

The Country School Suggested Early Childhood Book List

“The Mitten” by Jan Brett

This bestselling modern classic is surely a “Don’t miss.” Nicki drops his white mitten in the snow, and one by one, the woodland animals find it and crawl in to make themselves comfortable. As the story of the animals in the mitten unfolds, the reader can see Nicki in the borders of each page, walking through the woods unaware of what is going on.

“Mike Mulligan and the Steam Shovel” by Virginia Lee Burton

A modern classic that no child should miss. Since it was first published in 1939, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel has delighted generations of children. Mike and his trusty steam shovel, Mary Anne, dig deep canals for boats to travel through, cut mountain passes for trains, and hollow out cellars for city skyscrapers -- the very symbol of industrial America. But with progress come new machines, and soon the inseparable duo are out of work. Mike believes that Mary Anne can dig as much in a day as one hundred men can dig in a week, and the two have one last chance to prove it and save Mary Anne from the scrap heap. What happens next in the small town of Popperville is a testament to their friendship, and to old-fashioned hard work and ingenuity.

“The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle

The very hungry caterpillar literally eats his way through the pages of the book—and right into your child's heart.

“Last Stop on Market Street” by Matt de la Peña

CJ’s journey with his Nana is not just a simple bus ride; it is a multi-sensory experience through which he discovers that beautiful music, nature and people surround him. CJ’s questions are familiar, and Nana answers him with gentle wisdom. Right up until their arrival at the last stop on Market Street, Nana guides CJ to become “a better witness for what’s beautiful.”

“The Day the Crayons Quit” by Drew Daywalk and Oliver Jeffers (winner of the 2015 Nutmeg award)

Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun.

“Go Dog Go” by PD Eastman

Reading goes to the dogs in this timeless Beginner Book. From big dogs and little dogs to red, green, and blue dogs, dogs going up and dogs going fast . . . who knew dogs were so busy? *Go, Dog. Go!* has been a go-to favorite for over fifty years, leaving audiences of all breeds wagging their tails with delight.

“A Pocket for Corduroy” by Don Freeman

Corduroy is even more popular today than he was when he first came on the scene over thirty years ago. These favorite titles are ready for another generation of children to love.

“Little Toot” by Hardie Gramatky

I can't think of another book more perfect for a little boy or girl than this story of a scrappy little tugboat. Although he gets himself in too deep, Little Toot learns that he can do it! The nostalgic illustrations are the perfect compliment to this tale reminiscent of *The Little Engine That Could*.

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“Harold and the Purple Crayon” by Crockett Johnson

One evening Harold decides to go for a walk in the moonlight. Armed only with an oversized purple crayon, young Harold draws himself a landscape full of wonder and excitement. Harold and his trusty crayon travel through woods and across seas and past dragons before returning to bed, safe and sound. Full of funny twists and surprises, this charming story shows just how far your imagination can take you.

“The Snowy Day” by Jack Ezra Keats

No book has captured the magic and sense of possibility of the first snowfall better than *The Snowy Day*. Universal in its appeal, the story has become a favorite of millions, as it reveals a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever. The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.

“A Color of His Own” by Leo Lionni

Elephants are gray. Pigs are pink. Only the chameleon has no color of his own. He is purple like the heather, yellow like a lemon, even black and orange striped like a tiger! Then one day a chameleon has an idea to remain one color forever by staying on the greenest leaf he can find. But in the autumn, the leaf changes from green to yellow to red . . . and so does the chameleon. When another chameleon suggests they travel together, he learns that companionship is more important than having a color of his own. No matter where he goes with his new friend, they will always be alike.

“Swimmy” by Leo Lionni

Deep in the sea there lives a happy school of little fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger, and the little fish are afraid to come out of hiding . . . until Swimmy comes along. Swimmy shows his friends how—with ingenuity and teamwork—they can overcome any danger. With its graceful text and stunning artwork, this Caldecott Honor Book deserves a place on every child's shelf.

“Chicka, Chicka Boom Boom” by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

Joyfully recite the familiar words of this beloved alphabet chant. The perfect pairing of Bill Martin Jr and John Archambault's lively rhymes, and Caldecott Honor artist Lois Ehlert's bright, bold, cheerful pictures made *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* an instant hit and a perennial favorite.

“Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear” by Lindsay Mattick

“Finding Winnie” is an incredible account of the friendship and love shared between a soldier and the real bear who inspired Winnie-the-Pooh. Blackall beautifully interprets this multidimensional family story through her distinctive Chinese ink and watercolor art, capturing intimate and historical details perfect for a child's eye.

“Make Way for Ducklings” by Robert McCloskey

Mrs. Mallard was sure that the pond in the Boston Public Gardens would be a perfect place for her and her eight ducklings to live. The problem was how to get them there through the busy streets of Boston. But with a little help from the Boston police, Mrs. Mallard and Jack, Kack, Lack, Nack, Ouack, Pack, and Quack arrive safely at their new home. This brilliantly illustrated, amusingly observed tale of Mallards on the move has won the hearts of generations of readers. Awarded the Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children in 1941, it has since become a favorite of millions.

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“The Little Engine that Could” by Watty Piper

"I think I can! I think I can!" This well-loved classic tale of the Little Blue Engine who isn't afraid to try has and will continue to inspire and entertain generations of children.

“If You Give A Mouse A Cookie” by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond

This award-winning, thirty plus year old book is still an all time favorite of children of all ages. Do not miss....and.... If a hungry little mouse shows up on your doorstep, you might want to give him a cookie. And if you give him a cookie, he'll ask for a glass of milk. Other favorites in the series are: If you Give a Moose a Muffin and If you Give a Pig a Pancake.

“Senses by the Seashore” by Shelley Rotner

See the blue water. Hear the waves crash. Smell the suntan lotion. Touch a soft feather. Taste the salty seawater. The seashore stimulates all of our five senses in exciting ways. This book is a wonderful discussion and activity starter for children visiting the seashore, while at the same time it is ideal for classroom use in studying the five senses.

Dr. Seuss books - (“Green Eggs and Ham,” “Hop on Pop,” “Cat in the Hat,” “One fish, Two fish, Red fish, Blue fish,” etc.)

Ideal for reading aloud or reading alone, they will begin a child on the adventure of a lifetime!

“Sylvester and the Magic Pebble” by William Steig

Sylvester can't believe his luck when he finds a magic pebble that can make wishes come true. But when a lion jumps out at him on his way home, Sylvester is shocked into making a wish that has unexpected consequences. After overcoming a series of obstacles, Sylvester is eventually reunited with his loving family. Illustrated with William Steig's glowing pictures, this winner of the Caldecott Medal is beloved by children everywhere.

“Mouse Paint” by Ellen Stoll Walsh

One day three white mice discover three jars of paint--red, blue, and yellow. Both parents and children alike will appreciate this lighthearted presentation of a lesson in color. “Walsh's cut-paper collage illustrations have bold colors and just the right simplicity for the storyline. A real charmer that's great fun as well as informative.

“Knuffle Bunny” by Mo Willems

It's Daddy's day out with toddler Trixie, and they're off to the Laundromat! Daddy holds on to Trixie's hand; Trixie holds on to Knuffle Bunny, her beloved stuffed animal. A day of adventures begin, but, wait, where is Knuffle Bunny?

“Bear and Friends: Bear Snores On; Bear Wants More; Bear's New Friend” (The Bear Books) by Karma Wilson

Cozy up with Bear who lives in the forest with his friends Mouse, Hare, Mole, Wren, and others. Bear's friends try to wake him up from a long winter sleep, but he just snores on. When Bear is awake, he searches for something tasty to eat. But nothing's quite right. Then Bear hears something clattering in the trees up above, and when he discovers who it is, he makes a new friend!

“Alphabet Adventure” by Audrey Wood

After working hard all summer with their teacher, "Capital T," the lower case letters of the alphabet are on their way to the first day of school. But they're held up when the letter i loses her dot. The letters come up

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with a plan, and race around to find a substitute for Little i to wear s offers a star, h a heart but at the last moment the mischievous dot returns (anxious about being replaced).

“The Napping House” by Audrey Wood

Everyone knows the cumulative rhyme “This Is the House That Jack Built,” but “The Napping House” (1984) is close on its heels in the race for posterity: “And on that granny / there is a child / a dreaming child / on a snoring granny / on a cozy bed / in a napping house, / where everyone is sleeping.”

“Owl Moon” by Jane Yolen

Late one winter night a little girl and her father go owling. The trees stand still as statues and the world is silent as a dream. Whoo-who-who, the father calls to the mysterious nighttime bird. But there is no answer. Wordlessly the two companions walk along, for when you go owling you don't need words. You don't need anything but hope. Sometimes there isn't an owl, but sometimes there is.