

Predictable Books

Education Materials Center

Polk Library-UW Oshkosh

“Predictable books make use of rhyme, repetition of words, phrases, sentences and refrains, and such patterns as cumulative structure, repeated scenes, familiar cultural sequences, interlocking structure and turn-around plots. These stories invite children to make predictions or guesses about words, phrases, sentences, events and characters that could come next in the story.” (from: Reading Resource Book by Mary Jett Simpson)

Click below for type of predictable book:

- [Chain or Circular Story](#)
Plot is interlinked so that the ending leads back to the beginning.
- [Cumulative Stories](#)
Each time a new event occurs, all previous events in the story are repeated.
- [Familiar Sequence](#)
Organized by recognizable theme, such as: days of week, numbers, etc.
- [Pattern Story](#)
Scenes are repeated with some variation.
- [Question and Answer](#)
The same or similar questions are repeated throughout the story.
- [Repetition of Words, Phrases, Questions & Sequences](#)
Word order in a phrase, sentence, etc. is repeated.
- [Rhyme](#)
Rhyming words, refrains, or patterns are used throughout the story.
- [References](#)

Chain or Circular Story

Plot is interlinked so that the ending leads back to the beginning.

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears, by Verna Aardema

EMC: Non-fiction 398.2 A113wh

Terrific, by Jon Agee

EMC: Picture Books Ag

Who is the Beast, by Keith Baker

EMC: Picture Books Ba

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Numeroff
EMC: Picture Books Nu

If You Give a Moose a Muffin, by Laura Numeroff
EMC: Picture Books Nu

Cumulative Stories

Each time a new event occurs, all previous events in the story are repeated.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain: a Nandi Tale, by Berna Aardema
EMC: Picture Books Aa

The Christmas Tree/ El Arbol de Navidad, by Alma Flora Ada
EMC: Picture Books Ad

The Pot that Juan Built, by Nancy Andrews-Goebel
EMC: Non-fiction 921 Q5a

Chicken Licken, by Gavin Bishop
EMC: Picture Books Ch

Mr. Gumpy's Outing, by John Burningham
EMC: Picture Books Bu

Jack's Garden, by Henry Cole
EMC: Picture Books Co

The Heart of the Wood, by Marguerite W. Davol
EMC: Picture Books Da

If All the Seas Were One Sea, by Janina Domanska
EMC: Picture Books Do

This is the Bread I Baked for Ned, by Crescent Dragonwagon
EMC: Picture Books Dr

Rum Pum Pum, by Maggie Duff
EMC: Non-fiction 398.2 D855r

This Is the Star, by Joyce Dunbar
EMC: Non-fiction 232.92 D898t

Here is the African Savanna, by Madeleine Dunphy
EMC: Non-fiction 577.48 D925h

Drummer Hoff, by Barbara Emberley
EMC: Picture Books Em

Shoes from Grandpa, by Mem Fox
EMC: Picture Books Fo

Snow and the Sun/ la Nieve y el Sol, by Antonio Frasconi
EMC: Non-fiction 468.2 F841s

The Old Woman and Her Pig, by Paul Galdone
EMC: Picture Books Ol

La Vieille Femme et Son Cochon (The Old Woman and Her Pig [French])
EMC: Non-fiction 448.6 O44v

The Bossy Gallito/ El Gallo de Bodas: a Traditional Cuban Folktale, by Lucia Gonzalez
EMC: Non-fiction 398.2 G643b

Sitting Down to Eat, by Bill Harley
EMC: Non-fiction 808.1 H285s

This the Bear, by Sarah Hayes
EMC: Picture Books Ha

Fiddle-I-Fee, by Will Hillenbrand
EMC: Non-fiction 398.8 F449

One Fine Day, by Nonny Hogrogian
EMC: Picture Books Ho

Jump, Frog, Jump!, by Robert Kalan
EMC: Picture Books Ka

There Was an Old Woman, by Steven Kellogg
EMC: Picture Books Ke

Matzah That Papa Brought Home, by Fran Manushkin
EMC: Picture Books Ma

The Marvelous Market on Mermaid, by Laura Krauss Melmed
EMC: Picture Books Me

The Great Big Enormous Turnip, by Helen Oxenbury
EMC: Picture Books Ox

It's My Birthday, by Helen Oxenbury
EMC: Picture Books Ox

Who, Said Sue, Said Whoo?, by Ellen Raskin
EMC: Picture Books Ra

I Had a Rooster: A Traditional Folk Song, by Pete Seeger
EMC: Non-fiction 782.42 S551i

This Is the Bird, by George Shannon
EMC: Picture Books Sh

The House That Drac Built, by Judy Sierra
EMC: Picture Books Si

The House That Jack Built, by Jenny Stow
EMC: Picture Books Ho

By the Light of the Halloween Moon, by Caroline Stutson
EMC: Picture Books St

The Great Big Enormous Turnip, by Alexei Tolstoy
EMC: Picture Books To

Possum Come A-Knockin', by Nancy Van Laan
EMC: Picture Books Va

Bearsie Bear and the Surprise Sleepover Party, by Bernard Waber
EMC: Picture Books Wa

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything, by Linda Williams
EMC: Picture Books Wi

The Napping House, by Audrey Wood
EMC: Picture Books Wo

The Judge, an Untrue Tale, by Harve Zemach
EMC: Picture Books Ze

Familiar Sequence

Organized by recognizable theme, such as: days of week, numbers, etc.

Chicken Soup With Rice, by Maurice Sendak

EMC: Picture Books Se

Dinnertime!, by Sue Williams

EMC: Picture Books Wi

Pattern Story

Scenes are repeated with some variation.

The Runaway Bunny, by Margaret Wise Brown

EMC: Picture Books Br

Millions of Cats, by Wanda Gag

EMC: Picture Books Ga

The Little Red Hen, by Paul Galdone

EMC: Picture Books Li

The Three Bears, by Paul Galdone

EMC: Picture Books Th

The Three Billy Goats Gruff, by Paul Galdone

EMC: Non-fiction 398.2 A799th 1973

The Carrot Seed, by Ruth Krauss

EMC: Picture Books Kr

Are Your There Bear?, by Ron Maris

EMC: Picture Books Ma

Who Took the Farmer's Hat?, by Joan Nodset

EMC: Picture Books No

Question and Answer

The same or similar questions are repeated throughout the story.

Where Have You Been?, by Margaret Wise Brown

EMC: Picture Books Br

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?, by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

EMC: Non-fiction 573.8 J52w

Whose Mouse Are You?, by Robert Kraus

EMC: Picture Books Kr

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, by Bill Martin, Jr.

EMC: Picture Books Ma

Repetition of Words, Phrases, Questions & Sequences

Word order in a phrase, sentence, etc. is repeated.

Terrific, by Jon Agee

EMC: Picture Books Ag

Each Peach Pear Plum, by Janet and Allen Ahlberg

EMC: Picture Books Ah

Who Sank the Boat?, by Pamela Allen

EMC: Picture Books Al

Who is the Beast?, by Keith Baker

EMC: Picture Books Ba

Goodnight Moon, by Margaret Wise Brown

EMC: Picture Books Br

Two Little Trains, by Margaret Wise Brown

EMC: Picture Books Br

Do You Want To Be My Friend?, by Eric Carle

EMC: Picture Books Ca

The Very Busy Spider, by Eric Carle

EMC: Picture Books Ca

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle
EMC: Picture Books Ca

The Very Quiet Cricket, by Eric Carle
EMC: Picture Books Ca

What Shall We Do With the Boo-Hoo Baby?, by Cressida Cowell
EMC: Picture Books Co

How Joe the Bear and Sam the Mouse Got Together, by Beatrice Schenk De
Regniers
EMC: Picture Books De

Mama Cat Has Three Kittens, by Denise Fleming
EMC: Picture Books Fl

Boo to a Goose, by Mem Fox
EMC: Picture Books Fo

Zoo Looking, by Mem Fox
EMC: Picture Books Fo

Is Your Mama a Llama?, by Deborah Guarino
EMC: Picture Books Gu

A House is a House For Me, by Mary Ann Hoberman
EMC: Picture Books Ho

Mama, Do You Love Me?, by Barbara Joose
EMC: Picture Books Jo

Jump, Frog, Jump!, by Robert Kalan
EMC: Picture Books Ka

Where Are You Going Little Mouse?, by Robert Krause
EMC: Picture Books Kr

Whose Mouse Are You?, by Robert Krause
EMC: Picture Books Kr

The Day the Goose Got Loose, by Reeve Lindbergh
EMC: Picture Books Li

A Summery Saturday Morning, by Margaret Mahy
EMC: Picture Books Ma

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?, by Bill Martin, Jr.
EMC: Picture Books Ma

Here Are My Hands, by Bill Martin, Jr.
EMC: Picture Books Ma

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?, by Bill Martin, Jr.
EMC: Picture Books Ma

Who Took the Farmer's Hat?, by Joan Nodset
EMC: Picture Books No

If You Give a Moose a Muffin, by Laura Numeroff
EMC: Picture Books Nu

If You Give Mouse a Cookie, by Laura Numeroff
EMC: Picture Books Nu

If You Give a Pig a Pancake, by Laura Numeroff
EMC: Picture Books Nu

I Can't Get My Turtle to Move, by Elizabeth Lee O'Donnell
EMC: Picture Books Od

Good night, Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann
EMC: Picture Books Ra

What Baby Wants, by Phyllis Root
EMC: Picture Books Ro

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, by Michael Rosen
EMC: Picture Books Ro

The Little Red House, by Norma Jean Sawicki
EMC: Picture Books Sa

Who Said Red?, by Mary Serfozo
EMC: Picture Books Se

Who Wants One?, by Mary Serfozo
EMC: Non-fiction 513.2 S483w

Dance Away, by George Shannon
EMC: Picture Books Sh

The Piney Woods Peddler, by George Shannon
EMC: Picture Books Sh

Have You Seen My Duckling?, by Nancy Tafuri
EMC: Picture Books Ta

Possum Come A-Knockin', by Nancy Van Laan
EMC: Picture Books Va

How Do I Put It On?, by Shigeo Watanbe
EMC: Picture Books Wa

I Went Walking, by Sue Williams
EMC: Picture Books Wi

Bear Snores On, by Karma Wilson
EMC: Picture Books Wi

King Bidgood's In the Bathtub, by Audrey Wood
EMC: Picture Books Wo

A Big Fish Story/ Un Cuento de un Pez Grande, by Joanna and David Wylie
EMC: Picture Books Wy

A More or Less Fish Story/ Un Cuento de Peces Mas O Menos, by Joanna and David Wylie
EMC: Picture Books Wy

Let's Eat, by Ana Zamorano
EMC: Picture Books Za

Rhyme

Rhyming words, refrains, or patterns are used throughout the story.

Each Peach Pear Plum, by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
EMC: Picture Books Ah

Johnny Crow's Garden, by Leslie Brooke
EMC: Picture Books Br

Barnyard Banter, by Denise Fleming
EMC: Picture Books Fl

A Beach Day, by Douglas Florian
EMC: Picture Books Fl

The ABC Bunny, by Wanda Gag
EMC: Picture Books Ga

Is Your Mama a Llama?, by Deborah Guarino
EMC: Picture Books Gu

A House Is a House For Me, by Mary Ann Hoberman
EMC: Picture Books Ho

Sheep in a Shop, by Nancy Shaw
EMC: Picture Books Sh

Dinnertime!, by Sue Williams
EMC: Picture Books Wi

Shoes, by Elizabeth Winthrop
EMC: Picture Books Wi

*Many more stories in rhyme found in the Polk Library Online Catalog, under the subject heading “Stories in Rhyme”.

References

Monroe Public Library- “Predictable Books”
www.monroe.lib.in.us/childrens/booklists/predictbib.html

University of Iowa Curriculum Laboratory- “Patterned/Predictable Books”
<http://www.education.uiowa.edu/crl/bibliographies/documents/Patternedpredictablebooksupdate2008.pdf>

Database of Award-winning Children’s Literature
www.dawcl.com

Allen County Public Library- “Cumulative Tales”
www.acpl.lib.in.us/children/cumulative.html

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