**Surefire Read-Aloud Hits: The MO Building Block Picture Book Award**

The Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award is sponsored by the Missouri Library Association’s Youth Services Community of Interest. The Award was created to help Missouri public libraries focus on the importance of picture books to foster reading aloud to children. By reading aloud to children we encourage language development, pre-reading skills and development of visual perception/discrimination.

By offering this award’s nominees each year we hope to provide parents, caregivers, and teachers of young children an introduction to a variety of authors and illustrators of quality books, with diverse themes, cultures and topics.

This past year, with thanks to schools and libraries across the state, we had over 20,000 children vote on the Building Block Award. With your help, we hope to continue to increase the number of children who participate next year and beyond.

More information on the Missouri Building Block Award, along with related books and activities to use with each nominee can be found at <http://molib.org/awards/building-block-award/>

Additional ideas for each of these books can be found on our pinterest page: <https://www.pinterest.com/mobuildingblock/>

If you’re interested in participating in the Building Block committee, either as a member/reader or as a listener, please feel free to contact Ron Freeman, 2016 Chair [ronfreeman@kclibrary.org](mailto:ronfreeman@kclibrary.org)

**How to Vote:**

The voting period runs from September 1 until December 31. The award is designed for kindergarteners and younger, but any child who benefits from the Building Block Award may vote for their favorite title from the list. Children must listen to at least 5 of the 10 nominees before voting. If there are just a handful of children voting, the easiest way to vote is to go to our website and submit each individual vote electronically. The electronic component of our website will be available starting September 1. If you’re sending in a large number of votes (from a library, daycare, or school) send the total number of votes for each book by email, mail, or fax to the Awards Chair. The Awards Chair for 2016 is:

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[haid@dbrl.org](mailto:haid@dbrl.org)

Should you choose to send your classroom votes by email, Hilary can send you an email when the winner is announced and when next year’s nominees are announced.

**Missouri Building Block Picture Book Award 2016 Nominees**

See <http://molib.org/awards/building-block-award/> for even more great ideas!

**I. *Vincent Paints His House***/ by Tedd Arnold

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. In some ways, this book can be treated as an informational text. Kids can learn the connection between the word “red” and the color red. They will also see that there are many different shades of red with many different names.

2. Pictures of different animals and colors can be used to help kids identify unfamiliar words.

3. This book does a nice job of using repetitions, especially in Vincent’s dialog. (“Red is nice.”) Students can predict parts of the dialog.

**Craft ideas:**

1. A mixed media *Starry Night* art project can be found at: <http://thepreschooltoolboxblog.com/starry-night-vincent-van-gogh-preschool/>

2. Provide children with a picture of a house (see attachment). Put drops of various colors of washable finger-paint on house and let children paint their houses their way. Or make a collage by gluing down torn bits of paper of various colors and shades.

3. Activity Kit from Holiday House for **Vincent Paints His House** is good for grades K – 2: <http://www.holidayhouse.com/docs/Vincent.Activity.Kit_LoRes.pdf>

4. Little Mouse Where Is Your House? Flannel board pattern available from Juggling with Kids <http://www.jugglingwithkids.com/2013/10/little-mouse-little-mouse-felt.html> You Could also hide other animals from the story under different colored houses or have kids tell you who belongs where: spider/red, caterpillar/yellow, beetle/purple, bird/blue, butterfly/orange, snake/green, mouse/brown, bat/black.

**Kindergarten appropriate books on Van Gogh**

*In the Garden with Van Gogh*/ by Julie Merberg (board book)

*Vincent Van Gogh*/ by John Malam

*Vincent Van Gogh/* by Sean Connolly

*Camille and the Sunflowers/* by Laurence Anholt

*The Starry Night/* by Neil Waldman

**II. *Bunnies!!!***/ by Kevan Atteberry

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1.This is a good book for introducing punctuation marks and how you read with them. Illustrations can be used to determine the main character’s mood, then see how punctuation corresponds.

**Craft idea:**

1.Make a collage monster out of tissue paper

**Actions:**

1. HERE COMES A BUNNY

Here comes a bunny - hippity, hop, (child squats down and hops)

With ears so funny - floppity, flop. (put index fingers on side of head & wiggle them)

When in danger he -sniffity, sniffs, (wiggle nose)

Then hides in his hole - jiffity, jiff! (place hands over head to hide)

Adapted Traditional (C) Jean Warren

Taken from the website: www.preschoolexpress.com and used with permission.

2. The punctuation dance can be found at <http://www.luckeyfroglearning.com/2012/09/the-punctuation-dance.html>

When you get to a **period**, you stomp.  
When you get to a **comma**, you step to the side.  
When you get to a **question**, you put your hands up side to side like you're asking a question and wiggle down a little.  
When you get to an **exclamation point**, you jump in the air with arms up!

**Books about punctuation**

*Exclamation Mark*/ by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*Zero*/ by Kathryn Otoshi

**III. *Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups***/ by Tadgh Bentley

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. This book has different colored text demonstrate a hiccup. Hiccups are always in blue. Does this draw attention to the word? Some words use all capital letters to stress them. This is also a good book for differentiating between words and numbers.

2. The book ends with the penguin celebrating his hiccups being gone by having a nice spicy taco. Why is this a bad idea? How is a taco similar to the chili that caused Little Penguin’s hiccups?

**Songs:**

1. LITTLE PENGUINS (Tune:  “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”) By Elizabeth Scofield

Little penguins black and white

On the ice, what a sight!

See them waddle, see them glide.

Watch them as they slip and slide.

Little penguins black and white

On the ice, what a sight!

Little penguins black and white

On the ice, what a sight!

See them dive in the water blue.

See them catch a fish or two.

Little penguins black and white

On the ice, what a sight!

Encourage your children to pretend to be penguins and act out the song as you sing.

(C) Jean Warren, Taken from the website: [www.preschoolexpress.com](http://www.preschoolexpress.com/) and used with permission.

2. For a song about hiccups, try “Tiny Tim (I Had a Little Turtle)” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpPXl7OTdwU> Change the bubbles to hiccups at the end of the song.

**Actions:**

1. Walk like an Emperor Penguin Activity:

Have children use a plastic egg or bean bag and pretend to be Emperor Penguins protecting their eggs. Put feet together with “egg” on top then walk with “egg,” waddle with “egg,” and jump with “egg.” This is good for gross motor skills.

**Flannel board:**

Five Baby Penguins flannel board from Miss Mary Liberry <https://missmaryliberry.wordpress.com/2011/07/29/flannel-friday-5-baby-penguins/>

**Books about hiccups**

*What Happens When I Hiccup?*/ by Daisy Allyn

*Skeleton Hiccups*/ by Margery Cuyler

**Books about penguins**

*A Penguin Named Patience*/ by Suzanne Lewis

*Pierre the Penguin*/ by Jean Marzollo

*And Tango Makes Three*/ by Justin Richardson (only for the boldest of teachers)

**IV. *Rex Wrecks It!***/ by Ben Clanton

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. This is a great book for word play. Homophones are introduced in the title. What is the difference between “Rex” and “wrecks”? The author also makes up words. What words are being combined in “wowdom” and “awesomerific”?

2. This book does a great job of using different fonts. Why do you think these were chosen?

**Songs:**

1. 5 Dinosaurs (Sung to: "5 Little Ducks")

One dinosaur went out to play

On a bright and sunny day

He had such ENORMOUS fun

That he called another dinosaur to come.

(Call very loud) DI-NO-SAUR!

(Then chant while patting hands on laps) Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!

Then repeat for 2 dinosaurs, 3 dinosaurs, etc.

Instead, they heard their mother (or father, grandma, etc)

And she was calling "DINNER"

And they all went home for dinner!

Taken from [www.kidsparkz.com](http://www.kidsparkz.com)with permission.

2. More Dinosaur song and rhyme suggestions at Kidsparkz <http://www.kidsparkz.com/preschool-sings-dinosaurs.html>

**Construction/Teamwork Activity**

There are many different construction activities where teams attempt to build the highest tower (using pipe cleaners, using gumdrops and straws, using index cards and tape, etc.) One of my favorites is the Balloon Tower Challenge where teams of kindergarteners have 12 minutes to build the highest tower with balloons and masking tape. More info can be found here: <http://stemactivitiesforkids.com/2016/01/31/two-easy-stem-tower-challenges/>

**Books with wordplay**

*I Yam a Donkey*/ by Cece Bell

*A Bat Cannot Bat, a Stair Cannot Stare*/ by Brian Cleary

*How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?*/ by Brian Cleary

*Aunt Ant Leaves through the Leaves*/ by Nancy Coffelt

*I Scream Ice Cream*/ by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

**V. *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook***/ by Anne Vittur Kennedy

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. This is a terrific book for discussing setting (the farm) and characters. Several farm animals are identified according to their “jobs” (as seen through the eyes of the farm dog.) The farm dog is a hilarious character, who seems to know the “right” way to behave, but cannot resist temptation.

**Actions:**

1 “My Dog Rags” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjiH_pj1_Lw>

**Craft:**

1.Origami Dog at Origami-fun <http://www.origami-fun.com/origami-talking-dog.html>

**Books about dogs and temptation**

*Ivan the Terrier*/by Peter Catalanotto

*Good Boy, Fergus!*/ by David Shannon

**VI. *I Don't Want to Be a Frog***/ written by Dev Petty; illustrated by Moke Boldt

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1.This book consists of a dialog between three main characters (Father Frog, Little Frog, and Wolf.) Kids have to determine who is speaking, either by context clues or by studying dialog bubbles.

2. Kids are introduced to dialog bubbles. Different words are emphasized in the text by changing the color and font.

3. This is a good informational text.Because the frog is compared and contrasted to other animals (rabbits, pigs, and owls) the kids gain informational knowledge about these animals.

**Songs:**

Jean Warren’s Frog Songs and Rhymes <http://www.preschoolexpress.com/music_station03/music_station_june03.shtml>

**Finger Puppets:**

Finger Puppets are available from publisher’s website (Click on “Related Links”) <http://www.randomhousekids.com/books/detail/234204-i-dont-want-to-be-a-frog>

**Crafts:**

1.Sticky Tongued Frog <http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/47148/sticky-tongue-frog-craft>

2. Paper Plate Frog <http://gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2015/04/paper-plate-frog-kid-craft.html>

**Books to show dialog**

The Gerald and Piggie books/ by Mo Willems

Books by Jan Thomas

*Cat Secrets*/ by Jef Czekaj

*Duck Soup*/ by Jackie Urbanovic

**VII. *Get Out of My Bath!***/ by Britta Teckentrup

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. Like in the book, ***Press Here*** by Herve Tullet, illustrations follow the text. When the reader follows the text’s instructions, the illustrations respond. This book supports instruction on the concepts of “left” and “right.”

2. When the animals refuse to get out of the bath, the children can do some predicting and problem solving. How can Ellie get the other animals out of the bath?

**Song:**

1. “Down in the Jungle: Bath Time Song” <http://www.letsplaykidsmusic.com/down-in-the-jungle-bath-time-songs/>

**Flannel Board:**

1. Texas State Library and Archives Includes patterns for tub and rubber ducky (you may have to resize) <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/projects/trc/2007/manual/tod_bathtub.html>

2. Sunflower Storytime has suggestions for “Bathtime and Bubbles” stoyrtime <http://sunflowerstorytime.com/2015/04/23/bathtime-and-bubbles/> and includes patterns for bathtub and elephants for flannel board “5 Elephants in the Bathtub”

**Books on problem solving**

*What! Cried Granny*/ by Kate Lum

*Stuck*/ by Oliver Jeffers

*Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum*/ by Lisa Wheeler

*Perfectly Percy*/ by Paul Schmid

**VIIII. *Simon's New Bed***/ written by Christian Trimmer; illustrated by Melissa van der Paardt

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. Vocabulary -- Students are introduced to the word “rehydrated.”

2. Simon goes through a variety of moods in this story. How do illustrations show these?

3. What is the font like when Simon is talking?

4. In what ways does Simon try to get the cat to move? What is the final solution?

**Songs:**

1. “Sharing Song” by Raffi on Singable Songs for the Very Young.

2. Fun video of dogs sharing to the tune: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpB3mEXO6rk>

**Crafts:**

1. Have child decorate a paper plate as a pet bed. (Or cut out a paper circle.) Cut out a dog and a cat. Glue them to the bed.

2. English mastiff dog coloring pages: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/dog/Mastiff.shtml>

<http://kidsprintablescoloringpages.com/img-dogs-coloring-pages-mastiff-6068.htm>

3. Siamese cat coloring page:

<http://www.raisingourkids.com/coloring-pages/animal/cat/006-free-printable-cat-page.html>

(Or use the coloring pages as puppets—glue the dog and the cat to craft sticks. Cut a slit in a circle. Insert the cat stick into the bed circle. Child can tell the story and have the cat move to allow the dog onto the bed.)

**Books exploring dog/cat relationships**

*Dog vs. Cat*/ by Chris Gall

*Widget*/ by Lyn Rossiter McFarland

*Hondo and Fabian*/ by Peter McCarty

*Woof: A Love Story*/ by Sarah Weeks

*Dogs*/ by Emily Gravett

*No Dogs Allowed!*/ by Anne Davis

**IX. *The Whale in My Swimming Pool***/ by Joyce Wan

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. Like in ***Simon’s New Bed***, the narrator uses several techniques to get the whale out of his swimming pool. What are they? What is the final solutions?

2. What technique does author use to show different speakers? How many different speakers are there?

**Songs:**

1. Whale Song with music and actions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QqF3pckLik>

2. And a link to get the free music <http://www.musictherapytunes.com/wp/free-mp3-downloads/>

3. The Whale<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems61.html>

**Crafts:**

1. A fun paper bag whale craft can be found here: <http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mbagwhale.htm>

2. Paper Plate Whale <http://intheplayroom.co.uk/2014/11/09/paper-plates-whale/>

3. Another whale idea <http://krokotak.com/2012/08/sin-kit-ot-hartiya/>

**X. *Dad’s First Day***/ by Mike Wohnoutka

**Early Literacy Elements:**

1. This book does a nice job of blending narrative and dialog. The font is very simple so it’s a good book for supporting what the students are learning about letters and words going from left to right and how words are separated by spaces. The dialog is distinguished from the rest of the text because the font is less bold. However, unlike ***I Don’t Want to Be a Frog***  (which used dialog bubbles to let us know who was talking) and ***The Whale in My Swimming Pool*** (which used different colors to tell us who was talking), in ***Dad’s First Day*** you have to use the illustrations and the context to determine who is talking.

**Flannel Board:**

1. Ice Cream flannel board rhymes for colors and counting <http://www.preschooleducation.com/ficecream.shtml>

**Crafts:**

1. Ice cream cones <http://www.iheartcraftythings.com/2015/05/cupcake-liner-ice-cream-cone-kids-craft.html>

2. Here’s a template for cone and scoop from Sunflower Storytime <http://sunflowerstorytime.com/2013/10/04/ice-cream/>

3. Pack a Lunch—Decorate a paper lunch bag, maybe have a variety of play foods to pack in it or provide coloring pages of healthy foods Or use this template:

Paper Lunch Box at <http://www.kindergartenkindergarten.com/2011/08/teaching-school-routines-is-essential-the-first-few-days-weeks-of-school-i-go-over-every-single-routine-i-can-think-of-and.html>

**Song:**

1. Oliver Had a Dad (tune: Mary had a Little Lamb) adapted by Jerilyn Hahn

O-li-ver had a dad, had a dad, had a dad.

Oliver had a dad, who played and sang and read.

Dad took Oliver to school one day, school one day, school one day.

Dad took Oliver to school one day, “I don’t want to leave,” Dad said.

The teacher had to turn him out, turn him out, turn him out.

The teacher had to turn him out, but still he lingered near.

At last he waited patiently, patiently, patiently,

At last he waited patiently till Oliver did appear.

They celebrated with ice cream cones, ice cream cones, ice cream cones.

They celebrated with ice cream cones, until their tummies hurt.

**Books that humorously show parent/child role reversal**

*Snow Day*/ by Lester Laminack

*My Dad is Big and Strong, but…*/ by Coralie Saudo

*Mom, It’s My First Day of Kindergarten*/ by Hyewon Yum

*No, Silly!*/ by Ken Krug

**Book Pairings**

**Problem Solving:** *The Whale in My Swimming Pool; Get Out of My Bath; Simon’s New Bed; Rex Wrecks It*

**Dialog:** *Vincent Paints His House; I Don’t Want to Be a Frog; Dad’s First Day*

**First Person narrator:** *Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups; Ragweed’s Farm Dog Handbook; The Whale in My Swimming Pool*

**Connecting the Building Block Books with the Presidential Election**

If you want to introduce your students to the Electoral System, here’s a possible way to do it.

Day One: Choose five of the titles to represent Republican Party candidates. (If you’re not planning on reading all 10 books to your class, choose half of the books.) Read these aloud to your students.

Day Two: Hold your Republican Convention. All of the students vote for their favorite title. The winning nominee has to receive at least half of the votes cast. If no book receives half of the votes, remove the lowest scoring book and revote. Continue this process until one book receives half the votes and becomes the Republican nominee.

Day Three: The remaining five titles will represent the Democrat Party candidates. Read these aloud to your students.

Day Four: Hold your Democrat Convention and select a nominee.

Day Five: Reread the Republican and Democrat nominees and have the kids vote. If your class has 23 students, you could send all 23 electoral votes (for the same candidate) to Hilary Aid at [haid@dbrl.org](mailto:haid@dbrl.org)

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