



Reading Around the World THROUGH PICTURE BOOKS

Inspired by David Damrosch's '71, *Around the World in 80 Books*, this suggested reading list loosely parallels the author's literary itinerary. Most of these international works have been created by contemporary children's authors and illustrators who are celebrated in their countries of origin. Some examples of classics from various countries are represented sporadically throughout. Given the global breadth of children's literature, this list is by no means all inclusive. Rather, it is a launching point for an appreciation of children's books throughout the world and the very joy of reading.

EUROPE

DENMARK

The Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen

written by H. C. Andersen,
illustrated by Kay Nielsen

A collection of Hans Christian Andersen's best loved fairy tales illustrated with the magnificent Art Nouveau styled artwork of Kay Nielsen.

FRANCE

Roule galette [Rolling cake]

written by Natha Caputo,
illustrated by Pierre Belvès

A cake cooling on the window sill gets bored, and decides to slide down to the road and go exploring. It rolls across the countryside, sings a little song and escapes from the rabbit, the bear, the wolf... But the clever fox is watching out! A classic of Père Castor Books, published in 1950 and still making children happy.

GERMANY

Märchen der Brüder Grimm [Fairy tales by Brothers Grimm]

written by Jakob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm,
illustrated by Nikolaus Heidelbach

A family collection of 101 fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm, insightfully illustrated by Nikolaus Heidelbach.

IRELAND

The Selfish Giant

written by Oscar Wilde,
illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger

The Selfish Giant won't let the children play in his beautiful garden. But when he tries to wall it off from the world, Winter comes to stay, with nothing but snow and wind and hail, and Spring will not return. It isn't until the Giant realizes his selfishness has been keeping life from his garden that he comes to believe kindness wins out over selfishness.

ITALY

Casa del tempo [The house]

written by Roberto Innocenti,
illustrated by Roberto Piumini;
translated by Patrick Lewis

A stone-and-mortar house watches a century pass and inhabitants come and go.

NETHERLANDS

Kleine Vos [Little Fox]

written by Edward van de Vendel,
illustrated by Marije Tolman;
translated by David Colmer

Father warns Little Fox of the danger all around them. But Little Fox can't help but frolic with butterflies, scavenge for food, and search for new friends. Then one day he takes a tumble, bumps his head, and starts dreaming of things that reflect both the beauty he's seen and the scary things he's heard.

NORWAY

Alle livets farger [All the colors of life]

written and illustrated by Lisa Aisato;
translated by Olivia Lasky

Experience the beauty, joy, and poetry of universal human experiences through this gorgeously illustrated volume from renowned Norwegian artist Lisa Aisato.

POLAND

Auto [Our car]

written by J.M. Brum,
illustrated by Jan Bajtlik

There's nothing better than taking a drive in Dad's car. Join our protagonist and his dad as they go to the carwash, drive through a rainstorm, are tickled by the wind, and more in this bold and sweet story of a boy, his dad, and their car.

SPAIN

El Monstruo de colores *[The color monster]*

written and illustrated by
Anna Llenas

One day, Color Monster wakes up feeling very confused. His emotions are all over the place; he feels angry, happy, calm, sad and scared all at once! To help him, a little girl shows him what each feeling means through color. As this adorable monster learns to sort and define his mixed up emotions, he gains self-awareness and peace as a result.

SWEDEN

Pitschi. Das Kätzchen, das immer etwas anderes wollte. Eine traurige Geschichte, die aber gut aufhört [Pitschi. A kitten who always wanted something else. A sad story with a happy end]

written and illustrated by
Hans Fischer

Dissatisfied with his cathood, Pitschi runs off to try to become a rooster, a goat and finally, a rabbit. Shut in the rabbit hutch at night he nearly dies of fright and cold, till his meowing is heard and he's brought inside for recuperation—and with his first lesson learned.

UNITED KINGDOM

Each Peach Pear Plum

written by Allan Ahlberg,
illustrated by Janet Ahlberg

Rhymed text and illustrations invite the reader to play "I Spy" with a variety of Mother Goose and other folklore characters.

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Magic Doll

written by Adrienne Yabouza,
illustrated by Élodie Nouhen

This beautiful story explores the Akua-Ba fertility figures of the Akan people of Ghana, while also depicting the deep love a mother has for her children.

GHANA

Mama's Amazing Cover Cloth

written by Ruby Goka, illustrated
by Edmund Opare

Do you know that the African woman's cover cloth has many uses? In this book a little girl shares the many uses of her mother's amazing cover cloth.

IVORY COAST

Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, from Farm to Family

written and illustrated by
Elizabeth Zunon

As a little girl and her father work together to make her birthday cake, he tells the story of her Grandpa Cacao, a farmer from the Ivory Coast.

KENYA

Sulwe

written by Lupita Nyong'o,
illustrated by Vashti Harrison

When five-year-old Sulwe's classmates make fun of her dark skin, she tries lightening herself to no avail, but a shooting star's tale of the sisters Night and Day helps her understand there is beauty and worth in every shade.

NIGER

Animal Village

written and illustrated by
Nelda LaTeef

This is an authentic folk tale from the Zarma culture of West Africa about a tortoise who saves her village from the ravages of drought with wisdom passed down from an "old story."

NIGERIA

How the Leopard Got its Claws

written by Chinua Achebe
and John Iroaganachi,
illustrated by Mary Granpré

A mythic tale of a world gone wrong, a kind king leopard rules without force and the animals cooperate with each other until a dog spoils this peaceable kingdom. Originally published by Nwamife, Enugu, one of the first

indigenous Nigerian publishers, in 1972 with black and white illustrations by Per Christiansen and in 1979 with coloured illustrations by Adrienne Kennaway.

SENEGAL

The Talking Baobab Tree

written and illustrated by
Nelda LaTeef

The story is in keeping with traditional Wolof tales which reveal a deep admiration for getting the better of a stronger, more powerful opponent. Wolof proverbs are blended into the story as are the Wolof words: Oubi (open) and jerry-jef (thank you).

SOUTH AFRICA

Grandad Mandela

written by Zazi, Ziwelene & Zindzi
Mandela, illustrated by Sean Qualls

The great-grandchildren of Nelson Mandela ask their grandmother fifteen questions about the former South African president, including from his activism work, his Nobel Peace Prize, and his time in prison.

UGANDA

Sing to the Moon

written by Nansubuga Nagadya
Isdahl, illustrated by Sandra van
Doorn

A touching story about the loving relationship between a boy and his Jjajja (grandfather) and the quiet pleasures of a rainy day.

WEST AFRICA

Songs in the Shade of the Cashew and Coconut Trees

written by Nathalie Soussana
and Jean-Christophe Hoarau,
illustrated by Judith Gueyfier

This is a collection of songs in a wide array of styles—nursery rhymes from Gabon, lullabies from Cape Verde, and rumbas from the Congo—that are performed in more than a dozen languages.

ASIA



CHINA

羽毛 [Feather]

written by Cao Wenxuan,
illustrated by Roger Mello;
translated by Chloe Garcia
Roberts

A single feather, blown about by the wind, asks a variety of birds if she belongs to them but is dismissed time and again until she gives up her quest.

INDIA

नीला सय्यिर [The blue jackal]

written by Shobha Viswanath,
illustrated by Dileep Joshi

Juno the jackal is suddenly treated like a king after he inadvertently dyes his fur blue.

IRAN

آدمب رفیوخ و رشیدد

[The snowman and the sun]

written by Susan Taghdis,
illustrated by Ali Mafakheri;
translated by Azita Rassi

Where does a snowman go when he melts? Where does he go when the sun shines bright and hot? Does he go far away? And will he ever come back? The Snowman and the Sun is a modern-day fable about how our attachments to people and things live on, though they change and sometimes disappear.

ISRAEL

חדר להשכרה [Room for rent]

written by Leah Goldberg,
illustrated by Shmuel Katz;
translated by Jessica Setbon

This simple classic has been the bestselling children's book in Israel for 50 years. Leah Goldberg's rhyming Room for Rent is based on an Eastern European folktale, with an evergreen message of tolerance toward one's neighbors

JAPAN

私は数字を知っている

[I know numbers]

written and illustrated by
Taro Gomi

This cheerful picture book is less about counting and more about exploring the concept of numbers and the many ways they are used, from telling time to keeping score and creating home addresses so mail gets to the right place.

KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)

문팝스 [Moon pops]

written and illustrated by Heena Baek; translated by Jieun Kiaer

A witty, weird, and wonderful spin on a classic Korean folktale; the first picture book to be published in English by internationally acclaimed Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award winner Heena Baek.

LEBANON

أسفار ابن بطوطة المذهلة

[The amazing travels of Ibn Battuta]

written by Fatima Sharafeddine,
illustrated by Intelaq Mohammed Ali

The true story of a fourteenth-century traveler, whose journeys through the Islamic world and beyond were extraordinary for his time.

MALAYSIA

Hayley's Fantastic Fruits

written by Mohana Gill,
illustrated by Tan Vay Fern

Hayley's adventures in Fruitistic will capture the imagination of all children while teaching them that fruits are an essential yet scrumptious part of our lives.

PHILIPPINES

But That Won't Wake Me Up

written by Annie Denise
and Angelika Lumbao,
illustrated by Liza Fores

Tomorrow is a school day. Maya is worried that she won't wake up early. But Nanay has some wonderful ideas on how to wake her up. In English with Filipino (Tagalog) translation.

QATAR

محنة وفسيكرة

[Hamda and Fisaikra]

written by Kaltham Al Ghanem,
illustrated by May Al Mannai

A beautiful retelling of Gulf folklore based on the Cinderella story.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Каштанка [Kashtanka]

written by Anton Chekhov,
illustrated by G. Spirin;
translated by Ronald Meyer

A simple short story of a dog that loses one owner, and finds another, but...will he stay with him or not?

SINGAPORE

The Beaded Slippers

written by Adeline Foo,
illustrated by Lee Kowling

Puteh has a pair of worn, beaded slippers that were given to her by her grandmother. The slippers allow her to enter an imaginary world and re-enact the life of her grandmother as a young Peranakan bride. Was it just Puteh dreaming about the past or are the beaded slippers really that magical?

AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIA

Possum Magic

written by Mem Fox;
illustrated by Julie Vivas

Two Australian possums go in search of the magic that will make the invisible one of them visible.

NEW ZEALAND

The Kuia and the Spider

written by Patricia Grace,
illustrated by Robyn Kahukiwa

Two revered Maori artists, writer Patricia Grace and illustrator Robyn Kahukiwa, have collaborated on this witty tale of an old woman and spider arguing companionably about whose weaving is superior.

ANTARCTICA

Plume: World Explorer

written by Tania McCartney

Plume is not your typical Antarctic penguin. He craves adventure and wants to seize the world he's discovered between the pages of his fantastical Antarctic library (the largest in the Southern Hemisphere). Plume's greatest hope is to grow the hearts and minds of anyone who joins him in boarding the Albatross Express.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

El ascensor [The elevator]

written and illustrated by Yael Frankel; translated by Kit Maude
Every trip changes us, even a trip on the elevator.

BRAZIL

Linhas, rabiscos, letras, palavras. [Lines, squiggles, letters, words]

written by Ruth Rocha, illustrated by Madalena Matoso; translated by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

A child who has not yet learned how to read looks out at the world and sees language as lines and squiggles that don't exactly make pictures but don't seem to make anything else either. Then, when the child starts to go to school and begins to learn his letters, his way of seeing begins to change.

CHILE

Migraciones. Un mundo en movimiento [Migrations. A world in motion]

written by Sofia Montenegro and Claudia Silva; illustrated by Laura Sepúlveda

The societies in which we live today have been formed through the movement of millions of people who leave their countries of origin, and embark on a journey to start a new life. In the 21st century, in a world that seems to be moving faster and faster, it has become urgent and necessary to reflect on what it means to migrate.

COLOMBIA

El perfume del viento [The perfume of the wind]

written by Triunfo Arciniegas, illustrated by Juan Camilo Mayorga

Between the perfume of the wind and the memory of those eternal afternoons that are the wealth of childhood and old age, Triunfo Arciniegas, one of the most versatile authors in Colombian literature, offers an encounter between generations around those difficult questions that we all have to ask at some point.

COSTA RICA

Estos pequeños milagros [These little miracles]

written by Byron Espinoza, illustrated by María Zúñiga

The colors of the world come together in the words that a father dedicates to his daughter.

PERU

El hambriento lobo feroz [The hungry big bad wolf]

written by Isabel Menéndez Ibárcena, illustrated by De Luis Da Ponte

The story of a wolf who is very, very hungry and finds himself in the middle of the forest. In his search to find something to eat, he sees various characters, such as a pig, a girl and a boy. Every time he is about to pounce on them to eat them, he remembers what happened to his ancestors with similar characters. Will he be able to satisfy his hunger?

VENEZUELA

Opuestos [Opposites]

written and illustrated by Ana Palmero Cáceres

Frogs that go up and iguanas that go down, birds that fly and turtles that swim under the sea are some of the basic opposite concepts in the Kanwa series, a collection that invites you to play based on an ingenious reinterpretation of geometric patterns present in the basketry of the Ye'kuana ethnic group, inhabitants of the heart of the Amazon jungle.

NORTH AMERICA

CANADA

The Hockey Sweater

written by Roch Carrier, illustrated by Sheldon Cohen

With every boy in a small Quebec town wearing the sweater of the Montreal Canadiens to play hockey, one child is horrified when, because of a mail order mix-up, he is forced to wear a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Anita y los dragones

[Anita and the dragons]

written by Hanna Carmona, illustrated by Anna Cunha

Anita watches the dragons high above her as she hops from one cement roof to another in her village in the Dominican Republic. But being the valiant princess she is, she never lets them scare her. Will she be brave enough to enter the belly of the beast and take flight to new adventures?

HAITI

Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings

written by Francie Latour, illustrated by Ken Daley

A young girl has always loved Auntie Luce's paintings—the houses tucked into the hillside, colorful fishing boats by the water, heroes who fought for and won the country's independence. Through Haiti's colors, the girl comes to understand this place her family calls home.

JAMAICA

A Story About Afiya

written by James Berry, illustrated by Anna Cunha

A joyful celebration of a young girl's childhood, written by the late Coretta Scott King and Book Award-winning Jamaican poet James Berry.

MEXICO

Accidente Azul Cielo *[Sky blue accident]*

written by Jorge Luján,
illustrated by Piet Grobler;
translated by Elisa Amado.

In this poem, a little boy falls from his bicycle and crashes into the sky, unleashing a series of amazing events.

UNITED STATES

Goodnight Moon

written by Margaret Wise Brown,
illustrated by Clement Hurd

A little bunny bids goodnight to all the objects in his room before falling asleep.

The Snowy Day

written and illustrated by
Erza Jack Keats

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

written and illustrated by
Eric Carle

This story follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

Where the Wild Things Are

written and illustrated by
Maurice Sendak

Max, a naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

Booklist compiled and arranged by Angela Perna, Librarian, St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's, C.V. Starr Library. Annotations are courtesy of the Library of Congress and WorldCat cataloging-in-publication notes.

