

Great Reads for Kindergarteners



Selected by librarians from Milwaukee Public Library

Katie Loves the Kittens by John Himmelman.

PIC HIMMELM.

Katie is utterly infatuated with her owner's new kittens, but her vocalizing, leaping and avid tail-wagging only scare the living daylights out of them.

Sergio Makes a Splash by Edel Rodriguez.

PIC RODRIGU.

Sergio the penguin loves water, but only in small amounts—in the bathtub or in a tall glass with ice. Sergio needs help in overcoming his fear of large bodies of water.

Bats at the Library by Brian Lies. PIC LIES.

A colony of bats pays a nighttime visit to a small-town library. First they photocopy their bodies, then they turn the water fountain into a splash pool, finally they settle down, or rather upside-down and listen to a story.

Yoko Writes Her Name by Rosemary Wells.

PIC WELLS.

When Yoko writes her name in Japanese, which looks like scribbling, instead of English, two classmates mock her and gleefully predict "She won't graduate from kindergarten."

My Colors, My World =Mis Colores, Mi Mundo by Maya Gonzalez. PIC GONZALE.

Maya finds color and beauty in her childhood world of the California Mojave Desert.

Round Like a Ball! by Lisa Campbell Ernst.

PIC ERNST.

It's round like a ball. It's made up of many colors. It's big and strong. What is it? The Earth.

Oodles of Animals by Lois Ehlert. PIC EHLERT.

Riveting, stylized cut-paper collages are juxtaposed with verses about animals, from insects to mammals.

Book Fiesta! by Pat Mora. PIC MORA.

Joyful and vibrant scenes convey the theme of the universal pleasures of reading every day and everywhere—under trees and in boats, on trains and planes, in the car and at the library.

Chicken Little by Rebecca and Ed Emberly. PIC EMBERLE.

When Chicken Little is knocked senseless by a well-placed acorn, the only thing to do is to grab an umbrella to "protect his scrambled noggin" and head for the hills.

Jamaica is Thankful by Juanita Havill. PIC HAVILL.

Jamaica wants to keep the kitten her friend gives her, even though her brother is allergic. After Ossie suffers a sneezing fit, Jamaica realizes that as much as she wants the kitten she loves her brother more.

Dino-Hockey by Lisa Wheeler. PIC WHEELER.

It's prehistoric pandemonium on ice, as the toothy Meat-Eaters and the tough Veggiesaurs face off in a wild championship hockey game.

The Rain Stomper by Addie Boswell. PIC BOSWELL. Jazmin channels her spirit, energy, and mighty baton into a rant against the rain that is threatening to ruin the much-anticipated neighborhood parade.

Lion and the Mouse by Brian Pinkney. PIC PINKNEY. Caldecott-winning illustrations relate the Aesop fable of the mouse who is captured by a lion, only to be unexpectedly released.

Rabbit's Gift by George Shannon. PIC SHANNON.

When it begins to snow, Rabbit scurries to collect food and is fortunate to find two turnips. Realizing one is plenty for his own needs, he decides to share.

Machines Go to Work by William Low. 621.8 L915.

A fun and feisty tour of big, powerful and fascinating machines; each of them is ready, willing and eager to "go to work."

TIPS: *Grow your child's vocabulary by reading a variety of books. The more words your child knows, the easier it is to recognize them when they learn to read. Children with strong vocabularies tend to be strong readers.*

The library is free, so let your child make some book choices. Children need to develop decision-making skills, so let them choose a book and later discuss why you liked or didn't like the book. This will also help teach children that their opinions are important.



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