The Best Children's Books for 2005

Gregory A. Martin
Cedarville University, marting@cedarville.edu

Thomas L. Sweigard
Cedarville University, tsweigard@cedarville.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/library_presentations

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/library_presentations/110

This Conference Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Library Faculty Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@cedarville.edu.
The Best Children’s Books for 2005
ACSI Conference
Dayton, Ohio
November 11, 2005

Miss Brilliant's class puts on a performance of "Mary had a little lamb."

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.

A family keeps forgetting the things they need to take to the beach.

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.

Biography of George Washington.

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.

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.

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.

While detained in a German prison camp, French composer Olivier Messiaen is given a rare opportunity to write music again.

The life and work of the famous Viennese painter Gustav Klimt is explored by his favorite cat.
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.

Alphabet and informational book for older readers.

In the early, early morning, the milkman makes his rounds, helping his neighbors in a variety of ways.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A young artist discovers the power of friendship when he helps his mentor win a prestigious wood-carving contest.

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

**Frazee, 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.

A collection of poems which tells the story of the first Easter.

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.

Pearl's birthday skates have a single blade and learning to use them is harder than she expects.

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.

**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.

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

Stunning photography of birds in many different habitats.

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.

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.

Through poetry, Nelson tells the story of Emmett Till, whose 1955 lynching helped spark the civil rights movement.
**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.

ISBN: 0786805439
Experiments about germs.

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.

ISBN: 0802789358
When something lands on one of the moons of the planet Jurassica, Captain Raptor and his spaceship crew go to investigate.

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.

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.

Tapping a wellspring of comfort, inspiration, and renewal, Gloria Jean Pinkney has gathered twenty-two African-American spirituals and reverential songs. She's carefully chosen a psalm for each to illuminate its meaning. Soaring artwork by her husband, Jerry, and their sons, Brian Pinkney and Myles C. Pinkney, graces these pages.

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.

ISBN: 0399243410
Animals make many different noises, but when they make too much noise their mommies quiet them down.

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.
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.

Ray, Jane. *Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden.* Eerdmans Books for Young Readers,
This version of the familiar story takes into account creation myths the world over.

A pop-up version of the classic Bible story about Noah, his family, and the Ark.

Six-year-old Lily has a best friend all picked out for play group day, but unfortunately the
differences between first-graders and second-graders are sometimes very large.

ISBN: 0763625973
Rosen tells about all the emotions that accompany his sadness over the death of his son,
and how he tries to cope.

Little Pea hates eating candy for dinner, but his parents will not let him have his spinach
dessert until he cleans his plate.

ISBN: 0763622281
Features more than 35 pop-ups and information about more than 50 different dinosaurs.

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.

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

ISBN: 1590780914
A pictorial tribute to the great athletes of the Negro Leagues.

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?

Book and accompanying board game teach why it is important to say "please."
ISBN: 0802852769  
After many futile attempts to plant a tree in honor of his new baby sister, a young Haitian boy discovers the perfect solution.

When a caterpillar meets her perfect love, a tadpole, she begs him never to change, but their relationship is doomed.

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.

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.

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.

Twenty-one illustrated Aesop’s Fables.

Lyrical text and illustrations featuring Chinese characters and paper collage introduce the beauty and richness of China.

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, Assistant Professor of Library Science  
Curriculum Materials Center Librarian  
Cedarville University  
251 N. Main Street  
Cedarville, Ohio  
937-766-3461  
marting@cedarville.edu