

# Singing to Get Every Child Ready to Read

Books That You Can Sing



***Down by the Station* written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand. Harcourt, 1999.**

Beautiful illustrations accompany this familiar song about a group of baby animals on their way to the zoo.

***Five Little Ducks* written by Raffi; illustrated by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Turtleback, 1992.**

Mother Duck begins to lose her ducklings one by one, so she sets out to find them. The whole song ends happily as the family reunites.

***Good Night, Gorilla* written and illustrated by Peggy Rathmann. Putnam, 1994.**

A little gorilla steals the zookeeper's keys, unlocks the cages of the other animals, and the whole group follows the zookeeper to his house.

***Hush Little Baby* written and illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 1997.**

Long reworks this classic nursery song with the mother bunny showing her baby the wonders of the world, instead of buying things as in the typical version of this song.

***I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* written by Karen Beaumont; illustrated by David Catrow. Harcourt, 2005.**

Based on the song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," this zany story follows a boy who paints everything including his body. Vibrant illustrations add to the fun and the rhythmic text can be read or sung.

***Little White Duck* written by Walt Whippo; music by Bernard Zaritzky; illustrated by Joan Paley. Little, Brown, 2002.**

Imaginative and vibrant illustrations accompany this silly song that includes the sounds of animals having a good time in the water (until a snake comes along).

***Mary Had a Little Lamb* written by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Little, Brown, 2003.**

Playful extension of the classic nursery rhyme, this continuation of Mary's saga adds additional layers to her friendship with the lamb.

***Old MacDonald Had a Woodshop* written by Lisa M. Schulman; illustrated by Ashley Wolff. Putnam, 2002.**

In this book Old MacDonald is a sheep who enlists the help of his animal friends to build a farm.

***Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* written by**

**Eric Litwin; illustrated by James Dean. HarperCollins, 2010.**

Pete the Cat goes walking down the street wearing his brand-new white shoes. Along the way, his shoes change from white to red to blue to brown to wet as he steps in piles of strawberries, blueberries, and other big messes.

***Skip to My Lou* adapted by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Little, Brown, 2000.**

An easy-to-handle board book about a little boy who befriends a group of farm animals after they make a huge mess while his parents are gone.

***The Seals on the Bus* written by Lenny Hort; illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Henry Holt, 2000.**

Set to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus," the author adds many different animals to this fun bus adventure.

***There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* written and illustrated by Simms Taback. Viking, 1997.**

This quirky book uses a die-cut hole to show the contents of the old lady's stomach and also all the funny things that she swallowed. A Caldecott Honor Book.

***We're Going on a Bear Hunt* written by Michael Rosen; illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1989.**

A family of five goes on a hunt for a bear across rivers, grass, and mud, only to be chased back to their home by the bear.

***Yankee Doodle* written by Mary Ann Hoberman; illustrated by Nadine Bernard Westcott. Little, Brown, 2004.**

A fun expansion on the Yankee Doodle song, this musical book adds additional characters, imaginative scenery, and the opening of a restaurant, Yankee Doodle's Noodles.

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