

Let's Talk...Picture Books!

[Age 4-8*]

**some titles may have too much text for age 4-6, so adapt as you read*

- *Key ideas/genres of each book are listed below the title with a +*
- *Some of these books naturally lend themselves to an activity after reading, indicated by an ***asterisk****
- *Authors with names in **bold** are renowned, and it's absolutely worth investigating their other titles!*

The Ant and the Elephant - **Bill Peet**

+ *animals, adapted fable, quality illustration*

As an Oak Tree Grows - G. Karas

+ *environment, history, science, realistic fiction, family*

* *examine acorns, sketch oak tree leaves*

Blueberries for Sal - **Robert McCloskey**

+ *bears, Maine, summer, canning*

* *bake with blueberries, use finger-paint to paint blueberries on paper*

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain - Verna Aardema

+ *cultural-Africa, poetry, animals*

* *make rain sticks, look for the Reading Rainbow edition and watch*

Caps for Sale - Esphyr Slobodkina

+ *humor, animals, counting*

* *make paper hats*

Chrysanthemum - **Henkes, Kevin**

+ *acceptance, humor, classic, family*

Christopher's Harvest Time - **Elsa Beskow**

+ *fantasy, personified nature, seasons*

* *make a fairy house with items from nature*

The Circus Ship - Chris Van Dusen

+ *creative, artwork, animals, humor*

* *hide toy animals around the house/yard and have a hunt!*

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs - Judi Barrett

+ *weather, food, creative*

* *make food impostors (i.e. mashed potatoes disguised as ice cream!), watch the movie!*

Daniel's Duck – Clyde Robert Bulla

+ *historical fiction, family, wood carving, differentness, resilience*

* *wood carving*

Dragons Love Tacos – Adam Rubin

+ *dialogue encourages emotion/expression, humor*

* *taco night -- make salsa!*

Elephant and Piggie (series) – Mo Willems

+ *emotion, animals, humor, storytelling*

* *make your own comic strip, draw animals (Art Hub for Kids | YouTube)*

The Frog and Toad Treasury – **Arnold Lobel**

+ *friendship, seasons, nature, animals*

* *discover differences between frogs/toads, go on a tadpole hunt, listen for frog noises at sunset*

The Gardener – Sarah Stewart

+ *Great Depression, times of trouble, hope*

Henry and Mudge (series) – **Cynthia Rylant**

+ *pets, friendship*

How Droofus the Dragon Loses His Head – **Bill Peet**

+ *fantasy, dragons, friendship*

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World – Marjorie Priceman

+ *geography, food, science, culture*

* *make apple pie! Look for the Reading Rainbow edition and watch*

Jesse Bear (series) – Nancy White Carlstrom

+ *friendship, family, life skills, counting*

* *have a Jesse Bear-inspired picnic*

Katy and the Big Snow – **Virginia Lee Burton**

+ *transportation, winter, classic*

Leo the Late Bloomer – Robert Kraus

+ *perseverance, identity, animals, family*

Library Mouse (series) – Daniel Kirk

+ *animal, reading, adventure*

* *design a book cover or write a story together*

Madeline (series) – Ludwig Bemelmans

+ *cultural-France, poetry, health, realistic fiction*

* *paint or build an Eiffel Tower, make a French-inspired treat*

Make Way for Ducklings – **Robert McCloskey**

+ *Boston, adventure, animals*

* *take a virtual tour of Boston and Boston Public Gardens*

Mercy Watson (series) – **Kate DiCamillo**

+ *humor, animals, strong character development*

* *make popcorn and eat outside while reading, watch a movie outside*

Miss Rumphius – Barbara Cooney

+ *nature, Maine, moral choices, generosity*

* *press flowers, plant wildflower seeds*

The Mitten – **Jan Brett**

+ *cause/effect, animals, emotions*

The Mother's Day Mice – Eve Bunting

+ *generosity, Mother's Day, kindness*

* *make a gift for someone using supplies found in nature*

Mr. Putter (series) – **Cynthia Rylant**

+ *teaching about different generations, respect, friendship, animals*

* *have a Mr. Putter-inspired adventure*

Pancakes, Pancakes – **Eric Carle**

+ *classic, food*

* *make pancakes! Look up how to make Carle-inspired art*

Once Morning in Maine – **Robert McCloskey**

+ *family, losing teeth, adventure, clamming, beach*

Owl Moon – **Jane Yolen**

+ *adventure, family, imagination, owls, nature*

* *dissect an owl pellet, go owling during a full moon, observe the stars together*

The Ox Cart Man – Donald Hall

+ *historical fiction, New England, poetry*

Rechenka's Eggs - **Patricia Polacco**

+ *cultural - Russia/Ukraine, springtime, geese, family*

* *look for the Reading Rainbow edition and watch, paint eggs*

Snowy Day - Ezra Jack Keats

+ *multicultural, winter, classic*

The Story of Ferdinand - Munro Leaf

+ *identity, differentness, Spain, animals, sensitivity*

Strega Nona (series) - **Tomie De Paola**

+ *relatable, loveable characters, fantasy*

* *make a Strega Nona-inspired meal, plant garden seeds*

Swimmy - Leo Lionni

+ *sea life, adventure, classic*

* *create with watercolors—look up a Lionni tutorial*

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble - **William Steig**

+ *identity, sensitivity, animals, fantasy*

* *paint rocks (magic pebbles)*

The Three Billy Goats Gruff - **Jerry Pinkney**

+ *fable, classic, fantasy, fairy tales*

Those Darn Squirrels - Adam Rubin

+ *dialogue, emotion, animals, humor*

* *make a bird feeder*

Thundercake - **Patricia Polacco**

+ *realistic fiction, character/story development, weather, family*

* *make a Thundercake, watch Mystery Doug science videos (weather)*

You Are Special - Lucado, Max

+ *Christian, identity, value*

* *build a doll or puppet*