

Stories from the Human Family  
Memories, Moments in Time & Life, Family History, Humor, Language Play

Compiled by Peggy M. Johnsen  
Summer 2003



My Grandmother's Clock. Mc Caughrean. Clarion Books. 2002.

Grandmother's clock does not "go" but Grandmother knows plenty of other ways to tell time: blink of an eye, months by the waning moon, an hour in the time for grandfather to read the newspaper, and more. A lyrical and touching look at the wise understanding of the nature of time fills each page. Lovely tone, also, of the affection between grandparents and grandchildren.

Goin' Someplace Special. McKissack, Patricia (illus. by Jerry Pinkney). Antheneum. 2002. ISBN 0-689-81885-8.

In the 1950's there were constant obstacles and hurtful situations that challenged Tricia Ann to that place "where all are welcome," no matter what their skin color: the public library. As she travels alone to the library she encounters friends that help her through all those hurtful and hateful experiences, reminding her that she is not

Ruby's Wish. ShirimYim Bridges. Sophie Blackall. (illus) .2002.

In China, at a time when few girls are taught to read and write. Ruby dreams of going to university with her brothers and male cousins. Great for sex roles and China history.

Farfallina & Marcel. Holly Keller. Greenwillow Books. 2002.

A caterpillar and a young goose become great friends, but as they grow up they undergo changes which separate them for awhile. Delightful. Friendship.

A Story for Bear. Dennis Haseley. Jim LaMarche (illus). Harcourt, Inc. 2002.

Warmth oozes from these pages. A young bear is fascinated by the mysterious marks he sees on paper. A kind woman reads to him throughout the summer. He listens to the sounds of her voice and happiness washes over him.

Blues Journey. Walter Dean Meyers. Christopher Meyers (illus./son). Holiday House Book. 2003.

The rich poetry of the blues lyrics tells the history of the black experience. The explanation of the blues using the call/response format from African music and the pentatonic scale. Powerful messages.

Rent Party Jazz. William Miller. Lee & Low Books. 2002.

When Sonny's mother loses her job in New Orleans during the Depression, Smilin' Jack, a jazz musician, tells him how to organize a rent party to raise the money they need. Illustrations are full of rhythm, movement, and color!

Lora's Surprise. Debi Gliori. Orchard Books. 2002

Flora's family is busy planting seeds, except for Flora, who is planting a brick. She waits, and waits and waits, for the best surprise ever. Great for older siblings knowing everything!

If You Listen. Charlotte Zolotow. Running Press. 2002.

How do you know if someone far away is loving you? Originally published in 1980... This is definitely super appropriate for these times.

Sometimes I'm Bombaloo. Rachel Vail. Scholastic Press. 2002.

Sometimes we lose our tempers. This delightful story shares about those feelings of frustration. This is a warm and reassuring book, perfect for sharing with anyone who is, sometimes, Bombaloo!

The Teddy Bear. David McPhail. Henry Holt & Co. 2002.

A teddy bear, lost by the little boy who loves him, still feels loved after being rescued by a homeless man. Themes of love, sacrifice, growing up, and homeless.

The Last Resort. Roberto Innocenti. J. Patrick Lewis (illus) Creative Editions. 2002.

On an afternoon like any other, an artist's imagination abruptly disappears..and never returns. His quest to recover it leads him to The Last Resort. This is a celebration of literature and an homage to the power of the imagination. Wow!

Yellow Umbrella. Jae Soo Lie. Music by Dong II Sheen. Kane/Miller. 2002.

An unusual and powerful use of visual and audio creation. Inspired by the author witnessing the arrival of students at a middle school. She realized that under their umbrellas, all those physical differences disappeared; the students were claiming that they were all equal in spite of their physical differences.

Duck on a Bike. David Shannon. Blue Sky Press 2002.

Hilarious rendition of Duck's bike riding adventure through the farmyard. Delightful ending. Lots of fun.

My Chinatown, One Year in Poems. Kam Mak. Harper Children Press. 2002

A boy adjusts to city life away from home in Hong Kong, in the Chinatown of his new American city. The beautiful paintings and moving poems share a year of growing up.

The Klondike Cat. Lawson, Julie. Kids Can Press. 2002. ISBN 1-55337-013-9.

This for all cat lovers! This is also a wonderful historical fiction picture book that sends us on the journey of gold seekers heading for the Klondike. An historical note at the end of the story provides further information about this dramatic chapter of North American history.

Miss Hunnicutt's Hat. Jeff Brumbeau & Gail de Marcken. Orchard Books. 2003.

This story is a delightful, insightful, and humorous tale that playfully illustrates the value of tolerance and the rewards of simply being yourself. Also authors of *The Quiltmaker's Gift*.

Walking with Maga. Maureen Boyd Biro. All About Kids Pub. 2002.

Maga takes her granddaughter for walks throughout the seasons.

Silent Movie. Avi. Atheneum Books. 2003

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a Swedish family encounters separation and other hardships upon immigrating to New York City until the son is cast in a silent movie. The book is presented as a silent movie in black & white.

The Spiffiest Giant in Town. Julia Donaldson. Dial Books. 2002.

Fun-filled read-aloud that reminds us that having a giant-sized heart is even more rewarding than being the spiffiest giant in town.

The First Thing My Mother Told Me. Susan Marie Swanson. Harcourt, Inc. 2002.

A young girl celebrates the name that was chosen just for her.

Won't Papa Be Surprised! Terri Cohlene. HarperCollins. 2003.

Mikele's gift for Papa on Father's Day makes her think about and see ribbons everywhere, but her father has his own surprise for her. After all he would not be celebrating Father's Day without her!

Grandparents Song Sheila Hamanaka. Harper Collins. 2003.

A beautiful visual and language presentation of a family tree.

Once Upon a Time. Niki Daly. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2003.

Sarie struggles when she reads aloud in class in her South African school, but then she and her friend Auntie Anna find a book about Cinderella in Auntie Anna's old car and begin to read together.

My Name is Yoon. Helen Recorvits. Frances Foster Books: Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2003.

Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as cat, bird, and cupcake, as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

Goose's Story. Cari Best. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 2003.

Based on the experience of a real goose, this is a tale of courage and determination come to life in Holly Meade's dramatic paper collage art.

Togo. Robert J. Blake. Philomel Books. 2002.

Togo, a Siberian husky who loves being a sled dog, leads a team that rushes to bring diphtheria antitoxin from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. The annual Iditarod Race commemorates this historic serum run of 1925.

### Poetry and Language Play

Animal Sense. Diane Ackerman. Peter Sis, Illus. Alfred A. Knopf. 2003

A collection of poems that tells how such animals as alligators, bats, penguins, bumblebees, and skunks use their different senses.

Fireflies at Midnight. Marilyn Singer. Antheneum. 2003.

During one summer day, these creatures tell their tales, celebrating their ordinary, but extraordinary, lives in verse.

Right Outside My Window. Mary Ann Hoberman. MONDO . 2002

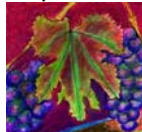
While looking outside the window, a child sees something new each day and throughout the seasons. Interesting illustration technique.

Scranimals. Prelutsky, Jack. (Peter Sis, Illustrator). Green Willow Books. 2002. ISBN 0-688-17820-0.

Once again Prelutsky presents his zany view of the world by introducing us to Scanimal Land with such creatures as: Pandaffodil, Rhinoceros, Broccolions, and more. Peter Sis assists with his unique style of illustrating.

Let there Be Light. Zalben, Jane B. Dutton Children's Books. 2002. ISBN 0-525-46995-8

These are profound pieces collected to give readers sustenance, hope, and strength. An eclectic collection of inspired quotes from Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, Eastern Eskimo Prayer, Native American Prayer, and more. The collages combine painting, photography, and cut paper. This is a wonderful collection that will promote thoughts of unity and hope. This is surely needed during these times.



A Company of Crows. Singer, Marilyn. . Clarion Books. 2002. ISBN 0-618-08340-5.

This collection of Singer's original poems features different voices of humans and animals that reveal the true nature of crows and pay tribute to this misunderstood and remarkable bird. The illustrations are remarkable and gorgeous.

Under the Moon & Over the Sea, A collection of Caribbean Poems. John Agard & Grace Nichols. Candlewick Press. 2003.

Great illustrations with powerful poems.

One Leaf Rides the Wind. Mannis, C.D. Viking. 2002 ISBN 0-670-03525-4.

A counting book from one to ten that reveals the pleasure and tranquility of the Japanese garden, while introducing haiku poetry.

A-Tisket A-Tasket. Ella Fitzgerald. Philomel Books. 2003.

Wonderful read aloud, tapping toe presentation of Ella's famous nursery song rendition. Great illustrations.

Last Night I Dreamed a Circus. Maya Gottfried, Robert Rahway Zakanitch, illus. Alfred A. Knopf. 2003.

A young girl dreams of being part of a circus. Crisp language and powerful paintings.

## Just for Fun

Do Like a Duck Does. Judy Hindley. 2002. ISBN 0-7636-1668-0.

Great language, great rhythm, and great drama between clever, wise mother duck and wily stranger, the fox.



I Stink. McMullan, Kate & Jim. Jonna Colter Books, Harper Collins. 2002. 0-06029848-0.

This is a fun, fun book full of language and rhythm describing the "life" of a garbage truck. Visual fun and language fun. There can't be a child of literacy that would not love to read and reread this delightful telling. It would make a powerful choral reading.

The Pesky Rat. Lauren Child. Candlewick Press. 2002.

The author introduces a surprisingly endearing character and assures young readers there's love enough for all of us. Funny.

Dear Mrs. LaRue: letters from obedience school. Mark Teague. Scholastic Press. 2002.

Gertrude LaRue receives funny typewritten and paw-written letters from her dog, Ike, intreating her to let him leave the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy and come back home.

Plantzilla. Nolen, Jerdine. Harcourt Inc. 2002. ISBN 0-15-202412-3.

Fun, Fun, Fun! An absolute must for any classroom that is planning to send home pets or plants during the summer break or any holiday. Hilarious events unfold through a letter format. Every classroom teacher needs this book!

Herd of Cows! Flock of Sheep! Walton, Rick. Gibbs Smith. 2002. ISBN 1-58685-153-5.

What a delightful, funny book full of the language of "multitudes." School of fish, flock of sheep, colony of beavers, army of frogs, and so on ... all work to save Farmer Bob from the rising flood waters at the farm. Wonderful word knowledge combined with a ridiculous but loving rescue!

Captain Duck. Jez Alborough. HarperCollins. 2002.

Another hilarious adventure of Duck.... This time a boat, sheep, frog, one oar, and big waves!

Bear Wants More Bear Snores On. Karma Wilson. Simon & Schuster. 2003 2002.

Wonderful rhythmic language and warm friendship.

Hi Harry! Martin Waddell. Candlewick Press. 2003.

The moving story of how one slow tortoise slowly made a friend.

Souperchicken. Mary Jane and Herm Auch. Holiday House. 2003.

When Henrietta becomes the first chicken in her coop to learn how to read, she uses her skills to save her aunties from becoming chicken soup.