

Orangutan Tongs by Jon Agee

What are orangutan tongs? Well, a funny thing happened the other day when an orangutan walked into a Chinese restaurant and couldn't use the knife or fork, so the waiter gave him chopsticks. Chopsticks. Tongs—get it? Your tongue will certainly get tangled and your fancy will get tickled when you try to read these poems with tricky lines in them like “It’s a pity pretty Patty Petty parted ways with Pete.” Try saying that three times fast. Never mind. Just get the book and check out all the great “poems to tangle your tongue” in *Orangutan Tongs*.

http://www.jonagee.com/html/wp_books.php - Click on Word Play books for some of the poems put to music.

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/1120/Agee-Jon-1960-Sidelights.html>

Shark vs. Train by Chris Barton; illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

Do you like sharks? Do you like trains? Do you like contests? If yes, then this book will surely make you smile. The imaginations of two young boys kick into overdrive when they rummage through their toy box and pull out a shark and train. Immediately, the toys transform into a ferocious looking shark and a powerful locomotive train who battle it out in some really cool contests. Who, they wonder, would be the winner roasting marshmallows, burping, high diving or on a seesaw? Readers will especially love when shark and train are thrown into truly ridiculous contests where neither could ever possibly win. Who would take the prize in a piano recital? (Neither have any hands!) The wonderfully silly pictures, dialog and crazy contests will leave you laughing out loud and ready to do battle with toys of your own.

<http://www.chrisbarton.info/index.html>

<http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/sharkvstrain/index.html>

<http://excelsiorfile.blogspot.com/2011/03/shark-vs-train.html>

Ron's Big Mission by Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden; illustrated by Don Tate.

Ron is the best customer at the Lake City Public Library – almost. He can read as long as he wants to and as many books as he wants to, under one condition. He has to keep all the books in the library and is not allowed to check any of them out. He knows why, and he doesn't think it's fair! Ron is not allowed to check any of the books out of the library because his skin color is black, and only white people are allowed to have a library card. One day when Ron is 9 years old, he has a plan to change all that, but when his momma and the police are called, will Ron's plan work or get him in even worse trouble? This story is based on a true event from the childhood of shuttle astronaut Ron McNair.

<http://www.challenger.org/about/history/mcnair.cfm>

<http://childrenschoiceaward.wikispaces.com/Ron's+Big+Mission>

<http://www.thestate.com/2011/01/25/1661861/lake-city-builds-on-ron-mcnairs.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/civilrightstimeline1.html>

The Mount Rushmore Calamity by Sara Pennypacker and created by Jeff Brown.

Flattened by a bullet during the night not long ago, Stanley Lambchop and his younger brother Arthur and their mom and dad get ready for a family vacation. They're heading to South Dakota to see Mount Rushmore. The two brothers have one Wild West adventure after another as they meet Calamity Jasper, the park ranger's daughter. They join her in a search for gold in an abandoned mine when a cave-in traps Calamity Jasper. Will Stanley be able to put his flatness to good use and save her? Do they find any gold? Read this book to go on a trip out West with Flat Stanley and his family to find out.

www.flatstanleybooks.com
http://flatterworld.com/jeff_brown.html

Redwoods by Jason Chin.

If you can't visit the redwood forest in California any time soon, reading this carefully researched book is the next best thing. In a mixture of fact and fantasy, a boy riding the subway finds a book about redwoods. Did you know that redwoods can "make their own rain" or that these trees can live more than 2,000 years and get more than 200 feet tall? As the boy reads and learns about the "oldest trees in the world," he finds himself magically transported to a redwood forest. Read this book and join him as he explores the forest, shoots arrows, and climbs hundreds of feet in the air.

<http://jasonchin.net>
www.redwoodsthebook.com

Dessert First by Hallie Durand; illustrated by Christine Davenier

Dessert Schneider is a spunky third grader with a serious sweet tooth. Chocolate fondue, caramels, macaroons, cakes- she loves them all! After listening to the advice of her well intentioned teacher, Dessert wants to march to the beat of her own drum and let her true personality shine through. First, Dessert tries to convince her parents to let her eat her dessert before she eats her dinner. As you can imagine, this does not go over well with Mom and Dad. But Dessert's persistence and creative arguments get her some interesting results. Next, Dessert finds herself in a bowlful of trouble when she is instructed by her mother to stay away from the delectable Double-Decker Chocolate Bars in the refrigerator. How can she possibly leave them alone when the bars are her absolutely favorite dessert in the whole world? So what if her mother needs them for a special event! Will Dessert give in to this tasty temptation? Find out how her decision and the consequences of her actions leave Dessert a little bit older and wiser, but still a very sweet girl who will keep you smiling.

<http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Hallie-Durand/46783748>
<http://hopeistheword.wordpress.com/2009/05/22/hallie-durand-interview/>
<http://www.amazon.com/Hallie->

[Durand/e/B001JS15OM/ref=sr_tc_img_2?qid=1299442215&sr=1-2-ent](http://www.durand.com/B001JS15OM/ref=sr_tc_img_2?qid=1299442215&sr=1-2-ent)

Let's Do Nothing by Tony Fucile (foo-chili)

“What do you want to do?” “I don’t know. What do you want to do?” Two friends, Frankie and Sal have done it all: played every board game, baked oodles of cookies, read every comic book, invented every sport. But hey, there’s one thing they haven’t tried. Ten seconds of doing nothing. Nothing. No talking. No moving. Ever tried it? Think Frankie and Sal can pull it off? It might be harder than you think.

http://www.candlewick.com/book_files/0763634409.art.1.pdf

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M8FHCiG-PM> – book trailer

<http://www.soundauthors.com/tony-fucile-lets-do-nothing-2.htm>

Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel by Nikki Grimes; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Dyamonde Daniel is irrepressible! – feisty! – determined! When she and her mom move to a new section of New York City, Dyamonde is determined to find a new best friend. She misses her old neighborhood and all her friends, especially Alisha, but she is determined to find that new best friend. No one could be less likely choice than the new boy, Free. He is rude and mean to everyone. After he scares another third grader, Dyamonde finally confronts him. What will happen? Will Free change his ways? Will Dyamonde find a new best friend? Could it be one of the three Ts – Tanya, Tylisha and Tameeka or could it be Free?

www.nikkigrimes.com

Horace and Morris Say Cheese (Which Make Dolores Sneeze!) by James Howe; illustrated by Amy Walrod.

These mice pals are busy creating scrapbooks about their favorite food, cheese, and looking forward to the Everything Cheese festival when tragedy strikes! A sneezy Dolores all covered in itchy bumps after eating cheese presents a problem. The doc says no cheese, but it seems like the whole world is talking about it, eating it, AND flaunting it. Dolores is miserable until she figures out a solution that works for her. She starts with an experiment and – well, see for yourself how it ends.

<http://authors.simonandschuster.com/James-Howe>

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3599>

<http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Amy-Walrod>

Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles by J. Patrick Lewis ; illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

Do you like a good riddle? Do storybooks give you a thrill? Are you one of those people who can’t resist a fun challenge? Then *Spot the Plot* is the book for you! Each page holds a brightly colored clue-filled illustration and a rhyming riddle poem about an unnamed story. Be a story

sleuth and help our two young detectives figure out which tale it could be. Just when you think you know them all, the author throws in a few tricky ones. So be on the alert. But don't fret. If you're really stuck, the answers are provided at the end (no peeking!)

<http://www.jpatricklewis.com/>
<http://poetryforchildren.blogspot.com/2009/10/riddle-poems-and-spot-plot.html>
<http://www.amazon.com/Spot-Plot-Riddle-Book-Riddles/dp/0811846687>

Katie Woo: No More Teasing by Fran Manushkin; illustrated by Tammie Lyons

Have you ever had a bully in your class who makes fun of everything you do? In Miss Winkles' class, Roddy laughs when Katie falls in the mud and scrapes her knee. He calls her "goopy face" when she gets tomato sauce on her nose and cheeks. Katie Woo figures out how to stop Roddy's bullying by discovering something amazing at school. After you read and find out what makes Katie happy, you might want to check the "Having Fun with Katie Woo" section and create your own craft with a friend.

<http://www.franmanushkin.com/books.htm>
<http://www.capstonekids.com/characters/Katie-Woo/index.html>

Pandas' Earthquake Escape by Phyllis J. Perry; illustrated by Susan Detwiler

Did you know giant pandas are endangered? People created preserves in China to help keep pandas safe. But in May of 2008 a terrible earthquake struck the Wolong Panda Reserve in Northern China and a giant panda named XiXi escaped.

Author Phyllis Perry used the real story of XiXi's problems to make up her own story about how a panda might be frightened, tired and hungry when an earthquake struck. How would a panda find food? Where would a panda find shelter? Would the Reserve workers find the panda and bring it back to safety? Read *Pandas' Earthquake Escape* to find out.

<http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/bookpage.php?id=Panda>
<http://www.phyllisjperry.com/>

Zig and Wikki in Something Ate My Homework by Nadja Spiegelman and Trade Loeffler

Aliens, Zig and Wikki, are swooping through the universe when Zig gets a message. "Your homework is late again", his teacher reminds him. It seems that all of his classmates have brought pets for the class zoo, but he has forgotten. The pressure is on! They're close to earth, Wikki suggests they see what's available there. You won't believe the incredible creatures they discover! Will one of these fabulous specimens become part of the class zoo?

www.toonbooks.com

Dino-Baseball by Lisa Wheeler and illustrated by Barry Gott.

Spring is in the air and fans are heading to the ball park. The dinosaurs are ready to play ball in Jurassic Park. A team of plant-eaters, the Green Sox, faces a team of meat-eaters, the Rib-Eye Reds. Through nine innings of rollicking play-by-play action, the score swings back and forth. Will T. Rex, the Rib-Eye's pitcher be able to strike the Green Sox out? Or will Apatosaurus, the Green Sox best batter, be able to get a hit? Read Dino-Baseball and find out! Broken bats, homeruns, a manager thrown out of the game. You won't want to miss a single inning as the action heats up.

There are more dinosaur sports adventures to read. Try Dino-Hockey and Dino-Basketball.

<http://www.lisawheelerbooks.com/LW/home.html>

<http://barrygott.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BpvWawfnYk> – book trailer

Here Comes the Garbage Barge! by Jonah Winter; illustrated by Red Nose Studio.

Garbage is yucky and disgusting. No one wants to be anywhere near it. The town of Islip, New York ran out of room in their landfill. All the garbage trucks were filled with bags of stinking, rotting garbage. Mr. Stroffolino had a brilliant plan. They would pile all their garbage on a barge and send it far away. But no matter where the barge went, no one would accept the stinky, smelly mess and chased the garbage barge away. The poor tug boat captain took the barge all the way down the east coast of the United States and then to Mexico before turning around and trying some more states on his way back to New York. He finally found a place dump it, but you'll be surprised where that is. Read this mostly true story to find out the name of that place.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3737>

<http://www.illustrationfriday.com/interviews/rednosestudio.php>