

PreKindergarten and Kindergarten Suggested Reading

Baker, Keith. ***Just How Long Can a Long String Be?!*** Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Be it tied to a balloon or kite, or hanging a picture, or stringing a banjo or a mop, a bird explains to an ant how long a string needs to be.

Beaty, Andrea. ***Firefighter Ted***. McElderry, 2009. When Ted awakens to the smell of smoke and cannot find a firefighter, he decides to become one for the day, much to the dismay of his mother, neighbors, principal, and classmates.

Bechtold, Lisze. ***Sally and the Purple Socks***. Philomel, 2008. When her tiny purple socks start to expand, Sally turns them into a scarf and then curtains, but things soon get out of hand.

Bedford, David. ***Little Bear's Big Sweater***. Good Books, 2009. Big Bear, having outgrown his very favorite sweater, reluctantly passes it down to Little Bear, but when Little Bear gets the sweater wet and muddy, Big Bear gets angry and later regrets his behavior.

Berry, Lynne. ***Duck Tents***. Holt, 2009. While on a camping trip, five little ducks pitch tents, go fishing, toast marshmallows around a campfire, and face frightening night noises.

Broad, Michael. ***Forget-Me-Not***. Barron's, 2009. Monty, a young elephant whose mother is concerned about his safety, is warned to stay with the herd, and when he gets distracted while digging up some forget-me-nots, he sees that the herd has moved on and proceeds to run across other animals in groups such as meerkats, termites, and flamingos.

Brooks, Jeremy. ***My First Prayers***. Frances Lincoln, 2009. This collection of fifteen prayers is gathered from around the world and written for very young children.

Clements, Andrew. ***Dogku***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. Haiku is used to tell a story about a dog named Mooch and the many things he does, such as riding in a car, barking at the neighbors, and chewing on dirty socks.

Crews, Nina. ***The Neighborhood Mother Goose***. Greenwillow, 2004. This collection of nursery rhymes, both familiar and lesser known, is illustrated with photographs in a city setting.

DeGroat, Diane. ***Dogs Don't Brush Their Teeth!*** Orchard, 2009. Photographs, illustrations, and foldout pages introduce the reader to fifteen different dogs who show what they can and cannot do.

Dewdney, Anna. ***Llama Llama Misses Mama***. Viking, 2009. Llama Llama experiences separation anxiety on his first day of nursery school.

Ellery, Amanda. ***If I Were a Jungle Animal***. Simon & Schuster, 2009. While playing baseball, a boy wonders what it would be like to be different jungle animals.

English, Karen. ***Hot Day on Abbott Avenue***. Clarion, 2004. After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them to forget about being mad.

Fearnley, Jan. ***Martha in the Middle***. Candlewick, 2008. Martha, a young mouse with a sensible big sister and a cute little brother, begins to feel invisible and decides to run away, but at the end of the garden she meets a wise frog who points out just how special the middle can be.

Freymann, Saxton. ***Fast Food***. Arthur A. Levine, 2006. Playful rhyming text about different modes of transportation accompanies colorful sculptures of vegetables and fruits on the move.

Friedman, Darlene. ***Star of the Week: A Story of Love, Adoption, and Brownies with Sprinkles***. Bowen Press, 2009. As her turn to be "Star of the Week" in her kindergarten class approaches, Cassidy-Li puts together a poster with pictures of her family, friends, and pets, and wonders about her birth parents in China.

Gall, Chris. ***Dinotrux***. Little, Brown, 2009. Illustrations and simple text introduce creatures that are part truck and part dinosaur in a safari through a world ruled by the Craneosaurus, the Garbageadon, and Tyrannosaurus Trux.

Gay, Marie-Louise. ***When Stella Was Very, Very Small***. Groundwood Books, 2009. Stella uses her imagination to play as she grows from a baby into a big sister.

Gershator, Phillis. ***Zoo Day, ¡Olé! A Counting Book***. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. Simple text and illustrations of a zoo introduce the numbers one through ten.

Golson, Terry Blonder. ***Tillie Lays an Egg***. Scholastic, 2009. In search of the perfect place to lay her egg, Tillie the chicken leaves the barnyard and explores the farmhouse.

Gorbachev, Valeri. ***The Missing Chick***. Candlewick, 2009. When one of the little chicks goes missing, Mother Hen and the neighbors search frantically through the house, the yard, and the neighborhood before it is finally found taking a nap in a quiet place.

Hamanaka, Sheila. ***All the Colors of the Earth***. Morrow, 1994. This story in verse reveals that, despite outward differences, children everywhere are essentially the same and all are lovable.

Harris, Robie H. ***Maybe a Bear Ate It!*** Orchard, 2008. At bedtime, a young boy who cannot find his favorite book imagines the various creatures that might have taken it from him.

Hest, Amy. ***Little Chick***. Candlewick, 2009. In this collection of three stories, Little Chick learns how to deal with life's disappointments with the help of his beloved Old-Auntie.

Isadora, Rachel. ***Uh-oh!*** Harcourt, 2008. As an African-American toddler keeps getting into mischief throughout the day, the reader is invited to discover what the trouble is with each page-turn and to say "uh-oh!"

Javernick, Ellen. ***The Birthday Pet***. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. Danny can have a pet for his birthday and he knows exactly what he wants, but the other members of his family think differently.

Katz, Karen. ***Ten Tiny Ticks***. McElderry, 2005. Family members awaken a baby with tickles, from one little tickle on a lovely sleepy head to ten tiny tickles on chubby, tubby toes.

Keller, Holly. ***Miranda's Beach Day***. Greenwillow, 2009. Miranda and Mama spend a fun day at the beach building castles and catching sand crabs, and Miranda learns that, just like the sand and the sea, she and her mother will always be together.

Kerley, Barbara. ***One World, One Day***. National Geographic, 2009. Photographs and poetic text describe the shared daily activities of people around the world, such as preparing breakfast.

Ketteman, Helen. ***Armadilly Chili***. Whitman, 2004. In this Texas-style adaptation of a traditional folktale, a tarantula, mockingbird, and horned toad refuse to help an armadillo prepare a batch of chili but nevertheless expect to eat it when it's ready.

Kimmel, Eric A. ***The Three Little Tamales***. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. In this variation of "The Three Little Pigs" set in the Southwest, three little tamales escape from a restaurant before they can be eaten, and set up homes in the prairie, cornfield, and desert.

Kleven, Elisa. ***A Carousel Tale***. Tricycle Press, 2009. Given the responsibility of taking care of his favorite carousel dog's tail during the winter, a young blue crocodile finds, as time goes by, that he cannot resist his own artistic urges.

Lakin, Patricia. ***Camping Day***. Dial, 2009. Four crocodile friends have many adventures during a campout.

Lechner, John. ***A Froggy Fable***. Candlewick, 2005. A little frog is upset when his simple life is changed by such things as other animals moving in nearby, but during an unexpected adventure away from the pond, he learns that change can be good after all.

Low, William. ***Machines Go to Work***. Holt, 2009. In this lift-the-flap book, cement mixers, helicopters, backhoes, and other machines go to work around town.

Luciani, Brigitte. ***How Will We Get to the Beach?*** North-South Books, 2003. The reader is asked to guess what Roxanne must leave behind as she tries to find her way to the beach.

Marlow, Layn. ***Hurry Up and Slow Down***. Holiday House, 2008. Hare likes to hurry through the day, unlike Tortoise, but manages to slow down for his favorite bedtime story.

Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault. ***Listen to the Rain***. Holt, 1988. The changing sounds of the rain, the slow soft sprinkle, the drip-drop tinkle, the sounding pounding roaring rain, and the fresh wet silent after-time of rain are described.

Meserve, Jessica. ***Can Anybody Hear Me?*** Clarion, 2008. Jack's family is so noisy that no one ever hears what he says, but when he goes up the mountain with his friend Chester, he learns how to make himself heard.

Minor, Wendell and Florence. ***If You Were a Penguin***. Katherine Tegen Books, 2009. Illustrations and simple rhyming text tells a story of the fun and excitement of being a penguin.

Mitton, Tony. ***A Very Curious Bear***. Random House, 2009. A very curious bear asks his parents questions about all the things they see and do all day long.

Moore, Inga. ***Six-dinner Sid***. Simon & Schuster, 1991. Sid the cat plays the pet of six different owners on Aristotle Street so that he can get six dinners every night.

Most, Bernard. ***The Cow That Went Oink***. Harcourt, 1990. A cow that "oinks" and a pig that "moos" are ridiculed by the other barnyard animals until each teaches the other a new sound.

Murphy, Stuart J. ***Beep Beep, Vroom Vroom!*** HarperCollins, 2000. Molly loves to play with her big brother's cars, and as the red cars vroom and the yellow cars beep, readers can learn to recognize patterns, an early and essential math skill.

Nakagawa, Chihiro. ***Who Made This Cake?*** Front Street, 2008. While a boy and his parents go for an outing, little people invade the house and use their big construction equipment to bake a cake.

Norman, Kimberly. ***Crocodaddy***. Sterling, 2009. A young boy with a vivid imagination goes on a hunt for his crocodile dad.

Parenteau, Shirley. ***Bears on Chairs***. Candlewick, 2009. Four bears are happily seated on four chairs until Big Brown Bear shows up and demands a seat.

Rayner, Catherine. ***Harris Finds His Feet***. Good Books, 2008. Harris, a very small hare with very big feet, has an elderly granddad who teaches him the many uses of big, strong feet and other important life lessons.

Reynolds, Aaron. ***Chicks and Salsa***. Bloomsbury, 2005. Soon after the chickens tire of their feed and decide to make tortilla chips and salsa, all the other animals on Nuthatcher Farm start to crave southwestern cuisine.

Rodman, Mary Ann. ***Surprise Soup***. Viking, 2009. Excited by the prospect of being a big brother, Kevie helps make a special soup to welcome his mother and new sibling home from the hospital.

Rodriguez, Edel. ***Sergio Saves the Game!*** Little, Brown, 2009. Although Sergio the penguin loves to play soccer, he is very clumsy and uncoordinated so he practices night and day, hoping he can help his team win the big game against the Seagulls.

Rose, Deborah Lee. ***The Twelve Days of Springtime: A School Counting Book***. Abrams Books, 2009. In this cumulative counting verse, a child enumerates items given to her by her teacher during the first twelve days of spring.

Ross, Tony. ***Centipede's 100 Shoes***. Holt, 2002. A little centipede buys shoes to protect his feet but finds that they are a lot of trouble to put on and take off.

Rusch, Elizabeth. ***A Day with No Crayons***. Rising Moon, 2007. A little girl discovers all sorts of artistic possibilities when she has to go a day without crayons.

Russell, Natalie. ***Moon Rabbit***. Viking, 2009. A city rabbit befriends a country rabbit, but soon she misses her home and all of its cafes, parks, and bright lights.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. ***Hello Ocean***. Talewinds, 2001. Using rhyming text, a child describes the wonder of the ocean experienced through each of her five senses.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Puppies and Piggies***. Harcourt, 2008. Rhyming text describes what various animals do and what they love, as well as a baby who loves his bed and his mother.

SAMi. ***The Big, Bigger, Biggest Book***. Blue Apple Books, 2008. Simple text and fold-out illustrations introduce adjectives such as bigger, farther, and highest.

Sanders-Wells, Linda. ***Maggie's Monkeys***. Candlewick, 2009. Maggie's parents decide to play along when she insists a family of monkeys has moved into the refrigerator, leaving her practical, reality-obsessed brother wondering what to do about his family.

Schoenherr, Ian. ***Read It, Don't Eat It!*** Greenwillow, 2009. Rhyming text and illustrations of animals reading offer advice on how to take care of a library book.

Scieszka, Jon. ***Melvin Might?*** Simon & Schuster, 2008. Melvin, a cautious cement mixer, worries that he cannot keep up with the other trucks, but when Rita needs help he overcomes his fear in order to help her.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. ***Dog and Bear: Three to Get Ready***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Friends Dog and Bear get themselves into silly situations involving a bucket stuck on a head, a messy room, and a bouncy bed.

Shaw, Nancy. ***Sheep Out to Eat***. Houghton Mifflin, 1992. Five hungry sheep discover that a tea shop may not be the best place for them to eat.

Siminovich, Lorena. ***Alex and Lulu: Two of a Kind***. Templar Books, 2009. A dog named Alex and a cat named Lulu are best friends, but Alex wonders whether their differences mean that they should not be friends.

Suen, Anastasia. ***An Elephant Grows Up***. Picture Window Books, 2006. This story for early readers describes how baby elephants grow up, how their mothers care for them, and how they learn to care for themselves.

Swanson, Susan Marie. ***To Be Like the Sun***. Harcourt, 2008. A child reflects on how a small, striped gray seed eventually becomes a strong, beautiful sunflower.

Tafari, Nancy. ***The Big Storm: A Very Soggy Counting Book***. Simon & Schuster, 2009. Ten animals find shelter in a hill hollow one by one, but when the storm is over, a rumbling tells them there is still danger afoot.

Tankard, Jeremy. ***Boo Hoo Bird***. Scholastic, 2009. When Bird gets hit on the head while playing ball, his friends have many suggestions to try to make him feel better.

Thomas, Jan. ***Rhyming Dust Bunnies***. Atheneum, 2009. As three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, are demonstrating how much they love to rhyme, a fourth, Bob, is trying to warn them of approaching danger.

Vetter, Jennifer Riggs. ***Down by the Station***. Tricycle, 2009. This expanded version of the traditional song describes more vehicles, different locations, and their unique sounds, from puffer-bellies to racecars and rockets.

Voake, Charlotte. ***Tweedle Dee Dee***. Candlewick, 2008. Illustrations of a forest in spring and simple text provide a variation on the traditional folk song, "The green leaves grew around."

Waddell, Martin. ***Owl Babies***. Candlewick, 1992. Three owl babies whose mother has gone out in the night try to stay calm while she is gone.

Walsh, Melanie. ***10 Things I Can Do to Help My World: Fun and Easy Eco-tips***. Candlewick, 2008. Simple text and die-cut illustrations describe ten ways children can help the environment, such as turning the water off when they brush their teeth and using both sides of a piece of paper.

Wilson, Karma. ***Mortimer's First Garden***. McElderry, 2009. Little Mortimer Mouse, longing to see something green at winter's end, follows the lead of the big people and plants, waters, and weeds his last sunflower seed until, finally, with God's help and a lot of patience, he harvests his crop.

(These book suggestions have been adopted from HAISLN Organization.)

For more great book ideas, check out www.haisln.org. The values are not necessarily endorsed by CCS.)