



Ridgewood Public Library

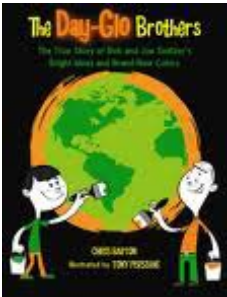
125 North Maple Avenue
Ridgewood, NJ 07450
(201)670-5600
www.ridgewoodlibrary.org

Great Read-alouds

Grades 2-5 / April 2010

*Most appropriate for Gr. 4-5

FICTION



*Barton, Chris. **The Day-Glo Brothers** (2009)
An entertaining biography with whimsical cartoons about the Switzer brothers, who invented fluorescent colors in their basement.

Bearn, Emily. **Tumtum & Nutmeg** (2009) *Two wealthy married mice find adventure when they secretly try to help two humans who live in a cottage with their absentminded inventor father.*

*Bunting, Eve. **Gleam** (2001) *After his home is destroyed by war, 8-year-old Viktor finds hope in the survival of two very special fish. Inspired by true events during the Balkans War.*

Carroll, Lewis. **Jabberwocky** (2003 edition) *One of the most celebrated and enthralling poems. First published in Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There (1872).*

Curtis, Jennifer Keats. **Baby Owl's Rescue** (2009) *Two children discover a baby owl in their backyard and learn a valuable lesson about animals and survival. Can be paired with Jim Aronson's **Slow Down for Manatees** for a storytime on injured animals.*

Danzinger, Paula. **Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon** (1994; series) *3rd grader Amber Brown is distraught when she learns her best friend, Justin, is getting ready to move away.*

Davies, Jaqueline. **Tricking the Tallyman** (2009) *Entertaining read about the first U.S. census in 1790, which was done without computers, cars, ink pens or calculators.*

DePaola, Tomie. **26 Fairmount Avenue** (1999; series) *Well-known author Tomie DePaola tells a comical tale about his Irish and Italian family and*

their move to a new home.

Foreman, Michael. **A Child's Garden** (2009) *Living in ruin and rubble with a wire fence and soldiers separating him from his homeland, a boy's tiny green shoot gives hope in a bleak landscape.*

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Today Was a Terrible Day** (1984) *Ronald Morgan is a hapless hero who suffers from acute bumbling and the woes of second grade.*

Grahame, Kenneth. **The Reluctant Dragon** (1898) *A boy discovers a dragon, who just happens to also be a gentle, poetic giant who would rather read and write than fight knights.*

Hopkinson, Deborah. **The Humblebee Hunter** (2010) *This book explores Charles Darwin's family life rather than his theory of evolution and depicts him doing what he loved best: walking, exploring and observing with his children.*

Illustrated Read-Aloud Classics for Young People (2003) *Ten-minute selections from beloved novels, including Charlotte's Web, Homer Price, A Wrinkle in Time and The Call of the Wild.*

Kimmel, Eric. **Four Dollars and Fifty Cents** (1990) *To get out of paying a bad debt to the Widow Macrae, cowboy Shorty Long pretends to be dead and almost gets buried alive. Funnier than it sounds!*

Kimmel, Eric. **Joha Makes a Wish: A Middle Eastern Tale** (2010) *Joha, a wise fool, discovers a wishing stick on his way to Baghdad, but holds it the wrong way and gets the opposite of his all he desires. For other international stories, check out our Illustrated Fiction section and our folktales (398.2) in Non-Fiction.*

Krull, Kathleen. **The Boy Who Invented TV** (2009) *This entertaining biography explores the life of inventor Philo Farnsworth, who discovered how to transmit images electronically, leading to the first television.*

Laden, Nina. **The Night I Followed the Dog** (1994) *A young boy is suspicious of where his dog goes at night and decides to follow him. A funny, imaginative adventure ensues.*



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Leverich, Kathleen. **Best Enemies** (1989)
Felicity Doll is a snake in lavender ruffles and does her best to make Priscilla Robin's life a nightmare.

Markel, Thomas. **Tyrannosaurus Math** (2009)
A number-crunching dinosaur saves the day by using his arithmetic skills. An entertaining read that weaves in math.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. **Boycott Blues** (2008)
A poignant, blues-infused retelling of Rosa Park's brave stand and the Montgomery bus boycott. The book shows (without illustrating violence) the bravery and pride of the men and women who refused to give up until they got justice.



Polacco, Patricia. **The Butterfly** (2000)
The true story of a little girl growing up in France during World War II who becomes aware that her family is hiding a Jewish family in the cellar.

*Rockwell, Thomas. **How to Eat Fried Worms** (1973)
Billy accepted the bet and now he has to eat 15 worms in 15 days. Short, boisterous chapters will hook even the squirmiest of listeners.

Rowling, JK. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (1997; series)
Reading a chapter or two in this wildly popular series is a good way to introduce the Hogwarts School for Wizards and Witches to the uninitiated.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride** (1999)
A fictionalized account of the factual night that two of America's most respected women—Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt—spent a thrilling night flying over Washington, DC.

*Swartz, Alvin. **Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark: Collected From American Folklore** (1981; series)
A collection of scary stories that include folktales and modern hair raisers. Ideal read- aloud.

Dr. Seuss. **Oh, The Places You'll Go** (1990)
Advice in rhyme for proceeding in life, weathering the ups and downs and taking charge of your actions.

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **Chocolate Fever** (1978)
Henry Green eats so much of the toothsome stuff he breaks out in a chocolate-smelling rash. Lessons in courage, caring, moderation and prejudice, but through a funny lens.

Steig, William. **Wizzil** (2000)
A rollicking story about Wizzil the Witch who seeks revenge for almost being killed by farmer DeWitt Frimp.

Tomes. Margot. **And Then What Happened Paul Revere?** (1996)
Describes with humor some of the well- and lesser-known details of Revere's life and exciting ride. Other entertaining titles by this author include What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?, Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams? and Can't You Make Them Behave, King George?

Williams, CK. **How the Nobble Was Finally Found** (2009)
An enchanting, funny tale about an imp-like creature called a Nobble who lives alone romping "in the space between Wednesday and Thursday" and finally finds a friend. Very creative, entertaining read-aloud.

Woodruff, Elvira. **Small Beauties.** (2006)
Tender story about a young Darcy Heart O'Hara who grows up during the famine, but still notices beauty all around her.

Zemach, Margot. **It Could Always Be Worse** (1977)
Funny Yiddish tale about a man who thinks his overflowing home is a nightmare until a rabbi changes his perspective.

Please visit the Louise **Lewis Illustrated Fiction Collection** (JILLUS/FIC) located at the end of the fiction collection. These large-format fiction books—from the serious to the outrageous—that are great to read aloud and feature outstanding illustrations. Also included are collections of stories and picture book versions of classics like Pinocchio and The Secret Garden.