

# Picture Books

Selections are identified by the reviewers initials thus: Betty Gilderdale (BG), Rosemary Tisdall (RT), Helen Beckingsale (HB), Susan McIntosh (SM), Bev Barnes (BB), Joan Sharrock (JS).

## *Mr McGee and the Biting Flea*

by Pamela Allen  
Viking 1998

Mr McGee is attacked by a flea and gradually divests himself of all his clothes. But where did the flea go? Lively, economical pictures. (BG)

## *The Naming of the Land*

by Ron Bacon and Manu Smith  
Waiatarua, 1998

A companion book to Bacon's previous series which began with *The House of the People*. How did the Maori name the land? What is the meaning of Kaiwaka, or Oneroa. A poetic text and beautiful rhythmical pictures. (BG)

## *Martha B Rabbit the Fairies Cook*

### *The Unexpected Guest*

### *The Enchanted Woods*

### *Rainbow Magic*

by Shirley Barber

5 Mile Press 1997 - 1999

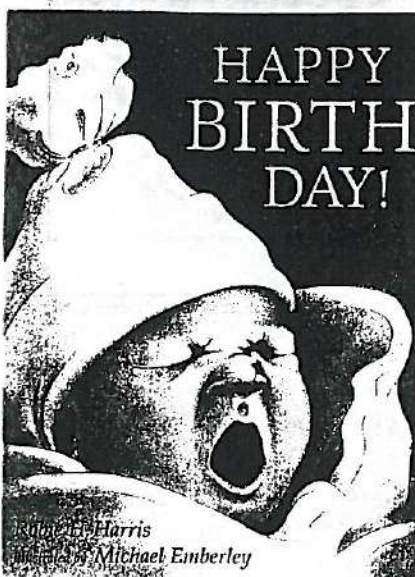
All these books are beautifully produced with a delightful story and exquisite art work. They are suitable for the upper limits of this age group. (BB, JS)

## *Peter & the Wolf*

by Ian Beck

Doubleday 1994

A splendidly colourful re-telling of Prokief's story now in paperback. The instruments which play the various parts are featured at the back. (B)



## *The Orchard ABC*

by Ian Beck  
Orchard 1994

An excellent introduction to ABC with really interesting pictures. (BB,JS)

## *Fantastic Daisy Artichoke*

by Quentin Blake  
Jonathan Cape 1999

Anyone familiar with Mr Magnolia will know what to expect. This is a large format book with a rhyming text and Blake's usual zany illustrations. 4+ (HB)

## *Opposites*

by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen

Hodder and Stoughton 1997

Another attractive vocabulary book. (BB,JS)

## *The Video Shop Sparrow*

by Joy Cowley

Malinson Rendel 1999

When George and Harry go to return a video on New Year's Day they find the shop shut but a sparrow trapped inside. How can they rescue it? A splendid story of determination and compassion pictured by Gavin Bishop. (BG)

## *The Mouse Bride*

by Joy Cowley and Christina David

Scholastic 1995

A little mouse hates being a mouse. Delightful story and illustrations. For older children. (BB,JS)

## *Slinky Malinki Catflaps*

by Lynley Dodd

Mallinson Rendel 1998

Silhouette pictures show Slinky Malinki sneaking out at night to bring back all his friends to enjoy the warmth and firelight of home. Most appreciated by the younger end of the age range. (BG)

## *Paddiwak and Cosy*

by Berlie Doherty

Illus. Alison Bartlett

Orchard 1998

This is a bright and colourful book with lovely language for reading aloud. Paddiwak is "a prince of a cat, a posh job (a bit of a snob)" and is devastated when Cosy "a laugh of a cat, a dumpling cat", is introduced to his household. Despite Paddiwak's avowal never to go home again the two cats eventually become friends. (HB)

## *Queenie the Bantam*

by Bob Graham

Walker Books 1997, paperback 1999

Queenie is rescued from the lake and restored to her home but returns every day to repay her rescuers by laying an egg in the dog's basket. The advent of a new baby means the eggs are left uncollected and are eventually hatched by the dog. 4+ (HB)

***The Little Yellow Digger at the Zoo***

by Betty and Alan Gilderdale  
Scholastic 1998

The little yellow digger is called upon to enlarge the hippo pond at the zoo (an enlargement which has taken place in real life since the book was published, much to Betty and Alan's delight). The first book has proved a perennial favourite and this one will be equally popular with 2 - 5 year olds. (HB)

***Mr Bear's New Baby***

by Debi Giori  
Orchard Books 1999

Mr and Mrs Bear and their friends try everything they can think of to get the new baby back to sleep but nothing works until her big brother has an idea. 2 - 5 years. (SM)

***Happy Birth Day***

by Robie H Harris  
Walker Books, 1998

The story of a baby's birth and first day as told from the mother's point of view. The beautiful illustrations help to show how special the day is, capturing the thrill, excitement and tenderness of the arrival of a new baby in the family. (RT)

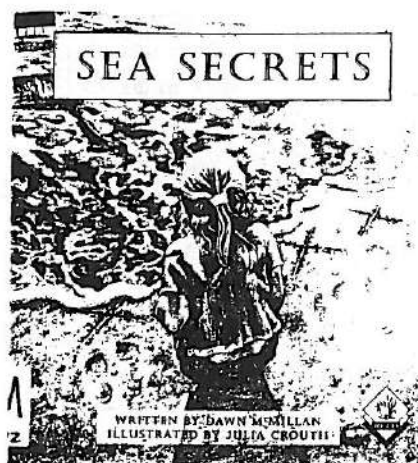
***Mechanical Harry and the Flying Bicycle***

by Bob Kerr  
Mallinson Rendel 1999

Mechanical Harry sets out to chop wood but finishes up having to survive on a desert island. This gives him splendid opportunities to practise his skills of invention, which may give ideas to the readers! For the upper end of the age range. (BG)

***A Coat of Cats***

by Jeri Kroll and Ann James  
Lothian, Melbourne 1998  
When the old woman is moved to a 'nice new flat' she has to leave her seven cats behind. Because



***Sea Secrets***

by Dawn McMillan  
Reed 1998

A New Zealand story with recognisable scenes of pohutukawas, the seashore and beach. Hannah loves her Grandmother and they share some good times. They manage to continue their special relationship and bond after Hannah and her family have to leave to live in Adelaide. (RT)



***The Best Loved Bear***

by Diana Noonan  
Ashton Scholastic, 1994

A competition at school for the Best Loved Bear has Tim worried as he loves his bear VERY much, but too much, maybe, as his bear does not look "perfect". Tim tries to patch him up but feels embarrassed about putting his shabby bear on display. (RT)

***Grandpa,***

by Lilith Norman  
Margaret Hamilton, 1998

Blake thinks his Grandpa is a pain in the neck, always demanding simple food, talking about the old days, dropping cigarette ash and bits of tobacco on the floor. But when Grandpa dies, Blake starts to realise the good times they actually shared. A tender story about coping with old age and death of loved ones. (RT)

***Little Giant and Jabber-Jabber***

by Hiawyn Oram and Ken Brown  
Andersen Press 1998

Little Giant's invisible enemy Jabber-Jabber thinks Little Giant will never succeed at anything and he says so - continually. Little Giant keeps proving him wrong and finally realises how he can rid himself of his enemy once and for all. A book to be read on two levels. 4 - 8 years. (SM)

she misses them and worries about them, she travels to find them one night in freezing weather and then they show how much they care for her. 4 - 8 years. (SM)

***Opposites with Winnie the Pooh***

by Anna Machlinska  
Egmont Children's Books 1999

The drawings are as in the original books, but with bright colours. Great for vocabulary extension. (BB,JS)

***A Summery Saturday Morning***

by Margaret Mahy  
Puffin 1998

NZ scenery with rhymes and alliteration with Mahy's usual flair. (BB,JS)

### ***Pippo Gets Lost***

by Helen Oxenbury

Walker Books Board Book 1998

Pippo is Tom's special friend and the two of them go everywhere together, so when he gets lost Tom is very worried. One of a series. 2 - 4 years. (SM)

### ***Mrs Wilkinson's Chooks***

by Leone Peguero and Mike Spoor  
Random House 1999

Mrs Wilkinson decides to keep some hens for company, but doesn't realise that they create havoc in the neighbourhood. The vibrant witty illustrations tell the full story. 4 - 8 years. (SM)

### ***Dinosaur Roar***

by Paul and Henrietta Strickland  
Ragged Bears, 1994 Puffin 1996

A dinosaur book for the very young with a short rhyming text, and large colourful illustrations showing different types of dinosaurs but without all those long names which are so difficult for parents to read aloud. (HB)

### ***The Builder's Cat***

by Gwenda Turner  
Penguin Books, 1999

A delightful story of a cat who goes to work each day with his owner - a builder. Abraham likes to explore the vans, wheelbarrows, buckets and roofs. He doesn't mind the noise of hammers and drills. The last page shows a copy of the newspaper article telling of the real builder and his cat companion that the story is based on. (RT)

### ***Farmer Duck***

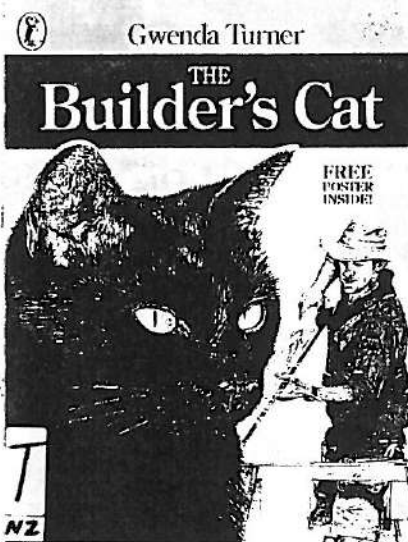
by Martin Wadell  
Illus. by Helen Oxenbury  
Walker Books 1995

How a duck deals with a lazy farmer. (BB,JS)

### ***Granny Goes to Bethlehem***

by Kathy Weston  
Oxford University Press 1997

The story of Jesus' birth, but with a twist. His Granny comes to visit him in the stables. She isn't impressed with his accommodation or the visitors he gets, or the presents they bring. She thinks a pram is a much more suitable gift for a baby, than sheep or frankincense. (RT)



### ***Let's Go Visiting***

by Sue Williams and Julie Vivas  
Omnibus Books, Scholastic Inv.

A simple repetitive text and enchanting illustrations which introduce the youngest readers to colours, counting and the names of baby animals. 0 - 4 years. (SM)

### **And some old favourites**

#### ***Each Peach Pear Plum***

by Janet and Allan Ahlberg  
Viking (Penguin Group) Board Book 1999

(First published 1978)  
Children will enjoy trying to spy the hidden characters. Rhyming couplets reveal the character from the previous page and give a clue to the next. There are many humorous details to discover in the illustrations. 2 - 5 years. (SM)

### ***Peepo***

by Janet and Allan Ahlberg  
Kestrel Books 1981, Picture Puffin

This book has become a classic for young children with a hole in each right hand page giving a preview of the very detailed pictures of what the baby can see in various rooms of the house, the backyard and at the park. The illustrations are set in wartime England with Dad in uniform.

### ***Who Sank the Boat***

by Pamela Allen  
Puffin Books

### ***Mister Magnolia***

by Quentin Blake  
Random House Reprint 1999  
Both the above are rhyming stories for the young. (BB,JS)

### ***Goodnight Moon***

by Margaret Wise Brown. Illus  
Clement Hurd

Originally published 1947.  
Harper Collins 1975

A short rhyming text details and says goodnight to all the things in the room as a small rabbit is going to sleep. 0 - 4 (HB)

### ***Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel***

by Virginia Burton  
Puffin

Mike Mulligan and his outdated steam shovel used to dig through anything. Now they are seldom needed, but they have a final moment of glory and a happy solution to their problem. 3 - 6 years. First published in the 1940's. (SM)

### ***My Brown Bear Barney***

by Dorothy Butler  
Reed 1988

Barney has been a top favourite since he first appeared and is now issued with two other stories about him in an omnibus edition with Elizabeth Fuller's charming illustrations. (BG)

**Hairy Maclary from  
Donaldson's Dairy**

by Lynley Dodd  
Mallenson Rendel

All the Hairy Maclary books are very popular with children. A black dog's adventures. (BB,JS)

**The Teddybear's Picnic**

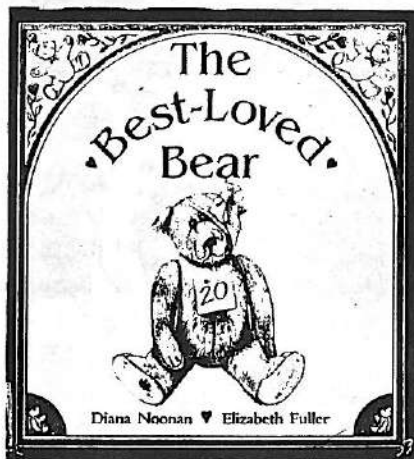
by Jimmy Kennedy, Illus. Prue Theobald. Blackie 1987

This picture book of the popular children's song has proved a firm favourite since it first appeared. (HB)

**The Giant Jam Sandwich**

by John Vernon Lord  
Cape 1972

A Macmillan paperback reprint of this all-time favourite. How can a town get rid of a plague of wasps? Splendid language and exaggeration will appeal as much now as it did more than twenty years ago. (BG)



**My Cat Likes to Hide in Boxes**

by Eve Sutton  
Hamish Hamilton 1973

A paperback re-issue of one of New Zealand's favourite picture books which was also one of the first to be illustrated by Lynley Dodd. A rhymed cumulative text describes the outlandish behaviour of some cats, compared with the more usual habits of "my cat" who likes to hide in boxes. (BG)

**RECEIVED FOR REVIEW  
Sydney and the Sea Monster**

by David Elliot. Auckland  
Random House 1999

A beautifully visualised story about Antarctica in which an inventive penguin and a helpful whale friend manage to scare off the whalers. Children will enjoy the amusing detail in the drawings. Accompanied by notepaper decorated with penguins. Elliot is a previous winner of the Russell Clark Award for the illustrations of *Arthur and the Dragon*.

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