

Picture This

2014 Convention

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature committee

***Books to be discussed in this session**

The 100 Year Starship. Jemison, Mae and Rau, Dana Meachen (2013).

Will we travel to other stars someday? This book tells about the group of people working on being able to travel to other stars and planets. Non-fiction book done well and engages young students. Grades 3-5.

The Adventures of a South Pole Pig. Kurtz, Chris (2013) illus. Reinhardt, Jennifer Black. Flora the pig ditches the sedentary life on the farm for an adventure in Antarctica, where she escapes the knife and lives her dream of pulling a sled with a team of dogs. Grades K-4.

***Battle Bunny.** Scieszka, Jon and Barnett, Mac (2013) illus. Myers, Matthew.

Alex, whose birthday it is, hijacks a story about Birthday Bunny on his special day and turns it into a battle between a supervillain and his enemies in the forest. Grades 1-3.

Becoming Babe Ruth. Tavares, Matt (2013).

Tavares has written an engaging biography of one of America's most iconic baseball players, Babe Ruth. A book for young fans of baseball and anyone who has a passion they want to pursue. The story tells of George (Babe) Ruth, his years in a boys' home, his passion for the game, and the one person who always believed in him. Beautiful illustrations help move the story along. Grades 1-3.

Bedtime Math; A Fun Excuse to Stay Up Late. Overdeck, Laura (2013) illus. Paillot, Jim. Whoever imagined doing Math at bedtime? The authors of *Bedtime Math* want everyone to start. Inside this book, families will find fun, mischief-making math problems to tackle—math that isn't just kid-friendly, but actually kid-appealing. And with three different levels of challenge (wee ones, little kids, and big kids), there's something for everyone. Grades PreK-2.

***Ben Rides On.** Davies, Matt (2013).

Ben rides his new bicycle the very, very long way to school but Adrian Underbite, perhaps the world's largest third-grader, takes the bike anyway and later, when Ben finds Adrian in trouble, he must decide whether or not to help the larcenous bully. Grades 1-3.

***The Blessing Cup.** Polacco, Patricia (2013).

A family's history from the time they were forced out of Russia to their lives in the United States is told through the story of a single china cup which was passed down from generation to generation. Grades 1-4.

Bogart and Vinnie: A Completely Made-Up Story of True Friendship. Vernick, Audrey (2013) illus. Cole, Henry.

Vinnie, a crazy happy dog, finds a most unlikely companion when visiting a nature preserve. Grades 1-3.

***Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909.** Markel, Michelle (2013) illus. Sweet, Melissa.

When Clara Lemlich arrived in America, she went to night school, spent hours studying English, and helped to support her family by sewing in a factory, but when she got fed up with the mistreatment of her fellow workers, she led the largest walkout of women workers in the country. Grades K-3

Bugs in My Hair! Shannon, David (2013).

When a boy gets head lice, he feels shamed and humiliated, but he and his mom learn all about the unwelcome critters and how to get rid of them. Humorous. Grades K-3.

Building Our House. Bean, Jonathan (2013).

In this unique construction book for kids who love tools and trucks, readers join a girl and her family as they pack up their old house in town and set out to build a new one in the country. Mom and Dad are going to make the new house themselves, from the ground up. From empty lot to finished home, every stage of their year-and-a-half building project is illustrated. Sequencing, how-to, prediction. Grades PreK-2.

***Charley's First Night.** Hest, Amy (2012) illus. Oxenbury, Helen.

A boy tells the loving story of how his new puppy and he bond during the puppy's first night home. Grades PreK-2.

Cookie, the Walker. Monroe, Chris (2013).

Cookie the dog doesn't walk like other dogs. She walks on her hind legs, and what a sight that is! Cookie's walking catches the attention of a show producer, who turns her into a star. With fame come benefits: bacon, candy, a fanny pack, her own mini-fridge. But the more Cookie walks, the more people expect from her and Cookie's legs are getting tired. Will Cookie keep walking for fame and fortune or stand down and get her life back? Ideas, compare/contrast, voice. Grades K-2.

Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg. Mortensen, Lori (2013) illus. Austin, Michael Allen.

Cowpoke Clyde's house was completely clean—he'd even shooed off the horseflies: "Then right behind his cookin' pot, / he spied one thing he'd plumb forgot: / ol' Dawg, his faithful, snorin' friend, / all caked with mud from end to end." Needless to say, Dawg wakes up and runs. The chase that follows—with page-turn surprises—makes for a hilarious shaggy-dog story involving fleas, a hog, bribery, cats, deception, and a mule. The rhyming stanzas are pitch-perfect, Texas-style, and plumb near cry out to be read aloud. Austin's expressive acrylic and colored-pencil caricatures of Cowpoke Clyde and his menagerie are priceless. A storytime shoo-in! Grades K-1.

***Crankee Doodle.** Angleberger, Tom (2013) illus. Bell, Cece.

A pony tries to convince his cranky owner to take a ride into town. Includes notes about the song Yankee Doodle. Grades PreK-2.

***The Dark.** Snicket, Lemony (2013) illus. Klassen, Jon.

Laslo is afraid of the dark. It mostly lives in the basement but one night comes to visit him in his room. This story is how Laslo learns to be unafraid. Grades PreK-2.

***The Day the Crayons Quit.** Daywalt, Drew (2013) illus. Jeffers, Oliver.

When Duncun arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them. Great mentor text to teach voice and have students craft from. Grades K-3.

The Deer Watch. Collins, Pat Lowery (2013) illus. Slonim, David.

A father promises his young son that this summer they will see a deer. They set out over the dunes, through the marsh, and into the woods, searching for a white-flag tail, or a set of leaping legs. But deer are hard to find especially if your feet want to dance and your nose tickles until you sneeze. Connections (Owl Moon), sequencing, descriptive language. Grades 1-4.

***The Favorite Daughter.** Say, Allen (2013).

Great story of a daughter feeling comfortable with a name from another culture and how she fit in with those with more common names. Great relationship between father and daughter. Grades K-2.

The First Drawing. Gerstein, Mordicai (2013).

Thirty thousand years ago, an imaginative child sees the shapes of animals in clouds and on the walls of the cave he shares with his family, but no one else can see them until he makes the world's first drawing. Grades K-3.

Flood. Villa, Alvaro F. (2013).

When a flood threatens to destroy a family's home, they must leave. What will they return to once the waters recede? Great to use as a writing project; write what is happening in this all-picture book. Also good to teach how we read the pictures, especially if you are using the Daily Five. Grades K-3.

Flora and the Flamingo. Idle, Molly (2013).

In this wordless book, a tentative partnership blooms into an unlikely friendship between a girl named Flora and a graceful flamingo as they learn at last how to dance together in harmony. Grades PreK-2.

Gone Fishing. Wissinger, Tamera Will (2013) illus. Cordell, Matthew.

In this novel told through poems, nine-year-old Sam loves fishing with his dad, so when his pesky little sister horns in on their fishing trip, he is none too pleased. Includes primer on rhyme, poetry techniques, rhythm, stanzas, and poetic forms. Grades 1-4.

***Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale.** Retold by Divakaruni, Chitra (2013) illus. Waters, Susan Pilgrim.

This folktale from India is similar to *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Grandma sets off through the forest for an extended visit to her relatives and is met by various jungle creatures who want her for lunch. She promises to eat a lot, so she'll be much fatter on the return journey. She is saved on the trip home by being packed in a great gourd and rolled through the forest, and also by her two loyal dogs, who have been watching her home and garden. Repeated line, connections, prediction. Grades PreK-2.

***Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution.**

Brown, Don (2013).

In 1775, when a bookseller named Henry Knox dragged 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston – roughly 300 miles of lakes, forests, mountains, and few roads – it brought the Americans a pivotal victory. Grades 1-4

Henry's Map. Elliot, David (2013).

When Henry, a very particular sort of pig, looks out of his sty, he sees that the farm is a mess and is worried that no one will be able to find anything. He comes up with a plan, embarking on a journey through the farm and drawing a map, while his friends tag along. Grades PreK-2.

The Herd Boy. Daly, Niki (2012).

While doing a good job of caring for his grandfather's sheep and goats on the grasslands of South Africa, young Malusi dreams of everything from owning his own dog to becoming president one day. Grades 1-3.

***Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball.**

Coy, John (2013) illus. Morse, Joe.

Taking over a rowdy gym class before winter vacation is not something James Naismith wants to do. Naismith needs something new and exciting to keep the class engaged. Here's the story of how Naismith invented basketball in 1891. Problem solving. Grades 1-3.

I Can't Do Anything! Robberecht, Thierry (2013) illus. Masson Annick.

What can you do when you aren't allowed to burp, spit, or roll in the mud? *I Can't Do Anything!* is a story about growing up and letting go of immature behaviors at least for the most part! A "Note to Parents" by Tammy L. Hughes, PhD, discusses how children learn, how you might talk with your child about polite and impolite behavior, and provides additional strategies for teaching appropriate behaviors. Grades PreK-1.

***Inside Outside.** Boyd, Lizi (2013).

In this wordless book, a boy and his dog have fun exploring seasonal activities in and outside of their home. Grades PreK-2.

The Invisible Boy. Ludwig, Trudy (2013) illus. Barton, Patrice.

Brian has always felt invisible at school, but when a new student, Justin, arrives, everything changes. Includes questions for discussion and recommended reading for both adults and kids about being introverted and making friends. Grades K-2.

Isabella: Star of the Story. Fosberry, Jennifer (2013) illus. Litwin, Mike.

A little girl pretends to be the characters in classic stories. A clue on the page lets you guess which character could be showing up on the next page. Grades K-2.

***Journey.** Becker, Aaron (2013).

Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination — and unexpected friendship. A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart's desire? With supple line, luminous color, and nimble flights of fancy, author-illustrator Aaron Becker launches an ordinary child on an extraordinary journey toward her greatest and most exciting adventure of all. Grades 1-4.

The Kite That Bridged Two Nations. O'Neill, Alexis (2013) illus. Widener, Terry.

Homan Walsh loved to fly a kite, especially by the great Niagara Falls, so it was no surprise to anyone when he entered a contest to see who could get their kite string to span the falls and bridge two nations although he had to fight the bitter cold and a father who wanted him to focus on studying instead. Includes information telling what has been fictionalized in this story based on a true event in 1848. Grades 2-8.

Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story. Hopkinson, Deborah (2013) illus. Guarnaccia, Steven.

Mikey's dad has left home to fight overseas during World War I, and Mikey wants to do something BIG to help. When his teacher suggests that the class participate in a knitting bee in Central Park to knit clothing for the troops, Mikey and his friends roll their eyes—knitting is for girls! But when the girls turn it into a competition, the boys just have to meet the challenge. Based on a real “Knit-In” event at Central Park in 1918, *Knit Your Bit* shows readers that making a lasting contribution is as easy as trying something new. Grades K-3.

Little Naomi, Little Chick. Golan, Avirama (2012) illus. Karas, Raaya.

Little Naomi has a fun and busy day at preschool and with her family, while Little Chick has a busy, fun day on the farm. PreK-K.

Little Mouse. Murray, Alison (2013).

A little girl explains how she does not always fit her nickname, little mouse, but it is perfect for when she is cuddling with her mother. Grade PreK.

***Little Red Writing.** Holub, Joan (2013) illus. Sweet, Melissa.

An exuberant retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. In which a brave pencil (red) travels through the obstacles of writing a story including the hungry pencil sharpener and eventually saves the day. Grades K-2.

***Locomotive.** Floca, Brian (2013).

A family travels America's new transcontinental railroad in the summer of 1969. Trains, crews, and families travel from plains to mountains to ocean with descriptive sound, speed and strength of the mighty locomotive. Grades 3-5.

***Martin and Mahalia: His Words, Her Song.** Pinkney, Andrea Davis (2013) illus. Pinkney, Brian.

On Aug. 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and his strong voice and powerful message were joined and lifted in song by world-renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. It was a moment that changed the course of history and is imprinted in minds forever. The story of these two powerful voices and lives are told side-by-side – as they would one day walk – following the journey from their youth to a culmination at this historic event. Compare/contrast, biography. Grades 2-4.

***The Matchbox Diary.** Fleischman, Paul (2013) illus. Ibatoulline, Bagram.

A great story to inspire young writers to write their own stories. A young girl finds a cigar box, not full of cigars, but full of memories from her grandfather's past. Together they share in the recounting of her great-grandfather's journey from Italy and his first years in America. Grades 1-4.

***Memoirs of a Hamster.** Scillian, Devin (2013) illus. Bowers, Tim.

A pet hamster is enticed by the family cat to venture outside his well-equipped cage to the sunroom only to very quickly discover life outside his cage is not the best for him. Grades K-2.

***The Mighty Lalouche.** Olshan, Matthew (2013) illus. Blackall, Sophie.

In Paris, France, there lived a humble postman named Lalouche. He was small, but his hands were nimble, his legs were fast, and his arms were strong. When his job was taken by an electric car, he turned to kick-boxing to support himself. Biography, Kick-boxing. Grades K-3.

***Mooncakes.** Seto, Loretta (2013) illus. Benoit, Renne.

A little girl stays up late with her parents, Mama and Baba, to celebrate the Chinese Moon Festival. After lighting paper lanterns and hanging them from a tree, they sit outdoors together eating mooncakes and drinking tea. Best of all, Mama and Baba share three Chinese folktales related to the moon. The story ends when the parents carry their drowsy daughter back inside to bed in her moonlit room. Grades PreK-3.

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild. Brown, Peter (2013).

Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature. Grades K-2.

Mr. Wuffles. Wiesner, David (2013).

Mr. Wuffles ignores all his cat toys but one, which turns out to be a spaceship piloted by small green aliens. When Mr. Wuffles plays rough with the little ship, the aliens must venture into the cat's territory to make emergency repairs. Grades K-4.

My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood. Brown, Tameka Fryer (2013) illus. Evans, Shane. What color is your mood? On a really good day, Jamie feels purple, like the first bite of a juicy cold plum. He enjoys drawing pictures with his crayons, but when his brothers make fun of his drawings, he feels gray like a storm brewing. How can he return to a bright-feeling mood? Adjectives, art/colors, self-awareness. Grades K-2.

My First Day. Page, Robin and Jenkins, Steve (2013) illus. Jenkins, Steve. The first day of life is different for every animal. Human newborns don't do much at all, but some animals hit the ground running. This book reveals how twenty-two different species adapt to that traumatic first few hours of life, with or without parental help. Jenkins's cut-paper illustrations are eye-popping and exquisite as ever. Compare/Contrast. Grades PreK-2.

***No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou.** Greene, Rhonda Gowler (2013) illus. Ajhar, Brian. Big Pirate Pete's treasure map has led him to Seabreezy Library, where Library Lou must convince him that the true treasure is the books. Told in rhyme – very cute. Grades K-2.

Oh! If Only... Foreman, Michael (2013). A remarkably funny chain of events as one young boy and a dog unleash the greatest havoc imaginable. Parallels the *Give a Mouse a Cookie* series. Grades PreK-1.

***Oliver and His Alligator.** Schmid, Paul (2013). Oliver is nervous about the first day of school, so he picks up an alligator at the swamp, just in case. And boy, does it come in handy! Whenever anything scares Oliver—be it a teacher, a classmate, or the prospect of learning everything – the alligator makes the problem go away. Quickly, school becomes much simpler . . . and a little lonely. But Oliver knows just what to do! Paul Schmid's gentle, funny tale about overcoming first day of school jitters is destined to become a modern classic that fans of Olivia and Kevin Henkes's books will love. Grades PreK-1.

***On a Beam of Light; A Story of Albert Einstein.** Berne, Jennifer (2013) illus. Radunsky, Vladimir. Travel along with Einstein on a journey full of curiosity, laughter, and science that shows the powerful difference imagination can make in any life. Grades 2-6.

One-Dog Sleigh. Casanova, Mary (2013) illus. Hoyt, Ard. It's the little girl and her dog from *One-Dog Canoe* in the summer. My second graders enjoyed hearing this and comparing it to the summer version of *One-Dog Canoe*. Grades PreK-2.

***One Gorilla: A Counting Book.** Browne, Anthony (2013). In this elegant counting book, the author-illustrator gives us a vivid presentation of primates from gorillas to gibbons, macaques to mandrills, ring-tailed lemurs to spider monkeys. His flair for facial expressions extends the basic number concept into a look at similarities and differences in our extended family. Counting, compare/contrast, primates. Grades PreK-2.

Open This Little Book. Klausmeier, Jesse (2013) illus. Lee, Suzy.

What will you find when you open this little book? A fun story? Sweet characters? Enticing pictures? Yes! But much more. Open this book and you will find...another book...and another...and another. Debut author Jesse Klausmeier and master book creator Suzy Lee have combined their creative visions to craft a seemingly simple book about colors for the very youngest readers, an imaginative exploration of the art of book making for more sophisticated aficionados, and a charming story of friendship and the power of books for all. Grades PreK-2.

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale. Tonatiuh, Duncan (2013).

When Papa does not return from the North, Pancho sets out to find him with the help of the evil coyote. Grades K-2.

***Papa's Mechanical Fish.** Fleming, Candace (2013) illus. Kulikov, Boris.

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. Grades 2-4.

Peep Leap. Verdick, Elizabeth (2013) illus. Bendall-Brunello, John.

Counting picture book based on the hatching of ten wood duck eggs. Artwork is done with watercolor with colored pencils. Grade PreK.

Penguin Cha-Cha. Valiant, Kristi (2013).

Follow a determined girl named Julia as she tries to join in the fun of a mischievous group of dancing penguins. Set in The Romping Chomping Park and Zoo, author/illustrator Kristi Valiant creates a vibrant, funny, and spirited picture book that will leave young readers shaking their very own tail feathers. Grades K-2.

***Penny and Her Marble.** Henkes, Kevin (2013).

Penny feels guilty after taking a beautiful blue marble that she sees in Mrs. Goodwin's grass, but gets a pleasant surprise when she goes to return it the next day. Grades PreK-2.

Picture a Tree. Reid, Barbara (2013).

Picture a tree, what do you see? This picture book tells us how we can view a tree from every angle and every season. It shows us how to look again and look closer. Tie to close reading, adjectives. Grades PreK-2.

Pug and Other Animal Poems. Worth, Valerie (2013) illus. Jenkins, Steve.

This book examines a wide range of animal behavior, from the fleetingness of a fly sipping spilled milk to the constant steely presence of a powerful bull; we enjoy thoughtful descriptions on each page. Grades 3-5.

***Queenie; One Elephant's Story.** Fenton, Corinne (First U.S. Edition, 2013) illus.

Gouldthorpe, Peter.

As a baby elephant, Queenie was stolen from her mother in India and transported to the Melbourne Zoo. At the age of nine, she was trained to carry passengers on her back for almost 40 years. This non-fiction selection shares her story. Grades 1-3.

Red Kite, Blue Kite. Jiang, Ji-li (2013) illus. Greg, Ruth.

This story relates the author's friend's experiences during the Cultural Revolution in China from around 1966-1976. Wonderfully relates how feelings of flying kites related to freedoms of everyday life that we in America can take for granted. Great resource for teaching about cultural revolutions, positive father-son relationships, and dealing with grown-up problems at an early age. Grades K-4.

***Ribbit.** Folgueira, Rodrigo (2012) illus. Bernatene, Poly.

This cute tale is about friendship. A pig mimics the frogs in hopes of friendship. Climbing trees and speaking their language are just a few of the ways he tries to gain it. Ribbit! Grades K-2.

***Secret Pizza Party.** Rubin, Adam (2013) illus. Salmieri, Daniel.

A delicious tale about a pizza loving raccoon who conjures up a secret pizza party to get his paws on his favorite thing, pizza. Grades 1-4.

Sing. Lichtenheld, Tom (2013) illus. Raposo, Joe.

Cute story about a bird that didn't fit in at first. Then he sings his "own" song and life is grand. You know the song...CD is included. Grades K-1.

***Snippet the Early Riser.** Murguia, Bethanie Deeney (2013).

A little snail who likes to get up early in the morning has trouble waking his sleepy family. Grades PreK-2.

***A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin.** Bryant, Jen (2013) illus. Sweet, Melissa.

Wonderfully written biography of Horace Pippin. Children enjoyed finding out about the real life of an artist and how he was able to create art out of materials he found because he could not afford to purchase new materials. Grades 3-6.

Take Me Out to the Yakyu. Meshon, Aaron (2013).

A little boy's grandfathers, one in America and one in Japan, teach him about baseball and its rich varying cultural traditions. Grades K-2.

That Is Not a Good Idea! Willems, Mo (2013).

When a very hungry fox meets a very plump goose and asks her to dinner, will it go as planned or is there a secret ingredient? Don't forget to listen to the baby geese! Grades K-3.

***That's a Possibility!: A Book About What Might Happen.** Goldstone, Bruce (2013).

With colorful photographs and interactive examples, the author introduces children to the ideas of something being possible, probable, or impossible. Each spread features an easy-to-understand scenario such as dice rolling, with questions about probable outcomes and simple explanations. A good book for explaining important math concepts in a fun way. Probability. Grades K-4.

The Things I Can Do. Mack, Jeff (2013).

Want to see what Jeff drew? It's a book about him and all the things he can do! He can make his own lunch! He can get his own drink. He can take his own bath—pretty cool, don't you think? Get ready for a riotous time as Jeff explains, in words and self-drawn pictures, all the things he can do—in a book he made all by himself! Grades K-1.

***The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf.** Teague, Mark (2013).

Take three little pigs, a somewhat bad wolf, some sody-pop, a bag of potato chips, a few bales of hay, sticks, some mortar and bricks, a little huffing, and a little puffing, and you have a twist on a favorite classic. Your little piggies will squeal in delight! Fractured fairytale. Grades PreK-2.

Thunderstorm. Geisert, Arthur (2013).

Great pictorial of a thunderstorm/tornado going through the mid-western rural area. Details in the etchings are fantastic; portraying human and animal activity before, during, and after a storm. Grades PreK-5.

The Tortoise and the Hare. Pinkney, Jerry (2013).

This companion to the Caldecott Medal-winning *The Lion & the Mouse* is Jerry Pinkney's most stunning masterpiece yet. Even the slowest tortoise can defeat the quickest hare, and even the proudest hare can learn a timeless lesson from the most humble tortoise: Slow and steady wins the race! Here is a superbly-rendered journey from starting line to finish that embodies the bravery, perseverance, and humility we can all find inside ourselves. Grades PreK-3.

***The Very Inappropriate Word.** Tobin, Jim (2013) illus. Coverly, Dave.

Michael loves collecting words, especially those that are unusual, and knowing that one of his new words is naughty does not stop him from sharing it with his friends at school. Grades K-2.

***Who's on First?** Abbott, William 'Bud' and Costello, Lou (2013) illus. Martz, John.

"Who's on first. What's on second. I Don't Know's on third." One of the classic comedy sketches of all time is now transformed into a priceless picture book—and it's a great read for kids of all ages. Follow the mistaken identities, confusion, and lots of laughs as Rabbit and Bear act out this scene. The book will appeal to Abbott and Costello fans, baseball fans, and anyone who enjoys funny banter-driven picture books. Illustrated in full color with slightly retro stylized illustrations. Grades K-4.

Xander's Panda Party. Park, Linda Sue (2013) illus. Phelan, Matt.

Xander planned a panda party. Yes, a dandy whoop-de-do! But Xander was the only panda. Just one panda at the zoo. The Newbery Medal author Linda Sue Park introduces animal taxonomy in a wonderfully engaging way, and the celebrated artist Matt Phelan's charming ink and watercolor paintings are the icing on the cake. A read-aloud whoop-de-do! Grades PreK-1.

The Year of Billy Miller. Henkes, Kevin (2013).

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons. Grades 2-5.