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


Who Took the Cookies from the Cookie Jar? By Bonnie Lass and Philemon Sturges

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