

Mrs. Ouper's Book List from Pre-School story times

Can't You Sleep, Little Bear by **Martin Waddell**. This is a story about a little bear that is afraid of the dark (sound familiar to anyone?). Big Bear keeps bringing in bigger and bigger lanterns to Little Bear to dispel the dark but as Little Bear points out it never completely gets rid of the dark that is outside of the Bear Cave. Big Bear brings Little Bear outside in the night and "it is DARK." But there is some light as Big Bear shows Little Bear the moon and stars. Little Bear doesn't notice this because he has fallen asleep on Big Bear's shoulder. Martin Waddell is a prolific writer of excellent children's stories usually relating to issues youngsters have faced or are facing. Some other titles of his used recently in story time include **Bee Frog**, **Snow Bears**, **Small Bear Lost** and **Mimi and the Picnic**.

Lucille's Snowsuit by **Kathryn Lasky**. This is a story for anyone who has struggled with putting on a snowsuit and winter clothing. Lucille wants to go outside and play in the snow with her older siblings but she doesn't want to wear her snowsuit, which she declares is for babies. Mom insists, so she struggles valiantly alone trying to get on boots and socks and snowsuit. Mom's help is called upon several times with the usual answer of "I'm coming, dear" until finally she comes to the rescue. By then Lucille is so hot in all her clothing that she wants lemonade. Playing outdoors with her siblings is fun until they have to go in to get warm. Lucille is nice and snug in her snowsuit. She plays alone until her siblings come out again to play. When she finally comes inside she admits that even though it may be for babies, her snowsuit kept her nice and warm outside. This one is for slightly older pre-schoolers but even young ones who have struggled with getting dressed for winter can appreciate this offering. Lasky has several other picture book titles in the library, mostly for slightly older youngsters.

Rattlesnake Dance by **Jim Arnosky**. This is a rather simple story about rattlesnakes that gather in a cave once a year to dance. What makes this picture book are the pictures. Some of the rattlesnake pictures are quite scary! Arnosky does his own illustrations and writes about nature, from books about a particular animal, to environments like swamps, ponds and forests, to nature skills like recognizing animal tracks. Little nature lovers should definitely look up his many books in our library. Another Arnosky title we've used in story time is **Every Autumn Comes the Bear**.

Frog by **Susan Cooper**. In this story, Little Joe can't swim. His family is all great swimmers, his mother "swims like a powerboat." But Little Joe can't get the hang of it. One day a little frog hops into the pool. Little Joe watches the frog swim. His family all tries to get the frog out of the pool, by using their hands to catching it in a net. But the frog always manages to escape. The family tires of frog chasing and goes to have lemonade leaving Little Joe by the pool. He watches an exhausted frog come to the side of the pool. But the sides are too slick and the frog can't get out. Little Joe goes in the pool and very carefully lifts the frog up and out of the pool. The frog returns home and

Little Joe, having watched the frog, finally swims across the pool. A delightful tale of patience and reward.

Mouse Went Out to Get a Snack by **Lyn Rossiter McFarland**. An amusing tale that will have pre-schoolers laughing as well as practicing their counting. Mouse comes out of his mouse hole to find a snack. Just a piece of cheese is all that he wants. But when he climbs the table leg he finds a feast spread out before him. As mouse balances a platter, the book counts the number of food he puts on it (from 1 piece of cheese, to 6 tacos, to 8 cupcakes, etc.) Somehow he manages to balance the platter of food as he climbs down the table leg and starts to make his way across the floor. All of the sudden you see the four paws of a cat, the platter balancing and the mouse. The platter flies up in the air with all of the food, and the platter, coming down on the cat while the mouse flees. But 1 piece of cheese rolls along the floor and into the mouse hole. On the final spread we see the mouse satisfactorily eating the piece of cheese, which is all he really wanted after all. The amusing illustrations help to move the story along.

Cool Ali by **Nancy Poydar**. It is a hot summer day and Ali, who likes to draw, takes her sidewalk chalk outside. The other building residents start coming out of the building to sit outside and try to escape the heat. They all complain about how hot it is. Ali takes her chalk and begins drawing a lake around Mrs. Frye's chair, an umbrella over Ira Baker, a cold North wind blowing on Mr. Boyle and a polar bear on the sidewalk for the babies to ride on. Somehow everyone feels a little cooler. Then Ali begins to draw snowdrops all around on the walls of the building and the sidewalk. The residents feel cooler still, so cool that they don't even notice the first drops of a cold rain coming down. Then it pours and the residents dance with glee at the cooling rain. But poor Ali notices that all of her drawings are washing away and going down the drain. But the residents notice Ali, whose drawings had helped them beat the heat. They lift her on their shoulders and chant "Ali, Ali." On the last spread we see Ali in her apartment. With the rain coming down, she draws a sun. An ingenious story that will intrigue most youngsters.

Flora's Blanket by **Debi Gliori**. A gentle story about a baby rabbit that loses her blanket and can't sleep at night. The whole rabbit family joins in the search for the blanket, looking in logical and some illogical places. They finally decide to tuck Flora into bed with the parent bunnies. She discovers a big lump under Daddy's pillow. Surprise! It is Flora's blanket. Debi Gliori has written a couple of Flora stories and we have used **Flora's Surprise** in story time. Besides a bunny family, she also writes stories about a bear family that is equally as good as the Flora tales.

Let's Go Froggy by **Jonathan London**. In this Froggy tale, he and Daddy frog are getting ready to go on a bicycle trip. Froggy keeps forgetting where he put things he wants to bring and looks in ridiculous places usually finding what he wants in a fairly ridiculous place (like a bag of peaches in his bed). Daddy frog gives him a hard time telling him each time he is looking for something to look for it “where you left it last.” The tables are finally turned on Mr. Frog when he starts looking for his backpack. Froggy tells him to look where he left it last which is on his back! Froggy tales are always good, amusing reads for youngsters and despite trails and tribulations, Froggy always ends up on top, even though his face may have been more red than green at times. Other Froggy stories we have read include **Froggy Eats Out** and **Froggy's First Kiss**. Jonathan London is a prolific writer of good stories of many subjects and characters. Other Jonathan London books we have used in story times are **Puddles**, **Sun Dance**, **Water Dance**, **What the Animals Were Waiting For**, and **Do Your ABC's, Little Bear**.

Clifford Keeps Cool by **Norman Bridwell**. Who doesn't like Clifford, the big, red dog? In this story, Clifford is having a hard time keeping cool on a hot day. He drinks all of the water out of Emily Elizabeth's pool. He finds a bigger, in ground pool with lots of people swimming. He jumps in, causing all the water and people to splash out. He then finds an ice arena having an ice show. This is finally a nice cool place as he lies out on the ice, but the skaters yell at him. His warm body is melting the ice! Poor Clifford! Just as he is about to give up, Emily Elizabeth finds him. She has the perfect spot for him to cool off and have a chance to be a hero at the same time. Toddlers and pre-schoolers alike love Clifford and the library has lots of Clifford books to check out. Other Clifford titles we've used include **Clifford, the Big Red Dog**, **Clifford's Sports Day**, and **Clifford's First Valentine's Day**.

Moonbear's Skyfire by **Frank Asch**. Mr. Asch is a prolific writer of stories for pre-schoolers and toddlers alike. He has written several stories about Moonbear and in this one Moonbear and his friend, Little Bird, see a rainbow in the sky. Moonbear thinks the sky is on fire and Little Bird wants to fly to the end of the rainbow and find the pot of gold. Little Bear picks up an empty honey pot and fills it with water. He climbs up a hill and throws the water in the sky at the rainbow. The rainbow slowly disappears. Meanwhile, Little Bird has noticed that a tree is at the end of the rainbow. He flies to the tree and finds gold there, the gold being honey in the tree. Moonbear fills up the empty honey pot and the two friends go home to have honey cakes. In discussing the rainbow, Moonbear explains that the sky was on fire and he put it out! Other Frank Asch titles we have used are **Good-night, Little Bear**.