

## **Picture Books Everyone Should Know - New York Public Library**

**ABUELA** - Dorros, Arthur

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

**ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY**  
Viorst, Judith

Recounts the events of a day when everything goes wrong for Alexander.

**ANANSI AND THE MOSS-COVERED ROCK** - Eric A., Kimmel

Anansi the Spider uses a strange moss-covered rock in the forest to trick all the other animals, until Little Bush Deer decides he needs to learn a lesson.

**BREAD AND JAM FOR FRANCES** - Hoban, Russell; illustrated by Lillian Hoban

Frances decides she likes to eat only bread and jam at every meal--until to her surprise--her parents grant her wish.

**BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR, WHAT DO YOU SEE?** - Martin, Bill, Jr. ;  
illustrated by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

**CAPS FOR SALE; A TALE OF A PEDDLER, SOME MONKEYS AND THEIR MONKEY BUSINESS** - Slobodkina, Esphyr

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

**THE CARROT SEED** - Krauss, Ruth; illustrated by Crockett Johnson

A young boy plants a carrot seed and, although the adults tell him that nothing will happen, he just knows it will come up.

**CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM** - Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault;  
illustrated by Lois Ehlert

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

**CLICK, CLACK, MOO : COWS THAT TYPE** - Cronin, Doreen

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.

**CORDUROY** - Freeman, Don

A teddy bear in a department store wants a number of things

CURIOUS GEORGE - Rey, H. A.

The adventures of a curious monkey.

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS! - Willems, Mo

When the bus driver leaves the bus for a while, the pigeon wants to drive the bus so badly that he starts to dream himself behind the steering wheel vroom-vroom-vroom.

DUCK ON A BIKE - Shannon, David

A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.

FIRE TRUCK - Sís, Peter

Matt, who loves fire trucks, wakes up one morning to find that he has become a fire truck, with one driver, two ladders, three hoses, and ten boots. Features a gate-fold illustration that opens into a three-page spread.

FREIGHT TRAIN - Crews, Donald

Brief text and illustrations trace the journey of a colorful train as it goes through tunnels, by cities, and over trestles.

FROGGY GETS DRESSED - London, Jonathan

Froggy hops out into the snow for a winter frolic but is called back by his mother to put on some necessary articles of clothing.

THE GARDENER - Stewart, Sarah

A series of letters relating what happens when, after her father loses his job, Lydia Grace goes to live with her Uncle Jim in the city but takes her love for gardening with her.

GEORGE AND MARTHA - Marshall, James

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses.

GO AWAY, BIG GREEN MONSTER! - Emberley, Ed

Die-cut pages through which bits of a monster are revealed are designed to help a child control nighttime fears of monsters.

GOIN' SOMEPLACE SPECIAL - McKissack, Patricia

In segregated 1950s' Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA - Rathmann, Peggy

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has

left behind in the zoo.

GOODNIGHT MOON - Brown, Margaret W.; illustrated by Clement Hurd  
A little bunny says goodnight to all the familiar things in his little room.

GRANDFATHER'S JOURNEY - Say, Allen  
A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON - Johnson, Crockett  
Harold goes for a walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon

HARRY THE DIRTY DOG - Zion, Gene; illustrated by Margaret Graham  
A little dog who hates baths hides his scrubbing brush then becomes so dirty that his family does not recognize him.

HENRY HIKES TO FITCHBURG - Johnson, D. B. (Donald B.)  
While his friend works hard to earn the train fare to Fitchburg, young Henry Thoreau walks the thirty miles through woods and fields, enjoying nature and the time to think great thoughts. Includes biographical information about Thoreau.

HORTON HATCHES THE EGG - Seuss, Dr.  
When a lazy bird hatching an egg wants a vacation, she asks Horton, the elephant, to sit on her egg--which he does through all sorts of hazards and waits

HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT? - Yolen, Jane  
Mother and child ponder the different ways a dinosaur can say goodnight, from slamming his tail and pouting to giving a big hug and kiss.

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE - Numeroff, Laura J.  
Relating the cycle of requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie takes the reader through a young child's day.

JOHN HENRY - Lester, Julius; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney  
Retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain.

JULIUS - Johnson, Angela; illustrated by Dav Pilkey  
Maya's grandfather brings her a pig from Alaska and the two of them learn about fun and sharing together.

LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE - Kevin, Henkes  
When Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and

hungry trying to reach it.

LON PO PO: A RED RIDING HOOD STORY FROM CHINA - Young, Ed.

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother.

LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE - Waber, Bernard

The helpful, happy crocodile living on East 88th St. causes a neighborhood feud.

MADLINE - Bemelmans, Ludwig

The story of a school girl in Paris.

MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS - McCloskey, Robert

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard found a quiet place to raise their babies then took them to the pond in the Boston Public Garden where there were peanuts to eat.

MAMA CAT HAS THREE KITTENS - Fleming, Denise

While two kittens copy everything their mother does, their brother naps.

THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS - Gerstein, Mordicai

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

MARTHA SPEAKS - Meddaugh, Susan

Problems arise when Martha, the family dog, learns to speak after eating alphabet soup.

MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL - Burton, Virginia L.

The story of an Irish steam-shovel artist and his old-fashioned steam-shovel, Mary Anne.

MILLIONS OF CATS - Gág, Wanda

The story of a peasant who goes off in search of one kitten and returns with trillions of cats.

MISS NELSON IS MISSING! - Allard, Harry and James Marshall

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

MR. GUMPY'S OUTING - Birmingham, John

Mr. Gumpy accepts more and more animals on his boat until the inevitable occurs.

MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS: AN AFRICAN TALE - Steptoe, John,  
retold and illustrated by

Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.

MY FRIEND RABBIT - Rohmann, Eric

Something always seems to go wrong when Rabbit is around, but Mouse lets him play with his toy plane anyway because he is his good friend.

THE NAPPING HOUSE - Wood, Audrey

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite. Illustrated by Don Wood.

NO, DAVID! - Shannon, David

A young boy is depicted doing a variety of naughty things for which he is repeatedly admonished, but finally he gets a hug.

OLD BLACK FLY - Aylesworth, Jim

Rhyming text and illustrations follow a mischievous old black fly through the alphabet as he has a very busy bad day landing where he should not be. Illustrations by Stephen Gammell.

OLIVIA - Falconer, Ian

Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good.

OWEN - Henkes, Kevin

Owen's parents try to get him to give up his favorite blanket before he starts school, but when their efforts fail, they come up with a solution that makes everyone happy.

PAPA, PLEASE GET THE MOON FOR ME - Carle, Eric

Monica's father fulfills her request for the moon by taking it down after it is small enough to carry, but it continues to change in size. Some pages fold out to display particularly large pictures.

PIERRE: A CAUTIONARY TALE - Sendak, Maurice

The story of a boy who learned to care.

THE POLAR EXPRESS - Van Allsburg, Chris

A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

PUSS IN BOOTS Perrault, Charles

RUMPELSTILTSKIN - Zelinsky, Paul O.

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. Retold and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky.

THE SNOWY DAY - Keats, Ezra Jack

A story of a young boy explores the magic world of snow -- snowball fight, snowman making, sliding down the snow way, etc. He loves the snow fall.

SPOTS, FEATHERS AND CURLY TAILS - Tafuri, Nancy

Questions and answers highlight some outstanding characteristics of farm animals, such as a chicken's feathers and a horse's mane.

THE STORY OF FERDINAND - Leaf, Munro

The story of a bull that would rather sit quietly under a tree than fight. Illustrations by Robert Lawson.

THE STRAY DOG - Marc, Simont

A family befriends a stray dog, names him Willy, and decides to keep him. From a true story by Reiko Sassa.

STREGA NONA - De Paola, Tomie

A retelling of an old Italian tale about what happens when Strega Nona leaves her apprentice alone with her magic pasta pot, and he is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

SWIMMY - Lionni, Leo

Swimmy, the only black fish of the entire school, devises for himself and his adopted brothers and sisters a safer way to live in the sea.

SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE - Steig, William

In a moment of fright Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock but then can not hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT - Potter, Beatrix

Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden and almost gets caught.

TAR BEACH - Ringgold, Faith

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.

TEN, NINE, EIGHT

Bang, Molly

THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY - Taback, Simms  
Presents the traditional version of a famous American folk poem first heard in the U.S. in the 1940s with illustrations on die-cut pages that reveal all that the old lady swallows.

THE THREE BEARS - Galdone, Paul  
Three bears return from a walk and find a little girl asleep in baby bear's bed.

TRASHY TOWN - Zimmerman, Andrea Griffing  
Little by little, can by can, Mr. Gillie, the trash man, cleans up his town.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS BY A. WOLF - Scieszka, John  
The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. Illustrated by Lane Smith.

TUESDAY  
Wiesner, David  
Frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.

UPTOWN - Bryan, Collier  
A tour of the sights of Harlem, including the Metro-North Train, brownstones, shopping on 125th Street, a barber shop, summer basketball, the Boy's Choir, and sunset over the Harlem River.

THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR - Carle, Eric  
Follows the progress of a little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

THE WHEELS ON THE BUS - Zelinsky, Paul O., adapted and illustrated by  
Through the use of movable illustrations, the wheels on the bus go round, the wipers swish, the doors open and close and the people go in and out in this adaptation of the traditional song.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE - Sendak, Maurice  
After Max was sent to bed for misbehaving, he escapes by imagining that he sails away to a wild land full of monsters.

WHERE'S SPOT? - Hill, Eric  
It's time for supper, so Spot's mother searches for him.

WHISTLE FOR WILLIE - Keats, Ezra Jack

A little Black boy tries very hard to learn how to whistle for his dog.

THE WOLF'S CHICKEN STEW - Kasza, Keiko

A hungry wolf's attempts to fatten a chicken for his stewpot have unexpected results.

YOKO - Wells, Rosemary

When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of what she eats--until one of them tries it for himself.

ZOMO THE RABBIT: A TRICKSTER TALE FROM WEST AFRICA

McDermott, Gerald, retold and illustrated by

Zomo the Rabbit, an African trickster, sets out to gain wisdom.

<http://kids.nypl.org/index.cfm>