

Books Kids Love



Reading with your child is one of the most important things you can do to help her succeed in school. This collection of books is full of laughs, information, and tender moments. Find a comfortable chair, snuggle up, and enjoy them together.

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester

Tacky is an odd bird. He wears Hawaiian shirts, has trouble walking in a line, and sings songs like “How Many Toes Does a Fish Have?” However, as his companions Goodly, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect learn, when the penguin hunters come, Tacky’s differences make him a good bird to have around. (Available in Spanish.)

The Patchwork Quilt

by Valerie Flourney

Tanya’s grandmother starts making a quilt using old clothing, Halloween costumes, and snips of fabric from special outfits the family has outgrown.

When Grandma gets sick, Tanya asks her family to help finish the masterpiece. A touching story of family and traditions.



Our Earth by Anne Rockwell

From deserts, oceans, and rain forests to volcanoes, glaciers, and caves, this simple book introduces children to geography and geology. The illustrations will prompt youngsters to ask questions about the planet Earth.

Love You Forever by Robert Munsch

“I’ll love you forever/I’ll like you for always/As long as I’m living/My baby you’ll be.” A mother sings this song to her son—when he’s a baby, a toddler, and a teenager, and when he grows up and moves away from home. (Available in Spanish.)

Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa by Erica Silverman

This is the first book in a series about Kate and her horse, Cocoa. As the two work on a ranch together, their friendship grows. Kate fluffs up Cocoa’s straw and gives him carrots and water at bedtime. And Cocoa helps Kate count cattle and sings her a lullaby when she can’t sleep.

Little Red Writing by Joan Holub

Youngsters will recognize the altered fairy tale in this clever look at story writing. Little Red is a red pencil, the “wolf” is a pencil sharpener, and her “picnic” basket is full of words! As Little Red works on a school writing assignment, the book explains parts of speech, wordplay, puns, and more.

Puff, the Magic Dragon by Peter Yarrow and Lenny Lipton

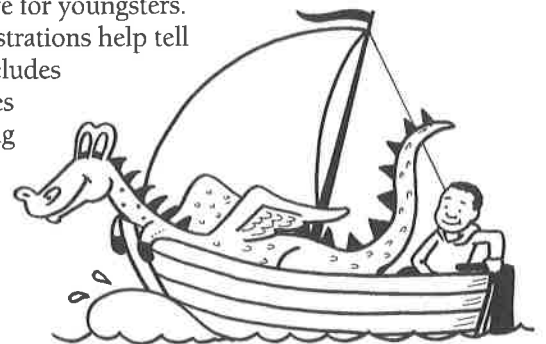
Little Jackie Paper and Puff embark on a magical trip in the land of Honalee, sailing on a boat and meeting royalty and pirates along the way. Children and parents will love this book that’s based on the popular song by Peter (the book’s author), Paul, and Mary.

It’s Spring!/It’s Summer!/It’s Fall!/It’s Winter!

by Linda Glaser

Pussywillows, rainbows, colorful leaves, snow angels ... these four books in the Celebrate the Season series make the seasons come alive for youngsters.

Cut-paper illustrations help tell the stories. Includes nature activities such as creating a seed mosaic and looking for four-leaf clovers.



Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells
Nora, the middle child in a family of mice, is tired of waiting for her time with Mom and Dad. No matter how much noise she makes, she can't get their attention. But when the clatter stops, the rest of the family wonders what happened to Nora. (Available in Spanish.)

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
These hilarious poems have delighted youngsters for years. Read about a little boy who uses a toilet plunger for a hat, and learn how to give an armadillo a bath. Black-and-white drawings add to the book's appeal.

Trout Are Made of Trees by April Pulley Sayre
In this introduction to the food chain, a father and his two children explore a stream together. Beginning with a leaf falling into the water, simple words and collage-like illustrations follow the life cycle of a trout.



Tom by Tomie dePaola
Tommy is named after his grandfather, Tom. The two read, sing, and make up stories together, and Tommy helps his granddad in his butcher shop. Your youngster will enjoy laughing at their antics.

Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli by Barbara Jean Hicks
Monsters eat trees, cars, sharks, stop signs, and even rocket ships. But "Fum, foe, fie, fee, monsters don't eat broccoli." Could the trees they love to eat really be broccoli? A fun story with a lesson in nutrition.

Lost in the Woods by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick
When a baby deer roams around alone, the other animals assume he's lost and take turns watching him until his mother comes back. The book is filled with striking photographs of a tree frog, a red-winged blackbird, and other animals. Children will enjoy the animal-hunt activity at the end.

Switching on the Moon: A Very First Book of Bedtime Poems collected by Jane Yolen and Andre Fusek Peters
These poems about nighttime are ideal for reading aloud before bed. The collection features poets from Mother Goose to John Agard writing about the moon, lullabies, dreams, and more.

Morris Goes to School by B. Wiseman
This I Can Read book will have your little one rolling with laughter when Morris the Moose starts first grade. Morris has a little trouble at first, but with the help of his teacher and classmates, he learns to read and count.

Madlenka by Peter Sis
Madlenka can't wait to show her loose tooth to everyone on her block. Her walk takes her "around the world" as she visits neighbors from different cultures to share her news. Tagging along on Madlenka's journey will give your child glimpses into those worlds, too.

"What should I read?"

Children who know how to select good books are on their way to becoming lifelong readers. Help your youngster learn how with these ideas:

- When picking books, suggest that she look at the cover and read the description on the back. This will give her an idea of what the book's about. Then, she can flip through the pages and look at the illustrations. Does she think she would enjoy it?
- Tap into her interests. If she's excited about rocks or car racing, have her ask the librarian for help finding books on those subjects.
- Together, think of books your youngster has enjoyed, and make a list of the authors. Help her look for more of their stories at the library or a used bookstore.
- Encourage her to discuss books she likes with her friends—and to ask them what books they like. She'll get suggestions for new books or might even trade favorites with her friends.

