Caldecott fun

POEMS, SONGS, AND GAMES
WITH CALDECOTT WINNERS

By Nancy Polette

With illustrations by Paul Dillon

a publication of the

ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO CHILDREN

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO 2013

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INTRODUCTION

Where can young listeners and readers encounter wild horses, a wolf in disguise, a little girl rescued by a dog, ducklings helped across a street by a policeman, magic pebbles, wild things, and much more? Picture books, of course! *Caldecott Fun* provides poems, stories, games, songs, and word searches to accompany the sharing of picture books that have won the Caldecott Medal, awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children for the most outstanding picture book. Children’s librarians, teachers, and anyone doing programming for children in preschool through the elementary grades will find this book an invaluable and fun introduction to forty Caldecott Medal winners, each with a participation poem, song, or activity. Activities include retelling the tale with story strips, completing word searches, and creating art and crafts, for which patterns are provided.

Picture books chosen from the long list of winners for inclusion in *Caldecott Fun* are titles that have withstood the test of time and newer winners that are easily obtainable. Whether these tales are enjoyed in the children’s room of the public library or in a school setting, the poems, songs, and activities for each tale are designed to extend enjoyment and understanding of the story.

Why read aloud? Children cannot read what they have not heard. The brain is a language storehouse that stores the patterns of written language through hearing the language read aloud. Numerous studies indicate that a key variable in preschool activities that makes a difference in future academic success is listening to stories! *Caldecott Fun* provides activities for sharing the best of the best.

Outstanding picture books can help shape great minds. Quality literature can counterbalance the often mediocre content offered to children in the media and awaken in them the unknown, allowing for a sense of wonder. Watch for the child who bursts with sudden laughter at subtle humor or irony when you are reading aloud. Watch for the brimming of tears of compassion for the human condition. Watch for the spark of recognition of an underlying profound truth beneath a simple tale.

As a professor of children’s literature for more than forty years and former director of the Lindenwood University Laboratory School for Gifted Children, I have worked with many very bright children who had never been read to, who had never known the delight and wonder waiting for them in imaginative picture books. Inspired picture books can help children to understand real humanity, nobility of character, and the vitality of caring for fellow human beings. The talented storyteller Isaac Bashevis Singer said, “Kindness, I’ve discovered, is everything in life.”

The ultimate goal of *Caldecott Fun* is to help librarians, teachers, parents, and caregivers to bring together the minds, spirits, and hearts of children with the finest in children’s literature to stimulate the imagination and foster a lifelong love affair with books.
ARROW TO THE SUN

By Gerald McDermott

Caldecott Medal Winner 1975
CATCH THE CLUE

Use the following clues to help students discover the mystery word. A player will select a number from one to ten. The leader reads the clue, and the player tries to guess the word. If the guess is not correct, the next player chooses another number, is read that clue, and tries to the guess the mystery word. The game continues until the mystery word is guessed or all clues are read.

1. You can do it alone.
2. You can do it with someone.
3. You can wear special shoes to do it.
4. Some people wear costumes to do it.
5. Some are slow, and some are fast.
6. Children do it.
7. Mothers and fathers both do it.
8. You can take lessons to learn it.
9. It was very important to the Pueblo people.
10. You need a beat.
WORD SEARCH

Words to find:
arrow      father      bees
sun         lions      lightning
pueblo      snakes      fire
THE BIGGEST BEAR

By Lynd Ward

Caldecott Medal Winner 1953

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FIND SOMEONE WHO . . .

Discover what you have in common with the people, places, and events in *The Biggest Bear*. See which members of your group can answer the questions that follow. A name can be used only once. The winner is the player who completes the questions first. Can be done aloud as a group with children raising their hands.

Who . . .

has visited or lived on a farm? ____________________________________________

has seen a real bear? ____________________________________________________

has played in a barn? ____________________________________________________

has a first name that begins with the letter J? ______________________________

has had a wild animal as a pet? __________________________________________

has visited a zoo? ______________________________________________________

can say 3 words that rhyme with BEAR? __________________________________

has walked in the woods? ________________________________________________
ECHO READING

Ask the children to read each phrase after you, echoing you line by line, then read each full passage together.

Echo: The other day Johnny found a bear out in the woods a way out there.

Together: The other day Johnny found a bear out in the woods a way out there.

Echo: He wanted a bear that was big and tall, but what he found was one quite small.

Together: He wanted a bear that was big and tall, but what he found was one quite small.

Echo: The bear was small, that’s very true, but as time passed, it grew and grew.

Together: The bear was small, that’s very true, but as time passed, it grew and grew.

Echo: The bear grew bigger day by day. The neighbors said, “It cannot stay!”

Together: The bear grew bigger day by day. The neighbors said, “It cannot stay!”

Leader: Why would a big bear not be a good pet? What should Johnny do now? Let’s read the story and find out.
STORY STRIPS

Cut the story strips apart. Give one strip each to child or group. Have the children line up in the correct order to tell the story by reading their strips.

1. He went hunting and came back with a small bear.

2. Johnny took it to the woods.

3. It started to cause lots of trouble for the valley.

4. Johnny wanted a bearskin on the side of his barn.

5. They took the bear to the zoo.

6. Now Johnny could visit him whenever he wanted.

7. Johnny and his bear got caught in a bear trap.

8. The bear kept coming back.
ART ACTIVITY

Here is a drawing of Johnny’s barn. Since he is not going to decorate the barn by hanging a bearskin, how could Johnny decorate his barn so that all the neighbors would want one just like it?
WORD SEARCH

osnlassy
orbakne
flccntl
ljihiibl
ahaoaaa
 cjbeard
aisland

Words to find:
Johnny orchard chicks
barn calf island
bear bait valley
**ANSWER KEY**

*Arrow to the Sun*
Catch the Clue: The secret word is DANCE.

*The Biggest Bear*
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 1, 3, 2, 8, 7, 5, 6.

*Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper*
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 8, 3, 7, 1, 6, 4, 2.

*Fables*
Name That Fable: 1. The Mouse at the Seashore; 2. The Hippopotamus at Dinner; 3. The Young Rooster; 4. The Elephant and His Son; 5. The Camel Dances. Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 1, 3, 8, 4, 7, 6, 2.

*Flotsam*
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 5, 2, 6, 7, 8, 3, 1.

*The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 5, 8, 4, 1, 2, 6, 7.

*The Funny Little Woman*
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 5, 1, 6, 8, 2, 4, 7.

*The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 7, 1, 8, 6, 2, 5, 3.

*Grandfather’s Journey*

*The Hello, Goodbye Window*
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 1, 7, 3, 8, 2, 4, 6.

*Hey, Al*
Poetry Activity: The missing words are 1. broom; 2. poor; 3. day; 4. long; 5. beaks; 6. escape; 7. ocean; 8. sad; 9. end. Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 2, 6, 1, 4, 3, 8, 7.

*The House in the Night*
Story Strips: The correct order is 2, 6, 8, 3, 7, 5, 1, 4.

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 1, 6, 3, 8, 4, 7, 2.

*Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 1, 7, 2, 4, 6, 5, 8.
Jumanji
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 4, 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 7.

Kitten’s First Full Moon
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 8, 1, 3, 2, 6, 7, 4.

The Lion and the Mouse
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 7, 6, 1, 5, 3, 2, 8.

The Little House
Poetry Activity: The missing words are 1. hill; 2. snow; 3. road; 4. city; 5. away; 6. tall; 7. hill.
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 1, 6, 8, 4, 2, 5, 7.

The Little Island
Song Activity 1: The missing words are 1. play; 2. sea; 3. shore; 4. eggs; 5. friend.
Story Strips: The correct order is 2, 5, 8, 1, 4, 7, 3, 6.

Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China
Story Strips: The correct order is 1, 7, 3, 8, 5, 2, 4, 6.

Madeline’s Rescue
Poetry Activity: The missing words are 1. shine; 2. fell; 3. cheered; 4. pet 5; fight; 6. share; 7. away;
8. allowed; 9. outside; 10. lamp; 11. bed; 12. fight ; 13. end. Story Strips: The correct order is .3, 1, 8, 2, 7, 4,
6, 5

Make Way for Ducklings
Song Activity: The missing words are 1. home; 2. woods; 3. pond; 4. water; 5. line; 6. street.
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 7, 1, 8, 5, 6, 2, 4.

The Man Who Walked between the Towers
Story Strips: The correct order is 1, 4, 2, 6, 7, 8, 5, 3.

Many Moons
Story Strips: The correct order is 7, 10, 3, 9, 5, 8, 1, 6, 4, 2.

Mirette on the High Wire
Poetry Activity: Use your imagination for 1–3; 4. wire; 5. bear; 6. clown; 7. horse; 8. lion.
Story Strips: The correct order is 6, 3, 5, 1, 2, 7, 4, 8.

My Friend Rabbit
Song Activity: The missing words are 1. mouse; 2. tree; 3. worry; 4. fell; 5. friend. Story Strips: The correct
order is 4, 1, 3, 6, 5, 8, 7, 2.

Officer Buckle and Gloria
Song Activity: The missing words are 1. dog/cat/goat; 2. TIPS; 3. Hog.
Story Strips: The correct order is 2, 4, 8, 6, 1, 7, 3, 5.

Owl Moon
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 2, 4, 6, 1, 3, 8, 7.
**Ox-Cart Man**
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 5, 1, 8, 7, 2, 6, 4.

**The Polar Express**
Story Strips: The correct order is 3, 4, 2, 6, 8, 7, 1, 5.

**Rapunzel**
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 1, 7, 2, 6, 3, 8, 5.

**A Sick Day for Amos McGee**
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 6, 1, 7, 3, 8, 2, 5.

**Smoky Night**
Story Strips: The correct order is 5, 1, 2, 8, 2, 4, 3, 7, 6.

**Snowflake Bentley**
Poetry Activity: The missing words are 1. Bentley; 2. snowflakes; 3. molecules; 4. branches; 5. designs; 6. crystals; 7. picture. Story Strips: The correct order is 7, 1, 3, 6, 8, 4, 2, 5.

**The Snowy Day**
Story Strips: The correct order is 2, 5, 4, 3, 7, 6, 1, 8.

**So You Want to Be President?**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**
Poetry Activity: The missing words are 1. stamps; 2. dishes; 3. cars; 4. rocks. Story Strips: The correct order is 6, 1, 3, 8, 2, 7, 5, 4.

**This Is Not My Hat**
Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 9, 2, 10, 6, 8, 5, 1, 3, 7.

**Where the Wild Things Are**
Song Activity: The rhyming words are boat, wild, Max, crown, supper. Story Strips: The correct order is 7, 3, 1, 4, 2, 8, 6, 5.

**White Snow, Bright Snow**
Song Activity: The missing words are 1. snowflakes; 2. ground; 3. found; 4. day; 5. play; snow; sow. Story Strips: The correct order is 4, 6, 1, 3, 5, 2, 7, 8. Writing activity: A sunny rabbit; A runny rabbit.

**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears**
Story Strips: The correct order is 2, 8, 7, 5, 1, 4, 3, 6.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


