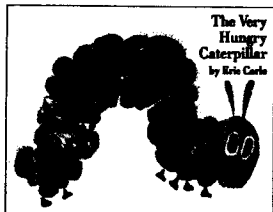


teachers' picks

TOP 25 PICTURE BOOKS

"Where the Wild Things Are does just what a picture book should do," says New Jersey teacher Bob Krech. "Every word counts."



1. **WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE** by Maurice Sendak (HarperCollins) is "so compressed in its language and so exuberant in its pictures and so psychologically right," says author Jane Yolen, herself nominated for *Owl Moon*. "I return to it again and again." So do teachers! Max earned three times as many votes as a certain munching insect.

2. **THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR** by Eric Carle (Penguin).

3. **THE POLAR EXPRESS** by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin). For many of you this shadowy story is a winter must, up there with hot chocolate and mittens. Third-grade teacher Janice Wright explains: "It's magic."

4. **GOODNIGHT MOON** by Margaret Wise Brown (HarperCollins).

5. **LOVE YOU FOREVER** by Robert Munsch, illustrated by Sheila McGraw (Firefly). "I can't help myself, I cry every time I read it," says *Instructor* editor Hannah Trierweiler. Sniff. Pass the tissues.

6. **THE GIVING TREE** by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).

7. **SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE** by William Steig (Simon & Schuster).

8. **MADELINE** by Ludwig Bemelmans (Penguin).



9. **THE LITTLE HOUSE** by Virginia Lee Burton (Houghton Mifflin).

10. **BLUEBERRIES FOR SAL** by Robert McCloskey (Penguin).

11. **THE SNOWY DAY** by Ezra Jack Keats (Penguin).

12. **STELLALUNA** by Janell Cannon (Harcourt). "Kids really connect to the message," wrote first-grade teacher Laurie Foote. What higher praise could a book receive?

13. **IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE** by Laura Numeroff, illustrated by Felicia Bond (HarperCollins).

14. **THE OTHER SIDE** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Penguin).

15. **OWL MOON** by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr (Penguin).

16. **THE SNOWMAN** by Raymond Briggs (Random House) is the only wordless tale on our list.

17. **THE MYSTERIES OF HARRIS BURDICK** by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin).

18. **MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS** by Robert McCloskey (Penguin).



Anita Silvey, author of *100 Best Books for Children*, cherishes McCloskey's "subtle economy in text and art."

19. **SKIPPYJON JONES** by Judy Schachner (Penguin). This 2003 story of a mischievous cat has the distinction of being the newest teacher pick.

20. **NO, DAVID!** by David Shannon (Scholastic).

21. **THE KEEPING QUILT** by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster).

22. **THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD** by Watty Piper, illustrated by George & Doris Hauman (Penguin). Will the real Watty Piper please stand up—and accept our hurrahs? (It's a pseudonym for the original publisher; the author is disputed.)

23. **THE MITTEN** by Jan Brett (Penguin). Second-grade teacher Donna Thaggard echoed many voters when she said "any book by Brett" is bound to be an instant favorite.

24. **GREEN EGGS AND HAM** by Dr. Seuss (Random House). Thank goodness the good doctor accepted a bet that he couldn't write a story using only 50 words. As *Instructor* editor Jennifer Prescott sums up in only five words: "I do so like it!"

25. **CURIOUS GEORGE** by H.A. and Margret Ray (Houghton Mifflin).