

50 Classic Picture Books

The following titles have truly stood the test of time. They are stories that have been loved and shared for two or more decades. These titles are shelved in the Picture Book section by the first three letters of the author's last name unless otherwise noted.

Allard, Harry. **Miss Nelson is Missing.** (E ALL)

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

Barrett, Ron and Judi. **Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs.** (E BAR)

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers--until the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. **Madeline.** (E BEM)

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis.

Brett, Jan. **The Mitten.** (E BRE)

Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes.

Brown, Marcia. **Stone Soup.** (E BRO)

When three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, they set out to make soup of water and stones, and all the town enjoys a feast.

Brown, Margaret Wise. **Goodnight Moon.** (E BRO)

The illustrations change from bright to soft dark colors as a little bunny says goodnight to each of the familiar things of his world.

Brown, Margaret Wise. **Runaway Bunny.** (E BRO)

A little rabbit who wants to run away tells his mother how he will escape, but she is always right behind him.

Burton, Virginia Lee. **The Little House.** (E BUR)

A country house is unhappy when the city, with all its buildings and traffic, grows up around her.

Carle, Eric. **Very Hungry Caterpillar.** (E CAR)

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep and wakes up a butterfly.

Crews, Donald. **Freight Train.** (E CRE)

Brief text and illustrations trace the journey of a colorful train as it goes through tunnels, by cities, and over trestles.

DePaola, Tomie. **Strega Nona: Her Story.** (E DEP)

Grandma Concetta heals everyone with her remedies and advice, and when she retires, she leaves Nona her magic pasta pot with its secret ingredient.

Eastman, P D. **Go Dog, Go!** (ER EAS)

Different kinds of dogs drive cars, wear hats, run around in mazes, and even have wild parties in treetops.

Flack, Marjorie. **The Story About Ping.** (E FLA)

A little duck finds adventure on the Yangtze River when he is too late to board his master's houseboat one evening.

Freeman, Don. **Corduroy**. (E FRE)

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.

Gag, Wanda. **Millions of Cats**. (E GAG)

How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions?

Hoban, Russell. **Bread and Jam for Frances**. (E HOB)

Frances decides she likes to eat only bread and jam at every meal--until to her surprise--her parents grant her wish.

Hutchins, Pat. **Rosie's Walk**. (E HUT)

Although unaware that a fox is after her as she takes a walk around the farmyard, Rosie the hen still manages to lead him into one accident after another.

Johnson, Crockett. **Harold and the Purple Crayon**. (E JOH)

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon.

Keats, Ezra Jack. **The Snowy Day**. (E KEA)

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day.

Leaf, Munro. **The Story of Ferdinand**. (E LEA)

Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls.

Lionni, Leo. **A Color of His Own**. (E LIO)

A little chameleon is distressed that he doesn't have his own color like other animals.

Martin, Bill Jr. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?** (E MAR)

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

Martin, Bill Jr. **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** (E MAR)

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

McBratney, Sam. **Guess How Much I Love You**. (E MCB)

During a bedtime game, every time Little Nutbrown Hare demonstrates how much he loves his father, Big Nutbrown Hare gently shows him that the love is returned even more.

McCloskey, Robert. **Blueberries for Sal**. (E MCC)

Little Sal and Little Bear both lose their mothers while eating blueberries and almost end up with the other's mother.

McCloskey, Robert. **Make Way for Ducklings**. (E MCC)

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring.

Minarik, Else. **Little Bear**. (ER MIN)

As Little Bear goes on adventures he realizes that his mother is always there for him with whatever he needs.

Mosel, Arlene. **Tikki Tikki Tembo**. (E MOS)

When the eldest son fell in the well and most of the time getting help was spent pronouncing the name of the one in trouble, the Chinese, according to legend, decided to give all their children short names.

Numeroff, Laura. **If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.** (E NUM)

Relating the cycle of requests a mouse is likely to make after you give him a cookie takes the reader through a young child's day.

Parrish, Peggy. **Amelia Bedelia.** (ER PAR)

Left alone on her first day on the job, Amelia Bedelia follows directions with hilarious results.

Pfister, Marcus. **Rainbow Fish.** (E PFI)

The most beautiful fish in the entire ocean discovers the real value of personal beauty and friendship.

Piper, Watty. **The Little Engine That Could.** (E PIP)

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain.

Potter, Beatrix. **The Tale of Peter Rabbit.** (E POT)

Peter disobeys his mother by going into Mr. McGregor's garden and almost gets caught.

Rathmann, Peggy. **Goodnight Gorilla.** (E RAT)

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.

Rey, H.A. **Curious George.** (E REY)

The curiosity of a newly-captured monkey gets him into considerable trouble.

Rosen, Michael. **We're Going on a Bear Hunt.** (E ROS)

Brave bear hunters go through grass, a river, mud, and other obstacles before the inevitable encounter with the bear forces a headlong retreat.

Scieszka, Jon. **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.** (E SCI)

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs.

Sendak, Maurice. **Where the Wild Things Are.** (E SEN)

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king.

Seuss, Dr. **The Cat in the Hat.** (ER SEU)

Two children sitting at home on a rainy day are visited by the Cat in the Hat who shows them some tricks and games.

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.

Silverstein, Shel. **The Giving Tree.** (E SIL)

A young boy grows to manhood and old age experiencing the love and generosity of a tree which gives to him without thought of return.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. **Caps for Sale.** (E SLO)

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

Steig, William. **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**. (E STE)

In a moment of fright, Sylvester the donkey asks his magic pebble to turn him into a rock but then cannot hold the pebble to wish himself back to normal again.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Jumanji**. (E VAN)

Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Polar Express**. (E VAN)

A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa Claus.

Viorst, Judith. **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**. (E VIO)

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too.

Wiesner, David. **Tuesday**. (E WIE)

Frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.

Williams, Margery. **The Velveteen Rabbit**. (E WIL)

By the time the velveteen rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

Wood, Audrey. **The Napping House**. (E WOO)

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

Young, Ed. **Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**. (E YOU)

Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother.