

Growing Readers Review

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Books We Love



What makes a book a favorite? What makes us return to it again and again? What kind of book inspires fond memories?

Even the youngest children show strong preferences. Witness a toddler reaching for the same chunky board book or a preschooler asking for the same bedtime story each night. Perhaps the draw is an engaging story, intriguing illustrations, or the way the words sound when read aloud. Giving children a wide array of well-written and well-illustrated books will allow them to develop their own tastes and learn the enjoyment of reading.

For the youngest readers mastering the sounds that animals make, Anita Lobel's *Hello, Day!* pairs the simple phrases that children love with bright, bold, mixed media illustrations—a combination that will make this a well read interactive reading experience. For youngsters with a developing sense of humor, *A Visitor for Bear* will create laugh-out-loud moments. Bumbling Bear, trying to live his solitary life but reluctantly enjoying his unlikely friend, will undoubtedly tickle the young reader.

From the way this next book opens—from bottom to top, rather than from side to side—*Wabi Sabi* promises to be a most unusual reading experience. A beautifully told tale, haiku poetry, and illustrations that seem almost three-dimensional truly give the reader a serene and unique way of seeing the world.

Picture books, informational books, poetry, mysteries, and funny and inspirational tales are all part of great children's literature. And children of all ages who experience good reading will always find the books they love.

By Susan C. Brenner, EdD

BOOKS OF EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL AGE

Wabi Sabi

Written by Mark Reibstein; Illustrated by Ed Young

Wabi Sabi is an ordinary brown cat on a quest to find the true meaning of her name. All the animals she asks say it is hard to explain, but they drop clues along the way. Snowball, the cat, says that it is a kind of beauty. Rascal, the dog, says wabi sabi is as simple as a brown leaf.

Finally, a little bird directs *Wabi Sabi* to Kosho, the monkey, claiming that he knows the true meaning of her name. Kosho teaches the brown cat to listen, watch, and feel. This is how one finds the true meaning of wabi sabi.

Like the many designs on trees, clouds, and dirty ponds, the brown cat realizes that wabi sabi means finding beauty in simple things. Mark Reibstein's writing and Ed Young's collages are perfect examples of this ancient Chinese philosophy that helped shape Japanese culture.

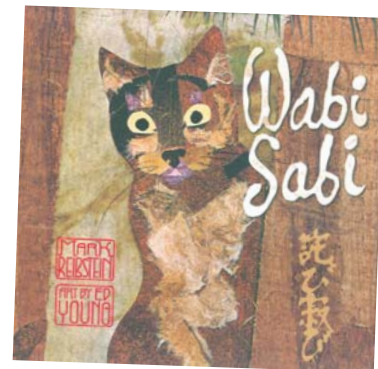
The book opens lengthwise and is read from top to bottom. This format allows for embellishments such as haiku that is written by poets Basho and Shiko in Japanese and translated in the addendum. The addendum also contains the history of the wabi sabi philosophy and notes on haiku.

Wabi Sabi is the type of book that can't be read just once. It will earn a lucky place on a child's bookshelf to be revisited time and time again.

Note about the author and illustrator – Mark Reibstein and Ed Young

Mark Reibstein is an English teacher and lives near San Francisco with his daughter and their cat, Arlo. While Mark lived in Kyoto, Japan, he met a cat named *Wabi Sabi*. They were friends for ten years.

Ed Young has made art for more than seventy books and has been awarded the Caldecott Medal for *Lon Po Po* and Caldecott Honors for *Seven Blind Mice* and *The Emperor and the Kite*. He lives in upstate New York with his daughters.



Join Jumpstart's READ FOR THE RECORD!

Bright Horizons is proud to join Jumpstart's **READ FOR THE RECORD**—a national campaign that encourages millions of adults and children from all over the country to read the same book on the same day. This year's book is *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats, the Caldecott Medal winning celebration of a young boy's discovery of his snow-covered city, illustrated with simple watercolors, cut-outs and collages. On October 7, 2010, help break the record of the largest shared reading experience ever!



To learn more about Jumpstart's Read for the Record, visit www.readfortherecord.org



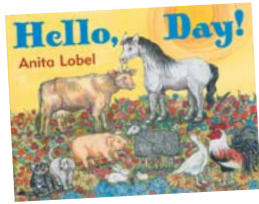
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INFANT/TODDLER

Hello, Day!

Written and Illustrated by Anita Lobel

Hello, Day! is by beloved author and illustrator Anita Lobel, winner of a Caldecott Honor award for *On Market Street*. Lobel's lovely illustrations of watercolor, colored pencil and markers, walk infants and toddlers through a typical day on the farm from sunrise to sunset. Each farm animal has a page to greet the day with its typical sound ("The goose said, 'Honk!"; "The mouse said 'Eeek.'") which translated means "Hello, day!" As the day proceeds to night, an owl closes out the lovely story with "Whoo-ooo," which means "Good night." *Hello, Day!* is a beautiful story to read at bedtime or anytime throughout the day.

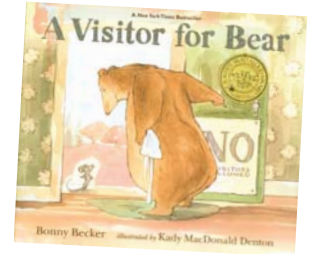


PRESCHOOL

A Visitor for Bear

Written by Bonny Becker; illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

This winner of the E.B. White Read Aloud Award "has the feel of a classic," reads a New York Times Book Review. Tucked in among whimsical illustrations is the story of a reclusive bear who meets his match when a persistent and hungry mouse keeps showing up and interrupting Bear's breakfast! The "No Visitors Allowed" sign on Bear's front door and the expressive words like "Vamoose" might lead the reader to believe this Bear will always be alone, but even bears need to share a cup of tea with a good friend now and then.



NOTABLES

South

Written and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell • Preschool

An unlikely companion befriends a lonely little bird and guides him along his journey home. This lovely story has no words but is full of heart.

Truck Stuck

Written by Sallie Wolf; illustrated by Andy Robert Davies • Preschool

Children who love vehicles will delight in this wonderful, colorful rhyming adventure about a big red truck that gets very, very stuck!

I'm a Little Teapot

Written and Illustrated by Iza Trapani • Preschool

A whimsical little teapot magically carries children to exciting adventures across the globe, returning home just in time for tea! Witty rhyme and delightful illustrations captivate readers young and old.

Carry Me!

Written by Rena D. Grossman • Infant/Toddler

Babies will love the colorful illustrations of the many ways infants are carried around the world including front or back packs, slings, baskets, or arms.

Families

Written by Rena D. Grossman • Infant/Toddler

Vibrant photographs show that both human and animal families share the same pleasures: laughing at jokes, going on walks, taking naps and expressing love.

The Magician's Elephant

Written by Kate DiCamillo • School Age

A fortune teller tells ten-year-old Peter that his sister is alive and that an elephant will lead him to her. Peter thinks this is impossible, but when a magician mistakenly conjures an elephant to fall from the sky, Peter realizes he may find his sister after all.



The Legend of Spud Murphy

Written by Eoin Colfer • School Age

Will and Marty Woodman are sent to the library each day over summer vacation and come face to face with Spud Murphy, the librarian who is known to launch potatoes from her gas powered spud gun at children who misbehave.



Bright Horizons Family Solutions® programs empower children from infancy on to become confident, successful learners and secure, caring people. We grow young readers, scientists, artists, and explorers who are encouraged to reach their full potential. We are privileged to accompany children and families on their journey of lifelong learning. Learn more about Bright Horizons and Growing Readers at www.brighthorizons.com.

