

The Reading Chair

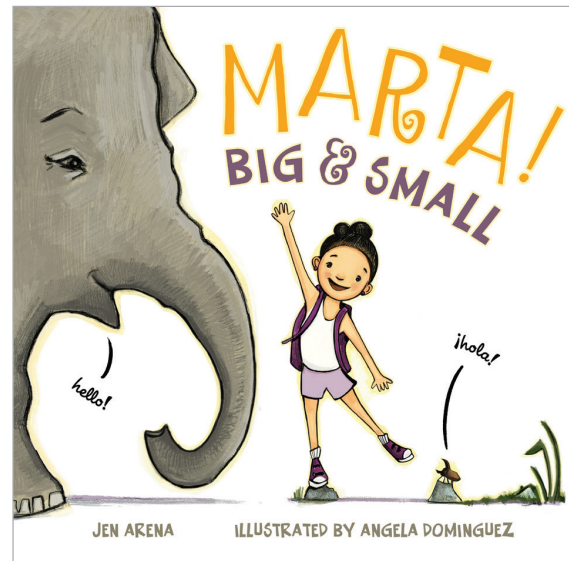
New children's books too good to miss and one forever favorite



Seasons (My First Touch and Feel series)

By Xavier Deneux. 2016. Paris: Twirl. 10 pp.
Ages 1 to 4.

On chunky board book pages, readers will find a large double-page spread for each season. In summer, a boy goes to the beach in his sunhat and T-shirt. There's a seagull, a beach umbrella, and other items nearby; each item and piece of clothing is labeled. In the fall, the boy wears a coat and cap, and he sees a squirrel collecting acorns. In winter, he skis past a snowman. In spring, he's dressed for rain, and he finds clouds, puddles, and flowers in the park. His clothes are tactile and fun to touch, from the shiny rain slicker to the puffy winter jacket. He's dressed appropriately to enjoy the outdoors in every season.



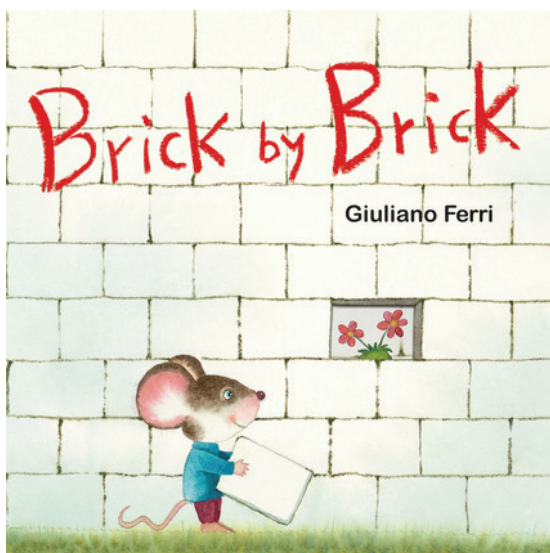
Marta! Big and Small

By Jen Arena. Illus. by Angela Dominguez. 2016.
New York: Roaring Brook Press. 32 pp. Ages 2 to 7.

When Marta meets a whole bunch of animals, she sees herself in comparison to them. Next to the bug, she is big, *grande*. Next to the horse, she is slow, *lenta*. Presented with Spanish and English word pairs, readers will learn a variety of adjectives and animal names in both languages. This concept book doesn't lack suspense: What happens when Marta meets a snake who thinks she'd be tasty? She finds a way to be clever, instead!

The uncomplicated illustrations are colorful and textured. Marta and the animals are energetic on the page. The comparisons in this book honor the many diverse and rich qualities that children can possess. A great book for encouraging self-awareness and self-respect.

The Reading Chair—reviews of children's books that cover a diverse range of stories and characters—is available at NAEYC.org/yc/columns.



Brick by Brick

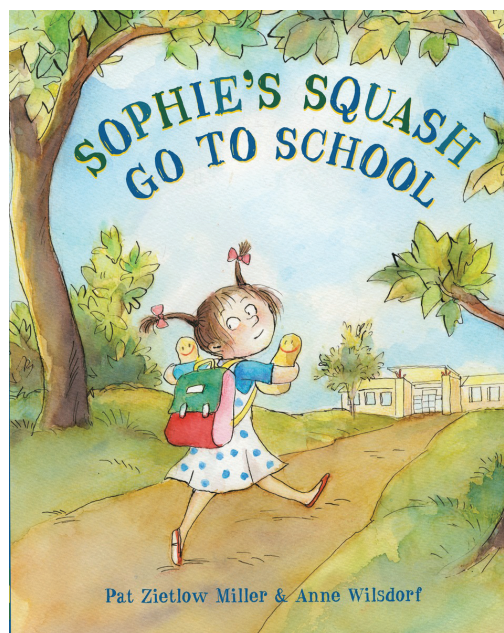
By Giuliano Ferri. 2016. Hong Kong: Minedition. 22 pp. Ages 3 to 8.

Children will enjoy guessing at and narrating the unusual and surprising plot of this clever wordless book. When a mouse discovers a flower growing between the bricks of a large wall, he pulls on it, and one of the bricks falls out. Intrigued by what he sees through the hole, he carries the brick away, and his friends—a cat, a pig, a rabbit, and a sheep—come to pull more bricks out of the wall. Slowly, a scene emerges through the ever-growing hole. When the wall is completely dismantled, the friends look into the distance, across some water, and see a group of safari animals looking back. They repurpose the bricks and build a bridge between themselves and the other animals, so they can all become friends.

The book's powerful message about dismantling walls and building bridges is relevant in children's everyday interactions and as they grow up in the world. Every classroom needs this book!

About the authors

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.



Sophie's Squash Go to School

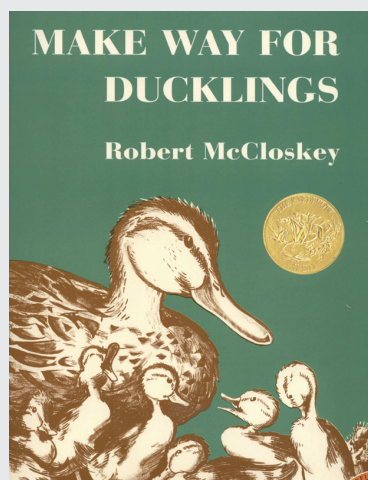
By Pat Zietlow Miller. Illus. by Anne Wilsdorf. 2016. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books. 32 pp. Ages 4 to 8.

Sophie is back. In this sequel to the original *Sophie's Squash*, Bonnie and Baxter have grown into full-sized squash, and Sophie takes them with her on the first day of school. Her discomfort about starting school manifests itself as a fierce independent streak, and she decides that she doesn't want to make any friends. Her parents, as usual, are upbeat and optimistic, to no avail. While the other children give up on quirky Sophie, one classmate, Steven Green, is not a quitter. Sophie's salty attitude doesn't keep him from reaching out. Eventually, Steven helps Sophie see that making friends is not unlike growing squash—both just take some time. Wilsdorf's illustrations, expressive and charming, draw the reader right in.

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 children's book, *Stella Brings the Family*, was published by Chronicle Books in 2015.

Forever Favorites

Each month we feature a classic book to (re)introduce teachers to old favorites.



Make Way for Ducklings

By Robert McCloskey. [1941] 2016. New York: Viking Press. 70 pp. Ages 3 to 8.

This is the 75th anniversary of *Make Way for Ducklings*, one of Robert McCloskey's best-known stories. It won the Caldecott Medal as the most distinguished picture book published in 1941. Drawn in pencil and printed in brown-and-white, the illustrations are as relatable as ever—and the Boston landmarks are as recognizable, too.

This is the story of a mallard duck mother and father who set out to make their home in the Public Garden. But when two boys on bikes almost knock them over, they realize that, as lovely as it is, it's no place for hatchlings. So, they fly over Beacon Hill, around the statehouse, through Louisburg Square, and finally find a place along the Charles River. When the ducklings are old enough, it's time to return to the charming Public Garden, but getting there through traffic is no simple task. The local policemen jump in to help and clear the way. This tale is as winning as ever.

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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: Susan Friedman

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.

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

	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months (Sept. 2015–July 2016)	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date (July 2016)
A. Total number of copies printed (net press run)	46,152	46,000
B. Paid circulation		
1. Outside-county mailed subscriptions stated on form 3541	34,642	33,567
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	2,062	1,747
4. Other classes mailed through USPS®	148	126
C. Total paid distribution (sum of B1, 2, 3, & 4)	36,852	35,440
D. Free distribution		
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	3,474	2,996
E. Total free distribution	3,474	2,996
F. Total distribution	40,326	38,436
G. Copies not distributed	5,826	7,564
H. Total (sum of F & G)	46,152	46,000
I. Percent paid and/or requested circulation	91%	92%