

Read-Alouds: For Preschool/Pre-K

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

[A SPLENDID FRIEND INDEED](#) - Suzanne Bloom, 2005. This Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor book is about a studious polar bear who meets an inquisitive goose and both learn to be friends.

[ANIMALS ASLEEP](#) - Sneed B. Collard, III, 2004. This book not only shows all the different ways that animals sleep (including a whale, otters and an orangutan, among others), it gives a small factual description of each animal shown.

[BABIES CAN'T EAT KIMCHEE!](#) - Nancy Patz, 2007. An older Korean-American sister tells her younger sister all the things she cannot do until she grows up.

[BAD DOG SCHOOL](#) - Barbara Joose, 2004. A boy's family decides that their lively dog, Zippy, needs to go to obedience school; however, after he is trained, the boy realizes Zippy is so well-behaved, that he is no longer fun. His only option is to send him to Bad Dog School so that Zippy can regain his, well, "zip".

[BEAR FEELS SICK](#) - Karma Wilson, 2007. Bear is too sick to go outside and play, so his friends come over to his cave to make him feel better.

[BEAR SNORES ON](#) - Karma Wilson, 2002. To escape the winter weather, a group of animals sneak into a sleeping bear's cave and a party ensues. All is fun and games until the sleeping bear wakes up.

[BEATRICE DOESN'T WANT TO](#) - Laura Numeroff, 2004. – Beatrice doesn't like books and after going to the library with her brother for the third straight day, she finally finds something that holds her interest.

[BISCUIT LOVES SCHOOL](#) - Alyssa Satin Capucilli, 2003. Biscuit is a curious little puppy who loves school. Spend a day with him as he plays, learns and explores.

[BISCUIT STORYBOOK COLLECTION](#) - Alyssa Satin Capucilli, 2005. This collection includes 10 stories of Biscuit, the curious little puppy. His adventures include going on a picnic, a day at the beach, meeting new neighbors and winning a prize, among others.

[CLICK, CLACK QUACKITY-QUACK](#) - Doreen Cronin, 2005. Farmer Brown's cows are typing away again. This time they type a note inviting all their animal friends to a picnic. Come along and enjoy their fun day.

[CORDUROY](#) - Don Freeman, 1968. A little girl goes to a department store with her mother to discover a little brown teddy bear wearing green overalls. She falls instantly in love but her mother won't let her take him home because she has already spent too much money and besides, the bear is missing a button. The next day the little girl returns with money she has saved, buys the little bear, takes him home and sews on his missing button.

CORNELIUS P. MUD, ARE YOU READY FOR SCHOOL? - Barney Saltzberg, 2007. Follow Cornelius the pig as he gets ready for school in his own style.

CURIOUS GEORGE - H.A. Rey, 1973. A newly captured monkey gets himself into all kinds of trouble due to his curious nature.

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! - Mo Willems, 2003. This Caldecott Honor book is about a bus driver who needs a break and asks the reader/listeners one simple request, "Do not let the pigeon drive the bus." Apparently this is no easy task since the pigeon goes to great lengths to convince the reader/listeners that it's okay for them to give him permission.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH - James Stevenson, 1999. The story begins with a bossy crocodile requesting that readers and listeners not laugh or do anything else that may influence the behavior of animals found in the book. Can you resist?

DR. SEUSS'S SLEEP BOOK - Dr. Seuss, 1962. A perfect read right before nap time. In sing-song verse, find out what happens when zillions of sleepy creatures go to sleep.

DUCK & GOOSE - Tad Hills, 2006. Learning to work as a team, Duck and Goose take care of a big polka-dotted ball, which they have mistaken for an egg.

EVEN FIREFIGHTERS HUG THEIR MOMS - Christine Kole MacLean, 2002. A little boy and his sister pretend to be all sorts of heroes from fire fighters to ambulance drivers to astronauts who certainly don't have time to hug their mom. It's not until the little boy pretends to be a garbage man who fishes out a special item from the trash does he allow his mom that special hug.

FIRST DAY JITTERS - Julie Danneberg, 2000. Sarah Jane Hartwell is scared and would rather stay under the covers than confront starting all over on the first day of a new school. See how Sarah Jane Hartwell deals with her first day jitters and you'll be delighted at the surprise ending.

GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE - Giles Andreae, 2001. Gerald the giraffe loves to dance – sadly, he has the equivalent of 4 left hooves and is made fun of by his jungle friends. Only when he finds the right kind of music for his kind of dancing does Gerald blossom and his friends see his true qualities.

GLADYS GOES OUT TO LUNCH - Derek Anderson, 2005. Gladys is a purple gorilla who lives at the zoo and eats nothing but bananas. One day she smells something delicious and adventures away from the zoo to discover other yummy treats.

GOOD NIGHT DINOSAURS - Judy Sierra, 1996. A perfect read right before bedtime, this silly book describes what different kinds of baby dinosaurs do to get ready for bed.

HIPPO! NO, RHINO - Jeff Newman, 2006. A rhinoceros is made crazy by a zookeeper accidentally posting a sign outside his cage, saying "Hippo." A young zoo visitor realizes the mistake and helps clear things up.

[HOW DO DINOSAURS GO TO SCHOOL?](#) - Jane Yolen, 2007. This great back-to-school selection explains how young dinosaurs should behave in school.

[KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY TALE](#) – Mo Willems, 2004. Trixie, Daddy, and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the neighborhood laundromat. But the exciting adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes “somebunny” was left behind! Using a combination of muted black-and-white photographs and expressive illustrations, this stunning book tells a brilliantly true-to-life tale about what happens when Daddy's in charge and things go terribly, hilariously wrong.

[I'M NOT CUTE!](#) - Jonathan Allen, 2006. Baby owl does not like to be called cute; he sees himself as fierce hunting machine and therefore cannot be “cute.” Mama Owl knows how to comfort him; she tells him that he's not cute and that he is indeed a ferocious owl. In true toddler fashion, Baby Owl becomes upset and cries, “But I AM cute!”

[IF MY DAD WERE A DOG](#) - Annabel Tellis, 2007. A clever story about what you could do if your dad was a dog for a day and you could play with him and give him commands.

[IT'S QUACKING TIME](#) - Martin Waddell, 2005. A small duckling awaits the hatching of his parents' new egg while his extended family tells him stories about [HIS](#) egg days.

[LITTLE BEAR'S LITTLE BOAT](#) - Eve Bunting, 2003. A story about growing up and having to leave favorite things behind... Little Bear spends all his free time in his little rowboat, until one day he realizes he's grown too big for the little boat. In order to relieve his sadness about not being able to use his little boat anymore, he sets off in search of a little bear cub who will appreciate his prized possession, and who will in turn pass it on when *he* gets too big.

[LITTLE PEA](#) - Amy Krouse Rosenthal, 2005. Little Pea hates eating candy for dinner, but his parents will not let him have his spinach dessert until he cleans his plate.

[MILTON THE EARLY RISER](#) - Robert Kraus, 1972. Milton is a panda who is always the first one awake; he tries very hard to wake up all the other animals, but it's no use.

[OLD BEAR](#) - Kevin Henkes, 2008. Children are introduced to the wonders of each season as an old bear sleeps in his den for the winter dreaming of when he was a young cub.

[PANDA WHISPERS](#) - Mary Beth Owens, 2007. A good pre-nap book that has momma panda whispering stories of sweet dreams into her cubs ear as he settles down to go to sleep. What do other animal parents tell their children? Turn the page and find out.

[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 invade his house to have a big party.

[RABBIT'S GIFT: A FABLE FROM CHINA](#) - George Shannon, 2007. A re-telling of a Chinese fable about friendship, through woodland creatures looking after each other during a snowy winter.

RAP A TAP TAP - Leo Dillon, 2002. Is the story of one of the most famous African-American tap dancers throughout history, Bill “Bojangles” Robinson.

READY, SET, GO! - Nina Laden, 2000. This book is designed to build vocabularies through the use of rhyming and guessing.

RUSSELL THE SHEEP - Rob Scotton, 2005. What do sheep count to help them fall asleep? Read along as Russell tries different ways to fall asleep.

SNOWMEN AT NIGHT - Carolyn Buehner, 2002. A young boy wakes up the day after building a snowman. Upon seeing the snowman’s droopy appearance, the boy uses his imagination to dream up night-time adventures the snowman must have encountered as a way to explain why his snowman doesn’t quite look the same as he did the day before.

SOMEONE BIGGER - Johnathan Emmett, 2004. Sam and his father go out to fly his new kite, but Sam isn’t allowed to hold the string because he’s too small. Despite being told that he’s just too small, Sam ends up saving everyone who gets caught up in the kite and are nearly carried away.

THAT’S WHEN I’M HAPPY - Beth Shoshan, 2007. A young bear thinks about the happy times it has spent with its parents.

THE GROUCHIES - Debbie Wagenbach, 2010. A five-year old wakes up in a cranky mood and eventually learns how to chase his grumpy mood away.

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD - Watty Piper, 2005. Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain – can she do it?

THE MAGIC HAT - Mem Fox, 2002. A magic hat blows into town and as it lands on each adult resident, individually each is transformed into a different animal to the amazement and glee of the children who are watching.

THE MIGHTIEST - Keiko Kasza, 2001. A lion, a bear and an elephant stumble across a gold crown with the words “For the Mightiest” engraved on it. Since each of the three think they deserve the crown, they devise a competition to scare a little old lady, to see who is the mightiest of them all.

TIGER CAN’T SLEEP - S.J. Fore, 2006. About a boy who can’t sleep because there is a noisy tiger in his closet eating potato chips. After hearing the tiger do different loud activities in the closet, the boy hears the tiger crying and realizes the tiger is afraid of the dark. The boy invites the tiger to sleep in his bed with him so he doesn’t have to be afraid. Now the tiger can’t sleep because the little boy is snoring!

TOO MANY FROGS - Sandy Asher, 2005. Rabbit lives a very predictable life - every evening alone, he reads himself a story. One evening there is a knock on the door and Froggie invites himself in to Rabbit’s home to hear a story. Over time, Froggie starts making himself a little too comfortable for Rabbit’s liking (making snacks and nestling on piles of pillows). One evening Froggie even brings his entire family over

to Rabbit's to hear a story, and Rabbit's good will reaches its limit! He asks them all to leave, but eventually asks them to come back because he realizes that everything can be even more fun when you share it with friends.

[WE LOVE SCHOOL](#) - Marilyn Janovitz, 2007. A rhyming picture book that depicts what little kittens love about school.

[WHERE'S MY TEDDY?](#) - Jez Alborough, 1994. About a boy and a grown-up bear who are both missing the one thing that soothes them - their teddy bears.

[WILL YOU READ TO ME?](#) - Denys Cazet, 2007. A story about a misunderstood Hamlet, a very studious and un-pig-like pig who loves to read and write poetry and just wants to find someone to share his literary passions with.