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**DEVELOPING**

Agee, Jon

**Milo's Hat Trick**

ISBN 0786809027

Milo is a pitiful magician, threatened with the cancellation of his show. He determines that he needs a helper and finds one in a bear that he lures into action. Together, they enthrall audiences with their magical mysteries. They sell out the theatre day after day. As winter approaches, Bear grows weary and soon he is soundly asleep for the season. Milo must find a new star for the show...himself!

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Baker, Jeannie

**Home**

ISBN 0066239354

In inspiring collages, Jeanne Baker introduces us to Tracy's neighbourhood as it looks when she is a newborn. In the years between her birth and the birth of her first child, we watch that neighbourhood change through charming and meticulous urban renewal. Our perspective is always through Tracy's bedroom window. Baker does not need text; she lets her artwork present the story.

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Blake, Quentin

**Clown**

ISBN 0099493616

When Clown is thrown out like so much trash, he takes it upon himself to find help for the friends who were unceremoniously dumped there with him. In a series of adventures, he eventually gives help where and when it is needed, only to be rewarded with support for his own quest. Text is not needed to tell Clown's story; Quentin Blake admirably brings him to life through lively and expressive watercolour illustrations.

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Browne, Anthony

**The Shape Game**

ISBN 0374367647

When Anthony's mother determines that her 'boys' need a trip to the art museum, she sets them on a new course for life. They amble through the halls making connections with their own life and taking great delight in what they see. Dad fills the day with daft humour that will have readers laughing out loud at the nonsense. For the trip home Mom provides supplies for a great new game that keeps her sons intrigued and engaged. Watch Browne's art palette change from the day's dreary beginning to its delightful finale!

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Cole, Henry

**On the Way to the Beach**

ISBN 0688175155

Come along with our young narrator as she makes the trek from her house to the nearby beach. As she goes, she passes through the woods, into a salt marsh, over the dunes, and onto the beach. In each habitat, the author provides a foldout spread of the natural world. As readers, we are encouraged to sit and listen to our surroundings and to take note of the beauty that is there. What a great model for young writers to encourage them to write about what they know!

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Dahl, Roald

**The Fantastic Mr. Fox**

ISBN 0141301139

Roald Dahl once said that he was lucky to laugh at the things that made children laugh. Taking that tenet to heart, he has created some of the world's funniest readalouds. Lucky for us! In this short novel, he introduces his eternally memorable characters in the early chapters. He then sends them on a series of adventures that have kids and their parents cheering on the Fox family as they try to outwit the three bumbling farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean. They, in turn, are doing their best to keep their chickens safe from Mr. Fox.

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Davies, Nicola

**Bat Loves the Night**

ISBN 0763624381

Nicola Davies is adept at using dual fonts to create a narrative text, while also incorporating just enough additional factual information to satisfy young researchers. She uses lively and expressive language to tell her story, detailed and delicate paintings to create her characters and their habitat, and a scientific voice to add to our knowledge of the pipistrelle bat and its routines. We see the bat in sweeping landscapes, painted in shades of blue and brown, to give us a sense of its nightly jaunts in search of food for its young.

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Feiffer, Jules

**Bark, George**

ISBN 0062051857

What a perfectly silly book! You just know kids will love it. George creates concern for his mother when he cannot bark like other dogs. Instead, he meows, oinks, quacks and moos. From tiny George a human vet removes all manner of farmyard animal, including a cow. George's mother is ecstatic when the problem seems to be solved. But, you know it doesn't end there. Feiffer's ability to give human traits to these two fine dogs is endearing. Using little background clutter to distract from his characters, and only pastels for colour, he creates a book that will delight even the most serious reader.

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 Fitch, Sheree

**Mable Murple**

ISBN 0385256345

In 'lip-slippery' language Sheree Fitch introduces us to her charming and disarming Mabel. Mabel loves the colour purple and her world is filled with it. She lives in a purple house, and has a purple cat. She wears purple polka dot pajamas and skis on purple snow. Nothing pleases her more than more purple in her already purple world. Rollicking rhyme and tongue-twisting text make this a favoured Read Aloud and one that young readers ask to hear again and again. Imagine their pleasure when they are able to read it to each other.

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 Fitch, Sheree

**There's a Mouse in the House**

ISBN 0385257066

You've never met a mouse like Scheherazade! Mom finds her in the house and her resulting panic demands its demise. Before her son can do the deed, the mouse appeals to his kinder self and asks him to grant her three wishes...a can of pop, some cheese, and a chance to tell her story. What a storyteller she turns out to be; and the young man is soon convinced that Scheherazade will entertain them for a 'thousand' nights with tales of her travels and her many important relatives (Hickory, Dickory and Dock and the Three Blind Mice, to name but a few). Ms. Fitch is as always...hilarious and entertaining.

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🍁 Gay, Marie-Louise                      **Stella, Princess of the Sky**                      ISBN 0888996012

Stella, the big, know-it-all sister and her little, naïve preschooler brother, Sam, are back in their fourth book. For young readers who want familiar characters and funny storylines, they are a #1 hit. Sam has all the questions and Stella has all the answers. As they explore dusk and the night sky, Sam divulges his many fears and Stella assures him that all will be well. When he asks if raccoons wear masks because they are robbers, Stella calms him by saying that they are only going to a costume party. Gay's subdued and quirky watercolours provide a perfect setting for one sibling to learn much from another.

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Graham, Joan B                              **Flicker Flash**                              ISBN 0618311025

What an illuminating and brilliant way to bring poetry to children! In her 23 concrete poems dealing with the many forms of light, Graham creates sparkling, rhythmic images to be interpreted through the graphic illustrations of Nancy Davis. Together they have provided a shining example of word placement, well-chosen text, and dramatically bold art for readers to use when trying their hand at poetry in its most concrete form. Pair this book with Graham's waterlogged *Splish Splash* to provide dramatic appeal for the eye and the mind.

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Grossman, Bill                              **My Little Sister Hugged an Ape**                      ISBN 0517800179

Unmitigated silliness ensues when the little sister from Grossman's first book, *My Little Sister Ate One Hare*, turns her talents to hugging as many animals as she can in this alphabet adventure that will have kids holding their sides and rolling on the floor. Little Sis is not afraid to try her hugging on any animal...large, small, prickly, or stinky. Adults may not appreciate the truly disgusting rhymes, but kids will love them and learn a bit about the alphabet as they read on...and on. Kids with huge heads and popping-out eyes people the pages and add to the absolute fun of this hilarious readaloud.

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🍁 Hartry, Nancy                              **Jocelyn and the Ballerina**                      ISBN 1550418033


Jocelyn loves her ballerina outfit more than anything else in her small world. It is worn and tatty, but she does not want to be parted from it. When Mom threatens to get rid of it, Jocelyn is frantic. As a flower girl for her aunt, Jocelyn will not be permitted to wear it. When the 'pink' arrives and Jocelyn tries it on, she is distraught. The 'pink' has no twirl! She will not be thwarted in her desire to wear her ballerina outfit at the wedding. As she strolls down the aisle, it becomes evident that Jocelyn has won the battle. Kids will love the resulting mayhem!

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Hoberman, Mary Ann	<b>You Read to Me, I'll Read to You</b>	
	<b>Very Short Stories</b>	ISBN 0316363502
	<b>Very Short Fairy Tales</b>	ISBN 0316146110
	<b>Very Short Mother Goose Tales</b>	ISBN 0316144312

This is an outstanding series of read-together books that provide hours of fun and learning between parent and child, or child and child, or teacher and child. If our goal for children is to help them learn to love reading by experiencing the sheer joy of it, these books will take us a long way toward satisfying that goal. They are presented in three columns, and colour-coded to help readers establish their role in the reading. Each short story sports purple print for the first reader, red for the second, and blue for both voices together. What a time they will have reading these superbly choreographed dances of rhythm, rhyme, and repetition!

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 Hutchins, Hazel	<b>A Second is a Hiccup</b>	ISBN 0439974003
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What great luck to have Kady Denton illustrate a text that calls for energy and colour when dealing with the notion of time and how it affects young children. She fills every page with fun and frolic as these children explore time from the infinitesimal one second to the almost unimaginable full year. Most young children have no innate need to know about time and are not too interested in its passage. Hutchins' text gives each of the measurements a clear context and her rhyming words help readers make a connection to its passage.

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Jenkins, Steve	<b>Actual Size</b>	ISBN 0618375945
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Torn paper collages, compact text, and bold comparisons and measurements for 18 diverse animals make this a book that readers will pore over again and again. Jenkins' admirable artwork and authentic information is testament to the diversity in our natural world and provides a model for the importance of clarity, measurement, observation, and comparison where scale is everything. He uses creatures great and small to create an 'aaah' factor for those who share this unique and intriguing book. At the end, he adds full pictures for each of the creatures with a detailed note about their habits and habitat. The premise seems simple, while the information is very clear and kids will be comparing themselves to the brilliant collages time and again.

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 Jennings, Sharon	<b>The Bye-Bye Pie</b>	ISBN 1550417851
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When Grandma makes the announcement that she is leaving to live in Greenland for a year, her family decides to host a send-off party. Joey is the big brother and he wants to help with all of the preparations. He discourages his little brother, Alfie, from helping by telling him that he is too little. But, when push comes to shove, it is Alfie who helps Joey out of a tight spot and provides some comic relief in a sticky situation. Grandma's sendoff is a smashing success! As the pièce de résistance, the boys provide the family's secret recipe for 'bye bye pie' to anyone who might want to bake it for their next party.

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Koller, Jackie

**No Such Thing**

ISBN 1563974908

This wonderful story serves as a comeuppance for all those parents who insist to their children, be they monster or human, that their fears are unfounded. When a small boy suggests that there is a monster under his bed, his mother is adamant that he is imagining it. The same happens when a little monster tries to convince his mother that there ARE such things as boys. As the parents finally depart after mild assurances that all will be well, our two young heroes come face to face and set the wheels in motion to serve up a lesson for each respective mother. Hilarity ensues, proving that all is well that ends well.

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Posada, Mia

**Dandelions**

ISBN 1575053837

If you have been the recipient of daily bouquets of these brilliant, yellow flowers throughout their extended growing season, this is a book that you might want to pull from the shelf and share with the ‘pickers’. It details the cyclical nature of the dandelion’s growth from adult flower whose tufts are carried to new places where they might begin again through germination, growth, and ‘seeding out’. Posada’s dazzling illustrations could carry this story without words. The flowing, rhythmic text gives an overview of the dandelion in all its glory and could be used for a variety of reasons...the seasons, pollination, and adaptation are a few.

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Rankin, Joan

**Wow! It’s Great Being a Duck**

ISBN 0689840470

Are you looking for author and illustrator strategies when helping your kids find books to love? This book is filled with imaginative and expressive language, varying fonts, wide-ranging sentence structures, humour, and a bit of suspense. Lillie is the last and smallest duckling and her greatest wish is to always keep her feet on the ground. That certainly poses problems when she meets Mr. Furry-Legs, Long-Tail, Sharp-Snout, Pink-Tongued Fox whose favourite dish is fat duckling. When she gets in real trouble, her innate abilities come to her rescue.

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Rankin, Laura

**The Handmade Alphabet**

ISBN 0140558764

In detailed, ever-changing illustrations Laura Rankin shows us the beauty of American Sign Language and intrigues the reader with new learning. Using coloured pencils on charcoal paper, she brings her alphabet to life with hands as diverse as the words chosen to depict each letter on separate pages. It is a book for everyone. She helps to raise awareness for the language of the deaf, and to bring it to young students through her thoughtful and lovely artwork. To add to the appeal one might pose a question: whose hands are holding each figure and why do they have it?

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Reynolds, Peter

**The Dot**

ISBN 0763619612

Have you ever doubted the value of a little encouragement? In Vashti’s case, it is an astute art teacher who provides just the right push when she is sure that an artist she is NOT. He suggests that she make her mark on the paper and when she provides a miniscule dot, he has her sign it and then displays it in a distinctive frame. She is dumbfounded and immediately certain that she can do better...which she does. When her art is hung for all to see, she becomes the idol of another young and uncertain artist. Now, it is Vashti’s turn to provide the encouragement. When you have finished with this lovely book, be sure to share Reynolds’ next book about art, called *Is/*.

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🍁 Ruurs, Margriet

**Emma and the Coyote**

ISBN 0773762051

There are three funny books about Emma. You learn early on that she is one feisty and fearsome chicken. She walks into every situation with her eyes wide open and an invisible cloak of naïveté. In this yarn she knows that she is smarter than a coyote (when no one else does) and she sets out to prove exactly that. Young readers will love each of the characters, from the self-assured Emma to the aggressive coyote. Each creature comes to vibrant life at the hands of an astute illustrator...that simply adds to all the fun as Emma outwits her nemesis time and again.

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Warner, Gertrude Chandler

**The Boxcar Children**

ISBN 0807508527

Kids love to listen to this tale of four orphans who strike out on their own to make a life together. When they find the boxcar and begin to fend for themselves, we cannot help but cheer them on. They do what we all would like to do at some point in our lives...be on our own. There is suspense, excitement, pride, and, finally, a sense of contentment as they get help from a very unlikely place. This is a memorable and wonderfully uplifting novel for children to read alone, or together with friends.