

# Great Books to Read Aloud

## Picture Books

Agee, Jon. **The Wall in the Middle of the Book**. (PB AGEE)

A knight who feels secure on his side of the wall that divides his book discovers that his side is not as safe as he thought, and the other side is not as threatening.

Anderson, Derek. **Ten Pigs: an epic bath adventure**. (PB ANDER)

One pig looks to take a relaxing bath in private, but he is soon joined by another pig, then another, until there are ten pigs--and number one has to come up with a plan so that he can actually enjoy his bath.

Antony, Steve. **Please, Mr. Panda**. (PB ANTON)

Mr. Panda has a plate of doughnuts to share, but most of the other animals forget to say "Please."

Beaton, Kate. **King Baby**. (PB BEATO)

Baby is King, and all his needs must be met by his subjects, otherwise know as his parents, but soon he will grow up, and who will rule them then?

Beaton, Kate. **The Princess and the Pony**. (PB BEATO)

Princess Pinecone would like a real war horse for her birthday, instead of which she gets a plump, cute pony--but sometimes cuteness can be a kind of weapon, especially in a fight with dodgeballs and spitballs and hairballs and squareballs.

Berkner, Laurie. **We are the Dinosaurs**. (PB BERKN)

Dinosaurs eat, rest, roar, and march, making the earth flat.

Blabey, Aaron. **Thelma the Unicorn**. (PB BLABE)

Thelma the pony wants to be a unicorn--but when her wish comes true she discovers that there is a downside to fame, and realizes that she was happier at home with her friend.

Brown, Peter. **Mr. Tiger Goes Wild**. (PB BROWN)

Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature.

Chung, Arree. **Mixed : a colorful story**. (PB CHUNG)

Each believing that their hue is the best, the three primary colors live in separate parts of the city until Yellow and Blue meet, fall in love, and decide to mix.

Clanton, Ben. **It Came in the Mail**. (PB CLANT)

After Liam writes to his mailbox, asking for more mail, he gets his wish, but soon he realizes that sending mail is even more fun than receiving it.

Cotter, Bill. **Don't Push the Button.** (PB COTTE)

The only rule in Larry's book is that the reader not push the button, but when no one is looking, it may be irresistible.

DiPucchio, Kelly. **Dragon Was Terrible.** (PB DIPUC)

When a dragon has a temper tantrum, no one can tame him, except for a little boy with a good book.

DiPucchio, Kelly. **Everyone Loves Bacon.** (PB DIPUC)

Everyone loves Bacon but letting his fame go to his head may prove more dangerous than he thought.

DiPucchio, Kelly. **One Little, Two Little, Three Little Children.** (PB DIPUC)

A rhyming celebration of the diversity and universality of children and their families.

Dunlap, Cirocco. **Crunch, the Shy Dinosaur.** (PB DUNLA)

Advises the reader on how to interact with a very shy dinosaur.

Falatko, Julie. **Snapsy the Alligator: "did not ask to be in the book!"** (PB FALAT)

Snapsy's ordinary day is interrupted by a meddling narrator.

Fenske, Jonathan. **Barnacle is Bored.** (PB FENSK)

Barnacle is bored by the monotony of the tides, and envies the fish who swim freely--until an eel comes along.

Foley, Greg E. **Kat Writes a Song.** (PB FOLEY)

On a gray and rainy day, a lonely kitten feels better after writing a song, and as she sings the "magic" song around her neighborhood, her animal friends cheer up, as well.

Higgins, Ryan T. **We Don't Eat Our Classmates!** (PB HIGGI)

When the class pet bites the finger of Penelope, a tyrannosaurus rex, she finally understands why she should not eat her classmates, no matter how tasty they are.

Horacek, Petr. **The Fly.** (PB HORAC)

A funny look at the life of a fly who doesn't quite understand why no one likes him.

Lang, Suzanne. **Grumpy Monkey.** (PB LANG)

Jim Panzee wakes up in a bad mood one beautiful day, but he keeps denying he is grumpy even as his friends give advice for feeling better.

John, Jory. **Goodnight Already!** (PB JOHN)

Bear has never been so tired but his next-door neighbor, a wide-awake duck, keeps disturbing his sleep.

LaRochelle, David. **Monster and Son**. (PB LAROC)

A monster and son fill their day with rough and rowdy fun.

Litchfield, David. **The Bear and the Piano**. (PB LITCH)

A bear finds a piano in the woods, learns to play it, and travels to the big city to become rich and famous, but ultimately discovers that his old friends in the forest back home are still the best audience of all.

Litwin, Eric. **Groovy Joe: Ice Cream and Dinosaurs**. (PB LITWI)

Groovy Joe is a fun-loving dog with a tub full of ice cream--which he shares with his unexpected dinosaur guests.

Mack, Jeff. **Who Wants a Hug?** (PB MACK)

Everyone likes Mr. Bear except grouchy Dr. Skunk, who devises a plan to make Mr. Bear stop being happy and hugging other.

Messer, Claire. **Grumpy Pants**. (PB MESSE)

Have you ever had a grumpy day and not known why? Penguin is having a grumpy day like that. No matter what he does, he just can't shake it! Sometimes the only thing left to do is wash the grumpy day away and start over.

Matheson, Christie. **Touch the Brightest Star**. (PB MATHE)

An interactive picture book showcasing the beauty of nighttime.

Mewburn, Kyle. **Hill & Hole Are Best Friends**. (PB MEWBU)

Hill and Hole were best friends. Hill likes being a hill, and Hole likes being a hole, but sometimes they wonder what it would be like to swap places. Maybe Mole and Wind can help?" -- Two friends, a hill and a hole, long to be more like one another.

Novak, B. J. **The Book With No Pictures**. (PB NOVAK)

In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what.

Penfold, Alexandra. **All are Welcome**. (PB PENFO)

A school where diversity is celebrated and songs, stories, and talents are shared.

Pizzoli, Greg. **Good Night Owl**. (PB PIZZOLI)

Owl takes drastic measures to have a good night's sleep.

Rex, Adam. **Are you Scared, Darth Vader?** (PB REX)

Although he professes to fear nothing, it turns out that the most-feared villain in the Star Wars universe may not be so fearless after all.

Russo, Marisabina. **Little Bird Takes a Bath.** (PB RUSSO)

The only thing Little Bird likes about rain is the puddles it leaves behind, but after flying through Manhattan to find the perfect puddle, his bath is interrupted again and again.

Santat, Dan. **Are We There Yet?** (PB SANTA)

A boy goes on a long car ride to visit his grandmother and discovers time moves faster or slower depending on how bored he is.

Sarcone-Roach, Julia. **The Bear Ate Your Sandwich.** (PB SARCO)

When a sandwich goes missing, it seems that a bear is the unlikely culprit.

Shapiro, Esme. **Ooko.** (PB SHAPI)

Desperate for a Debbie of his own, Ooko the fox sets out to become like all the other foxes so he can find a Debbie of his own.

Sima, Jessie. **Not Quite Narwhal.** (PB SIMA)

Born deep in the ocean, Kelp is not like the other narwhals and one day, when he spies a creature on land that looks like him, he learns why.

Tankard, Jeremy. **Sleepy Bird.** (PB TANKA)

Bird wants to play, but all his animal friends tell him that it is bedtime, and only when they tuck him in and sing a lullaby does he finally fall asleep--briefly.

Tarpley, Todd. **Beep! Beep! Go to Sleep!** (PB TARPL)

When his three rambunctious robots give every possible excuse not to go to sleep, what's a little boy to do?

Teckentrup, Britta. **Get Out of My Bath!** (PB TECKE)

Ellie the elephant's relaxing bath is disrupted by splashing friends, prompting her to suck up all of the water into her trunk until everyone else leaves.

Tupera, Tupera. **Polar Bear's Underwear.** (PB TUPER)

Polar Bear has lost his underwear and he asks his friend, Mouse, to help him find it.

Vignocchi, Chiara. **Shake the Tree!** (PB VIGNO)

Various animals take turns shaking a tree in search of a tasty meal. Little readers will enjoy the just-made-it escapes and the fun shaking-action that readers can do along with this interactive picture book.

Wan, Joyce. **The bear in my bed.** (PB WAN)

A child faces the challenging task of putting a bear to bed.

Won, Brian. **Hooray for Hat!** (PB WON)

Elephant wakes up in a grumpy mood, but a present on his doorstep--a hat--cheers him and he sets out to greet his neighbors who all, it seems, need hats of their own.

Young, Amy. **A Unicorn Named Sparkle.** (PB YOUNG)

A picture book about a little girl who desperately wants a beautiful unicorn as a pet, but winds up with a less than desirable one instead.

Young, Jessica. **Pet this Book.** (PB YOUNG)

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text invite the reader to join in a day of pet care.

## **Fiction Titles**

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan.** (JUV APPLE)

Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall. When Ruby is abused, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Atwater, Richard. **Mr. Popper's Penguins.** (JUV ATWAT)

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Tuck Everlasting.** (JUV BABBI)

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

Barrows, Annie. **Ivy and Bean.** (CHAPTER BARRO)

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

Beck, W. H. **Malcolm at Midnight.** (JUV BECK)

Malcolm, a smaller than average rat, loves life at McKenna School and the secret society of classroom pets that keep children out of trouble, but when Aggy the iguana disappears Malcolm must use all of his ratty persistence to prove his innocence and save her.

Cleary, Beverly. **The Mouse and the Motorcycle.** (JUV CLEAR)

A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

Collins, Suzanne. **Gregor the Overlander.** (JUV COLLI)

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy

Creech, Sharon. **Love that Dog.** (JUV CREEC)

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy.** (JUV CURTI)

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Dahl, Roald. **Matilda.** (JUV DAHL)

Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Flora & Ulysses : the illuminated adventures.** (JUV DICAM)

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

Draper, Sharon. **Stella By Starlight.** (JUV DRAPE)

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **The City of Ember.** (JUV DUPRA)

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Fitzhugh, Louise. **Harriet the Spy.** (JUV FITZH)

Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. **My Father's Dragon.** (JUV GANNE)

A young boy runs away from home to rescue an abused baby dragon held captive to serve as a free twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week ferry for the lazy wild animals living on Wild Island.

Hale, Shannon. **The Princess in Black.** (CHAPTER HALE)

Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

Konigsburg, E. L. **From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.** (JUV KONIG)

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Lewis, C. S. **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.** (JUV FAN LEWIS)

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet.** (JUV PAULE)

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine.** (CHAPTER PENNY)

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

Pennypacker, Sara. **Pax.** (JUV PENNY)

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.

Rowling, J.K. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.** (JUV FAN ROWLI)

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes.** (JUV MYS SACHA)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret : a novel in words and pictures.**  
(JUV SELZN)

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toymaker and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Snicket, Lemony. **A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning.** (JUV SNICK)

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

Taylor, Mildred. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry.** (JUV TAYLO)

A black family living in Mississippi during the Depression of the 1930s is faced with prejudice and discrimination which its children do not understand.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. **Little House in the Big Woods.** (JUV WILDE)

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors.

Willems, Mo. **The story of Diva and Flea.** (CHAPTER WILLE)

In the bustling city of Paris, a small yet brave dog, Diva, and an adventurous cat named Flea become two unlikely friends.