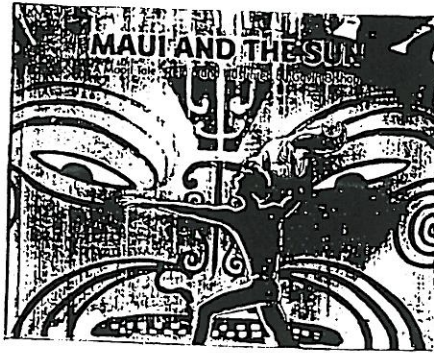


# PICTURE BOOKS...WHAT'S NEW

"Voice" Feb. 97



Turning our attention to recently published picture books the committee found a wealth of material. There were a number of purchases despite the fact that most of us have older children - we just could not resist taking some home to share which just goes to show what great appeal a good picture book has whatever age you may be. What were we looking for when making our selection?

- Text and illustrations that complement each other, that work together to tell the story or explain a concept.
- Illustrations that are well executed, for example if they are drawn they should be well drawn. The style and choice of media should suit the type of story.
- Text that is well written both in the choice of words and the way those words are arranged.
- Imaginative, precise language. Language with pattern and rhythm that begs to be read aloud.
- If there is a story it should be interesting and relevant to young children, well structured from beginning to end. Humour, surprise, inventiveness, warmth are good qualities. Avoid the didactic, the sentimental, the patronising.
- Good design - an interesting cover. Text well placed in regard to the pictures and of a suitable size with suitable spacing between lines for ease of reading. The text should look inviting.
- Good production - this refers to the quality of the printing, the paper and the binding.

Selections are identified by the reviewer's initials thus:  
Betty Gilderdale - BG  
Susan McIntosh - SM  
Sally Gallagher - SG  
Joan Sharrock & Judy Coleman - JS,JC.  
Jill Stotter - JST  
Lindsay Dobbinson - LD  
Carol Ardem - CA  
Helen Beckinsale - HB

Books selected are suitable for 0 - 6 year olds unless otherwise specified.

### *Who Stole the Pie?*

By Allan Ahlberg Illus by Colin McNaughton. A Red Nose Collection, Walker, 1996  
A hilarious collection of single words and phrases, simple sentences and memorable rhymes for the Red Nose Reader series. A good read aloud as well as an early reader. (HB)

### *Belinda*

by Pamela Allen  
Viking, Penguin Books, 1992  
Belinda, the cow, does not want to be milked by Old Tom while Bessie, his wife, is away in town. All the antics, the catchy storyline and a humorous twist make this a favourite. (CA)

### *The Lighthouse Keeper's Cat*

by Ronda and David Armitage  
Lothian 1996  
The latest in a well loved series of stories about a lighthouse keeper, his wife...and their cat. This is a much longer story than the other titles, with some features to entertain slightly older children. 4 - 7 years. (JS,JC)

### *Window*

by Jeannie Baker

Red Fox, Random House, 1992

This textless picture book cleverly illustrates the passage of time and the subsequent environmental changes. Each double page is an intricate collage of the view from a window. The details provide excellent starters for discussion about community changes and environmental issues. (CA) Try also: *Where the Rainforest Ends*

### *The Bantam and the Soldier*

by Jennifer Beck Illus. by Robyn Belton

Scholastic 1996

A poignant story of friendship and survival during the first World War. Beautifully illustrated with end papers showing the photographs and personal memorabilia which provided the inspiration for the story (JST)

### *Maui and the Sun* A Maori Tale

by Gavin Bishop

North South Books, 1996

Those of you who enjoyed Gavin Bishop's *Hinepau* (Scholastic, 1993) will be looking forward to this latest retelling, superbly produced by North South Books. *Maui and the Sun* is a favourite Maori myth and this will be a favourite version, the story told with verve and dignity, the illustrations powerfully evocative with their distinctive blend of Maori and Western traditions (SG)



*The Dancing Frog*

by Quentin Blake  
Red Fox, London 1995

When Jo asks his mother for a true family story she intrigues him with the tale of his great aunt Gertrude, who discovered and toured the world with a dancing frog. Blake's vivacious pictures never pall, they can be looked at over and over again. (BG)

*John Patrick Norman McHenessy*

*The Boy Who was Always Late* ✓  
by John Burningham

Red Fox, Random House, 1990  
Inventive stories to justify lateness at school each day, which will amuse children of all ages. (JS,JC) .  
(At present only available through the library system)

*My Brown Bear Barney at School*

by Dorothy Butler Illus. by Elizabeth Fuller

Reed, Auckland 1994  
Third in the "Brown Bear Barney" series in which Barney is left hanging on a peg in a school bag. But he does not stay there... A warm amusing story, beautifully interpreted by Elizabeth Fuller's illustrations (BG)

*Lulu*

by Dorothy Butler Illus. by Lyn Kriegler

Hodder and Stoughton, 1990  
A great match of illustrations and text in this rhyming story about cats. The pedigrees are delightfully described but the local stray reigns supreme. (CA)

*Papa Please Get the Moon for Me*

by Eric Carle  
Hamish Hamilton, (1986) 1996

A new issue of this magical story in which Papa takes a long long ladder to the highest mountain top in order to reach the moon. Pages unfold both outwards and upwards giving a real impression of distance and space. (SG)

*So Much*

by Trish Cooke. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury  
Walker Books, 1996

This book has everything - rhythm, repetition, cumulative text, fun and humour. These, coupled with brilliant use of colour and outstanding artistry, have resulted in a captivating storybook. (SM)

*The Right Hand Man*

by Ruth Corrin Illus. by Brent Putze

Scholastic, 1993  
Matt lives with his dad, alone except for the times when Grandma comes to stay. Then life changes when Dad decides to marry again. A story about how children have to adapt in a blended family. 8+ years. (JS,JC)



*The Screaming Mean Machine* ✓

by Joy Cowley Illus. by David Cox  
Scholastic, 1993

Children respond well to this story of the fear, bravado and thrill of fun park rides. Wonderful language and colourful action illustrations. (CA)

*The Day of the Rain* ✓

by Joy Cowley  
Mallinson Rendel, Wellington, 1993

First of a trilogy written for Chapel Downs School Auckland. A classroom gets swept out to sea

after a flood, sailing down Queen Street on the way. Plenty of fun, illustrated by Bob Kerr. (BG)

*Nicketty-Nacketty Noo-Noo-Noo*

by Joy Cowley Illus. by Tracey Moroney

Scholastic, 1996. Hardcover  
Simple rhyming text with a refrain for children to join in. This variation on a traditional tale where a quick witted old woman emerges triumphant is bound to be popular with 3 - 4 year olds. (HB)

*Gracias The Thanksgiving Turkey*

by Joy Cowley Illus. by Joe Cepeda  
Scholastic 1996

A heart-warming story, vibrant with colour, about a small Puerto Rican boy living in a New York apartment, who becomes attached to the (live) turkey Papa sends home to be fattened for Thanksgiving. It is refreshing to have one of our authors looking beyond the shores of NZ for story material, exciting to experience another culture's language (Spanish, in this case) and to see that despite our differences, we are very much the same. (SG)

*All About Alice*

by Penny Dale  
Walker Books, 1994

Penny Dale, Shirley Hughes and Jan Ormerod are all author/illustrators with a natural empathy for small children, able to capture the day to day happenings in their lives with understanding, wit and humour. *All About Alice* will spark much discussion and delight, as will any of Penny's Books. *Ten in the Bed* is another favourite. (SG)

*Schnitzel von Krumm Forget-Me-Not*

by Lynley Dodd  
Mallinson Rendel, Wellington, 1996

The little dachshund is accidentally left behind when the family goes on holiday. Delightful verse and

pictures as well as the joy of recognition in meeting Schnitzel von Krumm again. (BG, HB)

*The Magical Bicycle* ✓  
by Berlie Doherty Illus. by Christian Birmingham  
Picture Lions, Harper Collins, 1996  
A small boy gets his first bike - then has to learn to ride it. The simple story explores the full range of emotions involved and is complemented by Birmingham's sensitive, expressive illustrations. (SG)

*Odysseus and the Wooden Horse*  
by Allan Drummond  
Orchard, 1995

Allan Drummond has made a superb job of this retelling. It is contemporary in language and style yet true to the original legend. The illustrations are authentic in detail and colour and executed with imagination and flair. A very inviting and accessible version. 5 - 9 years. (SG)

*Under My Bed There Lives a Tiger*  
by Rosalind Gardner Illus. by Betty Brownlee  
Scholastic, 1996

A child's bedroom can be a wondrous place - a jungle, an ocean, a cave...a land of dreams and fantasy. Rosalind Gardner's magical text is complemented by imaginative, detailed illustrations. (JS, JC).

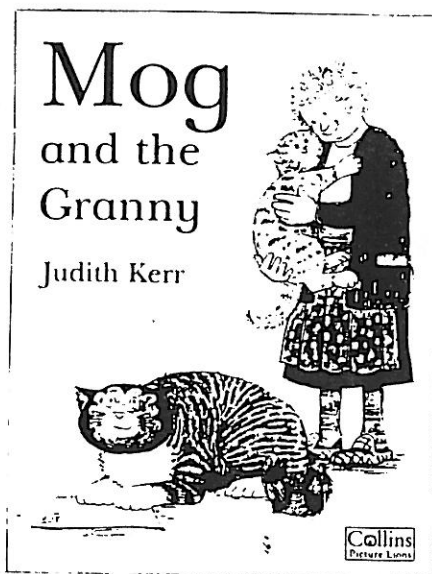
Try also: *There's a Sea in my Bedroom* by Margaret Wild. Hodder, 1984.

*The Little Yellow Digger* ✓  
by Betty and Alan Gilderdale  
Scholastic, 1992. Softcover  
Realistic illustrations and a wonderful rhythmic text which is great to read aloud. (HB)

*It's Now or Never*  
by Peter Haswell  
Red Fox, 1994

This is an ABC book with a difference. The way that it is written, with a picture of an extinct dodo at the bottom of each page, is thought provoking as well as attractive, informative and educational. (LD)

*All the Colours of the Earth*  
by Sheila Hamanaka  
Morrow Junior Books, 1994  
Sheila Hamanaka's illustrations portray a wonderful sense of children's energy and enthusiasm. The expressive text is creatively placed and adds interest. Very successful for self esteem in multi ethnic classes. (CA)



*Dog Dottingham*  
by Diana Hendry Illus. by Margaret Chamberlain  
Walker Books, 1995

Through caring for their new large and nervous dog, a large and nervous family find that their fears (spiders, the dark, letters in brown envelopes etc.) aren't quite as bad as they imagined. Margaret Chamberlain's witty, amusing illustrations are a perfect accompaniment (SG)

*Hoot*  
by Jane Hissey  
Hutchinson, London 1996.  
The family of soft toys first featured in *Old Bear* is joined here by an owl

who wakes everyone up with his hooting. Gentle story telling and superb illustration, this is an ideal book for bedtime. (BG)

*The Story of the Little Mole who Knew it was None of his Business* ✓  
by Werner Holzworth & Wolf Erlbruch  
Harper Collins, 1995. Softcover  
Some adults are horrified by this story in which little mole surveys various animals' excreta to find out who left an unwelcome deposit on his head, but children will love it. Funny, educational, and it will appeal to others even if it doesn't appeal to you (HB,SG)

*Mog and the Granny*  
by Judith Kerr  
Collins, London 1995  
Another in the series about Mog the cat. This time she is sent to Granny's while her family is overseas. Mog is not pleased, "she does not want things to be exciting, she wants them to be the same". Judith Kerr captures cat nature both in text and pictures (BG,SM)

*Mechanical Harry* ✓  
by Bob Kerr  
Mallinson Rendel, 1996  
A picture book that will delight the mechanically minded. Harry's day is marked by a succession of Heath Robinson type inventions. Hair is combed, breakfast is delivered, dishes washed by ingenious arrangements of levers, pulleys, cogwheel, and strings, all meticulously detailed in Bob Kerr's cheerful lively illustrations. (3-8years) (JST, SG)

*The Man Who Loved Boxes*  
by Stephen Michael King  
Scholastic, 1995  
Love is expressed in different ways, and in this story a small boy comes to understand his father's special way of showing his love for him. (SG)

*When Frank was Four*

by Alison Lester

Hodder, 1994

Another of Alison Lester's gently humorous explorations into the lives of seven neighbourhood children, each an individual in his or her own way. Children love to follow the progress of each child through the book and are quick to identify with the one most like themselves. A celebration of differences (and similarities). Don't miss the other two in the series: *Rosie Sips Spiders* and *Clive Eats Alligators*. (SG)

*Boom, Baby, Boom, Boom!*

by Margaret Mahy Illus. by Patricia MacCarthy

Hamish Hamilton, 1996 Hardcover  
This cheerfully illustrated tale of a typical baby throwing all the lunch on the floor as one by one the cat, dog, hens, sheep, and cow come in to eat the food, is bound to appeal (HB)

*Pandora*

by William Mayne Illus. by Dietling Blech

Jonathan Cape, 1995

When a baby arrives man and woman have no time for Pandora, their pampered black cat. She tries to fit in as before but is rejected and runs off into the woodlands. She returns some time later with a solution which is accepted by all. Dietling Blech's illustrations are intricately detailed and both complement and extend the text superbly. (LD)

*My Very First Mother Goose*

edited by Iona Opie Illus. by Rosemary Wells

Walker, London 1996

Iona Opie is a world expert on children's oral heritage and this collection has both well-known nursery rhymes and a number that are less familiar. It is a beautifully produced book, enlivened by Rosemary Wells' exuberant

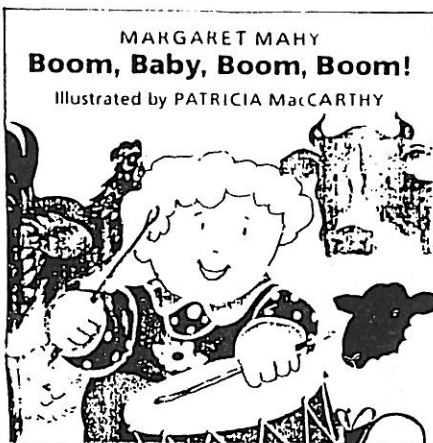
illustrations. Some people might worry that these are anthropomorphic - Jack and Jill are mice! (BG)

*Princess Grandma*

by Jenni Overend and Naomi C Lewis

Ashton Scholastic, 1994

A sensitively told story about the friendship between a young girl and her elderly neighbour. The text and the detail in the illustrations introduce aspects of a Pacific culture (CA)



*Pavlova and Presents*

by John Parker Illus. by Linda McClelland

Scholastic, 1996. Softcover

There are very few books depicting a typical New Zealand Christmas which our children can identify with. The rhyming text is easy to read aloud. (HB)

*The Rainbow Fish*

by Marcus Pfister

North South Books, 1992. Board book 1996

A story about sharing. The Rainbow fish has gleaming holographic scales which add to the appeal of the lovely sea tone illustrations. (HB)

*The Whales' Song*

by Dyan Sheldon and Gary Blythe  
Red Fox, Random House, 1993

Poignant illustrations and sensitive text tell of the heart-warming

relationship between a little girl and her grandmother and great-uncle and their differing perceptions of the sea's most wonderful creatures - the whales. (CA)

*Cloud Nine*

by Norman Silver

Bodley Head, 1995

Armstrong, finding himself in the way at home, builds a ladder up into the clouds. He catches cloud nine, climbs on and his adventures eventually take him home. (LD)

*A Giraffe and a Half*

by Shel Silverstein

Jonathon Cape, 1988

An accumulative rhyming story with striking black and white illustrations. For reading to 5 yrs +. (JS,JC)

*Dinosaur Roar*

by Paul and Henrietta Strickland

Puffin 1996

"Dinosaur roar, dinosaur squeak. Dinosaur fierce, dinosaur meek". This is irresistible with its witty rhyming text and superb illustrations. A must for your bookshelf (SG)

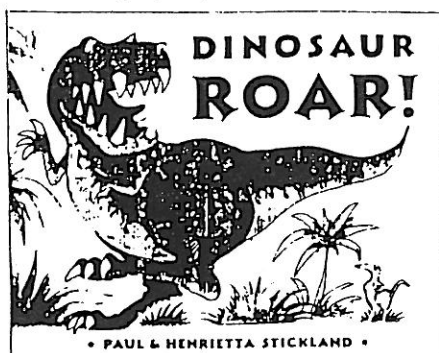
*Swamp Stomp*

by Paul Strickland

A Monster Pop-Up

Hodder, 1996

An irresistible collection of friendly monsters who burst from the pages in vibrant colour and amazing tangles. The accompanying short text has large print, challenging vocabulary and funny rhymes which detail all the different ways of getting to the monster party down in the swamp. (SM)



*When the Bears Came*

by Martin Waddell Illus. by Penny Dale

Walker Books, 1996

A story of a little boy who, on the arrival of new baby, has to find his place in the family. (JS, JC)

*Farmer Duck*

by Martin Waddell Illus. by Helen Oxenbury

Walker Books, 1991

A lazy farmer gets his comeuppance in this delightful and very satisfying story that will not fail to involve both reader and listener. Marvellously expressive pictures. A real gem. (SG)

*The Big Big Sea*

by Martin Waddell Illus. by Jennifer Eachus

Walker Books, 1994

Waddell and Eachus capture precisely the mystery and excitement of a walk down to the sea in the moonlight for a small child and her parent. A magical book that sends tingles down the spine. (SG)

*Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance*

by Ian Wallace

Methuen, 1984

The year of the dragon was the year when Chin Chiang was to dance as the dragon's tail. But he felt too clumsy until, after running away, he meets Pu Yee who used to dance until she became too troubled with aching bones. She teaches him how to dance and they become good friends. (LD)

*Brian Wildsmith Mother Goose*

A Collection of Nursery Rhymes

Illustrated by Brian Wildsmith

Oxford University Press (1964), 1996 (soft cover)

A new issue of one of the best, most imaginatively illustrated collections of nursery rhymes. (SG)

*Prowlpuss*

by Gina Wilson Illus. by David Parkins

Walker Books, 1994

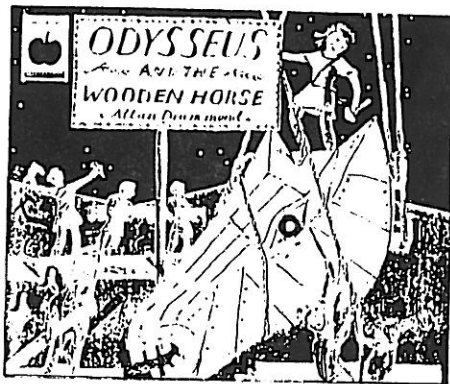
A strong, rhythmic text brilliantly matched by David Parkins' powerful and atmospheric illustrations. We follow the fearsome prowlpuss through the night only to discover he adopts quite a different persona once he gets home. 5 - 8 years. (SG)

*The Old Woman Who Loved to Read*

by John Winch

Scholastic, 1996. Softcover

Lovely double spread illustrations depicting the ups and downs of rural life. Much of the story is told in the humorous illustrations with a minimal text. Should appeal to all ages. (HB)



*Nurse Lugton's Curtain*

by Virginia Woolf Illus by Julie Vivas.

Red Fox, 1993

A charmingly illustrated story about animals and scenery which come to life on a curtain which was being made. While the story itself is short the language is rich. (LD)

*Let's Eat*

by Ana Zamorano Illus by Julie Vivas

Omnibus books, 1996

A story beautifully illustrated by Julie Vivas which gives an insight into the life, language and food of a Spanish family. (LD)

## CELEBRATING THE BOOK

'Celebrating the Book', Waitakere Libraries first seminar on children's books for parents, teachers and librarians organised by Frances Plumpton, Service Development Librarian for Children and Young Adults, was a resounding success.

This seminar, held at the Kelston Community Centre on November 9<sup>th</sup>, looked at aspects of children's books with an emphasis on New Zealand publishing.

Chris Gaskin, an exceptional illustrator in his own right, enticed us with slides he has taken for his forthcoming book, *Picture Book Magic*, which is an introduction to the lives and work of nine leading New Zealand children's book illustrators.

Tessa Duder, well-known for her award-winning '*Alex Quartert*' held us enthralled describing how she discovered her character Freddy Bone in response to a request for a short story on swimming for an anthology. Her first reaction had been dismay, she'd already written four books and 232,000 words on a swimmer and felt very disinclined to write any more!

Anne de Lautour and Christine Dale from Scholastic publishers then led us through the complexities of their business - they publish forty books per year but have over a thousand manuscripts submitted for consideration.

The afternoon was devoted to the reader - Dorothy Butler was in fine form on 'Raising Real Readers' and a panel then discussed their selection of the 10 books they would take away with them to a desert island. The audience had already submitted their choices for the