

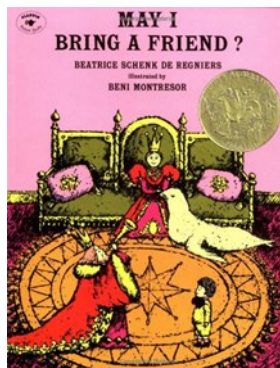
# Picture Pages!

## CALDECOTT AWARD WINNERS

Why read Caldecott Medal winners?

The American Library Association website tells us, “The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children..., to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children” (Caldecott). In other words, when it comes to picture books, these aren’t just good—they are the best.

Books chosen for this list span more than 50 years of excellence!



### *May I Bring a Friend?,* Beatrice de Regniers

Regniers, Beatrice Schenk, and Beni Montresor. *May I Bring a Friend?* New York: Atheneum, 1964. Print.

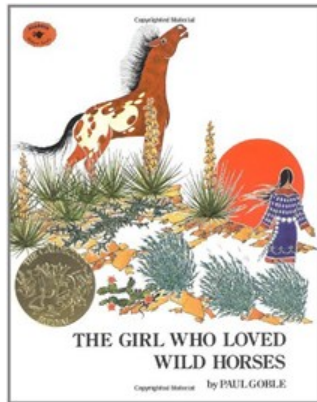
Rhyme and repetition are the key to this entertaining children’s book. A king and queen invite a young friend to tea every day for a week, and each day the child asks to bring a friend. His guests are definitely not typical—he brings an assortment of zoo animals with him. On the last day, the young man invites the royals to visit his friends instead, and they all have tea at the zoo. Fun and easy to read, youngsters will enjoy the repetition, and the rhyming pattern makes it easy to memorize and helps build early reading skills.

**Age Level: 3 - 8 years**

### CITATIONS:

Caldecott Medal & Honor Books, 1938-Present. (n.d.). Retrieved May 2, 2015, from <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal>

*May I Bring a Friend* cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 9, 2015.



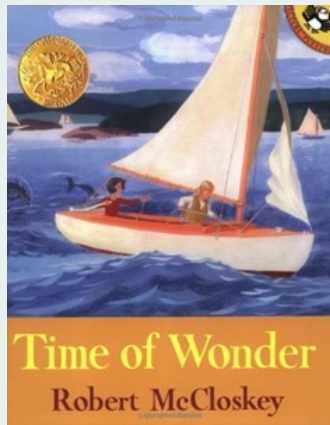
Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 8, 2015.

### *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses, Paul Goble*

Goble, P. (1978). *The girl who loved wild horses*. Scarsdale, N.Y.: Bradbury Press.

An American Indian girl with a special understanding of horses is the main character in this story. One day, while she is resting with the herd, a storm comes up and frightens the horses. To avoid being trampled, she jumps on the back of a horse as the herd gallops away. The girl is eventually returned to her people, but she grows ill and begs to return to the wild horses who took her in. Ultimately, she becomes one of them. The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations provide a beautiful backdrop for this mystical story.

**Age Level: 5 - 8 years**



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 7, 2015.

### *Time of Wonder, Robert McCloskey*

McCloskey, R. (1957). *Time of Wonder*. New York: Puffin Books.

This poetic picture book follows two girls as they spend their summer discovering the wonders of Penobscot Bay. They watch porpoises and lobster boats, sail among the islands, and build castles on the beach. Even making preparations for, and then weathering out, a hurricane factor into their summer. In the aftermath of the hurricane, the girls discover even more wonders beneath an uprooted tree—ancient signs that children have been here before them. This book's gentle feel and beautiful, simple artwork encapsulates all that is good about childhood and summers full of discovery and wonder.

**Age Level: 3 and up**



*Caption describing picture or graphic*

### *Mirette on the High Wire*, Emily Arnold McCully

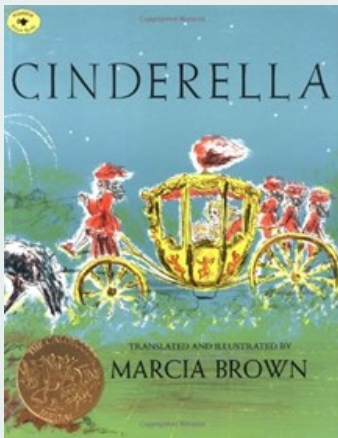
McCully, E. (1992). *Mirette on the high wire*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Mirette works in a Paris boardinghouse that draws performers from all over the world, even a retired high-wire walker, Monsieur Bellini. Mirette watches as Bellini walks a clothesline in the courtyard, and begs him to teach her. She finds out that Bellini was once world famous, and begs him to take her with him, but he says he cannot—he is afraid. Mirette helps him face his fears, showing that courage can be easier to find with a friend. Lovely illustrations bring readers into this 19<sup>th</sup> century world, and young readers, especially girls, will appreciate Mirette's bravery and compassion.

**Age Level: 4 - 8 years**



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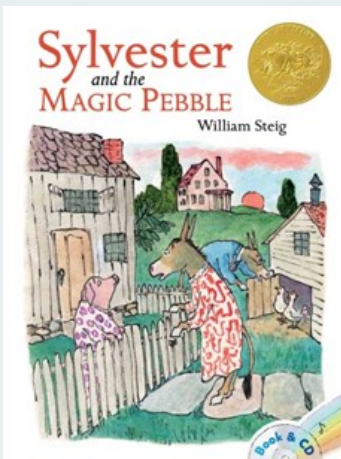
Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 8, 2015.

*Cinderella*, translated and illustrated  
by Marcia Brown

Perrault, C., & Brown, M. (1954). *Cinderella, or, The little glass slipper: A free translation from the French of Charles Perrault*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

The Charles Perrault version of *Cinderella*, as translated and illustrated by Marcia Brown, is a lovely rendition of the classic tale. In this account Cinderella is sweet and forgiving of her stepsister's behavior, even finding them husbands and a home after her marriage to the prince. There are no worries for parents over gory details found in some versions. Brown's artistic style is detailed with ink and made simple with the pastel color palette. Her artwork elevates the drawings from basic to elegant, and leaves readers want to go back through the book time and again.

**Age Level: 4 - 8 years**



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 7, 2015.

*Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, William Steig

Steig, W. (1969). *Sylvester and the magic pebble*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Sylvester, a young donkey, finds a magical pebble with the power to grant wishes. Hurrying home with his prize, he is startled by a hungry lion, and frightened Sylvester wishes he were a rock. As a rock, he can't touch the pebble to wish himself back. Through great luck Sylvester is returned to his original form, and realizes that being with his family is more than he could ever wish for. This sweet tale strikes several real truths, especially as the parents mourn their son, and the real joy they all find when he returns.

**Age Level: 4 - 8 years**

## *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*, Simms Taback

Taback, S. (1999). *Joseph had a little overcoat*. New York: Viking.

This delightful tale follows Joseph, a man with a worn out overcoat, as he remakes his coat into something new. His overcoat becomes a jacket, vest, scarf, tie, and finally a button. When the button is lost, Joseph, left with nothing, writes a book about the story and offers up the following moral: "...you can always make something out of nothing." The tale is not overwhelmingly moralizing, so young readers should not be put off. The artwork is clever and entertaining; each iteration of Joseph's clothes is actually worked into the artwork as a cutout from the previous page.

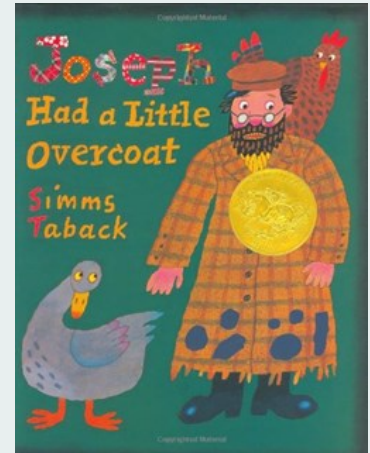
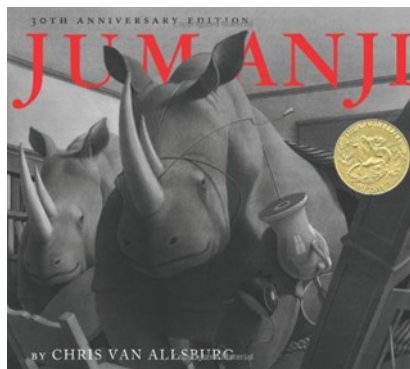
**Age Level: 3 - 7 years**

## *Jumanji*, Chris Van Allsburg

Allsburg, C. (1981). *Jumanji*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Bored siblings, Judy and Peter, find a game in the park and decide to take it home. From the very first turn, their jungle adventure game goes awry. Lions, monkeys, monsoon rains and even a rhinoceros stampede invade their home. The intensity builds right up to the climax as Judy makes her last move. This story is full of great fun, and the realistic black and white artwork adds to the drama and believability of it all. Children especially will love the aspect of a world all their own that grown-ups can't see or believe.

**Grade Levels: 1 - 4**



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 7, 2015.

Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 8, 2015.

## THE POLAR EXPRESS



Cover art retrieved from Amazon.com on March 8, 2015.

### *The Polar Express*, Chris Van Allsburg

Allsburg, C., & Allsburg, C. (1985). *The Polar Express*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

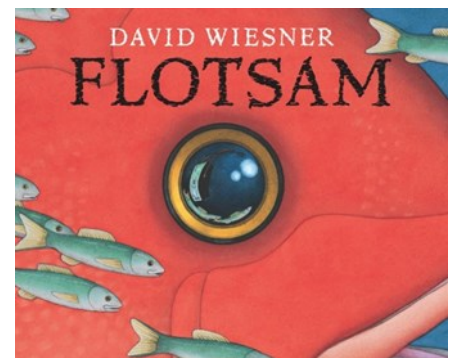
*The Polar Express* shares a boy's journey to the North Pole. Upon arrival, he is chosen to receive the first gift of Christmas. The boy chooses a silver bell from Santa's sleigh, and returns to the train with his treasure. Once aboard, he realizes there is a hole in his pocket; the bell is lost. Christmas morning he finds a package signed "Mr. C.," with his bell inside. While the tale itself is simple, VanAllsburg's artwork takes this book to a new level. Of special note is the diversity of characters within his drawings; all sorts of ethnicities are represented. **Age Level: 4 and up**

### *Flotsam*, David Wiesner

Wiesner, D. (2006). *Flotsam*. New York: Clarion Books.

*Flotsam* carefully blends fantasy and science using an underwater camera full of film that washes ashore. The photos are full of fantastical underwater images, but the last is of a girl holding a picture of a boy, who is holding a picture of another child, and so on. The boy who found the camera takes a new picture and tosses the camera back into the ocean, continuing the cycle. Without words, Wiesner has crafted a story that can be told and retold, becoming something new each time. Both adults and children will find literary and artistic merit within these pages.

**Age Level: Preschool - 3**



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