

Story Builders Book Selection List

Please Note: Grade level suggestions are flexible, if there is a book from outside your classroom's grade range that you are interested in, please let us know and we can have a conversation! Teachers are also welcome to suggest their own books, subject to approval by Berkeley Rep staff. Indicated books are available in Spanish for bilingual teaching.

PETE THE CAT'S GROOVY IMAGINATION by James & Kimberly Dean (Grades TK-K)

Pete the Cat wants to go surfing, but he looks outside and—oh no!—it's gray and rainy. Does Pete get sad? No, he doesn't! Instead, he finds a really big and GROOVY box. Find out in this epic adventure just where Pete's imagination takes him.

SHH! WE HAVE A PLAN by Chris Hourton (English & Spanish) (Grades TK-K)

Four friends creep through the woods, and what do they spot? An exquisite bird high in a tree! "Hello birdie," waves one. "Shh! We have a plan," hush the others. They stealthily make their advance, nets in the air. Ready one, ready two, ready three, and go! But as one comically foiled plan follows another, it soon becomes clear that their quiet, observant companion, hand outstretched, has a far better idea.

JAMAL'S JOURNEY by Michael Foreman (Grades TK-K)

Jamal is a little camel with smaller legs than his Mamma and Pappa so walking in the desert is always tiring. One day he becomes separated from his camel family and friend, the boy, and he must face a desert of strange animals. A wise falcon offers to help reunite Jamal with his family where he imagines all the things he will do when he is a big camel with long legs.

AMY WU & THE PATCHWORK DRAGON by Kat Zhang (Grades TK-1)

Amy loves craft time at school. But when her teacher asks everyone to make their own dragon, Amy feels stuck. Her first dragon has a long, wingless body, stag-like horns, and eagle claws, but her friends don't think it's a *real* dragon. Then she makes dragons like theirs, but none of them feels quite right...None of them feels like *hers*. After school, a story from Grandma sparks new inspiration, and Amy rounds up her family to help her. Together, can they make Amy's perfect dragon?

THANK YOU, OMU! by Oge Mora (English & Spanish) (Grades TK-1)

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

COQUI IN THE CITY by Nomar Perez (English & Spanish) (Grades 1-2)

Miguel's pet frog, Coquí, is always with him as he moves through his life in San Juan. When Miguel learns that he and his parents are moving to the U.S. mainland, that also means leaving his beloved grandparents, home in Puerto Rico, and even his frog Coquí behind. Life in New York City is overwhelming and unfamiliar. But when he and Mamá go exploring, they find a few familiar sights that remind them of home, and Miguel realizes there might be a way to keep a little bit of Puerto Rico with him wherever he goes.

THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS by Jon Scieszka (English & Spanish) (Grades 1-3)

You thought you knew the story of the "The Three Little Pigs"... You thought wrong. In this hysterical and clever fractured fairy tale picture book that twists point of view and perspective, young readers will finally hear the wolf's side of the story of "The Three Little Pigs."

ANANSI THE SPIDER: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott (Grades 2-3)

When the cunning and mischievous Anansi is about to become someone else's dinner, his six sons come to his rescue. This Caldecott Honor award-winning book celebrates the value of family and how everyone's unique talents make up the whole.

MY FATHER'S SHOP by Satomi Ichikaw

(Grades 2-3)

Mustafa's father owns a glorious shop full of colorful carpets and attracts guests from all over the world! When Mustafa finds a carpet that his father cannot sell, he uses his imagination to make it into a costume. Avoiding a boring lesson from his father about learning new languages, Mustafa runs to a nearby market with the carpet still over his head! A rooster at a nearby market finds this colorful creature interesting, so it starts to follow Mustafa attracting different tourists who teach Mustafa how to crow in many different languages.

THE HUNGRY COAT: A Tale from Turkey by Demi

(Grades 2-3)

The Turkish folk hero Nasrettin Hoca is a friend to all. After corralling an escaped goat, he attends a friend's party in his dirty coat, and is shunned by his friends because of his appearance. However, when Nasrettin changes into a fancy new coat, he is treated like a king and served a feast. To his friends' astonishment, he begins to feed his coat! Discover how Nasrettin teaches his friends a valuable lesson about what really matters.

THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN by Alejandro Martinez (English & Spanish)

(Grades 2-3)

When Lucia Zenteno arrives in an ancient Mexican village surrounded by butterflies and accompanied by an iguana, the civilians are overwhelmed with her beauty and majesty. Despite the elders' warnings to respect Lucia, they are frightened of her power and turn to insults to drive her out of their village. With her departure she brings the village's river, and they must seek her forgiveness to save their homes.

ROSA RAPOSA by F. Isabel Campoy

(Grades 2-3)

Rosa Raposa is a jungle fox who loves planning tricks, especially when it comes to the sharp-toothed, beady-eyed bully, Jaguar. With a little bit of imagination and very quick paws, this fox can get out of any sticky situation! The Green Dress is the last of three stories in this book that show us how Rosa Raposa-with the help of a few jungle friends of course-escape the trap of becoming Jaguar's dinner.

THE NAME JAR by Yangsook Choi

(Grades 2-3)

Arriving to a new school, and a new country, is very difficult for Unhei who misses her home and grandmother back in Korea. She feels that being different is bad, especially when it comes to a name that nobody can pronounce. She decides to collect new name ideas in a jar with the help of a few classmates. However, with the support of her family, memories of what makes her culture special to her, and a new friend, Unhei decides to keep the one thing that makes her unique and reminders of home the most.

MUSICIANS OF THE SUN by Gerald McDermott

(Grades 2-3)

The day the Lord of the Night came out into the world he was struck by its gray joylessness. He called Wind to his side and bade him to free the musicians of the sun and bring joy back into the world. Will Wind succeed? Or will the world remain colorless for all time?

THE STORY OF THE NOT-SO-SMALL ANIMAL by Isabel Campoy and Alma Ada

(Grades 3-4)

The story of a tiny beetle who is nearly squashed by the hoof of a cow, Dona Vaca. When Dona Vaca nearly steps on him again and laughs at him, the beetle declares war on her and even calls some other tiny troops to help him out. To her surprise, Dona Vaca and her other large animal friends find that there may be cause for worry when many small creatures come together.

JABUTI THE TORTOISE: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon by Gerald McDermott

(Grades 3-4)

The talented flute-playing tortoise, Jabuti, uses his song to trick others into performing actions to benefit him. The vulture, however, gets very annoyed by his song and tricks Jabuti into breaking his shell on a rock. The rest of the birds love Jabuti's song and come to his rescue, and once more his music flows through the Amazon.

FLOATING ON MAMA'S SONG by Laura Lacamara (English & Spanish)

(Grades 3-4)

Mama loves to sing. Her song is so beautiful that when notes escape her throat, everyone around her is so filled with happiness they begin to float in the air (even the neighbor's cow!). But what happens when Mama stops singing and her family can no longer float on her song?

TASTY BABY BELLY BUTTONS by Judy Sierra

(Grades 4-5)

In this tale from Japan, Uriko's parents taught her to be a great warrior and master dumpling maker. When giant monsters named oni (who love to munch on baby belly buttons) invade her village and steal all the babies, Uriko's skills are put to the test. With a sack full of dumplings, a sword, and some loyal companions, Uriko's quest teaches that brains and teamwork are worth far more than brute strength.

TOMAS AND THE LIBRARY LADY by Pat Mora (English & Spanish)

(Grades 4-5)

It's not easy moving time and again, but Tomas and his family are migrant workers who travel from state to state, helping farmers harvest their crops. When they arrive in Iowa for the summer, Tomas finds an escape from the scorching heat at the town library. And once inside, he also discovers a surprising world filled with dinosaurs, tigers, and a great new friend.

THUNDER ROSE by Jerdine Nolen

(Grades 4-5)

Thunder Rose vows to grow up to be more than just big and strong, thank you very kindly--and boy, does she ever! Born on a stormy night, Thunder Rose is a hopeful child who turns away a tornado with her song and the depth of her "fortunate feeling." A tall tale of joy, love and thunderous music.

PERSEPHONE: From D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri & Edgar D'Aulaire

(Grades 4-5)

A Greek myth used to explain the coming and going of the seasons. Follow the goddess of the spring, Persephone, as she faces the possibility of spending eternity in the underworld with Hades. Will spring ever return, or will the earth be shrouded in cold and darkness forever