

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 Flournoy



Tanya's grandmother starts making a quilt using old clothing, Halloween costumes, and snips of fabric from special outlits 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.

A Very Important Day by Maggic Rugg Herold Families from Mexico, Russia, Vietnam, India, and other countries are busy preparing for an important day-becoming American citizens. In spite of a heavy snowfall that morning, everyone makes it to the courthouse and takes the oath of citizenship, Beautiful watercolors portray different cultures.

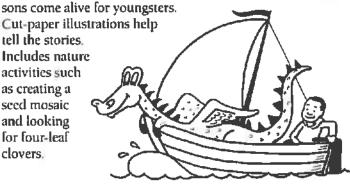
Puff, the Magic Dragon by Peter Yarrow and Lenny Lipton Little Jackie Paper and Puff embark on a magical trip in the land of Honalee, sailing on a boat and meeting royalty and pirates along the way. Children and parents will love this book that's based on the popular song by Peter (the book's author), 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 sea-

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



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continued

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.



Johnny Appleseed

by Stephen Kellogg
This book tells the story
of Johnny Appleseed,
combining facts from
his real life with legends told about him.
Life on the frontier is
depicted through beautiful paintings of Native
Americans, pioneers, and
animals. A map helps
children "see" his journey
scattering apple seeds
throughout the land.

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.

Mother Goose Numbers on the Loose

by Leo and Diane Dillon

The nursery rhymes in this collection all contain numbers, including the well-known "1, 2, Buckle My Shoe" and the less familiar "Gregory Griggs Has 27 Wigs." Your child can practice rhyming while he counts people, animals, wigs, and more.



Tom by Tomic 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.

"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.



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