

DIVISION 1 Kindergarten–Grade 3

Banks, Katie. *Max's Words*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2006.

Max's two older brothers are serious collectors: Benjamin saves stamps and Karl keeps coins. The youngest boy decides to accumulate words. What can you do with a collection of words?

Barrett, Judi. *Things That Are Most in the World*. Aladdin. 2001.

In this book of superlatives, imagination reigns. What is the jumpiest thing in the world? "Two thousand two hundred twenty-two toads on a trampoline." Each double-page spread features an adjective (e.g., hottest, smelliest, stickiest) highlighted in a bright color along with a creative idea of what the adjective could be describing.

Browne, Anthony. *Into the Forest*. Walker Childrens Paperbacks; New edition edition. 2005.

When the boy's mother asks him to take a basket to Grandma, who is not feeling well, she warns him not to take the shortcut through the forest. Starkly illustrated in black and white, with color used to highlight the boy, this forest is quite ominous. The trees are full of spikes as he enters, and gnarled with faces that loom over him on ensuing pages. The boy encounters a variety of recognizable, if a bit mean, fairy-tale characters—Jack trying to sell his cow, Hansel and Gretel, and a selfish Goldilocks. He even finds a red coat, completing his transformation as Red Riding Hood.

Chorao, Kay. *Rhymes Round the World*. Dutton Juvenile. 2009.

Children everywhere enjoy similar things, celebrated here in rhymes from around the world. Some are traditional while others are by credited authors; each is accompanied by soft illustrations until it's time to say good night (in many languages).

Cooney, Barbara. *Miss Rumphius*. Puffin. 1985.

Deciding in childhood that she would seek adventure in faraway places, Miss Rumphius fulfills her dream and then has one more thing to do – something to make the world more beautiful.

Fleming, Candace. *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! / Ñam! Ñam! Ñam!*. Atheneum/Anne Schwartz Books. 2002.

Try as he might, Mr. McGreely cannot outwit three clever and hungry rabbits as they feast on his vegetable garden — muncha, muncha, muncha! But there's always something to be grateful for as both the gardener and the rabbits learn in this funny, alliterative tale.

Fletcher, Ralph. *The Sandman*. Henry Holt and Co. 2008.

Have you ever wondered where the sand found in sleepy eyes comes from? It's explained in this appealing, old-fashioned feeling story of a tiny man named Tor who realizes that the sand from a found dragon's scale makes everyone sleepy.

Franco, Betsy. *Bees, Snails, & Peacocks: Patterns & Shapes... Naturally*. Margaret K. McElderry. 2008.

Lyrical language and textured collages poetically convey the wonder of patterns and shapes in moths, birds, and other creatures. A brief note concludes this handsome volume.

Fraze, Marla. *A Couple of Boys Have The Best Week Ever*. Harcourt. 2008.

James and Eaton are excited to spend a week at nature camp and the beach. This book is about a great week of summer with your best friend. As always, Marla Frazee's illustrations add to the fun of this book.

Friend, Catherine. *The Perfect Nest*. Walker Books Ltd. 2007.

This highly comical yet heartwarming tale begins simply enough. Jack, a hungry farm cat, builds a perfect nest to attract the perfect chicken to lay a perfect egg for a delicious omelet. Everything is going even better than planned when he lures a chicken, a duck, and a goose, and each one lays a yummy egg. Unfortunately, Jack cannot convince any of them to leave the nest!

Gall, Chris. *Dear Fish*. Little, Brown Young Readers. 2006.

When Peter throws a bottle into the ocean with a message for the sea creatures to come visit him, he hardly expected them to take him up on the offer! After various marine animals cause chaos in his hometown, Peter must set the situation straight. Awash with humor and puns, this is a great book for discussing literal and figurative meanings, and provides details on over 30 species of fish that appear in the book.

Haley, Gail. *A Story, A Story*. Aladdin. 1988.

How did the world come to have stories? It's all because Ananse the Spider Man was able to perform three amazing feats — and send stories from Nyame throughout the world of people. Strong woodcuts illustrate this traditional tale which explains how stories came to earth.

Hatkoff, Issabella & Craig Hatkoff. *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*. Scholastic Press. 2007.

When a tsunami orphans a young hippopotamus, a group of concerned Malidi (on the east coast of Kenya) villagers figure out how to capture the 600 pound baby thus beginning his new life in an animal sanctuary with a new and unlikely companion — a 130 year old tortoise named Mzee. Full color photographs and straightforward text are used in this inspiring, appealing and true story told first by a young girl and her father.

Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. *My Travelin' Eye*. Henry Holt and Co. 2008.

Her "travelin' eye" doesn't bother the narrator at all but it does mean that she has trouble focusing in school. The patch and eyeglasses prescribed by the ophthalmologist give her classmates something to tease her about — until she makes them her own fashion statement. Naive illustrations are eye-catching and capture the child's world, what she sees, and how she sees it.

Lehman, Barbara. *Museum Trip*. Houghton Mufflin. 2006.

When a boy in a red sweatshirt lags behind his classmates on a field trip to an art museum, he discovers a group of maze pictures. Amazingly, he finds himself small enough to go into the labyrinths — and out again with a medal. Was his adventure real or imagined? Once reunited with his class, he still has his medal, so who's to say? Crisp images tell the entire story without words.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. *Calendar*. Holiday House. 2007.

Luminous illustrations brighten up each month of the year in this brief but evocative jaunt. The seasons come to life through rhythmic language and translucent images that beg to be shared aloud.

Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad All Year*. Harpercollins Childrens Books. 1985.

For fans of these famous amphibians, this story continues Frog and Toad's saga and gives a glimpse of what the two friends are up to all year long. They frolic together over four seasons, with a story for each, plus one for Christmas. Glide down the snow-covered hill with Toad, hunt for spring with Frog, and discover just who is hiding under all that melted chocolate ice cream

Morales, Yuyi. *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale & Counting Book*. Chronicle Books. 2003.

What's an old woman to do when a skeleton comes to visit? Keep him waiting, of course, while busy doing things from 1 to 10, culminating in a festive birthday celebration. Lively language and illustrations make this original tale memorable.

Neuschwander, Cindy. *Patterns in Peru: An Adventure in Patterning*. Henry Holt and Co. 2007.

Matt and his twin sister, Bibi accompany their scientist parents to Peru where they stumble into an archaeological adventure. They ride their *guanaco* (a cousin to the llama), decode the patterns on the poncho, and find the mysterious lost city of Quwi! A note to adults suggests additional patterning activities.

O'connor, Jane. *Fancy Nancy: Explorer Extraordinaire!*. Picture Books. 2009.

For the fanciest girl around, the outdoors are out of this world! Fancy Nancy and her best friend, Bree, set out to explore the fascinating world of

wildflowers, trees, leaves, birds, and, of course, butterflies in their exclusively glamorous Explorers' Club. With recipes for pinecone bird feeders and extra-fancy lemonade, an official club bird, and an exclusive map of the territory, Fancy Nancy is one Explorer Extraordinaire!

Pfeffer, Wendy. *We Gather Together*. Dutton Juvenile. 2006.

Animals and people prepare for fall in different ways and at different times around the world. The season is often celebrated by harvests, introduced and illuminated in lyrical prose and restrained illustrations.

Thomas, Jan. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*. Beach Lane Books. 2009.

Three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, rhyme all the time. They say that far, jar, and tar rhyme with car, but a fourth dust bunny, Bob, just does not seem to get it; he says, "Look!" When they try and teach him that rug, hug, and mug rhyme with bug, he says, "Look out!" Watch what happens as the Dust Bunnies explore their world on the floor!

Thong, Roseanne. *Wish: Wishing Traditions Around the World*. Chronicle Books. 2008.

Children around the world make wishes. Information about what makes a wish come true follows a short poem. Each tradition is placed on a double-page spread accompanied by jewel-toned illustrations.

Van Allsburg, Chris. *The Stranger*. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 1986.

Who is the stranger that Farmer Bailey accidentally bumped in his pickup truck? The young man recovers but can't remember who he is until one day it becomes clear that autumn has arrived everywhere except the Bailey farm. Richly colored, highly realistic illustrations convey the story's mystery and beauty.

Watt, Melanie. *Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach*. Kids Can Press. 2008.

As usual, Scaredy Squirrel is afraid . . . this time he is afraid to go to the beach. He decides to create a fake beach to enjoy at home, but he soon realizes that he is missing some important things for his beach and has a plan to quickly get those things. As always, Scaredy Squirrel is a great character with lots of surprises.