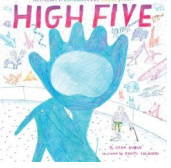


**READ
strong
ALL YEAR
LONG**



April 2026 Children's Museum Houston Reading List

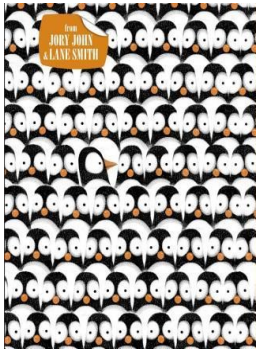
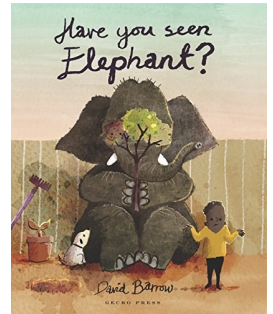


High Five by Adam Rubin (2019) **Ages: 3-6 years**

Discover the lost art of the high five and improve your slapping skills just in time for the annual high five contest! From hand-limbering stretches to lessons on five-ing with finesse, readers are guided through a series of interactive challenges, each goofier than the next.

Have You Seen Elephant? by David Barrow (2016) **Ages: 1-5 years**

Elephant wants to play hide and seek. You can play too. But you'll need to try your best—he's VERY good! He can even hide behind a lamp, or a small tree... A small boy and his elephant play an absurd game of hide and seek in this beautifully illustrated picture book that will have young readers shouting out loud in delight, and adults laughing too, as Elephant hides, in full view. Perhaps the little dog sees him, perhaps not. This game-inside-a-book celebrates imaginative play and is perfect for sharing with children who will love being better at finding the elephant than the boy. Watch out for the tortoise, too...

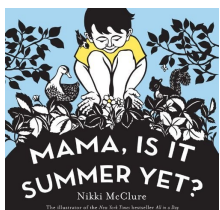


Penguin Problems by Jory John (2016) **Ages: 2-7 years**

Have you ever considered running away to Antarctica? Of course you have! Because it's a land free of worries and responsibilities! All of your problems will surely be blown away by the icy winds of that lawless paradise!... Won't they? Think again, my friend. This penguin has come to tell you that his life down there is no more a picnic than yours is here. For starters, it is FREEZING. Also, penguins have a ton of natural predators. Plus, can you imagine trying to find your mom in a big ol' crowd of identical penguins? No, thank you. Yes, it seems there is no escaping the drudgery of your daily grind, whatever it might be. Or perhaps we've just learned that grumps are everywhere...

Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms by Julie Rawlinson (2021) **Ages: 3-7 years**

Fletcher enjoys the sunny weather and the warmth of spring. But when he stumbles across snowy flakes gently floating to the ground, he spreads the news of winter's return to all his friends. But spring is full of wonderful surprises for Fletcher and his friends.

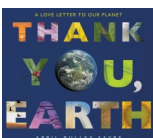
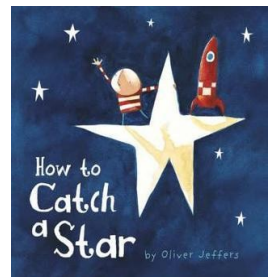


Señorita Mariposa by Ben Gundersheimer (2019) **Ages: 1-5 years**

A little boy who can't wait for summer keeps asking his mama, "Is it summer yet?" Mama says, "Not yet, little one," then points to the signs that spring is turning to summer—the softening of the earth, the nest-building of squirrels, the singing of birds—and encourages her son to savor the beauty of spring.

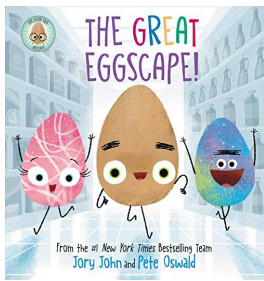
How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers (2004) **Ages: 2-4 years**

Once there was a boy, and that boy loved stars very much. So much so that he decided to catch one of his very own. But how? Waiting for them to grow tired from being up in the sky all night doesn't work. Climbing to the top of the tallest tree? No, not tall enough. The boy has a rocket ship... but it is made of paper and doesn't fly well at all. Finally, just when the boy is ready to give up, he learns that sometimes things aren't where, or what, we expect them to be.



Thank You, Earth by April Pulley Sayre (2021) **Ages: 4-8 years**

Water, air, light. Patterns, curves, shapes, colors. Things that crawl, fly, float, run, bloom, ripen. Think of everything Earth gives us. What are you most thankful for?



The Great Eggscapade! by Jory John (2020) **Ages: 4-7 years**

The Great Eggscapade is when the Good Egg and his pals escape their carton and drop into the store for a morning of fun, enjoyed by everybody. Well, *almost* everybody. Shel (an egg) isn't a huge fan of group activities, especially when he's made to be "It" for a game of hide-and-seek. Nevertheless, Shel doesn't want to let his friends down, so he reluctantly plays. But after a morning of hiding and seeking, somebody's still missing. Will the dozen eggs friends ever be reunited?

Rain by Cynthia Rylant (2023) **Ages: 4-8 years**

There is a softness and a quiet before the rain comes... When rain is on its way, some people and animals hurry home and get cozy inside. But others stay out to soak up the glorious showers! Wet drops bounce on leaves and roofs, creeks fill up, trees take a shower, cats have a show, and everyone relishes the rain.

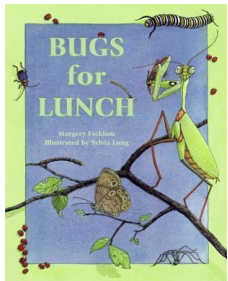
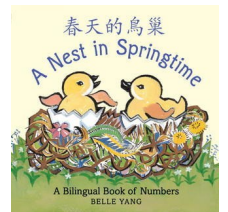


Chicken Break! by Cate Berry (2019) **Ages: 2-6 years**

Buzz from flower to flower with a sweet honeybee in this timely, clever, and breathtakingly gorgeous picture book. Bzzz... What's that? Do you hear it? You're near it. It's closer, it's coming, it's buzzing, it's humming... A BEE!

A Nest in Springtime by Belle Yang (2012) **Ages: 0-3 years**

In springtime, when wild geese come to nest, there are eggs for counting. But how many goslings will there be? And how many in the whole paddling family, when Papa and Mama join them? Tonal marks used in the book are explained in a final spread, along with a pinyin translation of the Chinese characters.

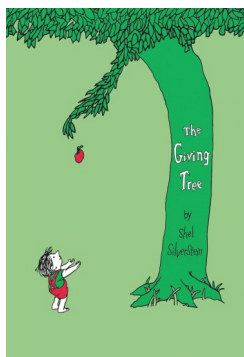
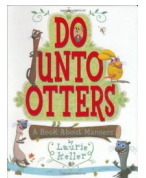


Bugs for Lunch by Margery Facklam (2024) **Ages: 4-8 years**

Discover the variety of bug-eaters—animal, plant, even human—in this exploration of both poetry and the natural world. Facklam's playful rhymes mixed with Long's vivid illustrations introduce young readers to an array of creatures as they munch on lunch. From a mantis perched and ready to prey on ladybugs, a spider trapping a fly, to the honey-drenched fur of a big brown bear chewing on a hive full of bees, Bugs for Lunch will give curious readers plenty of food for thought delivered in a playful package.

Do Unto Otters by Laurie Keller (2007) **Ages: 3-7 years**

Mr. Rabbit's new neighbors are Otters. OTTERS! But he doesn't know anything about Otters. Will they get along? Will they be friends? Just treat otters the same way you'd like them to treat you, advises wise Mr. Owl. And so begins Mr. Rabbit's reflection on good manners.



The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein (2014) **Ages: 2+ years**

"Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy."
So begins a story of unforgettable perception, beautifully written and illustrated by the gifted and versatile Shel Silverstein. This moving parable for all ages offers a touching interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return. Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk...and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave and gave. This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation.

If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson (2020) **Ages: 2-5 years**

If you plant a carrot seed... a carrot will grow. If you plant a cabbage seed... cabbage will grow. But what happens if you plant a seed of kindness... or selfishness?

