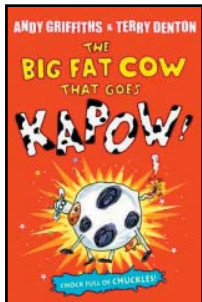
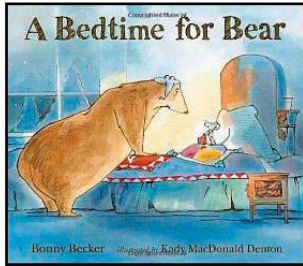


A Balloon for Isabel, by Deborah Underwood; illus. by Laura Rankin. 978-0061779879, \$16.99. Because Porcupines + Balloons = Trouble, Isabel and Walter are sad to discover that they cannot have balloons for graduation. But Isabel isn't going to settle for a boring bookmark. She has a plan ...

A Bedtime for Bear, by Bonny Becker; illus. by Kady McDonald Denton. 978-0763641016, \$16.99.

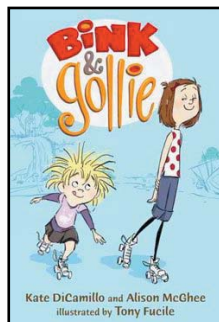
Grumpy Bear and his cheerful friend Mouse have their first sleepover, and Bear discovers that even when things aren't quite as quiet as he likes, it is good to have a friend to help make sure the scary

noises are nothing to worry about.



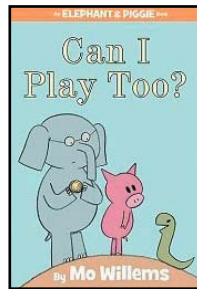
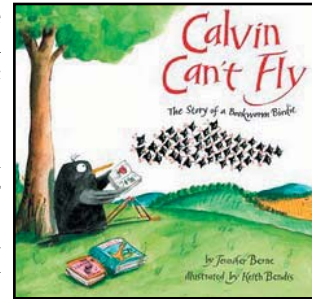
The Big Fat Cow That Goes Kapow, by Andy Griffiths. 978-0312367886, \$14.99 (also in pbk). In these ten easy-to-read stories, meet a mixed-up cow that says "miaow," a mole called Noel who plays rock 'n' roll in a hole, and a boy named Mike who rides a bike with a very big spike – all of whom will have you laughing out loud!

Bink and Gollie, by Kate DiCamillo & Allison McGhee, illus. by Tony Fucile. 978-0763632663, \$15.99. In this unique graphic novel/picture book/beginning reader by an award-winning team, two very different friends share adventures, manage differences, and find true friendship. Excellent for a beginning or reluctant reader.



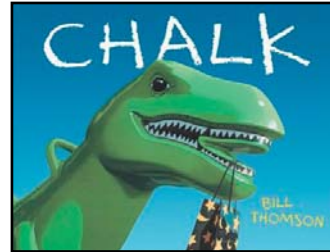
Calvin Can't Fly: The Story of a Bookworm Birdie, by Jennifer Berne; illus. by Keith Bendis. 978-1402773235, \$14.95.

Calvin is an unusual bird who would rather read a book than learn to fly. But Calvin's knowledge comes in handy when a storm threatens the migrating flock. This book shows how we all have strengths. It also highlights the power of knowledge and books. A great preschool read.

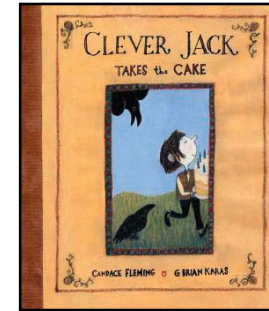
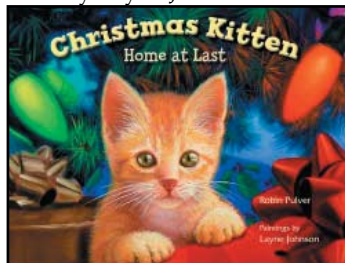


Can I Play Too?, by Mo Willems (An Elephant and Piggie Book). 978-1423119913, \$8.99. Elephant and Piggie learn to play catch with their new friend Snake after overcoming their embarrassment at having to point out the obvious: snakes do not have hands! Another winner in a beloved series.

Chalk, by Bill Thomson. 978-0761455264, \$15.99. A wordless picture book about three children who go to the park on a rainy day, find some chalk, and draw some pictures that come to life. Pair it with some sidewalk chalk for a great gift!

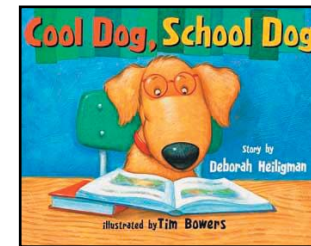
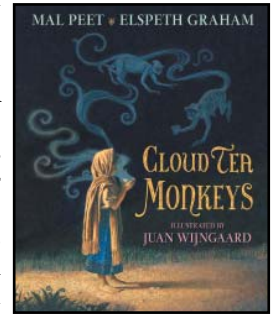


Christmas Kitten, Home at Last!, by Robin Pulver; illus. by Layne Johnson. 978-0807511572, \$16.99. When Santa's allergies prevent him from keeping a homeless kitten, he and Mrs. Claus find it a perfect home. Whether you're getting a pet or not, this is a great book to share!



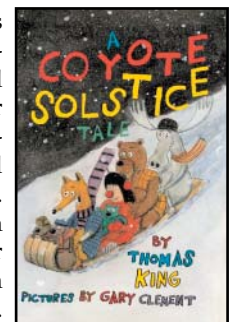
Clever Jack Takes the Cake, by Candace Fleming; illus. by G. Brian Karas. 978-0375849794, \$17.99. Jack has been invited to the Princess's tenth birthday party, but has no money for a gift. Clever Jack decides to bake a cake, but getting it to the castle in one piece is quite a challenge! A beautiful story, great for reading aloud or just sharing at bedtime.

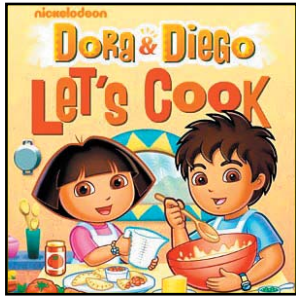
Cloud Tea Monkeys, by Mal Peet & Elspeth Graham; illus. by Juan Wijngaard. 978-0763644536, \$15.99. A delightful story of a little girl, Tashi, who befriends curious monkeys while her mother picks tea leaves on a Himalayan plantation. Sumptuous illustrations accompany an elegant, moving tale to create a book to treasure.



Cool Dog, School Dog, by Deborah Heiligman; illus. by Tim Bowers. 978-0761455615, \$15.99. Tinka, a Golden Retriever pup, visits her owner at school. After breaking all the rules, she helps the class learn to read. In the end she's "a please-come-every-day" dog!

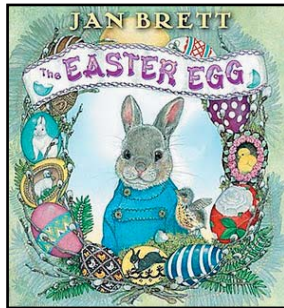
A Coyote Solstice Tale, by Thomas King; illus. by Gary Clement. 978-0888999290, \$14.95. A universal lesson - sharing and being together are more important than possessions - comes from a child and Coyote in this humorous book. Their shopping trip to the mall in the woods is memorable. Winner of the 2010 American Indian Youth Literature Award for Picture Book.



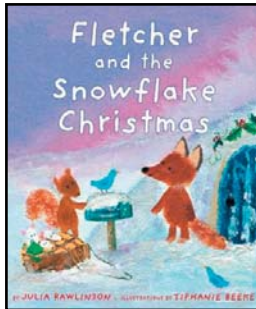


Dora & Diego: Let's Cook. 978-0470639429, \$16.95. Young readers are invited to join Dora and Diego as they introduce the wonderful world of cooking. Lots of fun, healthy recipes are sure to please Dora and Diego's many fans.

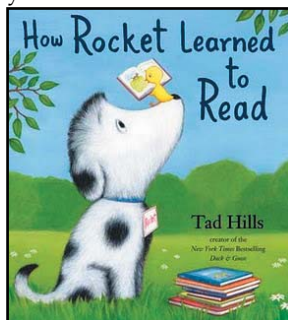
The Easter Egg, by Jan Brett. 978-0399252389, \$17.99. This engaging book is up to Jan Brett's usual standards of beauty, weaving two stories together to create a visual delight for any age.



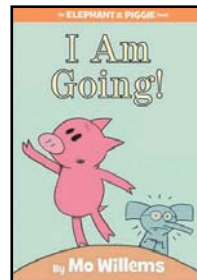
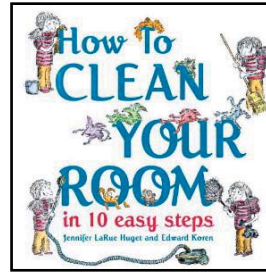
Fletcher and the Snowflake Christmas, by Julia Rawlinson; illus. by Tiphonie Beeke. 978-0061990335, \$16.99. It's Christmas Eve, and the rabbits have moved to a new burrow. Fletcher the fox is worried that Santa will not find their home. With the help of his animal friends, they make a path of sticks, but oh, no – a snowfall covers everything. Not to worry – Santa finds his way! Beautiful pastel illustrations.



How Rocket Learned To Read, by Tad Hill. 978-0375858994, \$17.99. A little yellow bird teaches Rocket the dog how to read by first introducing him to the "wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet," then captivating him by reading stories aloud. Journey on this joyous path as Rocket is given the gift of reading by his charming and persistent teacher.

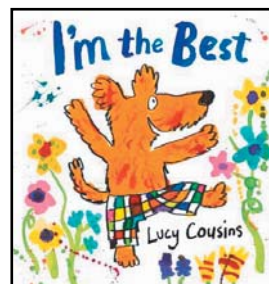
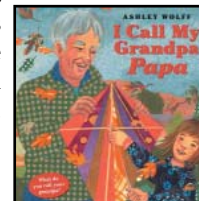
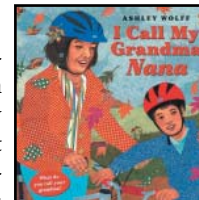


How to Clean Your Room in 10 Easy Steps, by Jennifer LaRue Huget; illus. by Edward Koren. 978-0375844102, \$16.99. For those of us with less than tidy rooms (you know who you are!) this laugh-out-loud picture-book guide to cleaning your room is sure to make picking up a snap. From dumping out drawers to arranging all eight zillion of your stuffed animals, here's the kind of advice on room tidying that everyone can relate to! Perfect for messy kids (and adults) everywhere!

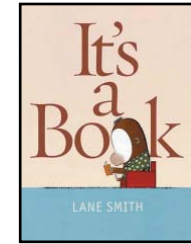


I Am Going, by Mo Willems. 978-1423119906, \$8.99. Piggie ruins a perfectly good day by telling Gerald the elephant that she is "going." If Piggie goes, who will be Gerald's partner when it's time to play ping-pong or wear silly hats? Another winner in a beloved series.

I Call My Grandma Nana (978-1582462516) and **I Call My Grandpa Papa** (978-1582462523), by Ashley Wolff. \$15.99 each. No matter what your children call their grandparents, the beautiful illustrations and thoughtful text of these books show the special bonds and favorite activities of grandparents and grandchildren everywhere.

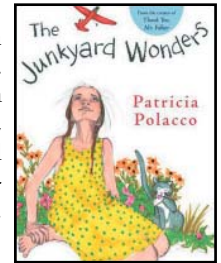


I'm the Best, by Lucy Cousins. 978-0763646844, \$14.99. Expressive, Colorful, Charming, Bold, Exuberant are just a few of the words to describe this joyous book about a dog who wonders if his doggy skills make him "the best." Share this book with your preschooler to show how lovable s/he is!

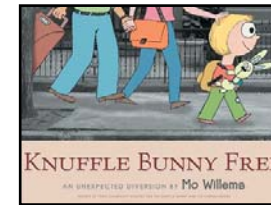


It's a Book, by Lane Smith. 978-1596436060, \$12.99. Don't plug it in – don't look for the scroll bar – just give this book to an older child, teen, or ADULT book lover in your life! "I know it is controversial but I love this book. It shows the pure joy of reading. Funny and well done."

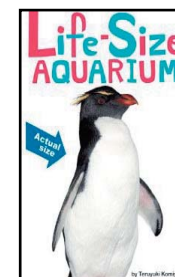
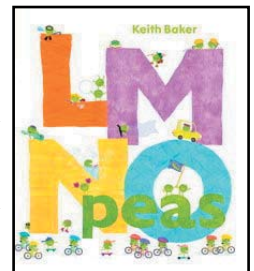
The Junkyard Wonders, by Patricia Polacco. 978-0399250781, \$17.99. Grades 2-5. This story is about an exceptional teacher, Mrs. Peterson, who shows a classroom of special needs children how truly magnificent they are.



Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion, by Mo Willems. 978-0061929571, \$17.99. Keep a tissue handy as you read the final adventure of Trixie and her beloved Knuffle Bunny. A beautiful tale of love and growing up.



L M N O Peas, by Keith Baker. 978-1416991410, \$16.99. Happy little pea-ple take readers on an alphabetic romp of occupations from artists to zoologists. You'll love the little reader peas on stacks of books!

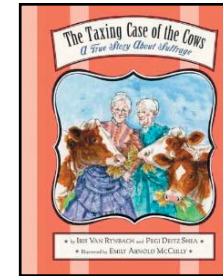
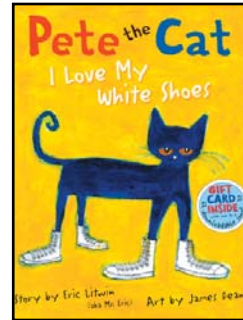


Life-Size Aquarium, by Teruyuki Komiya. 978-1934734599, \$18.95. Introduces young readers to nineteen different marine animals, including a leafy sea dragon, a luna lionfish, a humphead wrasse, two different varieties of penguins, a sea turtle, a jellyfish and more! See also More Life-Size Zoo, below.



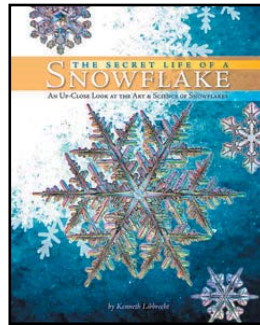
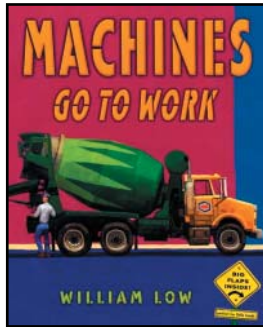
Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!, by Grace Lin. 978-0316024525, \$14.99. Twin girls, while not identical, really are two sides of the same coin. Smart, cute and funny.

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes, by Eric Litwin; illus. by James Dean. 978-0061906220, \$16.99. Pete the Cat gets into colorful adventures while out walking in his new white shoes. Great for color recognition - and a must-sing! Includes a downloadable song and a website with a variety of related activities.



The Taxing Case of the Cows: A True Story About Suffrage, by Iris Van Rynbach and Pegi Deitz Shea; illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. 978-0547236315. Ages 6-8. The Smith sisters, who lived in Glastonbury, CT in 1869, refused to pay taxes on their property because they - and all women - hadn't been given the right to vote. When the tax collector took away their cows, how did they respond? Find out in this inspiring true story.

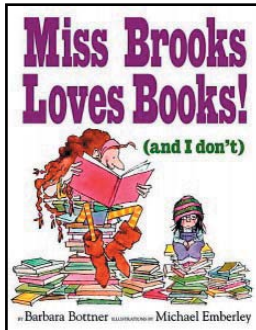
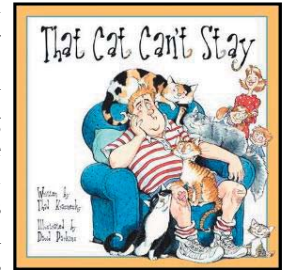
Machines Go To Work, by William Low. 978-0805087598, \$14.95. Combining information, detailed illustrations and lift-the-flap technology, Low's book will delight young truck lovers.



The Secret Life of a Snowflake: An Up-Close Look at the Art and Science of Snowflakes, by Kenneth Libbrecht. 978-0760336762, \$17.00. Ages 5-9. A perfect book for budding young scientists, with easy-to-understand information about all things "snowflakey." Includes wonderful photographs.

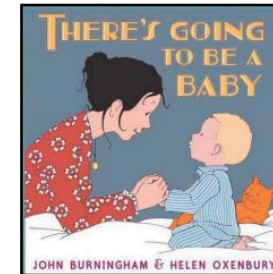
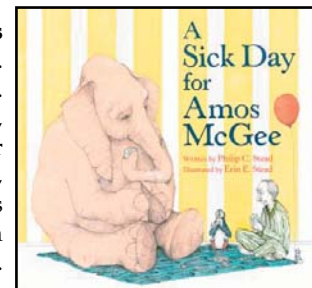
That Cat Can't Stay, by Thad Krasnesky; illus. David Parkins. 978-0979974656, \$16.95.

Dad is being driven crazy by the numerous cats being brought home. But despite all of his excuses, ailments, and complaints, the cats remain. Toe-tapping rhythm and hilarious illustrations make this a great choice for cat and dog lovers alike.



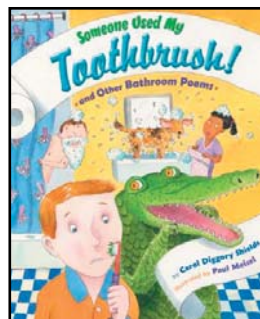
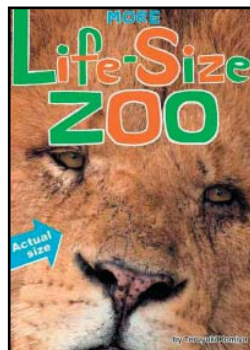
Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I don't), by Barbara Bottner; illus. by Michael Emberley. 978-0375846823, \$17.99. With the help of her school librarian, a little girl discovers there really is a book for everyone.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee, by Philip C. Stead; illus. by Erin E. Stead. 978-1596434028, \$16.99. When zookeeper Amos stays home sick, his special animal friends take the bus to visit him and help him feel better.



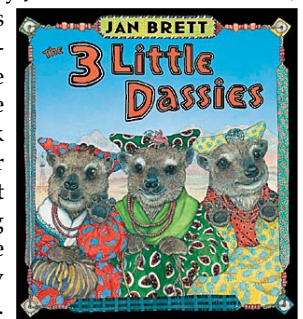
There's Going to Be a Baby, by John Burningham; illus. by Helen Oxenbury. 978-0763649074, \$16.99. This extraordinary collaboration between a renowned husband-wife team explores the emotions of a young child anticipating the arrival of his new sibling. With gentle wit and retro illustrations, this timeless story will be a family favorite for years to come.

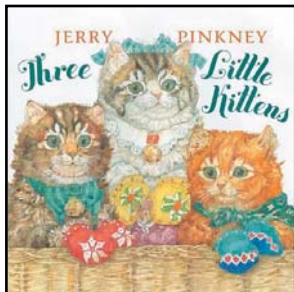
More Life-Size Zoo, by Teruyuki Komiya. 978-1934734193, \$18.95. Beautiful photography with a wonderful layout and interesting facts - a book both boys and girls will love! See also Life-Size Aquarium (above).



Someone Used My Toothbrush! And Other Bathroom Poems, by Carol Diggory Shields; illus. by Paul Meisel. 978-0525479376, \$16.99. Clever and hilarious poems about singing in the shower, the scary bathroom scale, potty training, and bathing the pets. And don't forget to go before you leave!

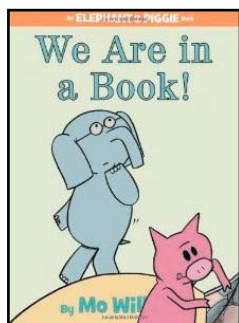
The 3 Little Dassies, by Jan Brett. 978-0399254994, \$17.99. The Three Little Pigs with a twist! In this sumptuous adaptation, three little dassies - small, rodent-like animals also called rock hydraxes - build their houses in the Namib Desert of Southern Africa, hoping for protection from the eagle that lives atop a nearby mountain.





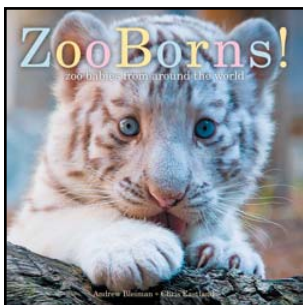
Three Little Kittens, by Jerry Pinkney. 978-0803735330, \$16.99. Caldecott award winner Pinkney brings a gloriously vivid palette, delightful details and tremendous warmth to his version of this favorite nursery rhyme.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas, by Clement Moore; illus. by Christopher Wormell. 978-0762427178, \$16.95. The classic Christmas poem, handsomely illustrated with Wormell's stunning linoleum-block prints. Both children and adults will delight in this stylish edition.



We Are in a Book!, by Mo Willems (An Elephant and Piggie Book). 978-1423133087, \$8.99. Once the duo realizes their words are being read, they use their power to make the reader say funny things and keep the story going. Elephant and Piggie's legions of fans will love this funny book!

ZooBorns!: Zoo Babies from Around the World, by Andrew Bleiman & Chris Eastland. 978-1442412729, \$12.99. This charming book introduces baby animals from zoos around the world, ranging from the adorable to the zany! Featuring full-color photographs on every page and a cozy text perfect for reading aloud, this book is bound to become a must-have for animal lovers of all ages.



Contributors

- Regina Aleksandravicius**, Children's Services Manager, Wethersfield Library
Jane Ash, Children's Librarian, Scranton Library, Madison
Caitlin Augusta, Librarian, Stratford Library
Kara S. Canney, Children's Librarian, Trumbull Library System
Helena Estes, Children's Librarian, Case Memorial Library, Orange
Maris Frey, Children's Librarian, Stonington Free Library
Trish Hart, Children's Librarian, The Farmington Library
Gabriella Kaye, Children's Librarian, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
Barbara Klipper, Youth Services Librarian, The Ferguson Library, Stamford
Amy Lilien-Harper, Youth Services Librarian, The Ferguson Library, Stamford
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Eva Markuszka, Children's Services, Farmington Library
Paula Montes, Library Assistant/Programmer, Farmington Library
Jennifer Needham, Head of Children's Services, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry
Sue Palmieri, Children's Librarian, Groton Public Library
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Amy Sindel, Assistant Children's Librarian, Waterford Public Library
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Brienne Tripp, Children's Services, Wethersfield Library
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Shahla Zarinejad, Head of Children's Services, Rockville Library, Vernon



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BEST BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS AND LISTENERS

AGES 3-8

A list for holiday giving

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