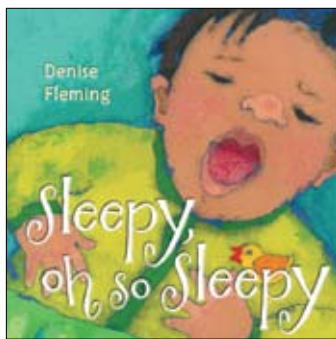
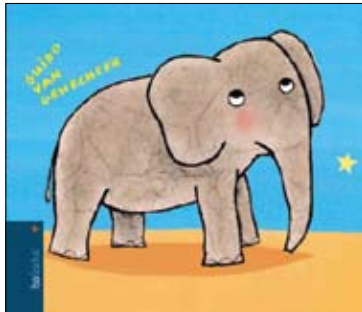




The Reading Chair

***Moon Is Sad*, by Guido Van Genechten. 2010. New York: Clavis Publishing. 10 pp. ISBN 9781605370484. Ages birth to 3.**

When the animals notice that Moon is sad, each wants to give it a kiss, but none is tall enough to reach. Using teamwork, they climb upon each other's backs to get there. Cleverly designed multisize board book pages grow larger as the tower of animals is built. Clear, colorful illustrations capture the animals' earnest desire to help their friend Moon. The text is structured and predictable, making it appropriate for the youngest readers, and interesting language adds intrigue: the polar bear climbs, the tiger leaps, the crocodile slithers, and the mouse clambers. The ending is simple and satisfying: from the top of the heap, Mouse kisses Moon, and Moon smiles. Elephant declares, "That was a kiss from all of us."



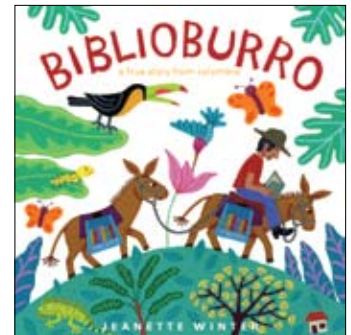
***Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy*, by Denise Fleming. 2010. New York: Henry Holt. 32 pp. ISBN 9780805081268. Ages 1 to 4.**

Using her trademark pulp painting illustrations in vibrant colors with soft lines, Denise Fleming brings together parents from throughout the animal kingdom as they put their sleepy babies to bed. The mixed cast of characters includes giraffes, penguins, anteaters, ostriches, and more. To her credit, Fleming manages to make even the baby possums endearing. Simple, peaceful, repetitive text carries the book and brings readers to the particularly special baby at the end: the narrator's baby boy.

A beautiful yawning child rendered with light brown skin and rosy cheeks, who is just getting tucked into bed. This book will make a lovely complement to any bedtime ritual.

***Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia*, by Jeanette Winter. 2010. New York: Simon & Schuster. 32 pp. ISBN 9781416997788. Ages 3 to 7.**

Deep in the jungles of Colombia, readers in remote villages rely on the ingenuity and generosity of Luis Soriana, who packs a travelling library on the backs of his burros and brings his books around on the weekends. Rough terrain and bandits pose a veritable threat, but Luis is determined to bring literature to communities that would otherwise have none. This real-life hero proves the power of one person's commitment, and Jeanette Winter's illustrations and text prove the power of a good book in bringing a story to life. Winter specializes in conveying the essence of political, environmental, and social issues to children. Her characteristic rich colors and bold images lend themselves wonderfully to pictures of all the animals of the jungle that accompany and encourage Luis and his burros on their journey.



***One More Acorn*, by Don Freeman and Roy Freeman. 2010. New York: Penguin. 32 pp. ISBN 9780670010837. Ages 4 to 7.**

Don Freeman, the late author of *Corduroy*, started writing and illustrating this story on a trip to Washington, D.C., in 1963 to cover the Senate hearings on the Civil Rights Bill. He predicted it might be his most beautiful book yet. But, devastated by John F. Kennedy's assassination shortly

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Chair illustration by Diane Greenseid.

This column is available online at www.naeyc.org/yc/columns.

thereafter, he couldn't bring himself to finish it. His son Ron has now brought the project to completion. (That, and more, is covered in the afterword.)



The setting is autumn on the lawns around the Capitol. Earl, a squirrel, is focused on two of life's most basic forms of sustenance—food and family. He is gathering acorns for his wife and children in winter. The story is not flashy nor overly dramatic, but there's a good amount of tension as readers wonder how the father squirrel is going to get that one last acorn back to his family when there is a children's parade overtaking the Mall. The book captures information about animals, nature, and seasons, but most important, this is a great story!

***Here Comes the Garbage Barge!* by Jonah Winter. Illus. by Red Nose Studio. 2010. New York: Random House. 36 pp. ISBN 9780375852183. Ages 4 to 9.**

Who knew the politics of garbage dumping could be so riveting for children and adults alike? Based on a true story, this book tells the tale of one humongous bargeful of waste that couldn't find a landfill to call home. It came

from a New York town that planned to send its garbage down south on a barge rather than dispose of it in its own backyard. But when the barge was turned down at every port—who would want someone else's garbage?—it became a six-month floating fiasco, eventually finding a home right back where it started, in the town that made the waste in the first place.



This sobering wake-up call about the consequences of overconsumption is conveyed with colorful, edgy language: "There they were—floating out in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico. This was getting ridiculous. Would no one take this garbage (which, by the way, was really starting to stink)?" The illustrations are photographs of intricate three-dimensional sets, featuring clay figurines for the gruff characters of the book and fascinating detail work on the other set pieces. The inside of the dust jacket gives a behind-the-scenes look at the way the sets were constructed. This unusual book is as full of personality as that barge was full of garbage.

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