

Books about Kids and Libraries

Here is a baker's dozen picture books to read aloud to kids both in and out of your library! These familiar friends and surprising newcomers are guaranteed to delight boys and girls in grades K – 8. Picture books can be used to help younger kids feel comfortable with library routines and terminology when they visit. Nonfiction titles can be used with all to deepen knowledge and appreciation of libraries. A chapter read aloud from a fiction book during a visit is a sure-fire winner for older boys and girls.

Picture Books

Adler, David A. *Young Cam Jansen and the Library Mystery*. Illus. by Susanna Natti. Viking, 2001. 32p.

Cam uses her photographic memory to find a shopping list that her dad lost at the library.

Brown, Marc. *D.W.'s Library Card*. illus. Little, Brown, 2001. 24p.

After finally getting her first library card, Arthur's little sister D.W. tries to check out her favorite book, with humorous results.

Bruss, Deborah. *Book! Book! Book!* Illus. by Tiphonie Beeke. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books, 2001. 40p.

When the children go back to school, the animals on the farm are bored, so they go into the library in town trying to find something to do.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Library Dragon*. Illus. by Michael P. White. Peachtree, 1994. 42p.

Miss Lotta Scales is a dragon who believes her job is to protect the school's library books from the children, but when she finally realizes that books are meant to be read, the dragon turns into Miss Lotty, librarian and storyteller.

Freeman, Don. *Quiet! There's a Canary in the Library*. illus. Viking, 2007. 48p.

Cary imagines a day at the library when she invites only animals and birds to browse. Originally published in 1969 by Golden Gate Junior Books, Freeman's classic library adventure has been reissued.

McKissack, Patricia. *Goin' Somewhere Special*. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2001. 40p.

In segregated 1950s Nashville, a young African American girl braves a series of indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library.

Meng, Cece. *The Wonderful Thing about Hiccups*. Illus. by Janet Pedersen. Clarion, 2007. 32p.

A case of hiccups during story time at the library leads to an outrageous and hilarious adventure involving a hippo, a little sister, an overturned ice cream cart, a librarian who's afraid of heights, and a stack of library books that must be returned on-time and in good condition – if the narrator is going to get her very own library card. And nothing could be more wonderful than that!

Mora, Pat. *Tomás and the Library Lady*. Illus. by Raul Colón. Knopf, 1997. 40p.

While helping his family in their work as migrant laborers far from their home, Tomás finds an entire world to explore in the books at the local public library.

Morris, Carla. *The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians*. Illus. by Brad Sneed. Peachtree, 2007. 32p.

Melvin discovers that the public library is the place where he can find just about anything--including three librarians who help in his quest for knowledge.

Rey, H.A. and Margret Rey. *Curious George Visits the Library*. Illus. by Martha Weston. Houghton, 2003. 24p.

George is lucky to arrive at the library just in time for story hour. But it's not easy for a little monkey to sit still too long. From selecting books to getting his very own library card, George's day at the library makes reading fun.

Stadler, Alexander. *Beverly Billingsly Borrows a Book*. illus. Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 2002. 32p.

Beverly is thrilled to finally check out a book with her own library card, but when she accidentally keeps the book too long, she worries that she'll have to pay a huge fine or go to jail.

Sturges, Philemon. *She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain*. Illus. by Ashley Wolff. Little, Brown, 2004. 32p.

New words to the traditional tune describe a camper-driving, "hootin'" and "shoutin'" guest and the party that will begin when she arrives.

Williams, Suzanne. *Library Lil*. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. Dial, 1997. 32p.

A formidable librarian makes readers not only out of the once resistant residents of her small town, but out of a tough-talking, television-watching motorcycle gang as well.

Fiction Titles

Colfer, Eoin. *The Legend of Spud Murphy*. Illus. by Glenn McCoy. Hyperion/Miramax, 2004. 96p.

When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Part of Me: Stories of a Louisiana Family*. Holt, 2006. 224p.

Ten stories trace the connections between four generations of one Louisiana family from 1939 when a young girl leaves school to help support her family by driving a bookmobile to 2004 when a seventy-nine-year-old woman embarks on a book tour.

Miller, William. *Richard Wright and the Library Card*. Illus. by Gregory Christie. Lee & Low, 1997. 32p.

Based on a scene from Wright's autobiography, *Black Boy*, in which the seventeen-year-old African-American borrows a white man's library card and devours every book as a ticket to freedom.

Spinelli, Jerry. *The Library Card*. Scholastic, paper, 1997. 160p.

Four short stories about how a library card made a difference in the lives of young people.

Nonfiction Titles

Cummins, Julie. *The Inside-Outside Book of Libraries*. Illus. by Roxie Munro. Dragonfly, paper, 1996. 48p.

Illustrations and brief text present all kinds of libraries, from bookmobiles and home libraries to the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

González, Lucía. *The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos*. Illus. by Lulu Delacre. Children's Book Press, 2008. 32p.

In the winter of 1929, a magical thing happened—the newly arrived Puerto Rican community of New York City discovered the public library and its potential to be the living, breathing heart of their community. Thanks to the vision and dedication of Pura Belpré, New York City's first Latina librarian, the warmth of Puerto Rico came to the island of Manhattan in a most unexpected way.

Gibbons, Gail. *Check It Out! The Book about Libraries*. illus. Harcourt/Voyager, paper, 1985. 32p.

Discusses what is found in a library and how different libraries serve their communities.

Winter, Jeanette. *The Librarian of Basra : A True Story from Iraq*. illus. Harcourt, 2005. 32p.

Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever. In a war-stricken country where civilians--especially women--have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.