

The Storytellers

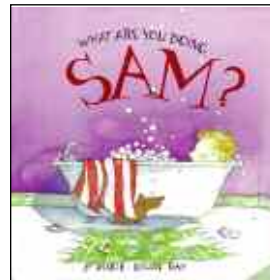


Autumn 2006

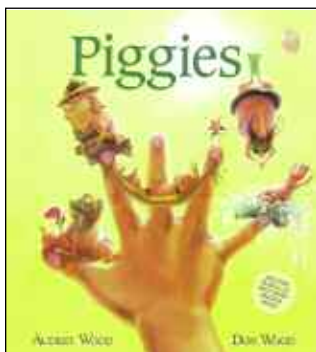
Reading aloud only takes a few minutes each day, but the difference it makes in a child's life is monumental. To a child, there is comfort in listening to a parent read. Find a place free from distraction and take time to let the words sink in as you read. Give your child time to savor the pictures, and use lots of expression. Choose stories that appeal to you. There are hundreds of good books to read aloud, and we hope you will enjoy our recommendations. Have a great time reading aloud.

What Are You Doing Sam?

Written/Illus. by Marie-Louise Gay
Groundwood Books, 2006, Ages 2-5



Whether snorkeling in the bathtub, teaching his dog to read with Grandma's glasses, or making peanut butter and banana pancakes, Sam always answers his sister's inquiries. Stella joins in the fun, commenting on whether Sam's dog needs swim lessons, or grandma's glasses to read, or how to teach a sleeping dog tricks.



Piggies

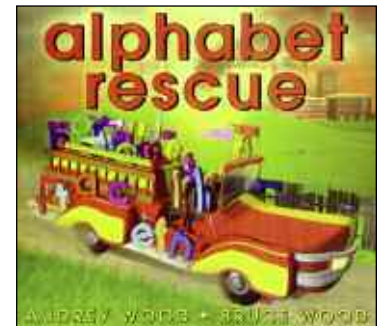
Written by Audrey Wood
Illus. by Don Wood
Harcourt, Inc., 2006, Ages 3-7

Whimsical, little fat piggies, smart piggies, long piggies, silly piggies, and wee piggies romp and cavort on a child's fingers. At bedtime, they slip down the child's tummy, and dance on toes before going to sleep, except one little piggy, who is still reading by flashlight. Originally published in 1991, this classic is now reissued with a CD.

Alphabet Rescue

Written by Audrey Wood
Illus. by Bruce Wood
The Blue Sky Press, 2006, Ages 3+

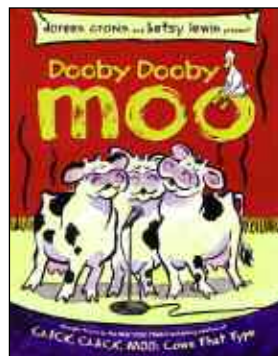
Charley takes a summer vacation, and his lowercase letters decide to visit Alphabet City where they were made. They repair an old, broken down fire truck, help letters M, U, and D wash a dirty car, rescue a C-a-t from a tree, and help the big letters put out a fire at the letter-making factory.



Dooby Dooby Moo

Written by Doreen Cronin
Illus. by Betsy Lewin
Atheneum Books, 2006, Ages 4-8

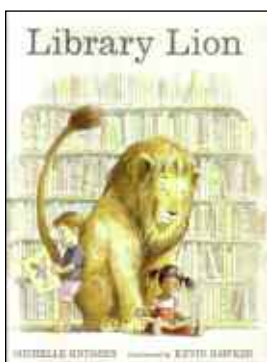
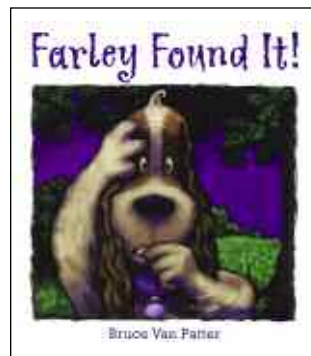
Duck badly wants to win first prize at the county fair's talent show. While Farmer Cronin sleeps, he organizes late-night singing and dancing practices for the animals. When the pigs fall asleep before their performance, Duck steps in to sing "Born to be Wild," which earns him a standing ovation, approval of the judges, and first prize (a trampoline.)



Farley Found It!

Written/Illus. by Bruce Van Patter
Boyd's Mills Press, 2006, Ages 4-6

Farley loves being a sheep, but he dislikes the scary meadow at night. When he decides to take up residence in Edna's doghouse, she moves her house to several locations, but Farley always finds it. Tired from relocating, Edna decides to build another doghouse. Now the other sheep are thinking about a change in lodgings.



Library Lion

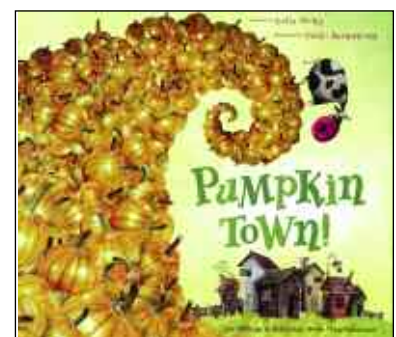
Written by Michelle Knudsen
Illus. by Kevin Hawkes
Candlewick Press, 2006, Ages 4-7

When a lion visits the local library, he obeys all the rules. He is quiet, loves licking the envelopes for overdue notices, and provides a good backrest during storytime. When the head librarian accidentally falls, he roars for help. There is now a new rule, "No roaring allowed, unless you have a very good reason."

Pumpkin Town!

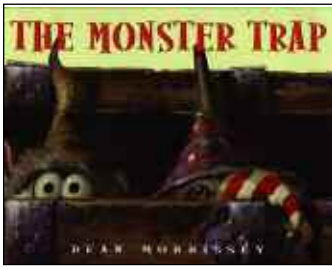
Written by Katie McKy
Illus. by Pablo Bernasconi
Houghton Mifflin, 2006, Ages 4-8

José and his family grow pumpkins – Jack-B-Littles, Happy Jacks, and Big Moons. After the fall harvest, the family tosses the leftover seeds into a field. Winds blow the seeds into town, and they settle on houses, streets, and every possible nook and cranny. When spring comes, the town has a decidedly orange look.



The Monster Trap

Written by Dean Morrissey & Stephen Krensky, Illus. by Dean Morrissey
HarperTrophy, 2006, Ages 6+



While visiting his grandfather, Paddy listens to "Monster Radio Theater" and is positive that monsters are in the house. Pop assures him that they need a monster trap, but each night the monsters elude the trap. They have such a great time on the huge contraption that they decide to stay and become friends.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Written by E. Nesbit
Illus. by Matt Tavares
Candlewick Press, 2006, Ages 4-8

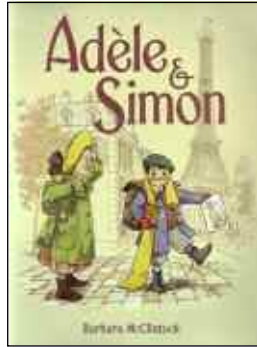


In this 1908 retelling of a famous classic, Jack is a lazy dreamer, until one day he trades the family cow for a few beans, which magically grow into a vine. At the top of the vine, he discovers a land ruled by a greedy and selfish giant. With quick wits, he outsmarts the giant, returns stolen treasures to their rightful owner, becomes a hero, and gains a fortune for his mother.

Adèle & Simon

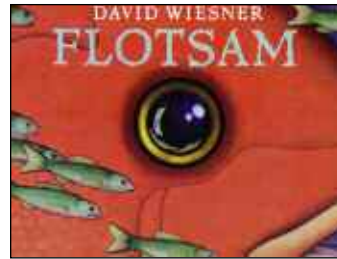
Written/Illus. by Barbara McClintock
Farrar, Straus Giroux, 2006, Ages 4-8

On their way home from school Adèle cautions her little brother, Simon, not to lose anything. They stop at many early 20th century Parisian landmarks. Simon arrives home minus his hat, gloves, scarf, sweater, coat, knapsack, books, and crayons, which are returned by people that they met along the way. The illustrations are a visual delight.



Flotsam

Written/Illus. by David Wiesner
Clarion Books, 2006, 40p, Ages 5-8



This unique and fascinating wordless picture book surrounds a young boy, who finds an old barnacle-crusted "Melville Underwater Camera" on the beach. Little does he realize what marvelous wonders it contains, until the developed pictures reveal portraits of its previous owners down through the years and astonishing sea creatures with human-like habits.

Three Little Cajun Pigs

Written by Mike Artell, Illus. by Jim Harris
Dial Books, 2006, Ages 4-8



Mama told her lazy pigs Troclair, Thibodeaux, and Ullyse (aka Boo) to leave and build their own homes. They begin to question their building materials when Ol' Claude, a tail-flipping gator, demolishes two of their flimsy houses. He meets his match with Boo's brick house and a big pot of Roux.

Singing Shijimi Clams

Written/Illus. by Naomi Kojima
Kane/Miller Books, 2006, Ages 4-8

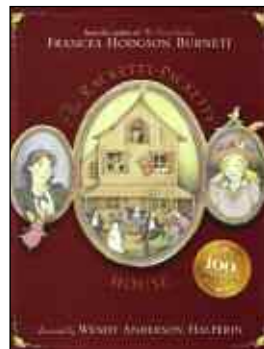
After purchasing shijimi clams for miso soup, an old, reformed witch and her cat argue over whether to cook them or return them home. The clams offer to sing for donations to buy train tickets. By now, their friendship is established, and the old woman and her cat decide to stay and keep the clams company at the beach.



The Racketty-Packetty House

By Frances Hodgson Burnett
Illus. by Wendy Anderson Halperin
Simon & Schuster, 2006, Ages 8-11

Shoved behind a chair, an old dollhouse is cast aside for the more elaborate "Tidy Castle." Old and shabby from years of use, the dolls remain jolly and good-natured. When they learn that their house is to be destroyed, Queen Crosspatch and her fairies come to the rescue. Originally written in 1906.



Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble

Written/Illus. by Judy Schachner, Dutton Children's Books, 2006, Ages 4-8



To avoid another lecture from Mama Junebug, Skippyjon (a Siamese kitten with a Chihuahua alter ego) hides in a closet and suddenly finds himself in Egypt. His doggy friends, Los Chimichangos, want to visit the pyramids, "where mummits rest in peas." Find out how this pint-size kitty avoids capture, gets the peas, and safely scurries home.

Brothers

Written by Yin, Illus. by Chris Soentpiet
Philomel Books, 2006, Ages 6-9



Newly arrived from China, Ming is instructed by his brothers not to leave the boundaries of San Francisco's Chinatown. A friendship begins when he meets Patrick and his family, who are immigrants from Ireland. As Ming learns English, he helps save the family business by advertising to customers outside of Chinatown.

The Fairy's Return

Written by Gail Carson Levine
Illus. by Mark Elliott
HarperCollins, 2006, Ages 8-12

Six of Levine's Princess Tales from the magical village of Snettering-on-Snoakes in the Kingdom of Biddle are now contained in one anthology. Fairy spells go awry and princesses manage to survive frogs, mattresses, glass hills, and a hundred years of sleep. Included are "The Fairy's Mistake," "The Princess Test," "Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep," "Cinderellis and the Glass Hill," "For Biddle's Sake," and "The Fairy's Return."

