

Using *Children's Choices* in the Early Childhood Curriculum:
Linking Books to (Louisiana) Content Standards

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Children's Choices, a project of a joint committee supported by the International Reading Association (IRA) and the Children's Book Council, is published annually in *The Reading Teacher*. Books recommended by children are grouped by levels: Beginning Reader (ages 5-7); Young Readers (ages 8-10); and Advanced Readers (ages 11-13). Books listed at the Beginning Reader level and Young Reader level of *Children's Choices* from 1996 through 2006 were analyzed for support of specific curriculum areas. Books related to language arts, math, social studies, and science were categorized and listed according to Louisiana content standards for prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, and third grade. The resulting categorized, annotated book list reflects content areas and standards, and each annotation reflects age range as indicated in *Children's Choices*. Early childhood teachers will find the list useful in selecting books supporting language arts (identifying and creating rhyme; understanding the alphabetic principle; reading books with predictable text; recognizing literary devices; appreciating reading and writing; recognizing and responding to a variety of literature from many genre; parts of speech; prediction, and point of view), math (counting; basic arithmetic operations; applying math to real life; and ratios), social studies (awareness of the world; seasonal change; identifying and comparing cultural characteristics; community workers; and learning about ways people help each other), and science (understanding scientific inquiry; characteristics of organisms; life cycle of organism; describing a food chain; preserving the environment; threatened or endangered species; plants and animals that lived long ago).

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Children's Choices, a project of a joint committee supported by the International Reading Association (IRA) and the Children's Book Council, is published annually in *The Reading Teacher*. Books recommended by children are grouped by levels: Beginning Reader (ages 5-7); Young Readers (ages 8-10); and Advanced Readers (ages 11-13). Analysis of the lists at the Beginning Readers and Young Reader levels yields support of the use of many books by teachers in many areas of the curriculum.

Curriculum areas and objectives that can be supported and reinforced by specific books chosen by children as their favorites are delineated in the list below. The Louisiana content standards, benchmarks, and grade level expectations for prekindergarten, kindergarten, first, second, and third grade were reviewed in language arts, math, social studies, and science, along with books appearing in *Children's Choices* between 1995 and 2006.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading, Comprehending, and Responding to a Range of Materials Using a Variety of Strategies for Different Purposes

Identifying and creating rhyme in words

Gralley, J. (2001). *Very boring alligator*. New York: Henry Holt.

Appealing word choice is used in this entertaining story about a girl trying to get rid of an alligator. Children enjoy predicting the rhyming words. (6-8y)

Hoberman, M. A. (1998). *Miss Mary Mack*. New York: Little Brown.

This includes a classic rhyming chant about Miss Mary Mack and the adventures with an elephant. Directions for a hand-clapping game using the words from the rhyme are included. (5-6y)

Hubbard, P. (1998). *My crayons talk*. New York: Henry Holt.

Crayons reveal themselves in rhymes with a variety of action words. Colorful illustrations reinforce the color rhyme. (5-6y)

Ryan, P.M. (1997). *A pinky is baby mouse and other baby animal names*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

Rhyming text is used in this realistically illustrated book that introduces the names of baby animals. Children enjoy answering the riddle for the new baby on each page.

Walton, R. (1998). *So many bunnies: A bedtime ABC and counting book*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Sheppard/William Morrow.
Readers will enjoy predicting the rhymes as Old Mother Rabbit puts her 26 children to bed. (6-8y)

Understanding the Alphabetic Principle

Bond, M. (1998). *Paddington bear and the busy bee carnival*. New York: Harper Trophy.
In a carnival atmosphere, Paddington and Mr. Gruber search for objects that start with the letter *B*. (6-8y)

Cronin, D. (2005). *Click, clack, quackity quack: An alphabet adventure*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. (5-7 y)
In this humorous alphabet book, a picnic invitation typed by the cows is taken around the farm by Duck.

Edwards, W. (2002). *Alphabeasts*. Toronto: Kids Can Press.
Rhyming text and detailed illustrations explain how various common and exotic animals spend their time in an elegant house. (6-8y)

Ernst, L. C. (1996). *The letters are lost*. New York: Viking.
Children can expand letter-sound relationship by finding an object corresponding to the letter on each missing alphabet block. (5-6y)

Horenstein, H. (1999). *Arf! Beg! Catch! Dogs from A to Z*. New York: Cartwheel /Scholastic.
Photographs of dogs depict actions for each alphabet letter. Children will enjoy predicting what the dogs will do next. (5-6y)

Kirk, D. (1998). *Miss Spider's ABC*. New York: Scholastic Press.
Miss Spider's alphabetical friends plan a surprise birthday party for her. (5-6 y)

Marshall, J. (1995). *Look once, look twice*. New York: Ticknor & Fields.
Bold letters of the alphabet contain patterns of fruit, vegetables, flowers and animals. Children like to predict the pattern to appear next. (5-6y)

Mayer, M. (2002). *Professor Wormbog in search for the zipperump-a-zoo*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
The Professor has every monster from A to Z, but what he really wants is a Zipperump-a-zoo. He and his companions search for the elusive monster. (6-8y)

Pallotta, J. (2004). *The beetle alphabet book*. Watertown, MA: Charles Bridge Publishing.

- The reader learns what a beetle is (and is not) in an informative and entertaining manner. Unique aspects of featured beetles are illustrated, as well both upper and lower case letters. (5-7y)
- Paul, A.W. (1999). *Everything to spend the night from A to Z*. New York: Dorling Kindserley.
Rhyiming text tells the story of a young girl who goes to spend the night with Grandpa. Each packed item is revealed in alphabetical order. Only after all is unpacked does she realize that one important item was forgotten. (5-6y)
- Sandved, K.B. (1996). *The butterfly alphabet*. New York: Scholastic.
The alphabet is presented in short poems about all 26 letters. Close-up photographs of various butterfly wings reveal letters of the alphabet in wing patterns. (6-8y)
- Slate, J. (2000). *Miss Bindergarten stays home from kindergarten*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
When Miss Bindergarten succumbs to the flu, a substitute runs the class, and the children cavort in alphabetical order. (5-6y)
- Reading Books with Predictable, Repetitive Text and Simple Illustrations*
- Dodds, D.A. (2003). *Where's pup?* New York: Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Readers Group.
Repetitive text and a folded flap at the end of the book make this an enjoyable book for beginning readers. Circus acrobats with rhyiming names lead the reader to pup. (5-7y)
- Fernandes, E. (1998). *Big week for little mouse*. (1998). Toronto: Kids Can Press.
As Little Mouse plans a party, readers enjoy the predictability of the sequencing and learn days of the week, opposites, and rhyiming. (5-7y)
- Inches, A. (1998). *Ghost town trick-or-treat*. New York: Puffin/Penguin Putnam.
The rhyme "Postmaster Ghostmaster" is appealing, as well as the trick-or-treaters hiding behind flaps. (6-8y)
- Markes, J. (2001). *Good thing you're not an octopus!* New York: Harper Collins.
The humorous illustrations and recurring pattern help a little boy see it's good that he's not a shark with 200 teeth to brush or a bird who has to eat worms, or an octopus trying to get dressed. (5-6y)
- Murphy. M. (1999). *Caterpillar's wish*. New York: Dorling Kindserley
A caterpillar dreams of flying like ladybug and bee friends. One day undergoes metamorphosis and flies away. This is a pattern book for emergent readers who dream of growing up to become something beautiful and special. (5-7y)

Smith, M. & F. (2004). *ABC All-American riddles*. Columbus, NY: Peel Productions.
The cover art and the rhythmic pattern of the text draw readers into the book. The reader must use a combination of picture clues, word knowledge, and prior knowledge solve the riddles. (8-10y)

Weeks, S. (2002). *Oh my gosh, Mrs. McNosh!* New York: Harper Collins/Laura Geringer Books.
George, Mrs. McNosh's dog, escapes through the park. "Oh, my gosh!" is repeated throughout the story as Mrs. McNosh catches everything except George. (6-8y)

Recognizing Literary Devices

Edwards, W. (2004). *Monkey business*. Toronto: Kids Can Press.
Similes and metaphors are used in the business described in the book. Readers can compare the text to detailed pictures for a literal meaning – for a good giggle! (8-10y)

Lovitt, C. (1995). *The flamingoes are tickled pink: A book of idioms*. New York: Disney.
Animals from Disney's *The Lion King* introduce over 20 idioms accompanied by silly illustrations for the familiar phrases. (6-8y)

Reading, Analyzing, and Responding to Literature as a Record of Life's Experiences

Appreciating Reading and Writing

Cronin, D. (2003). *Diary of a worm*. New York: Harper Collins Children's Books.
Hilarious journal entries from a worm tell the good (no baths, no dentists), the bad (birds and sidewalks), and the ugly (a face that looks like a rear end) of being a worm.

Numeroff, L. (2004). *Beatrice doesn't want to*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.
Beatrice doesn't like books, reading or the library. Forced to accompany her brother to the library for three afternoons in a row, Beatrice discovers the magic of books. (5-7y)

Recognizing and Responding to a Variety of Literature from Many Genre

Folktales

Asch, F. (1998). *Ziggy Piggy and the three little pigs*. Toronto: Kids Can Press.
In a take-off on a familiar tale, Ted, Fred, and Ned warn their brother Ziggy about the Big Bad Wolf. Instead of following their advice to build a house, Ziggy builds a raft, saving the day for his brothers.

- Egielski, R. (1997). *The gingerbread boy*. New York: Geringer/Harper Collins.
This gingerbread Boy is chased through a busy city, instead of the countryside, by a rat and a variety of people until a fox offers to carry him across a lake. (6-8y)
- Lowell, S. (1997). *The boot maker and the elves*. New York: Orchard Books.
Colorful language and characters captivate children in this retelling of *The Shoemaker and the Elves*.
- Malley, K. (2005). *Once upon a cool motorcycle dude*. New York: Walker Books for Young Readers.
This book includes fractured fairy tales from both the male and female perspectives. One has the princess coming to the rescue; the other has the cool motorcycle dude saving the princess's ponies for a price. (8-10y)
- Smith, S. (2004). *Goldilocks and the three Martians*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
This fractured fairy tale is about a girl who does not like the rules at home and decides to move to another planet. Children relate to the idea of wanting to escape occasionally when things are not pleasant.(5-7y)
- Poetry*
- Brown, C. (1998). *Polkadots and octopus slacks: 14 stories*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Fourteen nonsense, rhyming tales will appeal to the reader, particularly if he likes Edward Lear. (6-8y)
- Cleary, B. (2004). *Rainbow soup: Adventures in poetry*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing Group.
This is a cleverly written book and illustrated book about all kinds of poems, limericks, and rhymes. This book would be a great teaching aid. (8-10y)
- Dakos, K. (1999). *The bug in teacher's coffee and other school poems*. New York: Harper Collins.
The short and entertaining poems provide a new view of what goes on at school. (5-6y)
- Dotlich, R. (1998). *Lemonade sun and other summer poems*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills.
Acrylic illustrations evoke the color and images of summer. The multicultural characters invite the reader to experience the rhythm and wordplay of the text. (6-8y)
- Florian, D. (1998). *Insectopedia*. New York: Harcourt Brace.
Twenty-one spider and insect poems and paintings bring insects to life in a blend of science and wordplay. (6-8y)

- Hopkins, B.L. (2005). *Oh! No! Where are my pants? And other disasters: Poems*. New York: Harper Collins.
Topics familiar to most children are addressed. Accompanying pen-and-ink caricature drawings add humor and life to each poem. (5-7y)
- Krensky, S. (2004). *There once was a very old school and other lunch-box limericks*. New York: Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Books.
This book celebrates familiar school topics, ranging from the lunch lady to the playground bully, with humorous rhyming, analogies, and colorful illustrations. (8-10y)
- Rowden, J. (2005). *Paint me a poem: Poems inspired by masterpieces of art*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press.
Fourteen outstanding paintings from the National Gallery of Art in Washington are presented along with their poetic interpretation in a variety of styles. (8-10y)
- Shields, C. D. (1995). *Lunch money and other poems about school*. New York: Dutton.
These short poems are appropriate for read-alouds or read-alongs or to read alone. Illustrations depict multicultural and challenged populations. (6-8Y)
- Shields, C. D. (2002). *The bugliest bug*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick press.
An observant damselfly saves her friends who would have otherwise been eaten at a bogus bug contest hosted by spiders in disguise. (5-6y)
- Silverstein, S. (2005). *Runny babbit: A billy sook*. New York: Harper Collins.
Nonsensical word play will entice children to try reading this poetry aloud. A switch in beginning letters in words makes language fun. (8-10y)
- Various poets. (2002). *I invited a dragon to dinner: And other poems to make you laugh out loud*. New York: Philomel, an Imprint of Penguin Books.
Poems written by 23 new poets tickle the funny bone of children. Such poems as "Detestable Vegetables" and "Outburst! Outburst!" are included. Wordplay and puns are abundant.

Informational Books

- Carle, E. (2004). *Mister seahorse*. New York: Philomel.
Mr. Seahorse has a special job carrying his offspring in his tummy. He visits with other father fish who also care for eggs in unusual ways. Children will enjoy searching for fish cleverly camouflaged in this pleasing, informative book. (5-7y)
- Farndon, J. (1998). *The Kingfisher first animal encyclopedia*. New York: Kingfisher.
One hundred fifty-five wild and domestic animals are featured along with 1000 color pictures for the elementary level researcher. (6-8y)

- Jeffrey, L. (2004). *Dogs: How to choose and care for a dog*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishing.
Actual pictures of pets and their owners assist with the context of this chapter book as readers learn about choosing and caring for a dog that is right for an individual. (8-10y)
- Riley, L. (1995). *Elephants swim*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
The behaviors of 16 animals in the water are described with rhyming text and bright illustrations. A section in the back of the book provides scientific information about each of the featured animals. (5-6y)
- Ruffin, F. (2005). *Police dogs*. New York: Bearport Publishing.
Facts and photographic illustrations explain how police dogs help in law enforcement. (8-10y)
- Wallace, K. (1999). *Duckling days*. New York: Dorling Kindersley.
Readers learn about how mother duck prepares a nest, lays eggs, and cares for her ducklings. Close-up, full-color photographs show interesting details of the ducks and their habitat. (6-8y)
- Walsh, M. (1996). *Do pigs have stripes?* Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Through a questions and answer format and bright illustrations readers learn about the attributes of seven different animals. (5-6y)
- Wood, A. (1997). *Birdsong*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.
Children listen to “birdsong” across the country as they participate in their own daily activities. Realistic pictures show birds in their native habitat. (6-8y)

Communicating Using Standard Grammar and Sentence Structure

Parts of Speech

- Cleary, B. (2004). *I and you and don't forget who: What is a pronoun?* Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books.
This book tells a story in rhyme, using different types of pronouns, helping children to remember pronouns. Colorful illustrations feature monster-like creatures taking part in everyday activities. (8-10y)
- Stickland, P. , & Stickland, H. (1997). *Dinosaur roar*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
Colorful dinosaurs help illustrate adjectives and opposites as they romp through the pages toward their lunch. This a good read-aloud book supporting active participation as children at out the descriptions of the dinosaurs. (6-8y)

Applying Reasoning and Problem-Solving Skills to Reading

Prediction

Birdwell, N. (1998). *Clifford and the big parade*. New York: Cartwheel/Scholastic Press.

Children enjoy predicting what will happen as Emily and Clifford participate in the town's birthday celebration. This is an excellent book to use in predicting outcomes. (6-8y)

Pfister, M. (1998). *Rainbow Fish and the big blue whale*. New York: North-South.

This story supports predictions and involvement when used as a read-aloud. (6-8y)

Point of View

Dakos, K., & DesMarteau, A. (2004). *Our principal promised to kiss a pig*. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company.

A principal promises to kiss a pig if students read 10,000 books. The chosen pig, Hamlet, however, wants nothing to do with the kiss. Readers relate to promises from enthusiastic principals and enjoy the pig's point of view. (5-7y)

Hardy, T. (1996). *Lost cat*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

A cat owner looks for his beloved pet, while the cat finder cannot wait to get the creature out of his life. Bold illustrations and rhyming text describe the two very different perspectives.

Kuskin, K. (2005). *So, what's it like to be a cat?* New York: Atheneum Books.

The lives of cats are explored in this question-and-answer exchange between a young boy and an extremely smart cat. The rhythmic language and realistic illustrations from the cat's perspective will attract young readers. (5-7y)

Mayes, W. M. (2006). *Walter the giant storyteller's giant book of giant stories*. New York: Walker Books for Young Readers.

Stories of both tall-tale and fairy tale giants are told from the point of view of each of the giants. The author injects humor and personality into the characters as they plead their cases.

MATH

Demonstrating an Understanding of the Real Number System and Communicating the Relationships Using a Variety of Techniques and Tools*Counting*

- Archambault, J. (2004). *Boom chicka rock*. New York: Philomel Books.
Mice rock and roll when the birthday cake is left out and the cat is asleep. Numbers and number words are reinforced as the mice bunny hop, tango, and electric slide until the cat awakens. (5-7y)
- Brooks, A. (1996). *Frogs jump: A counting book*. New York: Scholastic.
In the first half of this book, readers count from one to twelve with the help of amusing illustrations and repetitive phrases. Illustrations in the second half of the book help readers count backwards. (5-6y)
- Davis, D. (2004). *Ten redneck babies: A southern counting book*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing.
Readers count from one to ten - southern style (blue tick hounds, banjos ...). (5-7y)
- Edwards, P. (1998). *Warthogs in the kitchen: A sloppy counting book*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.
Eight warthogs mix up 10 cupcakes. Children delight in finishing the rhymes and counting objects in each picture. (5-6y)
- Faulkner, K. (2001). *Ten little monkeys: A counting story*. New York: Scholastic.
Ten playful monkeys find adventure in the jungle in this interactive book. Children count backward while they swing manipulative monkeys down from a pop-up tree. (6-8y)
- Hubbard, P. (1999). *Trick or treat countdown*. New York: Holiday House.
Ghosts goblins and other make-believe creatures gather on Halloween night. Young children will enjoy counting each set of creatures as they arrive and then counting backwards as they depart. (5-6y)
- Lavis, S. (1997). *Cock-a-doodle-doo*. New York: Lodestar.
Simple vocabulary and friendly animated pictures make this an appealing counting book for younger children. (6-8y)
- Lewin, B. (2003). *Cat count*. New York: Henry Holt Books.
This book entices the reader to count the cats that appear on each new page, beginning with one fat cat, to see how many accumulate. Just as the answer seems clear, the fat cat causes a surprise ending. (5-7y)

- Miranda, A. (1999). *Monster math*. Orlando: Harcourt.
This a good counting concept book for young children. Monsters arrive one-by-one for little monster's birthday party until Mom decides that enough is enough. (5-6y)
- Nobisso, J. (2005). *The number dance: A counting comedy*. West Hampton Beach, NY: Gingerbread House.
A rhythmic play on words combining the numerals 1 through 10 with the classic dance steps of the waltz, samba, conga, and rumba. (5-7y)
- Numeroff, I. (1998). *Monster munchies*. New York: Random House.
Young readers will be captivated by the rhythm and rhyme of this story as they develop counting skills. (5-6y)
- Parker, V. (1997). *Bearobics*. New York: Viking.
Animals from the jungle join together for bearobics. Children will enjoy snapping their fingers and tapping their toes in this hip-hop counting story. (6-8y)
- Ryan, P, & Pallotta, J. (1996). *The crayon counting book*. Watertown, MA: Charles Bridge.
Numbers and colors are used together to introduce the concept of counting by twos, first the even numbers then the odd numbers. (5-7y)
- Walsh, M. (1997). *Martha counts her kittens*. New York: Millbrook Press.
In this interactive counting book, children lift flaps to help Martha a mother cat, search for her five kittens. (5-6y)
- Yektai, N. (1996). *Bears at the beach: Counting 10 to 20*. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press.
By spending a day at he beach, with a family of bears students are introduced to counting from 10 to 20. (5-6y)

Basic Arithmetic Operations

- Maccarone, G. (1995). *Monster math*. New York: Scholastic.
Students are introduced to subtraction as they follow the rhyming stories of 12 monsters as they disappear one by one. (5-6y)

Applying Math Facts and Arithmetic Solutions to Real Life

- Daniels, T. (2001). *Math man*. New York: Orchard Books.
A grocery store crisis calls for a mathematical solution that only one person can provide. Readers will find math problems embedded in a fast-paced story and intricate illustrations. (5-6y)

Ratios

- Schwartz, D. (1999). *If you hopped like a frog*. New York: Scholastic Press.
Imagine what you could do if you had the abilities of some animals. You could carry a car, eat over 700 hamburgers a day.... Children learn about ratios and discover amazing possibilities. (6-8y)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Developing understanding of the connection between people and places and the relationship between man and his environment

Awareness of the World around Them

- Beaton, C. (2000). *How big is a pig*. New York: Barefoot Books.
A young pig wanders around the farmyard, pointing out a variety of opposites. Simple sentence pattern and rhyming text support early reading efforts. ((5-6y)
- Slate, J. (2001). *Miss Bindergarten takes a field trip with kindergarten*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
In this alphabet book, the class takes a typical field trip. Readers will recognize the post office, fire station, bakery, public library, and city park. (5-6y)

Seasonal Change

- Birdwell, N. (1997). *Clifford's first autumn*. New York: Scholastic.
Clifford and Emily romp through the puppy's first autumn, enjoying traditional fall experiences from falling leaves to football. (5-6y)
- Deady, K. (2004). *All year long*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books.
The sensory poem describes the images that the four seasons conjure up in a young girl's mind. The rhythmic language pattern and the colorful seasonal illustrations will appeal to young readers. (5-7y)

Identifying and comparing the cultural characteristics of different regions and people

- Grover, M. (1997). *Max's wacky taxi day*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace.
In a book of visual and verbal puns, Max's day as a taxi driver details delivering passenger's around the city. Cultural diversity is depicted in colorful illustrations. (5-6y)
- Keep, R. (2004). *Clatter bash! A day of the dead celebration*. Atlanta: Peachtree.
El Dios de los Muertos brings jaunty skeletons out of the graveyard for a night of dancing, singing, eating, and storytelling. At the bottom of each page is a rhyming banner in two languages. (5-7y)

Developing an Understanding of the Structure and Purpose of Government

Community Workers and Their Jobs

Desimini, L. (2003). *Policeman Lou and policeman Sue*. New York: Blue Sky Press/Scholastic.

Two police officers work through a small, quiet town until Policeman Lou chases and arrests a robber. Duties of policemen are featured within the story. Safety tips for children are included at the end of the book. (5-7y)

Mayo, M. (2002). *Emergency*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, an imprint of Lerner.

Various types of common and unusual emergency responses, from police cars to fire-fighting planes, are featured in this colorful book. A repeated refrain "Help is coming!" entices young readers. (6-8y)

McMullan, K. (2002). *I stink*. New York: Harper Collins/Joanna Cotler Books.

The reader is given a tour to learn what it is like to be a garbage truck and comes to realize the importance of their job.

Learning about the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

Learning about Ways People Help Each Other

Sharing

Fearnley, J. (2004). *Billy Tibbles moves out!* New York: Harper Collins.

Rather than share his bedroom with his younger brother, Billy moves out. In predictable plot twist, he returns and proves to himself that families do indeed share. (5-7y)

Munsch, R. (1999). *We share everything*. New York: Cartwheel, an imprint of Scholastic.

When Amanda and Jeremiah share everything, as instructed by their kindergarten teacher, the whole class is in for a surprise. (5-7y)

Pfister, M. (1996). *The rainbow fish board book*. New York: North South.

Rainbow Fish has no friends until he gives his scales away. In the end he has one shiny scale, but many friends. (5-6y)

Understanding Fundamental Economic Concepts

Identifying what is gained or lost when individuals or groups make decisions

Cronin, D. *Click, clack, moo: Cows that type*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Hens and cows go on strike against the farmer with duck acting as the neutral party. Through typed notes, they negotiate. Teachers will find this book useful in developing economic concepts as children enjoy the book's humor.

SCIENCE

Understanding Scientific Inquiry

Davies, N. (2004). *Poop: A natural history of the unmentionable*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

Poop is not only revolting and embarrassing, but in fact it is scientifically useful. Did you know that animal latrines send messages about group dynamics and population statistics?

Understanding the Life Cycle of Organisms and Understanding their Relationships to Each Other and to Their Environment

Characteristics of Organisms

Davies, N. (2003). *Surprising sharks*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

Much information about different kinds of sharks, along with pictures, is provided in this nonfiction book. (5-7y)

Delafosse, C. (1997). *Frogs (first discovery series)*. New York: Scholastic.

Surprising information is provided in a unique format and with transparent overlays. (6-8y)

George J. C. (1997). *Look to the north: A wolf pup diary*. New York: Harper Collins.

As the seasons pass, the first ten months of a wolf pup's life are described and illustrated. Nature's events are associated with the growth and development of the wolf pup. (6-8y)

Halls, K. (2005). *Wild dogs: Past and present*. Plain City: OH: Darby Creek.

The fascinating world of wild dogs from prehistoric times until today is featured in this nonfiction book. (8-10y)

Jenkins, M. (1998). *Chameleons are cool*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.

Many facts and delightful illustrations are featured in this nonfiction book. (6-8y)

Markle, S. (2005). *Army ants*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing.

Information about army ants, scavenger insects living in tropical forest, is provided. A glossary and additional resources are included. (8-10y)

Markle, S. (2004). *Crocodiles*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing.

- Full color photographs and amazing facts (This predator can see in the dark, hold his breathe for an hour, and hear a dragonfly land.) will convince the reader to avoid the Nile or at least the crocodile. (8-10y)
- Markle, S. (2004). *Great white sharks*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing
The ferocious-looking shark on the cover and the many details of the predator appeal, particularly, to male students. (8-10y)
- Markle, S. (2004). *Killer whales*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing.
Information about orcas, fearsome predators of the deep, reveals why these skilled hunters are at the top of the food chain. (8-10y)
- Markle, S. (2004). *Lions*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing.
Amazing photographs reveal such things as lionesses working together to hunt and cubs stalking imaginary prey. (8-10y)
- Markle, S. (2004). *Polar bears*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing.
Readers will be intrigued with the text and excellent photographs as they learn about the Arctic's powerful predators. (8-10y)
- Dell'Oro, S., & Varela-Paul, A. (1999). *Sneaky salamanders*. New York: Carolrhoda Books.
Various salamanders re depicted in their natural habitats along with close-up pictures of where and how they live in the animal world.
- Otto, C. (2003). *Spiders (Scholastic science readers)*. New York: Scholastic.
Interesting facts about spiders and hints for observing spiders are provided, as well as fascinating photos of many kinds of spiders. (6-8y)
- Rudy, L., & the editors of *Time for Kids*. *TIME for Kids: Snakes*. (2005). New York: Harper Collins.
This book includes outstanding photos and covers many facts about snakes regarding body parts, movement, egg hatching and prey. (5-7y)
- Thompson, S. (1998). *Built for speed: The extraordinary, enigmatic cheetah*. Minneapolis: Lerner.
The cheetah's unique way of life is detailed in this book, including physical adaptations that make it fast, dangers it faces, and measures people are taking to protect it from extinction. (6-8y).
- Life Cycles of Organisms*
- Delafosse, C., & Jeunesse, G. (1997). *Butterflies (first discovery series)*. New York: Scholastic.

Readers enjoy using the transparent overlays in learning about the life cycle of the butterfly. (6-8y)

DePalma, M. (2005). *A grand old tree*. New York: Scholastic.
Simple images and compelling text present the life cycle of a tree. Children are fascinated by the many uses of a tree and its renewal over time. (5-7y)

Mayer, M. (2001). *Our friend Sam*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.
In this series book, a caterpillar, captured in a backyard, builds a chrysalis and becomes a butterfly. (5-6y)

Developing an Appreciation for the Natural Environment and Developing a Sense of Stewardship

Describing a Food Chain

Pallotta, J. (2000). *Dory story*. Watertown, MA: Talewinds/Charlesbridge.
A boy ventures out in his dory and his experiences teach the reader about the food chain. (6-8y)

Preserving the Environment

Cecil, L. (1998). *Noah and the space ark*. Minneapolis: Lerner.
When earth becomes too polluted to support life, Noah builds a space ark to take animals and plants in search of a new home. (6-8y)

Tate, S. (1999). *Izzie Lizzie Alligator: A tale of a big lizard*. Nags Head, NC: Nags Head Art.
Mama Alligator teaches her young about the dangers of oil spills and their survival. Asked the question, “Who are helpful humans?”, she replies that they are humans who care about earth’s creatures. (6-8y)

Threatened or Endangered Species

Carle, Eric. (2003). *Panda bear, panda bear, what do you see?* New York: Henry Holt.
A sequel to *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do you See*, this book features ten endangered species of wild animals. (5-7y)

Developing an Understanding of the Properties of Earth Materials, the Structure of the Earth System, the Earth’s History, and the Earth’s Place in the Universe

Plants and Animals That Lived Long Ago and the Environment in Which They Lived

Lessem, D. (2003). *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.
The life of T. Rex is chronicled from the time it hatches until it matures into a ferocious hunter. Realistic illustrations are based on museum models. (5-7y)

- Maynard, C (1998). *The best book of dinosaurs*. New York: Kingfisher.
The fascinating prehistoric world of dinosaurs is captured in fact-filled text and color illustrations. (6-8y)
- O'Brien, P. (1999). *Megatooth*. New York: Henry Holt.
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Giants of the sea are highlighted, particularly interesting facts about the megalodon, the largest animal of sea or land.

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