

Picture Books, Folk Tales, and Poetry for reading aloud

Picture Books

How lucky our children are today. Some of the most talented artists and writers in the world are creating incredible picture books just for them. When you are at the library or the bookstore look for the Caldecott Medal (gold or silver). This award is given annually to the American creator of the most distinguished new picture book. The list of artists who have won this award is like a “who’s who” of children’s literature.

Rather than give you a list of picture books, let me encourage you to try lots of different authors and illustrators. Our public libraries have wonderful collections – sample them regularly. Read aloud to your children every day. Picture books are best shared aloud.

Folk Tales

When using the library, **398** is the general Dewey Decimal Number for folktales. This is where you will find the literary heritage of the countries of the world, and great stories too. Again, some of the most talented writers and artists are retelling folk tales from around the world.

Poetry

Don't forget poetry!! **811** is the Dewey Decimal number for poetry. Repeat and rhyme are particularly wonderful for emergent readers, and fun too.

Try these poets:

Ciardi, John
Cole, William
Hopkins, Lee Bennett
Kennedy, X.J.
Kuskin, Karla
Prelutsky, Jack
Silverstein, Shel
Stevenson, Robert Louis
Willard, Nancy

There are many excellent anthologies available, such as The Random House Book of Poetry and Sing a Song of Popcorn, illustrated by Caldecott Medal artists.

