

Suggested reading for PreK-K 2021

Picture Book Fiction

Allenby, Victoria. Shape Up, Construction Trucks! 2020.

"Full-color photographs feature construction vehicles. Geometric shapes discernable on the vehicles are digitally highlighted for easy identification, and rhyming text names both the shape and the truck. A final spread directed at caregivers shares age-appropriate enrichment activities for toddlers learning to identify shapes." --Provided by publisher. E ALLENBY

Bissonette, Aimée M. When Winter Comes: Discovering Wildlife in Our Snowy Woods. 2020.

A sweet poetic children's book celebrating the vibrancy of life in winter. Although a forest may be blanketed in snow or a lake frozen over, families who enjoy the outdoors in winter, happily bundled up to play in the energizing weather, know that wildlife is still teeming there. E BISSONETTE

Blabey, Aaron. The Return of Thelma the Unicorn. 2020.

The world misses its favorite unicorn, but Thelma is reluctant to don her horn and sparkles again. However, with the support of her best friend Otis, she realizes the importance of spreading love and joy -- no matter what people think. E BLABEY

Boldt, Mike. Find Fergus. 2020.

Follow huge, loveable Fergus and see all the many ways in which he is TERRIBLE at playing hide-and-seek, such as standing behind a VERY tiny tree ("Found you, Fergus! That was too easy!") or trying to camouflage in a giant crowd of bunnies and squirrels ("Try bears, Fergus. Bears!"). E BOLDT

Cabrera, Jane. The Bear Went Over the Mountain. 2020.

Another entry in Jane Cabrera's Story Time series, this colorful picture book expands upon the well-known children's song. Suitable for reading with your youngest snugglers or the learning-to-read crowd. Try her other picture books, too! E CABRERA

Camper, Cathy; illustrated by Kenard Pak. Ten Ways to Hear Snow. 2020.

As Lina walks to her grandmother's house, she listens to her world and discovers ten ways to pay attention to what might have otherwise gone unnoticed. A layered exploration of mindfulness, empathy, and what we realize when the world gets quiet. E CAMPER

Cole, Henry. Nesting. 2020.

Follow two robins as they build a nest with twigs and grass. Mother robin lays four beautiful blue eggs and will keep the eggs warm in the nest until they hatch into four baby robins. **Nesting**

provides introductory biology and animal science concepts for very young children. E COLE

*Dean, Kimberly & James. **Pete the Cat: Crayons Rock!** 2020.*

When his friends are less than impressed by the crayon portraits he draws of them, Pete the cat begins doubting his artistic abilities before reconnecting with his unfailingly creative, groovy spirit and the realization that there are no mistakes in art. E DEAN

*Doi, Kaya; illustrated by David Boyd. **Chirri & Chirra on the Town.** 2020.*

In their 5th adventure, Chirri and Chirra head down forest paths and alleyways into a yarn shop and an old woman's house where they enjoy hot drinks and soup. When they're done, they find a surprise hidden in the branches of a tree. Try the other books in this charming series! E DOI

*Ferry, Beth; illustrated by Chow Hon Lam. **The Bold, Brave Bunny.** 2020.*

After his brothers and sisters ruin his favorite alphabet book, Teetu the bunny runs away. What he discovers is more marvelous than he ever dreamed, but what will happen when Teetu tires of being alone? Look for the hidden animals in the artwork. E FERRY

*Forsythe, Matthew. **Pokko and the Drum.** 2019.*

When Pokko's drum gets to be too loud, her mother and father suggest that she play outside for a bit. She is soon joined by other instrument-playing animals. Her mother and father might not like drawing attention to themselves, but Pokko's leading the way. E FORSYTHE, eBook

*Grabenstein, Chris; illustrated by Leo Espinosa. **No More Naps!** 2020.*

Like stubborn toddlers everywhere, Annalise Devin McFleece refuses to take a nap. One by one, everyone falls asleep except Annalise, and when she's finally ready for her nap, all the naps are taken! Is there anyone who has an extra nap to spare? E GRABENSTEIN, eBook

*Hale, Shannon; illustrated by LeUyen Pham. **Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn.** 2021.*

When a fluffy pink kitty can't get her friends to join in her imaginary play, she sadly gives up. Can a beautiful, majestic unicorn restore her joyful play? A reassuring ending reminds readers that sometimes friends can identify with each other and truly see each other. E HALE

*Henkes, Kevin; illustrated by Laura Dronzek. **Summer Song.** 2020.*

Kevin Henkes introduces basic concepts of language and the summer season with striking verbal imagery, repetition, and alliteration. Laura Dronzek's glowing paintings beautifully illustrate the wonders of summer. Savor it like a summer day. E HENKES

*John, Jory; illustrated by Pete Oswald. **The Couch Potato.** 2020.*

When the electricity goes out, Couch Potato is forced to peel himself away from the comforts of his living room and venture outside. When he does, he realizes fresh air and sunshine could be just

the things he needs. --Provided by publisher. E JOHN

*Kalan, Elliott; illustrated by Andrea Tsurumi. **Sharko and Hippo**. 2020.*

Planning for a nice day out, Sharko gets increasingly frustrated when his best friend Hippo gives him the wrong things. Will it all work out in the end? This is a funny book for readers who enjoy wordplay or need practice with their sight words. E KALAN

*Keller, Laurie. **Hello, Arnie! An Arnie the Doughnut Story**. 2020.*

Arnie and the other doughnuts in the bakery are puzzled by the giant round maybe-doughnut they see. A picture book by bestselling, Geisel Award-winning Laurie Keller. E KELLER

*Kung, Isabella. **No Fuzzball!** 2020.*

Fuzzball is queen of her home, where her "subjects" do her bidding and make sure she is groomed, fed, and entertained. One day, when her loyal subjects leave the house and do not return promptly, Fuzzball starts to worry. In a panic, she resolves to be a more benevolent queen, and maybe redecorate the house to show her feline approval of her staff. --Provided by publisher. E KUNG

*Lichtenheld, Tom; illustrated by Julie Rowan-Zoch. **Louis**. 2020.*

Simple text and bold, colorful illustrations help tell the story of a teddy bear who feels he is not being treated well by his rough and tumble human. E LICHTENHELD

*Lindstrom, Carole; illustrated by Michaela Goade. **We Are Water Protectors**. 2020.*

Winner of the 2021 Caldecott Medal. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this issues a rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption. --Provided by publisher. E LINDSTROM

*Ludwig, Trudy. **The Power of One: Every Act of Kindness Counts**. 2020.*

"When one child reaches out in friendship to a classmate who seems lonely, she begins a chain reaction of kindness that ripples throughout her school and her community." --Provided by publisher. From bullying expert and author of **The Invisible Boy** Trudy Ludwig and **Little Elliot** illustrator Mike Curato comes a tale as simple and inspiring as the golden rule. E LUDWIG

*Maillard, Kevin; illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal. **Fry Bread**. 2019.*

Using illustrations that show the diversity in Native America and spare poetic text that emphasizes fry bread in terms of provenance, this volume tells the story of a post-colonial food that is a shared tradition for Native American families all across the North American continent. Winner of the Sibert Medal! E MAILLARD, eBook

*Marino, Gianna. **We Will Live in This Forest Again**. 2020.*

A lone deer sees its only home scorched by flame but later returns to find new plants already

sprouting; the promise of a day when the air will be filled with birdsong once again. Lush watercolor illustrations explore the bittersweet cycle of burning and rebirth in the forest. E MARINO

Medina, Meg; illustrated by Sonia Sánchez. Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away. 2020.

Evelyn Del Rey and Daniela do everything together until the day Evelyn moves away. The girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special. E MEDINA

Micklos, John; illustrated by Charlene Chua. Raindrops to Rainbow. 2021.

A mother helps her daughter get through a gray, rainy day, then they both enjoy the vibrant rainbow colors of the rainbow. E MICKLOS

Miller, Tim. Tiny Kitty, Big City. 2021.

Simple, repetitive text tells the story of a little cat's city adventures. E MILLER

Morris, Richard; illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Bear Came Along. 2019.

Once there was a river that didn't know it was capable of adventures until a big bear came along. Adventures aren't any fun by yourself, and so enter Froggy, Turtle, Beaver, Raccoon, and Duck. This Caldecott Honor book celebrates the joy and fun that's in store when you embark together on a ride of a lifetime. E MORRIS, eBook

Nicholls, Sally; illustrated by Bethan Woollvin. The Button Book. 2020.

A group of animal friends discover a collection of mysterious buttons, all of which do different things. From a blue singing button to a purple tickle button, from a rude sound button to a mysterious white button, there's only one way to find out what they do: press them all! A perfect shared read for adult and child. E NICHOLLS, eBook

O'Connor, Jane. Fancy Nancy Storybook Favorites. 2020.

A vocabulary-building collection of six stories featuring perennial favorite Fancy Nancy. Includes **Fancy Nancy and the Late, Late, Late Night; Pajama Day; Fancy Nancy Sees Stars; Fancy Nancy and the Delectable Cupcakes; The Show Must Go On;** and **Dazzling Book Report.** E O'CONNOR

Papp, Lisa. Madeline Finn and the Therapy Dog. 2020.

Another heartwarming book from Lisa Papp featuring a girl and the therapy dog she is helping to raise. E PAPP

Penfold, Alexandra. Big Feelings. 2021.

A diverse group of children convert an empty lot into a playground. Simple sentences and detailed illustrations provide an excellent opportunity to discuss emotions with your child. E PENFOLD

*Pilutti, Deb. **Old Rock (Is Not Boring).** 2020.*

Old Rock's forest friends wonder if it's boring sitting in one place and never moving. Old Rock insists it's quite the opposite: it has taken quite a journey! Old Rock's journey takes us on a very brief history of the natural world, and demonstrates that there is more than one way to enjoy life. E PILUTTI, eBook

*Pinkney, Jerry. **The Little Mermaid.** 2020.*

Another sophisticated fairy tale adaptation by Caldecott Medalist Jerry Pinkney conjures a poignant friendship story and an epic tale of redemption. Featuring detailed pencil and watercolor illustrations and higher-level vocabulary, this is for the more advanced reader or makes for a bedtime story. E PINKNEY

*Portis, Antoinette. **A New Green Day.** 2020.*

If you listen, nature speaks. Explore nature through evocative riddles and bold imagery that take the reader from day to night and back again. Great also for active readers who will delight in the clever language! E PORTIS, eBook

*Prasadam-Halls, Smriti; illustrated by David Litchfield. **Rain Before Rainbows.** 2020.*

"Rain before rainbows, clouds before sun, night before daybreak - a new day's begun." In this heartfelt story about courage, change, and moving on, a girl and her companion fox travel together away from a sorrowful past, through challenging and stormy times, toward color and light and life. With gorgeous, richly realized illustrations and immense hope at its heart, **Rain Before Rainbows** holds out a ray of sunshine for anyone looking for light. E PRASADAM-HALLS

*Reidy, Jean; illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins. **Truman.** 2019.*

After his best friend Sarah leaves for her first day of school, a tortoise named Truman goes on an adventure across the living room and learns to be brave in this thoughtful and heartwarming twist on a first experience story. E REIDY, eBook

*Saltzberg, Barney. **One of These Is Not Like the Others.** 2020.*

Sandra Boynton fans will love this cheerfully illustrated tribute to individuality. Each spread features three things that are alike, and one that is decidedly different. Rabbits and a bicycle? Snails and an alien? Pies and a monster? Find out how they all fit together in this quirky, giggle-inducing book. E SALTZBERG

*Scott, Jordan; illustrated by Sydney Smith. **I Talk Like a River.** 2020.*

A father helps his son find his voice, when the boy, who stutters, feels isolated, alone, and incapable of communicating in the way he'd like. Compassionate parents will instantly recognize a father's ability to reconnect a child with the world around him. Based on poet Jordan Scott's own

experience, this is a book for any child who feels lost, lonely, or unable to fit in. E SCOTT

Share Your Rainbow: 18 Artists Draw Their Hope for the Future. 2021.

Inspired by kids across the country displaying rainbows in their windows, acclaimed illustrators come together to imagine everything these rainbows represent: caring for one another, and our hopes for the future. In this collection of eighteen scenes, readers will lick an ice cream cone, swim in the ocean, cuddle close with cousins, and celebrate a birthday with a party full of friends and family. Each spread has a hidden rainbow for kids to find. --Provided by publisher. E SHARE

Smith, Jane. **Hello, New House.** 2021.

Written in the simplest language and enhanced by cheerful illustrations, this picture book tells the story of Callie moving from the city to the country, and finding that not *everything* changes.

E SMITH

Smith, Monique Gray; illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt. **When We Are Kind.** 2020.

In simple repetitive text suitable for the youngest readers, this picture book makes clear statements of how we take care of ourselves and others, and the world around us, and how we receive in return. E SMITH

Sullivan, Mary. **Up on Bob.** 2020. Bob the dog doesn't mind hard work when it means he can reward himself with a nap, but *Someone* is watching him sleep! Hopefully they will just go away if Bob lies really still. *Someone*, who happens to be a cat, has other things in mind. Simple text and charming illustrations make this great for beginning readers. E SULLIVAN, eBook

Tabor, Corey. **Mel Fell.** 2021.

Readers will delight in turning their book sideways and upside down to follow Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of self-confidence and taking a leap of faith. From the award-winning illustrator of **Fox the Tiger**. E TABOR

Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah; illustrated by Luisa Uribe. **Your Name is a Song.** 2020.

A celebration that reminds us of the beauty, history, and magic behind names! Upset by teachers and classmates mispronouncing her name, a little girl learns about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names from her mother. E THOMPKINS- BIGELOW

Underwood, Deborah; illustrated by Cindy Derby. **Outside In.** 2020.

Rhythmic, powerful language shows us how our world is made and the many ways nature helps and heals us, and reminds us that we are all part of a much greater universe. Emotive illustrations evoke the beauty, simplicity, and wonder that await us all in nature. E UNDERWOOD

Yamasaki, Katie, and Ian Lendler. **Everything Naomi Loved.** 2020.

Naomi is distressed by the changes to her urban neighborhood until her neighbor Mister Ray tells

her, "Things change... but where I grew up when something we love goes away we paint it on the wall so it's always with us... Help me say goodbye." Soon Naomi turns her 11th Street memories into a mural and discovers that where she finds people to love, she will have a place to love. E YAMASAKI

*Young, Ed; words by Stephen Cowan. **The Weather's Bet.** 2020.*

Rendered in exquisite mixed-media collage by Caldecott Medalist Ed Young, this retelling of the well-known Aesop's fable *The Wind and the Sun* proves that sometimes gentle persuasion and kindness are the best virtues of all. E YOUNG, eBook

*Zimmerman, Andrea, and David Clemesha; illustrated by Dan Yaccarino. **Smashy Town.** 2020.*

As a follow up to their popular **Trashy Town**, Zimmerman and Yaccarino bring us a book about demolition. Need more smashing and crashing in your life? This book is for you! E ZIMMERMAN

Nonfiction

*Barretta, Gene. **The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver.** 2020.*

Gene Barretta's moving words and Frank Morrison's beautiful paintings tell the inspiring life and history of *George Washington Carver*, from a baby born into slavery to celebrated botanist, scientist, and inventor. J BIO CARVER

*Lunde, Darrin P. **Whose Footprint is That?** 2019.*

Written by a mammologist at the Smithsonian, this clever preschool page-turner pairs seven tracks with information about the animals' locomotion, asking kids to guess which animal left which tracks behind. J 591.479 LUNDE

*Marshall, Linda Elovitz. **Saving the Countryside: The Story of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit.***

2020. If you like *Peter Rabbit*, you will love to learn how Beatrix Potter found freedom and inspiration in the countryside. J BIO POTTER

*Perish, Patrick. **Bumblebees.** 2019.*

Developed by literacy experts for students in Kindergarten, this Level 1 Blastoff Reader* introduces young readers to bumblebees through leveled text and colorful photographs. Try other Level 1 Blastoff Readers for your early readers. J 595.799 PERISH

*Portis, Antoinette. **Hey, Water!** 2019.*

Join a young girl as she explores her surroundings and sees that water is everywhere. Water doesn't always look the same, it doesn't always feel the same, and it shows up in lots of different shapes. Water can be a lake, it can be steam, it can be a tear, or it can even be a snowman. A Sibert Honor Book. J 553.7 PORTIS, eBook

*Reynolds, A.M. **Let's Look at Japan.** 2019*

Simple text and big illustrations introduce readers to the country of Japan. This is part of the Let's Look at Countries series. Pebble Plus books can be found for most subjects in our nonfiction collection and are just the right level for preschoolers and kindergarteners! J 952 REYNOLDS, eBook*

*Thimmesh, Catherine. **A Baby Like You.** 2019.*

Connecting babies across ecosystems, from polar bear cubs, giraffe calves, and zebra colts to human babies, Sibert medalist Catherine Thimmesh shows how we are all more similar than we realize. J 591.392 THIMMESH, eBook

*Vegara, Maria Isabel Sánchez; illustrated by Mai Ly Degnan. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** 2020.*

Check out the Little People, Big Dreams series of biographies. They are short biographies with simple text for the youngest readers. J BIO KING

*Waxman, Laura Hamilton. **Nurse Tools.** 2020.*

*Bumba Books Community Helpers: Tools of the Trades series is designed for ages 4-7. Simple text with bold photographs introduces young readers to the tools used by nurses. Other titles in the series include **Construction Worker Tools, Police Officer Tools, Doctor Tools, and Dentist Tools.** J 610.73 WAXMAN, eBook*

Ask the librarian for help finding **Pebble Plus books and **Blastoff Readers (Level One)** in the juvenile nonfiction section. These books are great for preschoolers and kindergarteners! A Pebble Plus book has a star on its spine and a Blastoff Reader has - you guessed it! - a little rocket.*



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