This annotated bibliography contains both old and new books appropriate for young children from a variety of genres. Many of the authors and illustrators have other books not on this list that are also worthwhile. Rudine Sims Bishop says all children must have both mirror and window books. All children should also be able to see authors and illustrators of color on book jackets as well.

Ada, Alma Flor, & Kathleen Kuchera (Illus.). (1993). *The rooster who went to his uncle’s wedding: A Latin American folktale*. New York: Putnam. Children enjoy this folkloric story of a prideful character; the story is as easily told as read.


Bonner, Hannah. (2003). *When bugs were big, plants were strange, and tetrapods stalked the earth: A cartoon prehistory of life before dinosaurs.* Washington, DC: National Geographic. This is a wonderfully informative book (even for adults) on the Carboniferous and Permian periods.


Brooks, Laurie. (2001). *Devon’s hurt.* Woodstock, IL: Dramatic Publishing. An often overlooked genre in children’s literature, this play is geared to three to eight year olds. It explores a friendship between a boy, Devon, and a girl, Stephanie, and the way Devon deals with his hurt feelings when there is an argument. Both comical and poignant.


Bruchac, Joseph, & Teresa Flavin (Illus.). (2000). *Pushing up the sky: Seven Native American plays for children.* New York: Dial. Bruchac has taken American Indian folkloric stories and adapted them for the theater. These can be dramatized or read as readers theater pieces.


Burns, Marilyn, & Gordon Silveria (Illus.). (1994). *The greedy triangle.* New York: Scholastic. It is almost impossible not to learn math through books by Burns, especially this funny, well-written narrative that simultaneously conveys geometry and shapes.

Burton, Virginia Lee. (1939). *Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel.* Boston: Houghton. Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, Mary Ann, after losing their jobs because of advancements in technology, find a new one with the help of an observant boy.


Collins, Suzanne, & Mike Lester (Illus.). (2005). When Charlie McButton lost power. New York: Putnam’s. What did children do before computers? Charlie McButton finds out the day he loses power. Though there are a few rough spots (including spats with a sibling), he ends up, because of his flights of imagination, having a more enjoyable time than he predicted. A rhyming book.

Crews, Donald. (1968). Ten black dots. New York: Morrow. This counting concept book can prompt children’s creativity as they, after hearing Crews’s book read aloud, can create their own counting books with dots. While the book is more universal than ethnic, Crews is an important African American children’s author and illustrator.


Forest, Heather, & Susan Greenstein (Illus.). (1996). A big quiet house: A Yiddish folktale from Eastern Europe. Little Rock, AK: August House. This story of how a noisy house becomes even noisier, then returns to its original sound, which does not seem so noisy anymore, is a favorite one for telling and enacting.

Fox, Mem, & Kathryn Brown (Illus.). (1994). *Tough Boris*. San Diego: Harcourt. The comforting language we have come to expect from Mem Fox in her many wonderful books for young children is apparent in this story about a pirate and his parrot that gives boys permission to cry.


Grimes, Nikki, & Mike Benny (Illus.). (2008). *Oh, brother!* New York: HarperCollins/Amistad. A young boy’s mother remarries, which creates a biracial family, including a stepbrother the protagonist Xavier gradually comes to terms with.

Hamilton, Martha, Mitch Weiss, & Arain Elsammak (Illus.) (2000). *Noodlehead stories: World tales kids can read & tell*. Little Rock, AK: August House. Children delight in these funny folktales, and can easily learn to tell them.

Herrera, Juan Felipe, & Ernesto Cuevas, Jr. (Illus.). (2004). *Featherless/Desplumado*. San Francisco: Children’s Book Press. A parallel story in which a young boy with spina bifida and who has an injured pet bird is able to make a soccer goal even though in a wheelchair with the help of a new friend.


Kudlinski, Kathleen, & S. D. Schindler (Illus.). (2005). *Boy, were we wrong about dinosaurs!* New York: Dutton. A much needed and intriguing update on new discoveries about a subject most children love—dinosaurs.


Lionni, Leo. (1968). *Swimmy*. New York: Pantheon. With the help of his friends who collaborate, Swimmy is able to avoid predators.

Liu, Jae Soo. (2002). *Yellow umbrella*. (Don Il Sheen, Music). La Jolla, CA: Kane/Miller. This magnificent wordless book, originally published in Korea, comes with a CD with piano accompaniment. An aerial perspective allows the reader to view first, one umbrella, then another and another, as children band together on a rainy day. Invites storytelling and creative writing.


McGill, Alice, & Michael Cummings (Illus.). (2000). *In the hollow of your hand: Slave lullabies*. Boston: Houghton. Lullabies are characteristic of most cultures; these songs by those who were enslaved are especially tender. [CD included]


Miller, William, & R. Gregory Christie (Illus.). (1997). *Richard Wright and the library card*. New York: Lee & Low. So great was his desire to read that Wright had to borrow a white friend’s card to check out library books.


Mora, Pat, & Raul Colón (Illus.). (1997). Tomás and the library lady. New York: Knopf. Based on a true story, this moving account describes the relationship of a child of migrant workers and a librarian. Because he had no home address, Tomás could not check out library books—until a librarian loaned him her card. Tomás Rivera went on to become a chancellor of the University of California.


Nikola-Lisa, W., & Michael Bryant (Illus.) (1994). Bein’ with you this way. New York: Lee & Low. Expect to be charmed by a little girl who leads others all around the neighborhood. A winner of a Jane Addams peace award.


Pérez, Amada Irma, & Maya Christina Gonzalez (Illus.). (2000). My very own room/Mi propio cuartito. San Francisco: Children’s Book Press. With help from her family, a little girl creates a space she can call her own.


Pratt, Kristin Joy. (1992). *A walk in the rainforest*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn. Pratt was sixteen years old when she wrote this ecologically informative piece. Dawn publications have an ecological focus; other books like Pratt’s are described on their website.

Prokofiev, Sergei, & Michèle Lemieux (Illus.). (1991). *Peter and the wolf*. New York: Morrow. The accompanying music can be shared with this tale of a boy who ventures out too far (as most children do at sometime or another).


Smith, Cynthia Leitich, & Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu (Illus.). (2000). *Jingle dancer*. New York: Morrow. All the women in her family help get Jenna ready for her first jingle dance by giving her one bell each. Family love is apparent, and it is refreshing to see contemporary American Indians in contemporary dress and occupations.


Stevenson, Robert Louis, & Jessie Wilcox Smith (Illus.). (1905). *A child’s garden of verses*. New York: Scribner. Though over one hundred years old, these poems have not lost their appeal.

Swamp, Chief Jake (Tekaronianeken), & Erwin Printup, Jr (Illus.). (1995). *Giving thanks: A Native American good morning message*. New York: Lee & Low. The author wrote the book to show that American Indians were in the habit of giving thanks long before the arrival of the Pilgrims. Printup’s serigraphs are stunning.

Sweet, Melissa. (2005). *Carmine: A little more red*. Boston: Houghton. Sweet pays children the ultimate compliment with the sophisticated vocabulary she has chosen to help convey this take-off on *Little Red Riding Hood*. Excellent for teaching decontextualized words and the structure of the abcedarian.


Tafuri, Nancy. (2003). *You are special, little one*. New York. Scholastic. Tafuri, an important author and illustrator of books for young children, shows baby animals asking their parents how they are special. Each parent describes the uniqueness of their young. The story ends with a human child and his family.


Vigil, Angel. (1996). *¡Teatro!: Hispanic plays for young people*. Englewood, CO: Teachers Ideas Press. Theater is celebrated in many Hispanic cultures; this collection is a valuable one.


