

Picture Books to Teach Elements of Fiction

- Determining What's Important in Text
- Drawing Inferences
- Beginning-Middle-End
- Monitoring Comprehension
- Models for Writing
- Making Connections
- Phonemic Awareness Books
- Retelling/Summarizing
- Predicting
- Questioning
- Schema/Background Knowledge
- Dialogue
- Visualizing
- Metacognition
- Synthesis
- Point of View
- Books About Words
- Setting-Distinct Sense of Place
- Seesaw Books
- Imagery
- Tension/Conflict
- Voice
- Poetry
- Leads-Strong
- Endings-Strong
- Characters-Strong, Descriptive
- Oral Language

Determining What's Important in Text:

Airplanes and the Flying Machines by First Discovery Books
Flight by Robert Burleigh
Magic Schoolbus Books by Joanna Cole
The Milk Makers by Gail Gibbons
Somewhere Today by Bert Kitchen
Spiders by Gail Gibbons
Water Dance by T. Locker
Water Voices by T. Speed

Drawing Inferences:

A Bag Full of Pups by Dick Gackenbach
A Fairy Went A-Marketing by Rose Fyleman
Abby by Jeannette Franklin Caines
Alexander Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst
Anna Banana and Me Erick Lenore Blegvad
Basket Moon by Mary Lyn Ray
Big Al by Andrew Clements
Boy Who Didn't Believe in Spring by Lucille Clifton
Bull Run by Paul Fleschman
Charlie Anderson by Barbara Abercrombie
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Dandelion by Eve Bunting
Dateline: Troy by Paul Fleischman
Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School by Mark Teque
Dreamcatcher by Audrey Osofsky
Duckat by Gaelyn Gordon
Encounter by Jane Yolen
Fables by Arnold Lobel
George and Martha (series) by James Marshall
Encounter by Jane Yolen
Fables Arnold Lobel
Fairy Went-A-Marketing by Rose Fyleman
Frank and Ernest by Alexandra Day
Frank and Ernest on the Road by Alexandra Day
Frank and Ernest Play Ball by Alexandra Day
Garden of Abdul Gasazi by Chris Van Allsburg
George and Martha by George Marshall
George and Martha Encore by George Marshall
George and Martha Rise and Shine by George Marshall
Harry and the Terrible Whatzit by Dick Gackenbach
Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox
The Hedgehog for Breakfast by Ann Tuner
Hot Air Henry by Mary Calhoun

How Many Days to America by Eve Bunting
I Wish I Had a Pirate Suit by Pamela
In a Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming
The Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau by Jon Agee
Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs
Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg
Loop the Loop by Barbara Dugan
Lunch by Denise Fleming
May I Bring a Friend? by Beatrice Schenk deRegniers
Miss Rumpirts by Barbara Cooney
The Mystery of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg
No Moon, No Milk! by Chris Baccock
No Peas for Nellie by Chris L. Demarest
The Noisy Book by Margaret Wise Brown
Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells
Once Upon Macdonald's Farm by Stephen Gammell
Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson
Owen by Kevin Henkes
Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
The Rag Coat by Lauren Mills
Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
Riverbend by Chris Van Allsburg
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti
See the Ocean by Estelle Condra
Seven Blind Mice by Ed Young
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Spinky Sulks by William Steig
The Story of Jumping Mouse by John Stepto
Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
Sweetest Fig by Chris Van Allsburg
Swimmy by Leo Lionni
The Table Where Rich People Sit by Byrd Baylor
Teammates by Peter Golenbock
Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
The Third Story Cat by Leslie Baker
This is the Key to the Kingdom by Diane Worfolk Allison
Tight Times by Barbara Shook Hazen
Time for Bed by Mem Fox
The Wreck of the Zephyr by Chris Van Allsburg
Wretched Stone by Chris Van Allsburg
June 29, 1999 by David Wiesner

Beginning-Middle-End:

Duffy and the Devil by H. Zemach & M. Zemach
Fireflies! by Julie Brinckloe
Hey, Al by Arthur Yorinks
Island of the Skog by Steven Kellogg
Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg
Little Red Riding Hood by T. S. Hyman
Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag
Pied Piper of Hamelin by Mercer Mayer/Robert Holden
Rapunzel by B. Rogasky/Zelinsky/Paul Grimm/Jacob
Sixteen Short Stories by Outstanding Writers for Young Adults
Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrice Potter
Treasure by U. Schulevitz
Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Monitoring Comprehension:

Alexander Who Used To Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst
Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin
The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Parry Keide
Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams
Grandfather Twilight by Barbara Berger
The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland
Magic Schoolbus Books by Joanna Cole
Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Bill Martin
The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
The Trip by Ezra Jack Keats

Models for Writing: includes comparison and contrast, letter writing, diaries or journals, story starters, patterns to build successful writing experiences expository writing, biographies

Dear Children of the Earth: A Letter from Home by Schim Schimmel
Fortunately by Remy Charlip
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
Nightgown of the Sullen Moon by Nancy Willard
Sleeping Ugly by Jane Yolen
The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo
The Jolly Postman or Other People's Letters by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
The Korean Cinderella by Shirley Climo
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
A Weave of Words by Robert San Souci (knowing how to read and write)
Winter Barn by Peter Parnall
You Have to Write by Janet S. Wong (kids who don't think they have good ideas)

Making Connections:

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
All the Places to Love by Patrician MacLachlan
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Amos and Boris by William Steig
Geraldine's Little Brother by Holly Keller
Going Home by Eve Bunting
Hey World, Here I Am by Jean Little
The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco
The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland
Mirette on the High Wire by Emily Arnold McCully
My Great-Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston
My Rotten Red-Headed Older Brother by Patricia Polacco
Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs by Tomi de Paola
No Moon, No Milk! by Chris Baccock
Noisy Nora by Rosemary Wells
One Afternoon by Yumi Heo
Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume
Rosie and Michael by Judith Viorst
Snippets by Charlotte Zolotow
Sol a Sol by Lori Mari Carlson
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
The Tenth Good thing About Barney by Judith Viorst
Three Brave Women by C. L. G. Martin
Up North at the Cabin by Marsha Chall
The Wednesday's Surprise by Even Bunting
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
William's Doll by Charlotte Zolotow

Phonemic Awareness Books:

Clickety Clack by Rob Spence
Cloud Cuckoo Land by Bernard Lodge
From Anne to Zach by Mary Jane Martin

Retelling/Summarizing:

Cordelia, Dance! by Sarah Stapler (good for both)
Help! big book (good for retelling)
McBungle's Jungle Adventure big book (good for retelling)
Royal Dinner big book (great for sequencing)
This Is No Place For Me (good for retelling)

Predicting:

Bad Day at Riverbend by Chris van Allsburg
Bea and Mr. Jones by Amy Schwartz
Cat Heaven by Cynthia Rylant (use pictures)
Cinnamon's Day Out by Susan L Roth (subtitle: A Gerbil Adventure)
Coyote Cry by Byrd Baylor
Day Gogo Went to Vote by Elinor Batezat Sisulu
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw (very simple)
Just a Dream by Chris van Allsburg
Mouse's Birthday by Jane Yolen
Snow by Uri Schulevitz with text and illustrations
Suddenly by Colin McNaughton (great for K/1st to introduce predicting)
Tiger Called Thomas by Charlotte Zolotow (use title)
Tuesday by David Wiesner (last pg: what will happen when the pigs fly?)
Wretched Stone by Chris van Allsburg

Questioning: allows readers to ask ?'s before, during & after reading

A Day's Work by Eve Bunting
Big Al by Andrew Clements
Charlie Anderson by Barbara Abercrombie
The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence P. Heide and J. D. Gilliland
Dr. DeSoto by William Steig
Elizabeth by Claire Nivola
Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams
How Come? By Kathy Wollard
How Many Days to America by Eve Bunting
Hurricane by David Wiesner
The Librarian Who Measured the Earth by Kathryn Lasky
Little Mouse's Painting by Diane Wolkstein
May I Bring a Friend? by Beatrice Schenk deRegniers
Newf by Marie Killiea
Night Noises by Mem Fox
Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
The Potato Man by Megan McDonald
Solomon and the Rusty Nail by William Steig
Storm Boy by Paul Owen Lewis
The Story of Jumping Mouse by John Steptoe
The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
The Van Gogh Café by Cynthia Rylant
The Wall by Eve Bunting
The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting
Why is the Sky Blue by Sally Grindley

Schema/Background Knowledge:

A Beach Day by Douglas Florian
A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams
A Country Far Away by Nigel Gray
A River Dream by Allen Say
All the Secrets of the World by Jane Yolen
Anna Banana and Me by Erik Lenore Belgvad
Bear and Mrs. Duck by Elizabeth Winthrop
Before I was Born by Harret Ziefert
Best Town in the World by Byrd Baylor
Country Road by Daniel San Souci
Dawn by Uri Schulevitz
Dinner at Aunt Connie's House by Faith Ringgold
Emma Bean by Jean Van Leeuwen
Fireflies by Julie Brinkloe
Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams
The Good-bye Book by Judith Viorst
The House on the Hill by Christin Couture
Hurricane by David Wiesner
I Am Eyes by Leila Ward
I Know a Lady by Charlotte Zolotow
I Like to Be Little by Charlotte Zolotow
I Love You as Much by Laura Krauss Melmed
In the Middle of the Night by Kathy Hederson
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Wader
Island Boy by Barbara Cooney
It's a Good Thing There are Insects by Rookie Reader
Jafta's Father by Hugh Lewin
Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus
My Great Aunt Arizona by Gloria Jouston
Our Granny by Margaret Wild
Owen by Kevin Henkes
The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume

Dialogue:

Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco
Coyote Cry by Byrd Baylor
Going Home by Eve Bunting
I Like To Be Little by Charlotte Zolotow

Visualizing:

A Lucky Thing by Alice Schertly
Abuela by Arthur Dorros
All the Small Poems by Valerie Worth
Appalachia by Cynthia Rylant
At the Edge of the Forest by Jonathan London
Baby Whale's Journey by Jonathan London
Barn Dance by Bill Martin and John Archambault
Big Pets by Lane Smith
Cabin Key by Gloria Rand
Cat Heaven by Cynthia Rylant
Condor's Egg by Jonathan London
Could Be Worse! by James Stevenson
Country Road by Daniel San Souci
Coyote Cry by Byrd Baylor
Dancing the Breeze by George Shannon (written as poem)
Dawn by Uri Schulevitz
Dream Weaver by Jonathan London
Festival in My Heart: Poems by Japanese Children Bruno Navasky
Fireflies! by Julie Brinkloe
The Ghost-Eye Tree by Bill Martin and John Archambault
Glasses Who Needs 'Em? by Lane Smith
Good Dog Carl (series) by Alexandra Day
House on Mango Street-"Hairs" by Sandra Cisneros
Hurricane by Jonathan London
If You Listen by Charlotte Zolotow
Into This Night We Are Rising by Jonathan London
I'm in Charge of Celebrations by Byrd Baylor
Like Butter on Pancakes by Jonathan London
Little Frog's Song (uses five senses)
Lucky Thing by Alice Schertle
Meteor! by Patricia Polacco
Mouse's Birthday by Jane Yolen
Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant
Nocturne by Jane Yolen
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Painted Words/Spoken Memories: Marianthe's Story by Alik
Puddles by Jonathan London
Sailboat Lost by Leonard Everett Fisher
The Sailor Dog by Margaret Wise Brown
Scarecrow by Cynthia Rylant
The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow
Shadow Ball:History of Negro Leagues by G.Ward,K..Burns, J.'OConnor
Toad by Ruth Brown

Train Song by Diane Siebert
Twilight Comes Twice by Ralph Fletcher
Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg (uses five senses)
Whale's Song by Dyan Sheldon
When I Was Young In the Mountains by C. Rylant (uses five senses)
Wise Woman and Her Secret by Eve Merriam

Metacognition:

The Animal by Lorna Balian
And Still the Turtle Watched by Sheila MacGill-Callahan
Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki
The Birthday Thing by SuAnn and Kevn Kiser
Charlie Anderson by Barbara Ambercrombie
The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Parry Heide
Diana, Maybe by Crescent Dragonwagon
Elijah's Angel by Michael J. Rosen
Encounter by Jane Yolen
Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say
Home Place by Crescent Dragonwagon
The Hiner and His Dog by Brian Wildsmith
Hurricane by David Wiesner
Just Like Max by Ken Ackerman
My Grandmother's Journey by John Cech
My Great Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston
Newf by Marie Killilea
Prince William by Gloria Rand
Regina's Big Mistake by Marissa Moss
Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti
Sachiko Means Happiness by Kimiko Sakai
Secrets of a Small Brother by Richard Mrgolis
Somewhere Today by Bert Kitchen
Tales of a Gambling Grandma by Dayal K. Khalsa
Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

Synthesis:

A Rainbow of My Own by Don Freeman
Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett
Araminta's Paintbox by Karen Ackerman
Basket Moon by Mary Lyn Ray
The Broody Hen by Olivier Dunrea
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
Charles T. McBiddle by Andrew Glass
Charlie Needs a Cloak by Tomie DePaola
The Dead Bird by Margaret Wise Brown
Don't Tell the Whole World by Joanna Cole
For Every Child, a Better World by Louise Gikow
Freedom School, Yes! by Littlesugar & Cooper
Freedom Summer by D. Wiles
Goodbye House by Frank Asch
Jim and the Beanstalk by Raymond Briggs
Learning About Unicorns by Laura Alden
Leo the Late Bloomer by Robert Kraus
Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni
The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland
May the Magnificent by Dick Gackenbach
The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale
Magic Schoolbus Books by Joanna Cole
The Maybe Gardens by Kimberly Burke-Weiner
The Mitten by Jan Brett
My Mom Travels a Lot by Caroline Feller Bauer
Nadia the Willful by Sue Alexander
No Moon, No Milk! by Chris Babcock
Other Side by J. Woodson
Peter's Chair by Ezra Jack Keats
The Quicksand Book by Tomie DePaola
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
Regards to the Man in the Moon by Ezra Jack Keats
Sleeping Ugly by Jane Yolen
The Story of Jumping Mouse by John Steptoe
Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
The Terrible Thing That Happened at our House by Marge Blaine
The Trouble with Trolls by Jan Brett
Under the Quilt of Night by Hopkinson & Ransome
The Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting
When the Sun Rose by Barbara Berger
Wild, Wild Sunflower Child Anna by Nancy White Carlstrom
World Famous Muriel and the Magic Mystery by Sue Alexander

Point of View:

Bea and Mr. Jones by Amy Schwartz
Ben's Dream by Chris Van Allsburg
Bull Run by Paul Fleischman
Catching the Wind by Joanne Ryder
Cinderella's Rat by Susan Meddaugh
Cow by Malachy Doyle
Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School by Mark Teque
Emily by Michael Bedard (story of Emily Dickinson)
Jaguar in the Rain Forest by Joanne Ryder
More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby (story of B. T. Washington)
Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume
Picnic by Ruth Brown (story told from animals' point of view)
Playing Right Field by Willy Welch
Shoebag by Mary James
Somebody and the Three Blairs by Tolhurst (people are victims)
True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg
Voices in the Park by Anthony Brown

Books About Words:

Book of Puzzlements: Play & Invention with Language by Herbert Kohl
Cache of Jewels (And Other Collective Nouns) by Ruth Heller
Donavan's Word Jar by Monalisa DeGross
First Thesaurus by Harriet Wittels & Joan Greisman
Get Thee to a Punnery by Richard Lederer
King Who Rained by Fred Gwynne
Kites Sail High (A Book About Verbs) by Ruth Heller
Little Pigeon Toad by Fred Gwynne
Many Luscious Lolly-pops (A Book About Adjectives) by Ruth Heller
Merry Go Round (A Book About Nouns) by Ruth Heller
Miracle of Language by Richard Lederer
Miss Alaineus by Debra Frasier
Morris Dictionary of Words and Phrase Origins by William & Mary Morris
Mrs. Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words by Josefa H. Byrne
Play of Words: Fun & Games for Language Lovers by Richard Lederer
Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary
Words by Paul Dickson
Wordstruck by Robert McNeil

Setting-Distinct Sense of Place:

All I See by Cynthia Rylant
Appalachia by Cynthia Rylant
Arctic Memories by Normee Ekoomiak
Auction by Jan Andrews
Basket Moon by Mary Lyn Ray
Beach Before Breakfast by Maxine W. Kumin
Best Town in the World by Byrd Baylor
Box Turtle at Long Pond by William T. George
Chalk Doll by Charlotte Pomerantz
Contender by Robert Lipsyte
Dakota Dugout by Ann Turner
Desert Is Theirs by Byrd Baylor
Fathers Playing Catch with Sons by Donald Hall
Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L.Konigsburg
Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
I Am the Ocean by Suzanna Marshak
In Coal Country by Judith Hendershot
In the Attic by Hiawyn Oram
Inside Turtle's Shell by Joanne Ryder
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
My Little Island by Frane Lessac
Night in the Country by Cynthia Rylant
Night Ride by Bernie & Mati Karlin
No Star Nights by Anna Egan Smucker
On Call Back Mountain by Eve Bunting
Once There Was a Tree by N. Romanova
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Prarie Songs by Pam Conrad
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
Sierra by Diane Siebert
Snow White in New York by Fiona French
Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe by Vera B. Williams
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Tunnel by Anthony Browne
Up North at the Cabin by Marsha Wilson Chall
Up North in Winter by Deborah Hartley
Very Last First Time by Jan Andrews
What Jamie Saw by Carolyn Coman
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant

Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker
Where the River Begins by Thomas Locker
Woodpile by Peter Parnall
Working Cotton by Sherley Anne Williams
Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree by Gloria Houston
Yonder by Tony Johnston
Your Own Secret Place by Byrd Baylor

Seesaw Books:

Blue and the Gray by Eve Bunting
I Like To Be Little by Charlotte Zolotow little versus grown up
My Moms Travels A Lot by Caroline Feller Bauer
Tiger Called Thomas by Charlotte Zolotow

Imagery:

Back Home by Gloria Jean Pinkney
Bingleman's Midway by Karen Ackerman
Borning Room by Paul Fleischman
Brave Irene by William Steig
Cat Heaven by Cynthia Rylant
Could Be Worse! by James Stevenson
Guess Who My Favorite Person Is? by Byrd Baylor
If You Listen by Charlotte Zolotow
Little Frog's Song by Alice Schertle (uses five senses)
Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby
Night In the Country by Cynthia Rylant
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida by Victor Martinez
Rain Came Down by David Shannon
Seashore Book by Cynthia Rylant
Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman
Train Song by Diane Siebert
Twilight Comes Twice by Ralph Fletcher
Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg (uses five senses)
Whale's Song by Dyan Sheldon
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant (five senses)
Winter Walk by Lynne Barasch
Working Cotton by Sherley Anne Williams
June 29, 1999 by David Wiesner

Tension/Conflict:

Amos and Boris by William Steig (Nature versus Person)
Annie and the Old One by Miska Miles (Inner Conflict)
Beast and the Halloween Horror by Patricia Reilly Giff (Inner Conflict)
Big Orange Splot by Daniel Pinkwater (Person versus Person)
Brave Irene by William Steig (Nature versus Person)
Call of the Wild by Jack London (Person versus Person)
Candy Corn Contest by Patricia Reilly Giff (Inner Conflict)
Castle in the Attic by E. Winthrop (Inner Conflict)
Collected Jack London by Steven J. Kasdin, editor (Nature vs. Person)
Crowboy by Taro Yashima (Person versus Person)
Dogsong by Gary Paulsen Nature versus Person
Everett Anderson's Nine Month Long by Lucille Clifton (Inner Conflict)
Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya (Inner Conflict)
Fang by Caroline Feller Bauer (Inner Conflict)
Flying Solo by Ralph Fletcher (Internal Conflict)
Gila Monsters Meet You at the Airport by M. Sharmat (Inner Conflict)
Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry (Nature versus Person)
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (Nature versus Person)
Hiroshima, No Pika by Toshi Maruki (Person versus Person)
I Want Mama by Marjorie Sharmat (Inner Conflict, for young children)
Ira Says Goodbye by Bernard Waber (Inner Conflict)
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber (Inner Conflict)
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell (Nature versus Person)
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George (Nature versus Person)
Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg (Nature versus Person)
Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane (Person versus Person)
Lizard's Song by George Shannon (Person versus Person)
Miss Maggie by Cynthia Rylant (Inner Conflict)
Most Dangerous Game by Richard Connell (Person versus Person)
My Mom Travels a Lot by Caroline Feller Bauer (Inner Conflict)
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George (Nature vs. Person)
Naya Nuki - Girl Who Ran by K. Thomsma (Person versus Person)
Nettie's Trip South by Ann Turner (Inner Conflict)
Never Cry Wolf by Farley Mowat (Nature versus Person)
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry (Person versus Person)
Old Henry by Joan W. Blos (Person versus Person)
One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox (Inner Conflict)
Other Side of the Mountain by Jean C. George (Nature vs. Person)
Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone (conflict over the boy's job)
Piggybook by Anthony Browne (Person versus Person)
Prairie Songs by Pam Conrad (Nature versus Person)
Solitary Blue by Cynthia Voigt (Inner Conflict)
Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars (Person versus Person)

Tiger called Thomas by Charlotte Zolotow (Inner Conflict)
War with Grandpa by Robert Kimmel Smith (Person versus Person)
We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen (Nature versus Person)
Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker (Nature vs. Person)
Window by Jeannie Baker Nature versus Person
Woman Who Flummoxed the Fairies by H. Forrest (Person vs. Person)
Woodsong by Gary Paulsen (Nature versus Person)

Voice: for younger readers

Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
Early Morning in the Barn by Nancy Tafuri
Egg to Chick by Millicent E. Selsam
Farm Alphabet by Jane Miller
House Is A House For Me by Mary Ann Hoberman
In My Garden by Ermanno Cristini & Luigi Puricelli
In the Woods by Ermanno Cristini & Luigi Puricelli
My Five Senses by Aiki
Snake Is Totally Tail by Judi Barrett
Spider In Its Web by Ermanno Cristini & Luigi Puricelli
Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Voice: for upper grades

All I Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum especially pages 13-16
Aniranni and Mollymishi by C. Drew Lamm
Autumn Street by Lois Lowry
Black Elk Speaks
Boy by Roald Dahl
But I'll Be Back Again by Cynthia Rylant
The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger
Coyote Cry by Byrd Baylor
Danny, Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
Dream Keeper... Other Poems by Langston Hughes(esp. Mother to Sun)
Duke Ellington by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Education of Little Tree by Forrest Carter
Enchanted Hair Tale by Alexis De Veaux
Everybody Needs A Rock by Byrd Baylor
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
Friend by John Burningham
Gila Monsters Meet You at the Airport by Marjorie Sharmat
Goodbye Geese by Nancy Carlstrom
Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield (poetry)
I Am the Ocean by Suzanna Marshak

I'll Fix Anthony by Judith Viorst
Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco
Knots on a Counting Rope by Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archambault
Little Little by M. E. Kerr
Love Medicine by Louise Edrich
My Special Best Words by John Steptoe
Night by Elie Wiesel
Old Dog by Charlotte Zolotow
On the Day You Were Born by Debra Frasier
Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume
Peppe the Lamplighter by Elisa Bartone
Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
So Much to Tell You by John Marsden
Soda Jerk by Cynthia Rylant (poetry)
Someday by Charlotte Zolotow
Stevie by John Steptoe
Taste of Blackberries by Doris B. Smith
That Was Then, This Is Now by S. E. Hinton
Tight Times by Barbara Shook Hazen
True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant
White Dynamite and the Curly Kid by Bill Martin, Jr. & John Archambault

Poetry:

All That Sunlight by Charlotte Zolotow
All the Small Poems by Valerie Worth
The Bookworm's Feast: A Potluck of Poems by J. Patrick Lewis
Creatures of the Earth, Sea, and Sky by Georgia Heard
Festival in My Heart: Poems by Japanese Children edited by B. Navesky
Hailstones and Halibut Bones: Adventures in Color by Mary O'Neill
I Found Them in the Yellow Pages by Norma Farber
In a Spring Garden by Richard Lewis
In Cricket Songs by Harry Behn
Near the Window Tree: Poems and Notes by Karla Kushin
Never Take a Pig to Lunch & Other Poems... by Nadine B. Westcott
Something Permanent by Cynthia Rylant

Leads-Strong:

All the Places to Love by Patricia MacLachlan
Babushka Baba-Yagaby Patricia Polacco
Bat Poet by Randall Jarrell
Bea and Mr. Jones by Amy Schwartz
Beasty Story by Bill Martin, Jr. (scary)
Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco (starts with dialogue)
Bigmama's by Donald Crews (someone asking a question)
But I'll Be Back Again by Cynthia Rylant
Cabin Key by Gloria Rand
Charlie Anderson by Barbara Abercrombie (characters and setting)
Cinder-Elly by Frances Minters (fractured fairy tale)
Coyote Cry by Byrd Baylor
Cross-Country Cat by Mary Calhoun (makes you want to read it)
Fireflies! by Julie Brinckloe
Frog Prince, Continued by Jon Scieszka
Ghosts Hour, Spooks Hour by Eve Bunting
Going Home by Eve Bunting (someone talking)
Granpa by John Burningham
How Many Days to America by Eve Bunting
I Can Hear the Sun by Patricia Polacco
I Know A Lady by Charlotte Zolotow
I Know an Old Lady by G. Brian Karas (funny)
I Like To Be Little by Charlotte Zolotow
Imogene's Antlers by David Small (catches the reader's attention)
Iron Man by Ted Hughes
It Was a Dark and Stormy Night by Janet Ahlberg
James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Just a Dream by Chris van Allsburg
Liliana's Grandmothers by Leyla Torres
Louis the Fish by Arthur Yorinks
Math Curse by Jon Scieszka
Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
Meteor! by Patricia Polacco
Million Fish... More or Less by Patricia C. McKissack (picture the story)
Monster Mama by Liz Rosenberg
Mr. Grigg's Work by Cynthia Rylant
The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan ("The dogs loved her first.")
Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow
Shreck! by William Steig
Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Shihab Nye
Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
Tar Beach by Faith Ringold

This Quiet Lady by Charlotte Zolotow
Thundercake by Patricia Polacco (setting/characters/desc.language)
Tiger Called Thomas by Charlotte Zolotow
To Market, To Market by Anne Miranda (introduces rhyme)
Tree of Birds by Susan Meddaugh (helps you predict)
Tree of Cranes by Allen Say
Tuesday by David Wiesner
We Are Best Friends by Aliki (reminds you of something personal)
Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting ("I like surprises.")
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
Willy the Wimp by Anthony Browne
Wilma Unlimited by Kathleen Krull
June 29, 1999 by David Wiesner

Endings-Strong:

8 Plus 1 Stories by Robert Cormier (poignant ending)
Bad Day at Riverbend by Chris van Allsburg (surprise ending)
Bea and Mr. Jones by Amy Schwartz (surprise ending)
Beach Feet by Lynn Reiser
Best Friends by Lee Bennet Hopkins, editor
"Poem" by Langston Hughes
Big Book for Peace by Ann Durrell
Bob and Shirley by Harriet Ziefert (circular ending)
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson (poignant ending)
Children We Remember by Chana Byers Abells ending, holocaust)
Dear Daddy by Phillippe Dupasquier (poignant ending)
Earthlets by Jeanne Willis (surprise ending)
Every Living Thing by Cynthia Rylant (ending, "Slower than the Rest")
Faithful Elephants by Yukio Tsuchiya (poignant ending)
Father Like That by Charlotte Zolotow (poignant ending)
Fig Pudding by Ralph Fletcher
Flossie and the Fox by Patricia C. McKissack (surprise ending)
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes (circular ending)
Frog Prince, Continued by Jon Scieszka (surprise ending)
Gift of the Magi by O. Henry (short stories with surprise endings)
Going Home by Eve Bunting (very visual words)
Gorilla by Anthony Browne (poignant ending)
Grandfather Twilight by Barbara Berger (circular ending)
Granpa by John Burningham (ambiguous ending)
Hare's Choice by Dennis Hamley (poignant ending)
Hobbit by J. R. Tolkien (circular ending)
I Know a Lady by Charlotte Zolotow
I Like to be Little by Charlotte Zolotow
If You Give a Moose a Muffin by Laura J. Numeroff (circular ending)

In the Attic by Hiawyn Oram (surprise ending)
Journey by Patricia MacLachlan (circular ending)
Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch (surprise ending for young children)
Just Like Everyone Else by Karla Kuskin (surprise ending)
Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco (poignant ending)
Louis the Fish by Arthur Yorinks (circular ending)
Monster Mama by Liz Rosenberg
Mouse's Birthday by Jane Yolen
On My Honor by M. D. Bauer (poignant ending)
Paperboy by Dav Pilkey
Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant (circular ending)
Ring and the Window Seat by Amy Hest (poignant ending)
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coer (ending)
Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow
Stinky Cheese Man by Jon Scieszka
Super Dooper Jezebel by Tony Ross (surprise ending)
Throwing Shadows by E. L. Konigsburg (poignant ending, short stories)
Two Bad Ants by Chris Van Allsburg (circular ending)
Two of Them by Aliki (poignant ending)
Very Last First Time by Jan Andrews (circular ending)
Wednesday Surprise by Eve Bunting (surprise ending)
Where the Forest Meets the Sea by Jeannie Baker (ambiguous ending)
Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox (poignant ending)
William's Doll by Charlotte Zolotow (poignant ending)
Winter Place by Ruth Yaffe Radin (circular ending)
Worn Path by Eudora Welty (short story with ambiguous ending)
Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (circular ending)
Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree by Gloria Houston (poignant ending)

Characters-Strong, Descriptive

8 Plus 1 Stories by Robert Cormier (especially "The Mustache")
A Tiger Called Thomas by Charlotte Zolotow (character's inner life)
Amos and Boris by William Steig
An Enchanted Hair Tale by Alexis De Veaux
Anywhere But Here by Mona Simpson
Autumn Street by Lois Lowry
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Bunnica by Deborah & James Howe
Call of the Wild by Jack London
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Christmas Memory by Truman Capote
Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns
Cordelia, Dance! by Sarah Stapler

Crow Boy by Taro Yashima
Diana, Maybe by Crescent Dragonwagon
Dacey's Song by Cynthia Voigt
Emily by Michael Bedard story of Emily Dickinson
Fig Pudding by Ralph Fletcher
Ghost Eye by Marion Dane Bauer
Go Ask Alice by anonymous
Goodnight, Mr. Tom by Michelle Margorian
Granpa by John Burningham
Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson
Great Notion by Ken Kesey
Hey World Here I Am by Jean Little
Hey, Al by Arthur Yorinks
Home Before Dark by Sue Ellen Bridgers
Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt
How Does It Feel to Be Old? By Norma Farber
I Know a Lady by Charlotte Zolotow
Ironweed by William Kennedy
Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Louis the Fish by Arthur Yorinks
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Matilda by Roald Dahl
Member of the Wedding by Carson McCullers
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen
More Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby(story of B.T. Washington)
Mr. Bridge by Evan S. Connell
Mr. Grigg's Work by Cynthia Rylant
Mrs. Bridge by Evan S. Connell
My Mother's House, My Father's House by C. B. Christiansen
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
Ramona Books by Beverly Cleary
Rosalie by Joan Hewett

for older readers – middle/high schools have these books

Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
Super Dooper Jezebel by Tony Ross
Tales of a Gambling Grandma by Dayal Kaur Khalsa
Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold character's inner life
The Barn by Avi good descriptions of characters
The Song and Dance Man by Karen Ackerman

The Two of Them by Aliki
Through Grandpa's Eyes by Patricia MacLachlan
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
What Jamie Saw by Carolyn Coman
White Fang by Jack London
William's Doll by Charlotte Zolotow
Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris

Oral Language: (modeling, drama, musical, reader's theater, wordless)

A Boy, A Dog, and a Frog by Mercer Mayer
All the Small Poems by Valerie Worth (poetry)
The Alphabet in Nature by Judy Feldman
All Those Secrets of the World by Jane Yolen
American Childhood by Annie Dillard
Amos and Boris by William Steig
Aniranni and Mollymishi by C. Drew Lamm
Any Kind of Dog by Lynn Reiser
Beloved by Toni Morrison
BFG by Roald Dahl
Big Pets by Lane Smith (strong verbs and adjectives)
Bingleman's Midway by Karen Ackerman descriptive words
Book of Laughter and Forgetting by Milan Kundera
Borning Room by Paul Fleischman
Brave Irene by William Steig
Butterfly by Patricia Polacco
Ceremony by Leslie M. Silko
Chicken Sunday by Patricia Polacco
Could Be Worse! by James Stevenson (adjectives - descriptive words)
Death in the Family by James Agee
Do You Want to be My Friend? by Eric Carle
Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins (repeating lines)
Everybody Needs A Rock by Byrd Baylor (adjectives)
Farmer Brown Goes Round and Round by Terri Sloat (strong words)
Fireflies by Julie Brinckloe
From Mother To Son by Langston Hughes (poem in Dream Keeper)
Gifts by JoEllen Bogart
The Ghost-Eye Tree by Bill Martin, Jr.
Goodbye Geese by Nancy White Carlstrom
Grandpa Loved by Josephine Nobisso
Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry
Guess Who My Favorite Person Is by Byrd Baylor
Henny Penny by H. Werner Zimmerman
Hey World Here I Am by Jean Little ("Clothes" and "Oranges")

Hist Wist by e. e. cummings (poetry)
Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield (poetry)
House Is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman
Housekeeping by Mariylnne Robinson
I Am the Ocean by Suzanna Marshak
I Heard the Owl Call My Name by Margaret Craven
I'm in Charge of Celebrations by Byrd Baylor
If You Listen by Charlotte Zolotow (descriptive)
Ironweed by William Kennedy
Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll (poetry)
Jewels by Belinda Rochelle
John Henry by Julius Lester
Joyful Noise, Poems for Two Voices by Paul Fleischman (poetry)
Listen to the Rain by Bill Martin, Jr.
Little Frog's Song by Alice Schertle (strong words)
Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich
Many Winters by Nancy Wood (poetry)
Mohave by Diane Siebert
Money by Martin Amis
Monster Mama by Liz Rosenberg (lots of descriptive words)
More More More Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams
More Than Anything Else by Marie Bradby (descriptive words)
Mother Goose's Words of Wit and Wisdom by Ted Arnold
Mouse's Birthday by Jane Yolen (repetition)
Mrs. Katz and Tush by Patricia Polacco
My Special Best Words by John Steptoe
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg
Old Dog by Charlotte Zolotow (descriptive words)
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen
Place My Words Are Looking For by Paul B. Janeczko (poetry)
Pocket Poems Paul B. Janeczko, (poetry)
Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg (good verbs and adjectives)
Potluck by Anne Shelby (alliteration)
Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood (similes; pgs. compare emotion of personal characteristic with an animal)
Rondo in C by Paul Fleishman (poetry)
Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow (similes, strong verbs)
Secrets of a Small Brother by Richard Margolis (poetry)
Shapes in Nature by Judy Feldman
Shrek! by William Steig
Sierra by Diane Siebert
Soda Jerk by Cynthia Rylant (poetry)
Stina by Lena Anderson
Taking the Ferry Home by Pam Conrad

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
This Quiet Lady by Charlotte Zolotow (repetition)
The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Tim Arnold
Time For Bed by Mem Fox (repetition, breaks pattern at end, rhymes)
Toad by Ruth Brown (strong verbs)
Train Song by Diane Siebert
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
Twilight Comes Twice by Ralph Fletcher (strong verbs)
Twinkle, Twinkle: An Animal Lover's Mother Goose by Bobbi Fabian
Very Last First Time by Jan Andrews
Whale's Song by Dyan Sheldon (uses comparisons)
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant (rep., verbs)
When Light Turns Into Dark by Crescent Dragonwagon
When You Were Born by Debra Frasier
Woman Hollering Creek by Sandra Cisneros
Woodpile by Peter Parnall
Would They Love a Lion? by Kady MacDonald Denton
The Z Was Zapped by Chris Van Allsburg
June 29, 1999 by David Wiesner (alliteration)