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Best Children’s Books of 2005

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

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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.

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.

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.

On Christmas Eve, snowmen hold a party in the center of town and celebrate with food, music and dancing, and presents.
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.

Rhyming text describes the many ways to wiggle.

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.
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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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.

The kitchen window at her grandparents’ house is a magic gateway for one little girl.

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.

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.

Captioned drawings depict bears in some unusual places and poses.

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.

Gonk and Chester, two amphibian friends, hold a contest to see who can make better graphs.

The author introduces the concept of race as only one component in an individual's or nation's "story."

ISBN: 0152163875
A collection of poems about books and reading.
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.

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.

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.

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.

ISBN: 0060283262
One thing leads to another when you give a pig a party.

ISBN: 0786805439
Information and 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.

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.
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!

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.

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.

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

A pop-up version of the classic fairytale.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.
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.

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.

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.

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.

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."

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.

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.
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.

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.

Twenty-one illustrated Aesop's Fables.

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.

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.

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