

ume. There's no great plot here—just a group of woodland animals sharing the work of building a warm house in the woods. No calamities to overcome, no bickering, no tears; just working, sharing, creating, and peanut butter sandwiches as reward. And how does this add up to one of the most comforting and beautifully illustrated bedtime stories ever written? Read it and see.

### **I AM SO STRONG**

by Mario Ramos

PreS–K 28 pages Gecko/ Lerner, 2011

Give me a book with some good old fashioned yelling in it, throw in a handful of familiar characters like that “full-of-himself” wolf and Red Riding Hood and those three pigs, add a couple of dwarfs, and then round it off with a baby dinosaur and his *huge* mother. The end result is one terrific read-aloud. I tried this book on a very unique audience one morning: 25 inmates at a state prison. They *loved* it!

### **Where's My Teddy? (series)**

by Jez Alborough

PreS–K 24 pages Candlewick, 1997

Alborough has created three popular books in this series about little Eddie and the giant bear who lives in the park. In their first encounter (*Where's My Teddy?*), Eddie mistakenly ends up with the bear's teddy and the bear has his. Though each is equally afraid of the other, they both finally end up with the right teddy. In the second book (*It's the Bear!*), Eddie's mother is a nonbeliever until she and the bear come face-to-face (reminiscent of Robert McCloskey's *Blueberries for Sal*). In the third book (*My Friend Bear*), their fear of each other is happily resolved when each realizes how much they have in common—including

that needless fear of each other and a love of their teddies.

### **LOST AND FOUND: THREE DOG STORIES**

by Jim Lamarche

PreS–K 42 pages Chronicle, 2009

In the first of these delightful stories, a child is lost and rescued by a dog. In the second, a dog is lost and found by a child. And finally, a dog owner and family are lost and then found. Three searches and three very happy endings, with the running theme: “Never give up!”

### **NORA'S CHICKS**

by Patricia MacLachlan; ill. Kathryn Brown

Gr. K–2 32 pages Candlewick, 2013

When she and her family arrived on the American prairie from their Russian homeland, young Nora was terribly homesick. Everyone seemed to have someone or something to ease their loneliness — except Nora. When her father brought home some geese and chicks for future eating, Nora found her soul mates: they would *not* be on the menu—they would be her new friends. Impossible? Wait until you see her bring those chicks to church. They even help her make friends with neighbor girls. Related prairie book: *Elsie's Bird* by Jane Yolen.

A list of several hundred other titles can be found in the Treasury of Read-Alouds in *The Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease (Penguin)



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# LET'S READ THAT AGAIN!

PICTURE BOOKS  
WE READ  
REPEATEDLY.

BY JIM TRELEASE

Author of the New York Times Bestseller  
*The Read-Aloud Handbook*



## NOTHING BEATS A GOOD STORY—*again and again!*

**SOME** picture books are meant to inform our children, some to assure, and others to inspire. And then there are stories that are just so good we don't care if they're nutritious or not: let's just read it again. Here are some of those books.

### THOMAS' SNOWSUIT

by Robert Munsch; ill. by M. Martchenko  
PreS—4<sup>th</sup> Gr. 24 pages Annick, 1985

Thomas hates his new snowsuit, much to the dismay of his mother, teacher, and principal—all of whom find him a most determined fellow. But children will find the situation laugh-out-loud funny!

### LUCKY DUCKLINGS

By Eva Moore; illus. Nancy Carpenter  
PreS—K 30 pages Orchard, 2013

At last a modern-day rival for *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey: *Lucky Ducklings*. Based on a true incident on Long Island, NY, this handsomely illustrated tale follows a mother duck as she leads her brood of five out of the pond and park and into town and a day of foraging. What mother duck failed to notice were the openings in a sewer grating that easily accommodated her five little quackers. Down they went — 1,2,3,4,5. Soon the alarm was raised by both mother duck and a parking lot attendant.

Eventually, with the help of a tow truck and the fire department, all five were rescued and returned to mom — who led them safely home. A grand little adventure about the dangers of sewer gratings (even for children) and the benefits of community rescue.

### ROSIE'S MAGIC HORSE

by Russell Hoban; illus. by Quentin Blake  
PreS—K 32 pages Candlewick, 2013

When young Rosie picks up an abandoned popsicle stick and adds it to her collection of sticks, he has no idea the stick came with a positive attitude—unlike the other sticks who think they'll never amount to anything. Like a lot of things, individually they might never amount to anything but if they "stick together," the possibilities are endless. When Rosie discovers her parents desperately need money to pay the bills, she dreams of solving their woes. That's when the popsicle sticks turn themselves into a magic horse that flies her to a remote island, complete with pirates and buried treasure. Of course the pirates must be outwitted first.

### BOBBO GOES TO SCHOOL

by Shirley Hughes  
PreS—K 30 pages Candlewick, 2013

Preschooler Lily (the subject of the earlier *Don't Want to Go!*) is seldom separated from her beloved doll-doggie, Bobbo, although she does give him a workout with her antics. Like the time she was waiting for her mother to unfold the stroller and the school bus was loading neighborhood children. Showing off, Lily began twirling Bobbo around and around until he flew into the air. But instead of landing back in Lily's arms, he landed on the roof of the departing school bus. Catastrophe! But Mother calmly explains, we'll call school and they'll retrieve it. A good idea, except when the bus arrived Bobbo silently slid off the roof undetected and into the branches of a tree. All ends well but not before there is much angst and searching, reminiscent of Hughes' earlier "lost doll" book, *Dogger*.

### APRIL AND ESME, TOOTH FAIRIES

by Bob Graham  
PreS—K 32 pages Candlewick, 2010

Seven-year-old April and her little sister, Esme, are the children of tooth fairies, anxious themselves to begin a career of collecting those little teeth and delivering the coin rewards. They both assume that excitement is years away, until April receives a call on her cell phone: her very first order! Her parents give her all the reasons why she's too young and the trip is too dangerous, but April argues a strong case until she and her sister are cautiously given permission. The excitement builds as they accomplish their goal—almost. The tooth's owner awakens suddenly and sees the fairies. April, however, is a tech-savvy tooth fairy and "texts" her mother for instructions on what to do.

### THE GREAT FUZZ FRENZY

by Susan Stevens Crummel  
Janet Stevens, illus.  
PreS—Gr. 1 56 pages Harcourt, 2005

This whimsical tale was born the day the authors saw a tennis ball roll into a prairie-dog town. What would the dogs think it was? So they put themselves into the mind of those underground dogs confronted by a round lump of fuzz and imagined. The result is a delightful romp that has many applications to human behavior. The large fold-out pages (which are not text heavy) and brightly colored illustrations will make this a read-aloud favorite.

### A HOUSE IN THE WOODS

by Inga Moore  
Tod—K 42 pages Candlewick, 2011

If there were a single book that could embody pure happiness, it would be this vol-