

gender divide arises and they find themselves growing apart—Fletch playing with the boys (pirates) and Ivy playing with the girls (princesses). After a while they realize they miss each other. They start playing together again and show the rest of the class that recess is more fun when everyone plays together. The Kargmans' writing is humorous and the flow makes this a good read-aloud. The illustrations are colorful, playful and relevant. Overall, it's a nice addition to other friendship story favorites. **Valerie Byrd Fort, Library Media Specialist, New Providence Elementary School, Lexington, South Carolina**
ADDITIONAL SELECTION

Ketteman, Helen

If Beaver Had a Fever

Illustrated by Kevin O'Malley. 2011. 32pp. \$16.99 hc. Marshall Cavendish Children's Books. 978-0-7614-5951-4. Grades PreK-2

Little Bear wonders how Mama Bear would treat his animal friends if they were sick. Written in couplets, he imagines an illness for each animal: what would Mama do with a beaver with a fever, Weasel with the measles, or a chimp with a limp? Mama replies each time with a silly, imaginative cure. The verses are mainly natural, predictable, and fun. Mama and Little Bear appear laughing and enjoying their repartee, while drawings of the animals under discussion dominate the center of each page. Kevin O'Malley used art markers, colored pencils, and crayons to create a contrast between the Bears and the crayon-colored drawings of the other animals. As much fun as this story is, its message is warm and reassuring. **MaryAnn Karre, School Librarian, Horace Mann & Thomas Jefferson Elementary Schools, Binghamton, New York**
RECOMMENDED

Kirk, Katie

Eli, No!

2011. 32pp. \$14.95 hc. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 978-0-8109-8964-1. Grades PreK-2

Eli is a typical dog who gets into trouble when he wants to eat a lot, chases animals, wets where he shouldn't, and spreads out on the bed. Although his owner constantly says, "Eli, no!" he is certainly loved. Katie Kirk's story of a mischievous pet will delight young readers with bright bold illustrations that add to the humor. Kirk's lesson goes further than a pet: it deals with unconditional love. This is also a good selection to teach the responsibility that comes with owning a pet. **Jo Drudge, Educational Reviewer, Rome City, Indiana**
RECOMMENDED

Kroll, Virginia

Mosquito

Illustrated by Betsy LePlatt. 2011. 32pp. \$16.99 hc. Pelican Publishing Company. 978-1-58980-883-6. Grades K-2

A pesky mosquito meets her demise in a humorous way in this amusing picture book. Mosquito goes around

buzzing at a wide variety of animals; they respond to her with annoyance. In the evening, as she buzzes across the sky, she is gulped by a bat, bringing her end while finally pleasing someone: the bat. In fact, I laughed out loud at this ending as I could sense things building—I just did not know what to expect. Kroll uses alliteration and rhyme along with other word play to create an enjoyable tale. Repetition of one line in particular sets the stage for a fun read-aloud storytime. LePlatt's colorful illustrations, with the mosquito's size exaggerated, are a fine addition to this clever story. There is also a short fact page about mosquitoes at the end of the book. This book is sure to be a hit with children. **Laura D'Amato, Library Media Specialist, Berea, Ohio**
RECOMMENDED

Lindbergh, Reeve

Homer, the Library Cat: Travels of a Very Quiet Cat

Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf. 2011. 32pp. \$15.99 hc. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-3448-3. Grades PreK-2

Homer, a quiet cat, living with a quiet lady in a quiet house, loves the life he lives. When his mistress leaves each day, Homer finds quiet things to occupy his time. However, one day a crash scares him and he runs away looking for peace and quiet. The post office, the fire station, nor the railroad station provide relief from noise. It is when Homer finds the lady in a quiet library that he is contented again. The author's rhyming narrative will delight young listeners or readers. This selection would be a good introduction to simple rhyming books, leading to a lesson on poetry. The illustrations are bright watercolors, and the expressions on Homer's face give the reader insight into Homer's search for the "purrfect" life. **Jo Drudge, Educational Reviewer, Rome City, Indiana**
RECOMMENDED



Lodding, Linda Ravin

The Busy Life of Ernestine Buckmeister

Illustrated by Suzanne Beaky.

32pp. \$16.95 hc. Flashlight Press. 978-0-979-97469-4. Grades K-5

Kids have busy lives and this is a story about one of them; Ernestine Buckmeister and her non-stop scheduled days full of activities. Her parents pack her days with lessons on sculpting, water ballet, knitting, tuba, karate, yodeling, and yoga. Seeing Hugo playing in his yard, Ernestine takes control of her schedule. Due to these changes, she begins having fun. This will be a fun story for kids to read to their parents. The comical illustrations will have readers engaged. A good read-aloud, but beginning readers may have trouble with some of the text. **Jo Monahan, Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, Texas**
RECOMMENDED

MacRae, Tom

When I Woke Up I Was a Hippopotamus

Illustrated by Ross Collins. 2011. 32pp. \$16.95 hc. Andersen Press USA (Lerner Publishing Group). 978-0-7613-8099-3. Grades PreK-2

In this eye-catching, well-written, rhyming tale, the reader meets a young boy with a wild imagination. He becomes an assortment of creatures and inanimate objects, depending on his mood. He begins as a hippopotamus not wanting to get out of bed and flits through a robot, statue, monkey, monster, rocket ship, and giant. His parents, fed up with his antics, turn into dragons. The boy finally decides to be himself after realizing he's gone a little overboard. The colorful, detailed drawings are laugh-out-loud funny. Children are sure to take great delight in just looking at the pictures. The imaginary friends enable children to laugh at the craziness of the boy's actions, but also realize that his methods of release aren't always appropriate. Overall, this is a fun book that encourages using one's imagination and is sure to appeal to a wide variety of youngsters. **Bridget Slayden, Educational Reviewer, Rogersville, Missouri**
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Metzger, Steve

The Dancing Clock

Illustrated by John Abbott Nez. 2011. 32pp. \$12.95 hc. Tiger Tales/ME Media, LLC. 978-1-58925-100-7. Grades K-5

This rollicking, rhyming story is about a monkey named Milo, who escapes his cage so he can visit a magical clock in the Central Park Zoo. Milo is hungry and ready to return to his cage but the gate is locked. The zookeeper returns him to his place and all his friends are happy to see him. This picture book has bright and colorful illustrations with an entertaining story. Some words may challenge new readers. There is a brief informational section about the dancing clock located in New York City's Central Park Zoo. **Jo Monahan, Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton, Texas [Editor's Note: Also available in paperback.]**
RECOMMENDED

Nolan, Dennis

Sea of Dreams

2011. 40pp. \$16.99 hc. Neal Porter Books (Roaring Brook Press). 978-1-59643-470-7. Grades 2-6

Ah, imagination at its finest. Nolan's wordless book provides a basis to boost the imagination of any reader. This stunning book, set between a deep blue ocean with frothy waves and the rocky shoreline, tells of a little girl who builds a simple sand castle. After she leaves for the day the tide flows in; the big difference is there is a flame in the window of this sand castle. And then the author's imagination is let loose as the family inside this not-so-simple sand castle escapes the incoming tide and braves the ocean in a teeny tiny sailboat. Their adventures continue until the tide goes out and the little girl returns to the beach and the cycle begins again! A stunning