

# Grades K-2

## **Are you ready to play outside?**

by Willems, Mo.

Another winner from Mo! Elephant, cautious and pessimistic, and Piggie optimistic and sometimes reckless are back for more hilarious fun. Winner of Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal 2009.

## **The black book of colors**

by Cottin, Menena.

Raised black line drawings on black pages encourage people to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind. Text in English and Braille

## **Dinosaur vs. bedtime**

by Shea, Bob.

Little Dinosaur roars his way through a number of daily challenges, but he cannot seem to defeat bedtime.

Adler, David. **Young Cam Jansen and the Lion's Lunch Mystery**. Penguin, 2007.

On a trip to the zoo, Cam Jansen uses her photographic memory to help solve what happened to Danny's lunch. Very popular series.

Becker, Bonny. **A Visitor for Bear**. Candlewick Press, 2008. Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.

De Paola, Tomie. **26 Fairmount Avenue**. Puffin, 2001. Children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. Sequels also!

Florian, Douglas. **Bow Wow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs**. Harcourt, 2003.

It's rhyming cats and dogs in Douglas Florian's furr-ocious collection of twenty-one original poems and paintings about our favorite animal friends.

Dicamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Thinks Like a Pig**. Candlewick Press, 2008. Two sisters move in next door to where Mercy the pig lives, and frustrated when Mercy continues to eat their flowers they decide to call for the help of an Animal Control Officer, Francine Poulet, to handle the case. Series

MacLachlan, Patricia and Emily MacLachlan Charest. **Once I Ate a Pie.** Joanna Cotler, 2006. Fourteen free-verse poems and beautiful oil paintings capture the personality of each dog in these examples of a dog's life from the perspective of the animals.

Lies, Brian. **Bats at the Library.** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

Muth, Jon. **Zen Shorts.** Scholastic, 2005. Stillwater, a talking panda, shares Zen stories with three children. Each story matches the mood and character of the child.

**Some bookmarks to mark your spot, remember don't use anything thicker than a piece of paper!**



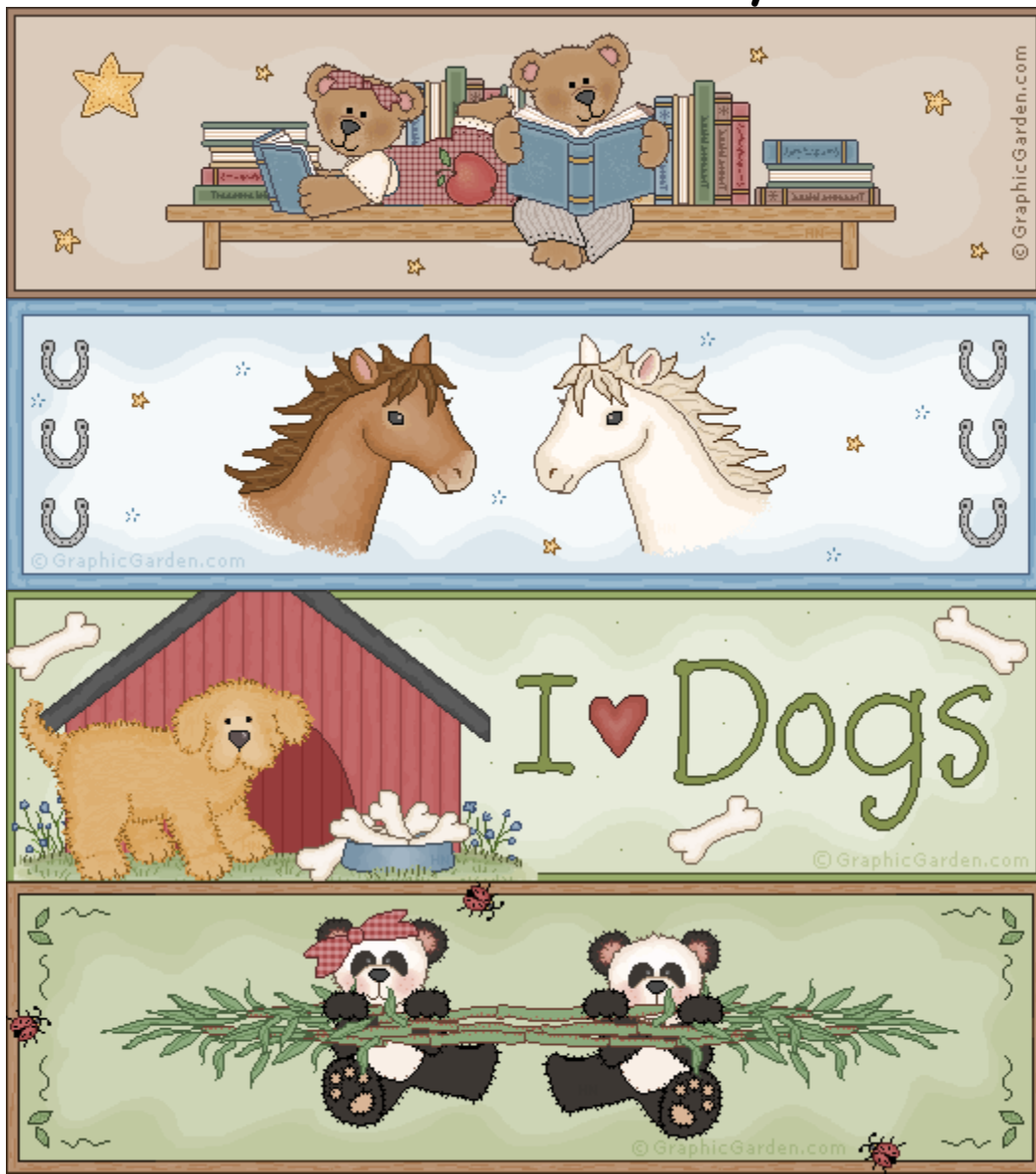
Hoberman, Mary Ann. **You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together.** Little, Brown, 2004. This title presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices, designed especially for young children and adults to read together. Series.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons.** HarperCollins, 2006. Cookies provide the framework for this clever book, but the focus is on life lessons to be learned about sharing, regret, cooperation, and patience-terms which are defined in simple, relevant text and made clear by sweet illustrations.

Rylant, Cynthia. **The High- Rise Private Eyes: the Case of the Desperate Duck.** Greenwillow, 2005. In this case, animal detectives Bunny and Jack help Mabel the duck find out who stole the sugar cubes from her tea room. Series Any Cynthia Rylant is sure to be a hit.

Thomas, Shelley Moore. **Take Care, Good Knight.** Dutton, 2006. Three little dragons have agreed to take care of the old wizard's cats while he is away, but their inability to read his instructions causes problems until their friend, the Good Knight, save the day. Be sure to read the other Good Knight stories too!

## Some more cute bookmarks for you to use!



Teague, Mark. **Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation**. Scholastic, 2004. While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog, Ike, who has been falsely accused of harming the neighbor's cats and is trying to clear his name. Read all 3 Detective LaRue stories.

Child, Lauren. **Say Cheese!** Dial Books, 2007. Lola has promised her mother that she will stay clean and tidy for picture day, but she is covered in paint and milk by the time she poses for her picture, so her friend Charlie suggests how to save the day.

Durango, Julia. **Cha-Cha Chimps**. Simon & Schuster, 2006. In this counting book, ten little chimps sneak out at night to dance at a swinging club called Mambo Jamba's, where rhinos hustle and ostriches polka, and are found out by Mama.

Dodd, Emma. **Just Like You**. Dutton, 2007. A baby bear describes the ways in which he wants to be like his father when he grows up.

Dewdney, Anna. **Nobunny's Perfect**. Viking, 2008. Bunnies who slurp their juice, forget to say "please," and bite their friends, learn about good manners.

MacDonald, Suse. **Fish, Swish! Splash Dash!**: Counting Round and Round. Little Simon, 2007. Die-cut pages and simple text introduce young readers to the numbers one through ten by counting the fish in the sea up to ten and then back down to one.

Munro, Roxie. **Rodeo**. Bright Sky Press, 2007. Fifty flaps and fold-outs are used to illustrate a variety of rodeo events.

Schoenherr, Ian. **Pip & Squeak**. Greenwillow, 2007. After rushing through the snow to get to their friend's birthday party, two mice realize that they forgot to bring the present.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **One Boy**. Roaring Brook, 2008. A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words.

Sherry, Kevin. **I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean**. Dial, 2007. A giant squid brags about being bigger than anything else in the ocean – almost.

Wells, Rosemary. **Max's Bunny Business**. Viking, 2008. Ruby and her friend Louise set up a lemonade stand to earn money to buy matching rings, but Max foils their plan.

Wood, Audrey. **A Dog Needs a Bone!** Blue Sky Press, 2007. In this rhyming tale, a dog makes extravagant promises to its mistress if only she will give it a bone.

## **Dogs and Cats**

by Jenkins, Steve,

### ***Booklist (May 1, 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 17))***

Award-winning illustrator-author Jenkins offers readers a delightful and insightful grab bag of facts about a human's best friends. Yes, *friends*--plural. Because this book is a twofer: when you've finished reading about dogs, you simply turn the oversize book around, and there--presto--is a similar format about cats. The two animals meet in the middle in a double-page spread that shows the natural antagonists harmoniously sharing a space. The information--about the respective species'origins, special characteristics, "amazing"facts, etc.--is widely available elsewhere, but this offers a good introduction for novice naturalists. Moreover, this title has something the others don't: cut-and-torn-paper collagepictures that alone are worth the price of admission. Dynamic, intricate, and informed by affectionate humor, they show dogs and cats of all shapes and sizes and packed with personality. The clever collages have an almost 3-D effect, so much so that kids--and adults--will want to reach out and pet.

## **Frankie Pickle and the closet of doom**

by Wight, Eric, 1974-

### ***Kirkus Review starred (April 15, 2009)***

Back off, Batman! Take note, Superman! Frankie Pickle is here, and he's ready to play. What he's not ready for is cleaning his room. When Frankie's mother decides to lay off the nagging, Frankie is allowed to make his own choice about his room as long as he can "deal with the consequences." For a little while, he deals well. But, as time passes with no visits from the Dryer Sheet Fairy, Frankie's room begins to resemble a dump in both odor and clutter. Wight's hilarious twists of language are matched with a wicked sense of fun in the illustrations and frequent sequential-paneled episodes of pretend play. Like the Holms' Babymouse, Frankie lapses into comic-book-style flights of fancy that make references to Indiana Jones, Dick Tracy, the Transformers and many superheroes. Busy illustrations on every page provide appeal for new readers, especially those who love Captain Underpants, Skippyjon Jones and Ricky Ricotta. The diagram of Frankie's newly organized room might provide inspiration for kids with their own Room of Doom--when they've stopped snickering, that is. (Fiction. 7-10) Also recommended by a parent.

**The Perfect Nest** by Catherine Friend. Candlewick publishers.

This is a story about Jack, a cat who builds the perfect nest to attract the perfect egg for his omelete. However, Jack winds up with more than he bargained for.

**The Amazing Spider-Man Pop-Up** Marvel Comics

This is a pop up hardback book explaining the beginning of spider man.

**Abe Lincoln crosses a creek : a tall, thin tale (introducing his forgotten frontier friend)**

by Hopkinson, Deborah.

*Booklist starred (September 15, 2008 (Vol. 105, No. 2))*

Preschool-Grade 3. In 1816, seven-year-old Abe and his friend Austin go down to see Knob Creek, swollen and turbulent after heavy rains, and decide to use a log to cross it. When Abe falls into the water, Austin saves his life and Abe promises that he'll never forget it. Even when he's the president of a war-torn country, Abe fondly remembers his old friend. That's the short version of the story, but this unusual and often amusing picture book offers much more than an illustrated reminiscence. Hopkinson sets a folksy tone at the beginning, saying that she liked this old tale so much that she's asked her friend John "to help out by drawing some pictures." The accompanying maplike ink-and-watercolor artwork shows the landscape of the Kentucky setting along with several elements of the narrative, even as the hand and brush of the illustrator get caught in the act of creating the scene. Hopkinson's comments to herself, her audience, and her friend (the artist) will increase children's awareness of the choices that go into telling a tale, even a supposedly true tale, and illustrating it. On the closing pages, the restatement of the moral is funny as well as thought provoking. Rewarding on many levels, this high-spirited picture book is an engaging example of metafiction for the younger set.

**Ballerina dreams : a true story**

by Thompson, Lauren.

Presents the true story of how five little girls who suffer from cerebral palsy had their dreams come true by becoming ballerinas.

**The chicken-chasing queen of Lamar County**

by Harrington, Janice N.

"Melanie Kroupa books." A young farm girl tries to catch her favorite chicken, until she learns something about the hen that makes her change her ways.

**The hello, goodbye window**

by Juster, Norton, 1929-

A little girl tells about the special kitchen window at her beloved Nanny and Poppy's house from which a person can see anyone or anything coming and going.

**Grace for president**

by DiPucchio, Kelly S.

***Library Media Connection (August/September 2008)***

Grace can't believe there has never been a girl president, and decides to run in her school's mock election. Her opponent, Thomas, is tough competition; he's the spelling bee champ, science fair blue ribbon winner, and captain of the soccer team. The students draw state names from a hat, with the number of electoral votes for each state. Thomas isn't campaigning as hard as Grace because he has figured out that the boys have more electoral votes than the girls do. On Election Day, with only one state left, the tally stands at 268 electoral votes for Thomas, and 267 for Grace. Wyoming, with its three electoral votes is last, but Thomas isn't worried--a boy represents Wyoming. However, Wyoming casts his three votes for the best person for the job, Grace. This is an excellent explanation of the Electoral College, which is further explained in the Author's Note. The illustrations are colorful, and depict the various aspects of political campaigns. While the readership of this title is elementary students, Social Studies teachers at upper levels might consider this as a good way to introduce a concept that isn't always easily understood. This is a timely title, with a likeable heroine. Highly Recommended.

**The apple doll)**

by Kleven, Elisa.

***Booklist starred (August 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 22))***

Preschool-Grade 2. Through every season, Lizzy loves the apple tree outside her window. On her first day of school, she uses it to create a new friend to take along with her: Susanna, a doll with an apple for a head and twigs for its body. When children make fun of Susanna, Lizzy leaves her at home for a while. Lizzy's mother shows her how to make Susanna into an apple-head doll by peeling the fruit, carving her features, preserving her with lemon juice, and letting her smiling face wrinkle as it dries. Newly aged but rejuvenated, Susanna accompanies Lizzy to school again and becomes the model for a class craft project. A plot summary does little to re-create the charm of this delightfully well-written picture book. Like the first illustration of the apple tree, where Lizzy lies happily on a branch surrounded by birds, cats, and squirrels, the pictures teem with life and intriguing details, but have at their heart the clear expression of the characters' emotions. Created in mixed media with collage elements, the illustrations vary in size and complexity, from small winsome vignettes to detailed, double-page spreads that carry the eye from the main character to the outskirts of her neighborhood.