Children’s Book Update for 2008-2009

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Have you ever gotten tripped up trying to say a silly succession of similar syllables? Try out these hilarious tongue twisters for lots of fun!  RL 3.4

Author David Aguilar uses brilliant photo-realistic illustration and fascinating up-to-date facts straight from the latest astronomy news to bring you a comprehensive look at our solar system as you've never seen it before.  RL 6.4

A lonely pencil timidly draws a boy, a dog, and other items but soon faces a problem as his creations begin demanding changes, and when he draws an eraser to make them happy, the real trouble begins.  RL 2.9

When, in rhyming text, Duck and his long-suffering friends, Frog, Sheep and Goat, attempt to fly a kite, chaos results. Frog is pulled into the sky as the kite flies away and Duck jumps to rescue him.  RL 2.0

As his plans are spoiled over and over again, the wolf keeps trying to find his dinner, in this retelling of five well-known stories and fables.  RL 3.5

Explains how to identify venomous snakes and their harmless cousins, where to find a 200-pound lizard, how to avoid becoming an alligator's lunch and features snake fangs, alligator claws, and turtle shells--all life-size!  RL 6.0

Learn how to read the secret language of animal tracks. Find out how to tell how fresh tracks are, which animals made them, how fast they might have been traveling, and more. RL 5.9

A rhyme for each letter of the alphabet describes the misbehavior of a child, from Angry Abby to Zany Zelda.  RL 2.1

Alice wants everything in her bedroom to be blue before she falls asleep.  RL 1.9
Rhythmic verse tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's life, from his childhood in the wilderness of Illinois to his famous achievements as president.  RL 2.1

A list of things one should not do with various animals, such as "hold hands with a lobster."  RL 2.0

The classic tale of the three Darling children in Never-Never Land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up, illustrated with elaborate pop-ups. The original text is printed on fold-out booklets attached to the pages.  RL 4.8

Describes how a little seed grows into a sunflower, in a book where the pages fold out to form a large sunflower.  RL 3.7

Describes how tadpoles develop into frogs, in a book in which the pages unfold and form lily pads with frogs in the center.  RL

A pop-up book of the alphabet.

Combines elements of nonfiction picturebooks, graphic novels, and tabloid magazines in a look at how rumors get started and how they become distorted over time as they are passed from ear to ear.  RL 6.5

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.  RL 2.0  *E.B. White Read Aloud Award for Picture Books*

A yellow leaf is not ready to fall from the tree when autumn comes, but finally, after finding another leaf still on the tree, the two let go together.  RL 4.9

Simple, engaging text presents both basic information and fun, quirky facts about the insects' appearance, habits, and life cycle.  RL 3.6

On the first day of school, a student is confused by many of the phrases that are used, such as when the librarian says not to open a can of worms, or when the teacher says he expects the class to be busy bees doing their homework.  RL 3.9

Provides the captivating story of this amazing vessel, the people who built it, and its tragic demise during its maiden voyage across the Atlantic as told through first-hand accounts and detailed illustrations of the events as they happened.  RL 5.9

Provides an informative look at the events that lead up to this important day in history when American heroes took a stand against an oppressive monarch in order gain the freedom they deserved in the new land they worked hard to build.  RL 6.1

When a gorilla who knows sign language tells his keepers that he is lonely, they bring him a very special friend.  RL 1.9

Told through the eyes of a young boy, the sober mood of the country after the Lincoln assassination is presented as he and many other mourners wait to pay their respects to their fallen president as Lincoln's funeral train travels from Washington, D.C., to Springfield, Illinois, in 1865.  RL 3.2

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon, this book is a tribute that transports readers to the stars, where they will experience the moon landing just as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did.  RL 3.9

Stunning photographs and a fact-filled story deliver a closeup look at a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected, predator-the seriously slimy wolfsnail.  RL 2.1  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

This story reveals the life of a Native American boy named Wassaja, who was kidnapped from his tribe and sold as a slave. Adopted and renamed Carlos Montezuma, the young boy traveled throughout the Old West, bearing witness to the poor treatment of Native Americans. Carlos eventually became a doctor and leader for his people.  RL 5.6

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep and wakes up a butterfly.  RL 2.6

**Carter, David A.**  *Yellow Square.*  Little Simon, 2008.  ISBN: 9781416940937
Pop-up pages lead the reader to find the yellow square in each picture.  RL 3.7

A boy awakens, blindfolded, with no memory of even his name, but soon meets Lord Umber, an adventurer and inventor, who calls him Happenstance and tells him that he has a very important destiny--and a powerful enemy.  RL 6.1
Recounts various important events from the history of space exploration, covering the Mercury missions, the voyage of Apollo 17, and more, with illustrations by ex-NASA astronaut Alan Bean, who walked on the moon during the Apollo 12 mission. RL 6.0

In May 1787 delegates from across the country--including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin--gathered in Philadelphia and, meeting over the course of a sweltering summer, created a new framework for governing: the Constitution of the United States. RL 8.3

A young city boy, riding the subway, finds an abandoned book about redwoods. He finds himself in the very forest described in the book. After finishing the book, he leaves it for someone else to read. RL 4.8

Persephone is snatched from her home by Hades, god of the Underworld. She is forced to live underground and become his bride. Her mother, Demeter, goddess of earth, is so brokenhearted about losing her daughter that she curses the land so nothing can grow - a permanent winter. RL 4.6

Part historical, part poetry, and entirely inspirational, this unique picture book takes the reader through the cumulative story of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, expanding the popular slogan beyond Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Barack Obama to include more key players in the struggle for equality. RL 1.9

The Benson family is so busy preparing for their day at a farmers' market that they not only forget to feed the cow, they leave the farmyard gate open and the hungry cow follows them, making a mess of the market. RL 1.8

ISBN: 9780888998736
This title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. RL 3.6

The annual Corn Maze Festival is coming and every day the chickens, cows, and Duck help Farmer Brown--with a few bribes--to create a special Statue of Liberty corn maze, and every night Duck works hard creating his own surprise. RL 2.7

Traces the history and development of trains, starting with steam-powered wagons on a tramway, and describing the changing technology over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. RL 6.9


When family members see the consequences of forgetting to write things on the grocery list, they not only do better at keeping the list up-to-date, they also help with the shopping to ensure they never again eat pickled grubs. RL 2.2

**Davis, Eleanor.** *Stinky.* Little Lit Library, 2008. ISBN: 9780979923845

Stinky, a monster who lives in a swamp, gets upset when a boy named Nick starts hanging around his swamp, and so he tries to scare Nick away. RL 1.7 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*


Strega Nona shares the six ingredients for a magical life, illustrated with elaborate pop-ups. Also includes a few basic Italian words and phrases. RL


Longing for adventure, intrepid Louise leaves her comfortable nest and goes to sea. RL 3.6


ISBN: 9780060581565

A bilingual boy and his father, who only speaks Spanish, spend a day together. RL 2.0 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Honor book*

**Emberley, Rebecca and Ed Emberley.** *Chicken Little.* Roaring Brook Press, 2009.

ISBN: 9781596434646

A retelling of the classic story of Chicken Little, who has an acorn fall on his head and runs in a panic to his friends Henny Penny, Lucky Ducky, and Loosey Goosey, to tell them the sky is falling. RL 2.8


ISBN: 9780763623555

Unlike the other wiggleskins who live happily in the mud and only stick their necks out to eat, Edwin is eager for different experiences and follows his mother's advice to stick his neck out for adventure. RL 2.7


Christine King Farris describes how her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr., prepared for his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. RL 3.7


A young girl asks questions about growing up as she walks over rolling hills, climbs a ladder up to the stars, and meets a dragon. RL 1.5

Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines.  RL 3.8

An illustrated collection of poems and collages about dinosaurs.  RL 3.9

A baby encounters a variety of young animals, including a clever monkey, a hairy warthog, and a dusty lion cub, before discovering the most precious creature of all.  RL 1.5

**Fox, Mem.**  *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes,* illustrated by Helen Oxenbury.  Harcourt, 2008.  ISBN: 9780152060572
Rhyming text compares babies born in different places and in different circumstances, but they all share the commonality of ten little fingers and ten little toes.  RL 3.2

In the early morning hours of July 11, 1804, two men stood facing each other on a New Jersey cliff side. One was the U.S. vice president, Aaron Burr, and the other was Alexander Hamilton, the secretary of the treasury. They were ready to fight to the death for honor.  RL 5.7

Rhyming text and illustrations depict the science and geometrical patterns of various animals, such as starfish, peacocks, diamondback snakes, and spiders.  RL 5.4

Washington’s army nearly perished during the winter of 1777-78. Camped at Valley Forge, the revolutionaries endured severe hardship. The army’s supply system had collapsed and they were without supplies. But when the harsh winter ended, the soldiers had survived, and marched away from Valley Forge more determined than ever.  RL 7.2 *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor book*

"Once in a book by Mordecai Gerstein ... there lived a family of characters." This is the tale of one little girl's search for her own story.  RL 2.8

Angry that his singing is unappreciated by the Ants who relied on his music to make their summer work easier, Jimmy Grasshopper decides to sue them for lacking respect and not acknowledging his usefulness in their lives.  RL 3.9

As Daisy watches her parents thanking God everyday, she begins to look at everything around her and realizes she is also thankful for many things.  RL 2.9
During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood’s first Three Kings’ Day fiesta.  RL 2.6  *Pura Belpre Author Award Honor book, Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor book*

After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Turtle dresses as a penguin for school and soon the entire class is having a penguin day.  RL 3.1

ISBN: 9780763639037
When Will finds a bird with a broken wing, he takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky.  RL 2.1

Earl and Pearl do not want Chicken's help in the garden, until a swarm of grasshoppers arrives and her true talent shines.  RL 0.8  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

ISBN: 9780803732247
Follows the fortunes of a German immigrant family through nine generations, beginning in 1845, as they experience American life and play baseball.  RL 5.0

Little Mouse draws pictures of some of the many things he is afraid of, including creepy crawlies, sharp knives, and having accidents, and provides the correct scientific name for each of his fears.  RL 3.7  *Kate Greenaway Medal*

Traction Man, an action figure, teams up with the high-tech but not-so-bright Turbodog to rescue Scrubbing Brush, his missing sidekick, from the terrible underworld of the bin.  RL 3.4

Full-color illustrations and easy-to-follow text presents a narrative description of the life of politician Barack Obama, beginning with his childhood in Hawaii, his family, his education, and professional achievements.  RL 4.8

ISBN: 9780545074940
Relates how the author was torn from her happy home and sent to Birkenau by the Nazis, describing how she worked long hours and fought for survival before being set free at the end of the war and beginning a new life in America.  RL 5.1

From elephants to dung beetles, photos of selected African animals.  RL 5.4

Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls. Rapunzel dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth. Her real mother, Kate, is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this Old West retelling, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and to take on outlaws—including Gothel. RL 5.4

Everyone and everything in the town of Neatasapin is tidy, except Emmaline who likes to dig dirt and jump in puddles, and wants to adopt an untidy bunny. RL 4.5

Leo, upset that he has been hearing the word "no" all day, lets three words slip out that he wishes he could take back. RL 2.2

Harry's older brother, unhappy that the new baby seems to have taken over, dreams up imaginative ways to get rid of him. RL 2.0

Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common. RL 2.1

When Old Bear falls asleep for the winter, he has a dream that he is a cub again, enjoying each of the four seasons. RL 2.3 *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents. RL 5.9

Maybelle, Jack, and Eddie want to help Ma by putting something extra on the table, so they set out in the dark to take potatoes from a nearby field, but when they arrive home and empty their potato sacks, they are surprised by what they see. RL 4.2

The hard-working daughter of two bakers and a perfectly nice stray dog live lonely lives in the same town, until they meet one very stormy day. RL 3.2

Three full color tales about a special intergenerational bond, featuring Little Chick and his loving Old Auntie. RL 1.6

While impatiently waiting for the birth of a new baby brother or sister, Rose imagines the things they will do together and how her life will change. RL 1.4

Louie the pig loves to draw but it gets him thrown out of every school he attends, so he goes to live with his aunt and uncle who help him realize he has a wonderful talent. A tribute to Ludwig Bemelmans, creator of the picture book character, Madeline. RL 3.5

When Sara Ann brings home three little kittens, Katie the dog's enthusiasm frightens the kittens away, until she learns that quiet patience is sometimes needed to begin a friendship. RL 1.8

**Hines, Anna Grossnickle.** *1, 2, Buckle My Shoe.* Harcourt, 2008. ISBN: 9780152063054
A child learns to count with the help of a classic nursery rhyme. RL 0.6

Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression. RL 4.4

Featuring eighteen poems that guide the reader on an international tour--from New York to San Francisco, London to Tokyo, and beyond, this extraordinary urban-themed collection celebrates the beauty, diversity, energy, architecture, and excitement of city life. RL 3.7

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher. RL 3.4

As a child, John Avery Lomax loved the songs he heard the cowboys singing along the nearby Chisholm Trail. He began writing them down at an early age. As John grew older, he traveled the country collecting and recording cowboy songs, helping to preserve many favorites. RL 4.9

Humpty Dumpty has not climbed a single wall since his great fall, despite the urging of friends and teasing of others, but when one of the king's horses is stuck he finds the courage--and the proper climbing equipment--to help out. RL 2.8

Houndsley loves the quiet of the first snow of winter, but Catina does not enjoy being snowed in. What about all her plans for the day? With pretending, books, games, creativity, and some time to dream, Houndsley helps Catina let go of her worries and enjoy the snowy day. RL 2.2
Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Smith interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today.  RL 2.8

The famous poem, taken from The collected poems of Langston Hughes (c1994), illustrated with watercolors.  RL 3.2

Matt's new subdivision is nothing but rocks and mud, but with help from his imagination and friends he maps out a new world.  RL 3.0  *Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Medal book*

Celestine the duck is sure that she is destined for stardom, but when her big break comes, she is temporarily stricken with stage fright.  RL 3.5

A collection of lively rhymes and tricky tongue twisters, poems for more than one voice, bilingual poems -- from classic Shakespeare and Lear to anonymous rhymes to contemporary riffs on everything under the sun. These poems just might inspire kids to memorize them!  RL 4.0

Provides a top-to-bottom look at the ocean, from birds and waves to thermal vents and ooze.  RL 5.6

Flies are fast! They can hover, walk upside down, and use their lightning-quick reflexes to escape predators. But rainbow trout, slender lorises, and assassin bugs can catch them. Chimney swifts can, too. How do such diverse creatures manage to capture the same prey? Similar in structure to What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?, this eye-popping picture book introduces readers to a menagerie of animals that approach the same challenges in very different ways.  RL 4.1

An illustrated picture book that investigates sibling relationships within the animal kingdom.  RL 3.2

When Liam hears a load roar in the middle of the night, he must use all his ingenuity to protect his sleeping mother from a hungry bear.  RL 2.0

A creative legend about the father of the world's great religions.  RL 3.3
A wealthy man in a Japanese village, who everyone calls Ojiisan, which means grandfather, sets fire to his rice fields to warn the innocent people of an approaching tsunami.  RL 2.9

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," are presented with new words and titles, such as "Heavy Backpack!" and "I Don't Want to Do Homework!"  RL 2.5

Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends.  RL 3.0

Follows the childhood of the 14th Dalai Lama from his simple life in a mountain village to the thousand-room Potala Palace and his perilous escape into exile.  RL 5.9

Harriet the hamster is desperate to be adopted, so she gives her sister Patricia and herself glamorous makeovers in hopes they will get more attention when Hamster World has its huge annual sale.  RL 5.1

Middle-schooler Greg Heffley nimbly sidesteps his father's attempts to change Greg's wimpy ways until his father threatens to send him to military school.  RL 6.1

Tired of living in a haunted house, a young witch captures, washes, and turns her pesky ghosts into curtains and a tablecloth.  RL 1.6

Poems and vivid illustrations present fourteen mythical creatures, including a dragon, a centaur, a gargoyle, and a sphinx.  RL 1.9

Bucky and his grandfather head north to the storytelling festival in Cleveland, Ohio. Grandfather's stories teach about the animals, plants, geography, and culture that make Ohio a great state.  RL 2.9

Tacky the penguin and his friends go to Camp Whooiphaha where they scare each other by telling ghost stories around the campfire, never expecting that one of the frightening stories will come true.  RL 3.4
When Gonzalo the rooster wins the lottery, he leaves his job at the farm in search of the good life.  RL 2.0

Ted and Betsy Lewin describe the landscapes, people, and activities they encounter during a trip to Mongolia for Naadam, the annual summer festival where child jockeys ride half-wild horses for miles across the Mongolian steppe.  RL 5.6

A boy and his younger sister, remembering what their father has told them and what they have read in the Bible, help each other to understand the attributes of God.  RL 2.1

Who has kissed the most cobras? Eaten the most live scorpions? Sailed highest on a skateboard? Been stuck the longest in an elevator? These and 21 other vexing superlatives are the subject matter of this zany collection of verse by one of America's most well-loved poets, J. Patrick Lewis. Comic illustrations by Keith Graves make this the funniest, wackiest, rhyming-est book on the shelf.  RL 3.5

Presents a linked collection of ten short stories in rhyme featuring frogs, toads, and polliwogs.  RL 2.3

After accidentally being thrown away, a beloved toy drummer boy goes on an adventure that eventually brings him back to a warm home, where he is placed near baby Jesus in a manger scene.  RL 4.9

A lift-the-flap book in which cement mixers, helicopters, backhoes, and other machines go to work around town.  RL 2.3

In 1775, Penny and her friend Nick, a homeless orphan, find themselves amidst the conflict in Massachusetts as the colonists prepare to revolt against the British military.  RL 4.8

Illustrations and simple text invite the reader to visit different places around the world, then to view the same scenes at night on the reverse of the fanfolded page.  RL 3.7

The orphan Madeline catches a thief and makes a friend in Rome.  RL 2.6

Muscle Man McGinty is a squirrely runt, a lying snake, and a pitiful excuse for a ten-year old......the problem is that no one knows it but me. In the entire town of Massapequa Park, only I can see him for what he really is. It's the summer of 1969, and things are not only changing in Tamara's little Long Island town, but in the world. Perhaps Tamara could stand to take one small step toward a bit of compassion and understanding?  RL 4.3

The definitive anthology of children's poetry with beautiful illustrations.  RL 3.0

After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again.  RL 3.9

This picture book biography, written with great love and insight by his oldest daughter, writer Meghan McCain, shows us the public John McCain and the personal John McCain in a way we've never seen before--making this American hero come to life before young eyes.  RL 4.1

The true story of Seabiscuit, the grandson of one of the greatest racehorses of all time. But he'd lost nearly every race he'd run. Automobile tycoon Charles Howard took a risk and purchased Seabiscuit for a bargain price. With a clever new trainer and a loving jockey, Seabiscuit began winning. But could he really beat the Triple Crown Champion?  RL 3.8

When Baron von Baddie defeats his nemesis, Captain Kapow, he discovers that it is not as much fun to create chaos and engage in bad behavior if no one tries to stop him.  RL 2.9

When Adèle and Simon visit their Aunt Cécile in New York City, she takes them on a train trip around the United States, but from Boston to San Francisco to Washington, D.C., Simon keeps losing his belongings, despite his sister's reminders. Includes facts about the places they visit.  RL 3.4

Summoned to the Great Castle of Firenze to create a special dress for Princess Isabella Caramella Gorgonzola, Anabel, a talented seamstress, is at first delighted but then increasingly despairing as time passes and her efforts are continually subverted by an unseen sprite.  RL 3.8

Mooch the cat helps a lonely bird find its flock, which has flown south for the winter.  Wordless book.

ISBN: 9780385735902
In the summer of 1964, Carolina is a runaway hiding out at Harmony Farm in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. The Harmony's, Mr. Ray and Miss Latah treat Carolina as their own and wait for her to reveal her secret. But Carolina doesn't want to reveal the accident that claiming her parents and her younger brother and the surrogate grandmother who cared for Carolina until illness forced Carolina to go to a foster home. Russell, a troublemaker who runs away from the foster home where Carolina was, comes to Harmony Farm. Then something so terrible happens that Carolina must run away again. RL 4.7

In this retelling of a folktale, five Africans escape the horrors of slavery by simply disappearing into thin air. RL 4.3

As children prepare for bed, the world around them is also settling down for the night. Through the seasons, animals who live in the jungle, the forest, and the sea all whisper to their babies, and to yours, a soft refrain: "It's time to sleep, my love." RL 2.4

When Nicholas Duck, wearing a Santa hat and coat he found on his doorstep, goes looking for Santa to tell him what he wants for Christmas, all the other animals mistake him for Mr. Claus. RL 2.2

As the only dog at Hilltop Farm who has never won an award, Sal, encouraged by her mother's reminder of her Portuguese water dog heritage, decides to perfect her swimming skills by joining the swim team at the YMCA. RL 2.4

As Señor Calavera prepares for Grandma Beetle's birthday he finds an alphabetical assortment of unusual presents, but with the help of Zelmiro the Ghost, he finds the best gift of all. RL 2.3 Pura Belpre Illustrator Award book, Pura Belpre Author Award Honor book, Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature

When they are left in the woods by their parents, Hansel and Gretel find their way home despite an encounter with a wicked witch. RL 3.5

This is the story of Greg Mortenson's first building project in Pakistan. RL 3.0

In September 1862, two great armies faced each other across Antietam Creek. The outnumbered Confederate forces were led by General Robert E. Lee. The Union army was led by General George B. McClellan. Jim Murphy uses archival photographs, maps, and firsthand accounts to recreate one of America's most important battles. RL 6.7
While a boy and his parents go for an outing, little people invade the house and use their big construction equipment to bake a cake.  RL 1.5

Follows a multicultural group of boys and girls through their team’s baseball practice.  RL 3.9

When Lin's beloved pet dragon disappears, she searches for him far and wide until a witch helps her to reach the dragon's new home. Introduces a different Chinese character on each step of Lin's adventure.  RL 2.1

Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent than Superman. Both boys escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine tales. In 1934, they created the superhero, but it was four years before they convinced a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format--the comic book.  RL 5.0

A boy warns his new neighbors of the trouble that comes with building a monster, including having to move to a different town in hopes of escaping his creation.  RL 2.3

Nancy and her friend Bree explore the fascinating world of birds and insects in their exclusive and glamorous Explorers Extraordinaire Club.  RL 3.0

In her own inimitable style, the girl who loves to use fancy words provides tips on how to host the perfect tea party, describing how to behave, food and drinks to serve, games to play, and much more.  RL 4.8

A personal account of the California Gold Rush from the point-of-view of the fictitious Thomas Hartley.  RL 5.7

A number/color book reminding us that it just takes one to make everyone count.  RL 3.4

The whole world followed the countdown to sending the first men to the moon. This is the story of the people who made it happen, both in the rockets and behind the scenes.  RL 4.2

Retells the fable of a frustrated fox that, after many tries to reach a high bunch of grapes, decides they must be sour anyway.  RL 1.9
A literal-minded first-grader’s first day of school is filled with confusing adventures, much to her delight.  RL 1.8

When wolves were eliminated from Yellowstone National Park the natural system was out of balance.  Shows the return of the wolves to the park and the natural balance being restored.  RL 5.1  *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor book*

Two children encourage their father to push them perpetually higher on the swing as they try to surpass the height of a giraffe, a mountain, and the very boundaries of Earth. *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

When Debbie tries to interest Tina in playing the piano by creating a cardboard keyboard, they find not only does it not have the same appeal but also that they do not need to share everything to be best friends.  RL 3.4

Twelve-year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War.  RL 4.9

Penguins at the zoo have an exciting afternoon when one finds a camera left behind by a visitor.  RL 2.5

Illustrations and rhythmic text recall the December, 1955, bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama.  RL 2.5

Edna the penguin tries to find something in her surroundings that is not black, white, or blue.  RL 1.4

A collection of poems with a planetary theme.  RL 5.0

A young thief is drawn into a life of magic and adventure after picking the pocket of the powerful wizard Nevery Flinglas, who has returned from exile to attempt to reverse the troubling decline of magic in Wellmet City.  Book 1 of *the Magic Thief* series.  RL 4.5

Young wizard’s apprentice Connwaer travels to the city of Desh to find the source of the malevolent shadowmen who are plaguing Wellmet City. Book 2 of The Magic Thief series. RL 3.8

When Mr. Wright’s students express a dislike for silent letters, the offended letters decide to teach them a lesson by going on strike. RL 2.8

Tad and Willie Lincoln are the sons of Abraham Lincoln who treat the White House like a playground, aggravating everyone except their indulgent father. RL 3.8

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and the man responsible for seeing the country through the Civil War. RL 3.2

A biographical tribute to the upbringing and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, who taught children in poor neighborhoods in New York City and worked as an ambassador, activist, and champion of civil rights. RL 4.1

Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name. RL 2.8 Asian-Pacific American Illustrator Award

Although Sergio the penguin loves to play soccer, he is very clumsy and uncoordinated and he practices day and night, hoping he can help his team win the big game against the Seagulls. RL 2.1

The hilarious misadventures of a rambunctious classroom exploring the delights of spring, including mud, tadpoles, and baby farm animals. RL 2.8

A journal of one year on the Bennett farm in central Ohio. Shows how one family, with the help of relatives and friends, creates a life and livelihood on a 150-acre farm. RL 3.8

This book is a clever take on the age-old optical illusion: Is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! Readers will find a subtle lesson for kids who don’t know when to let go of an argument. A smart, simple story that will make readers of all ages eager to take a side, Duck! Rabbit! RL 1.4
A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year. RL 1.4

Besides being naughty, greedy, stinky, and rude, wild boars Boris, Morris, Horace, and Doris are also very hungry and luckily Doris finds the perfect recipe for them to make. RL 3.8

As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war. RL 5.6

A city rabbit befriends a country rabbit, but soon she misses her home with its cafes and bright lights. RL 2.8

Illustrations and rhyming text pay homage to a new day, with promises for the future in its "perfect piece of time." RL 1.5

A little rabbit enjoys having a day off from kindergarten and spending time with his mother during a snowstorm, but his father's flight home is cancelled until the snow stops falling. RL 1.7

Nana helps teach her toddler granddaughter to share. RL 1.6

After falling in love with Japan as a little girl, Erika becomes a teacher and fulfills her childhood dream by moving to a remote Japanese island. RL 2.8

A father goose chooses a mate and stands guard while she lays six eggs, sits on the nest for twenty-eight days, and takes the new chicks for their first swim. RL 2.6

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner. RL 4.6

Splat the cat has a special valentine for a certain someone in his class. RL 2.0

Rhyming text asks if the reader can do a variety of sports activities. Striped acetate overlays on board pages give illustrations the illusion of movement. RL 2.1

A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

Gulliver leads a life of luxury with his master. But when his master falls in love with a woman who is allergic to dogs, Gulliver is sent to a new home. He finds himself with a family of raucous human beings and three mutts. But just as Gulliver begins to make a grudging peace with his new reality, he gets swept up in a harrowing new adventure. RL 5.6

This extraordinary union of poetry and monumental artwork captures the movement for civil rights in the United States, and honors it most elegant inspiration, Coretta Scott. RL 4.4

A young dinosaur takes on many challenges and wins every time. Then Dinosaur faces his toughest challenge of all: bedtime. RL 1.6

A little boy named Sam discovers the many unexpected ways in which a love of reading can come in handy, and sometimes even save the day. RL 3.1

Sleepy letters of the alphabet get ready for bed. RL 1.9

This visually stunning natural history book features dramatically close-up images of animals from insects to reptiles to mammals to birds, revealing the colors, textures, and structures of each animal. RL 8.0

A simplified retelling of the adventures of a little girl walking in the woods who finds the house of the three bears and helps herself to their belongings. Includes a note on the history of the tale. RL 1.5

Based on a sacred Buddhist tale as related in Rudyard Kipling’s novel "Kim," tells of an escaped slave who rescues an abandoned baby from slave hunters. RL 2.2

Hopscotch is a very brave young rabbit until his parents go out and leave him with a babysitter. RL 4.6

Profiles thirteen women who challenged social norms and government policies to prove they could be exceptional astronauts.  RL 5.7  *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book*

A spunky young girl explains the many uses of her mother's red rebozo, a traditional Mexican woven shawl.  RL 2.9  *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor book*

Ever since Amelia Earhart and her plane disappeared on July 2, 1937, people have wanted to know more about this remarkable woman.  Amelia Earhart follows the charismatic aviator from her first sight of an airplane at the age of ten to the last radio transmission she made before she vanished.  Illustrated with original artworks, contemporary photographs, quotes, and details, this is a great introduction to the famous pilot.  RL 6.4  *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children*

As three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, are demonstrating how much they love to rhyme, a fourth, Bob, is trying to warn them of approaching danger.  RL 1.1

A collection of poems, including "Golden Goodness," "Cranberry Red," and "Biscuit Brown," celebrating individuality and Afro-American identity.  RL 2.9  *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, Coretta Scott King Author Honor book*

When the other barnyard animals comment on how tiny the littlest chick is, the proud little one peeps louder, stands taller, and runs faster than any of them.  RL 1.7

When the elevator in a building in the 1950s is modernized, a young resident misses the operator.  RL 3.1

See how the punctuation marks you use (and where you put them) can completely change the meaning of what you write.  RL 1.7

Katie is almost always happy, but sometimes at night, when the Jibberwillies come and scare her, her mother must catch them in a bucket and throw them out the window before Katie can fall asleep.  RL 3.9

A man recalls all of the important lessons Mama taught about behavior and faith in God as he was growing up.  RL 1.7
This lyrical picture-book biography of John Coltrane focuses on his childhood and how he interpreted sounds before he made his music.  RL 3.8  *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor book*

Kindergartner Yoko not only learns to write her letters and numbers in English, she shows her teacher and fellow students how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy.  RL 2.1

Friends Elephant and Piggie are playing outside when it starts to rain, and then they must decide what to do.  RL 1.3  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award book*

Wilbur, a naked mole rat who likes to wear clothes, is forced to go before the wise community elder, who surprises the other naked mole rats with his pronouncement.  RL 2.9

Gerald the elephant tries to tell Piggie that ball-throwing is serious business, but Piggie just wants to have fun.  RL 1.3

As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem.  RL 2.3

Little Mortimer Mouse, longing to see something green at winter’s end, follows the lead of the big people and plants, waters, and weeds his last sunflower seed until, finally, with God's help and a lot of patience, he harvests his crop.  RL 1.5

This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change.  RL 3.5

In the late nineteenth century, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sullivan, who write operas together for a theater called Topsy-Turvydom, have a falling-out when Mr. Sullivan refuses to write music for another ridiculous story that is like all the others.  RL 4.0

In this striking picture book biography, an old-timer tells us what made Sandy Koufax so amazing. We learn that the beginning of his career with the Brooklyn Dodgers was rocky,
that he was shy with his teammates, and experienced discrimination as one of the only Jews in the game. We hear that he actually quit, only to return the next season--different--firing one rocket after another over the plate. We watch him refuse to play in the 1965 World Series because it is a Jewish high holy day. And we see him in pain because of an overused left arm, eventually retiring at the peak of his career. Finally, we are told that people are still "scratchin' their heads over Sandy," who remains a modest hero and a mystery to this day.  RL 3.7

Kay Winters' poems in the voices of different colonists, enhanced by historical notes, provide a glimpse into life in colonial times and the dramatic events of a famous rebellion.  RL 4.4

Includes information about each of the animals depicted in the wood-engraved illustrations. Presents the biblical story of Noah's Ark, in which two of each animal are rescued from a flood; and also introduces the concept of opposites.  RL 2.7

A chick hatched by hens turns out to be an eaglet who must get help from a boy in learning how to fly.  RL 0.9

Sent to her room for refusing to eat her dinner, a little girl soon falls asleep and together with her bear friend begins a fantastic voyage deep into the forest where they dance and play all night.  Wordless book

Free-verse poems profile a wide variety of jobs.  RL 5.6

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