



Pick of the Decade 1995-2005

2nd Grade

Compiled by:

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Picture Books

Alexander, Lloyd. *How the Cat Swallowed Thunder* , 2000.

Mother Holly instructs Cat to do the chores while she is away but instead he makes mischief of one kind or another. (See also: *The King's Fountain* ; *The House Gobbaleen* ; and *The Fortune-Tellers* .)

Best, Cari. *Goose's Story* , 2002.

Each spring, a girl and her dog watch the Canadian geese return. One year she notices that a goose is missing a foot and does her best to help it. (See also: *Shrinking Violet* .)

Brown, Arthur. *Arthur Lost and Found* , 1998.

One of the myriad of "Arthur" stories, here, Arthur and Buster take a bus for the first time. When they fall asleep they miss their stop and end up lost in a strange part of town. (One of the *Arthur* series which begins with *Arthur's Nose* .)

Burleigh, Robert. *Goal!* , 2001.

It's the last soccer game of the season and in the final minutes, the score is tied as the story-line follows the action to its dramatic conclusion. (See also: *Hoops* .)

Cannon, Janell. *Verdi* , 1997.

Verdi, a vivid yellow, baby python, is determined to never grow up, but when he does, he discovers that he still has a bit of baby python in him after all. (See also: *Stellaluna* and *Crickwing* .)

Clements, Andrew. *Double Trouble in Walla Walla* , 1997.

Lulu is sent to the principal's office when she can't stop spouting nonsense words. Soon she is not the only one affected by the weird word-warp.

Daly, Niki. *Once Upon a Time* , 2003.

Sarie, who lives in South Africa , has trouble reading, until practicing with her Aunt Anna gives her confidence.

dePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona Takes a Vacation* , 2000.

When Strega Nona sets off for the seashore for a much needed vacation, she leaves her assistants, Big Anthony and Bambolona in charge and that can only lead to trouble. (See also: *Strega Nona* ; *Big Anthony and the Magic Ring* ; *Strega Nona's Magic Lessons* ; *Merry Christmas Strega Nona* ; *Strega Nona Meets Her Match* ; *Strega Nona: Her Story* ; and *Big Anthony: His Story* .)

English, Karen. *Hot Day on Abbott Avenue* , 2004.

After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other, until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them to forget about being mad.

Fleischman, Paul. *Weslandia* , 1999.

Wesley grows a garden full of large, strange plants and decides to create his own civilization.

Funke, Cornelia. *The Princess Knight* , 2003.

Princess Violetta learns the same knightly skills as her brothers, but when they tease her, she practices at night until she becomes better than they are.

Harper, Jo. *Outrageous, Bodacious Boliver Boggs* , 1996, o.p.

Boliver Boggs, a mighty teller of tall tales, spins a new story every morning as he explains why he is late for school.

Hoffman, Mary. *Boundless Grace* , 1995.

Grace feels a bit uneasy about journeying to visit her father and his new family in Africa , but her grandmother tells her that families are what you make of them and Grace is determined to make the most of hers. (See also : *Amazing Grace* .)

Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *Lulu's Birthday* , 2001.

Laura and J. Matthew enjoyed the summer with their great-aunt Lulu and now they are planning a special surprise for her birthday.

Joose, Barbara. *Hot City* , 2004.

Mimi and her little brother Joe escape from home and the city's summer heat to read and dream about princesses and dinosaurs in the cool, quiet library.

Kellogg, Steven. *The Mysterious Tadpole: The 25 th Anniversary Edition* , 2002.

Kellogg has updated the illustrations and filled in the plot of his classic story of the special birthday present that he receives from his uncle in Scotland .

Kelly, John. *The Mystery of Eatum Hall* , 2004.

Mr. and Mrs. Pork-Fowler are invited to spend a weekend of gourmet dining at a spooky castle where their host, Mr. Hunter, is anxious to "meat" them.

Kurtz, Jane. *In the Small, Small Night* , 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.

Kuskin, Karla. *The Upstairs Cat* , 1997.

The upstairs cat and the downstairs cat see only their differences, not their similarities and so they are always fighting. (See also: *The Dallas Titans Get Ready for Bed* and *The Philharmonic Gets Dressed* .)

Marshall, James. *Swine Lake* , 1999.

The Boarshoi ballet is performing Swine Lake and when the wolf peeks in to observe, he thinks it's the perfect opportunity to snatch his dinner. (See also: *George and Martha* ; *George and Martha Encore* ; *George and Martha Rise and Shine* ; *George and Martha, Tons of Fun* ; *George and Martha Back in Town* ; *The Cut-Ups* ; *Yummers Too* ; *Wings : A Tale of Two Chickens* ; *Little Red Ridinghood* ; *The Cut-Ups Cut Loose* ; *George and Martha Round and Round* ; *The Three Little Pigs* ; *The Cut-Ups at Camp Custer* ; *Hansel and Gretel* ; and *The Cut-Ups Carry On* .)

Meddaugh, Susan. *Cinderella's Rat* , 1997.

One of Cinderella's transformed coachmen, does not return to being a rat at the stroke of midnight. He is human and his sister is a rat and now he must find a way to remedy the situation.

Noble, Trinkia Hakes. *Jimmy's Boa and the Bungee Jump Slam Dunk* , 2003.

Jimmy brings his Boa to basketball practice, creating calamity. (See also: *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* ; *Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back* ; and *Jimmy's Boa and the Big Splash Birthday* .)

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way* , 2001.

Mr. Lincoln, an African-American principal, is well loved by most of his students, but "mean Gene," bullies everyone. Instead of berating him, Mr. Lincoln uses Gene's interest in birds to help lead him to a new way of looking at life. (See also: *Thundercake* ; *Just Plain Fancy* ; *Mrs. Katz and Tush* ; *Babushka Baba Yaga* ; *My Ol' Man* ; *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair* ; *The Keeping Quilt* ; and *The Graves Family* .)

Puler, Robin. *Punctuation Takes a Vacation* , 2003.

When the punctuation in Mr. Wright's class gets miffed, all of the marks decide to go on a vacation and the students discover that nothing makes sense without them.

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon* , 2003.

Yoon, newly arrived in America , misses her native Korea and struggle to be a part of her new class. She hates the way her name looks in English and tries different words until settling on her own name at last.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Mice and Beans* , 2001.

Rosa Maria, a Spanish-speaking grandmother, is making the special preparations for her granddaughter's birthday party, unaware that the mice are making plans for a celebration of their own.

Soto, Gary . *Chato's Kitchen* , 1995.

Chat, a cat living in East Los Angeles , and his friend, Novio Boy, plan a dinner for their new neighbor, the mice, hoping they will be the main course. (Sequel: *Chato and the Party Animals* .)

Stanley, Diane. *Saving Sweetness* , 1996.

When Sweetness, the littlest orphan in Mrs. Slump's orphanage, runs away, the sheriff sets off to rescue her, but it isn't Sweetness that ends up needing saving. (Sequel: *Raising Sweetness* .)

Teague, Mark. *Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* , 2002.

Mrs. LaRue has sent her terrier, Ike, off to obedience school and the pup writes begging to come home.

Wisniewski, David. *Tough Cookie* , 1999.

Tough Cookie, a trench-coat wearing cookie detective, lives at the bottom of the cookie jar, investigating crime and trying to ward off the invasion of "Fingers."

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Coming on Home Soon* , 2004.

After Mama takes a job in Chicago during World War II, Ada Ruth stays with Grandma but misses her mother who loves her more than rain and snow.

Young, Ed. I, *Doko: The Tale of a Basket*, 2004.

A Nepalese basket tells the story of its use through three generations of a family.

Zelinsky, Paul. *Rapunzel* , 1997.

Zelinsky retells the classic fairy tale and illustrates it with masterful Italian Renaissance-style paintings (Caldecott winner). (See also: *Rumpelstiltskin* ; and *The Maid, the Mouse and the Odd-Shaped House* .)

Easy Readers

Alphin, Elaine. *A Bear for Miguel* , 1996.

A young girl in El Salvador trades a precious item of her own for supplies her family needs.

Baker, Barbara. *Digby and Kate and the Beautiful Day* , 1998

In five easy to read stories, Digby, the dog, and Kate, the cat, show that even though they may disagree on some things, they are still the best of friends. (Newest in a series that includes *Digby and Kate* and *Digby and Kate Again* .)

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Turtle Dreams* , 1997.

Turtle talks to different animals to try to find a dream that will prepare her for the long winter season.

Bottner, Barbara. *Pish and Posh* , 2004.

When Pish and Posh discover fairy magic, they face a series of wacky surprises.

Brown, Marc. *Arthur and the School Pet* , 2003.

D.W. finds that taking care of the class gerbil over the Christmas vacation is not so easy. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with *Arthur's Reading Race* .)

Cannon, A. E. *On the Go with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe* , 2002.

Pete and Joe, pirates with "stinky feet" discover that they are both afraid of water and decide that what they need is a parrot. (Sequel: *Let the Good Times Roll with Pirate Pete and Pirate Joe* .)

Cazet, Denys. *Minnie and Moo: The Attack of the Easter Bunnies* , 2004.

Minnie and Moo convince the other farm animals to dress up like the Easter bunny to surprise the farmer's grandchildren. (Newest in a series that begins with *Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon* .)

Cazet, Denys. *Sam Gets Lost* , 2004.

Grandpa helps his favorite grandpup to avoid scratching his chicken pox by telling how he once had to fight off an octopus during a terrible storm.

Chorao, Kay. *Here Comes Kate* , 2000.

In four stories, Kate, a young elephant, plays in the snow, learns to appreciate her new quilt, worries over a lost toy and stops her baby cousin from crying. (Sequel: *Up and Down with Kate* .)

Coerr, Eleanor. *Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express* , 1995.

Sixteen-year-old Bill finds adventure when he joins the Pony Express, although his letters home do not tell about all the danger he is in.

Cushman, Doug. *Space Cat* , 2004.

When Space Cat and Earl the robot encounter trouble with their space ship, they crash-land on an alien planet to search for more fuel.

Danziger, Paula. *Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown* , 2004.

Amber Brown loves the second grade but wonders if she will ever receive an award from Deskarina, the desk fairy, for keeping her desk clean. (Part of the *A Is for Amber* series.)

De Paola, Tomie. *T-Rex is Missing* , 2002.

Morgie accuses his best friend of taking his favorite dinosaur toy, and then finds out he must apologize. (Newest in a series that includes *Hide and Seek* and *Boss for a Day* .)

Driscoll, Laura. *The Bravest Cat!: The True Story of Scarlett* , 1997.

The true story of a mother cat that rescues her kittens from a burning building in New York in 1996.

Godwin, Laura. *Forest* , 1998.

A young girl and her mother find a small fawn in the forest near the family's farm in Canada .

Guest, Elissa Haden. *Iris and Walter and the Field Trip* , 2005.

Newest in a series that begins with *Iris and Walter* .

Holub, Joan. *The Garden That We Grew* , 2001.

Children enjoy the pumpkins that they planted and watched grow.

Johnston, Tony. *Alien and Possum: Friends No Matter What* , 2001.

Possum discovers a spaceship and with perseverance discovers that he and Alien can be friends despite their differences. (Sequel: *Alien and Possum Hanging Out* .)

Little, Jean. *Emma's Yucky Brother* , 2001.

Emma is excited about her new adopted brother, Max, because she has wanted a little brother for a long time. But when Max has trouble adjusting to the move from his foster home, Emma finds out how hard it is to be a big sister. (Sequels: *Emma's Magic Winter* and *Emma's Strange Pet* .)

Madsen, Ross Martin. *Perrywinkle's Magic Match* , 1997.

Perrywinkle and Andromeda compete to see who is best in magic, until they learn it is best to work together.

Maitland, Barbara. *The Bookstore Ghost* , 1998.

To catch mice in his bookstore, Mr. Brown gets a cat that comes up with a most unusual method to attract customers. (Sequels: *The Bookstore Burglar* and *The Bookstore Valentine* .)

McMullen, Kate. *Pearl and Wagner: Two Good Friends* , 2004.

Friendship isn't easy between Pearl , a hardworking rabbit, and Wagner, a daydreaming mouse. (Sequel: *Pearl and Wagner: Three Secrets* .)

Miller, Sara Swan. *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Cat* , 2002.

Written from a cat's point of view, the three stories include playing with wrapping paper at a birthday party, snow and breakfast. (Newest in a series that includes *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat*; *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* and *Three More Stories You Can Read to Your Dog* .)

Parish, Herman. *Happy Haunting, Amelia Bedelia* , 2004.

Everyone's favorite maid tries to help Mr. and Mrs. Rogers with their Halloween party. with the usual funny results. (Newest in a series that was begun by Peggy Parish with *Amelia Bedelia* .)

Paterson, Katherine. *Marvin One Too Many* , 2001.

Everyone else seems to know what to do and where to go at Marvin's first day of school. They even seem to be able to read! (See also: *Marvin's Best Christmas Present Ever* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas* , 2005.

When Henry and his dog Mudge go with Henry's parents to visit Great-Grandpa Bill in the home with lots of other grandpas, they lead them all on a wonderful adventure. (Newest in an ongoing series that began with *Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *High-Rise Private Eyes: The Case of the Desperate Duck* , 2005.

Readers can follow the clues along with Jack and Bunny as they try to solve the mystery of who stole the sugar cubes from duck's tea room. (Newest in a series that begins with: *The Case of the Missing Monkey* .)

Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter and Tabby Make a Wish* , 2005.

Mr. Putter thinks he is too old to celebrate his birthday, but when he remembers some of his past birthdays, he changes his mind. (Newest in a series that begins with *Mr. Putter and Tabby Pour the Tea* .)

Sharmat, Marjorie. *Nate the Great and the Owl Express* , 2003.

When an owl disappears onboard a train heading to San Francisco , Nate and his dog Sludge, have to use all their detective skills to solve the mystery. (Newest in a series that begins with *Nate the Great* .)

Thomas, Shelley Moore. *Good Night, Good Knight* , 2000.

The good knight helps three little dragons who can't get to sleep. (Sequel: *Get Well, Good Knight.*)

Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day* , 2005.

Amanda Pig, her family, and her friends, try different ways to beat the heat. (Newest in the series that begins with *Tales of Amanda Pig* .)

Weeks, Sarah. *Baa-Choo* , 2004.

When Sam the lamb has trouble sneezing, the other animals try to help.

Wells, Rosemary. *Make New Friends* , 2003.

Will Juanita, the new girl from Texas , ever feel at home at Hilltop School ? (Newest in the series that includes *Dora's Dinosaur* ; *The Germ Buster* ; *Mama Don't Go* ; *The School Play* ; *Be My Valentine* ; *When I Grow Up* ; *Bubble Gum Radar* ; *The Secret Birthday* and *Practice Makes Perfect* .)

Yolen, Jane. *Commander Toad and the Voyage Home* , 1998.

Commander Toad is experienced at finding new worlds, but runs into trouble when he tries to get home. (Newest in a series that begins with *Commander Toad in Space* .)