



The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury: Celebrated Picture Books and Stories to Read Aloud

Janet Schulman (Selections), Simon Boughton (Editor)

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Unparalleled in scope and quality and designed for reading aloud and sharing, this splendid anthology brings together some of the most memorable and beloved children's books of our time. Here are classics such as *Madeline* and *Curious George*; contemporary bestsellers such as *Guess How Much I Love You* and *The Stinky Cheese Man*; Caldecott Medal winners such as *Make Way for Ducklings* and *Where the Wild Things Are*; and family favorites such as *Goodnight Moon*, *The Sneetches*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, and *Alexander & The Terrible, No Good Very Bad Day*, soon to be a motion picture.

The selections range from concept books and wordless books to picture books and short read-aloud stories, and represent the complete array of childhood themes and reading needs: ABCs, number and color books, stories about going to bed and going to school; tales about growing up, siblings, parents, and grandparents; animal stories, fantasies; fables; magical stories; stories about everyday life--and more.

This beautiful edition includes a recommended list of books published in the time since this anthology's original compilation, including Caldecott Honors *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *Olivia*, with descriptive annotations intended to guide parents to these new books and new voices of the 21st century. Also included are an introduction from editor Janet Schulman, capsule biographies of the 62 writers and artists represented in the collection, color-coded running heads indicating age levels, and indexes. As a gift, a keepsake, and a companion in a child's first steps toward a lifelong love of reading, *The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury* belongs in every family's bookcase.

The 20th Century Children's Book Treasury: Celebrated Picture Books and Stories to Read Aloud Details

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Author : Janet Schulman (Selections) , Simon Boughton (Editor)

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Rachel says

I was interested in getting this book because there were so many books in one volume, that it would keep my son occupied for a week or so. I didn't read all of the stories in the book because I either had read them before or weren't interested in them. I will review the new ones I read below:

"Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr, and John Archambault, illustrated by Lois Ehlert
I admit that I never read this book because I thought it was overrated, and everyone seemed to want to recommend it to me. It wasn't a bad book, in fact I loved the illustrations and the story was cute and perfect for those just learning the alphabet. Recommended for ages 1-6, 3 stars.

"Freight Train" written & illustrated by Donald Crews
I enjoyed this concept book which teaches children about colors and numbers through the medium of a freight train. Recommended for ages 1-4, 4 stars.

"A Million Fish...More or Less" by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Dena Schutzer
I had never heard of this story before, though I had heard of the author. It was a fun read because of the Southern backwater Creole way that they talk, as the main characters all live in a Louisiana swamp. I liked the story because it was full of tall tales that may or may not have happened, depending on your point of view. I especially liked Mosley, the bandit leader. Recommended for ages 6-9, 5 stars.

"Millions of Cats" written and illustrated by Wanda Gag
This was a cute story about a little old man and woman and their search for the perfect cat, picked out amongst "hundreds of cats, thousands of cats, millions and billions and trillions of cats." Recommended for ages 1-6, 3 stars.

"Guess How Much I Love You" by Sam McBratney, Illustrated by Anita Jeram
A great book for fathers to read to their sons, this book shows a father hare explaining to his young son how much he loves him. Usually these kind of books get too sappy, but this book managing to make it fun and delightful read. Recommended for ages 1-5, 5 stars.

"Miss Nelson is Missing" by Harry Allard, illustrated by James Marshall
This was a great story, which makes me wish that all teachers would do this now and again. The kids in Room 207 are bad; they don't pay attention to their teacher Miss Nelson, they make too much noise, and they don't do their work. That is, until they meet their substitute teacher Miss Viola Swamp, who makes them behave, keep quiet, and do their work. They realize how much they miss Miss Nelson, and are the perfect kids when she returns. Recommended for ages 5-8, 4 stars.

"Titch" written and illustrated by Pat Hutchins
This was a cute short story about Titch, the youngest of three siblings and their adventures together. Recommended for ages 1-5, 2 stars.

"Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel" written and illustrated by Virginia Lee Burton

I enjoyed her book "The Little House," and decided that this might be a good read too, and it was. I will say that since I've started reading all these Caldecott honors & winners that children's books in the 1930s-40s tended to be longer than present day books. Not that it is a bad thing, just an interesting observation. Mike Mulligan had a steam shovel named Mary Anne and they built many roads and cellars for skyscrapers together. But then the gasoline, electric and Diesel shovels were pushing Mike and Mary Anne out of business. One day Mike read that the town of Popperville was going to build a new town hall, and Mike swears that they can dig the cellar in a day. They manage it with a lot of encouragement from the locals, but then Mary Anne is trapped in the cellar and can't get out. So they build the town hall around her and she becomes their boiler, and Mike the janitor. Recommended for ages 4-8, 4 stars.

"The Stinky Cheese Man" written by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Lane Smith
I didn't read all the stories, just the headlining one. This was a cute re-interpretation of "The Gingerbread Man" story, with great illustrations by Lane Smith that make the story even funnier. Recommended for ages 4-7, 3 stars.

"Ten, Nine, Eight" written and illustrated by Molly Bang
This was a fun counting concept book about a little girl getting ready for bed. Recommended for ages 1-5, 3 stars.

"I am a Bunny" written by Ole Risom, illustrated by Richard Scarry
I always loved the Richard Scarry cartoons, and this book was just as delightful. The story is about a bunny named Nicholas and the things he likes to do in every season, with those great illustrations. Recommended for ages 1-5, 4 stars.

"Harry the Dirty Dog" written by Gene Zion, illustrated by Margaret Bloy Graham
A great classic tale about a little dog who hates getting a bath and loves getting dirty. That is until his family can't recognize him and he must take a bath to prove who he is. Recommended for ages 1-6, 3 stars.

"Whose Mouse are You?" by Robert Kraus, illustrated by Jose Aruego
I love Jose Aruego's work, so I knew this book would be adorable. It is a story about a mouse whose family is lost and he must recover them, so he can belong again. Recommended for ages 1-4, 3 stars.

"Owen" written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes
Owen is very attached to his blanket Fuzzy, he takes it everywhere. When the nosy neighbor sees him with the blanket, she keeps offering strategies to Owen's parents on how they can get rid of it. His parents don't want him to bring it to school and Owen is very upset until his mother comes up with a great answer to their problem. Recommended for ages 3-6, 4 stars.

"The Story of Ferdinand" written by Munro Leaf, illustrated by Robert Lawson
I had honestly never heard of this book till it was mentioned on the true life movie "The Blind Side," as it was some of the character's favorite books. Ferdinand is not like the other bulls. Instead of playing, he likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers. So he did this all his life until he is one day stung by a bee, and some men who had come looking for bulls to put in the arena with a matador think that he is the fiercest bull around. But once he is put in the ring, he does not know what to do, so he just sits and smells the ladies' flowers. Because he wouldn't fight, they send him back home where he does what he always does and is very happy. Recommended for ages 3-6, 3 stars.

"The Sneetches" written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss
I have seen the cartoon version but never read the book, so I decided to read it to my son. I love the name

Sylvester McMonkey McBean. Recommended for ages 3-6. 4 stars.

Cheryl says

A good way to get children interested in reading

First, you need to know what you are actually getting with this book. This is a condensed version of some of the most favorite children's stories - 44 of them, in fact.

All of the original text is in the stories except for two of the stories - AMELIA BEDELIA and PETUNIA - and they are condensed. What has been cut out of the book are many of the original illustrations. And in most cases, the illustrations that remain are greatly reduced in size.

To me, this is a good way to find out which books are your children's (or grandchildren's) favorites and then you can purchase a full copy. This book allows you to browse.

The stories in the book are wonderful. And the illustrations that ARE included are colorful and greatly add to the stories.

One thing I really appreciated was that each story is color coded so you can match it up to the reading level of the child. Red is for youngest, blue is for preschool, and green is for stories told mainly by text rather than having a lot of pictures.

At the beginning of each story, there is the name of the author, the illustrator, original publishing date and sometimes a note of interest about the story.

Christopher says

My all-time favorite collection of children's stories. I have read this book aloud to my kids for years. Our first copy was so worn out that I ordered a new copy this past Christmas. My kids love it! And I do, too.

Anthony Montalvo says

Great collection of children's stories. I read this for a children's literature course and internship in undergrad.

Margaret Chind says

I love this book for the selection and choices of storybooks. However the execution of attempting to save pages and space is horrible. Stories are butchered to make them fit and it is very poorly done.

The YELLOW border cover image is new with a new font as of 2014. It was formerly (and my copy) white with navy blue and no border.

Krystal says

I checked this book out because it was the only one with "Curious George" at the library. I'm so glad I found it! It has 44 stories! Some of my favorites from when I was little, and some I hadn't seen before. We brought it on vacation with us and it was perfect to read new stories every night and only have to keep track of one book! The only downside is that there aren't as many pictures to some of the stories, so it's easy for the kids to lose interest in the longer stories with only a few pictures. This one is worth buying.

ReadingJungle.com says

More than 40 favorites will entertain one's family for hours. This collection is comprised of classics such as *Curious George*, as well as bestsellers like *Guess How Much I love You*. In addition, Caldecott Medal Winner *Where the Wild Things Are* is featured, and some all time favorites like *The Sneetches* and *Goodnight Moon* are also contained within this masterpiece. All of the selections included cover a vast array of topics, needs and themes. There are wordless books and short stories, color and letter topics, stories about: families, going to school, animals, fantasies and much more.

The main complaint for Schulman's work is that some of the original illustrations have been abridged to fit formatting. Some stories are shortened down to fit on only two pages. This could be problematic to some younger readers if the pictures help them to follow the story. For others, this is a small price to pay for such a comprehensive collection. Overall, however, the book is tastefully edited.

Visit www.readingjungle.com for the full review!

Katieb (MundieMoms) says

I found this awesome book a couple weeks ago at a book store for \$1! I could NOT pass this amazing deal up. This book is chalked full of all sorts of amazing books. It's amazing. It's taken a couple of weeks to read this with my kids, but at over 300 pages, it's been well worth it.

There's so many stories I knew as a child and ones I've never heard off. There's classics from Miss Nelsen Is Missing, to Madeline, Good Night Moon, Guess How Much I Love, Where The Wild Things Are, Curious George, Winnie The Pooh, Francis, Good Night Gorilla, and much, much more. I highly recommend this book.

Michelle Bacon says

I nice little collection of children's stories from different times such as Babar, Amelia Bedelia, Madeline and Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. I read these stories to my kids when they were little and reading them all now brings back those cherished memories. I believe you are never too old to revisit a beloved children's story and what better way than with a treasury of stories like this one.

Amy says

I tagged this one youth, but it is best for the very young. This is my favorite book to give as a baby gift, because it has a tremendous collection of stories, from board/picture books, shorter read-alouds, and even a few longer stories. They are listed by age, and cover decades of work by dedicated children's authors. There were stories from my own youth, or older (heaven forbid!), some more recent into my kids' era, and everything in-between, even some books I'd never read as a child, and found delightful. As a parent, I loved having this book along for trips, because it was so much easier than packing a whole bag of books, and it had so many favorites in it.

I can't really review individual stories, but it is a very well-selected collection and worth having on the shelf if you ever have a chance to read with children (or need a gift!)

Misbah says

A great collection of classic children's stories. I think this book would keep a kid going for a long time. These are all stories I remember I loved reading over and over again as a kid.

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

This is a very large book that contains reprints of 44 children's picture books. My kids and I all loved this book when they were younger, and read the stories in it more times than I can count. Many of my own childhood favorites were in its pages, along with many newer stories that I hadn't seen before, that became new favorites in our family. Some of the more notable stories:

Where the Wild Things Are
Goodnight Moon
Madeline
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day
Stellaluna
Swimmy
Guess How Much I Love You
The Stinky Cheese Man: And Other Fairly Stupid Tales

...and many, many more.

There are a few misses and questionable choices, but overall the quality of the stories is *extremely* high. It's also nice that the editor made a real effort to be multicultural.

The only drawback is that, because of space issues, they don't include all of the pictures that appear in the original books, and most of the pictures (and much of the print as well) are shrunk down. That may bother some readers more than it bothered me, although in a couple of cases, where we found a story the kids liked especially well, we went and got the original book so we could see all of the illustrations in their full glory.

If you have young children or grandchildren in your life, I give this book my very highest recommendation!

Ashani Irunika Hettige says

Great collection of stories, I added this to have a permanent place in our home library :) !

Kim says

I don't buy very many books because I love to take advantage of our nice library. But this was one book that I didn't want to give back to the library and went out to buy for my kids.

This book has all the classic children's books all collected together. It divides all the stories into 3 difficulty level categories that make it great to find an age appropriate story too.

DJ Harris says

You are going to *love* this book! It is a complete collection of all the *classic* stories we adored as kids, and it has an easy to follow color code system that alerts parents/kids to the reading level of the story. It makes it simple to find tales that are age appropriate. With over 40 stories to choose from, there is something for everyone!

This book would be great as a gift, it would make an incredible keepsake, but most importantly it will help you child in both developing a life-long love of reading and help your babies to develop literacy skills that will follow them throughout their scholastic careers.

I would **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** this book!

Review provided by:

