

St. Mary's Good reading Guide

FOR RISING PRESCHOOL, PRE-K,
AND KINDERGARTENERS

SUMMER 2023



hello there!

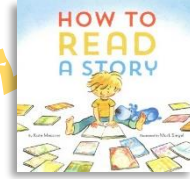
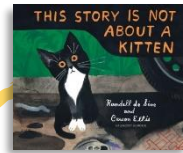
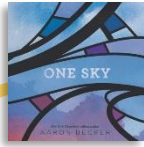
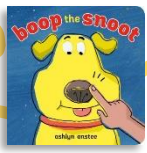
Thank you *so much* for taking a moment to read this little note from me to you on reading to and with your children. We all know that these early years are foundation-building and developing good habits *now* is crucial for success—success in so many ways—*later*.

Reading builds a solid foundation. All at once, you're introducing children to the shapes and sounds that make up language as well as to the thoughts and emotions that make up being human. Reading takes us on amazing adventures, introduces us to unforgettable characters, and unlocks doors to wonder and joy. But...it also enables us to learn about the rest of the world.

Getting children excited about reading is part of what we do at St. Mary's, because that will help them to get excited about learning. Here are some great books that will help get children excited about reading, and also pass the summer months most pleasantly. Enjoy!

--Mrs. England-Burnside, May 2023

super-duper-read-togethers!



Boop the Snoot

by Ashley Antsee

A fun, interactive board book that asks you to “boop the snoot” of some surprised-looking animals. So funny, you’ll read it again & again!

The Great Zapfino

by Mac Barnett

From two of SMES’ favorites comes a story of circuses and the courage to face your fears. An exciting read over-and-over kind of story.

One Sky

by Aaron Becker

In board book format like his earlier favorite, *You Are Light*, this cleverly cut book offers a new look at the thing everyone shares—the sky.

We Play Soccer

by Rene Colato Lainez

In English *and* Spanish, a treat for *all* the soccer fans out there. Joe and Jose have different languages but the same love for the beautiful game!

This Story is Not About a Kitten

by Randall De Seve

Yes, this is about more than one kitten, adorable though it is. Find out about the community that comes together to care for it—so sweet!

Beneath

by Cori Doerrfeld

Finn is in a foul mood and just wants to sit beneath his quilt, but Grandpa insists they go for a walk. Will going out help Finn get out of his funk?

Little Houses

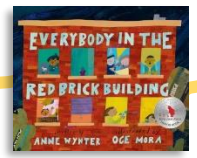
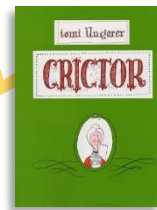
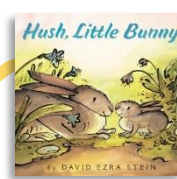
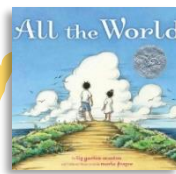
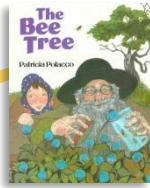
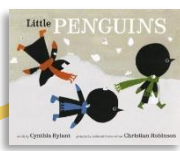
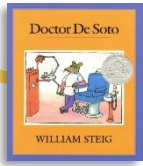
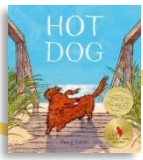
by Kevin Henkes

In this latest from a SMES favorite author, a girl visits the beach with her grandparents and discovers creatures who live in all sorts of houses!

How to Read a Story

by Kate Messner

Messner, nonfiction author extraordinaire, offers a simple “how-to” on reading stories which ends at the beginning of a learning adventure.



The Bee Tree

by Patricia Polacco

Grandfather helps Mary Ellen understand a book's power by taking her on a hunt for a bee tree—what seems silly & fun is a truly moving story.

Little Penguins

by Cynthia Rylant

Ready to cool down a little? Try this story of winter in Antarctica, which is happening about now! Brave the cold with these adorable penguins!

Hot Dog

by Doug Salati

Perfect for summer reading—the poor pup has had it with the city, so she escapes to the beach, finding, at last, some peace and calm.

All the World

by Liz Garton Scanlon

A sweet look at a child's view of everything from the huge to the teensy and our enormous world created from all the little things.

Doctor De Soto

by William Steig

Kindhearted Dr. De Soto is very good at being an animal dentist, but what happens when a fox comes in for help? How can he help *and* stay safe?

Hush, Little Bunny

by David Ezra Stein

From the author who brought us the “Interrupting Chicken” series comes a different approach to bedtime, plus it can be sung to the classic lullaby.

CriCTOR

by Tomi Ungerer

Another classic about animals, this time: a boa constrictor! Who could imagine that proper Madame Bodot would love her pet snake? We can!

Everybody in the Red Brick Building

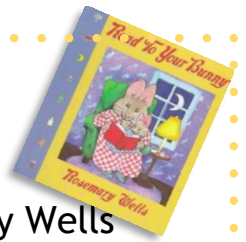
by Anne Wynter

This noisy cumulative story shows how people in other places live while telling of a bedtime gone wrong! Can the kids ever get to sleep again?

and last but not least, the one to remember for its great message:
Read to Your Bunny

by Rosemary Wells

An SMES favorite and an ode to the joys of reading.



SOME FAVORITE AUTHORS, OLD AND NEW

This is by NO MEANS a complete and exhaustive list, but it's a good start for when you're going to the library catalog looking for some good books.

Jon Agee

Jose Aruego & Ariane Dewey

Molly Bang

Bonny Becker

Margaret Wise Brown

Mac Barnett

Judi & Ron Barrett

Byron Barton

Sophie Blackall

Sandra Boynton

Jan Brett

Marcia Brown

Peter Brown

Eric Carle

Lauren Child

Lucy Cousins

Doreen Cronin

Drew Daywalt

Tomie DePaola

Anna Dewdney

Leo & Diane Dillon

Laura Dronzek

Candace Fleming

Denise Fleming

Mem Fox

Marla Frazee

Taro Gomi

Hannah Harrison

Chris Haughton

Kevin Henkes

Ryan T. Higgins

Eric Hill

Tad Hills

Trina Schart Hyman

Molly Idle

Jory John

Crockett Johnson

William Joyce

Ezra Jack Keats

Steven Kellogg

Leo Lionni

Arnold Lobel

James Marshall

Robert McCloskey

Bill Martin, Jr.

Oge Mora

Robert Munsch

Jane O'Connor

Todd Parr

Bill Peet

Andrea Davis Pinkney

Brian Pinkney

Jerry Pinkney

Patricia Polacco

Peter Reynolds

Faith Ringgold

Christian Robinson

Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Cynthia Rylant

Dan Santat

Tammi Sauer

Allan Say

Richard Scarry

Jon Scieszka

Rob Scotton

Maurice Sendak

David Shannon

Bob Shea

Janet Stevens

Jeremy Tankard

Mark Teague

Jan Thomas

Deborah Underwood

Tomi Ungerer

Rosemary Wells

Vera Williams

David Wiesner

Jane Yolen

Harriet Ziefert

Gene Zion

Charlotte Zolotow

CONCEPT BOOKS!

Concept books are fabulous for reinforcing those ideas that children sometimes pick up on their own but sometimes need examples to see, like colors, shapes, numbers, letters, sizes and their relationships, textures, etc.

Favorite concept book authors

Alan Baker

Donald Crews

Pat or Hazel Hutchins

Bill Martin

Dr. Seuss

Keith Baker

Lois Ehlert

Marthe Jocelyn

Richard Scarry

Ellen Stoll Walsh

Sandra Boynton

Tana Hoban

Ann Jonas

Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Harriet Ziefert

A is for Angry: an Animal and Adjective Alphabet by Sandra Boynton
A clever combo of letters and adjectives by a favorite author.

Ten On a Twig by Lo Cole
How many colorful birds can actually fit on one skinny twig? Count along to strengthen color and number knowledge!

I'm Not Small by Nina Crews
A boy is told to go outside and play and discovers he is tiny next to some things but huge next to others—a day of revelations!

I Know Numbers by Taro Gomi
Colorfully shows the many ways numbers are in our everyday life.

Ten Cats by Emily Gravett
Join in the color-splashing fun as ten cats make their mark by making art!

G Is for Goat by Patricia Polacco
A sweet ABC book set on a goat farm—educational in more ways than one!

“The Nutshell Library” by Maurice Sendak
A favorite series from a favorite author. Learn the alphabet, the months of the year, counting, and how to be wise. Check out the cartoon “Really Rosie” featuring the music of Carole King when you’re done!

Favorite Folktales

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain by Verna Aardema
A cumulative story whose rhythm is soothing and finally, when the rain comes at last, joyful. A classic of the African veldt.

Too Many Pigs and One Big Bad Wolf by Davide Cali
A fun, mathematical spin on the traditional favorite story of wolf v. pigs!

Adelita: a Mexican Cinderella Story by Tomie DePaola
So many cultures around the world have stories very similar to the familiar “Cinderella” story; try this from Mexico!

The Gingerbread Boy by Richard Eglieski
A fun citified retelling of the traditional “gingerbread boy” story, only this time the cookie-come-to-life romps through New York City!

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble
This Caldecott Medal winning book tells of a girl who loves her family, but who prefers to be among the wild horses where she can feel freedom.

Anansi retold by Gerald McDermott
The “spider-man” Anansi is a popular folklore character around the world & we at SMES love reading about him and acting out his antics!

Baby Rattlesnake retold by Te Ata, adapted by Lynn Moroney
This ancient tale of the Chickasaw tells of a baby rattlesnake who wishes for and is granted something before he is quite ready for it. A classic.

Endlessly Ever After: Pick Your Path to Countless Fairy Tale Endings!
by Laurel Snyder, illus. by Dan Santat
In this sophisticated picture book, you’ll get to choose and rechoose how favorite tales end! Entertainment for hours!

Lon Po Po: a Red Riding Hood Story from China retold by Ed Young
A visually stunning version of a familiar story, but set in ancient China.

NONFICTION & poetry Favorites

Twenty Questions

by Mac Barnett

A fun exploration of thinking about thinking and questioning the questions...you won't be able to put it down!

The Universe in You

by Jason Chin

Go beyond what the eye can see and explore God's wonders in the particles visible only with powerful microscopes. Prepare to be amazed!

A Summer Treasury of Recipes, Crafts, and Wisdom

by Angela Ferraro-Fanning

One of the new series called "Little Homesteaders" that shares kid-friendly ways of doing things from long ago. There's one for each season!

Spaceblock

by Christopher Franceschelli

A really neat intro to outer space, facts and history of humans in it—all packaged into a nifty board book with flaps to lift over and over!

Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes

by Mollie Katzen

Beloved restaurateur and cookbook author Katzen describes her amazing discovery that her own toddlers were cooking (for real) in preschool!

Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots

by Sharon Lovejoy

There is *always* a place for gardening in a young one's life! Start small and grow big—the rewards are so worth it!

Now We Are Six

by A. A. Milne

Milne, who introduced the world to Winnie the Pooh, also wrote several books of poetry. Try the one with illustrations by Rosemary Wells!

A Seed Grows

by Antoinette Portis

What a perfect time to read about a sunflower go from seed to seed!

Saint Spotting, or, How to Read a Church

by Christopher Raschka

A little boy (the author as a child, perhaps?) and his mother go through a church, where the boy shares all he has learned about the geography of a church and many common saint images. Super sweet and very handy.