

The Reading Chair reviews current, engaging children's books that teachers and parents can use to nurture, educate, and inspire readers birth through age 8. The column—which covers a diverse range of stories and characters—appears in each issue of *Young Children*.

***Stanley's Diner*, by William Bee. 2015. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers. 32 pages. Ages birth to 3.**

Meet Stanley, a hardworking and cheerful hamster who runs a diner. His days start early and involve *lots* of dirty dishes, but he runs his restaurant and serves food to his friends with pleasure. There's just something about Stanley's can-do approach that's irresistible, like Lois Lenski's classic character Mr. Small. And just as Mr. Small is a master-of-all-trades featured in a series of books about neighborhood jobs (*Policeman Small*, *Cowboy Small*, *The Little Fire Engine*, and more), Stanley stars in a series of books, too. The titles include *Stanley the Builder*, *Stanley the Farmer*, and *Stanley's Garage*.

Stanley's diner comes to life in clear illustrations that offer vivid colors and clean lines. Children will enjoy spotting cupcakes behind clear cases, easy-to-identify vegetables frying in pans, and familiar baking ingredients on the countertop. Bee infuses gentle humor into the pages, capturing the toaster popping out eight slices of toast and the moment when Stanley comes face to face with a sink full of dishes needing a good scrub. Stanley's industrious, confident spirit and his kind, helpful nature will appeal to readers.

***The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk*, by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal. Illus. by Jess Golden. 2016. New York: Beach Lane Books. 40 pages. Ages 1 to 6.**

Jump right into this newly imagined version of the classic song "The Wheels on the Bus" and take a ride around town on a *tuk tuk* (motorized rickshaw). Set in India, readers will learn about paying in rupees, sipping chai, eating papadoms, seeing cows in the road, and using terms like *tuk tuk wala* (a vendor or, in this case,

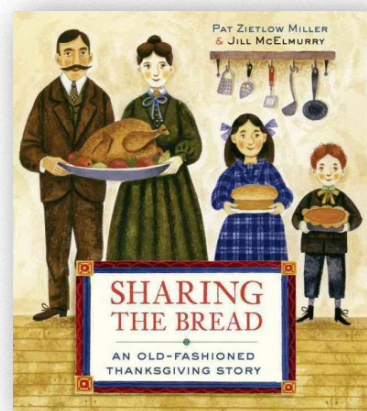
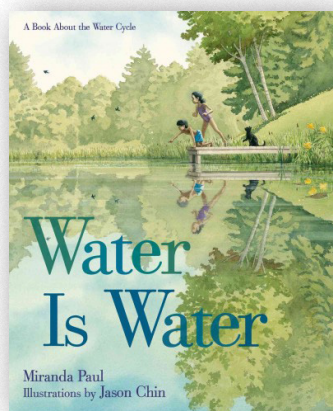
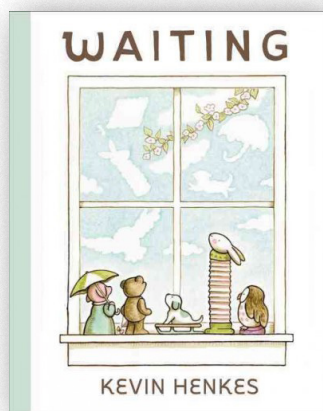
the driver). The inventive verses are easy to follow. Colorful and expressive illustrations capture the energy of the streets and the hospitality of the *tuk tuk wala* as he dodges roadblocks and brings his passengers safely to their destinations. Extension activities could include bringing in photographs of taxis and rickshaws from all over the world.

***Waiting*, by Kevin Henkes. 2015. New York: Greenwillow Books. 32 pages. Ages 2 to 5.**

Most of us have kept knick-knacks or tchotchkes on our windowsill at one time or another. Who would have thought that they could have a rich life of their own? Kevin Henkes did.

In this stellar book, he illuminates the lives of a small collection of windowsill dwellers. Breathing soulfulness into the figurines, Henkes writes of their inner lives: "There were five of them. And they were waiting." The owl waits for the moon, the pig waits for the rain, the bear with the kite waits for the wind, and the puppy on the sled waits for snow. "The rabbit with stars wasn't waiting for anything in particular. He just liked to look out the window and wait." As they wait, the seasons pass outside the window. The weather varies. Fireworks appear. Friendships come and go. Like so many of Henkes's books, this one incorporates the fabric of life, and from these ordinary moments, the book offers lots of entertainment, in tune with the mind and heart of a child. A surprise visitor at the end brings even more delight.

***Water Is Water*, by Miranda Paul. Illus. by Jason Chin. 2015. New York: Roaring Brook Press. 40 pages. Ages 3 to 7.** Paul teaches readers the science of water in its many



forms through poetry that rolls off the tongue: “Drip. Sip. Pour me a cup. Water is water *unless* . . . it heats up. Whirl. Swirl. Watch it curl by. Steam is steam *unless* . . . it cools high.” From summer clouds and rain puddles to the winter ice and snow, water keeps changing. Finally, it makes its way up a tree’s roots and into some apples, and it gets pressed into cider.

Chin illustrates a playful, loving biracial family in a serene, natural setting. Between the changing forms of water, the changing seasons, and the curious children, this clever book feels full of purpose and appreciation. Four pages at the end offer interesting facts about the water cycle.

**Sharing the Bread: An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving Story, by Pat Zietlow Miller. Illus. by Jill McElmurry. New York: Schwartz & Wade. 32 pages. Ages 3 to 8.**

After a successful debut with *Sophie’s Squash*, Miller is back with her third book in two years. In this Thanksgiving-themed tale, a family gathers to prepare their large holiday meal. Each person has something to contribute, and the bustling house overflows with energy as all work together to get their celebratory meal to the table. Embracing family, history, community, and generosity, this book should be read not just at Thanksgiving but year-round. McElmurry’s illustrations evoke old-fashioned farm life. The men wear wide mustaches and sharp buttoned vests. Women wear billowy dresses. The baby is rocked in a wicker basket. The peppy, rhyming text captures the energy of the day and the family’s appetite for a feast. It’s no surprise when Miller reveals in the book jacket bio that Thanksgiving is her favorite holiday!

#### Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation of YC-Young Children (Publication ISSN 1538-6619)

**Frequency of issue:** Five times annually in March, May, July, Sept., & Nov.

**Annual subscription price:** \$70.00.

**Owner, publisher, and business office:** National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1313 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20005-4101.

**Editor:** M. Deanna Ramey. **Managing editor:** Mary Jaffe. **Contact person:** Mary Jaffe/202-232-8777.

**Bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders:** None.

**Tax status:** The nonprofit purpose, function, and status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months (Sept. 2013–July 2014)	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date (July 2014)
<b>A. Total number of copies printed (net press run)</b>	47,436	46,005
<b>B. Paid circulation</b>		
1. Outside-county mailed subscriptions stated on form 3541	41,028	42,110
2. In-county mailed subscriptions stated on form 3541	0	0
3. Non-USPS® distribution—via dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other means	977	957
4. Other classes mailed through USPS®	126	102
<b>C. Total paid distribution (sum of B1, 2, 3, &amp; 4)</b>	42,131	43,169
<b>D. Free distribution</b>		
1. Outside-county mailed as stated on form 3541	0	0
2. In-county mailed as stated on form 3541	0	0
3. Other classes mailed through USPS®	0	0
4. Non-USPS® distribution	1,878	1,742
<b>E. Total free distribution</b>	1,878	1,742
<b>F. Total distribution</b>	44,009	44,911
<b>G. Copies not distributed</b>	3,427	1,094
<b>H. Total (sum of F &amp; G)</b>	47,436	46,005
<b>I. Percent paid and/or requested circulation</b>	92.7%	97.2%

I certify that all information furnished is true and complete:  
(signed) Mary Jaffe, Managing Editor, 10/2/2015

**Isabel Baker**, MAT, MLS, is president of The Book Vine for Children, a national company dedicated to getting good books into the hands of preschool children and their teachers. Isabel has worked as a children’s librarian and is currently a presenter on early literacy and book selection.

**Miriam Baker Schiffer**, MFA, is a writer in Brooklyn, New York. She consults on book selections for The Book Vine, in McHenry, Illinois. Miriam’s new children’s book, *Stella Brings the Family*, was published by Chronicle Books this past May.

The Reading Chair is available at [www.naeyc.org/yc/columns](http://www.naeyc.org/yc/columns).

Copyright © 2015 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. See Permissions and Reprints online at [www.naeyc.org/yc/permissions](http://www.naeyc.org/yc/permissions).