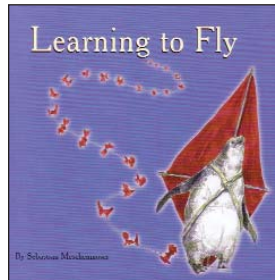


The Storytellers

March/April 2006

Reading to Children

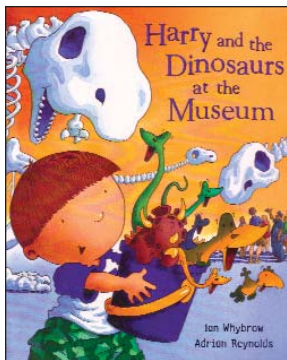
Reading is at the heart of literacy, but the love of reading begins at home by reading to children. The home is still the most influential force in a child's life, and parents who read to their children contribute immeasurably to their intellectual, social, and emotional development. Children who listen to books that are beyond their reading skills are introduced to an increased variety of words and the complex structure of language patterns. Reading aloud is also fun!



Learning to Fly

Written/Illus. by Sebastian Meschenmoser
Kane-Miller Books, 2006, All Ages

This charming story from Germany features a lost little penguin, who convinces his rescuer that he crashed while flying. Everyone knows that penguins can't fly, but together they try all sorts of ways to return the aerodynamically challenged penguin to the skies. Nothing works until they spot a penguin colony flying by.



Harry and the Dinosaurs at the Museum

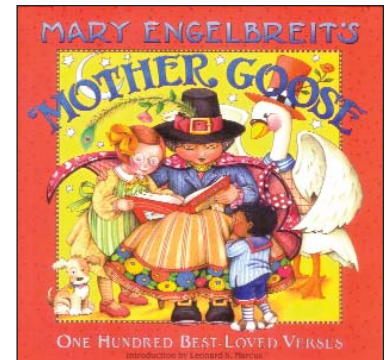
By Ian Whybrow
Illus. by Adrian Reynolds
Random House, 2005, Ages 3-7

Sam and his dinosaur pals enjoy their trip to the museum. After climbing the display cases and sliding on floors, they wander off. However, Gran knows where to find them – in the Prehistoric Hall where Harry's pals are delighted to meet their dinosaur relatives.

Mary Engelbreit's Mother Goose

Written/Illus. by Mary Engelbreit
HarperCollins, 2005, Ages 3+

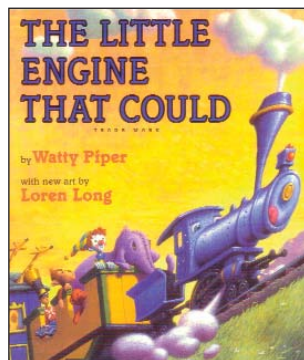
One hundred nursery rhymes are presented by this famous artist and illustrated in her whimsical and beautiful technique. An introduction by children's literature specialist Leonard S. Marcus describes the important role of nursery rhymes.



The Little Engine That Could

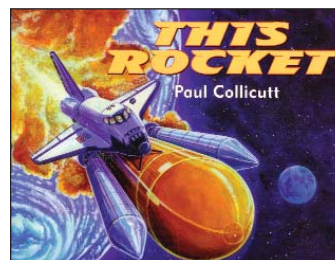
By Watty Piper
Illus. by Loren Long
Philomel Books, 2005, Ages 4+

Newly re-illustrated, this wonderful classic tells the story of a happy Little Blue Engine that pulls a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. Despite her size, she chugs up the mountain with, "I think I can. I think I can. I think I can." And, of course, she does!

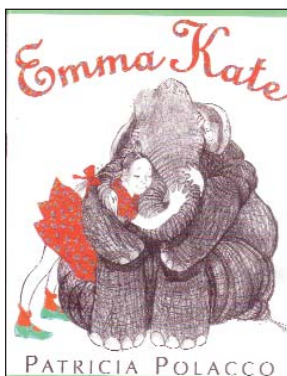


This Rocket

Written/Illus. by Paul Collicutt
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005, Ages 3-6



An impressive display of rockets and spacecraft are presented for young enthusiasts. From small rockets at a Fourth of July celebration to the space shuttle Columbia, information is presented in simple text. Endpapers not only identify specific models, but also detail the Apollo space mission.



Emma Kate

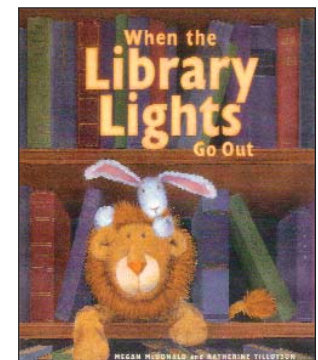
Written/Illus. by Patricia Polacco
Philomel Books, 2005, Ages 3+

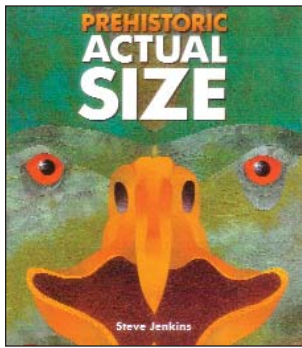
Emma Kate and her imaginary friend share everything together – homework, soccer practice, sleepovers. They even have their tonsils out and eat pink ice cream together. However, this charming story takes a comic twist when readers and listeners discover that Emma Kate is the elephant.

When the Library Lights Go Out

By Megan McDonald
Illus. by Katherine Tillotson
Atheneum Books, 2005, Ages 3-6

After hours, storytime puppets come to life. When the puppets can't locate Hermit Crab, Rabbit, decides that the giants kidnapped her. Rabbit and Lion find a map, fold it into a boat, and navigate across the library floor by the light of the moon (the library clock). Turns out, Hermit Crab only wanted to see San Francisco, hear the ocean, and stay up until midnight.





Prehistoric Actual Size

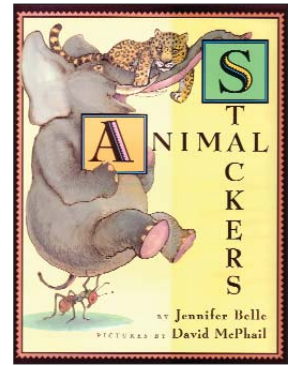
Written/Illus. by Steve Jenkins
Houghton Mifflin, 2005, Ages 4-10

From a single-celled Protozoa to a 45-foot Giganotosaurus, eighteen animals are featured in their exact size. In some cases, children will only see a head, or teeth, but enough to give them an idea of proportions. End papers contain more information on each of the prehistoric animals.

Animal Stackers

By Jennifer Belle
Illus. by David McPhail
Hyperion Books, 2005, Ages 5-9

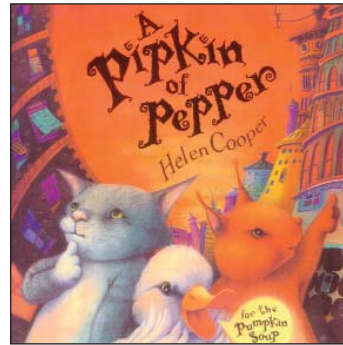
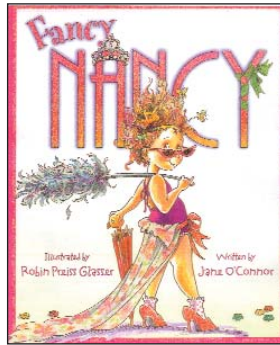
Alphabet, acrostic, and poetry combine to make this delightful children's book. From Ant to Zebra, the letters are arranged vertically on the pages or "stacked", and each letter of the animal's name begins a line of poetry. Children will enjoy the whimsical illustrations.



Fancy Nancy

By Jane O'Connor,
Illus. by Robin Preiss Glasser
HarperCollins, 2006, Ages 4-7

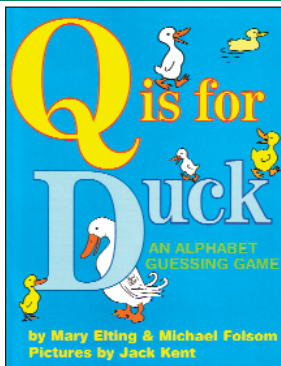
Nancy is a little girl who loves to dress up and say fancy words. From the top of her tiara to her rhinestone-studded shoes, she loves living like a princess. However, her family doesn't share her enjoyment. When they allow her to "accessorize" them for one night, everyone is in for a big surprise.



A Pipkin of Pepper

Written/Illus. by Helen Cooper
Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2005
Ages 4-8

While making pumpkin soup, Duck, Cat and Squirrel discover they are missing the key ingredient of salt. On a shopping trip to the big city, Duck loses his way when he stops at the Pepper Shop. All ends well with the help of six Police Dogs, four Fire Dogs, and two Foxes.



Q Is for Duck: An Alphabet Guessing Game

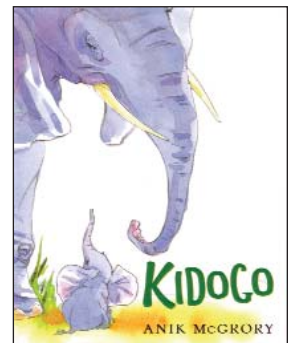
By Mary Elting/Michael Folsom
Illus. by Jack Kent
Clarion Books, 2005, Ages 4-7

A clever alphabet and riddle book that will keep children challenged by guessing why A is for zoo, B is for dog, and C is for hen. Children must turn the pages for the answers.

Kidogo

Written/illus. by Anik McGrory
Bloomsbury Children's Books 2005
Ages 4-8

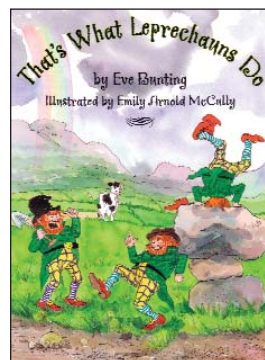
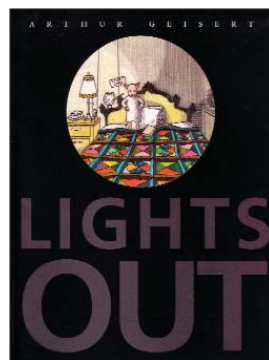
Positive that he is the smallest creature on earth, Kidogo leaves home to search for another small animal. Through the woodlands, across the plains, and even in the river Kidogo searches until he finds someone else who is indeed smaller but in need of help.



Lights Out

Written/illus. by Arthur Geisert
Houghton Mifflin, 2005, Ages 4-8

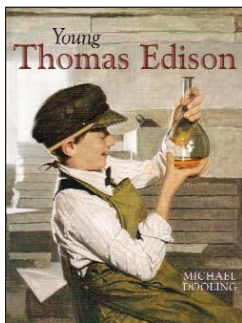
In an almost wordless picture book, little piglet devises a way to prolong turning his light out at night. He invents a series of contraptions that run up to the roof, down the walls, through the yard, and into the basement, to turn his light off in the bedroom. Children will love the household items that are rigged to trigger reactions with other items before the room goes dark.



That's What Leprechauns Do

Written by Eve Bunting
Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully
Clarion Books, 2006, Ages 5-8

Every time it rains, leprechauns Ari, Boo, and Col race to dig up their pot of gold and re-bury it at the end of the rainbow. Along the way, they paint the hooves of Mrs. Ballybunton's cow bright red, tie the Old Jamie Bradley's long johns together, and place a yellow ball in the nest of Maud Murphy's hen.



Young Thomas Edison

Written/Illus. by Michael Dooling
Holiday House, 2005, Ages 5-8

At nine years old, Thomas Edison made his first laboratory in the family's cellar. At twelve, he sold newspapers on the train and set up a laboratory in the baggage car. Determined and focused, Edison, in spite of hearing loss and setbacks, continued to experiment and create inventions that we enjoy today. When we pick up a telephone, switch on a lamp, listen to the radio, play music, or go to the movies, we benefit from Edison's genius.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

By Kate DiCamillo, Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline
Candlewick Press, 2006, Ages 7+

"Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a rabbit who was made almost entirely of china." Edward was dearly loved by his mistress, but he was exceedingly proud and heartless. His path to redemption begins when he falls overboard on a family vacation and is lost at sea. After several owners and many mishaps, Edward finally learns the meaning of humility, sacrifice, and love.

