

“Friends, Family, and Fun in New Picture Books”

Dan McKey, East Holmes Local Schools

2008 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference – February 10, 2008

Friends



Bear Feels Sick, Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman, (2007), Margaret McElderry Books. *Bear has the sniffles, he can't sleep, and he aches all over. His friends do all the can to help him feel better. [K-2]*

Best Buds, Maxwell Eaton III, (2007), Alfred A. Knopf.

Max and Pinky, a boy and a pig, are best buds. Always have been, always will be. [K+]

Big Smelly Bear, Britta Teckentrup, (2007), Boxer Books. *Big Smelly Bear is big and smelly, and he doesn't care. That is, until he has an itch he can't reach. Big Fluffy Bear might be willing to help, but she thinks he ought to take a bath! What will happen? [Grades K-2]*

Clorinda Takes Flight, Robert Kinerk & Steven Kellogg, (2007), Simon & Schuster.

Clorinda is a cow who wants to fly! This is a book about determination, friendship, following your dreams. [3-adult]



Duck at the Door, Jackie Urbanovic, (2007), HarperCollins Publishers.

When a duck knocks on a door one cold night, he has no idea what he will find. In this silly book, Max the Duck and his friends learn about family and home. [K+] Also see Duck Soup! (2008)

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners, Laurie Keller, (2007), Henry Holt & Co.

When Mr. Rabbit finds out his new neighbors are otters, he doesn't know how to treat them. He get some good advice from Mr. Owl: Do unto otters as you would have them do unto you. [K-adult]

Golden Rule, The, Ilene Cooper, ill. by Gabi Swiatowska, (2007), Abrams. *A boy learns from his grandfather that the Golden Rule can be found in every culture and religion. It is simple but hard to obey.*

Elephant & Piggie: There is a Bird on Your Head!, Mo Willems, (2007), Hyperion. *This is a story about the friendship of Geraldine and Piggie. Also Today I Will Fly!, I am Invited to a Party!, and My Friend Is Sad. [K-2]*

Kitty's Cuddles, Jane Cabrera, (2007), Holiday House. *Kitty has lots of friends, and each one "cuddles" in a different way. Whose cuddle is the best? Is it mouse's teeny-weeny cuddle, or bear's cozy, fluffy cuddle? [Grades K-1]*

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity, Mo Willems, (2007), Hyperion. *When Trixie takes her beloved Knuffle Bunny to preschool, she is shocked to discover that another girl has one just like hers! [K-2].*

Mama for Owen, A, by Marion Dane Bauer, ill. by John Butler, (2007), Simon & Schuster. *This is the third book that I am aware of that tells of baby hippo Owen, who loses his mother in the 2004 tsunami, only to be befriended by a very old male tortoise named Mzee. This version is particularly well-illustrated. [K-adult]*

Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship, Isabella and Craig Hatkoff, photographs by Peter Greste, (2007), Scholastic. *This is the sequel to the bestselling Owen & Mzee, giving us an update on the relationship between the young hippo and his 130-year-old tortoise friend. [Grades K-6] Also use Mama by Jeanette Winter, (2006).*

Peek-a-boo Penguins, Matt Buckingham, (2007), Scholastic. *Young children will love helping Penguin find his friends as they play hide and seek in this "Soft and Sparkly Counting Book." [K-1]*

Family

I Love You Always and Forever, Jonathan Emmett & Daniel Howarth, Scholastic.

Littletail complains to her dad Longtail that he always catches her, and that he always finds her. Longtail says it won't be forever. At bedtime, Littletail finds out what will be forever. [K-3]

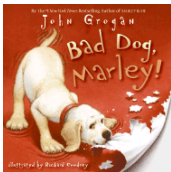
Babies in the Bayou, Jim Arnosky, (2007), Putnam's Sons. *Jim Arnosky, the master of children's nonfiction, presents "an intimate look at life in the bayou, revealing the challenges and the excitement that animals face there every day."* [Grades K-3] Use this with the 2007 **Deep in the Swamp** by Donna M. Bateman, which is beautifully illustrated and cleverly written in the rhythm of "Over in the Meadow."



Over in the Jungle, Marianne Burkes & Jeanette Canyon, (2007), Dawn Publications. *This is an amazingly-illustrated jungle version of "Over in the Meadow."* [K-3]

Every Year on Your Birthday, Rose Lewis & Jane Dyer, (2007), Little, Brown, & Co. *In this sequel to I Love You Like Crazy Cakes, we celebrate a birthday and appreciate the richness of both Chinese and American cultures.* [K-adult]

Red Thread, The – An Adoption Fairy Tale, Grace Lin, (2007), Albert Whitman. *"There is an ancient Chinese belief that an invisible, unbreakable red thread connects all those who are destined to be together."* [Grade 2 – adult]

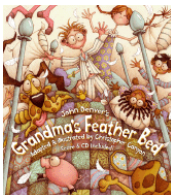


Bad Dog, Marley, John Grogan, ill. by Richard Cowdrey, (2007), Harper Collins.

*"Inspired by John Grogan's bestselling memoir, **Marley and Me**, this heartwarming story shows that loving someone, flaws and all, can reap huge rewards."* [K-adult] Other great misbehaving dog books include Kellogg's 2002 **Pinkerton, Behave!**, **Some Dog** by Hoyt (2007) and **Chowder** by Brown, (2006).

Some Dog, Mary Casanova, ill. by Ard Hoyt, (2007), Melanie Kroupa Books. *George is a dog with a good life. His pace is slow and steady, and he likes doing quiet things. Then . . . an energetic dog named Zippity changes everything. How will George show that he's still special?* [Grades 2-6]

Grandfather's Wrinkles, Kathryn England, ill. by Richard McFarland, (2007), Flashlight Press. *Lucy wonders why Granddad's skin is crinkly and doesn't fit his face anymore. His touching explanation surprises the little girl.* [Grades K-3] Another wonderful grandparent connection is **The Hello, Goodbye Window**, (2005).



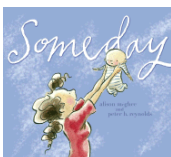
John Denver's Grandma's Featherbed, Christopher Canyon, (2007), Dawn Publications.

*John Denver's song comes back with award-winning artist Christopher Canyon's hilarious illustrations. Hardcover comes with a CD. Also **Take Me Home, Country Roads** and **Sunshine on My Shoulders**, both illustrated by Christopher Canyon.* [Grades 3-adult]

Shells! Shells! Shells!, Nancy Elizabeth Wallace, (2007), Marshall Cavendish Children.

This is a great example of combining fiction and nonfiction. Readers learn all about shells along with young Buddy and his mother. [K-3]

White Owl, Barn Owl, Nicola Davies, (2007), Candlewick Press. *This is another great example of combining fiction and nonfiction. A young girl, with the help of her grandpa, learns all about barn owls. Excellent!* [Grades 2-6]



Someday, Alison McGhee, illustrated by Peter Reynolds, (2007), Atheneum Books. *This is a simple and pure picture book that will touch readers of all ages. It deals with a mother's wishes for her child to live life at its fullest. Get out the Kleenex!* [K+] You could incorporate Dr. Seuss's **Oh the Places You'll Go!**

Tiger's Story, Harriet Blackford & Manya Stojic, (2007), Boxer Books. *Follow a young tiger cub as he learns about his world. Watch him as he grows up and learns to take care of himself.* [K-3]



My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks and Other Funny Family Portraits, Hanoch Piven,

(2007), Schwarz & Wade Books. *A young girl draws a picture of her family, but wants to say so much more. So, she uses everyday objects to show characteristics of her family members. The results are amazing! This is also an excellent way to study similes. Visit the author's website at pivenworld.com.* [K-adult]

Perfect Nest, The, Catherine Friend, ill. by John Manders, (2007), Candlewick Press.

Jack the cat wants to build the perfect nest to attract a chicken who will lay eggs for his perfect omelet! Soon a chicken, a duck, and a goose all show up and give Jack more than he bargained for in this hilarious farm story. [Grades K-3]



Fun

Ribbit! Flip and See Who Froggy Can Be, Bender & Bender, (2007), HarperCollins Publishers. *This is one of the most unusual books you will ever see, and kids absolutely love it!* [K+]

Beetle Bop, Denise Fleming, (2007), Harcourt.

Beetles are one of the largest groups of animals on earth. This beautifully illustrated book tells us all about them. [K-3]



Big Bug Surprise, Julia Gran, (2007), Scholastic. *This is a great example of a mix of fiction and nonfiction. Young Prunella knows lots about bugs and is excited about show and tell.* [K-6]

BIG IS BIG (and little little), Pat. Lewis & Bob. Barner, (2007), Holiday House. *This is a GREAT introduction to opposites!* [Grades K-1]

Cheese, The, Margie Palatini, Ill. by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, (2007), Harper Collins. *Why does the cheese stand alone? We know all about the Farmer in the Dell. This clever picture book tells us the story, mostly from the point of view of the Rat, who can't quite understand why a good chunk of cheddar needs to stand alone.* [K-8]



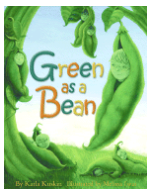
Cowlick!, Christin Ditchfield, ill. by Rosalind Beardshaw, (2007), A Golden Book. *The "true" story of why our hair looks the way it does in the morning! A cow comes in the middle of the night when everyone is sleeping, then, sluuurrrp!* [K-adult]

Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy, Jane O'Conner, ill. by Robin Glasser, (2007), Harper Collins. *Fancy Nancy is back! When her family decides to get a dog, Nancy knows she can be fancier than ever!* [K-4]

Ginger and Petunia, Patricia Polacco, (2007), Philomel Books. *Ginger is a very elegant, sophisticated lady whose passion is fashion. She says, "You are what you wear." Her other passion is her pet pig, Petunia. When Ginger needs to leave town for a few days, Petunia dresses like her owner and gets into some pretty funny situations!* [2-6]

Girl's Like Spaghetti, The, Lynne Truss & Bonnie Timmons, (2007), G.P. Putnam's.

If you enjoyed laughing at comma usage in Eats, Shoots, & Leaves, then this sequel about apostrophes is for you! [3+]



Green as a Bean, Karla Kuskin, ill. by Melissa Iwai, (2007), Harper Collins. *Let your imagination soar! What would you choose to be if you were green, or soft, or loud?* [K-3]

Hurry! Hurry!, Eve Bunting, ill. by Jeff Mack, (2007), Harcourt.

Hurry! Hurry! It's a big day in the barnyard! Something exciting is about to happen! This is a great book for young readers, usually with only two words on a page. [K-2]

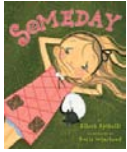


OK Book, The, Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld, (2007), Harper Collins. *There are so many things to try in this world! But what if you're not great? What if you're just OK? This is one of my favorites!* [All ages]

Mercy Watson, Princess in Disguise, Kate DiCamillo & Chris Van Dusen, (2007), Candlewick Press. *This is the fourth PIG TALE in the best-selling series. This one involves Mercy going trick-or-treating dressed in a royal outfit.* [Grades 2-3]

Princess Grace, Mary Hoffman, ill. by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu, (2007), Dial.

The heroine from Amazing Grace and Boundless Grace is back in this "celebration of different kinds of beauty, different kinds of families, and different paths to the palace." Grace is as imaginative as she is independent.



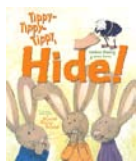
Someday, by Eileen Spinelli, ill. by Rosie Winstead, (2007), Dial Books.
A little girl may be stuck being a girl for today, but SOMEDAY, she's really going to be something – an artist, an animal scientist, and a gymnast to name a few. [K-3] A great companion book would be the “lift the flap book” In the Fiddle Is a Song by Durga Bernhard (2006).

Stick, Steve Breen, (2007), Dial Books.



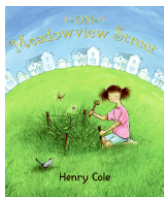
Stick, a young frog who likes to do things on his own, gets a bit carried away, literally, when his tongue accidentally latches on to a big dragonfly! Stick is dragged through a series of hilarious adventures told more in pictures than in words. This could easily be paired with my favorite, Tadpole's Promise. [Grades K-6]

Ten Naughty Little Monkeys, Suzanne Williams, ill. by Suzanne Watts, (2007), HarperCollins Publishers. *The illustrations make this familiar monkey chant all the more delightful. It's fun to follow which monkey is causing all the problems. Very fun to read to kids!!! [K-2]*



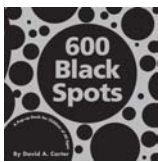
Tippy-Tippy-Tippy, Hide!, Candace Fleming, ill. by Brian Karas, (2007), Atheneum.
Knocka-knocka-knocka! The three bunnies are back, this time trying to get into Mr. McGreely's house for winter. He has no intention of sharing his house! No matter what he does, those “pesky pufftails” find a way to sneak inside. [K+] Of course, pair this with Muncha, Muncha, Muncha!

Trucks Roll!, George Ella Lyon, ill. by Craig Frazier, (2007), Antheneum Books.
This is a GREAT book for little ones who love trucks! [Grades K-2]



On Meadowview Street, Henry Cole, (2007), Greenwillow.
Caroline lives on Meadowview Street, a street with no meadow or a view. She starts to make a little difference in her neighborhood and ends up changing her part of the world. This book works great with other “make the world a better place” stories like Miss Rumphius, The Flower Man, Miss LadyBird's Wildflowers, The Daffodil Principle, and One Smile.

POP-UP BOOKS

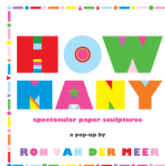


600 Black Spots, David A. Carter, (2007). *This is the 3rd book in this series of five pop-ups. It follows the hugely successful One Red Dot and Blue Two. Students will also enjoy the search book The Yellow Balloon by Charlotte Dematons, (2004).*

Charlie and Lola's I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato, Lauren Child, (2007). *Because Lola is such a fussy eater, Charlie has to be very creative to get her to eat.*

Dr. Seuss's Horton Hears a Who Pop-Up!, David A. Carter, (2008), Robin Corey Books.
Master paper engineer David A. Carter has taken a Dr. Seuss classic and adapted it into a marvelous pop-up book.

Journey to the Moon, by Lucio and Meera Santoro, (2007), Little Simon Books.
What makes this pop-up special is the movement that occurs when the reader opens up each page! Take a voyage on a train, a plane, a boat, a car, and a rocket ship, all in the same book!



How Many?, Ron Van Der Meer, (2007), Robin Corey Books.
This is arguably the most creative pop-up book I've ever seen! Children could spend hours counting the many circles, lines, and stars shown in these spectacular pop-ups. [Grades K-adult]

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury, (2007) Little Simon.
This is a clever pop-up version of the classic swishy-swashy story.