

# The Storytellers

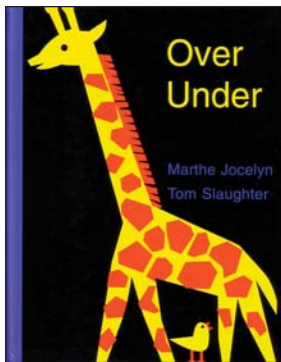


## Reading to Children

January/February 2006

Establish the habit of reading aloud everyday. For busy parents, usually bedtime is chosen. For children who have outgrown their lap sitting and bed sharing days, a comfortable chair is best. Use plenty of expression and have fun with the language. Whisper, laugh, oink, meow or speak gruffly or softly. Read slow or fast to

fit the story and allow time to discuss the story, if desired. For children who are not used to listening to stories, keep the initial readings short to fit their attention span and gradually increase the reading time and length of book. Turn off the TV, get comfortable, have a good light, and enjoy a good book.



### Over Under

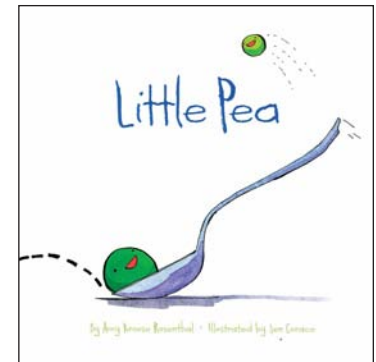
By Marthe Jocelyn  
Illus. by Tom Slaughter  
Tundra Books 2005  
Ages 2-5

A great concept book for young children that explores opposites, size, shape, and color. The oversized and spare text is also beneficial to beginning readers.

### Little Pea

By Amy Krouse Rosenthal  
Illus. by Jen Corace  
Chronicle Books 2005  
Ages 3+

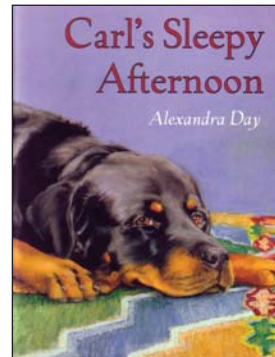
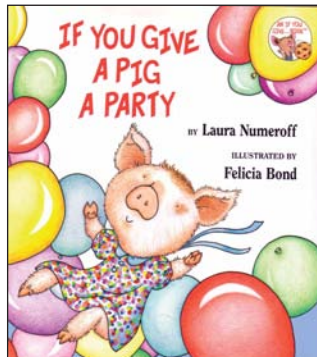
In a comical twist on a universal food problem faced by parents, each night Little Pea struggles through dinner's main course of candy, but his parents insist that he must clean his plate in order to have the spinach dessert.



### If You Give a Pig a Party

By Laura Numeroff  
Illus. by Felicia Bond  
HarperCollins 2005  
Ages 3-7

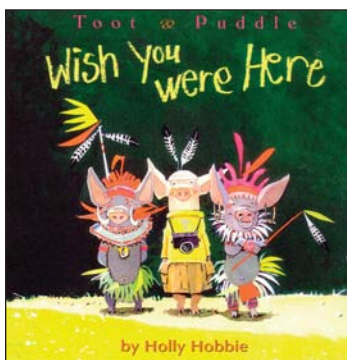
When you give a pig a party, one thing always leads to another. From balloons, street fairs, bumper cars, roller coasters, to hide and seek, sleepovers, and pillow fights, parties are a lot of work, not to mention fun.



### Carl's Sleepy Afternoon

Written/Illus. by Alexandra Day  
Farrar, Straus, Giroux 2005  
Ages 3+

Mostly told through pictures, Alexandra Day has created another delightful story. Left at home while the family shops in town, Carl wanders around town, visiting the bakery, making a delivery for the pharmacist, helping the veterinarian, and ends up a hero rescuing a litter of puppies from a fire.



### Toot & Puddle: Wish You Were Here

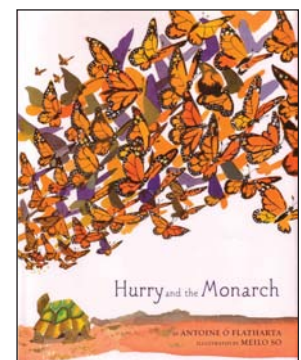
Written/Illus by Holly Hobbie  
Little, Brown & Co. 2005  
Ages 4-7

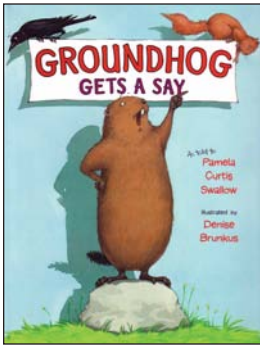
Toot travels to Borneo in search of exotic plants, but returns sick with the Violet Virus. The only cure is to drink tea made from the purple Slimecat Stinkhorn. Wouldn't you know, it's only found in Toot & Puddle's own meadow

### Hurry and the Monarch

Written by Antoine O Flatbarta  
Illus. by Meilo So  
Alfred A. Knopf 2005  
Ages 5-8

Hurry is an old tortoise that lives in Wichita Falls, Texas. One day in fall, he makes friends with a Monarch butterfly migrating from Canada to Mexico. In spring, she again stops in Hurry's garden long enough to lay her eggs and flies off. The afterword includes facts about monarch butterflies. Beautiful illustrations also make this a winner.





## Groundhog Gets a Say

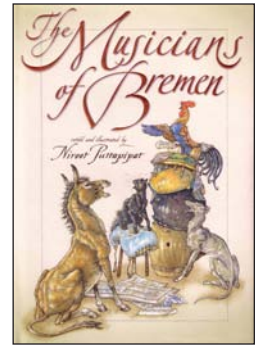
By Pamela Curtis Swallow  
Illus. by Denise Brunkus  
G. P. Putnam's Sons 2005  
Ages 5+

Groundhog feels neglected and thinks that his holiday should last longer. He declares February as Groundhog Appreciation Month, and comes up with many interesting facts about groundhogs. For example, they can run as fast as an average fourth grader, and are known by the name of woodchucks or whistle pigs.

## The Musicians of Bremen

Written by The Brothers Grimm  
Retold/Illus. by Nirooti Puttapipat  
Candlewick Press 2005  
Ages 5-8

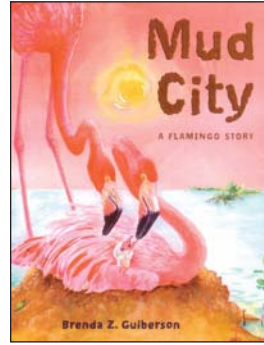
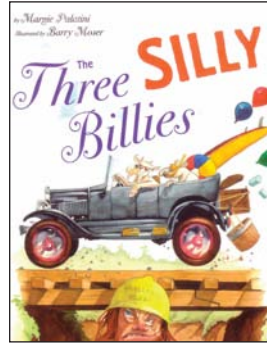
In this beautiful retelling of a classic fairy tale, four aging animals, no longer of use to their masters, travel to Bremen to become troubadours. Along the way, they manage to outwit a band of robbers, and ultimately find a new home. A great retelling that closely resembles the original Bremen Town Musicians published in 1819.



## The Three Silly Billies

Written by Margie Palatini  
Illus. by Barry Moser  
Simon & Schuster 2005  
Ages 4-8

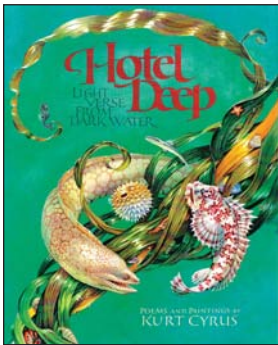
Three billy goats, Billy Bob, Billy Bo, and Just Plain Billy, cannot afford one dollar to cross the troll's bridge. They decide to form a carpool with the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack from the beanstalk, with disastrous results for the grumpy troll.



## Mud City: A Flamingo Story

Written/Illus. by Brenda Z. Guiberson  
Henry Holt Books 2005  
Ages 4-8

From egg to chick to adult, the flamingo's life cycle is depicted in a salty lake of the Inagua National Park in the Bahamas. Information on diet, habits, hardship, and the flamingo's change from fluffy white to pink will be of interest to children as well as adults.



## Hotel Deep: Light Verse from Dark Water

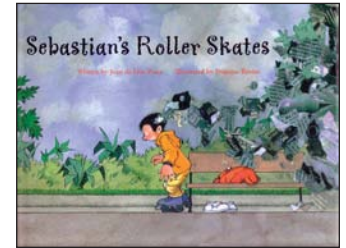
Written/Illus by Kurt Cyrus  
Harcourt Children's Books 2005  
Ages 5-10

Twenty-one poems follow a sardine in search of its lost school in the Great Coral Reef. Twenty-eight types of marine life are featured within the beautiful illustrations.

## Sebastian's Roller Skates

Written by Joan De Deu Prat  
Illus. by Francesc Rovira  
Kane/Miller Books 2005, Ages 5-9

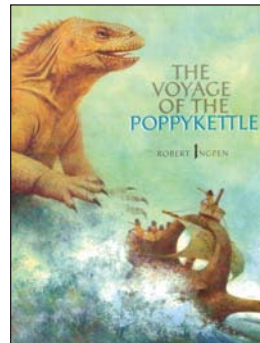
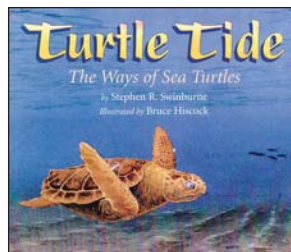
Sebastian was very shy – too shy to speak up to the barber, and too shy to talk to his neighbors. When he finds an old pair of roller skates in the park, they change his life forever. With practice Sebastian gains more confidence and soon he has a lot to say.



## Turtle Tide: The Ways of Sea Turtles

By Stephen R. Swinburne,  
Illus. by Bruce Hiscock,  
Boyd's Mills Press 2005, Ages 7+

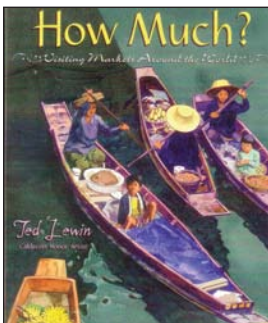
After a mother sea turtle swims to shore, lays her hundred eggs, the hatchling's fight for survival begins. As they scurry to the sea, some are stopped by raccoons, crabs and herons. Eventually one lone turtle survives and heads out to sea.



## The Voyage of The Poppykettle

Written/Illus. by Robert Ingpen  
minedition 2005, Ages 7+

In ancient Peru, a community of miniature people lead a peaceful life until the Spanish invade and they must relocate. Transforming an old teakettle into a ship, the Hairy Peruvians cross the ocean to Australia, keeping watch for giant iguanas and the Sea God El Nino.



## How Much?: Visiting Markets Around The World

Written/Illus. by Ted Lewin  
HarperCollins 2006, Ages 5-9

Most people shop at markets, whether for food, animals, flowers, or just plain junk. Featured are several markets in Thailand, India, Peru, Egypt, a flea market in New Jersey, and an Ethiopian market in New York. Ted Lewin's illustrations richly capture the heart of the bustling marketplaces that most children will never have a chance to visit.

## Egypt in Spectacular Cross-Section

By Stewart Ross, Illus by Stephen Biesty  
Scholastic Books 2005, Ages 9-12

Father and son set out on a thirty-day voyage down the Nile River during the reign of ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses the Great in 1250 B.C. Each scene is shows a different part of ancient Egypt – the Elephantine harbor, the stone quarry at Gebel el-Silsila, the temples at Karnak, an underground tomb in The Valley of the Kings, and much more. The attention to detail is marvelous.

