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## Best Children's Books of 2005

Gregory A. Martin

*Cedarville University*, [marting@cedarville.edu](mailto:marting@cedarville.edu)

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Xenia Schools Elementary Libraries  
Best Children's Books of 2005  
January 27, 2006

**Aiki.** A Play's the Thing. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060743557  
Miss Brilliant's class puts on a performance of "Mary had a little lamb."

**Arnold, Katya.** Elephants Can Paint Too! Athenuem, 2005. ISBN: 0689869851  
Learn about elephants and how they can paint just like human children in this true story of how Katya Arnold teaches painting to kids in Brooklyn and Asian elephants in Thailand.

**Ashman, Linda.** To the Beach! Harcourt, Inc., 2005. ISBN: 0152164901  
A family keeps forgetting the things they need to take to the beach.

**Banks, Kate.** The Great Blue House. Frances Foster Books, 2005.  
ISBN: 0374327696  
When its owners leave, a summer house comes alive with the sounds of a mouse nibbling crumbs in the fall, a cat taking shelter in the winter, and rain falling on the roof in the spring.

**Beaumont, Karen.** I Ain't Gonna Paint No More! Harcourt, 2005. ISBN:0152024883  
Told to the rhythm of a familiar folk song, this book tells the story of a child who cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places.

**Bial, Raymond.** Where Washington Walked. Walker & Co., 2005.  
ISBN: 0802788998  
Biography of George Washington.

**Bildner, Phil.** The Shot Heard 'Round the World. Simon & Schuster, 2005.  
ISBN: 0689862733  
On October 2, 1951, the Dodgers faced the Giants in a third, tie-breaking game to determine which team would go on to play the Yankees in the World Series. More than just a story about baseball, this is a sweeping view of life in Brooklyn in the summer of 1951, from its streets, to its Cyclone, to its stadium.

**Bolden, Tonya.** The Champ: The Story of Muhammad Ali. Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.  
ISBN: 0375824014  
From his unlikely beginnings as a skinny, young Cassius Clay learning to box at a local gym, to becoming the heavyweight champion of the world at the famous "Rumble in the Jungle," Muhammad Ali has captivated the world.

**Bryant, Jen.** Georgia's Bones. Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2005.  
ISBN: 0802852173  
Artist Georgia O'Keeffe was interested in the shapes she saw around her, from her childhood on a Wisconsin farm to her adult life in New York City and New Mexico.

**Buehner, Caralyn.** Snowmen at Christmas. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005.  
ISBN: 0803729952  
On Christmas Eve, snowmen hold a party in the center of town and celebrate with food, music and dancing, and presents.

**Carle, Eric.** 10 Little Rubber Ducks. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060740752  
In this story based on an actual incident, a storm strikes a cargo ship, and ten rubber ducks are tossed overboard and swept off in ten different directions. Also a counting book.

**Chin-Lee, Cynthia.** Amelia to Zora: twenty-six women who changed the world. Charlesbridge, 2005. ISBN: 1570915229  
Alphabet and informational book for older readers.

**Cordsden, Carol Foskett.** The Milkman. Dutton Children's Books, 2005. ISBN: 0525472088  
In the early, early morning, the milkman makes his rounds, helping his neighbors in a variety of ways.

**Cowley, Joy.** Chameleon, Chameleon. Scholastic, 2005. ISBN: 0439666538  
Experience close-up the many moods (and colors) of chameleons. One brave chameleon ventures from the safety of his tree in search of a new home. On his journey, he meets other rain forest animals, not all of them friendly! Alas, the new tree he chooses is already home to another chameleon. She dons her aggressive coloring until she's sure that the visitor is friend, not foe. Then they welcome each other with brilliant, happy colors.

**Cronin, Doreen.** Diary of a Spider. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060001534  
A young spider discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being a spider, including how to spin webs and avoid vacuum cleaners.

**Cronin, Doreen.** Wiggle. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005. ISBN: 0689863756  
Rhyming text describes the many ways to wiggle.

**Curlee, Lynn.** Ballpark: The Story of America's Baseball Fields. Atheneum, 2005. ISBN: 0689867425  
From the first ballpark converted from an ice rink in 1862 to the space-aged Houston Astrodome to the league's newest state-of-the-art stadiums, this book tells the history of baseball through its ballparks.

**Delano, Marfé Ferguson.** Genius: A Photobiography of Albert Einstein. National Geographic, 2005. ISBN: 0792295447  
Publication of this photobiography of Albert Einstein coincides with the year that marks the 100th anniversary of what has been described as Einstein's "miraculous year" and the 50th anniversary of his death.

**Demi.** Mother Teresa. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005. ISBN: 0689864078  
A biography of Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, known as Mother Teresa, who spent most of her life serving "the poorest of the poor" in Calcutta, India.

**DiCamillo, Kate.** Mercy Watson to the Rescue. Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN: 0763622702  
After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor.

**Dorros, Arthur.** Julio's Magic. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060290056  
A young artist discovers the power of friendship when he helps his mentor win a prestigious wood-carving contest.

**Ehlert, Lois.** Leaf Man. Harcourt, 2005. ISBN: 0152053042

In a series of die-cut illustrations, Ehlert tells the story of a man made of leaves who blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him.

**Engelbreit, Mary.** Mary Engelbreit's Mother Goose: One Hundred Best-Loved Verses.

HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060081716

An illustrated collection of nearly one hundred nursery rhymes, including "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and other familiar poems, as well as "Mary had a Pretty Bird" and other less familiar ones.

**Fleming, Denise.** First Day of Winter. Henry Holt, 2005. ISBN: 0805073841

A snowman comes alive as the child building it adds pieces during the first ten days of winter. Also a counting book.

**Frazer, Marla.** Santa Claus: The World's Number One Toy Expert. Harcourt, 2005.

ISBN: 0152049703

Santa Claus has his own ways of knowing more about children and toys than anyone else in the world.

**Freeman, Don.** Earl the Squirrel. Viking, 2005. ISBN: 0670060194

Earl the squirrel learns to gather acorns on his own.

**Freyman, Saxton.** Food for Thought: The Complete Book of Concepts for Growing Minds.

A. Levin Books, 2005. ISBN: 0439110181

Uses bright photographs of fruit and vegetables shaped like animals and simple labels to teach toddlers about shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and opposites.

**Giovanni, Nikki.** Rosa. Henry Holt, 2005. ISBN: 0805071067

The story of Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparked a revolution.

**Grey, Mini.** Traction Man Is Here! Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. ISBN: 0375831916

Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, has a variety of adventures with Scrubbing Brush and other objects in the house. This superhero searches for the Lost Wreck of the Sieve as the boy makes a game of doing the dishes, and later in the bathtub, he conquers the Mysterious Toes that are stealing his pet, the brave little Scrubbing Brush.

**Harley, Bill.** Dear Santa: The Letters of James B. Dobbins. HarperCollins, 2005.

ISBN: 0066237785

James Dobbins writes letters to Santa Claus, detailing what he and some family members want for Christmas and explaining his behavior of the past year.

**Hines, Anna Grossnickle.** Winter Lights: A Season in Poems & Quilts. Greenwillow, 2005.

ISBN: 0060008172

With breathtaking, intricate quilts and lyrical poems, Hines exposes readers to holidays such as Kwanzaa and the Festival of Lights along with the seasonal winter solstice.

**Janezko, Paul.** A Kick in the Head. Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN: 0763606626

Featuring formal poems from the likes of Eleanor Farjeon, Ogden Nash, Liz Rosenberg, and William Shakespeare, this playful volume presents examples of 29 poetic forms and the spirit that inhabits each of them.

**Jenkins, Steve.** I See a Kookaburra. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618507647  
Readers can search for an oystercatcher, an elephant shrew, and a fierce snapping turtle in the places where they live. Learn how these animals and many others grow and thrive in very different environments. Incorporated into the book is an interactive element. Hidden in the illustrations are animals camouflaged in their surroundings. Turn the page to see if you were able to find them all.

**Jenkins, Steve.** Prehistoric Actual Size. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.  
ISBN: 0618535780  
Learn what it's like to come face-to-face with some of the dinosaurs that once roamed the Earth through these "actual-size" illustrations.

**Johnson-Davies, Denys.** Goha the Wise Fool. Philomel Books, 2005. ISBN: 0399242228  
A collection of fourteen tales about the folk hero Nasreddin Hoca, also known as Goha, a man with a reputation for being able to answer difficult questions in a clever way.

**Juster, Norton.** The Hello, Goodbye Window. Hyperion Books, 2005. ISBN: 0786809140  
The kitchen window at her grandparents' house is a magic gateway for one little girl.

**Kerrin, Jessica Scott.** Martin Bridge, Ready for Takeoff. Kids Can Press, 2005.  
ISBN: 1553376889  
Meet Martin Bridge, a most special and ordinary boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry. In three illustrated stories, Martin encounters two bus drivers with very different ways of relating, makes a tough decision about a friend's pet, and takes on an extremely competitive model rocket project that almost costs him a friendship. The daily rhythms, struggles and triumphs of childhood - at home, at school and with friends - are evoked with warmth, understanding, honesty and humor.

**Kimmel, Eric A.** The Hero Beowulf. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. ISBN: 0374306710  
A simple, brief retelling of the Anglo-Saxon epic about the heroic efforts of Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, to save the people of Heorot Hall from the terrible monster, Grendel.

**Krauss, Ruth.** Bears. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060757167  
Captioned drawings depict bears in some unusual places and poses.

**Kuskin, Karla.** So, What's It Like to Be a Cat? Atheneum, 2005. ISBN: 0689847335  
A cat answers a young child's questions about such things as how much and where it sleeps, and whether or not it likes living with people.

**Leedy, Loreen.** The Great Graph Contest. Holiday House, 2005. ISBN: 0823417107  
Gonk and Chester, two amphibian friends, hold a contest to see who can make better graphs.

**Lester, Julius.** Let's Talk About Race. HarperCollins Publishers, 2005. ISBN: 0060285982  
The author introduces the concept of race as only one component in an individual's or nation's "story."

**Lewis, J. Patrick.** Please Bury Me in the Library. Gulliver Books, 2005.  
ISBN: 0152163875  
A collection of poems about books and reading.

**Lewis, Kim.** Here We Go, Harry. Candlewick Press, 2005.

ISBN: 0763625493

Harry the elephant is helped by his toy friends, Lulu and Ted, to jump from a little grassy hill on a beautiful summer day.

**McKissack, Patricia C., and Moss, Onawumi Jean.** Precious and the Boo Hag.

Athenuem, 2005. ISBN: 0689851944

Home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.

**McMillan, Bruce.** The Problem with Chickens. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.

ISBN: 1415628440

When women in an Icelandic village buy chickens to lay eggs for them to use, the chickens follow them, adopting human ways and forgetting their barnyard roots, until the ladies hatch a clever plan.

**Michelson, Richard.** Happy Feet. Gulliver Books, 2005. ISBN: 0152050574

A young boy who loves to dance listens as his father retells the story of the night he was born, which coincided with the opening of the Savoy Ballroom in Harlem.

**Numeroff, Laura.** If You Give a Pig a Party. Laura Geringer Books, 2005.

ISBN: 0060283262

One thing leads to another when you give a pig a party.

**Nye, Bill.** Bill Nye the Science Guy's Great Big Book of Tiny Germs. Hyperion Books, 2005.

ISBN: 0786805439

Information and experiments about germs.

**Nye, Naomi Shihab.** A Maze Me: Poems for Girls. Greenwillow, 2005.

ISBN: 0060581891

Life is a tangle of twisting paths. Some short. Some long. There are dead ends. And there are choices. And wrong turns, and detours, and yield signs, and instruction booklets, and star maps, and happiness, and loneliness. And friends. And sisters. And love. And poetry.

**O'Malley, Kevin.** Captain Raptor and the Moon Mystery. Walker & Co., 2005.

ISBN: 0802789358

When something lands on one of the moons of the planet Jurassica, Captain Raptor and his spaceship crew go to investigate.

**Osborne, Will.** Sleeping Bobby. Athenuem, 2005. ISBN: 0689876688

A retelling of the Grimm tale featuring a handsome prince who is put into a deep sleep by a curse until he is awakened by the kiss of a brave princess.

**Paschen, Elise,** ed. Poetry Speaks to Children. Sourcebooks MediaFusion, 2005.

ISBN: 1402203292

A collection of ninety-five children's poems written by seventy-three poets including Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Roald Dahl, Lewis Carroll, and many more; includes an audio CD featuring fifty-two poems, some read by the poets themselves.

**Piper, Watty.** The Little Engine That Could. Philomel Books, 2005.

ISBN: 0399244670

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. A new setting of a familiar story.

**Polacco, Patricia.** Emma Kate. Philomel Books, 2005. ISBN: 0399244522  
Emma Kate and her best friend share many activities, such as homework and soccer practice, and even have their tonsils out at the same time!

**Polacco, Patricia.** Mommies Say Shhh! Philomel Books, 2005. ISBN: 0399243410  
Animals make many different noises, but when they make too much noise, their mommies quiet them down.

**Priceman, Marjorie.** Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride. Atheneum Books, 2005. ISBN: 0689826427  
The story of the historic first hot-air balloon flight in 1783, told from the point of view of the duck, sheep, and rooster who were the first passengers.

**Rappaport, Doreen.** The Secret Seder. Hyperion Books, 2005.  
ISBN: 0786807776  
During the Nazi occupation of France, a boy and his father slip out of their village and into the mountains, where they join a group of fellow Jews at a humble seder table.

**Reinhart, Matthew.** The Ark. Little Simon. 2005. ISBN: 0689859090  
A pop-up version of the classic Bible story about Noah, his family, and the Ark.

**Reinhart, Matthew.** Cinderella. Little Simon, 2005. ISBN: 1416905014  
A pop-up version of the classic fairytale.

**Rosen, Michael.** Michael Rosen's Sad Book. Candlewick Press, 2005.  
ISBN: 0763625973  
Rosen tells about all the emotions that accompany his sadness over the death of his son, and how he tries to cope.

**Rosenthal, Amy Krouse.** Little Pea. Chronicle Books, 2005. ISBN: 0-8118-4658-X  
Little Pea hates eating candy for dinner, but his parents will not let him have his spinach dessert until he cleans his plate.

**Rubin, Susan Goldman.** The Flag with Fifty-Six Stars. Holiday House, 2005.  
ISBN: 0823416534  
On May 6, 1945, when members of the 11th Armored Division of the U.S. Army marched into the Mauthausen concentration camp, they were presented with an extraordinary gift: an American flag.

**Rylant, Cynthia.** Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas. Simon & Schuster, 2005.  
ISBN: 0689811705  
When Henry and his dog Mudge go with Henry's parents to visit Great-Grandpa Bill in a home with lots of other grandpas, they lead them all on a wonderful adventure.

**Sabuda, Robert.** Encyclopedia Prehistorica: Dinosaurs. Candlewick Press, 2005.  
ISBN: 0763622281  
Features more than 35 pop-ups and information about more than 50 different dinosaurs.

**Sabuda, Robert.** Winter's Tale. Little Simon, 2005. ISBN: 0689853637  
Master paper engineer Sabuda offers a winter wonderland spectacular full of cut-paper animals that soar across snowy landscapes and light up the night in an all-new story that has a special surprise at the end.

**Sawyer, Ruth.** The Wee Christmas Cabin of Carn-na-ween. Candlewick, 2005.  
ISBN: 0763625531

First published in 1941, this tale follows a poor woman who longs for her own cabin. On Christmas Eve, after being trapped in the snow with no shelter during the Irish Potato Famine, she finds a group of wee people who may grant her wish.

**Say, Allen.** Kamishibai Man. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618479546

After many years of retirement, an old Kamishibai man--a Japanese street performer who tells stories and sells candies--decides to make his rounds once more even though such entertainment declined after the advent of television.

**Sayre, April Pulley.** Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust.

Greenwillow, 2005. ISBN: 0060571896

Explains the origins of dust, what dust is, and how dust shows up in the world.

**Scieszka, Jon.** Seen Art? Viking, 2005. ISBN: 0670059862

While looking for his friend Art, a boy wanders through the Museum of Modern Art and is amazed by what he discovers there.

**Sidman, Joyce.** Song of the Water Boatman. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN: 0618135472

A collection of poems that provide a look at some of the animals, insects, and plants that are found in ponds, with accompanying information about each.

**St. George, Judith.** The Journey of the One and Only Declaration of Independence.

Philomel Books, 2005. ISBN: 0399237380

In 1776 Thomas Jefferson put his quill to paper and the Declaration of Independence sprang to life. Follow the Declaration's journey over the next two centuries, surviving eight wars and traveling through five states on horseback, boat, railcar, and tank to its current home in the National Archives.

**Stevens, Janet.** The Great Fuzz Frenzy. Harcourt, 2005. ISBN: 0152046267

When a tennis ball lands in a prairie dog town, the residents find that their newfound frenzy for fuzz creates a fiasco.

**Willems, Mo.** Leonardo the Terrible Monster. Hyperion, 2005. ISBN: 0786852941

Leonardo is a terrible monster -- he can't seem to frighten anyone. When he discovers the perfect nervous little boy, will he scare the lunch out of him? Or will he think of something better?

**Willems, Mo.** Time to Say "Please"! Hyperion, 2005. ISBN: 0786852933

Book and accompanying board game teach why it is important to say "please."

**Wilson, Karma.** Mortimer's Christmas Manger. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2005.

ISBN: 0689855117

Unhappy in his cramped, cold hole, Mortimer Mouse moves into a nativity scene thinking it is the perfect home for him, until he discovers who truly belongs there.

**Winter, Jeanette.** The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq. Harcourt, 2005.

ISBN: 152054456

Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Now that war has come, Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever.



**Winter, Jonah.** Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Atheneum, 2005. ISBN: 0689856431

On the island of Puerto Rico, a boy named Roberto Clemente dreamed of nothing but baseball. Little League became minor league, which turned into winter league, and, finally, he made it to the major leagues! With lightning speed, towering home runs, and grand slams, Clemente introduced himself to America.

**Woodson, Jacqueline.** Show Way. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. ISBN: 0399237496  
The making of Show Ways, or quilts which once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves, is a tradition passed from mother to daughter in the author's family.

**Wormell, Christopher.** Mice, Morals, and Monkey Business: Lively Lessons from Aesop's Fables. Running Press, 2005. ISBN: 0762424044  
Twenty-one illustrated Aesop's Fables.

**Yolen, Jane.** The Perfect Wizard: Hans Christian Andersen. ISBN: 0525469559  
Yolen explores Andersen's youth and how his words were inspired by his life's experiences. This book celebrates the 200th anniversary of Andersen's birth.

**Young, Ed.** Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China. Chronicle Kids, 2005. ISBN: 0811843432  
Lyrical text and illustrations featuring Chinese characters and paper collage introduce the beauty and richness of China.

**Zweibel, Alan.** Our Tree Named Steve. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. ISBN: 0399237224  
In a letter to his children, a father recounts memories of the role Steve, the tree in their front yard, has played in their lives.

Greg Martin  
Curriculum Materials Center Librarian  
Cedarville University  
251 N. Main Street  
Cedarville, Ohio  
937-766-3461  
marting@cedarville.edu