

# The St. Mary's Good Reading Guide

FOR ST. MARY'S RISING PRESCHOOL,  
PREKINDERGARTEN,  
AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS  
SUMMER 2024





hello!

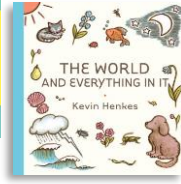
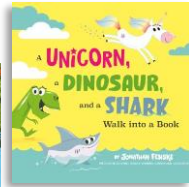
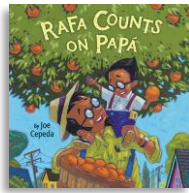
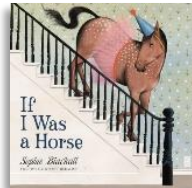
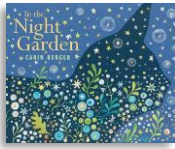
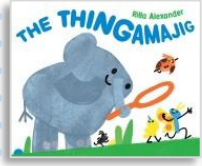
Thank you *so much* for taking a moment to read this little note from me to you on building the happy habit of reading to and *with* your children. We all know that these early years are foundation-building and developing good habits *now* is crucial for success *later*.

Reading builds a solid foundation for a child's intellectual and emotional growth, but also it encourages that most amazing thing... *curiosity*! 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. All this while encouraging them to want to know more! 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 and excited *to learn*. Basically, a little investment now pays huge dividends later. 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, June 2021

# Some Super Picture Books!



## *The Thingamajig*

Rilla Alexander

Oh no! Something's gone missing! Elephant decides to help his neighbors each find their missing thingamajig, or whoo-see-whatsit, etc. with a surprise ending!

## *In the Night Garden*

Carin Berger

A new and lovely bedtime story featuring gorgeous collage illustrations. More importantly, it helps little ones overcome any fear of the dark.

## *If I Was a Horse*

Sophie Blackall

If summer is for play and for play you need imagination, then you need to read this silly imagining of what life would be like as a horse! Great illustrations!

## *Rafa Counts on Papa*

Joe Cepeda

Rafa and dad love to do so many things together: count, explore, count, play, count, etc. Share in the joy these two find in spending time together...just in time for Father's Day!

## *A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark Walk Into a Book*

Jonathan Fenske

Yes, the book is absurdly funny as the title sounds. Prepare yourself for some goofy hijinks as three unlikely allies are tasked with making the story work. Silly fun!

## *The World and Everything in It*

Kevin Henkes

It was a great year for books on thinking of all the teensy and all the humongous things (see Mo Willems' books on the next page) including ourselves and how we fit.

## *Angelina's Big City Ballet*

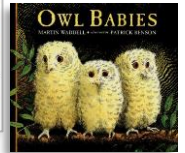
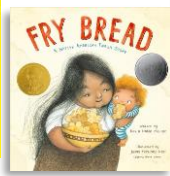
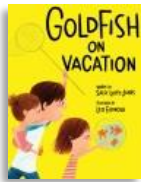
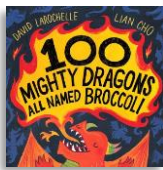
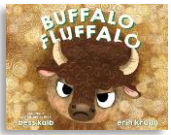
Katherine Holabrid

In this reprint of the 2013 original, share Angelina's excitement as she gets to dance on the big stage of the big theater in the big city—sooo exciting!

## *Milo Walking*

James Howe

Milo and his mom go on a walk around the neighborhood every day and every day there is something new to see! Great for developing curiosity *and* leg muscles!



### *Buffalo Fluffalo*

Bess Kalb

Buffalo has had enuffalo and needs everyone to get out of his way! That is, until a sudden rainstorm helps Buffalo to see that everyone is important, no matter the size!

### *Summer Is For Cousins*

Rajani LaRocca

One of the best things about summer is vacationing with your family, only Ravi's not the "baby" anymore and gets to do stuff with the "big kids"! Full of love & joy!

### *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli*

David La Rochelle

Sure to be on the "read it again!" shelf is this story about the silly antics of, yes, 100 dragons named Broccoli. Bit by bit, we get down to one amazing one!

### *Goldfish on Vacation*

Sally Lloyd-Jones

It's hot in the city even though so many have left for vacation. What about all the poor goldfish left behind? Shouldn't *they* get a vacation, too? Based on a true story!

### *Fry Bread*

Kevin Noble Maillard

Some foods say "family" or "comfort" or "happiness" and for so many people, that food is fry bread! Enjoy this tale of family and togetherness with your favorite folk!

### *Mister Kitty Is Lost!*

Greg Pizzoli

Oh no! How can we help? Readers get to become members of a search party in the recovery of a kitty to his owner. Lots of sneaky laughs, but a happy ending, too.

### *Anzu the Great Listener*

Benson Shum

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> of the "Anzu" series, little Anzu, a young kaiju (yes, like Godzilla) learns the power of listening. Readers learn how to be a kind human from this kind kaiju!

### *Very Good Hats*

Emma Straub

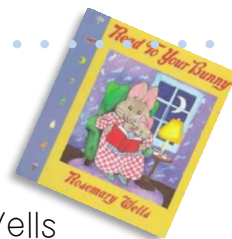
Though she usually writes for grownups, Straub puts on her silly-hat and helps us have a few hearty laughs imagining all the things that need or can be hats!

### *Owl Babies*

Martin Waddell

A family of owlets wakes to find that mother is not in the nest—where could she be? They know in their *heads* she is just hunting, but their *hearts* miss her. A beloved classic.





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	Taro Gomi	Faith Ringgold
Jose Aruego & Ariane Dewey	Hannah E. Harrison	Christian Robinson
Molly Bang	Chris Haughton	Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Bonny Becker	Kevin Henkes	Cynthia Rylant
Margaret Wise Brown	Ryan T. Higgins	Dan Santat
Mac Barnett	Eric Hill	Tammi Sauer
Judi & Ron Barrett	Tad Hills	Allan Say
Byron Barton	Trina Schart Hyman	Richard Scarry
Graeme Base	Molly Idle	Jon Scieszka
Sophie Blackall	Jory John	Rob Scotton
Sandra Boynton	Crockett Johnson	Maurice Sendak
Jan Brett	William Joyce	David Shannon
Marcia Brown	Ezra Jack Keats	Bob Shea
Peter Brown	Steven Kellogg	Peter Sis
Eric Carle	Leo Lionni	Janet Stevens
Lauren Child	Arnold & Anita Lobel	Jeremy Tankard
Lucy Cousins	James Marshall	Mark Teague
Doreen Cronin	Robert McCloskey	Jan Thomas
Drew Daywalt	Bill Martin, Jr.	Deborah Underwood
Tomie DePaola	Oge Mora	Tomi Ungerer
Anna Dewdney	Robert Munsch	Chris Van Allsburg
Leo & Diane Dillon	Jane O'Connor	Martin Waddell
Julia Donaldson	Todd Parr	Rosemary Wells
Laura Dronzek	Bill Peet	Vera Williams
Candace Fleming	Andrea Davis Pinkney	David Wiesner
Denise Fleming	Brian Pinkney	Jane Yolen
Mem Fox	Jerry Pinkney	Harriet Ziefert
Marla Frazee	Patricia Polacco	Gene Zion
Jackie French	Peter Reynolds	Charlotte Zolotow

# Concept Books!

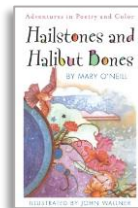
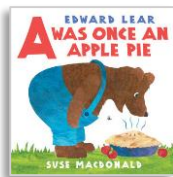
Concept books are fabulous for reinforcing those ideas that children sometimes pick up on their own but sometimes need examples to see, like colors, shapes, numbers, letters, sizes and their relationships, textures, etc.

## 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



### *Circle Under Berry*

Carter Higgins

A neat exploration of colors and shapes and how they are in relation to one another.

### *A Was Once an Apple Pie*

Edward Lear

Based on Lear's sweet and silly rhyme comes this sweet romp through the alphabet, illustrated by Suse Macdonald.

### *Good Morning, Good Night: a Book of Opposites in the City*

Anita Lobel

From the amazing Anita Lobel comes this beautiful journey through amazing illustrations that, from dawn to dusk, each showcase a concept from opposite extremes.

### *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*

Mary O'Neil

A classic collection of poetry, each inviting the reader to think about one color and all that color feels or means to them.

### *How to Count to One*

Caspar Salmon

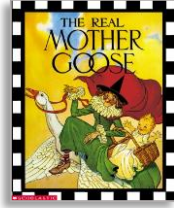
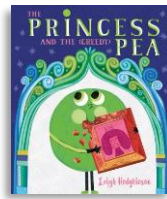
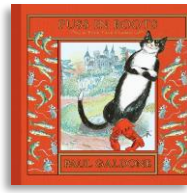
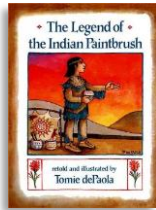
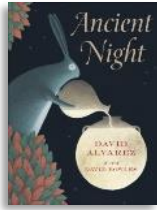
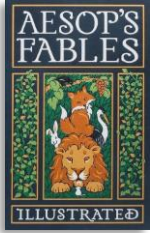
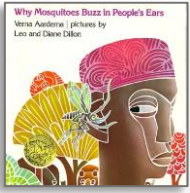
This book will have you laughing as you try to follow the silly instructions for counting to one! Great for reading with a small and enthusiastic group.

### *Ten Little Rabbits*

Maurice Sendak

A previously unpublished little gem from the creator of the classic "Nutshell Library"—a magician takes us magically through the first ten whole numbers—presto!

# Favorite Folktales!



## *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*

Verna Aardema

A cumulative “pourquoi” tale which not only answers the “why?” in the title, but shows how one little event can cause a huge chain reaction.

## *Aesop's Fables*

Aesop

Really, any edition will do, but now is an excellent time to start reading these short but powerful teaching stories, each with a “moral” to remember.

## *Ancient Night*

David Bowles

This enchanting folktale from Mexico combines two legends into one tale of creation and harmony. The illustrations alone are reason to read this—*so beautiful!*

## *Puss in Boots*

Paul Galdone

Read the classic folktale of the cat who has a few things to say about his owner and a few tricks up his...boots.

## *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*

Tomie de Paola

From SMES favorite dePaola comes his retelling of how our state wildflower, the *gaillardia*, helped a young man seeking his purpose.

## *The Princess and the Greedy Pea*

Leigh Hodgkinson

Read Hans Christian Anderson's original before diving into this hilarious cumulative version, similar to “There Was an Old Lady...”. So funny and satisfying at the end.

## *The Real Mother Goose*

illustrated by Blanche Fischer Wright

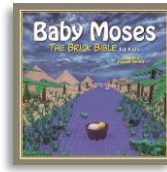
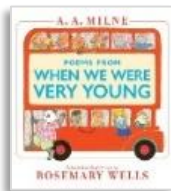
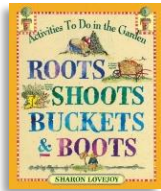
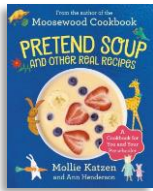
There are so many editions of “Mother Goose”, but the important thing is to just read them with your littles—any edition will do!

## *The Lost Horse*

retold by Ed Young

In this Chinese tale of the Zen tradition, a wise man teaches others that what seems to be a tragedy may actually be for good.

# Nifty Nonfiction & Poetry!



## *A Summer Treasury of Recipes, Crafts, and Wisdom*

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!

## *Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes*

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*

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*

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!

## *Give Me Grace: a Child's Daybook of Prayers*

Cynthia Rylant

From Newbery winner Rylant comes this lovely collection of prayers to say each day of the week, modeled after medieval books of days. Rylant illustrated it with bright blocks of primitive art, perfect for the simple but profound words.

## *Baby Moses*

Brendan Powell Smith

From Smith's "Brick Bible" collection is this foundational story of how an abandoned baby came to be a leader in more ways than one. Look for Smith's other titles!

## *Are You Big?*

## *Are You Small?*

both by Mo Willems

From beloved Mo who gave us "Elephant & Piggie" comes this pair of books sure to spark curiosity! Go from quark-small to supernova-big as you explore the universe!