change but they remain good friends all the same.

FELICITY FLOO VISITS THE ZOO - E.S. Redmond, 2009. Felicity, who isn't feeling very well, goes on a trip to the zoo, but doesn't obey the rules of not petting the animals. After she sneezes and wipes her runny nose without benefit of a tissue, all the animals at the zoo catch her cold.

FRED STAYS WITH ME - Nancy Coffelt, 2007. A story of a little girl whose parents are divorced and who sometimes she lives with her mom and sometimes with her dad. But no matter where she goes, she always has Fred, her lovable dog, by her side to comfort her.

GINGER JUMPS - Lisa Campbell Ernst, 1990. Ginger loves to perform in the circus but starts to feel lonely and dreams of a life where she could live with a family that has a little girl who would love her. Follow Ginger as her dreams come true.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BAD KITTY - Nick Bruel, 2009. Bad Kitty is back and this time it's her birthday. However, Bad Kitty's birthday fun is spoiled when her presents go missing and an unexpected guest shows up.

HERMAN THE HELPER - Robert Kraus, 1974. A story about Herman, the octopus, who is always willing to lend a hand, um, tentacle, to anyone who needs his help.

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE - Laura Joffe Numeroff, 1985. This Reading Rainbow Selection is about a little mouse who tires out an energetic young boy who quickly finds out what a little mouse needs if you start by giving him a cookie.

IRA SLEEPS OVER - Bernard Waber, 1972. A little boy is excited at the thought of having a sleep-over at his friend's house but soon worries how he'll get by without his teddy bear.

KING OF THE PLAYGROUND - Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, 1991. A boy learns how to use his words to cope with a bossy kid at the playground who ultimately becomes a good friend.

LIBRARY LION - Michelle Knudsen, 2006. A lion visits a library but gets himself into trouble as he tries to obey the rules and help out one of this friends at the same time.

LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE - Kevin Henkes, 1996. Lilly loves school, especially her teacher, but when he asks her not to show off her new purse, she does something she regrets.

ME FIRST - Helen Lester, 1992. Pinkerton is a loveable but pushy pig who always has to be first. He learns a lesson when on a trip to the beach he rushes out of the water to be first for a sandwich.

MICHAEL RECYCLE - Ellie Bethel, 2008. Michael is a young green-caped crusader whose special power is teaching people how to recycle. A great Earth Day selection.

MISS NELSON IS MISSING - Harry Allard, 1977. The kids in room 207 usually take advantage of Miss Nelson's good nature, until one day she goes missing. See what happens when Miss Nelson disguises herself as their substitute teacher.

MORE PARTS - Tedd Arnold, 2001. In the follow-up to **PARTS**, the bug-eyed boy is back and this time he is worried about turns of phrase we all take for granted, such as "...give him a hand." He envisions his hand literally unhinging from his wrist or someone being so scared they "jumped out of their skin." His parents have to step in once again to allay his fears, to comic effect.

NINI HERE AND THERE - Anita Lobel, 2007. Nini the cat is afraid that her family is packing to go away on vacation without her. What Nini doesn't realize is that they're all going on an adventure together : they're moving to a new home.

NOT AFRAID OF DOGS - Susanna Pitzer, 2006. A brave boy who is not afraid of spiders, snakes or thunderstorms must confront his fear of dogs when his mom sits for his aunt's dog.

NUGGET & DARLING - Barbara Joose, 1997. Nell and her dog, Nugget, are special friends until the day that Nell finds a stray kitten and her dog feels abandoned. Nell finds a way to show Nugget that he will always be special.

OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA - Peggy Rathman, 1995. This Caldecott Medal book is about Officer Buckle who loves to teach children about safety but bores his audiences to sleep: that is, until he brings his police dog along to help him.

OLIVIA - Ian Falconer, 2000. Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good.

PAPA, PLEASE GET THE MOON FOR ME - Eric Carle, 1986. Little Monica sees the moon outside her window and asks her daddy to get it for her. Watch as the moon shrinks and disappears...

PARTS - Tedd Arnold, 1997. A story about a bug-eyed boy who notices odd things about his body and believes the worst. After finding a few hairs, he believes he's going bald; that the lint in his bellybutton is actually his stuffing coming out, and that boogers are pieces pieces of his brain. Thank goodness his parents are able to ease his anxieties.

PATRICK'S DINOSAURS - Carol Carrick, 1983. While visiting the zoo one Saturday, Patrick's older brother tells him all about dinosaurs. Patrick starts to scare himself when he envisions what life would be like with dinosaurs roaming all around.

PIGGIE PIE! - Margie Palatini, 1995. A witch comes to Old MacDonald's farm in search of piggies to make herself a meal; however, when she gets there, there isn't a pig in sight.

PIGS APLENTY, PIGS GALORE - David McPhail, 1993. A story about a 30-something man who may or may not be dreaming of a gang of pigs who invades his house to have a big party.

PINKALICIOUS - Victoria Kann, 2006. After eating too many pink cupcakes, a little girl wakes the next day to discover that she herself has turned pink. She's tickled pink, literally, until eating one more pink cupcake turns her red! She must then follow the doctor's advice to eat a steady diet of green foods - yuck!

READ-ALOUD RHYMES FOR THE VERY YOUNG - Jack Prelutsky, 1986. A collection of more than 200 short poems about picnics, puppies and more.

RHYMING DUST BUNNIES - Jan Thomas, 2009. Three rhyming dust bunnies are so caught up in making rhymes they don't heed a fourth dust bunny's warnings of impending danger.

SCARY, SCARY HALLOWEEN - Eve Bunting, 1986. Four pairs of eyes glowing in the dark watch as a fearsome parade of creatures pass by. The perfect Halloween treat!

SMUDGE BUNNY - Dr. Bernie Siegel, 2004. A story about the adventures of two little rabbits, Smudge and Snowflake, who are separated from their family to be sold as Easter bunnies and who try to find something good in a scary situation.

SNAKE ALLEY BAND - Elizabeth Nygaard, 1998. Snake gets bored by the one sound his snake band makes. He suggests that other critters join the band each with their unique sounds – you won't believe what they all sound like together.

SPAGHETTI EDDIE - Ryan SanAngelo, 2002. Who knew that loving spaghetti could turn a boy into a near super-hero? Eddie helps solve his neighbors' problems with creative uses of pasta and thwarts a robber with a well-thrown meatball.

STAND TALL, MOLLY LOU MELON - Patty Lovell, 2001. Molly Lou Melon is a unique and awkward- looking girl whose grandmother instilled in her the importance of self-esteem. Molly's self-esteem will be put to the test when she moves to a new town and encounters the class bully.

STANLEY'S PARTY - Linda Bailey, 2003. A humorous story about Stanley, a scruffy dog, who has a little fun while his "people" are out for the evening. The first night he sits on the sofa. On another evening where he's left alone he dances up a storm. On another he raids the refrigerator. Eventually he invites his canine friends over since it's more fun to break the rules with friends. All is fun until Stanley's "people" come home early. Uh-oh!

SWEET TOOTH - Margie Palatini, 2005. Stewart is considered your average, everyday kid, except for the talking molar he has that gets him into trouble.

THAT CAT CAN'T STAY - Thad Krasnesky, 2010. Mom, a cat lover, repeatedly brings home stray cats, which is making dad crazy. Dad protests loudly as each kitty is brought home, but cleverly, Mom convinces him to let them keep them.

THAT RABBIT BELONGS TO EMILY BROWN - Cressida Cowell, 2006. Emily must rescue her beloved stuffed rabbit who has been kidnapped by the naughty Queen Gloriana.

THE CIRCUS SHIP - Chris Van Dusen, 2009. In the 1800's a ship en route to Boston becomes wrecked off the coast of Maine, and its cargo, circus animals, are left to swim to shore all on their own. The townspeople come to adore the animals and try to save them from the mean and greedy circus owner.

THE CURIOUS GARDEN - Peter Brown, 2009. While out exploring one day, a boy stumbles upon a garden in desperate need of attention. With love and attention, the garden expands throughout the city – making it a greener and happier place.

THE DOG WHO CRIED WOLF - Keiko Kasza, 2005. Moka the dog has a cushy life with his human Michelle until one day she reads him a book about wolves. Moka is so inspired by the story that he runs away to the mountains to be free like a real wolf. However, after some trying experiences, Moka is ready to run home to Michelle.

THE FIELD MOUSE AND THE DINOSAUR NAMED SUE - Jan Wahl, 2000. A field mouse finds himself transported to a museum when the roof of his former home is brought there along with the bones of a dinosaur named Sue. From the mouse's perspective, you'll see what's involved in getting a dinosaur on display, from the dig site to cleaning the bones and putting them back together.

THE FOX AND THE HEN - Eric Battut, 2010. Henrietta Hen lays her first egg but doesn't understand what it is. She innocently trades her egg to Red Fox for a juicy worm. Henrietta's farm friends help her to get her egg back and Red Fox's greed leads to disappointment.

THE POPCORN DRAGON - Janet Thayer, 1989. Dexter the dragon soon learns that showing off by making smoke rings does not make friends. Only after he realizes he can share his "gift" does he win back his friends.

THE REMARKABLE FARKLE MCBRIDE - John Lithgow, 2000. Farkle is a little boy with an affinity for musical instruments who easily masters a new instrument when he gets bored with the last. He doesn't find his passion until he realizes that the whole orchestra is his "instrument" and he becomes the conductor.

THE SECRET SHORTCUT - Mark Teague, 1996. This Reading Rainbow Selection is a story about the unexpected adventures encountered when two friends who can never seem to get to school on time take a shortcut on their way to school.

THE STORY OF FERDINAND - Munro Leaf, 1980. Ferdinand is a kind-hearted bull who loves to sit quietly and smell the flowers until a bee sting on the snout convince others that he's the fiercest of bulls, which does not come at the best time.

THE THREE LITTLE GATORS - Helen Ketteman, 2009. Based on a traditional folktale, three little gators each build a house in a Texas swamp, hoping to be safe from the big-bottomed boar.

THE THREE PIGS - David Wiesner, 2001. This Caldecott Medal- winning book is a re-telling of the classic tale wherein three pigs escape the big bad wolf by magically being transported to other fairy tales.

THE THREE SILLY BILLIES - Margie Palatini, 2005. Three billy goats don't have the toll money to cross a bridge so they form a carpool with other favorite fairy tale characters to get past the mean troll.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS: BY A WOLF - Jon Scieszka, 1989. In this version of the Three Little Pigs, the wolf tells his side of the story when he runs out of a key ingredient for a cake and visits three little pigs, each at their own house.

THREE PEBBLES AND A SONG - Eileen Spinelli, 2003. A young field mouse, Moses, does not act like a typical mouse. Instead of collecting things he and his family will need to survive the cold winter, he creates a dance, a song and collects three pebbles just perfect for juggling. While Moses may not have contributed to the needs of his family in a tangible sense, he provides them with entertainment and high spirits to endure the long winter.

TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO - Arlene Mosel, 1968. A re-telling of a Chinese folktale about how the people of China came to give their children short names instead of the tradition of honoring their sons with really long names.

TWO OF EVERYTHING - Lily Toy Hong, 1992. A re-telling of a Chinese folktale wherein a poor old farmer finds a magic pot that doubles everything that is placed inside it. His good fortune takes an unexpected turn when he and his wife accidentally fall into the pot.

WEMBERLY WORRIED - Kevin Henkes, 2000. Wemberly is a little mouse who worries about everything; her list of fears grows as she attends her first day of nursery school.

WILD ABOUT BOOKS - Judy Sierra, 2004. An accidental wrong turn by the bookmobile has a librarian introducing the joy of reading to the animals at the zoo.

WILSON AND MISS LOVELY - John Stadler, 2009. A suspenseful and silly story about Wilson, a bunny, who loves school so much, he can't wait to get there. Starting his second week of school, he can't understand why he's in school all by himself and who has been following him.

WOLF STORY - William McCleery, 1988. The story begins with small boy asking his father to tell him a bedtime story. The story of a hen escaping from a crafty wolf becomes more and more humorous as the boy and his father each add different elements to the story.