

Caldecott Medal winners organized by age, topic

Preschool

Bible, religious

Animals of the Bible: A Picture Book by Helen Dean Fish (1938)

4-8 yrs, stories from the Bible that involve animals, black & white drawings

Noah's Ark by Jacobus Revius (1978)

Prayer for a Child by Rachel Field (1945)

2-5 yrs, 32 pp, a prayer the author wrote for her daughter, adorable illustrations

Nursery Rhymes

The Rooster Crows: A Book of American Rhymes and Jingles by Maud and Miska Petersham (1946)

3-7 yrs, 64 pp, classic rhymes, counting games, skip rope, finger games . . . across America

Frog Went A-Courtin' by John Langstaff (1956)

4-7 yrs, 32 pp, folk song/ballad (Miss Mousie insists on Uncle Rat's consent)

Wordless

Tuesday by David Wiesner (1992), fantasy, wordless

Flotsam by David Wiesner (2007)

4-7 yrs, boy finds all kinds of stuff at beach; wordless

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka (2012)

3-8 yrs; nearly wordless, Daisy dog and ball

ABC

Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions by Margaret Musgrove (1977)

Seasons

White Snow, Bright Snow by Alvin R. Tresselt (1948)

4-8 yrs, 32 pp, 870 lexile (4th grade), reactions differ: adults, animals, and children at snowfall

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats (1963)

2-5 yrs, 32 pp, 500L? (2nd grade reading)

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg (1986)

4-7 yrs, 32 pp Christmas fantasy

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen (1988)

3-7 yrs, 2nd grade reading; walk through wintry woods at night

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell (2018)

2-6 yrs, 48pp; a girl lost in a snowstorm, and a wolf cub too

Science—weather, plants, animals, etc.

The Little Island by Margaret Wise Brown (1947)

3-7 yrs, 48pp, 590L lexile (grade 2) "Once there was a little island in the ocean. That little island changes as the seasons come and go. The storm and the day and night change it. So do the lobsters and seals and gulls that stop by. Then one day a kitten visits the little island and learns a secret that every child will enjoy."

Time of Wonder by Robert McCloskey (1958)

3-7 yrs, 63 pp, 940 L (5th grade reading), summer on a Maine island

Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall (2019)

5-8 yrs, 2nd grade reading; weather, seasons, daily life, history

A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry (1957)

4-8 yrs, 32 pp, 420 L (barely grade 2; I would say 1st grade reading) admiration for trees

The Biggest Bear by Lynd K Ward (1953)

4-7 yrs, 88 pp, 770L (grade 3 reading), Johnny brings home a cub, but it gets huge

Social—self & others

Finders Keepers by William Lipkind & Nicolas Mordvinoff (1952)

4-7 yrs, 32 pp, 2 dogs both claim a bone, ask others' help deciding who it belongs to; old farming
Illustrations not beautiful

Madeline's Rescue by Ludwig Bemelmans (1954) poetic story

3-7 yrs, 50 pp, 460L? (2nd grade), Madeline falls in river, rescued by dog, becomes pet, jealousy

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak (1964)

4-8 yrs, 48 pp, 740L? imagination goes wild when sent to bed early; inspired movie, opera

May I Bring a Friend? By Beatrice Schenk De Regniers (1965)

3-8 yrs, 48 pp, King & Queen invite to tea, friend is a giraffe, they are polite (humor)

One Fine Day by Nonny Hogrogian (1972)

5-8 yrs, 32 pp, 930L? (5th grade reading), fox drank milk, had tail cut off, bargains to get it back

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig (1970)

3-7 yrs, 32 pp, 780 lexile (3rd to 4th grade) "Sylvester is shocked into making a wish that has unexpected consequences. After overcoming a series of obstacles, Sylvester is eventually reunited with his loving family." donkey characters

Hey, Al by Arthur Yorinks (1987)

4-8 yrs, 2nd grade reading, janitor, fantasy

Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman (1989)

Age 3-7, 2nd grade reading, grandpa memories of being in Vaudeville

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes (2005)

Preschool, 34 pp, grade 2 reading; moon looks like bowl of milk, kitten's adventure

The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster (2006)

Baby and up, 3rd grade reading; grandparents & kids

My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann (2003)

4-8 yrs, 1st grade reading; friendship, problem solving

The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson (2009)

Baby to 3yrs, 36 pp. limited text, large print, black & white woodcuts?

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead (2011)

2-6 yrs, 2nd grade reading; Zookeeper & animal friends

This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen (2013)

4-9 yrs, 1st grade reading? Fish, humor

K-2

Folk, Fairy Tales, Fables

Many Moons by James Thurber (1944)

4-7 yrs, 48 pp, “fable of a sickly princess who knows she will be well if only she can have the moon in the sky.” Compare A Hat for the Queen?

Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper by Charles Perrault, translated & illustrated by Marica Brown (1955) 4-8 yrs, 32 pp, 840 lexile? (4th grade)

Chanticleer and the Fox by Geoffrey Chaucer, Barbara Cooney (1959)

4-8 yrs, 44 pp, 840L? (4th grade reading) folk tale

Once a Mouse . . . A Fable Cut in Wood by Marica Brown (1962)

4-8 yrs, 32 pp, 760L? (4th grade) folk tale from India

Always Room for One More by Sorche Nic Leodhas (1966)

3-6 yrs, 32 pp, Scottish tale of hospitality, poetic/rhythmic/rhyming; includes song notation

A Story, A Story by Gail E. Haley (1971)

4-8 yrs, 36 pp, 590L? (2nd grade) African folktale, involves Ananse the spider man

Arrow to the Sun: A Pueblo Indian Tale by Gerald McDermott (1975)

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears: A West African Tale by Verna Aardema (1976)

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble (1979)

Saint George and the Dragon: A Golden Legend by Margaret Hodges (1985)

Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China by Ed Young (1990)

Rapunzel by Paul O. Zelinsky (1998)

Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Taback (2000)

The Three Pigs by David Wiesner (2002)

Fables by Arnold Lobel (1981)

The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney (2010)

The Funny Little Woman by Arlene Mosel (1973)

2-5 years, 2nd grade reading, Japanese woman makes dumpling that gets away (compare Gingerbread Man)

Duffy and the Devil by Harve Zemach (1974)

5-8 yrs, grade 4 reading (a lot of words), Cornish folktale

Shadow by Blaise Cendrars (1983)

5-8 yrs, African folklore

Holidays/Calendar

The Big Snow by Berta and Elmer Hader (1949)

6-9 yrs, 48 pp, 710 lexile? (grade 3), animals prepare for winter, Christmas comes

Mei Li by Thomas Handforth (1939)

Grades 2-3, 48 pages, Chinese New Year (based on real people/experiences in China)

Abraham Lincoln by Ingri and Edgar Parin d’Aulaire (1940)—traveled & read sources for research

64 pages; Lincoln from birth to president; Author has also written George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Pocahontas, Leif the Lucky (Erikson), Buffalo Bill, and Columbus

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey (1942)

3-7 yrs, 72 pp, 3rd grade reading? Duck raising her chicks in a Boston city park, crossing st, etc.

The Egg Tree by Katherine Milhous (1951)

6-9 yrs, 32 pp, 560 lexile (2nd grade), Easter at grandma’s

Song of the Swallows by Leo Politi (1950)

6-9 yrs, 32 pp, 690 lexile (3rd grade), migration of swallows, historic CA Latino & mission cultures
Drummer Hoff by Barbara Emberley (1968)

6-8 yrs, 32 pp, story builds on itself, rhyme, rhythm, repetition, old military exercises
Based on folk song of 7 soldiers

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall (1980)

Nine Days to Christmas by Marie Hall Ets (1960)

6-10 yrs, 48 pp, perhaps 2-3rd grade reading, Mexican culture

Baboushka and the Three Kings by Ruth Robbins (1961) illustrations not pretty

4-7 yrs, 32 pp, 580L (2nd grade) Russian Christmas folktale

History

The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton (1943)

4-7 yrs, 44 pp, 2nd grade reading? City overtakes house in country (compare Disney's "Up")

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say (1994)

4-8 yrs, grade 3 reading? Japanese immigrant experience

Finding Winnie: the True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick (2016)

5-6 yrs, 2nd grade reading; 1914, WWI veterinarian going to take care of horses, rescued baby bear

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe (2017)

4-8 yrs, grade 6+ reading? Collage style artist

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting (1995)

6-9 yrs, 2nd grade reading, rioting in LA, fires, looting

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein (2004)

5-8 yrs, 3rd grade reading? 1974 French man walked tightrope between towers of World Trade

Black and White by David Macaulay (1991)

4-7 yrs, 2nd grade reading "Four stories are told simultaneously, with each double-page spread divided into quadrants. The stories do not necessarily take place at the same moment in time, but are they really one story?"

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann (1996)

4-8 yrs, 2nd grade reading, police man and dog, safety, humor

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend by Dan Santat (2015)

4-8 yrs, 2nd grade reading? Fantasy

The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship by Arthur Ransome (1969)

5-8 yrs, 48 pp, 360L (1st grade—I would say 3rd grade reading) "When the Czar proclaims that he will marry his daughter to the man who brings him a flying ship, the Fool of the World sets out to try his luck and meets some unusual companions on the way." Overcomes enormous obstacles with help of wise old man & 7 companions, Russian tale retold by Arthur Ransome

Intermediate grades 3-5

History

They Were Strong and Good by Robert Lawson (1941)

Grades 3-7, 780L lexile (grade 3), 72 pp; follows one family through American history

Locomotive by Brian Floca (2014)

4-10 yrs, grade 3 reading; RR history 1800s

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (1999)

4-7 yrs, grade 4 reading, Wilson Bentley 1865-1931, science of snowflakes, photography

The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot, July 25, 1909 by Alice and Martin Provensen (1984) ages 5-8, grade 3 reading, history early airplane flight

Mirette on the High Wire by Emily Arnold McCully (1993)

4-8 yrs, 3rd grade reading, 19th century Paris, circus performers as backdrop, Mirette learns to walk high wire

Sam, Bangs, & Moonshine by Evaline Ness (1967)

7-12 yrs, 48 pp, 590L (2nd grade reading) fisherman's little daughter habit of lying meets reality

Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg (1982)

6-9 yrs, grade 2-3 reading, fantasy

Golem by David Wisniewski (1997)

10-12 yrs, grade 3 reading; Jewish traditional legend

So You Want to Be President? By Judith St. George (2001)

7-10 yrs, 4th grade reading, trivia about the presidents

The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick (2008)

9-12 yrs, 4th grade reading; "Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery."