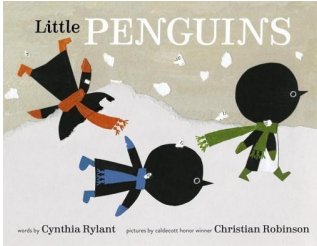


January 2026 Children's Museum Houston Reading List

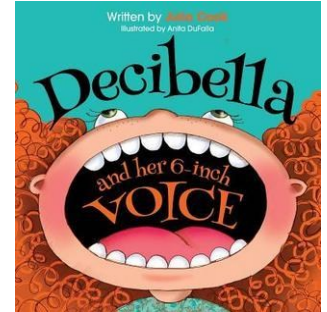


***Little Penguins* by Cynthia Rylant (2016) Ages: 3-7 years**

Snowflakes? Many snowflakes. Winter is coming. So begins this ever-so-simple story. As the snow starts to fall, the excited penguins pull out scarves, mittens, heavy socks, and boots, and Mama helps them bundle up. But when it's time to go out, one timid penguin decides to stay home. Filled with waddling baby penguins, playful text, and delightful illustrations, this book feels like a young picture-book classic in the making.

***Decibella and Her 6-Inch Voice* by Julia Cook (2014) Ages: 4-8 years**

Spunky, spirited Isabella is always shouting out her every thought, idea, and feeling. She loves using her loud voice so much, everyone calls her "Decibella!" But that's not a nickname to brag about. Isabella's so loud, she interrupts class and irritates others. She doesn't know how or when to use a softer, quieter voice until her teacher introduces the "five volume" of voice - 6-inch, Whisper, Table-Talk, Strong Speaker, and Outside. Learning how and when to use each voice is made a lot more fun when Isabella is told to practice by saying aloud the word "Slurpadoodle!"

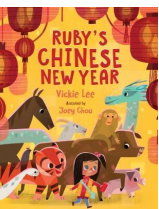
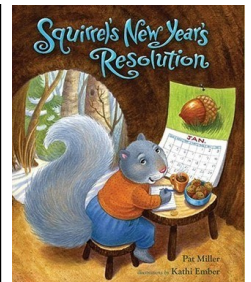


***The Gruffalo's Child* by Julia Donaldson (2004) Ages: 2-4 years**

One night, the Gruffalo's child wanders into the woods to search for the Big Bad Mouse. But instead, she comes upon a small mouse in the woods... and decides to eat him! But wait, what is that? A shadow of a very large, scary creature falls on the ground. Could it be the Big Bad Mouse after all?

***Squirrel's New Year's Resolution* by Pat Miller (2017) Ages: 5-6 years**

"Do you know how to make a resolution?" Squirrel asked Bear. "Is it like making a snack?" Bear laughed. "Resolutions are more important than snacks." "More important than snacks?" said Squirrel. "What is a resolution?" Squirrel knows that New Year's Day is a great day for making resolutions! But what does it mean to make a resolution, anyway? As she makes visits around the forest she learns about New Year's resolutions and helps her friends get started on theirs. If only she can think of a resolution of her very own...

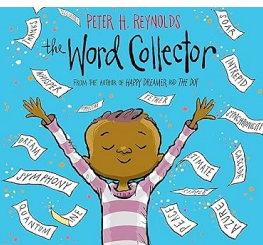
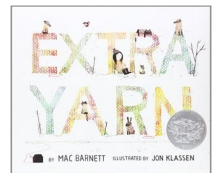


***Ruby's Chinese New Year* by Vickie Lee (2017) Ages: 4-8 years**

Ruby has a special card to give to her grandmother for Chinese New Year. But who will help her get to grandmother's house to deliver it? Will it be clever Rat, strong Ox, or cautious Rabbit? Ruby meets each of the twelve zodiac animals on her journey. This picture book includes back matter with a focus on the animals of the Chinese zodiac.

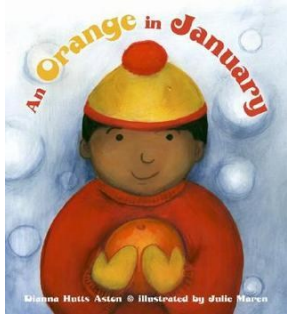
***Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett (2012) Ages: 3-7 years**

A young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community in this stunning picture book. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of color, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic.



***The Word Collector* by Peter Reynolds (2018) Ages: 3-7 years**

Some people collect stamps. Some people collect coins. Some people collect art. And Jerome? Jerome collected words... In this extraordinary new tale from Peter H. Reynolds, Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him – short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower.

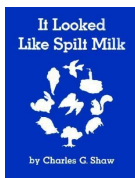
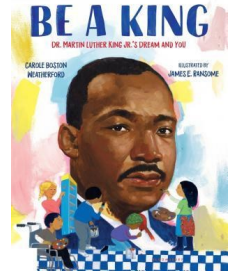


***An Orange in January* by Dianna Hutts Aston (2007) Ages: 4-8 years**

Plump, juicy oranges are one of the great pleasures of winter and one that is usually taken for granted. Now here's an eloquent, celebratory picture of how those oranges have found their way to the grocery store shelves, and then into kids' tummies! With vivid, glowing paintings, this unique picture book offers a poetic lesson about a plant's growth cycle and about the produce industry. We follow an orange from blossom to ripe fruit, from tree to truck to market... and into the hands of a boy who shares this treat with his friends on the playground, "so that everyone could taste the sweetness of an orange in January."

***Be a King* by Carole Boston Weatherford (2018) Ages: 4-8 years**

You can be a King. Stamp out hatred. Put your foot down and walk tall. You can be a King. Beat the drum for justice. March to your own conscience. Featuring a dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life alongside a modern class as the students learn about him, this engaging story highlights principles that readers today can emulate in their own lives. As times change, Dr. King's example remains, encouraging a new generation of children to take charge and change the world... to be a King.

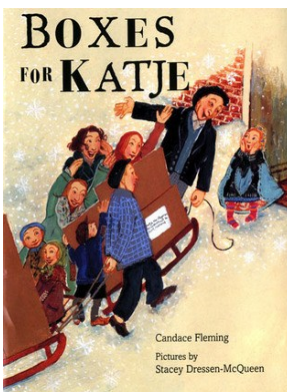


***It Looked Like Split Milk* by Charles G. Shaw (1988) Ages: 2-4 years**

The white shape silhouetted against a blue background changes on every page. Is it a rabbit, a bird, an ice-cream cone, or just spilt milk? In this childhood classic, kids are kept guessing until the surprise ending, and they're encouraged to improvise similar games of their own.

***Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin (2008) Ages: 2-4 years**

This exuberant story follows a Chinese American family as they prepare for the Lunar New Year. Each member of the family lends a hand as they sweep out the dust of the old year, hang decorations, and make dumplings. Then it's time to put on new clothes and celebrate with family and friends. There will be fireworks and lion dancers, shining lanterns, and a great, long dragon parade to help bring in the Lunar New Year.

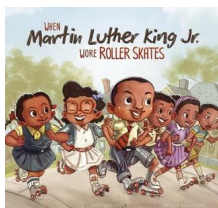


***Boxes for Katje* by Candace Fleming (2003) Ages: 5-9 years**

After World War II there is little left in Katje's town of Olst in Holland. Her family, like most Dutch families, must patch their old worn clothing and go without everyday things like soap and milk. Then one spring morning when the tulips bloom "thick and bright," Postman Kleinhoonte pedals his bicycle down Katje's street to deliver a mysterious box – a box from America! Full of soap, socks, and chocolate, the box has been sent by Rosie, an American girl from Mayfield, Indiana. Her package is part of a goodwill effort to help the people of Europe. What's inside so delights Katje that she sends off a letter of thanks – beginning an exchange that swells with so many surprises that the girls, as well as their townspeople, will never be the same.

***Logan's Greenhouse* by JaNay Brown-Wood (2022) Ages: 2-4 years**

Logan is organizing a pet playdate at his greenhouse for all of his friends, and his treats won't be the same without his carrots. He's searched and searched, but his greenhouse is filled with plenty of plants and Logan needs our help to identify them. What do we know about carrots? They're long, orange, and have bushy leaves at the top—and, wait a moment, is that a carrot? No, that's a turnip. Where, oh, where could those carrots be? Can you help Logan find them in time for his playdate?



***When Martin Luther King Jr. Wore Roller Skates* by Mark Weakland (2016) Ages: 4-7 years**

Martin Luther King Jr. led the American Civil Rights Movement. But do you know what he was like as a child? From roller skating to playing football and basketball, Martin was a fun-loving child. This playful story of his childhood will help young readers connect with a historic figure and will inspire them to want to achieve greatness.