

Today's Children's Literature



Mr. Breitsprecher's Edition

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FREE!

Some of the Best Picture Books in the World!

ABUELA

Dorros, Arthur

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY

Viorst, Judith

Recounts the events of a day when everything goes wrong for Alexander

ANDY AND THE LION

Daugherty, James

The lion remembers Andy's kindness to him

BARK, GEORGE

Feiffer, Jules

A mother dog worries about the strange noises her puppy is making.

BREAD AND JAM FOR FRANCES

Hoban, Russell; illustrated by Lillian Hoban

Frances decides she likes to eat only bread and jam at every meal--until to her surprise--her parents grant her wish.

BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Martin, Bill, Jr.; illustrated by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

BUZ

Egielski, Richard

When a little boy swallows a bug along with his cereal, pandemonium breaks out as the bug searches for an escape, the boy searches for an antidote, and Keystone Cops-like pills search for the bug.

Barlow Park: World-Class Picture Books!

The **Barlow Park Elementary School** is blessed with a wonderful collection of children's books to suit the needs of all students. We clearly have a "world-class" selection of picture books! The **New York Public Library**, one of the best systems in the world, maintains a list of *100 Picture Books Everyone Should Know*.

The professional librarians at Barlow Park have built a collection that features almost all of these great books – exceptional books that can be shared with children, books that kids enjoy reading.

Creating and maintaining this type of collection is important because recreational reading is a powerful tool that encourages children to build reading skills. When we give kids choices of books that they want to read, we develop their minds, imaginations, and information skills. When kids learn to read a story to "find out what happens next," we are instilling a sense of what a story is and an intellectual curiosity that will help them master all subject matters in school.

What a valuable gift to give to a child – an appreciation of reading and literature. The **Barlow Park Elementary School Library** has truly built a "World Class" library. Have you shared any of these books with someone you love?

CAPS FOR SALE; A TALE OF A PEDDLER, SOME MONKEYS AND THEIR MONKEY BUSINESS

Slobodkina, Esphyr

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

THE CARROT SEED

Krauss, Ruth; illustrated by Crockett Johnson

A young boy plants a carrot seed and, although the adults tell him that nothing will happen, he just knows it will come up.

A CHAIR FOR MY MOTHER

Williams, Vera B.

A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM

Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault; illustrated by Lois Ehlert

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

CLICK, CLACK, MOO : COWS THAT TYPE /

Cronin, Doreen

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.

CORDUROY

Freeman, Don

A teddy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but, when a little girl finally buys him, he finds what he has always wanted most of all.

CURIOUS GEORGE

Rey, H. A.

The adventures of a curious monkey.

DINOSAUR ROAR!

Stickland, Paul and Henrietta

Illustrations and rhyming text present all kinds of dinosaurs, including ones that are sweet, grumpy, spiky, or lumpy.

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

Willems, Mo

When the bus driver leaves the bus for a while, the pigeon wants to drive the bus so badly that he starts to dream himself behind the steering wheel vroom-vroom-vroom.

DUCK ON A BIKE

Shannon, David

A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.

FREIGHT TRAIN

Crews, Donald

Brief text and illustrations trace the journey of a colorful train as it goes through tunnels, by cities, and over trestles.

FROGGY GETS DRESSED

London, Jonathan

Froggy hops out into the snow for a winter frolic but is called back by his mother to put on some necessary articles of clothing.

GEORGE AND MARTHA

Marshall, James

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses.

GO AWAY, BIG GREEN MONSTER!

Emberley, Ed

Die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed are designed to help a child control nighttime fears of monsters.

GOIN' SOMEPLACE SPECIAL

McKissack, Patricia

In segregated 1950s' Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

GOODNIGHT MOON

Brown, Margaret W.; illustrated by Clement Hurd

A little bunny says goodnight to all the familiar things in his little room.

Children and Recreational Reading It's FUN, and GOOD FOR THEM TOO!

Most librarians do not ask children if they like to read – it is better to simply assume they do when they are given appropriate books. It's all about "match-making." Many believe that introducing children to folk stories is important – these are imaginative stories that sound like they could actually happen.

They are based on make-believe (fiction) and usually have a message or "moral." Traditionally, these stories are passed down by word-of-mouth. They are available as children's books too. Sometimes, animals in folk stories "talk," but this doesn't sound unreasonable to a child!

Fairy tales are another type of make-believe (fiction) that has elements of "magic" or "mystical" powers. Some librarians believe these should be introduced to children after they enjoy the folk stories. Fairy tales are based on ideals of good and bad; good always triumphs. Many believe these stories are important in teaching children to follow the concept of a "story." Children recognize that these stories cannot be true – they introduce children to the concept of "fiction."

Some believe that it is important to introduce children to these "make-believe" stories before introducing them to nonfiction, because they believe that a child needs to have a sense of "story" before they can appreciate nonfiction. Is there any objective research that "proves" this in any meaningful way? Its not clear, but why not respect the experience of those that work with children's books?

If children are introduced to stories when they are very young, it makes sense to start with things they can imagine - fiction. However, don't hesitate to share a good picture book with a child regardless of whether or not it is fiction or nonfiction.

In many schools, children's reading levels are assessed and each child is required to read books that move them through higher and higher levels of reading. Most librarians believe that children should choose their own reading levels. Remember, we want children to read for fun too. Both approaches work.

Most children can look at a book and see if they are interested in reading it. If a book is about something that they have high interest in, they will choose to read a harder book. If a book looks too difficult, they will find a book that looks like something that they will find more readable.

GOSSIE

Olivier, Dunrea

Gossie is a gosling who likes to wear bright red boots every day, no matter what she is doing, and so she is heartbroken the day the boots are missing and she can't find them anywhere.

GRANDFATHER'S JOURNEY

Say, Allen

A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON

Johnson, Crockett

Harold goes for a walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon and created many fantastic adventures.

HARRY THE DIRTY DOG

Zion, Gene; illustrated by Margaret Graham

A little dog who hates baths hides his scrubbing brush then becomes so dirty that his family does not recognize him.

HORTON HATCHES THE EGG

Seuss, Dr.

When a lazy bird hatching an egg wants a vacation, she asks Horton, the elephant, to sit on her egg-- which he does through all sorts of hazards and waits until he is rewarded for doing what he said he would.

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE

Numeroff, Laura J.

Relating the cycle of requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie takes the reader through a young child's day.

JOHN HENRY

Lester, Julius; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain.

JULIUS

Johnson, Angela; illustrated by Dav Pilkey

Maya's grandfather brings her a pig from Alaska and the two of them learn about fun and sharing together.

LON PO PO: A RED RIDING HOOD STORY FROM CHINA

Young, Ed.

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother.

LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE

Waber, Bernard

The helpful, happy crocodile living on East 88th St. causes a neighborhood feud.

MADELINE

Bemelmans, Ludwig

The story of a school girl in Paris.

MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS

McCloskey, Robert

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard found a quiet place to raise their babies then took them to the pond in the Boston Public Garden where there were peanuts to eat.

MAMA CAT HAS THREE KITTENS

Fleming, Denise

While two kittens copy everything their mother does, their brother naps.

THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS

Gerstein, Mordicai

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

MARTHA SPEAKS

Meddaugh, Susan

Problems arise when Martha, the family dog, learns to speak after eating alphabet soup.

MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL

Burton, Virginia L.

The story of an Irish steam-shovel artist and his old-fashioned steam-shovel, Mary Anne.

MILLIONS OF CATS

Gág, Wanda

The story of a peasant who goes off in search of one kitten and returns with trillions of cats.

MISS NELSON IS MISSING!

Allard, Harry and James Marshall

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS: AN AFRICAN TALE

Steptoe, John

Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.

MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!

Fleming, Candace

After planting the garden he has dreamed of for years, Mr. McGreely tries to find a way to keep some persistent bunnies from eating all his vegetables.

MY FRIEND RABBIT

Rohmann, Eric

Something always seems to go wrong when Rabbit is around, but Mouse lets him play with his toy plane anyway because he is his good friend.

THE NAPPING HOUSE

Wood, Audrey

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite. Illustrated by Don Wood.

OFF TO SCHOOL, BABY DUCK!

Hest, Amy

Baby Duck experiences the fear of the first day of school, but with a little help from Grampa, everything turns out okay in the end.

OLD BLACK FLY

Aylesworth, Jim

Rhyming text and illustrations follow a mischievous old black fly through the alphabet as he has a very busy bad day landing where he should not be. Illustrations by Stephen Gammell.

OLIVIA

Falconer, Ian

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.

OWEN

Henkes, Kevin

Owen's parents try to get him to give up his favorite blanket before he starts school, but when their efforts fail, they come up with a solution that makes everyone happy.

PAPA, PLEASE GET THE MOON FOR ME

Carle, Eric

Monica's father fulfills her request for the moon by taking it down after it is small enough to carry, but it continues to change in size. Some pages fold out to display particularly large pictures.

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Van Allsburg, Chris

A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

PUSS IN BOOTS

Perrault, Charles

Translation of Chat botte' illustrated by Fred Marcellino.

THE RANDOM HOUSE BOOK OF MOTHER GOOSE: A TREASURY OF 386 TIMELESS NURSERY RHYMES

Lobel, Arnold

An illustrated collection of Mother Goose nursery rhymes, including well-known ones such as "Bah, Bah, Black Sheep" and "Little Boy Blue" and less familiar ones such as "Doctor Foster went to Gloucester" and "When clouds appear like rocks and towers." Selected and illustrated by Arnold Lobel.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

Zelinsky, Paul O.

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child.

THE SNOWY DAY

Keats, Ezra Jack

A story of a young boy explores the magic world of snow -- snowball fight, snowman making, sliding down the snow way, etc. He loves the snow fall.

THE STORY OF FERDINAND

Leaf, Munro

The story of a bull that would rather sit quietly under a tree than fight. Illustrations by Robert Lawson.

THE STRAY DOG

Marc, Simont

A family befriends a stray dog, names him Willy, and decides to keep him. From a true story by Reiko Sassa.

STREGA NONA

De Paola, Tomie

A retelling of an old Italian tale about what happens when Strega Nona leaves her apprentice alone with her magic pasta pot, and he is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

SWIMMY

Lionni, Leo

Swimmy, the only black fish of the entire school, devises for himself and his adopted brothers and sisters a safer way to live in the sea.

SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE

Steig, William

In a moment of fright Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock but then can not hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

Potter, Beatrix

Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden and almost gets caught.

TAR BEACH

Ringgold, Faith

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.

TEN, NINE, EIGHT

Bang, Molly

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed.

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY

Taback, Simms

A the traditional version of an American poem first heard in the U.S. in the 1940s with illustrations on die-cut pages that reveal all that the old lady swallows.

THE THREE BEARS

Galdone, Paul

Three bears return from a walk and find a little girl asleep in baby bear's bed.

TRASHY TOWN

Zimmerman, Andrea Griffing

Little by little, can by can, Mr. Gillie, the trash man, cleans up his town.

TUESDAY

Wiesner, David

Frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.

UPTOWN

Bryan, Collier

A tour of the sights of Harlem, including the Metro-North Train, brownstones, shopping on 125th Street, a barber shop, summer basketball and MORE!

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR

Carle, Eric

Follows the progress of a little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Sendak, Maurice

After Max was sent to bed for misbehaving, he escapes by imagining that he sails away to a wild land full of monsters.

WHERE'S SPOT?

Hill, Eric

It's time for supper, so Spot's mother searches for him.

WHISTLE FOR WILLIE

Keats, Ezra Jack

A little Black boy tries very hard to learn how to whistle for his dog.

THE WOLF'S CHICKEN STEW

Kasza, Keiko

A hungry wolf's attempts to fatten a chicken for his stewpot have unexpected results.

Winnefox Libraries Can Help Too!

These picture books and others can be obtained at the your friendly local library! Finding great books to share with kids is fun. To find out more, please talk to the Children's Librarians at any of these libraries:

- Berlin
- Brandon
- Campbellsport
- Coloma
- Endeavor
- Fond du Lac
- Green Lake
- Hancock
- Kingston
- Markesan
- Menasha
- Montello
- Neenah
- Neshkoro
- North Fond du Lac
- Oakfield
- Omro
- Oshkosh
- Oxford
- Packwaukee
- Pine River
- Plainfield
- Poy Sippi
- Princeton
- Redgranite
- Ripon
- Wautoma
- Westfield
- Wild Rose
- Winneconne