

My Favorite Heartwarming Picture Books  
Marlene Peterson

No list is ever complete, but if you are looking for picture books to ‘warm the hearts’ of your children; that have superior and often exquisite illustrations; and that help preserve a culture of faith, family and freedom and a love of the good, the beautiful and the true, then these suggestions may be of use to you. They are my personal favorites. Although many of these titles are out of print, you should be able to find them through your library or you can purchase inexpensive used copies through Amazon or other used book sources. These are the ‘keepers; the books that your children will most likely read and re-read and that they will treasure, with fond memories, into adulthood and even old age.

GENERAL

1 is One by Tasha Tudor  
A is for Annabelle: A Doll’s Alphabet by Tasha Tudor  
A Child’s First Book of Poems by Cyndy Szekeres  
A Child’s Garden of Verses ill. by Tasha Tudor  
A Child’s Treasury of Animal Verse by Mark Daniel  
A Child’s Treasury of Poems by Mark Daniel  
A Family, A Home, A Farm–3 books with artwork of Carl Larsson  
A Time to Keep by Tasha Tudor  
A Treasury of Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker  
A Tree is Nice by Marc Simont  
A Very Special House by Ruth Krauss  
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst  
Alison’s Zinnias by Anita Lobel  
All Things Bright and Beautiful ill. by Bruce Whatley  
Always Room for One More by Nic Leodhas  
Amber on the Mountain by Tony Johnston  
Andy and the Lion by James Daugherty  
Angus and the Ducks by Marjorie Flack  
Animalia by Graeme Base  
Apricot ABC by Miska Miles  
April’s Kittens by Clare Turley Newberry (check out her other kitten books, too)  
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman  
Babar, the Little Elephant by Jean de Brunhoff  
Beatrix Potter–all of her little animal stories  
Biblioburro by Jeannette Winters  
Big Snow, The by Berta and Elmer Hader  
Billy and Blaze series by C.W. Anderson  
Blind Man and the Elephant, The by Karen Backstein  
Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey  
Book of Nursery Rhymes by Marguerite de Angeli  
Brave Irene by William Steig  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.

Busy Monday Morning by Janina Domanska  
Butterfly Kisses by Bob Carlisle  
Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkin  
Carl's Afternoon in the Park by Alexandra Day (check out all her Carl books)  
Carrot Seed, The by Ruth Krauss  
Children's Book of Faith, The by William Bennett  
Children's Book of Home and Family, The by William Bennett  
Children's Book of Virtues, The by William Bennett  
Christmas Day Kitten, The by James Herriot  
Corduroy by Don Freeman  
Corgiville Fair by Tasha Tudor  
Country Bunny and the Little Gold Shoes by DuBose Heyward  
Curious George by H.E. Rey  
Dogger by Shirley Hughes  
Family Farm by Thomas Locker  
Farm, The by Thomas Locker  
Flicka, Ricka and Dicka series by Maj Lindstrom  
Flower Hunter, The by Deborah Kogan Ray  
Forest of Dreams by Rosemary Wells/ Susan Jeffers  
Fox Eyes by Margaret Wise Brown  
Fritz and the Beautiful Horses by Jan Brett  
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel  
Gift of the Tree, The by Alvin Tresselt  
Gilberto and the Wind by Marie Hall Ets  
Giving Tree, The by Shel Silverstein  
Going to Sleep on the Farm by Wendy Lewison  
Gold Coin, The by Alma Flora Ada  
Golden Egg Book, The by Margaret Wise Brown  
Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown  
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss  
Gypsies' Tale, The by Ethel Pochocki  
Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson  
Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion  
Henny Penny by Paul Galdone  
Henry the Explorer by Mark Taylor  
Hide and Seek Fog by Roger Duvoisin  
Ida and the Wool Smugglers by Sue Ann Alderson  
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff  
In the Forest by Marie Hall Ets  
Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber  
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles Shaw  
I Wonder as I Wander by Gwyneth Swain  
Johnny the Clockmaker by Edward Ardizzone  
Just Plain Fancy by Patricia Polacco  
Just Right by Lilian Moore  
King Bidgood's in the Bathtub by Audrey and Don Wood

King's Fountain, The by Lloyd Alexander  
King's Highway, The by Howard Fullmer  
Least of All by Carol Purdy  
Library Mouse by Daniel Kirk  
Little Bear by Elsa Minarik  
Little Engine That Could, The by Watty Piper  
Little House, The by Virginia Lee Burton  
Little Island, The by Leonard Weisgard  
Little Juggler, The by Barbara Cooney  
Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear by Don and Audrey Wood  
Little Toot by Hardie Gramatky  
Love You Forever by Robert Munsch  
Lullabies and Goodnight, by Ellen Musik, artwork by Mary Cassatt  
Madeline, Madeline's Rescue by Ludwig Bemelmans  
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey  
Man Who Kept His Heart in a Bucket, The by Sonia Levitin  
Man Who Lost His Head, The by Claire Hutchet Bishop  
Many Moons by James Thurber  
Mare on the Hill, The by Thomas Locker  
May I Bring a Friend? by Beatrice de Reigners  
Mike Mulligan and the Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton  
Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag  
Ming-lo Moves the Mountain by Arnold Lobel  
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney  
Miss Suzy by Miriam Young  
Mitten, The by Jan Brett  
Mother Goose ill. by Gyo Fujikawa  
Mother Goose ill. by Tasha Tudor  
Mousekin Books by Edna Miller  
Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present, The by Charlotte Zolotow  
My Book House (12 volumes) by Olive Beaupre Miller  
Napping House, The by Audrey and Don Wood  
Nine Days to Christmas by Marie Hall Ets  
Numbears: A Counting Book by Kathleen Hague  
Nursery Songs by Leah Gale  
Once A Mouse by Marcia Brown  
One Grain of Rice by Demi  
One Morning in Maine by Robert McCloskey  
Over, Under in the Garden by Pat Schories  
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen  
Painter and the Wild Swans, The by Claude Clement  
Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt  
Peddlar's Gift, The by Deborah daCosta  
Pelle's New Suit by Elsa Bestow  
Petunia by Roger Duvoisin  
Play With Me by Marie Hall Ets

Poky Little Puppy, The by Janette Sebring Lowrey  
Polar Express, The by Chris van Allsburg  
Quiltmaker's Gift, The by Jeff Brumbeau  
Raggedy Ann and Andy stories by Johnny Gruelle  
Rose in My Garden, The by Anita Lobel  
Runaway Bunny, The by Margaret Wise Brown  
Snipp, Snapp, Snurr series by Maj Lindstrom  
Snowy Day, The by Ezra Jack Keats  
Song of the Swallows by Leo Politi  
Sorely Trying Day, The by Russell and Lilian Hoban  
Stone Soup by Marcia Brown  
Story of Ferdinand, The by Munro Leaf  
Summer Birds by Margarita Engle  
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig  
Swimmy by Leo Lionni  
Tale of the Three Trees by Angela Hunt  
They Were Strong and Good by Robert Lawson  
Three Little Kittens ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Thy Friend, Obadiah by Brinton Turkle  
Tico and the Golden Wings by Leo Lionni  
Tikki-Tivvi-Tavi ill. by Jerry Pinkney  
Time of Wonder by Robert McClosky  
Timothy Turtle by Tony Palazzo  
Treasure, The by Uri Shulevitz  
Trellis and the Seed, The by Jan Karon  
Velveteen Rabbit, The by Margery Williams  
Very Hungry Caterpillar, The by Eric Carle  
We Were Tired of Living in a House by Liesel Skorpen  
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant  
Where Butterflies Grow by Joanne Ryder  
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak  
White Snow, Bright Snow by Roger Davoisin  
Who Has Seen the Wind? Poetry and art from Museum of Fine Arts, Boston  
Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox  
Yonder by Tony Johnston  
You Are Special by Max Lucado

## HISTORICAL/CULTURAL

All the Secrets of the World by Jane Yolen  
Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree by Sandy Sasso  
Atlantis, Legend of a Lost City by Christina Balit  
Beautiful Warrior by Emily Arnold McCully  
Boxes for Katie by Candace Fleming  
Boy Who Held Back the Sea by Thomas Locker  
Brother Eagle, Sister Sky by Susan Jeffers

Boy Who Fell off the Mayflower, The by P.J. Lynch  
Cats in Kraskinski Square, The by Karen Hesse  
Children of China, The by Song Nan Zhang  
Children's Book of America, The by William Bennett  
Children's Book of Heroes, The by William Bennett  
D is for Dancing Dragon by Carol Crane (Discover the World book)  
D'Aulaire's books—all of them  
First Thanksgiving, The by Jean Craighead George, ill. by Thomas Locker  
Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter  
Glorious Flight, The by Alice Provensen  
Little Ships, The by Louise Borden  
Hana in the Time of the Tulips by Deborah Noyes  
How a Shirt Grew in the Field by Marguerita Rudolph  
Joan of Arc by Josephine Poole, ill. by Angela Barrett  
Noah's Ark by Peter Spier  
Only Opal by Barbara Cooney  
Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall  
P is for Pinata by Tony Johnston (see all Discover the World books from Sleeping Bear Press)  
Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland by Tommie de Paola  
Paul Revere's Ride ill. by Ted Rand  
Queen's Progress, The by Celeste Mannis/Bagram Ibatoulline  
Star-Spangled Banner, The by Peter Spier  
Story of the Nativity by Elizabeth Winthrop/Ruth Sanderson  
When Abraham Talked to the Trees by Elizabeth van Steenwyk

#### CLASSIC FAIRY TALES/FOLK TALES/MYTHS

8000 Stones by Diane Solkstein  
A Frog Prince by Alix Berenzy  
Aesop's Fables ill. Charles Santore  
Baboushka and the Three Kings by Ruth Robbins  
Beauty and the Beast ill. K.Y. Craft  
Beauty and the Beast ill. Michael Hague  
Chanticleer and the Fox by Barbara Cooney  
Cinderella ill. K.Y. Craft  
Cinderella ill. Marcia Brown  
Cinderella ill. Ruth Sanderson  
Clown of God, The by Tomie dePaola  
Cupid and Psyche by Charlotte and K.Craft  
Dick Whittington and His Cat by Marcia Brown  
East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon ill. by P.J. Lynch  
Egyptian Cinderella, The by Shirley Climo  
Elves and the Shoemaker, The by Jim Lamarche  
Firebird, The by Robert San Souci  
Five Chinese Brothers, The by Claire Hutchet Bishop  
Frog Princess, The ill. Gennady Spirin

Goldilocks and the Three Bears ill. Gennady Spirin  
Hansel and Gretel by Cynthia Rylant  
Hansel and Gretel by Zelinsky  
Hiawatha ill. by Susan Jeffers  
How Djadja-Em-Ankh Saved the Day by Lisa Manniche  
It Could Always Be Worse by Margot Zemath  
King Midas and the Golden Touch ill. K.Y. Craft  
Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinckney  
Little Match Girl, The ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Little Red Hen ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Little Red Riding Hood ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Little Red Riding Hood ill. Gennady Spirin  
Little Red Riding Hood by Trina Hyman  
Moon Was at a Fiesta, The by Matthew Gollut  
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe  
Nibble, Nibble Mousekin by Joan Walsh Anglund  
Nightingale, The ill. by Eva Le Gallienne  
Nightingale, The ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Oscar Wilde's Stories for Children ill. P.J. Lynch  
Pegasus by Marianna Mayer/ill. Craft  
Persephone by Sally Pomme Clayton  
Persian Cinderella, The by Shirley Clino/Robert Florczak  
Peter and the Wolf by Janet Schulman  
Pied Piper of Hamelin, The by Sara and Stephen Corrin/Errol LeCain (story version)  
Pied Piper of Hamelin, ill. Kate Greenaway  
Pied Piper of Hamelin, ill. Anatoly Ivanov, poem by Robert Browning  
Princess and the Pea by John Cech/Bernard Oberdieck  
Princess and the Pea ill. Maja Dusikova  
Puss n Boots ill. Jerry Pinckney  
Rapunzel by Paul. O. Zelinsky  
Rose Red and Snow White ill. Ruth Sanderson  
Selfish Giant, The by Oscar Wilde  
Sleeping Beauty ill. K.Y. Craft  
Sleeping Beauty ill. Ruth Sanderson  
Snow Queen, The ill. by P.J. Lynch  
Snow Queen, The ill. Bagram Ibatoulline  
Snow White ill. Nancy Burkert  
Steadfast Tin Soldier, The (softened version, different ending) Cynthia Rylant  
Strega Nona by Tomie dePaola  
Swan Lake by Rachel Isadore  
Tale of the Firebird, The ill. Gennady Spirin  
Three Billy Goats Gruff ill. by Marcia Brown  
Three Questions, the by Jon G. Muth, based on story by Leo Tolstoy  
Thumbelina by Erik Haugaard/Arlene Graston  
Thumbelina ill. by Susan Jeffers  
Tortoise and the Hare, The by Jerry Pinckney

Town Musicians of Bremen by Gerda Muller  
Traveling Musicians, The by Hans Fischer  
Twelve Dancing Princesses ill. K.Y. Craft  
Ugly Duckling, The by Dennis Carmichael  
Ugly Duckling, The ill. by Jerry Pinckney  
Vasilisa the Beautiful by Thomas Whitney  
Warrior and the Wise Man, The by David Wisniewski  
We Three Kings ill. Gennady Spirin  
Why the Mosquito Buzzes in People's Ears by Verna Aardema