Texts that Engage and Delight Young Readers

This isn't a magic list. These books signify the spirit of the types of text that need be in the hands (and hearts!) or our early readers. - Debbie Miller

Picture Books to Start the Year

How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham My Lucky Day by Keiko Kasza The Falling Raindrop by Neil Johnson Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld Ruby in Her Own Time by Johathan Emmett The Little Yellow Leaf by Carin Berger The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell Odd Velvet, by Mary Whitcomb Walk On! by Marla Frazee Koala Lou by Mem Fox Enemy Pie by Derek Munson Ish by Peter Reynolds Wolf's Coming! by Joe Kukla

Nonfiction Books

Actual Size by Steve Jenkins Animals Nobody Loves by Seymour Simon Owen and Mzee by Isabella Hatkoff Bat Loves the Night by Nicola Davies Ice Bear by Nicola Davies One Tiny Turtle by Nicola Davies

Nonfiction Books, continued

Spiders by Nic Bishop Growing Patterns by Sarah Campbell Bugs Up Close by Diane Swanson National Geographic Readers Zoo Books

Wordless Books

A Circle of Friends by Giora Carmi Chalk by Bill Thomson The Flower Man by Steve Ludy The Wave by Suzy Lee The Boy, Frog, and Dog series by Mercer Mayer Why? by Nicolai Popov My Dog Carl by Alexander Day

Song Books (Consider multiple copies of these. Kids love them -- the rhythm and rhyme are infectious -- and they're fun to read with a partner!)

Hush Little Baby by Marla Frazee Little Rabbit Foo Foo by Michael Rosen The Lady with the Alligator Purse by Nadine Bernard Westcott Five Little Ducks (and others) by Raffi The Itsy Bitsy Spider by Iza Trapani Miss Mary Mack by Nadine Bernard Westcott Oh, A Hunting We Will Go by John Langstaff Hush Little Dragon, by Boni Ashburn

Predictable Books (Consider multiple copies—they're early reader favorites!)

Tough Boris by Mem Fox Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr. Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar? By Bonnie Lass and Philemon Sturge I Went Walking by Sue Williams Let's Go Visiting by Sue Williams Witch, Witch Come to my Party by Arden Druce It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Shaw Mary Wore Her Red Dress by Merle Peak Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin One Red Rooster by Kathleen Sullivan Carroll The Magic Fish by Freya Littledale Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? by Eric Carle We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rose

Alphabet Books

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. Dr. Seuss's ABC by Dr. Seuss Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth A My Name is Alice by Jane Bayer Alphabet Adventure by Audrey Wood Super Hero ABC by Bob McLeod

Rhyming Books

Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler Farmers Garden: Rhymes for Two Voices by David Harrison Trucktown Truckery Rhymes by Jon Scieszka Pigs Rock! By Melanie Davis Jones Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young by Jack Pelutsky Llama Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney In the Tall Tall Grass (and others) by Denise Fleming Jack and Jill and Other Nursery Rhymes by Mandy Stanley One, Two, Buckle My Shoe by Here Comes Mother Goose edited by Iona Opie There's a Wocket in My Pocket! by Dr. Seuss Silly Sally Went to Town by Audrey Wood Oh Say Can You Say? by Dr. Seuss