



Page Turners: Books for Children

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Almost Underwear: How a Piece of Cloth Traveled from Kitty Hawk to the Moon and Mars

Written and Illustrated by **Jonathan Roth**

Hachette Book Group, 2024

ISBN 978-0-3165-2554-1

How could a plain muslin cloth, destined for practical undergarments in 1905, end up on Mars? That is the question this fun and informative picture book is answering for readers. With a combination of photographs and playful illustrations of a smiling swatch of beige fabric, Roth tells the wonderful story of how this bolt of cloth was initially purchased by the Wright brothers, to wrap the wings of their new flying invention. Once the cloth became part of this exciting successful endeavor, it was considered an important historical artifact, leading to further adventures with Neil Armstrong and a trip on a Mars rover! This well-written nonfiction text cleverly guides readers along this amazing cloth's journey through time and space. Ages 5-9.

And There Was Music

Written and Illustrated by **Marta Pantaleo**

Translated by **Debbie Bibb**

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2025

ISBN 978-0-8028-5640-1

"Music is everywhere." And so this vibrant picture book begins, highlighting the power of music in the lives of people around the world. The author takes the reader on a journey, highlighting the emotional connections we have to music and noting that even language differences can be bridged through shared musical experiences. Colorful, engaging illustrations appear to show musicians mid-drumming or bagpiping, and with minimal text on each page, this delightful text would be a great read-aloud choice even for the youngest of readers. In addition, there is a visual glossary of global musical instruments and equipment provided at the end of the book to support deeper understanding of the illustrations. Ages 3-5.

Buffalo Fluffalo

Written by **Bess Kalb**

Illustrated by **Erin Kraan**

Random House Studios, 2024

ISBN 978-0593564530

This rhyming tale of a not so mighty buffalo who uses his fluff to hide who he really is reminds all of us of the importance of embracing our true selves and that those who love us will love us more if we are authentic. Prior to learning this important lesson, Buffalo Fluffalo tries to intimidate all the other prairie animals with his very fluffy fur and his surly disposition. As each animal tries to engage with Buffalo Fluffalo, he reminds them to leave him alone because he has had enuffalo. A sudden prairie rain shower reveals that Buffalo Fluffalo is really quite small. His prairie friends embrace him for who he really is and remind him that that is surely enough. Ages 2-6.

Luigi the Spider Who Wanted to be a Kitten

Written by **Michelle Knudsen**

Illustrated by **Kevin Hawkes**

Candlewick Press, 2024

ISBN 978-1536219111

This story follows a big, hairy and self-assured spider as he searches for a new home with dark corners and crevices to happily spin his web. He thinks he finds just the right place when an older woman mistakes him for a kitten and makes him her adored pet, Luigi. Luigi isn't sure he likes that name or being a kitten but quickly learns he loves the companionship and love his new owner shows him and decides he wants to be a kitten. This wholesome tale follows the spider's antics as he pretends to be a kitten all to find out that his owner figured out he was a spider. She loves him all the same and did not want to ruin the fun Luigi seemed to be having pretending to be a kitten. This tale of being true to yourself and the acceptance you will find from those who love you will engage young and old alike. Ages 4-8.

No More Chairs

Written by **Dan Gill**

Illustrated by **Susan Gal**

Little, Brown, 2025

ISBN 978-0-316-55269-1

The kids in Mr. Gill's class want to know many things. Most of all they want to know why there is always an empty chair at the front of their classroom. Their teacher tells them a childhood story about a time when he was welcomed into someone's home and his best friend was not; excluded with the untrue excuse that there were "no more chairs" for guests. This picture book memoir highlights the pain of racism and exclusion, but also conveys the hopefulness of friendship, solidarity, and a commitment to make sure there will always be "enough chairs"; the classroom will always be a place where everyone is welcome. Words and beautiful watercolor illustrations work together to convey this powerful story of belonging. Ages 4-10.

Orris and Timble: The Beginning

Written by **Kate DiCamillo**

Illustrated by **Carmen Mok**

Candlewick, 2024

ISBN 978-1-5362-2279-1

Orris is a timid rat who lives in the solitude of his comfy barn nest. He takes solace in his few possessions, including an old sardine can that bears the words, "Make the good and noble

choice!!” When a large, scary owl is caught in a trap, Orris must put these words to the test. Should he hide or should he help? This charming beginning chapter book is classic Kate DiCamillo—full of quirky animals, unlikely friendships, and the power of stories, and gentle nudges to choose goodness and kindness even when it seems a bit scary. This heartwarming story is the first installment of a three-book trilogy, just right for young readers ready to step into an early chapter book series. Ages 4-8.

A Mischief of Mice

Written and Illustrated by **Christie Matheson**

Sourcebooks, 2024

ISBN 978-1-7282-7207-8

A mystery is afoot in the forest. A *mischief* of mice has disappeared, and the *scurry* of squirrels is worried. But don’t fret - they are found safe and warm at the end. This delightful book offers our young readers a glimpse into the woods at night, right as fall is turning to winter. As the squirrels track down the mice, we are introduced not only to other animals but also to the fun and engaging collective nouns used to describe these animal groups. The narrative has a natural and supportive rhythm and rhyme and beautiful images capture the natural world. There is also a helpful appendix at the back that both reviews the collective nouns for animal groups and supports younger readers in learning how to use nonfictional resources. This book would be wonderful for elementary teachers who are studying animal habitats or just wanting to teach children how to use nonfiction tools. Ages 5-8.

Home

Written by **Matt de la Peña**

Illustrated by **Loren Long**

Putnam, 2025

ISBN 978-0-5931-1089-8

Written by the award-winning author of *Last Stop on Market Street*, among other bestsellers, *Home* opens with a reminder of the various spaces and places we all call home. From a truck to a houseboat to a busy apartment building, the illustrations and words explore the range of dwellings we create for ourselves as humans. But then the book takes a sadder turn - reminding us that there are times when home is hard to find - when disasters, personal and physical - can shake our faith in home. In the final pages of the book the authors bring us all back home, reminding us where we find love and peace in the people and places of the earth, we find home. The poetic, lyrical narrative and beautiful full-spread pictures draw you into the collective conditions the book describes. This book would be an excellent addition to an older elementary classroom or even middle school class exploring themes of what it means to call a place home, and how we deal with the unexpected crises that life can throw our way. Ages 8-14.