

PICTURE BOOKS

Prepared by: Haviva Donin Peters, Head Librarian

Picture books are for everyone! They often contain more sophisticated language than chapter books and because they are intended for fluent readers to read aloud, not for beginning readers to sound out, they can be more challenging than beginning chapter books.

Agee, Jon. **It's only Stanley**. New York, N.Y.: Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) LLC, 2015. Summary: Very strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night have an even stranger source.

Ahlberg, Allan. **Previously**. Cambridge, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2007. Summary: The adventures of various nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters are retold in backward sequence with each tale interrelated to the other. Includes "Goldilocks," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Jack and Jill," "The Frog Prince," "Cinderella," and "The Gingerbread Man."

Banks, Kate. **Max's words**. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Summary: When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

Barrett, Judi. **Cloudy with a chance of meatballs**. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1978. Summary: Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers--until the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Black, Michael Ian. **I'm bored**. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012. Summary: When a bored girl meets a potato who finds children tedious, she tries to prove him wrong by demonstrating all of the things they can do, from turning cartwheels to using their imaginations.

Blizzard, Gladys S. **Come look with me: enjoying art with children**. New York: Charlesbridge., 1996. Summary: Presents twelve color reproductions of paintings by artists from Holbein to Picasso, with questions to stimulate discussion and background information on each artist and painting. *Series*.

Brennan-Nelson, Denise. **Willow**. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2008. Summary: In art class, neatness, conformity, and imitation are encouraged, but when Willow brings imagination and creativity to her projects, even straight-laced Miss Hawthorn is influenced.

Brett, Jan. **Town mouse, country mouse**. New York: Putnam, 1994. Summary: After trading houses, the country mice and the town mice discover there's no place like home.

Carlson, Nancy L. **First grade, here I come!** New York, Viking, 2006. Summary: Henry tells his mother that he did not like his first day of first grade, but as he describes what he did and learned, he begins to realize that he might enjoy it after all.

Cannon, Janell. **Verdi**. San Diego, Calif.: Harcourt Brace & Co, 1997. Summary: A young python does not want to grow slow and boring like the older snakes he sees in the tropical jungle where he lives.

Charlip, Remy. **Fortunately**. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 1193. Summary: Good and bad luck accompany Ned from New York to Florida on his way to a surprise party.

Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a spider**. New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 2005. Summary: 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.

Cobb, Vicki. **I fall down**. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2004. Summary: Simple experiments introduce the basic concept of gravity and its relationship to weight. *Science Play Series*

Cronin, Doreen. **Wiggle**. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005. Summary: Rhyming text describes the many ways to wiggle.

Crowe, Chris. **Just as good: how Larry Doby changed America's game**. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2012. Summary: An African American family in Cleveland, Ohio, listens on their new radio to the first game of the 1948 *World Series*, in which Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, won the game for the Cleveland Indians.

Davis, Aubrey. **Kishka for Koppel**. Victoria, BC: Orca Book Publishers, 2011. Summary: "A magic meat grinder helps a poor Jewish couple learn a little gratitude after the three wishes it grants them go awry"--

Esbaum, Jill. **To the big top**. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2008. Summary: When the circus comes to the small town of Willow Grove in the early 1900s, best friends Benny and Sam enjoy an exciting day helping set up the tent, admiring the various animals, and anticipating the big show.

Fan, Terry. **The Night Gardener**. New York, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. Summary: Everyone on Grimloch Lane enjoys the trees and shrubs clipped into animal masterpieces after dark by the Night Gardener, but William, a lonely boy, spots the artist, follows him, and helps with his special work.

Feuerman, Ruchama King. **The mountain Jews and the mirror**. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Pub., 2015. Summary: When a newly married couple from a small Moroccan village moves to the city of Casablanca, the mirror on their wardrobe causes much confusion, as they each think their spouse has married someone new.

Fleming, Candace. **Papa's mechanical fish**. New York: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2013. Summary: In the summer of 1851, with encouragement and ideas provided by his family, an inventor builds a working submarine and takes his family for a ride. Includes notes about Lodner Phillips, the real inventor on whom the story is based.

Ford, Gilbert. **How the cookie crumbled: the true (and not-so-true) stories of the invention of the chocolate chip cookie**: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017. The author shares lesser-known stories about the invention of the chocolate chip cookie (not all of which are actually true), describing how talented chef and entrepreneur Ruth Wakefield started a restaurant, wrote a cookbook and invented a dessert in three possibly different ways, includes recipe.

Gehl, Laura. **Hare and Tortoise race across Israel**. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2015. Summary: Two good friends, Hare and Tortoise, race from Tel Aviv to the Dead Sea, enjoying the unique culture and geography of Israel along the way.

Gomi, Taro. **The crocodile and the dentist**. San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 2018. Summary: A crocodile and a dentist are both frightened by the crocodile's visit to the dentist's office. Though they each have their own concerns, they must be brave and get through the appointment.

Grogan, John. **Marley goes to school**. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2009. Summary: Marley the rambunctious dog sniffs his way to Cassie's school and spreads chaos as he searches for her.

Hall, Michael. **Red: a crayon's story**. New York, NY: Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2015. Summary: Red's factory-applied label clearly says that he is red, but despite the best efforts of his teacher, fellow crayons and art supplies, and family members, he cannot seem to do anything right until a new friend offers a fresh perspective.

Heller, Linda. **The castle on Hester Street**. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007. Summary: Julie's grandmother deflates many of her husband's tall tales about their journey from Russia to America and their life on Hester Street.

Hosford, Kate. **Infinity and me**. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2012. Summary: After the sight of a night sky filled with stars makes eight-year-old Uma feel very small, she asks people how they think about infinity and gets a variety of answers before realizing the comfort in knowing that some things go on forever.

Hyde, Heidi Smith. **Feivel's flying horses**. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Pub., 2010. Summary: A Jewish immigrant who is saving money to bring his wife and children to join him in America creates ornate horses for a carousel on Coney Island, one for each member of his family.

Kelly, Mark E. **Mousetronaut: based on a (partially) true story**. New York, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012. Summary: A small, but plucky, mouse named Mike is sure that he can help the Space Shuttle astronauts, and ends up saving the whole mission.

Kimmel, Eric A. **Joseph and the Sabbath fish**. Minneapolis: Kar-Ben Pub, 2011. Summary: Retells the story of Joseph, who is rewarded for honoring the Sabbath by being generous to others even after he, himself, becomes poor.

Krasner, Barbara. **Goldie takes a stand: Golda Meir's first crusade**. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Pub, 2014. Summary: Even at the age of nine, little Golda Meir was known for being a leader. As the president of the American Young Sisters Society, she organizes her friends to raise money to buy textbooks for immigrant classmates. A glimpse at the early life of Israel's first female prime minister, who was born in Russia and grew up in Milwaukee, this story is based on a true episode in the early life of Golda Meir.

Kuskin, Karla. **The Philharmonic gets dressed**. New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 1982. Summary: All over the city 105 men and women are preparing to go to work. They bathe or take showers, and get into formal black-and-white clothing. They travel to midtown with black cases. At 8:30 they enter an auditorium and play beautiful music together.

Levine, Ellen. **Henry's freedom box**. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007. Summary: A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Mack, Jeff. **Good news, bad news**. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2012. Summary: While on a picnic, Bunny and Mouse see everything that happens to them from opposite points of view-- Bunny sees only the good, while Mouse sees only the bad.

Martinez-Neal, Juana. **Alma and how she got her name**. Somerville, Massachusetts, Candlewick Press, 2018.

Summary: Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela asks her father why she has so many names. Her father then tells stories from their rich family history about each of the people Alma is named after and what they have in common with her. Only the name "Alma" is unique to the little girl and Alma begins to understand that one day she will have a story of her own to tell.

Mattick, Lindsay. **Finding Winnie: the true story of the world's most famous bear**. New York Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 2015. Summary: A woman tells her young son the true story of how his great-great-grandfather, Captain Harry Colebourn, rescued and learned to love a bear cub in 1914 as he was on his way to take care of soldiers' horses during World War I, and the bear became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Mayhew, James. **Ella Bella ballerina and a midsummer night's dream**. Hauppauge, New York: Barron's, 2015. Summary: When Ella learns the story of A midsummer night's dream, she's transported into a magical fairyland hoping to help Puck win back Queen Titania's love for King Oberon. Note: *Series*

Mayhew, James. **Katie and the Mona Lisa**. New York: Orchard Books, 1999. Summary: At the art museum, while her grandmother dozes, Katie steps into the painting of the Mona Lisa and together they have adventures with the characters from four other well-known Renaissance paintings. Includes information about the artists.

McNamara, Margaret. **The apple orchard riddle**. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2013. Summary: When students in Mr. Tiffin's class are invited to solve a riddle during a field trip to an apple orchard, it is Tara's daydreams that may lead to the answer.

Moss, Lloyd. **Zin! zin! zin! : a violin**. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995. Summary: Ten instruments take their parts one by one in a musical performance.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **The Wishing Club: a story about fractions**. New York: Henry Holt, 2007. Summary: When four siblings wish on a star, each gets only a fraction of what he or she wanted, but when they combine their wishes, they just might get a whole new pet.

Neuschwander, Cindy. **Sir Cumference and all the king's tens: a math adventure**. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2009. Summary: When Sir Cumference and his wife, Lady Di of Ameter, host a massive surprise birthday party for the king, they must figure out quick a way to count all the guests that are in attendance.

Novak, B. J. **The book with no pictures**. New York, New York: Dial Books for Young Readers 2014. Summary: A book with no pictures, the only stipulation being that grownups who read this book to children absolutely must say, or sing, or shout, whatever words are written on the page.

Parr, Todd. **The peace book**. New York: Little, Brown, 2004. Summary: Describes peace as making new friends, sharing a meal, feeling good about yourself, and more.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. **Pictures from our vacation**. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2007. Summary: A brother and sister use their new cameras to take pictures on their summer vacation. When they get home, they realize the pictures do not capture any of their favorite memories.

Pilegard, Virginia Walton. **The warlord's puzzle**. Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub, 2000. Summary: Hoping to avoid punishment for breaking a beautiful tile that was his gift to a Chinese warlord, an artist suggests that the warlord hold a contest to see if anyone can mend it.

Ransom, Jeanie Franz. **What really happened to Humpty?: (from the files of a hard-boiled detective)**. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2010. Summary: Detective Joe Dumpty rushes to investigate the mysterious circumstances under which his older brother, Humpty, fell from a wall on his first day as captain of the new Neighborhood Watch program.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Dirt on their skirts: the story of the young women who won the world championship**. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2000. Summary: Margaret experiences the excitement of watching the 1946 championship game of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League as it goes into extra innings.

Rodriguez, Alex. **Out of the ballpark**. New York: HarperCollins, 2007. Summary: Although Alex is nervous about his role in the approaching baseball playoffs and championship game, he soon figures out how to fix his mistakes and become a better player.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Amelia and Eleanor go for a ride**. New York: Scholastic Press, 1999. Summary: A fictionalized account of the night Amelia Earhart flew Eleanor Roosevelt over Washington, D.C. in an airplane.

Smith, Lane. **John, Paul, George & Ben**. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2006. Summary: A humorous look at five of our country's founding fathers.

Steig, William. **C D B!**. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000. Summary: Letters and numbers are used to create the sounds of words and simple sentences 4 u 2 figure out with the aid of illustrations.

Stein, David Ezra. **Interrupting chicken**. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2010. Summary: Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story, but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale.

Teague, Mark. **How I spent my summer vacation**. New York: Dragonfly Books, 1997, 1995. Summary: A schoolboy tells his class about his summer vacation, during which he joined a group of cowboys and stopped a cattle stampede.

Tripp, Paul. **Tubby the tuba**. New York, Dutton Children's Books, 2006. Summary: Tubby the Tuba is sad because he never gets to play melody in his orchestra. A frog teaches Tubby that every instrument can play melody.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **The wretched stone**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1991. Summary: A strange glowing stone picked up on a sea voyage captivates a ship's crew and has a terrible transforming effect on them.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Just a dream**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1990. Summary: When he has a dream about a future Earth devastated by pollution, Walter begins to understand the importance of taking care of the environment.

Verde, Susan. **My kicks: a sneaker story!**. New York, Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017. Summary: A young boy has grown out of his sneakers, but he doesn't want to get rid of them because they tell such great stories. He learns how he can create all new stories with a new pair of kicks.

Verde, Susan. **The water princess**. New York, NY, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2016. Summary: "The story of one young girl's quest to bring clean drinking water to her African village"--Provided by publisher.

Willems, Mo. **Nanette's baguette**. New York, New York, Hyperion Books for Children, 2016. Summary: Rhyming text describes Nanette the frog's first solo trip to the bakery to get the family's baguette. Although Nanette is besieged by many distractions along the way, she succeeds in getting the warm, delicious baguette. However, Nanette cannot resist the baguette's temptation. Now Nanette is full of regrets, but her mama saves the day and shows that she, too, cannot resist a freshly baked baguette!

Wing, Natasha. **When Jackie saved Grand Central: the true story of Jacqueline Kennedy's fight for an American icon**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. Summary: The author presents the little-known true story of the role that Jackie Kennedy played in saving New York City's Grand Central terminal from demolition, a battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court. Includes resources for further information.

Yolen, Jane. **Naming Liberty**. New York: Philomel Books, 2008. Summary: In parallel stories, a Ukrainian Jewish family prepares to emigrate to the United States in the late 1800s and Frederic Auguste Bartholdi designs, raises funds for, and builds the Statue of Liberty in honor of the United States' centennial.