

The Reading Engagement

25 Must-Reads for Ages 0–5 — our beloved picture books, organized by age and mood.

Babies · Birth-12 months

High-contrast pages, sing-song rhythms and gentle bedtime cuddles.

Goodnight Moon

by Margaret Wise Brown

SLEEPY & SOOTHING

Black on White

by Tana Hoban

CURIOUS & FOCUSED

Global Babies

by The Global Fund for Children

WARM & CONNECTED

Peek-a Who?

by Nina Laden

SILLY & SURPRISING

Baby Faces

by DK

JOYFUL & EXPRESSIVE

Hello, World! Baby Animals

by Jill McDonald

WONDER & DISCOVERY

Toddlers · 1-3 years

Bouncy read-alouds, repeatable refrains and lots of noisy fun.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle

PLAYFUL & PREDICTABLE

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault

RHYTHMIC & SILLY

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

by Eric Carle

CURIOUS & COLORFUL

Press Here

by Hervé Tullet

INTERACTIVE & GIGGLY

Dear Zoo

by Rod Campbell

PEEK-A-BOO FUN

Llama Llama Red Pajama

by Anna Dewdney

COZY & COMFORTING

From Head to Toe

by Eric Carle

WIGGLY & ACTIVE

Freight Train

by Donald Crews

BIG FEELINGS, BIG WHEELS

Preschoolers · 3-5 years

Bigger stories, brave feelings and imaginations that stretch to the stars.

The Day the Crayons Quit

by Drew Daywalt

FUNNY & IMAGINATIVE

Where the Wild Things Are

by Maurice Sendak

ADVENTUROUS & BOLD

The Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister

KIND & SHARING

Last Stop on Market Street

by Matt de la Peña

GRATEFUL & WARM

Ada Twist, Scientist

by Andrea Beaty

CURIOUS & STEAM

The Snowy Day

by Ezra Jack Keats

WONDER & DISCOVERY

Hair Love

by Matthew A. Cherry

LOVING & EMPOWERING

Julián Is a Mermaid

by Jessica Love

BRAVE & JOYFUL

Anytime Favorites · Bedtime & Big Feelings

Sweet reads that stretch across ages — perfect for winding down or working through big emotions.

The Wonderful Things You Will Be

by Emily Winfield Martin

DREAMY & UPLIFTING

I Am Enough

by Grace Byers

AFFIRMING & CALM

The Rabbit Listened

by Cori Doerrfeld

GENTLE & EMPATHETIC

Want these stories read aloud with music, movement and magic? Join a Reading Engagement class or book a private story time at thereadingengagement.org.