



James Patterson's  
**READKIDDOREAD.com**  
Dedicated to making kids readers for life.

**GRADES Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup>**

# The Summer Reading Doesn't Have to Be Punishment List

**PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE  
READERS LIST**

**Summer 2009**

By Judy Freeman

The titles on this list are all marvelous recently published read-alouds and read-alones, books that younger children, from preschool to grade 4, will enjoy hearing and reading over and over. Use the list for summer reading, for holidays, birthday parties, and other special day presents, and for all the kids in your life, not just your own!

If your kids are in the mood to read but you don't want to break the bank at the bookstore, don't forget to support your school and public libraries; librarians will go to the ends of the earth to get your kids reading. Most public libraries run wonderful Summer Reading Clubs each summer, with programs, prizes, and lots of reading inspiration.

**NOTE: Books designated \*S\* are part of a series. Look for others in the series, too. The grade levels are listed as a general guideline, but are certainly not set in stone. If your children are reading longer chapter books, be sure to investigate the titles on the accompanying booklist for older readers, grades 5-8. For other stellar books to read, check out the many book reviews on [www.READKIDDOREAD.com](http://www.READKIDDOREAD.com).**

## **EASY FICTION / PICTURE BOOKS**

***Adèle and Simon* by Barbara McClintock. Farrar, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

Find all the items Simon loses—his books, scarf, coat, and more—as he and his older sister walk home from school through the Paris streets.

***Adventures of Polo* by Regis Faller. Roaring Brook, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

In wordless comic book-style panels, we follow Polo, a little brown dog, as he sets out on his boat.

***Annie and Simon* by Catharine O'Neill. Candlewick, 2008. (Gr. K-3)**

In four charming easy-to-read chapters, get to know young Annie, her doting teenage brother, Simon, and their little brown dog, Hazel.

***Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2008. (Gr. PreK-1) \*S\***

Before Piggy gets the chance to run, skip, and jump outside with her best pal, Elephant, it starts to pour.

***Bad Kitty* by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook, 2005. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

She used to be a good kitty, until her people ran out of kitty food and tried to offer her a healthy meal of asparagus, beets, cauliflower, and other awful, alphabetical vegetables.

***The Bake Shop Ghost* by Jacqueline K. Ogburn. Illus. by Marjorie Priceman. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. (Gr. K-3)**

After master baker Cora Lee Merriweather dies, she comes back to haunt and run off the new owner of her bakery, pastry chef Annie Washington, but Annie is no pushover.

***Bandit* by Karen Rostoker-Gruber. Illus. by Vincent Nguyen. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

"Something's fishy around here," mutters orange and yellow cat, Bandit, standing amid stacks of boxes and watching the couch being carried out of the house. That's because it's moving day.

***Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. (Gr. PreK-3)**

The bats are bored, so when they hear a window has been left ajar at the public library, they swoop inside for Bat Night, including storytime for the little ones.

***Bebé Goes Shopping* by Susan Middleton Elya. Illus. by Steven Salerno. Harcourt, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)**

At the supermercado, little Bebé, strapped into the carrito (carriage) while Mamá runs down her grocery list, looks for a dulce (a sweet) and a little excitement.

***Big Bad Bunny* by Franny Billingsley. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Atheneum, 2008. (Gr. PreK-1)**

Big Bad Bunny is on a rampage, chomping on trees and roaring ferociously. "But wait! Where is Baby Boo-Boo?" Mama Mouse cries.

***Boogie Knights* by Lisa Wheeler. Illus. by Mark Siegel. Atheneum, 2008. (Gr. PreK-3)**

It's midnight, and with seven knights asleep at their posts, all the rascals of the castle are dancing the night away at the Madcap Monster Ball.

***Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp* by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

With his owner, Brown Shoes, going on vacation, Buster the dog is none too happy to be dropped off at Sagebrush Kennels' Cowboy Camp for the weekend.

***Casey Back at Bat* by Dan Gutman. Illus. by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. HarperCollins, 2007. (Grades K-8)**

It's the last game of the season, and with Mudville tied for first, Casey gives that baseball such a mighty whack, it flies across the Atlantic Ocean.

***The Cheese* by Margie Palatini. Illus. by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. HarperCollins, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

The rat from the old song, "The Farmer in the Dell," decides he's going to help himself to that big chunk of cheddar, just standing there alone down in the dell.

***The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County* by Janice N. Harrington. Illus. by Shelley Jackson. Farrar, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

A little girl tries to mind Big Mama and behave herself, but she just loves chasing and catching chickens, especially Miss Hen, who keeps hiding from her.

***The Chicken of the Family* by Mary Amato. Illus. by Delphine Durand. Putnam, 2008. (Gr. K-3)**

"We have a secret to tell you," says Kim to Henrietta, the youngest of three sisters. "You're a chicken. Mom got you from Barney's farm." Could it be true?

***Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal. Illus. by Jane Dyer. HarperCollins, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

In the process of baking cookies together, a crew of young children and friendly animals learn the meanings of 24 important words, such as patient, polite, honest, and even courageous.

***A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* by Marla Frazee. Harcourt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

James and his best friend Eamon spend an unforgettable week at the beach house of Eamon's grandparents, Bill and Pam.

***The Cow Who Clucked* by Denise Fleming. Henry Holt, 2006. (Gr. PreK-1)**

Cow awakes to find she has lost her moo and sets off through the barnyard to find it.

- Cowboy & Octopus* by Jon Scieszka. Illus. by Lane Smith. Viking, 2007. (Gr. PreK-3)**  
 Nine wacky short stories introduce two unlikely friends—a well-dressed cowboy and a giant blue octopus.
- The Day Leo Said I Hate You!* by Robie H. Harris. Illus. by Molly Bang. Little, Brown, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**  
 Leo is furious at Mommy for saying no to all of his bad behavior.
- Diary of a Fly* by Doreen Cronin. Illus. by Harry Bliss. HarperCollins, 2007. (Gr. PreK-3) \*S\***  
 Fly joins her pals Spider and Worm in keeping a diary filled with observations about school, family and friends.
- Dimity Dumpty: The Story of Humpty's Little Sister* by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**  
 Now the true story can be told about the role Humpty Dumpty's little sister, Dimity, played after Humpty had that big fall.
- Dog and Bear: Two Friends, Three Stories* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Roaring Brook, 2007. (Gr. PreK-1) \*S\***  
 Dog, a little brown dachshund, and his best friend Bear, a multicolored stuffed teddy, have three little adventures together.
- The Dog Who Belonged to No One* by Amy Hest. Illus. by Amy Bates. Abrams, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**  
 A small brown and white mutt with crooked ears and "a wisp of a girl named Lia" have something in common. They're lonely.
- The Doghouse* by Jan Thomas. Harcourt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-1)**  
 Cow kicks the red ball, but it goes over the heads of Mouse, Duck, and Pig. "Oh no! The ball went into THE DOGHOUSE! Who will get it out?"
- Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart* by Pat Mora. Illus. by Raúl Colón. Knopf, 2005. (Gr. PreK-3)**  
 When the villagers hide in fear from a roaring mountain lion, it's up to Doña Flor, who is taller than the tallest trees, to find and tame the big kitty.
- Dooby Dooby Moo* by Doreen Cronin. Illus. by Betsy Lewin. Atheneum, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***  
 Farmer Brown takes his animals to the county fair where they sneak off to be in the talent show.
- Duck & Goose* by Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. (Gr. PreK-1) \*S\***  
 After fussing and fighting, Duck and Goose agree to sit together on the enormous spotted egg they have found and wait for it to hatch.
- Flotsam* by David Wiesner. Clarion, 2006. (Gr. PreK-3)**  
 On a summer's day down the shore, a boy finds an old-fashioned box camera in the waves and develops the roll of extraordinary photos inside.
- Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella* by Paul Fleischman. Illus. by Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt, 2007. (Gr. K-6)**  
 Reassembling the classic fairy tale with pieces from 17 versions, this striking picture book is a global melting pot of the Cinderella story.
- Grace for President* by Kelly DiPucchio. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. Hyperion, 2008. (Gr. 1-5)**  
 Appalled that there have never been any women presidents, Grace Campbell, a spunky and determined African American schoolkid, decides to run for president in her own school.
- Help Me, Mr. Mutt!: Expert Answers for Dogs with People Problems* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. Illus. by Janet Stevens. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. PreK-4)**  
 Mr. Mutt, a Canine Counselor to misinformed and beaten down dogs everywhere, responds to their heartfelt letters and attached photos with practical advice.
- Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas* by Cynthia Rylant. Illus. by Suçie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster, 2005. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***  
 Henry and his slobbery Saint Bernard, Mudge, pay a visit to Great-Grandpa Bill who lives in a house with a lot of other grandpas.

***Hi! Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold. Scholastic, 2005. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

A boy named Buzz catches the smartest pet in the world, a fly, and enters Fly Guy in The Amazing Pet Show.

***How to Heal a Broken Wing* by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

In the big city, only young Will notices the wounded pigeon on the pavement, and only he and his mother do something about it, bringing it home to nurse it back to health.

***I Lost My Tooth in Africa* by Penda Diakit . Illus. by Baba Wagu  Diakit . Scholastic, 2006. (Gr. PreK-3)**

In Mali with her family to visit relatives, Amina puts her tooth under a gourd and gets a chicken from the African Tooth Fairy.

***I'm Bad!* by Kate McMullan. Illus. by Jim McMullan. HarperCollins, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

"Are you BAD? I'm REALLY bad. Scare-the-tails-off-all-the-other-dinosaurs BAD." So says a fearsome Tyrannosaurus Rex, whose big empty belly is growling for grub.

***Jake's Best Thumb* by Ilene Cooper. Illus. by Claudio Munoz. Dutton, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Jake loves sucking his left thumb, especially when he starts kindergarten, which is a little bit scary, until a classmate makes fun of him.

***John, Paul, George & Ben* by Lane Smith. Hyperion, 2006. (Gr. 1-6)**

In a romp through history, follow the fictional colonial childhoods of five patriots—bold John Hancock, noisy Paul Revere, honest George Washington, clever Ben Franklin, and independent Tom Jefferson.

***Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2007 (Gr. PreK-1) \*S\***

Excited about taking her stuffed rabbit to school to show everyone, Trixie is stunned to see that classmate Sonja has a Knuffle Bunny, too.

***LaRue for Mayor: Letters from the Campaign Trail* by Mark Teague. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

After former police chief and present mayoral candidate Hugo Bugwort calls for a "canine crackdown," a mysterious, dog-friendly candidate throws his hat into the ring.

***Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen. Illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Candlewick, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)**

A large, affable lion finds himself welcome at the library until he breaks the rule about roaring.

***Little Rat Makes Music* by Monika Bang-Campbell. Illus. by Molly Bang. Harcourt, 2007. (Gr. K-3) \*S\***

Enchanted with the sound of other young rats playing their tiny violins at the Community Hall, Little Rat can't wait to take lessons, but her first real note sounds like this: SQWAAAAAKK!

***Louise, The Adventures of a Chicken* by Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Harry Bliss. HarperCollins, 2008. (Gr. PreK-3)**

Longing for adventure, Louise leaves the henhouse for three perilous but exciting encounters at sea, at the circus, and at the bazaar.

***Madam President* by Lane Smith. Hyperion, 2008. (Gr. K-3)**

What's it like being Commander in Chief? A bossy brown pony-tailed narrator explores and explains her many presidential-like duties as she breezes through a school day.

***My Kindergarten* by Rosemary Wells. Hyperion, 2004. (Gr. PreK-1)**

Take a glorious tour through the kindergarten year with teacher, Miss Cribbage, as seen through the eyes of rabbit Emily. (To find and download Judy Freeman's free CD of 23 songs to go along with the book, go to [www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com](http://www.hyperionbooksforchildren.com) and type "My Kindergarten" in the search bar.)

***Lilly's Big Day* by Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

"It will be the biggest day of my life," says mouse Lilly, assuming she will be chosen to be the flower girl at her beloved teacher Mr. Slinger's wedding.

***Mail Harry to the Moon!* by Robie H. Harris. Illus. by Michael Emberley. Little, Brown, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

"Before Harry was born, there was ME! Now there's me. And Harry." Pity the poor narrator, a former only child for whom life used to be bliss.

***Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale* by Carmen Agra Deedy. Illus. by Michael Austin. Peachtree, 2007. (Gr. 1-6)**

Ready to give her leg in marriage at the ripe old age of 21 days, Martina the cockroach gets some wise advice from Abuela, her Cuban grandmother.

***My Buddy, Slug* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Knopf, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Alex's good buddy, Slug, a friendly giant orange slug, is driving him crazy with his constant talking.

***Oh, No! Where Are My Pants? And Other Disasters: Poems* compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Wolf Erlbruch. HarperCollins, 2005. (Gr. 1-4)**

Fourteen brief, often funny, first-person poems tune in to life moments of kids who are having a bad day.

***Oink?* by Margie Palatini. Illus. by Henry Cole. Simon & Schuster, 2006. (Gr. PreK-3)**

Thomas and Joseph are sloppy, lazy, dirty, but very happy pigs, in spite of their animal neighbors' attempts to reform them.

***Peggy-Po: A Whale of a Tale* by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Hyperion, 2006. (Gr. 1-4)**

Whaler Galleon Keene carves himself a son out of the hunk of driftwood that saved his life and names the boy Peggy-Po.

***The Pet Dragon* by Christoph Niemann. Greenwillow, 1991. (Gr. 1-4)**

Lin and her baby dragon play together but when they break a vase, Father puts the dragon in a cage. When it escapes, Lin sets out to find it. Incorporated into the pictures are the Chinese characters for each word.

***The Pigeon Wants a Puppy* by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2008. (Gr. PreK-1) \*S\***

Pigeon promises he'll take good care of a new puppy, water it once a month, and play tennis with it, if you'll just say yes.

***Pirates Don't Change Diapers* by Melinda Long. Illus. by David Shannon. Harcourt, 2007. (Gr. PreK-3) \*S\***

On the day Jeremy is left in charge of babysitting his baby sister, his pirate friends come calling, looking for the treasure they buried out back.

***Precious and the Boo Hag* by Patricia McKissack and Onawumi Jean Moss. Illus. by Kyrsten Brooker. Atheneum, 2005. (Gr. 1-4)**

When Precious stays home alone, she fends off the scary, bad, and none-too-smart Pruella the Boo Hag, who tries to trick her way inside.

***President Pennybaker* by Kate Feiffer. Illus. by Diane Goode. Simon & Schuster, 2008. (Gr. PreK-3)**

Pledging to do something to make life fair, Luke enlists his faithful dog Lilly as a running mate and becomes the youngest person ever to run for president.

***Probuditi!* by Chris Van Allsburg. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. (Gr. K-3)**

After seeing a performance of Lomax the hypnotist, Calvin tries to hypnotize his little sister, Trudy, into thinking she's a dog.

***Pssst!* by Adam Rex. Harcourt, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

At the zoo, a brown-haired little girl is summoned by a gorilla, a javelina, and other animals, who ask her to bring them back a list of special items from the outside.

***The Scrambled States of America Talent Show* by Laurie Keller. Henry Holt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-4) \*S\***

Waking from a dream in the middle of the night, New York shouts, "HEY, EVERYONE—LET'S HAVE A TALENT SHOW," which gets all the other 49 states revved up.

***The Shivers in the Fridge* by Fran Manushkin. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Dutton, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Brrr! It's always cold in the place where Papa Shivers and his family live, and now they are being taken away, one by one, by the big hand of a monster.

***Sunny Boy!: The Life and Times of a Tortoise* by Candace Fleming. Illus. by Anne Wilsdorf. Farrar, 2005. (Gr. 1-4)**

Always longing for a quiet life, Sunny Boy, a tortoise, recounts his life saga, from almost becoming soup in New York City to going over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

***Superhero ABC* by Bob McLeod. HarperCollins, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Meet a gorgeously garish gang of superheroes, from Astro-Man to the Zinger, in an alliterative alphabet book describing each one's powers.

***Sweet Tooth* by Margie Palatini. Illus. by Jack E. Davis. Simon & Schuster, 2004. (Gr. PreK-3)**

Ordinary kid Stuart has the most "nagging, annoying, demanding," sweet tooth that insists on a regular diet of candy bars and gets him in trouble.

***Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* by Mem Fox. Illus. by Helen Oxenbury. Harcourt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-1)**

In a rhyming tribute to babies across the globe, a multicultural mix of nine winsome babies laugh, snuffle, and play together.

***That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown* by Cressida Cowell. Illus. by Neal Layton. Hyperion, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Will Emily Brown give up Stanley, her old gray stuffed rabbit, just because Queen Gloriana the Third demands that she hand over that Bunnywunny straightaway? She will not!

***Toy Boat* by Randall De Sève. Illus. by Loren Long. Philomel, 2007. Gr. PreK-1)**

A little boy and the toy boat he made from a can, a cork, a yellow pencil, and some white cloth are inseparable until the day the little boat is swept away on the lake.

***Traction Man Is Here!* by Mini Grey. Knopf, 2005. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

A boy's superhero action figure doll, Traction Man, and his faithful little companion and pet, Scrubbing Brush, survive dangerous adventures together.

***A Visitor for Bear* by Bonny Becker. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Though the sign on his front door says "No Visitors Allowed," Bear opens the door to find a mouse, "small and gray and bright-eyed," who will not go away.

***Waking Up Wendell* by April Stevens. Illus. by Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. (Gr. PreK-1)**

A singing bird wakes up Mr. Krudwig, whose dog Leopold barks and wakes up Mrs. Musky, until each sleeper is roused in turn, all the way down the block.

***Wild Boars Cook* by Meg Rosoff. Illus. by Sophie Blackall. Henry Holt, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2) \*S\***

Wild boars, Boris, Morris, Horace, and Doris are "bossy and selfish and stinky and HUNGRY," until Doris finds a recipe for a massive pudding.

## FICTION

***Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls: Moving Day* by Meg Cabot. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 3-5) \*S\***

Allie's parents tell her they've just bought a falling-down Victorian house, she'll be starting fourth grade in a new school, and she can get a kitten.

***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* by Lenore Look. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

Second grader Alvin Ho, a Chinese American boy, is afraid of many things, including elevators, substitute teachers, and, most important, school, where he has never uttered a single word.

***Babymouse: Queen of the World* by Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm. Illus. by Matthew Holm. Random House, 2005. (Gr. 2-5) \*S\***

That endearing daydreamer Babymouse gets herself invited to a sleepover at the house of her archrival, Felicia Furrypaws.

***Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook, 2008. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

This companion book to *Bad Kitty* and *Poor Puppy* is a zany little graphic novel. Bad Kitty needs

a bath? Uh, oh. Don't you know CATS HATE BATHS?

***Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker. Illus. by Marla Frazee. Hyperion, 2006. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

When Margaret gets glue in her long hair and cuts off a big chunk of it, third grader Clementine tries to help her friend by cutting off the rest of it.

***How to Save Your Tail: If You Are a Rat Nabbed by Cats Who Really Like Stories about Magic Spoons, Wolves with Snout-Warts, Big, Hairy Chimney Trolls . . . and Cookies Too* by Mary Hanson. Illus. by John Hendrix. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. (Gr. 2-5)**

Meet a storytelling rat named Bob, who talks his way out of becoming dinner for the Queen's two mean and hungry cats.

***Judy Moody, M.D.: The Doctor Is In!* by Megan McDonald. Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2004. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

Quick-tempered third grader, Judy Moody, dresses as Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman doctor, for Doctor Day.

***Julian Rodriguez: Episode One: Trash Crisis on Earth* by Alexander Stadler. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 2-4)**

In a hilarious graphic novel-ette, meet indignant narrator, Julian Rodriguez, who claims he's been disguised as an Earthling juvenile for eight long years now.

***The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (Gr. 3-5)**

Jessie Treski and her older brother Evan each open lemonade stands and make a bet: whoever makes the most money by Saturday wins the loser's cash as well.

***Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick, 2005. (Gr. K-3) \*S\***

On the night that Mr. and Mrs. Watson and their adored pig, Mercy, are asleep in bed dreaming of fast cars and hot buttered toast, the bed falls into a hole that opens in the floor.

***Miss Daisy Is Crazy (My Weird School series)* by Dan Gutman. Illus. by Jim Pailot. HarperCollins, 2004. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

A. J.'s new second grade teacher says she hates school, and claims not to know how to read, spell, or do math, so the students teach her everything they know.

***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank You Notes* by Peggy Gifford. Photos by Valorie Fisher. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. (Gr. 3-5) \*S\***

Will ten-year-old Moxy keep her promise to her mother to write twelve thank-you notes today, the day after Christmas? Not a chance.

***Oggie Cooder* by Sarah Weeks. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 2-5)**

Using his front teeth, fourth grader Oggie has taught himself to charve—chew and carve—slices of American cheese into the shapes of each of the 50 states. It could make him famous.

***Phineas L. MacGuire . . . Gets Slimed!* by Frances O'Roark Dowell. Illus. by Preston McDaniels. Atheneum, 2007. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

Scientifically speaking, Mac, who agrees to help his best friend Ben run for class president, would much rather put together a mold museum in the school basement.

***Roxie and the Hooligans* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Illus. by Alexandra Boiger. Atheneum, 2006. (Gr. 2-5)**

Though nine-year-old Roxie Warbler has learned all about dire situations from her Uncle Dangerfoot, she is still afraid of four bullies who have made her their Victim of the Year.

***Shredderman: Secret Identity* by Wendelin Van Draanen. Illus. by Brian Riggs. Knopf, 2004. (Gr. 2-5)**

Assuming a cybersuperhero secret identify, fifth grader Nolan Byrd sets up a website, Shredderman.com, to expose the mean ways of his arch enemy and classmate, Bubba.

***Snake and Lizard* by Joy Cowley. Illus. by Gavin Bishop. Kane Miller, 2008 (Gr. K-4)**

In 15 delightful short stories, two new reptile friends learn to tolerate each other's differences in food tastes, bad moods, and family secrets.

***The Spiderwick Chronicles, Book 1: The Field Guide* by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi. Illus. by Tony DiTerlizzi. Simon & Schuster, 2003. (Gr. 2-5) \*S\***

In this first book of the series, nine-year-old Jared, his twin, Simon, and their older sister, Mallory, move to Great-aunt Lucinda's creepy old house where they encounter real faeries.

***Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid* by Megan McDonald. Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2005. (Gr. K-3) \*S\***

Shortest in his family and in Class 2D, Stink Moody is appalled when his older sister, Judy, measures him and tells him he's one quarter inch shorter now than he was in the morning.

***Super Emma* by Sally Warner. Illus. by Jamie Harper. Viking, 2006. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

When Jared Matthews grabs her friend EllRay's plastic action figure, Emma stands up to the bully. So why is Ellray mad at her?

***Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic* by Emily Jenkins. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. (Gr. 1-4) \*S\***

StingRay, Lumphy the buffalo, and Plastic, lying at the bottom of the smelly backpack of the Little Girl with the blue barrette, worry about where she is taking them.

***The White Elephant* by Sid Fleischman. Illus. by Robert McGuire. Greenwillow, 2006. (Gr. 3-5)**

In old Siam, Run-Run, a young orphan boy, returning from clearing tree stumps with his 50-year-old elephant, runs afoul of the king's spiteful son.

***The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney. Putnam, 2004. (Gr. 2-5) \*S\***

After wonderful Mrs. Mac leaves Room 26 of Longfellow School, hamster Humphrey must deal with the strict new teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, who can't stand rodents.

***The Year of the Dog* by Grace Lin. Little, Brown, 2006. (Gr. 3-5) \*S\***

Starting on Chinese New Year, Grace Lin's winsome autobiographical fiction book chronicles the year she made a new friend, got a crush on the cutest boy in school, and found her true talent.

***Younguncle Comes to Town* by Vandana Singh. Illus. by B. M. Kamath. Viking, 2006. (Gr. 3-5)**

In small town in northern India, nine-year-old Sarita, her younger brother Ravi, and their baby sister are captivated by the supposedly true stories told by their free-spirited uncle.

***Zoo School* by Laurie Miller Hornik. Illus. by Debbie Tilley. Clarion, 2004. (Gr. 2-5)**

At the brand new Zoo School, the motto is, "Let the animals be your textbooks."

## NONFICTION

***A Is for Astronaut: Exploring Space from A to Z* by Traci N. Todd. Illus. by Steve Vance and with photos. Chronicle, 2006. (Gr. PreK-3)**

What an exciting and enthusiastic alphabet of space terminology, with a mix of old and new photos and terrific retro-style illustrations.

***Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. (Gr. PreK-6) \*S\***

In this spectacular picture book, eighteen animals (or significant parts of them) are shown actual size, including the head of the man-eating saltwater crocodile and the world's biggest spider.

***Aliens Are Coming!: The True Account Of The 1938 War Of The Worlds Radio Broadcast* by Meghan McCarthy. Knopf, 2006. (Gr. 2-6)**

Within the hour of the CBS evening radio broadcast of October 30, 1938, people all over America believed the country was actually under attack by Martians. Was it?

***Astronaut Handbook* by Meghan McCarthy. Knopf, 2008. (Gr. K-3)**

This easy-to-follow picture book takes you through the steps for getting mentally and physically prepared to be an astronaut, and the tough training that follows.

***At Gleason's Gym* by Ted Lewin. Roaring Brook, 2007. (Gr. K-5)**

Follow nine-year-old boxing champ Sugar Boy Younan as he spends a Saturday in Brooklyn training with other athletes in “the most famous boxing gym in the world.”

***The Bill Martin Jr Big Book of Poetry* by Bill Martin, Bill, Jr. and Michael Sampson. Illus. by Steven Kellogg and others. Simon & Schuster, 2008 (Gr. PreK-3)**

Browse through this beautiful anthology of 200 children’s poems by favorite poets, with art by 13 well-known children's book illustrators.

***The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss* by Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Random, 2004. (Gr. K-4)**

Ted Geisel, whose father ran the city zoo, loved to draw funny, exaggerated creatures, which led one teacher to warn him he would never be successful at art.

***Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman* by Marc Tyler Nobleman. Illus. by Ross MacDonald. Knopf, 2008. (Gr. 2-5)**

This picture book biography profiles two nebbishy guys, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, who, in high school in the 1930s, came up with the idea for the comic strip superhero we still celebrate today.

***Chameleon, Chameleon* by Joy Cowley. Photos by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2005. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Up-close color photographs follow a panther chameleon as he searches for food, and meets up with a gecko, a frog, and a scorpion.

***Dogs and Cats* by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (Gr. 1-5)**

First, learn about the history and personality of man's best pal, the dog; then flip the book over for equal time for our feline friends.

***An Egg Is Quiet* by Dianna Aston. Illus. by Sylvia Long. Chronicle, 2006. (Gr. PreK-4)**

Exquisite detailed watercolors and simple descriptions show the eggs of dozens of species of birds, reptiles, and fish, in a surprising array of colors, shapes and sizes.

***Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote* by Tanya Lee Stone. Illus. by Rebecca Gibbon. Henry Holt, 2008. (Gr. 2-6)**

At age 13, in 1833, Elizabeth Cady decided that she could do anything a boy could do, and spent her life working for equality, helping to organize the first Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848.

***A Family of Poems: My Favorite Poetry for Children* by Caroline Kennedy. Illus. by John J. Muth. Hyperion, 2005. (Gr. 1-6)**

Glorious and glowing full-page watercolors bring to life more than 100 well-chosen poems, from old classics to contemporary.

***Go, Go America* by Dan Yaccarino. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 1-4)**

Away we go with the Farley family on a "fun fact-filled journey from Maine to Hawaii as they discover our weird and wondrous United States of America."

***Gone Fishing: Ocean Life by the Numbers* by David McLimans. Walker, 2008. (Gr. K-4)**

In a counting book companion to *Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet*, the numbers one to ten are incorporated into the bodies of a variety of endangered and threatened sea mammals, birds, fish, and even one giant tube worm.

***Hello, Bumblebee Bat* by Darrin Lunde. Illus. by Patricia J. Wynne. Charlesbridge, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

The rare and tiny Bumblebee Bat answers nine basic questions about its size (one inch long), how it sees at night, what it eats, what it fears, and where it sleeps.

***Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story* by Ellen Levine. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. Scholastic, 2007. (Gr. 2-6)**

In 1849, after his wife and children were sold at the slave market, Henry had himself sealed into a wooden crate which was then mailed from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, 350 miles away.

***Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry* edited by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters. Illus. by Polly Dunbar. Candlewick, 2007. (Gr. PreK-1)**

This gathering of more than 60 poems from the U.S., Great Britain, the Caribbean, and Australia into one big luscious book is just the ticket for sharing with little ones.

***Knock, Knock! Illus. by Saxton Freymann and others. Dial, 2007. (Gr. PreK-5)***

Fourteen children's book artists each illustrated one of their favorite and funniest knock-knock jokes.

***Lightship by Brian Floca. Atheneum, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)***

A simple, lighthearted and poetic text and appealing watercolors show the daily life of the working crew (and cat) on a lightship, a ship that acted as floating lighthouse to other passing vessels.

***Living Color by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. (Gr. PreK-4)***

Explore some of the more colorful creatures of the animal kingdom to see how their colors help them survive, hide, and communicate.

***Mammoths on the Move by Lisa Wheeler. Illus. by Kurt Cyrus. Harcourt, 2006. (Gr. PreK-2)***

This rhyming picture book depicts the annual migration of huge and handsome mammoths from the frozen north to warmer climes a mere 14,000 years ago.

***May I Pet Your Dog?: The How-to Guide for Kids Meeting Dogs (and Dogs Meeting Kids) by Stephanie Calmenson. Illus. by Jan Ormerod. Clarion, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)***

Harry, a longhaired dachshund, encounters a young boy and gives him a series of practical instructions on how to approach and be friends with a dog.

***Mr. Lincoln's Boys: Being the Mostly True Adventures of Abraham Lincoln's Troublemaking Sons, Tad and Willie by Staton Rabin. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Viking, 2008. (Gr. 1-4)***

Written like a story, this is a lively picture book account of the mischievous Lincoln lads, eight-year-old Tad and ten-year-old Willie, and the pranks they played in the White House.

***My Dog May Be a Genius by Jack Prelutsky. Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 2008. (Gr. 1-5)***

How delicious, how delightful, how utterly sensational it is to have a chunky-sized new collection of 105 Prelutsky poems.

***Nic Bishop Frogs by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. K-6)***

Bishop's vibrant color photos of more than a dozen different types of frogs are so splashy and beautiful, your jaw will drop.

***Nic Bishop Spiders by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2007. (Gr. K-6)***

Here's everything you ever wanted to know about spiders and then some, with gorgeous up-close color photographs.

***Nothing but Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson by Sue Stauffacher. Illus. by Greg Couch. Knopf, 2007. (Gr. 2-5)***

In this spunky picture book biography of the African American tennis star, see how "tallest, wildest tomboy in the history of Harlem" learned to keep her cool on the tennis court.

***Roadwork by Sally Sutton. Illus. by Brian Lovelock. Candlewick, 2008. (Gr. PreK-2)***

In a rhyming explanation of how a new road is constructed, road workers band together to move the earth, load the dirt, tip the stones, pack the ground, and seal the road.

***Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates by Jonah Winter. Illus. by Raúl Colón. Atheneum, 2005. (Gr. 1-4)***

Meet baseball great, the late Roberto Clemente, in an uplifting and inspiring picture book bio of the Puerto Rican trailblazer.

***Rosa by Nikki Giovanni. Illus. by Bryan Collier. Henry Holt, 2005. (G. 3-6)***

This eloquent picture book biography introduces African American hero, Rosa Parks, whose refusal to get up from her bus seat in Birmingham, Alabama in 1955 helped to change the course of American history.

***Sea Horse: The Shyest Horse in the Sea* by Chris Butterworth. Illus. by Joel Lawrence. Candlewick, 2006. (Gr. K-2)**

Follow the unusual life cycle of a male Barbour's sea horse as he mates and bears hundreds of babies from his pouch.

***A Second Is a Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time* by Hazel Hutchins. Illus. by Katy MacDonald Denton. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, 2007. (Gr. PreK-1)**

Soft, sweet watercolors introduce seven children who demonstrate how long a second, minute, hour, day, week, month, and year are.

***A Seed Is Sleepy* by Dianna Aston. Illus. by Sylvia Long. Chronicle, 2007. (Gr. PreK-4)**

Find out about all sorts of seeds, along with pages of graceful, delectable watercolors of more than three dozen fruits, vegetables, flowers, and trees.

***Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson. Illus. by Hudson Talbott. Putnam, 2005. (Gr. 2-6)**

Author Jacqueline Woodson traces and introduces seven generations of the women in her family, from slavery times to the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement and up to today.

***Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust* by April Pulley Sayre. Illus. by Ann Jonas. Greenwillow, 2005. (Gr. PreK-4)**

Did you know that dust may come from pollen, dirt, our own skin that flakes off, the smoke from burning toast, or the ash from an erupting volcano?

***Tracks of a Panda* by Nick Dowson. Illus. by Rong Yu. Candlewick, 2007. (Gr. PreK-2)**

Follow a mother panda over a year as she cares for her cub, protects him from wild dogs, and teaches him to climb and swim.

***United Tweets of America* by Hudson Talbott. Putnam, 2008. (Gr. PreK-6)**

What a hoot: a picture book about each of the fifty states, set up as a bird beauty pageant, narrated by a bespectacled bald eagle holding a microphone.

***Wanda Gág: The Girl Who Lived to Draw* by Deborah Kogan Ray. Viking, 2008. (Gr. 2-5)**

Author and illustrator of the classic picture book, *Millions of Cats*, Wanda Gág's motto was "Draw to live and live to draw."

***What Athletes Are Made Of* by Hanoch Piven. Text by Sarah L. Thomson. Illus. by Hanoch Piven. Atheneum, 2006. (Gr. 2-6)**

According to portrait artist Hanoch Piven, athletes are made of big mouths (Muhammad Ali), great minds (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), teamwork (Mia Hamm), and 20 other vivid attributes.

***What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!* by Barbara Kerley. Illus. by Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic, 2008. (Gr. 1-4)**

In a delightful picture book biography, meet the headstrong oldest child of whom Theodore Roosevelt said, "I can be president of the United States, or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both."

***Wild Tracks! A Guide to Nature's Footprints* by Jim Arnosky. Sterling, 2008. (Gr. K-6)**

With this information-packed illustrated guide, readers can identify the tracks, actual size, of hoofed mammals, bears, small mammals, felines, canines, reptiles, and birds.

***Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator* by Sarah C. Campbell. Photos by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell. Boyds Mills, 2008. (Gr. PreK-3)**

Close-up color photographs track a typical day in the life of a wolfsnail, emerging from its shell to look for food.