

The Human Family Literature

Compiled by Peggy M. Johnsen
2004-2005

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Magnus at the Fire*. Simon & Schuster. 2005. ISBN 0689839227.

When the Broadway Firehouse acquires a motorized fire engine, Magnus the fire horse is not ready to retire. Nice combination of history of fire horses and a fine story.

Asch, Frank. *Monsieur Saguette and His Baguette*. Kids Press. 2004.

This is a fresh, warm and whimsical tale that follows the imaginative problem solving of Monsieur Saguette as he travels home with his baguette.

Beaumont, Karen. *I ain't Gonna Paint No more*. Harcourt. 2005. ISBN 0152024883.

In the rhythm of a familiar folk song, a child cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places. Fantastic illustrations by David Catrow.

Bogers, Gregory. *The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard*. Roaring Book Press. 2004.

A delightful wordless book in which a small BOY wanders into an abandoned theater. He embarks on a time-traveling adventure that will dazzle and delight you. Think Elizabethan London with the world's greatest playwright in hot pursuit.

Brennan-Nelson, Denise. *Someday is Not a Day of the Week*. Thomson Gale. 2005

When asking to go on various outings, Max (beaver) always receives the same answer from family members, "Not today, but someday." With a little help from the days of the week, he discovers where "Someday" is.

Chen, Chih-Yuan. *Guji Guji*. Kane/Miller Book Pub. 2004.

Raised from an egg by Mother Duck, Guji Guji (a crocodile) is quite content with his life as a duckling. Then one fateful day, he meets up with three nasty, grinning creatures who not only convince him that he is, like the, a crocodile, but also try to persuade him to deliver his fat, delicious duck relatives for dinner.

Church, Caroline Jayne. *One Smart Goose*. Orchard Books. 2003.

Funny, funny... lots of great language. A goose who likes to wash in a muddy pond is teased by other geese, until they realize that he is the only one not chased by the fox.

D'Amico, Carmela & Steven. *Ella the Elegant Elephant*. 2004. Scholastic.

Ella is nervous about her first day of school in her new town, but wearing her grandmother's good luck hat makes her feel better, until the other students tease her and call her names.

Donovan, Jane Monroe. *Winter's Gift*. Thomson Gale. 2004.

On Christmas Eve, an old farmer whose wife has died acquires new hope after helping a pregnant mare in a snowstorm.

Fox, Mem. *Hunwick's Egg*. Harcourt Books. 2005. ISBN 0152163182.

When a wild storm sends a beautiful egg to Hunwick the bandicoot's burrow, he decides to give it a home and become its friend. Lovely illustrations.

Kertz, Jane. *In the Small, Small Night*. Greenwillow Books. 2005.

Kofi can't sleep in his new home in the United States, so his older sister, Abena, soothes his fears about life in a different country by telling him two folktales from their native Ghana about the nature of wisdom and perseverance.

Frazier, Craig. *Stanley Mows the Lawn*. Chronicle Books. 2005. ISBN 0811848469.

One day, Stanley sets out to mow his lawn. Up and back, up and back. There's only one way to do it, or is there? Renowned designer and illustrator, Frazier, has combined bold, dynamic illustrations with a simple story that celebrates imagination and the art of looking at the world your own way.

Funke, Cornelia. *Pirate Girl*. Scholastic. 2003.

Ferocious Captain Firebeard THINKS that he and his band of ruthless pirates rule the high seas, but Molly (who they have captured) is not frightened by them at all. This is a tale of girl empowerment with wit, warmth, and wisdom.

Gelman, Rita Golden. *Doodler Doodling*. Greenwillow Books. 2004.

'Teachers teach, fliers fly, painters paint, climbers climb—and teachers fly.' Here is a book starring twenty-one words, a blank piece of paper, and a train of thought.

Gottfried, Maya. *Good Dog*. Alfred A. Knopf. 2005.

Wonderful! Any dog lover should have a copy of this. Great free verse poetry with gorgeous paintings by Robert Rahway Zakanitch.

Graham, Bob. *Oscar's Half Birthday*. Candlewick Press. 2005. ISBN 0763626996.

Tender dose of Oscar's adorable charm as everyone on the hillside joins the six month birthday of little brother. Illustrations add greatly to the warm family interactions of a racially mixed family. subtle.

Greene, Rhonda Gowler. *This is the Teacher*. Dutton Children's Books. 2005.

Hilarious language and illustrations that present a typical chaotic day in a day of school.

Haan, Linda de & Stern Nijland. *King & King and Family*. Tricycle Press. 2004.

The further adventures of King & King: it's time for the royal honey-moon. Hippos, crocodiles, and snakes - oh my! Little do the regal travelers know that the jungle holds much more.

Henkes, Kevin. *So Happy!* Greenwillow Books. 2005.

Brief text and illustrations tell the story of a boy, a rabbit, and a seed. Anita Lobel's watercolor paints and white gouache are spectacular.

Henke, Kevin. *Kitten's First Full Moon*. Greenwillow Books. 2004

This is the 2005 Caldecott winner. Studying Henke as illustrator and looking at his other award winning books would make a nice unit.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, ed. *Wonderful Words, Poems about Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening*. Simon and Schuster for Young Readers. 2004. ISBN 0689835884.

This is a glorious collection celebrating words in speech, reading, language, and drama and how they influence our lives.

Ibatoulline, Bagram. *Hana in the Time of the Tulips*. Candlewick Press. 2004.

A little girl seeks to regain her father's attention during the tulipomania craze in seventeenth-century Holland. Luxurious illustrations bring seventeenth-century Holland to life in this poignant portrait of love between parent and child.

Joosee, Barbara M. *Papa, Do You Love Me?* Chronicle Books. 2005. ISBN 0811842657.

When a Maasai father in Africa answers his son's questions, he learns that his father's love for him is unconditional. Detailed glossary, also this universal message introduces young readers to a distinctively different culture through accurate language and gorgeous illustrations. This same team produced *Mama, Do You Love Me?*

Lechner, John. *Froggy Fable*. Candlewick Press. 2005

Watercolor and ink illustrations beautifully support this simple fable: change is good.

Lee, Paul. *A Song for Ba*. Douglas & McIntyre. 2004. ISBN 0888994923.

Once again Paul Lee presents a powerful story around the trials of the Chinese immigrants and their painful transition endured as they adapted to the New World, while trying to keep their own culture alive. Wei Lim must decide if he can accept the responsibility to play the female roles in the Chinese opera, not the role of a great man, in order to save the opera company. The ancient art form found in this book is the same used in *Ghost Train*, by the same author.

Livingston, Irene. *Finklehopper Frog Cheers*. Tricycle Press. ISBN 1582461384.

When Finklehopper Frog and Ruby Rabbit go to a picnic, their friendship helps them weather some challenges and disappointment. Somewhat didactic, but charming language presentation and illustrations.

McDonald, Megan. *Beetle McGrady Eats Bugs!* Greenwillow Books. 2005.

During Fun with Food week in her school science class, second-grader Beetle McGrady tries to work up the courage to eat an ant. Wonderfully, *deliciously* funny!

Meddaugh, Susan. *Perfectly Martha*. HoughtonMifflin. 2004

Martha discovers how the Perfect Pup Institute turns dogs in obedient robots and does something about it. Another delightful chapter in Martha's life.

Pattison, Darcy. *Searching for Oliver K. Woodman*. Harcourt. ISBN 0152051848.

Sequel to *Journey of Oliver K. Woodman*. Imogene Poplar, a private investigator made of wood, is sent by a reporter and Tameka's Uncle Ray in search of the missing Oliver K. Woodman, and her journey is related through the letters and postcards of those she meets along the way. Great use for geography and writing postcards, etc.

Polacco, Patricia. *An Orange for Frankie*. Philomel Books. 2004.

Polacco brings another chapter of her family history to life in this timeless holiday story. Pa hasn't returned yet from his trip to Lansing. Every year there are nine oranges on the mantle that Pa brings back? Will he return? Will Christmas really be Christmas this year?

Polacco, Patricia. *Mommies Say Shhh!* Philomel Books. 2005. ISBN 0399243410.

Once again Polacco gives us fantastic illustrations pencil and watercolor! Each page is full of color and loaded with visual detail while animals render their unique noises. Finally, Mama has heard too much..... Shhh!

Pulver, Robin. *Author Day for Room 3T*. Houghton Mifflin. 2005.

Mr. Topple's third-grade class prepares for the arrival of author Harry Bookman with unexpected results. Great for a pre-author visit.

Ruepp, Krista. *Runaway Pony*. North-South Books. 2005.

Lush paintings of the beautiful Icelandic landscape illustrate this heartwarming story about the special bonds that can exist between horses and young riders.

Saltzberg, Barney. *Cornelious P. Mud, Are You Ready for Bed?*

Cornelious the pig has his own style when preparing for bed, but he does not really feel ready until he gets a hug. Great opportunity to share routines of children.

Schwartz, Amy. *Things I learned in Second Grade*. 2004.

A young boy shares all of the things he learned and how he changed in second grade, what he still wonders about, and what he hopes to accomplish when he is in third grade.

Silverstein, Shel. *Runny Rabbit, (A Billy Sook by...)* HarperCollins. 2005. ISBN 0060256532.

These poems were a project for over 20 years as was compiled by his family after his death in 1999. Wonderful, silly animal poems with wonderfully displaced initial consonants.

Thomson, Sarah L. *Imagine a Day*. Antheneum. 2005.

This is a companion book to the critically acclaimed *Imagine a Night*, which *School Library Journal* declared a 'a fascinating foray into the imagination.' Renowned Canadian artist Rob Gonsalves once again stretches the limits of visual exploration. A must for imaginative thinking and writing.

Tompkins, Jasper. *The Camelback Dogs*. Sasquatch Books. 2004

Tamer goes through a magic doorway and is led to a strange beach by camelback dogs, creatures that can count to infinity, breathe underwater, love the harpsichord, and are excited by life itself.

Turner, Pamela S. *Hachiko, The True Story of a Loyal Dog*. Houghton Mifflin Co. 2004. ISBN 0618140948.

Relates the true story of a dog that accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years.

Van Genechten, Guido. *The Cuddle Book*. HarperCollins. 2005. ISBN 0060753064.

First published in Amersterdam, this provides bold illustrations of how different animals (true to their physical traits) might hug. Sweet, simple text and bright, bold, beautiful art combine in this enchanting picture book.

Warnes, Tim. *Mommy Mine*. HarperCollins. 2005. ISBN 0060589485.

Whether it is by croak, flutter, or fur, all children claim their mothers as their own. Great bold simple illustrations with great language!

Wilson, Karma. *Hilda Must Be Dancing*. Simon & Schuster Children's Pub. 2004. ISBN 0689847882.

This is a delightful tale of Hilda Hippo who tries other, quieter, activities when her jungle friends are disturbed by her dancing. Nothing makes her happy until Water Buffalo suggests swimming and she finds a new way to express herself. Fun language and illustrations.

Willans, Tom. *Wait! I Want to Tell You a Story*. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 068987166X.

Delightfully funny, repeating pattern book with great ending. Illustrations and language are crying out for a read-aloud session! Frog Cheers Would make a great writing model.

Wilson, Karma. *Mama Always Comes Home*. HarperCollins. 2005. ISBN 0060575050.

From Mama Bird to Mama Cat, mothers of all kinds come home to their children. Delightful illustrations of baby animals and their mothers.

Wood, Nancy. *Old Coyote*. Candlewick Press. 2004.

Realizing that he has come to the end of his days, Old Coyote recalls many of the good things about his life. Gorgeous language and illustrations.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Coming On Home Soon*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 2004.

Staying with Grandma while Mama takes a job in Chicago during WWII, Ada Ruth misses her mother, who loves her more than rain and snow. This is a timeless story that comes with missing and waiting. Lewis's captivating artwork captures it all.