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## The Best Children's Books for 2005

Gregory A. Martin

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

Thomas L. Sweigard

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

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The Best Children's Books for 2005  
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**Aliki.** 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.

**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. Eerdmans 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.

**Bryant, Jen.** Music for the End of Time. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005.  
ISBN: 0802852297  
While detained in a German prison camp, French composer Olivier Messiaen is given a rare opportunity to write music again.

**Capatti, Bérénice.** Klimt and His Cat. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005.  
ISBN: 0802852853  
The life and work of the famous Viennese painter Gustav Klimt is explored by his favorite cat.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Grimes, Nikki.** At Jerusalem's Gate: Poems of Easter. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005. ISBN: 0802851835  
A collection of poems which tells the story of the first Easter.

**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.

**Keller, Holly.** Pearl's New Skates. Greenwillow Books, 2005. ISBN: 0060562811  
Pearl's birthday skates have a single blade and learning to use them is harder than she expects.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Martin, Gilles.** Birds. Harry N. Abrams, 2005. ISBN: 0810958783  
Stunning photography of birds in many different habitats.

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

**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.

**Nelson, Marilyn.** A Wreath for Emmett Till. Houghton Mifflin, 2005.  
ISBN: 0618397523  
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.

**Nye, Bill.** Bill Nye the Science Guy's Great Big Book of Tiny Germs. Hyperion Books, 2005.  
ISBN: 0786805439

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.

**Pinkney, Gloria Jean.** Music from Our Lord's Holy Heaven (includes CD). HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN: 0060007680

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.

**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.** 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 Haot-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.

**Ray, Jane.** Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005. ISBN: 0802852785

This version of the familiar story takes into account creation myths the world over.

**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.

**Rodman, Mary Ann.** My Best Friend. Viking, 2005. ISBN: 0670059897

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

**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.

**Sabuda, Robert.** Encyclopedia Prehistorica: Dinosaurs. Candlewick Press, 2005.

ISBN: 0763622281

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

**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.

**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.

**Weatherford, Carole Boston.** A Negro League Scrapbook. Boyds Mills Press, 2005.

ISBN: 1590780914

A pictorial tribute to the great athletes of the Negro Leagues.

**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."

**Williams, Karen Lynn.** Circles of Hope. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005. 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.

**Wills, Jeanne.** Tadpole's Promise. Atheneum, 2005. ISBN: 0689865244

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

**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.

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

Twenty-one illustrated Aesop's Fables.

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