

## Recommendations of Reading Materials by Participating Teachers-Librarians

### **Books**

[動物學校= Animal school](#)

[Babu playing games](#)

[Beginning to learn about reading = 我愛讀書](#)

[Berenstain Bear and too much TV](#)

[The big carrot](#)

[Boxer and the fish](#)

[Can I play too](#)

[The cat in the hat](#)

[Click, clack, moo : cows that type](#)

[Clifford the big red dog \(Series\)](#)

[The flower princess](#)

[The magic brush](#)

[我喜歡足球 = I love football](#)

[Jack and the beanstalk](#)

[The last donut](#)

[Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood story from China](#)

[美田學跳芭蕾舞 = Martine's ballet lessons](#)

[The monster who loved books](#)

[Picture book biography \(Series\)](#)

[Pooh's first day of school](#)

[露絲在海灘 =Rosie at the beach](#)

[Share bear](#)

[Watch me throw the ball!](#)

[Yeh-shen: A Cinderella story from China](#)

### **Magazine**

[I love English](#)

### **WebSite**

[Starfall](#)

## ***Books***

### **動物學校= Animal school**

Author / Editor: Lacey, Elspeth

Series: 愛心園德育圖書

Place of Publication: 香港

Publisher : 精英出版社

Year of Publication: 2003

Remarks: A bilingual book

Animal School is a short story suitable for parent-child reading. Different from *The animal school* written by George Reavis, *Animal School* of Outstanding Publication Ltd (精英出版社), has a simpler plot. In addition, some counseling activities are suggested to parents after reading children the story.

Animal stories with moral value are always welcomed by children, parents and teachers. The animal characters of the story bring out the importance of being considerate of others. It is only when we know how to take care of each other, we can live happily and peacefully together in the world.

The simple storyline of *Animal School* makes it especially suitable for the students of P.1 and P.2.

### **Babu playing games**

巴布的遊戲 = Babu playing games

Author / Editor: 王蘭

Series: 巴布熊系列

Place of Publication: 台北

Publisher : 糖菓樹文化

Year of Publication: 2000

Remarks: A bilingual book

Author of this bilingual picture book is Huang Lan. Reading this book is like watching an animated cartoon as the bright and colourful pictures bring life to the expressions in a delicate way. The carefully crafted pictures definitely enhance readers' understanding of the text.

The vivid imagination and remarkable creativity of Huang Lan takes the readers to the polar regions in this frigid story. Babu, the polar bear, slipped and rolled himself into a snowball on the icy ground. Children and adults put scarves and hats on the snowball to make a gigantic snowman. With a big yawn, Babu broke the snowman accidentally at deep night. To cheer up everyone, Babu built a huge snow bear instead.

### **Beginning to learn about reading = 我愛讀書**

Author / Editor: Allington, Richard L.

Series: Beginning to learn about

Place of Publication: Taipei

Publisher: Deer Bridge

Year of Publication: 1983

Remarks: A bilingual book

This easy-to-read storybook is written by Dr. Richard L. Allington, who is a distinguished American scholar dedicated to promote reading and literacy.

The book contains simple text and illustrations which introduce young readers to various activities they can participate in a week. Situations taken from daily lives highlight the usefulness and joyfulness of reading which enhances children's love of reading.

This book is specially designed for Chinese students of P.2 and P.3. Difficult words or phrases were translated into Chinese at the bottom of each page. It is a perfect book for enhancing Hong Kong students' second language acquisition.

### **Berenstain Bears and too much TV**

Author / Editor: Berenstain, Stan

Series: Berenstain Bears

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Random House

Year of Publication: 1984

This is one of Berenstain Bears series written by Stan Berenstain. There is an on-line animated cartoon accompanying this book.

In the story, Mama Bear found that her kids were watching too much TV, she stopped them for a week. The kids were upset by this arrangement at the beginning,

but later they found that other activities were full of fun too. This enjoyable story gives a clear message that kids should balance different kinds of activities.

Teachers and parents may use this book as a teaching tool to unglue the children from TV or video games.

Pictures in this book are bright and colourful. Text is simple. It is suitable for P.1 to P.2.

### **The big carrot**

Author/Editor : Hawes, Alison

Series : Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales

Place of Publication : Oxford

Publisher : Oxford

Year of Publication : 2011

“The Big Carrot” is one of the 40 best known stories from all over the world collected in the series “Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales” written by Alison Hawes. Books in this series are a perfect introduction to different cultures, traditions and morals.

This story is a simple retelling of “The Enormous Turnip”, a Russian or Slavic traditional tale. It was about an old man called Tom who planted a very large carrot that he could not pull it up by himself. He asked his wife to help but they still could not pull it up. Therefore, he asked more and more people to help until the carrot was pulled up.

This story conveys the message that sincere cooperation can bring success. The story also shows the reward of helping others.

All the stories in the Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales Series are carefully leveled to Oxford Reading Tree stages and match with the phonics progression in letters and sounds that guide students to select appropriate books to read independently. This book is leveled as “Stage 2” and is surely suitable for P.1 to P.2 students.

### **Boxer and the fish**

Author/Editor : Hughes, Monica

Series : Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales

Place of Publication : Oxford

Publisher : Oxford

Year of Publication : 2011

“Boxer and the Fish” written by Monica Hughes is from the series “Oxford Reading Tree Traditional Tales”.

This story is based on Aesop's fable “The Greedy Dog”. Boxer was a big dog. One day, he had a fish for his dinner. When he was going to enjoy his meal near a pool in a park, he saw a bigger fish in the pool. He tried to grab the fish but he failed to do so because the fish in the water was just a shadow of his fish. At last, Boxer lost his own fish.

Due to Boxer’s greediness, he lost all he had for dinner. Telling moral stories like this to kids is a wonderful way to put forth good values and morals.

This book is leveled as “Stage 3” of the series and is suitable for P.1 to P.2 students.

### **Can I play too**

Author / Editor: Willems, Mo

Series: An Elephant & Piggie book

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Hyperion Books for Children

Year of Publication: 2010

Remarks: Chinese translation is available

Can I play too written by Willems Mo is from the series “Elephant & Piggie”. Gerald and Piggie were playing “Throw and Catch”. Snake wanted to join them but Snake had no arms. They tried and thought of a way to play together.

In the story, children learned to understand differences, accept shortcomings and help friends. The content is humorous. Children like to read it again and again.

This story contains very few words. The text and setup are simple. The gestures and facial expressions of the characters in this book are direct and easy to understand. It is suitable for P.1 to P.2 students.

### **The cat in the hat**

Author / Editor: Seuss, Dr.

Place of Publication: London

Publisher : Collins

Year of Publication: 1997

This is one of the most well known children's readers by Dr. Seuss. It has been translated into many languages including Chinese. Animated versions of this book are also available.

The story is about a brother and a sister who were left in their house in a rainy day. A cat with a hat appeared and turned their house into a playground.

Short sentences with simple words are used in this book. The rhyming verse makes it easy and interesting for children to read aloud. The imaginary characters and content help develop children's vocabulary and imagination.

It is suitable for P.2 to P.3 students.

### **Click, clack, moo : cows that type**

Author / Editor: Cronin, Doreen

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Year of Publication: 2000

Remarks: Chinese Translation is available

This book has won the Caldecott Medal. It is written by Doreen Cronin.

The story is about some cows that went on a strike for electric blankets because they were cold. They made a mutual agreement with the farmer after a few negotiations.

This story shows the importance of communication, and how to stand up for your rights politely and peacefully. It is educational and entertaining. As the cows and the farmer used letters for communication, teachers may use this book for introducing letter format.

The pictures are beautiful and charming. The text is repetitive and simple. This is appealing to P.2 to P.3 readers.

### **Clifford the big red dog (Series)**

Author / Editor: Bridwell, Norman

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Scholastic

This series is written by Norman Bridwell. There are animated cartoons and video games of Clifford.

Emily Elizabeth took Clifford from a farm when it was a tiny baby. It grew into a huge dog of more than 7 metres tall. It was friendly and helpful although sometimes it got into trouble because it was too big. The friendship and devoted love between Clifford and Elizabeth is touching. The story is sweet and comforting.

Books in this series are written in simple English. Sentences are short and easy to read. The illustrations are bright and colourful. This series is suitable for beginner readers of P.1 and P.2.

### **The flower princess**

Author/Editor : Parsons, Pat

Series: Let's Read

Place of Publication: London

Publisher : Popular

Year of Publication : 2006

“The Flower Princess” is from the series “Let's Read”, which collects retold fairy tales, folk tales and fables written specifically for young children. According to the number and the difficulty of the words in the story, this book is in Level 2 of the series.

There are three main characters in the story, the witch, the princess and the prince. It was about the princess who turned into a flower in the forest by the magic of the witch and how the prince saved her.

Younger students like reading stories with characters of prince and princess. Moreover, this book is written in simple English and fully illustrated with pictures. It can surely arouse the interest of P.1 to P.2 students to read and help them understand the story.

### **The magic brush**

Author / Editor : Yates, Karen

Series : Let's Read

Place of Publication : London

Publisher : Popular

Year of Publication : 2006

“The Magic Brush” is a book from the series “Let's Read”. According to the number and the difficulty of the words in the story, this book is in Level 3 of the

series.

In the story, Ma Liang was a kind boy. He liked drawing very much. One day, an old man gave him a magic brush. The things drawn by the magic brush could become real objects. Ma Liang used the magic brush to help many poor people. After that, the king ordered the soldiers to bring Ma Liang to his palace. The greedy king asked Ma Liang to draw more gold for him. Ma Liang did not want to help the king. He drew a horse with the magic brush instead. At last, the horse turned to a real horse and helped Ma Liang to go away.

“The Magic Brush” is originally a classic Chinese story that students are familiar with. Students may have interest in reading the English version of the story. It is suitable for P.3 to P.4 students

### **我喜歡足球 = I love football**

Author / Editor: Price, Matthew

Series: 小寶寶驚奇拉拉書

Place of Publication: 台北

Publisher : 上人文化

Year of Publication: 2001

Remarks: A bilingual book

It is a flip-the-flap book written by the Parent Choice Award winner, Mathew Price. It is not difficult for readers to tackle his belief of “education through delight” in this wonderful storybook.

The simple story is beautifully illustrated. Baby Bunny played ball happily with his family on a beach. The ball landed everywhere and finally it was ruined. To cheer up Baby Bunny, two surprise presents were given by his daddy two days after.

Lush illustrations of the celebrated artist, Atsuko Morozumi, completed the storybook with enchanting impact. It easily becomes one of P.2 and P.3 students’ favorite books.

### **Jack and the beanstalk**

Author/Editor : Jacobs, Joseph

Place of Publication : Loughborough

Publisher : Ladybird

Year of Publication : 2010



“Jack and the Beanstalk” is a well known fairy tale around the world, it is written in simple terms and phrases with pleasant illustrations. Children, therefore, can follow the stories with ease. Teachers do not need to summarise the story because it is almost known by everyone.

Summary of the story: Jack was a poor boy living in the forest with his mother. One day his mother asked him to take the cow to the market to exchange for some food. On the way he met a man who gave him five magic beans in exchange for the cow. His angry mother threw the beans into the garden. A huge beanstalk grew overnight in the garden and this changed his life afterwards.

The plot of this fairy tale is familiar to most students and therefore it is not difficult to comprehend. The story sequences are put in correct order of occurrence and it provides the opportunity for students to explore moral values. It is suitable for P.4 to P.6 students.

### **The last donut**

Author/Editor : Graham, Amanda

Series : Wings

Place of Publication : Australia

Publisher : ERA Publications Pty Ltd

Year of Publication : 2002

“The Last Donut” is from the Series “Wings”, a series of readers at the earliest Guided Reading Levels. “The Last Donut” has two common characters, Mr. Bear and Mr. Wolf as well as some other stories in the series. These familiar characters help students get into the story.

In this book, Mr. Bear had some donuts. He shared them with the giraffe, the monkey, etc. Finally, there was only one donut left. Mr. Wolf got this donut without Mr. Bear’s permission. Surprisingly, Mr. Bear still had a donut for himself because he had hidden a donut in advance. This unpredictable ending can surely arouse students’ interest to read the story.

This book is well illustrated and is written in simple English. It is suitable for P.1 to P.2 students.

### **Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood story from China**

Author/Editor : Young, Ed

Publisher : Puffin Books

Year of Publication : 1996

“Lon Po Po” is a Red-Riding Hood story from China. Three young sisters; Shang, Tao and Paotze were left alone while their mother went to visit their grandmother on her birthday. While the mother was away, a wolf, disguised as the grandmother tried to convince the sisters to let him enter into the house. The girls allowed the wolf to enter their house. After the sisters climbed into bed with the wolf, they became suspicious that it was not their grandmother. They asked the wolf, “why is your foot so bushy?”, “why do your hands have thorns?”, etc. One sister eyed the wolf’s face and tricked the wolf out of the house by asking him to climb a ginkgo tree to eat a nut, stating that it was magical to eat it directly from the branch. The wolf climbed to the top and then fell to his death. This allowed the girls to safely enter their house.

Pairing this book with other similar fairy tales is a great way for children to practise making connections, comparing and contrasting. There are a lot of texts but the pictures explain the story for the students. It is a great book for kids who treasure a little thrill. This book could also be used in collaboration with the art teacher. The librarian could read the book and show the pictures so that children can see the art techniques used. The art teacher could teach the children how to use colour to convey emotions.

This is another story that lends itself well to reading as it is similar to Little Red Riding Hood, a story which the children are familiar with.

### **美田學跳芭蕾舞 = Martine’s ballet lessons**

Author / Editor: Delahaye, Gilbert

Place of Publication: 香港

Publisher : 晶晶教育

Year of Publication: 2007

Remarks: A bilingual book

This book is written by the Belgian author, Gilbert Delahaye. He is well-known for his Martine books. A series of illustrated children’s stories he created with illustrator Marcel Marlier in 1950s. The books have been translated into many languages and came to be popular around the world.

The story is heartwarming and delightful. It is about Martine taking her ballet lessons with great effort. Finally, she got the chance of performing on stage.

Like fable, this moral tale is short and entertaining. It teaches children to

always do their best, including participating in extra-curricular activities and learning a musical instrument. One must work hard for success because no pain no gain.

It is highly recommended for P.1 to P.2 students who want to read something more related to their daily lives.

### **The monster who loved books**

Author / Editor: Faulkner, Keith

Series: 小寶寶驚奇立體書

Place of Publication: 台北

Publisher : 上人文化

Year of Publication: 2002

Remarks: A bilingual book

This is a wonderful pop-up book written by Keith Faulkner. The big blue creature on the book cover easily draws the young boys' attention. Keith Faulkner writes a lot of popular pop-up books, some even come with 3-D features. They all create a unique delight to thrill the senses of our young readers.

The interesting story is about a monster who loved reading and eating books very much. Bradley detected his existence when he found half-eaten books in his father's bookstore. He shared different storybooks with the monster and forbade it to destroy them.

Various story characters pop up from the pages when readers flip the book. It is a marvelous book which gives delightful reading experience to young children.

### **Picture book biography (Series )**

Author / Editor: Adler, David A.

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Holiday House

The author of the Picture book biography series is David A. Adler. Books in this series introduce mainly the American leaders in history. They provide important facts of the American leaders from birth to death. Students will be inspired by the fascinating life stories of the people in the books. There are beautiful and expressive pictures to help readers to understand the stories.

Texts are short and to the point. Length of the books is suitable for upper primary students. They are good to be used as teaching the structure of biography.

## **Pooh's first day of school**

Author / Editor: Zoefeld, Kathlewen W.

Series: Disney Winnie the Pooh

Place of Publication: 香港

Publisher : 星島

Year of Publication: 2004

Remarks: A bilingual book

This colourful storybook belongs to the Disney Winnie the Pooh series. It is a soothing book written by the award-winning author, Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld, for lower primary students.

The story started with the curiosity of Pooh, Piglet, Roo, Eeyore and Tigger during their schooling. Christopher told them the usual school routine, which included singing, playing and eating with classmates. Children had lots of joyful moments in their school. With Christopher's explanation, the anxious feeling of everyone was eased at the end.

The cozy and luxuriant pictures of the books can surely attract the attention of P.1 and P.2 students.

## **露絲在海灘 =Rosie at the beach**

Author / Editor: Krings, Antoon

Place of Publication: Hong Kong

Publisher : Tomate & Abricot

Year of Publication: 2001

Remarks: A bilingual book

The acclaimed French writer and illustrator, Antoon Krings, is entitled as "God of small animals". With the dazzling watercolour illustrations and interesting plot, he fabricates a wonderful story about friendship for P.3 students.

In the story, Rosie, the little pig went swimming with her friend, Salamie. When they were enjoying the Sun and the beach, Rosie found that her sandwiches were stolen. They gathered their wit to catch the Rabbit thief. These two funny little creatures tell children that life is full of fun and hope.

The simple text, appealing pictures, strong characters and logical plot

development of the story make this book desirable for reading aloud to young children and invite them to make predictions while they read.

### **Share bear**

Author/Editor : Graham, Amanda

Series : Wings

Place of Publication : Australia

Publisher : ERA Publications Pty Ltd

Year of Publication : 2002

“Share Bear” is from the “Wings” series and shares common characters Mr. Bear and Mr. Wolf with some other stories in the series such as “The Last Donut”.

In the story, Mr. Bear had some honey, pizza, pie, melon and ice-cream. Mr. Wolf was so greedy that he asked Mr. Bear to share the food with him. Mr. Bear was so kind that he allowed Mr. Wolf to share half of the food. After eating, Mr. Bear told Mr. Wolf that he also had some dirty dishes and asked Mr. Wolf to wash half of them. At last, Mr. Wolf shared Mr. Bear’s work.

The text of the book is simple and the story’s ending is funny. It is suitable for P.1 to P.2 students.

### **Watch me throw the ball!**

Author / Editor: Willems, Mo

Series: An Elephant & Piggie book

Place of Publication: New York

Publisher : Hyperion Books for children

Year of Publication: 2009

Remarks: Chinese version is available

This interesting storybook belongs to the Theodor Suess Geisel Medal awarded series “Elephant and Piggie” of the three-time Caldecott Honor winner, Mo Willems.

This book is about different attitudes of Elephant and Piggie towards playing ball. Piggie simply wanted to throw the ball for fun while Gerald intended to teach Piggie that throwing a ball could be a serious business.

The hilarious story is made up of the contradictory characteristics of the two friendly protagonists, for instance, the optimistic Peggie versus the pessimistic Elephant; the simplicity of Peggie versus the complexity of Elephant. Teachers can adopt the story for arranging a drama class for students to act out after reading.

The large fonts, eye-catching word bubbles, plain backgrounds, impressive pictures, and humorous elements all make this book a wonderful collection for beginning readers of P.1 and P.2.

### **Yeh-shen: A Cinderella story from China**

Author/Editor : Louie, Ai-Ling

Place of Publication : Guernsey

Publisher : Puffin Books

Year of Publication : 2010

Apart from Disney stories, I would recommend this book to the girls who are interested in princess fairy tales. As the story is similar to Cinderella, it is easy for children to understand and could be used in lessons on fairy tales.

“Yeh-Shen” tells the story of a young girl who was orphaned at a young age and was raised by her stepmother. Yeh-Shen grew into a very beautiful and kind woman, despite the workload given to Yeh-Shen because of her stepmother’s jealousy. Her only friend was a golden fish that talked, but her stepmother caught the fish and ate it for dinner. An old sage told Yeh-shen that if she prayed to the fish bones, the bones would make her dreams come true. One day, she was not allowed to attend a festival and was forced to stay home. Yeh-Shen prayed to her fish bones, and her dress was magically transformed into a beautiful gown. Yeh-Shen’s beauty was greatly admired at the festival, but Yeh-Shen lost her golden slipper when she left the festival. The slipper was presented to the king who was enchanted by its delicate beauty. He said that he would marry the person to whom the shoe belonged. In the end, Yeh-Shen and the king lived happily ever after.

This story lends itself well with reading as it is similar to Cinderella, a fairy tale which the children are familiar with.

### ***Magazine***

#### **I love English**

Place of Publication : Hong Kong

Publisher : Bayard Presse Asia

“I Love English” is an English magazine published by Bayard Presse Asia. About

100 issues of the magazine have been published over the years. Children can read English and learn new vocabulary with comic strips, fun news, games and little reports on interesting subjects in this magazine. For example, Children can learn vocabulary about a palace by playing a “Search and Find Game” and know more about “Jelly” by reading an article in Issue No.93 of the magazine.

Text in the magazine is written in simple English with Chinese meaning of some difficult words provided to help readers to comprehend the contents. The book is also accompanied by CDs so that students can listen to the contents of the magazine.

“I Love English” magazine provides a fun way to learn English. It is suitable for P.1 to P.4 students.

## ***WebSite***

### **Starfall**

**URL:** <http://www.starfall.com/>

“Starfall” is a free website which teaches children to read with phonics. There are interesting phonic games and on-line e-books on the website. A variety of e-books can be found on the “I’m Reading” page. Readers can read fiction, non-fiction, comics, folk tales, Greek myths and Chinese fables on this webpage. Children can choose the e-books according to their interest. Some of the e-books also provide on-line sound tracks on the contents of the book.

The words of the e-books are not difficult. The illustrations of the website are attractive. Accompanying with on-line sound tracks and phonic games, the website is suitable for P.1 to P.4 students with diversified reading interest.