

Monroe, Chris. *Sneaky Sheep*. 2010. Rocky and Blossom are two sheep notorious for past bad decisions. Their repeated attempts to escape to the high meadow are foiled by Murphy, the watchful sheepdog. In a climactic episode, they come face-to-face with the wolf.

Theme

Cousins. Lucy. *I'm the Best*. 2010. Capturing the egocentric qualities of young children, Dog tells all the animals that he is the best. When he's shown that each of them can actually do something better than he can, he is sad until they assure him that he is best at being friends.

Willems. Mo. *City Dog, Country Frog*. 2010. The story of a friendship and the cycle of life are told through the seasons of the year. The watercolor illustrations by Jon Muth capture the seasons and feelings eloquently.



Rock & Read

2011-2012

Suggested Books for Reading with Children Kindergarten through Grade 2

Historical Fiction

Bildner, Phil. *The Hallelujah Flight*. 2010. In 1932, James Banning, along with his co-pilot Thomas Allen, make history by becoming the first African Americans to fly across the United States, relying on the generosity of people they meet in the towns along the way who help keep their "flying jalopy" going.

McCully, Emily Arnold. *Wonder Horse*. 2010. A fictionalized account of Bill "Doc" Key, a former slave who became a veterinarian, who trained his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and to perform in skits around the country, and moved the nation toward a belief in treating animals humanely.

Realistic Fiction

Al Abdullah, Rania Her Majesty Queen. *The Sandwich Swap*. 2010. PB & J vs. hummas on a pita. The difference of opinion on lunches causes a friendship to split apart and vicious lines to be drawn at school. The two characters come together recognizing that differences are not so bad!

Di Camillo, Kate and McGhee, Alison. *Bink and Gollie*. 2010. Two friends, one tall, one short, love to roller skate, but have oh so many other things to disagree about! In the end, they help one another and learn about compromise. The three short stories contain lots of pancake and peanut butter eating, Gollie's amazing vocabulary and the lovely imaginations of both characters!

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Graham, Bob. *April and Esme, Tooth Fairies*. 2010. It all starts with a cell phone call to two young tooth fairies in training, April and Esme Underhill. A "tooth visit" is required and they have been specifically requested. Mom and Dad think they are too young but ultimately give in and send their young ones off with Dad reminding them they must never be seen and Mom saying, "Send me a text if you need to!"

This bibliography includes titles selected by elementary teacher librarians in the ICCSD during the past school year. These books and many more are available in many of the elementary school libraries. Thank you to the **Rock & Readers** for sharing your time and enthusiasm for reading and children! Enjoy!

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Wiesner, David. **Art & Max**. 2010. Stunning illustrations take readers on a colorful journey with two lizards. Art or Arthur as he likes to be called, is a studious artist, while Max, on the other hand, just wants to jump right in with his brushes and paint. Max's impulses get him and Art into some trouble and it will take some creative problem solving from Max and a lot of patience from Arthur to solve their abstract problem.

Mystery/Suspense

Knapp, Ruthie. **Who Stole Mona Lisa?** 2010. With the Mona Lisa herself as narrator, this book recounts the history of the painting, including her theft from the Louvre in 1911. The author's notes contain the perfect amount of additional information on the painting.

Rodriguez, Béatrice. **The Chicken Thief**. 2010. This wordless book begins with four friends—a bear, a rabbit, a rooster, and a hen—just about to sit down to breakfast. Suddenly, a fox runs by and grabs the hen! The remaining three friends give chase through the forest, over mountains, and even across the sea.

Folklore

Browne, Anthony. **Me and You**. 2010. This urban retelling of the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears story is told from the baby bear's perspective. Goldilocks is a modern day "have-not" while the three bears are the "haves." Sepia tones in the Goldilocks' illustrations contrast with full color used for Baby Bear's story.

Fleming, Candace. **Clever Jack Takes the Cake**. 2010. Too poor to buy a birthday gift for the princess, Jack decides to make her a cake. Due to a series of encounters on his trip to the palace, Jack arrives in front of the throne with nothing—but an exciting story of his adventures!

Poetry

Elliott, David, and Holly Meade. **In the Wild**. 2010. Illustrator Meade's full-spread woodcut and watercolor art portrays 13 wild animals in their habitat. The rhythm, rhyme and precise use of language in Elliot's short poems provide readers still more sensory experiences – movement, sounds, images, and emotion.

Raschka, Christopher. **Little Black Crow**. 2010. As a young boy observes a bird fly through open sky he asks, —Little black crow, / where do you go? / Where do you go / in the cold white snow? / Where do you go?|| The deceptively simple questions and Raschka's fluid color, expressive lines and expansive white space create a quiet world where simple questions give way to meditation about deeper questions.

Biography

Hill, Laban, Carrick. **Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave**. 2010. Chronicles the life of Dave, a nineteenth-century slave who becomes an influential poet, artist, and potter. Hill writes,

“Dave was one of only two potters at the time who could successfully make pots that were larger than twenty gallons.” He also inscribed strange, sophisticated poetry into the clay.

Smith, Charles R. **Black Jack: The Ballad of Jack Johnson**. 2010. Black Jack was born in 1878. His name was Arthur John Johnson and his parents were freed slaves who taught him pride and gave him the will to better himself. He worked all sorts of jobs to make a living, but what suited him was boxing. He became a great boxer with style, setting his sights on the Boxing Championship. But there was a problem: white boxers wouldn't fight him.

Setting

Tepper, Yona. **Passing By**. 2010. A young girl looks off the balcony to see many passers-by in her neighborhood, including animals, vehicles, and best of all, her father coming home.

Character

Solheim, James. **Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist**. 2010. A newborn baby chronicles her experiences, beginning from her birth. By the end of her first year, her best friends are her older sister and her dog Foofy. She also knows what she wants to do with her life— if only she can figure out how to climb out of her crib!

Stead, Philip C. **A Sick Day for Amos McGee**. 2010. A gentle tale of the loving zookeeper and the animals he cares for. When Amos is sick one day, the animals come to show him the same kindness that he has shown to them. (2010 Caldecott)

Point of View

Barton, Chris, and Tom Lichtenheld. **Shark vs. Train**. 2010. If a shark is pitted against a train, which would win? Through the play of two young boys, a toy shark and a toy train face off in a variety of contests, the results of which are dependent upon the setting of the match-up in relation to the characteristics of each contestant.

Winter, Jonah. **Here Comes the Garbage Barge!** 2010. In the spring of 1987, the town of Islip, New York, with no place for its 3,168 tons of garbage, loads it on a barge that sets out on a 162-day journey along the east coast, around the Gulf of Mexico, down to Belize, and back again, in search of a place willing to accept and dispose of its very smelly cargo.

Plot

Birdsall, Jeanne. **Flora's Very Windy Day**. 2010. Flora's protests over her annoying little brother result in being sent outside with him. The wind sweeps them into the sky, where sky creatures offer to take her brother off her hands. Instead, Flora defends and keeps her sibling.