

50 Fantastic Rhyming Picture Books

Not only are rhyming books fun to read and listen to, they are great for developing an early literacy skill called phonological awareness--an ability to detect and play with the sounds that make up language. The slight differences in rhyming words help children distinguish the sounds of speech. They will use this skill when they learn how to read! The following is a list of notable picture books that make great use of rhyme. For more ideas, search the online catalog for "stories in rhyme" or ask a friendly librarian! Titles are shelved in the picture books section by the first three letters of the author's last name, unless otherwise noted.

Ahlberg, Janet and Allen. **Each Peach Pear Plum: an "I Spy" Story.** (E AHL)

Rhymed text and illustrations invite the reader to play "I Spy" with a variety of Mother Goose and other folklore characters.

Alarcôn, Karen. **Louella Mae, She's Run Away.** (E ALA)

A growing crowd searches all around the family farm for the missing Louella Mae.

Andreae, Giles. **Giraffes Can't Dance.** (E AND)

Gerald the giraffe is too clumsy to dance with all the other animals at the Jungle Dance, until he finds the right music.

Beaumont, Karen. **I Ain't Gonna Paint No More.** (E BEA)

In the rhythm of a familiar folk song, a child cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places.

Bernstrom, Daniel. **One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree.** (E BER)

Gobbled by a snake, a crafty boy finds a way out of his predicament by encouraging the snake to eat an increasing number of animals.

Biddulph, Rob. **Blown Away.** (E BID)

An unexpected adventure with his friends and a kite convinces Penguin Blue that he is not built for flying, and that he belongs on solid ice.

Bryan, Sean. **A Boy & His Bunny.** (E BRY)

One morning, a boy wakes up with a rabbit on his head and, although his mother is skeptical, he soon discovers that he can be fed, ride a bobsled, and even look cool with a rabbit on his head.

Buckley, Helen. **Where Did Josie Go?** (E BUC)

The reader looks for Josie, a little girl who is hiding somewhere in her house or yard.

Bunting, Eve. **Have You Seen My New Blue Socks?** (E BUN)

The reader is invited to help Duck and his animal friends find a missing item.

Collins, Ross. **There's a Bear on My Chair.** (E COL)

Poor Mouse! A bear has settled in his favourite chair and that chair just isn't big enough for two. Mouse tries all kinds of tactics to move the pesky Bear but nothing works and poor Mouse gives up. Once Mouse has gone, Bear gets up and walks home. But what's that? Is that a Mouse in Bear's house?

Craig, Lindsey. **Dancing Feet.** (E CRA)

Rhyming text depicts different animals dancing.

de Regniers, Beatrice. **What Can You Do with a Shoe?** (E DER)

A boy and girl playing dress up ask the reader for imaginative and real uses of a shoe, a chair, a hat, a cup, a broom, and finally a bed.

Dewdney, Anna. **Llama Llama Red Pajama**. (E DEW)

At bedtime, a little llama worries after his mother puts him to bed and goes downstairs.

Donaldson, Julia. **Superworm**. (E DON)

Superworm's bug friends attempt to free him from the clutches of Wizard Lizard who, having heard of Superworm's wondrous and heroic deeds, captures him and forces him to dig for treasure.

Fleming, Denise. **Barnyard Banter** (E FLE)

All the farm animals are where they should be, clucking and mucking, mewing and cooing, except for the missing goose.

Fox, Mem. **The Magic Hat**. (E FOX)

A wizard's hat blows into town, changing people into different animals when it lands on their heads.

Guarino, Deborah. **Is Your Mama a Llama?** (E GUA)

A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals.

Horowitz, Dave. **Twenty-six Pirates**. (E HOR)

Twenty-six pirates, one for each letter of the alphabet, demonstrate their particular--and sometimes silly--talents and skills.

Hutchins, Pat. **The Wind Blew**. (E HUT)

A rhymed tale describing the antics of a capricious wind.

Lee, Spike. **Please Puppy Please**. (E LEE)

Two toddlers have fun with their puppy.

Lewin, Betsy. **Where is Tippy Toes?** (E LEW)

Although everyone can see how Tippy Toes, a mischievous cat, spends his days, only one knows where he goes after dark.

Litwin, Eric. **The Nuts: Bedtime at the Nut House**. (E LIT)

Mama Nut says it's bedtime, but Hazel Nut and Wally Nut just aren't quite ready to stop the fun and go to bed

MacDonald, Amy. **Quentin Fenton Herter Three**. (E MAC)

Quentin Fenton Herter Third is always perfectly behaved, but his shadow, Quentin Fenton Herter Three, is quite the opposite.

Martin, Emily. **The Wonderful Things You Will Be**. (E MAR)

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text reveal a parent's musings about what a child will become, knowing that the child's kindness, cleverness, and boldness will shine through no matter what, as will the love they share.

Martin Jr, Bill. **Ten Little Caterpillars**. (E MAR)

Illustrations and rhyming text follow ten caterpillars as one wriggles up a flower stem, another sails across a garden pool, and one reaches an apple leaf, where something amazing happens.

Parker, Vic. **Bearobics: a Hip-hop Counting Story.** (E PAR)

When one shaggy bear increases the volume of the music, all the inhabitants of the forest gather for a fun time dancing.

Plourde, Lynn. **Pigs in the Mud: in the Middle of the Rud.** (E PLO)

A feisty grandmother and her family struggle to get an assortment of farm animals out of the road so the family can pass in their T-Model Ford.

Rinker, Sherri. **Steam Train, Dream Train.** (E RIN)

In this book with rhyming text, the dream train pulls into the station and all the different cars are loaded by the animal workers, each with the appropriate cargo.

Root, Phyllis. **One Duck Stuck** (E ROO)

In this counting book, increasingly larger groups of animals try to help a duck that is stuck in the sleepy, slimy marsh.

Schwartz, Corey. **Three Ninja Pigs.** (E SCH)

In this twist on "The Three Little Pigs" tale, Pig One and Two neglect their ninja school martial arts training and are no match for the wolf, but Pig Three's practice and dedication saves the day.

Seaworthy, Oscar. **Port Side Pirates.** (E SEA)

Fun facts about ships and notorious pirates from around the world, along with a catchy singalong.

Seuss, Dr. **Oh the Places You'll Go.** (E SEU)

Advice in rhyme for proceeding in life; weathering fear, loneliness, and confusion; and being in charge of your actions.

Shaw, Nancy. **Sheep Go to Sleep.** (E SHA)

At the end of the day, tired sheep return to their shed but none can sleep until the collie arrives, giving a hug, a drink of water, and more until all have begun to snore.

Shields, Carol. **Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp.** (E SHI)

When it's rock 'n' roll time during the prehistoric era, many different kinds of dinosaurs gather to twist, twirl, and tromp at a Saturday night party.

Sierra, Judy. **Wild About Books.** (E SIE)

A librarian named Molly McGrew introduces the animals in the zoo to the joy of reading when she drives her bookmobile to the zoo by mistake.

Silverstein, Shel. **A Giraffe and a Half.** (E SIL)

If you had a giraffe . . . and he stretched another half . . . you would have a giraffe and a half. And so it goes until . . . but that would be telling too much! Filled with Shel Silverstein's iconic line drawings and wildly funny rhymes, this book will keep children laughing up to the very end.

Slonim, David. **I Loathe You.** (E SLO)

Unconditional loathing is monsterly love in this sweetly humorous picture book. Just how much does Big Monster loathe Little Monster? Let it count the ways....

Stewart, Sarah. **The Library**. (E STE)

Elizabeth Brown loves to read more than anything else, but when her collection of books grows and grows, she must make a change in her life.

Sutton, Sally. **Construction**. (E SUT)

There's lots of noise and excitement involved in building a library!

Taback, Simms. **There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly**. (E TAB)

...version of a famous American folk poem first heard in the U.S. in the 1940's

Thomas, Jan. **Rhyming Dust Bunnies**. (E THO)

As three dust bunnies, Ed, Ned, and Ted, are demonstrating how much they love to rhyme, a fourth, Bob, is trying to warn them of approaching danger.

Thong, Roseanne. **Round Is a Tortilla**. (E THO)

A little girl discovers things that are round, square, and rectangular in her Hispanic American neighborhood.

Tillman, Nancy. **I'd Know You Anywhere My Love**. (E TIL)

A mother reassures her child that, no matter what the child may change into--be it rhinoceros, camel, ringtail raccoon, or giraffe--the mother will recognize the child anywhere.

Underwood, Deborah. **Interstellar Cinderella**. (E UND)

In this outer space adaptation of the fairy tale in rhyme, Cinderella dreams of becoming a spaceship mechanic.

Wilcox, Leah. **Falling for Rapunzel**. (E WIL)

A prince tries to get Rapunzel to throw down her hair so he can rescue her, but she mishears him and throws down random objects from her room instead.

Willems, Mo. **Nanette's Baguette**. (E WIL)

It's Nanette's first trip to get the baguette! Is she set? You bet!

Wilson, Karma. **Whopper Cake**. (E WIL)

Grandad bakes Grandma a whopper of a birthday cake. Includes recipe and directions for chocolate cake.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. **Halloween Hats**. (E WIN)

A rhyming celebration of hats, featuring all sorts of head-toppers that help create costumes for the Halloween parade.

Wood, Audrey. **Silly Sally**. (E WOO)

A rhyming story of Silly Sally, who makes many friends as she travels to town--backward and upside down.

Yolen, Jane. **How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?** (E YOL)

Mother and child ponder the different ways a dinosaur can say goodnight, from slamming his tail and pouting to giving a big hug and kiss.