

\*= Outstanding merit



Read-Aloud

## Best Children's Books of the Year



Board Book

## Under Five

(3-5) Suggested age range

## 2012 Edition

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### **A Is for Autumn**

written and illustrated by Robert Maass  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9093-2  
In an ABC book, strong seasonal concepts are supported by vibrant photographs of autumn. (3-6)



### **Animal Baths**

written and illustrated by Bob Barner  
(Chronicle, \$15.99) 978-1-4521-0056-2  
A spirited, rhyming text and brilliantly colored collage art highlight various animals' bathing habits and connect them playfully to a child's bath time. (4-6)

### **\*Back to School Tortoise**

by Lucy M. George, illustrated by Merel Eyckerman  
(Albert Whitman, \$15.99) 978-0-8075-0510-6  
Tortoise shows us that all sorts of creatures can feel nervous on the first day of school. Whimsical watercolors add to the text. (4-6)

### **A Ball for Daisy**

conceived and illustrated by Chris Raschka  
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-375-85861-1  
What's a dog to do when his favorite toy is destroyed? Bold line drawings capture the anguish and humor in this wordless book. (3-4)

### **Bedtime for Bear**

written and illustrated by Brett Helquist  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-050205-8  
Bear and his raccoon friends enjoy a final romp in the snow before he settles in for the winter. Joyous color paintings. (3-5)

### **Before You Came**

by Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan  
Charest, illustrated by David Diaz  
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-051234-7  
A mother shares her happy memories with her child. Poetic language and bold, colorful images. (4-6)

### **The Belly Book**

by Fran Manushkin, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino  
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-0-312-64958-6  
Bright watercolors and clever rhyme celebrate all the different types of stomachs. (3-5)

### **Big Brothers Don't Take Naps**

by Louise Borden, illustrated by Emma Dodd  
(McElderry/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-5503-0  
Will Nicholas be able to be a great big brother just like James? Digital illustrations show the boys' adventures together as they prepare for a new family development. (4-6)



### **The Bippolo Seed and Other Lost Stories**

written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss, introduction by Charles D. Cohen  
(Random House, \$15.00) 978-0-375-86435-3  
Seven stories published in magazines in 1950 and 1951 contain delightful, quirky, and imaginative characters, sounds, and plots. (3-6)



### **Blue Chameleon**

written and illustrated by Emily Gravett  
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1958-2  
Chameleon tries to find a friend by changing his color and shape. Intriguing, humorous crayon and pencil drawings. (4-6)

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**Bug and Bear: A Story of True Friendship**

by Ann Bonwill, illustrated by Layn Marlow  
(Marshall Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5902-6  
Bug and Bear find out what friendship is all about.  
Mixed-media illustrations in muted colors. (4-6)



**\*Busy Elephants**

by John Schindel, illustrated by Martin Harvey  
(Tricycle/Random House, \$6.99)  
978-1-58246-383-4  
Rhymed couplets describe a broad range of  
elephant behavior. Illuminating photographs. (2-4)

**Cat Secrets**

written and illustrated by Jef Czekaj  
(Balzer +Bray/Harper Collins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-192088-2  
This book is for cats only—and for YOU, if you can  
pass the test. Bold colorful cartoon-like  
illustrations. (3-5)

**Chicken, Chicken, Duck!**

written and illustrated by Nadia Krilanovich  
(Tricycle/Random House, \$14.99)  
978-1-58246-385-8  
The names and sounds of the animals under the  
leadership of duck are portrayed with lively  
illustrations. (2-3)

**Chicks Run Wild**

by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen, illustrated by Ward  
Jenkins  
(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-0673-5  
When Mama tucks in her chicks, they are not ready  
to go to sleep. Fun, bright illustrations. (3-6)

**A Christmas Goodnight**

by Nola Buck, illustrated by Sarah Jane Wright  
(HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-166491-5  
A soothing bedtime book teaches toddlers about  
the Nativity story. Simple illustrations in vivid  
colors. (2-4)

**Colores de la Vida: Mexican Folk Art Colors in  
English and Spanish**

by Cynthia Weill, illustrated with photographs of  
Oaxacan folk art  
(Cinco Puntos, \$14.95) 978-1-933693-82-8  
On double pages, vibrant colors are presented with  
the name of each in English and Spanish. (3-6)

**Cookiebot!: A Harry and Horsie Adventure**

by Katie Van Camp, illustrated by Lincoln Agnew  
(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-197445-8  
When the cookies are out of reach, Harry and  
Horsie know what to do—build a robot! Bold,  
exciting digital illustrations. (3-5)



**Cows to the Rescue**

written and illustrated by John Himmelman  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9249-3  
After they get the Greenstalk family to the fair, the  
cows must keep saving the day. Bright, amusing  
watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

**Creepy Monsters, Sleepy Monsters: A Lullaby**

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Kelly Murphy  
(Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-4201-3  
Despite their busy day, these monsters are not  
quite ready for bed. Colorful, mixed-media  
illustrations imbue each monster with personality.  
(2-4)

**Eddie Gets Ready for School**

written and illustrated by David Milgrim  
(Scholastic, \$8.99) 978-0-545-27329-9  
Eddie can get ready for school all by himself....well,  
*maybe* with a little adult help. Humorous, colorful  
illustrations. (4-6)

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### **Edwin Speaks Up**

by April Stevens, illustrated by Sophie Blackall  
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-375-85337-1

Baby Edwin has a way with words that his family doesn't appreciate. Delicate ink and watercolor illustrations add humor and quirky charm. (4-6)

### **\*Everything Goes: On Land**

written and illustrated by Brian Biggs  
(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$14.99)  
978-0-06-195809-0

In this dizzy cartoonish adventure, a boy and his father journey through streets crowded with vehicles to pick up mom from the train station. (2-5)

### **Farmyard Beat**

by Lindsey Craig, illustrated by Marc Brown  
(Knopf/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86455-1  
When these farmyard animals can't sleep, their rhyming and rhythmic noise gets everyone dancing to the beat. Bright, textured collage artwork complements the text. (3-5)

### **Follow Me**

written and illustrated by Tricia Tusa  
(Harcourt/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-27201-6  
An imaginative game is described in simple, playful language and pictures. (3-6)

### **\*Fortune Cookies**

by Albert Bitterman, illustrated by Chris Raschka  
(Beach Lane/S&S, \$14.99) 978-1-4169-6814-6  
Pull the tabs to find out what each fortune cookie says. Whimsical, loose watercolors depict a little girl and her good-luck story. (3-5)

### **George Flies South**

written and illustrated by Simon James  
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-07636-5724-6  
Baby bird George is afraid to leave the nest despite his mother's urgings that it is time to fly south, until a gust of wind sends him airborne and he discovers the pleasures of flight. Amusingly detailed ink and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### **Good Night, Chickie**

written and illustrated by Émile Jadoul  
(Eerdmans, \$13.99) 978-0-8028-5378-3  
Chickie and his toy bunny need constant reassurance that mother is nearby at sleep time. Bold, evocative color illustrations. (3-5)



### **Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site**

by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld  
(Chronicle, \$16.99) 978-0-8118-7782-4  
In a soothing, rhyming text, a group of busy construction vehicles settle down for the night. Richly colored illustrations with just enough detail and character. (4-6)

### **\*Gracie the Lighthouse Cat**

written and illustrated by Ruth Brown  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, \$16.95)  
978-0-7613-7454-1  
Two stories, one in pictures and one in words, tell the true tale of a shipwreck and the rescue of a kitten. Realistic watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### **\*Grandpa Green**

written and illustrated by Lane Smith  
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-59643-607-7  
A walk through Grandpa's garden reveals the richness of his life through the topiaries he sculpts. Stunning and poignant mixed-media artwork reflects the milestones. (4-7)

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## 2012 Edition

### Happy Birthday, Big Bad Wolf

written and illustrated by Frank Asch  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55337-368-1  
When B. B. Wolf arrives at the Pigs' house with supper in mind, Little Pig turns the tide by transforming the visit into a surprise birthday party! Clear, simple, appealing illustrations. (3-6)



### Happy Birthday, Hamster

by Cynthia Lord, illustrated by Derek Anderson  
(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-25522-6  
It's hamster's birthday, but his best friend is too busy to notice—or is he? Exuberant acrylic paintings (4-7)

### Hogwash!

by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jim McMullan  
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$16.99)  
978-0-316-98840-7  
When Farmer sets out to scrub all the animals, the pigs display inventive resistance, proving that mud has its merits. Verse with clever watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

### Homer the Library Cat

by Reeve Lindbergh, illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3448-3  
Homer searches for a quiet place in a noisy world. Will he find it? Watercolor and collage illustrate the rhythmic, rhyming text. (4-6)

### How to Teach a Slug to Read

by Susan Pearson, illustrated by David Slonim  
(Marshall Cavendish, \$16.99) 978-0-7614-5805-0  
A little boy gives good advice to a slug mother about all the benefits of reading and how to teach her little one to read. Colorful, bold illustrations. (4-6)



### I Like Vegetables

written and illustrated by Lorena Siminovich  
(Templar Books/Candlewick, \$6.99)  
978-0-7636-5283-8  
Touch them—see them—eat them later! Bold, colorful collages. (2-3)

### \*I Love to Sing

written and illustrated by Anna Walker  
(Simon & Schuster, \$9.99) 978-1-4169-8322-4  
A zebra and his dog friend enjoy singing exuberantly in many places. Simple but expressive ink illustrations. (2-4)

### I Want a Party!

written and illustrated by Tony Ross  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, \$16.95)  
978-0-7613-8089-4  
The Little Princess organizes the best party ever—except for one important detail. Humorous details and illustrations. (4-6)

### I'm a Shark

written and illustrated by Bob Shea  
(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-199846-1  
What? A shark that's scared of spiders? Enjoy this clever play about a fearsome sea creature with a tender side. (4-6)



### Ice

conceived and illustrated by Arthur Geisert  
(Enchanted Lion, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-098-1  
Running out of water, a community of pigs takes off in a flying boat to haul an iceberg back to their desert island. Minutely detailed etchings illustrate this wordless adventure. (4-7)

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### **If You're Hoppy**

by April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic

(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-156634-9

Lively watercolors accompany this simple reworking of the song, inviting enthusiastic participation. (3-5)

### **In the Meadow**

by Yukiko Kato, illustrated by Komako Sakai

(Enchanted Lion, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-108-7

A young girl in Japan explores the area around a river in this first book of a series. Soft acrylic and oil pencil illustrations. (3-5)

### **\*Is Everyone Ready for Fun?**

written and illustrated by Jan Thomas

(Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$12.99)

978-1-4424-2364-0

Three cows think chicken's sofa will be a good place to have fun. Chicken is not so sure. Bright digital art. (2-4)

### **Itsy Mitsy Runs Away**

written and illustrated by Elanna Allen

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-0671-1

A little girl packs liberally, with suggestions from dad, so she can run away and avoid bedtime. (3-5)

### **Jonathan and the Big Blue Boat**

written and illustrated by Philip C. Stead

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-1-59643-562-9

Jonathan captains a big blue ocean liner as he searches for his beloved teddy bear. The fascinating illustrations combine digitally manipulated collage, pen and ink, and watercolor. (4-7)

### **King Jack and the Dragon**

by Peter Bentley, illustrated by Helen Oxenbury  
(Dial/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3698-6

Three boys bravely defend their castle, but others are taken by giants. Can Jack save his kingdom alone? Detailed, expressive illustrations. (3-5)

### **Kitten's Winter**

written and illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes  
(Kids Can Press, \$14.95) 978-1-55453-343-5

Bright and beautiful collages follow a kitten's journey in the natural world on a blizzard day. (2-6)

### **Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Are You Going to Sleep?**

by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson, illustrated by Laura J. Bryant

(Marshall Cavendish, \$15.99) 978-0-7614-5946-0

It's time for bed, but creative distractions delay the inevitable in a warm, relaxed atmosphere. Soft watercolors. (2-5)

### **Lala Salama: A Tanzanian Lullaby**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4747-6

Following a day's activities, this gentle story details the loving world of a Tanzanian baby. Warm oil paintings. (2-6)



### **A Little Bitty Man and Other Poems for the Very Young**

by Halfdan Rasmussen, translated by Marilyn Nelson and Pamela Espeland, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-2379-1

These original translations of nursery rhymes and nonsense verses are accompanied by delightful acrylic and charcoal-pencil illustrations. (3-6)

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### **\*Little Chicken's Big Day**

written by Jerry Davis and Katie Davis, illustrated by Katie Davis

(McElderry/S&S, \$14.99) 978-1-4424-1401-3

When Little Chicken falls behind on a day out, he finds himself lost, but luckily his mama is just a cluck away. Bright, outlined characters. (3-5)

### **Little Mist**

by Angela McAllister, illustrated by Sarah Fox-Davies

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86788-0

Little Mist, a snow leopard cub, is led from his den out into the mountain world in which he will spend his life. Soft watercolor and pencil illustrations. (3-7)

### **Little Pig Joins the Band**

written and illustrated by David Hyde Costello (Charlesbridge, \$14.95) 978-1-58089-264-3

Too small to play an instrument like his sisters and brothers, Little Pig finds a way to help them make music together. Cheerful ink and watercolor drawings. (3-5)

### **Little White Rabbit**

written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes

(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-200642-4

Using his imagination, a little white rabbit tries out being tall or green or hard as stone. Simple acrylic and colored pencil illustrations. (2-5)

### **Love, Mouserella**

written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$15.99)

978-0-399-25410-9

After Grandmouse's departure, Mouserella writes her a letter, sharing thoughts and adventures.

Vibrant illustrations along with Mouserella's own drawings adorn every page. (3-5)

### **Mary Had a Little Lamb**

by Sarah Josepha Hale, illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith

(Marshall Cavendish, \$12.99) 978-0-7614-5824-1

Enjoy this lively reworking of the familiar rhyme, capturing the lighthearted mood of the text.

Illustrations combine gouache, acrylic, and fabric collage. (2-5)

### **Meow Said the Cow**

written and illustrated by Emma Dodd

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99)

978-0-545-31861-7

All of the animals are making the wrong sounds.

Digitally created art adds to the fun on this lively farm. (3-5)

### **Mitchell's License**

by Hallie Durand, illustrated by Tony Fucile

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4496-3

Almost four years old, Mitchell gets a license to drive his remote-control dad to bed. Digital illustrations enhance the humor. (3-4)

### **My Kitten**

by Margaret O'Hair, illustrated by Tammie Lyon

(Marshall Cavendish, \$15.99) 978-0-7614-5811-1

A kitten's busy day is described in rhythmic text and bright, colorful gouache illustrations. (3-5)

### **\*My Name is Elizabeth!**

by Annika Dunklee, illustrated by Matthew Forsythe

(Kids Can Press, \$14.95) 978-1-55453-560-6

Elizabeth hates it when people call her by a nickname. Can she get them to stop? Expressive, bright multimedia illustrations. (4-6)

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### **The Neighborhood Sing-Along**

written and illustrated by Nina Crews  
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-185063-9

Classic songs across cultures are a must for new parents and early educators. Multicultural photographs. (3-7)

### **\*A New Year's Reunion**

by Yu Li-Qiong, illustrated by Zhu Chen-Liang  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5881-6

Maomao's father works far away and only comes home for New Year's, but the family finds a way to stay connected all year long. Illustrations portray the emotional bond. (4-7)

### **No Sleep for the Sheep!**

by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by Jackie Urbanovic  
(Harcourt/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-15-204969-0

Sheep is trying to get a good night's rest in the red barn. As each animal wakes him up, he lures it in to go to sleep. At rooster's call, everyone gets up—except Sheep. Amusing watercolor illustrations. (3-5)

### **Noodle & Lou**

by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Arthur Howard  
(Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$15.99)

978-1-4424-0288-1

Noodle, a small worm who is feeling blue, learns to see his good points, thanks to his bird friend Lou. Cartoonish watercolors. (3-6)

### **Not Inside This House!**

by Kevin Lewis, illustrated by David Ercolini  
(Orchard/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-439-43981-7

Livingstone cleverly devises a way to make his mother accept his interest in bugs. Humorously told in rhyme with bold, colorful art. (4-6)

### **One Foot Two Feet: An Exceptional Counting Book**

written and illustrated by Peter Maloney and Felicia Zekauskas

(G. P. Putnam's/Penguin, \$12.99)

978-0-399-25446-8

Children are introduced to counting, prediction and the language of irregular plurals. Simple, clear illustrations. (4-7)



### **\*One, Two, Buckle My Shoe: A Counting Nursery Rhyme**

written and illustrated by Salina Yoon

(Robin Corey Books/Random House, \$6.99)

978-0-375-86479-7

A tiny mouse leads the fun through cut squares that peek into colorful circus scenes with plenty to count on every page. (1-3)



### **A Pet for Petunia**

written and illustrated by Paul Schmid

(HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-196331-5

Petunia learns the hard way why skunks don't make good pets. Pencil and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

### **The Pet Shop Revolution**

written and illustrated by Ana Juan

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99)

978-0-545-12810-0

Can a young girl free the caged animals in cruel Mr. Walnut's pet store and reclaim her missing rabbit? Fanciful, animated, detailed, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

### **Pig Pig Returns**

written and illustrated by David McPhail

(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-356-5

Will Mother and Fluffy miss Pig Pig if he goes on vacation with his aunt and uncle? Will they have forgotten him when he comes home? Watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

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### **Pirates Don't Take Baths**

written and illustrated by John Segal  
(Philomel/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25425-3  
A piglet uses his most persuasive argument to avoid taking a bath, but his mother cleverly points out the errors in his logic. Fanciful pencil and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

### **\*Press Here**

written and illustrated by Hervé Tullet  
(Chronicle, \$14.99) 978-0-8118-7954-5  
Vivid energetic dots frolic across the page with a tap, a rub, or a shake. Fabulous interactive activities. (1-4)



### **Pumpkin Trouble**

written and illustrated by Jan Thomas  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-169284-0  
Duck's attempt to carve a jack-o'-lantern leads to a humorous misunderstanding. Colorful illustrations. (3-5)

### **\*The Queen of France**

by Tim Wadham, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton  
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4102-3  
Rose imagines herself queen for the day and her parents play along. Realistic ink, watercolor, and gouache drawings enhance the humor. (3-5)



### **Rah, Rah, Radishes!: A Vegetable Chant**

written and illustrated by April Pulley Sayre  
(Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$15.99)  
978-1-4424-2141-7  
Wonderful photographs with rhyming text encourage readers to eat and enjoy all kinds of vegetables. (3-5)

### **The Rain Train**

by Elena de Roo, illustrated by Brian Lovelock  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5313-2  
A child's dream of sleeping through a night aboard the Rain Train is told in rhythmic text. Watercolor and ink illustrations. (3-5)

### **Raj the Bookstore Tiger**

by Kathleen T. Pelley, illustrated by Paige Keiser  
(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-230-8  
A happy cat's life in a bookstore is interrupted by the arrival of Snowball, another cat. Soft watercolor and pencil illustrations help move the story along. (4-6)

### **Red Sled**

written and illustrated by Lita Judge  
(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-2007-6  
In this nearly wordless romp, a succession of forest animals join bear on a wild sled ride down a snowy slope. Joyous pencil and watercolor illustrations. (2-5)

### **Red Wagon**

written and illustrated by Renata Liwska  
(Philomel/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25237-2  
Lucy wants to play with her new wagon, but her mother needs her to go to the market first. Whimsical pencil and digital illustrations. (3-5)



### **RRRalph**

written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert  
(Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$17.99)  
978-1-4424-1305-4  
Vibrant collage illustrations depict an endearing black-and-white talking (wait—is that possible?) dog. (3-5)



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### **Samantha on a Roll**

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Christine Davenier (FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-36399-4  
Rollicking rhymes tell the story of Sammy's hilarious "roll" through town on her new skates as she disrupts a wedding and other activities. Simple but amusing visuals. (4-6)

### **\*Say Hello to Zorro!**

written and illustrated by Carter Goodrich (Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-3893-4  
Everything is just the way Mister Bud likes it—until a stranger arrives and disturbs his schedule. Humorous watercolors. (4-6)



### **Say What?**

by Angela DiTerlizzi, illustrated by Joey Chou (Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-8694-2  
What do animals really mean when you hear them make sounds? Rhyming word play and bold whimsical illustrations. (2-5)

### **Scrawny Cat**

by Phyllis Root, illustrated by Alison Friend (Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4164-1  
Will a lost, lonely, hungry cat find someone to love her? Painterly background scenery accompanies the adventures. (3-6)

### **Sea of Dreams**

conceived and illustrated by Dennis Nolan (Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-59643-470-7  
A girl builds a sand castle which takes on a life of its own in this wordless, nautical fantasy. Peaceful watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### **Shoe-la-la!**

by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-06705-8  
Shopping for shoes is such a dilemma! But four friends manage to end up with the perfect pairs. Lively, colorful illustrations. (4-6)



### **Shout! Shout it Out!**

written and illustrated by Denise Fleming (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9237-0  
Shout letters, numbers, colors, animals, and more along with Fleming's exuberant kids. Pulp-painted collages. (3-5)

### **\*The Sniffles for Bear**

by Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton (Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4756-8  
When bear catches a cold, Mouse's cheerful efforts to make him feel better only make him grumpier. (4-6)

### **Snowy Valentine**

written and illustrated by David Petersen (Harper/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-0-06-146378-5  
Jasper Bunny wants inspiration from his forest neighbors to help him find the perfect gift for his wife, but discovers answers closer to home. Colorful, bright paintings. (3-5)

### **Spring is Here**

written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8324-1602-8  
Mole's impatience to share the arrival of springtime with bear is enlivened by colorful mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read-Aloud

## Best Children's Books of the Year



Board Book

## Under Five

(3-5) Suggested age range

## 2012 Edition



### \*Stars

by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Marla Frazee  
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$16.00)  
978-1-4424-2249-0

“What if you could be a star?” Let your mind wander as you wonder about these marvelous shapes. Whimsical illustrations in graphite and gouache add joy. (2-5)

### Stop Snoring, Bernard!

written and illustrated by Zachariah Ohora  
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9002-4  
Bernard loves nap time but those around him can't stand his loud snoring. Will Bernard find a place to sleep? Bold acrylic illustrations add humor and help convey emotions. (3-6)

### The Sunflower Sword

by Mark Sperring, illustrated by Miriam Latimer  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, \$16.95)  
978-0-7613-7486-2

A young “knight” spends a day vanquishing imaginary dragons with his sunflower sword, but when a real dragon arrives, something surprising happens. Exuberant, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

### Super-Dragon

by Steven Kroll, illustrated by Douglas Holgate  
(Marshall Cavendish, \$16.99) 978-0-7614-5819-7  
A young dragon's persistence and determination in learning to fly pays off. Colorful cartoon drawings add to the fun. (4-6)

### The Talent Show

written and illustrated by Jo Hodgkinson  
(Andersen Press/Lerner Books, \$16.95)  
978-0-7613-7487-9  
Four animals decide to enter a contest with their band, but something is missing—a singer. The auditions have a surprising result. Humorous illustrations. (4-6)

### This Baby

by Kate Banks, illustrated by Gabe Swiatkowska  
(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-37514-0  
Expressive, lyrical language captures a child's happy anticipation of her soon-to-be-born sibling. Imaginative paintings. (4-7)

### The Twins' Blanket

written and illustrated by Hyewon Yum  
(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374037972-8  
What happens when the shared blanket became too small for five-year-old girls? Exquisitely designed with rich, colorful illustrations. (3-6)

### The Umbrella

conceived and illustrated by Ingrid and Dieter Schubert  
(Lemniscaat, \$16.95) 978-193595-5400-2  
In this wordless book, the wind carries a small, black dog and a red umbrella to many places where they encounter all sorts of animals. Full-page oil paintings. (3-5)

### What Is Your Dog Doing?

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Kathleen Habbley  
(Atheneum/S&S, \$12.99) 978-1-4169-7931-9  
A simply told look at various dog activities—including shedding—is illustrated with bright digital pictures. (4-6)

### What's in the Witch's Kitchen?

written and illustrated by Nick Sharratt  
(Candlewick Press, \$12.98) 978-0-7636-5224-1  
Two-way opening flaps provide twice the fun in this simple Halloween celebration. Bold digital illustrations. (4-6)

### \*Where's Walrus?

conceived and illustrated by Stephen Savage  
(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-439-7009-8  
Walrus leaves the zoo in search of adventure in this delightful, wordless book. Digital collage-like illustrations. (4-6)

\*= Outstanding merit



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**\*Who Has What?: All About Girls' Bodies and Boys' Bodies**

by Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-2931-1  
Similarities and differences between genders are cleverly explored through dialog between a brother and sister. Colorful, explicit illustrations. (3-6)

**Without You**

written and illustrated by Geneviève Côté  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-620-7  
Two animal friends argue and try doing things apart, but they discover that life is more fun together. Sweet, simple mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)



**\*The World Champion of Staying Awake**

by Sean Taylor, illustrated by Jimmy Liao  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4957-9  
Young Stella helps her three stuffed animals find their way to dreamland. Soft watercolors depict both the realistic and fantastic. (3-5)

**Worms for Lunch?**

written and illustrated by Leonid Gore  
(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-24338-4  
Simple text and bold, die-cut acrylic illustrations show what different animals enjoy for lunch. (4-6)

**Write On, Carlos!**

written and illustrated by Stuart J. Murphy  
(Charlesbridge, \$14.95) 978-1-58089-464-7  
Young Carlos learns to write a very important word—his name! Cheerful cartoon-like illustrations. (3-5)

**\*You Will Be My Friend**

written and illustrated by Peter Brown  
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$6.99) 978-0-316-07030-0  
Lucy Bear tries very hard to make a new friend. Maybe too hard. Bold multimedia illustrations add to the humor. (4-6)



**ZooZical**

by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown  
(Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)  
978--0-375-86847-4  
To ward off the doldrums when the zoo is closed by a snow storm, the animals prepare a musical jamboree and display their talents. Rollicking rhyming text and colorful gouache illustrations. (4-6)