DAVID’S BOOKLIST

by

Kemie Nix

This is a very idiosyncratic booklist for my grandson, David Weldon Nix, with occasional comments. It is more extensive than it looks, because almost all of the books by the listed authors are appropriate. Due to my advanced age, however, some of these books are probably out of print. Starred books are the ones I consider “Must Reads.” They are also good “Read Alouds.” The age suggestions are extremely porous.

ALL AGES

\*Ashley Bryan books

*(Ashley is a dear friend of us all, traveled with us several times to Africa, twice with your mother and once with your father, spoke at your parents’ wedding, wrote the foreword to my book, A Book Teacher for Every School.)*

\*D’Aulaires Book of Greek Myths, Norse Gods and Giants

Spin a Soft Black Song by Nikki Giovanni

Honey I Love by Eloise Greenfield

Hans Christian Andersen: The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories by Erik Christian Haugaard

Poems to Learn by Heart by Caroline Kennedy

\*Psalm Twenty-Three illustrated by Tim Ladwig

The Lord’s Prayer illustrated by Tim Ladwig

The Red Fairy Book by Andrew Lang (also Blue, etc.)

\* The New Way Things Work by David MaCauley

The McElderry \*Book of Aesop’s Fables, Book of Grimm’s Fairy Tales, Book of Greek Myths

Jack Prelutsky books of poetry – especially The New Kid on the Block, For Laughing Out Loud

Random House Book of Poetry for Children by Jack Prelutsky and Arnold Lobel

\*Marian’s Big Book of Bible Stories by Marian Schoolland

Shel Silverstein books – especially \*Where the Sidewalk Ends

\*Room for a Little One by Martin Wardell

*(The large hardback version is* *my favorite* *Christmas Book)*

AGES: 0 – 2

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

Margaret Wise Brown books –especially \*Goodnight Moon, The Runaway Bunny

Eric Carle books - especially \*The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Kay Chorao books – especially The Baby’s Lap Book

Donald Crews books – especially Freight Train

The Bulldozer Books – especially Bulldozer Helps Out by Candace Fleming

Denise Fleming books – especially 5 Little Ducks

Charles Ghigna books – especially I See Fall

\*A Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

\*My Very First Mother Goose by Iona Opie, illustrated by Rosemary Wells

Mother Goose Treasury by Raymond Briggs

Marguerite de Angeli’s Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes

Tomie dePaola’s Mother Goose

\*The Little Engine That Could by Walter Pitty

Beatrice Potter books – especially \*Peter Rabbit

Chris Raschka books – especially \*A Ball for Daisy

Richard Scarry books – especially \*The Best Word Book Ever

I Love Tools by Philemon Sturges

Nancy Tafuri books – especially Have You Seen My Duckling?

\*Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems

More, More, More Said the Baby by Vera Williams

AGES: 2 – 6

\*The Fortune Tellers by Lloyd Alexander, also The King’s Fountain

*(Your father visited Lloyd and Janine in their* *home.)*

Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard

\*The Very Last First Time by Jan Andrews

The Ugly Duckling by H.C, Andersen, Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Shark vrs. Train by Chris Barton

Ludwig Bemelmans books – especially \*Madeline

Felicia Bond books – especially If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Ruby Bridges – Through My Eyes

Eve Bunting books – especially Fly Away Home

\*Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

Miriam Cohen Books – especially Will I Have A Friend?

Barbara Cooney books – especially Little Brother and Little Sister, Roxaboxen

Niki Daly books – especially Not So Fast Songololo

\*14 Cows for America by Carmen Deedy

Anna Dewdney books – especially Llama, Llama, Mad at Mama

Tomie DePaola books – especially Strega Nona

Leo and Diane Dillon books – especially Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and

Sons

\*The Snow Queen by Amy Ehrlich , illustrated by Susan Jaffries

Olivia by Ian Faconer

Mem Fox books – especially Koala Lou

Paul Galdone books –especially The Little Red Hen

Jack Gantos books – especially Rotten Ralph

Gail Gibbons books – especially Elephants of Africa, The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree

*(Your mother’s grandfather had an apple orchard.)*

Nikki Grimes books – especially When Daddy Prays

Kevin Henkes books – especially \* Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse, Wimberly Worried

Russell Hoban books – especially \*Bedtime for Frances

Shirley Hughes books – especially \*Alfie Gets In, Dogger

Trina Schart Hyman books – especially \*Little Red Riding Hood

*(Trina was a close friend of Lloyd Alexander’s and painted his portrait which now hangs in the children’s section of Brigham Young University’s library.)*

Rachael Isadora books – especially \*I Just Want to Say Goodnight

(*There is an inside joke for children who know* *Goodnight Moon well.)*

The Hello, Goodbye Window by Norton Juster

(*I served on* *the Caldecott Committee that chose this book.)*

Steven Kellogg books – especially Pinkerton Behave!

Karla Kuskin books – especially The Philharmonic Gets Dressed

\*Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

Hansel and Gretel by Rika Lesser, illustrated by Paul Zelinsky

Betsy Lewin books – especially Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type

Ted Lewin books – especially Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia

Arnold Lobel Books – especially \*Frog and Toad are Friends

Otters love to Play by Jonathan London

James Marshall books \_ especially The Three Little Pigs

*(I knew and loved James. He visited Westminster.)*

Bill Martin Jr. books – especially Knots on a Counting Rope

Patricia MacLachlan books – especially My moon, Your Moon

\*Make Way for Ducklings, Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

(*I heard McCloskey speak at Simmons – enjoyed him immensely as he was very larconic and just answered “Yes” or “No” to questions from Ethel Heins who* *was trying* *to draw him out.)*

\*Elsa Holmelund Minarik books – especially A Kiss for Little Bear

Bill Peet books – especially \*Big Bad Bruce

Jerry Pinkney Books – especially \*The Lion and the Mouse, Noah’s Ark

Patricia Polacco books – especially Thank You, Mr. Falker

H.A. Rey books – especially Curious George

Jon Scieszka books – especially The Stinky Cheese Man

\*Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Dr. Seuss books – especially \*The Cat in the Hat

Marc Simont books – especially \*The Stray Dog, \*A Tree is Nice

The Day That Gogo Went to Vote by Elinor Batezat Sisulu

Peter Spier books – especially Oh, Were They Ever Happy!

\*Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe

James Stevenson books – especially Could be Worse!

\*The Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day by

Judith Viorst

Rosemary Wells books – especially Max and Ruby, Read to Your Bunny, Hand in Hand, Timothy Goes to School, \*MacDuff Moves In

\*Can’t you Sleep, Little Bear by Martin Wardell

Mo Willems books – especially Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

Vera Williams books – especially A Chair for My Mother

*( I met Vera at IBBY Congress in South Africa.)*

Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China by Ed Young

AGES : 6 - 10

Katherine Applegate books – especially Pax

Preaching to the Chickens: the Story of Young John Lewis by Jabari Asim

Atinuke books – especially \*Anna Hibiscus

Avi books – especially Crispin: the Cross of Lead

\*The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Judy Blume books – especially Superfudge

Bodil Bredsdorff books – especially The Crow Girl

Ann Cameron books – especially \*The Stories Julian Tells

Matt Christopher books – especially Soccer Duel

Mandela: from the Life of the South African Statesman by Floyd Cooper

Beverly Cleary books – especially \*Ramona the Pest

Roald Dahl books – especially Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Edward Eager books – especially Half Magic

Louise Erdrich books – especially The Birchbark House

How Does it Feel to be Old? by Norma Farber

*(I heard her speak at Simmons and watched her illustrator, Trina Schart Hyman, listen to her with great respect. They both had on purple and were in my line of vision.)*

\*A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever by Maria Frazee

Paul Fleischman books – especially The Whipping Boy

Patricia Giff books – especially Until I Find Julian

Rosa by Nikki Giovanni

(*I was on the Caldecott Committee* *which chose this as an Honor Book*.)

Through the Mickle Woods by Valiska Gregory

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County by Janice Harrington

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill

Johanna Hurwitz books – especially The Rabbi’s Girls

Eva Ibbotson books – especially One Dog and His Boy

\*The Animal Family by Randall Jarrell

\*The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (*Read aloud after the seventh birthday.)*

\*Pippi Longstockings by Astrid Lindgren, also Ronia the Robber’s Daughter

\*The Princess and the Goblin by George MacDonald

(*Read aloud between 6 – 8. I like the unabridged version despite some archaic language.)*

Hilary McKay books – especially Indigo’s Star

Christmas in the Trenches by John McCutcheon, also Flowers for Sarajevo

Patricia McKissack books – especially Never Forgotten

Phyllis Naylor books – especially Shiloh

The Emperor’s Silent Army: Terra-cotta Warriors of Ancient China by Jane O’Conner

Barbara O’Conner books – especially How to Steal a Dog

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

Peggy Parish books – especially Amelia Bedelia

(*Peggy was a close friend who started me reviewing books by sending me to The Atlanta Journal/Constitution where I started reviewing children’s books in 1976. I have continued reviewing for other publications for the rest of my life – at least, so far.)*

Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Ramsey

(*Calvin is a friend, and he spoke at one of my schools.)*

Susan Roth books – especially Parrots Over Puerto Rico

Cynthia Rylant books – especially Henry and Mudge

Louis Sachar books – especially \*Sideways Stories from Wayside School

Brenda Seabrooke books – especially The Boy Who Saved the Town

When I Left My Village by Marine Ross Schut

Peter Sis books – especially Tibet through the Red Box

Cecilia and the Blue Mountain Boy by Ellen Showell

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey

Heidi by Johanna Spyri

William Steig books – especially Doctor DeSoto

The Heaven of Animals by Nancy Tillman

Gertrude Warner books – especially The Boxcar Children

Jane Yolen books – especially How Do Dinosaurs Say Good

Night?

Ages: 10 -up

Watership Down by Richard Adams

Kwame Alexander books – especially Booked

Lloyd Alexander books – especially \*The Prydain Chronicles *(Read aloud after the eighth birthday. Lloyd was a dear personal friend.)*

Natalie Babbitt books – especially Tuck Everlasting

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Susan Campbell Bartoletti books – especially Hitler Youth: Growing up in Hitler’s Shadow

Nina Bawden books – especially The Peppermint Pig

(*Nina was a close friend. She stayed with us for a week* *once.)*

The Honorable Prison by Lyll Becerra de Jenkins

(*Lyll was a good friend who stayed here from Columbia for a few days . The book features her journalist father who was imprisoned.)*

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

\*The Secret Garden by Franced Hodgson Burnett

The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Susan Cooper books – especially \*The Dark is Rising

Christopher Paul Curtis books – especially \*Bud, Not Buddy

*(I was on the Newbery Committee that chose this book as the winner. I invited him to go to Africa with Ashley, and he accepted.)*

Karen Cushman books – especially Will Sparrow’s Road

Kate DiCamillo books – especially Because of Winn Dixie

Peter Dickinson books – especially The Blue Hawk, Eva

Sharon Draper books – especially Out of My Mind

Nancy Farmer books – especially A Girl Named Disaster

The Great Brain books by John Fitzgerald

Enchantress from the Stars by Sylvia Engdahl

Eleanor Estes – especially \*Rufus M.

Russell Freedman books - especially Lincoln: a Photobiography

Leon Garfield books – especially \*Shakespeare Stories,

The God Beneath the Sea

(*I met Leon Garfield at Nina Bawden’s London house* *when she invited us both to dinner.)*

Jean George books – especially \*My Side of the Mountain, Julie of the Wolves

Roger Lancelyn Green books - especially Myths of the Norsemen

Ursula Le Guin books – especially \*The Wizard of Earthsea

Virginia Hamilton books – especially The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales

\*The Endless Steppe by Esther Hautzig

(*Esther was a cherished friend. She was on the board of Children’s Literature for Children until her death. I once got to give her wonderful father a kiss.)*

The Honorable Prison by Lyll Becerra de Jenkins

*(Lyll was a good friend who stayed here from Columbia for a few days*.)

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Watt Key books – especially Hideout

Madeline L’Engle books – especially \*A Wrinkle in Time

Ellen Levine books – especially Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews

March: Book Three by John Lewis

Maude Hart Lovelace books – especially Betsy-Tacy

Lois Lowry books – especially The Giver

(*I was on the Newbery Committee that chose this book as the winner.)*

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah

Robin McKinley books – especially The Hero and the Crown

Walter Dean Myers books – especially \*Fallen Angels, Tarik

We Are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Beverly Naidoo books – especially Journey to Jo’Burg

E. Nesbit books – especially \*Five Children and It

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert O’Brien

Scott O’Dell books – especially \*The Island of the Blue Dolphins

Wonder by R. J. Palacio

Katherine Paterson books – especially \*Bridge to Terabithia

(*Katherine is a good friend who is on the board of Children’s Literature for Children.)*

Gary Paulsen books – especially \*Hatchet, Harris and Me

The Chronicles of Ancient Darkness by Michelle Pavner

Richard Peck books – especially The Best Man

Tom’s Midnight Garden by Phillipa Pearce

The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

\*Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

*(I heard him speak once about his very harsh childhood.)*

The Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling

Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

Pam Munoz Ryan books – especially Esperanza Rising

Suzanne Staples books - -especially \*Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind

*(Suzanne is a good friend who is on the board of Children’s Literature for Children.)*

Rosemary Sutcliffe books – especially \*Warrior Scarlet

*(I once went to a conference in Cambridge especially to hear her. She was wheelchair-bound because she was terribly crippled by rheumatoid arthritis. I got to hold her little*

*crippled hand during the closing circle.)*

Mildred Taylor books – especially \*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

J.R.R.Tolkien books – especially \*The Hobbit, \*The Lord of the Rings

Cynthia Voigt books – especially A Solitary Blue

So Far From the Bamboo Grove by Yoko Watkins

Laura Ingalls Wilder books – especially \*The Little House in

the Big Woods

Rita Williams-Garcia books – especially One Crazy Summer

Jacqueline Woodson books – especially Brown Girl Dreaming

Jane Yolen books – especially The Devil’s Arithmetic