

September 2025 Children's Museum Houston Reading List

little tree



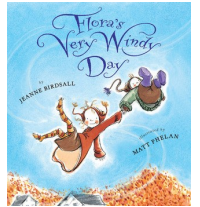
loren long

Little Tree by Loren Long (2015) **Ages: 3-6 years**

In the middle of a little forest, there lives a Little Tree who loves his life and the splendid leaves that keep him cool in the heat of long summer days. Life is perfect just the way it is. Autumn arrives, and with it the cool winds that ruffle Little Tree's leaves. One by one the other trees drop their leaves, facing the cold of winter head on. But not Little Tree—he hugs his leaves as tightly as he can. Year after year Little Tree remains unchanged, despite words of encouragement from a squirrel, a fawn, and a fox, his leaves having long since turned brown and withered. As Little Tree sits in the shadow of the other trees, now grown sturdy and tall as though to touch the sun, he remembers when they were all the same size. And he knows he has an important decision to make.

Flora's Very Windy Day by Jeanne Birdsall (2010) **Ages: 2-7 years**

When Flora and her pesky little brother, Crispin, are whisked away by a swirling and swooping wind, she gets the opportunity of a the chance to give her brother away. With tempting offers from a dragonfly, the man in the moon, and even the wind itself, she will find it difficult to choose. But Flora would do anything to get rid of Crispin, wouldn't she?

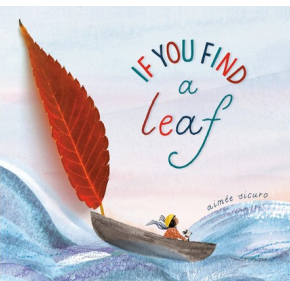
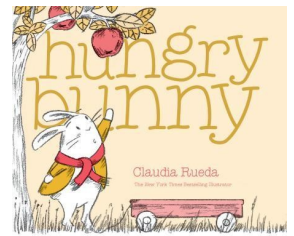


The Little Yellow Leaf by Carin Berger (2008) **Ages: 3-6 years**

It's autumn. The apples are crisp, the pumpkins are orange, the geese are flying south, and brightly colored leaves are falling everywhere. Finally, as the days get shorter and the nights get colder, a little yellow leaf discovers that it is the very last leaf on the tree. The little yellow leaf does not want to let go... not quite yet. Even when the first frost arrives, this little yellow leaf holds on, determined.

Hungry Bunny by Claudia Rueda (2018) **Ages: 2-7 years**

It's fall, which means it's the perfect time for mama's apple pie. The only problem? These apples are hard to reach! But Bunny has some ideas. Young readers will delight in using the red ribbon to help Bunny reach new heights and pick those tasty apples. But the fun doesn't end there! Readers will also rock the book back and forth and turn it round and round for a one-of-a-kind roller-coaster adventure on Bunny's way home.



If You Find a Leaf by Aimée Sicuro (2022) **Ages: 3-7 years**

Every year, gusts of wind blow colorful autumn leaves to the ground. Some leaves make a crunch under foot, and others are so beautiful they deserve to be saved. In this story a young artist draws inspiration from the leaves she collects and every leaf sparks a new idea. She imagines turning a Japanese Zelkova leaf into a boat to sail far away, a Honey Locust leaf into a swing to sway in the gentle breeze, and an American Basswood leaf into a hot air balloon to float high above the trees.

Something Wild by Molly Ruttan (2023) **Ages: 3-9 years**

Hannah loves to play her violin—as long as no one is watching. On the day of the recital, she's wishing something wild would happen so she won't have to go. Perhaps a dolphin will jump out of the fountain and carry her away, or a giant rabbit will abscond with her violin. Hannah's big imagination dreams up all kinds of entertaining scenarios that could change the course of her day, but what actually happens is the most amazing of all!



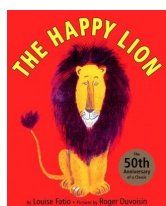
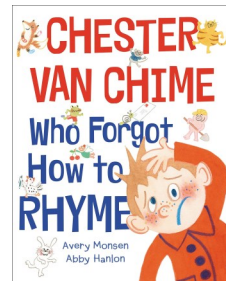


Walter the Baker by Eric Carle (1972) **Ages: 5-7 years**

Walter the Baker is famous for his breads, rolls, cookies, tarts, and pies. The Duke and Duchess especially love his warm sweet rolls, delivered fresh to their castle every morning. But one day the cat spills the milk, and Walter is forced to serve the Duke and Duchess rolls made with water. After one bite the Duke throws down his roll in disgust and summons Walter to the castle. He threatens to banish the baker unless he can take the same dough and make a good-tasting roll that the rising sun can shine through three times. Will Walter succeed in his task, or will he have to leave his town forever?

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme by Avery Monsen (2021) **Ages: 4-6 years**

There once was a youngster named Chester van Chime. Who woke up one day and forgot how to rhyme. Chester loved rhyming, in poem or song. It always felt right, but today it felt...not right. VERY not right. Chester van Chime is usually the BEST at rhyming. He can normally tell you all about cats wearing hats and snails delivering mail, but today, something has changed. Today there's no dog on a log. No duck in a truck. Just a Pomeranian on a sideways tree and a waterfowl in a full-size pickup. What's a kid to do?!

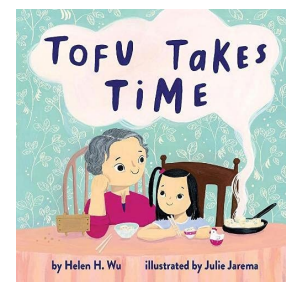


The Happy Lion by Louise Fatio (1954) **Ages: 3-7 years**

The lion at the little French zoo is a favorite of all the townspeople. Every day they stop by to feed him tidbits and say, "Bonjour, Happy Lion." Naturally, when the lion finds his door open, he decides it would only be proper to visit all his friendly neighbors in return. But, wait— sacré bleu! Why is everyone fleeing in terror?

Tofu Takes Time by Helen H. Wu (2022) **Ages: 4-7 years**

CLICK CLACK WHIRRRR . . . Lin and her grandma, NaiNai, are making tofu from scratch! When NaiNai goes through each step, from blending soybeans with water to molding curd into shape, Lin gradually becomes impatient. But she soon discovers that making tofu not only takes time, but also takes the whole universe! It takes the seed from soil and sunshine, the cloth from thread and fiber, weight and space, books of words and pictures. And most of all, it takes spending lovely time with her beloved grandmother.

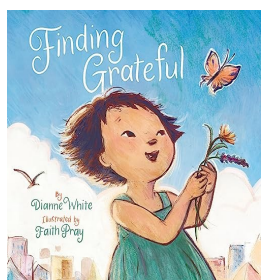
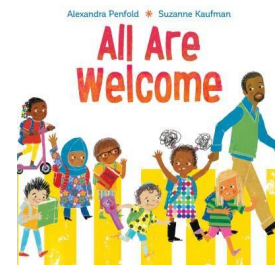


The Crayon Man by Natascha Biebow (2019) **Ages: 6-9 years**

purple mountains' majesty, mauvelous, jungle green, razzmatazz... What child doesn't love to hold a crayon in their hands? But children didn't always have such magical boxes of crayons. Here's the true story of an inventor who so loved nature's vibrant colors that he found a way to bring the outside world to children – in a box for only a nickel!

All Are Welcome by (2023) **Ages: 2-6 years**

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yamulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year. All Are Welcome lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.



Finding Grateful by Dianne White (2019) **Ages: 5-8 years**

What does grateful look like? How does it feel? How do you find it? Even in the face of a challenge, you don't need a You just need to pay attention to the little things—a smile, a hug, the smell of newly cut grass—that add up to a sense of presence and hope. With evocative, lyrical prose, this warmly illustrated children's book is a reminder to pause, reflect, and take in the glimmers of positivity and connection that can be found amid even the most difficult circumstances.