



Montgomery County Chapter

Full Equality For Women

NON-SEXIST CHILDREN'S BOOKS

These books portray capable, resourceful female characters and/or male characters who are not limited to narrowly-defined masculine roles.

Preschool

Anholt, Catherine & Laurence. The Twins. Two by Two. Candlewick Press 1992. Lively twins, a boy and a girl, play hard all day.

Bang, Molly. Ten, Nine, Eight Greenwillow 1983. A black father puts his toddler daughter to bed.

Bellows, Cathy. The Grizzly Sisters. Macmillan 1991. An adventure of two mischievous bear cubs.

Elchler, Magrit. Martin's Father. Lollipop Power 1971. A boy is nurtured by his father.

Goffstein, M.B. Fish for Supper. Dial 1976. Wordless book about an intrepid grandmother who goes fishing daily.

Klein, Norma. Girls Can Be Anything. Dutton 1975. A girl is convinced that she can become a doctor, a pilot, or even President.

Maury, Inez. My Mother the Mail Carrier/Mi Mama La Cartera Feminist Press 1976. Spanish/English story of a hispanic single mother and her daughter.

Merriam, Eve. Mommies at Work. Knopf 1961. Shows mothers working at various interesting jobs outside the home.

Munsch, Robert. Angela's Airplane. Annick 1988. Naughty Angela's unexpected solo flight inspires her to become a pilot.

Portnoy, Mindy Avra. Ima on the Bima: My Mother is a Rabbi. Kar Ben 1986. A girl describes her mother's activities as a religious leader.

Rice, Eve. Benny Bakes a Cake. Greenwillow 1981. A boy makes his own birthday cake.

Sendak, Maurice. Outside Over There. Harper 1981. A brave girl rescues her baby sister from goblins.

- Thomas, Elizabeth. Green Beans. Carolrhoda 1992.
The beans in Gramma's garden flourish under
Granddaughter's gentler supervision.
- Van Woerkom, Dorothy. The Queen Who Couldn't Bake
Gingerbread. Parents Magazine Press 1975. A king and
queen learn to judge others by their qualities
rather than by their appearance.
- Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over. Houghton 1972. A boy
learns that other boys also crave the security of a
stuffed animal.
- Williams, Vera B. A Chair for My Mother. Greenwillow 1982.
Rosa, her waitress mother, and grandmother save to buy
a special chair after losing their furniture in a fire.
- Ziefert, Harriet. Where's Mommy's Truck? HarperCollins
1992. Lift the flaps to see Mommy driving, working,
changing a tire, and meeting her child at daycare.
- Zolotow, Charlotte. William's Doll. Harper 1972. A
boy's nurturing play is encouraged.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Adler, David A. Cam Jansen Mystery Series for early
readers (Grade 2 reading level) features a girl
detective with a photographic memory:
- Cam Jansen & the Mystery Corn Popper Viking 1986
Cam Jansen & the Mystery at the Monkey House 1985
Cam Jansen & the Mystery Carnival Prize 1984
Cam Jansen & the Mystery Monster Movie 1984
Cam Jansen & the Mystery of the Circus Clown 1983
Cam Jansen & the Mystery of the Gold Coins 1982
Cam Jansen & the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones 1981
- Byars, Betsy. Hooray for the Golly Sisters. Harper 1990.
First introduced in The Golly Sisters Go West (1985)
these are gently humorous stories for early readers
about two sisters who travel west in their covered
wagon and put on shows for the settlers.
- Caines, Jeanette. Just Us Women. HarperCollins 1982.
A little black girl plans a car trip with her aunt.
Ages 4-8
- Cameron, Ann. The Stories Julian Tells. Pantheon 1981.
First in a series about an engaging black boy, age 7,
and his family and friends. Subsequent titles:
- More Stories Julian Tells. 1989.

- Julian's Glorious Summer. 1987.
Julian, Secret Agent. 1988.
Julian, Dream Doctor. 1990. (Grade 2 reading level)
- Cole, Babette. Prince Cinders. Putnam 1992. In this humorous re-telling of Cinderella, the put-upon sibling is male. Ages 4-8
- Cole, Babette. Princess Smartypants. Putnam 1991. A contemporary princess finds ingenious ways to preserve her single status. Ages 4-8
- Cole, Babette. Tarzanna. The comic adventures of a Jungle-girl who tries city life, then returns to the wild with her animal friends. Ages 4-8
- Cooney, Barbara. Hattie & the Wild Waves. Viking 1990. A little girls is inspired to become an artist. Ages 4 to 8
- Field, Rachel. Calico Bush. Macmillan 1931 and 1966. An orphaned servant-girl faces danger from Indians and harsh winter weather in Maine in the 1740's.
- Gerrard, Roy. Jocasta Carr, Movie Star. Farrar, Strauss, Giroux 1992. Intrepid child-star flies her own plane round the world to rescue her co-star sheepdog, Belle, from kidnappers. Ages 5-8
- Greenfield, Eloise. Rosa Parks. Crowell 1973. Story of the black woman whose refusal to be intimidated on public bus helped to inspire the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. Gr, 2-4
- Greenwald, Shella. Give Us a Great Big Smile, Rosy Cole. Little 1981. A young violinist faces the problems of fame. Gr. 3-5
- Johnston, Tony. The Cowboy & the Black-Eyed Pea Putnam 1992. Ms. Farethee Well looks for a "real cowboy" in this re-working of Andersen's "Princess & the Pea". Ages 5-9
- Jordan, June. Kimako's Story. Houghton 1981. A Japanese-American Girl becomes an explorer while dog-sitting for her neighbor. Gr. 2-4
- Konigsburg, Elaine. A Proud Taste for Scarlet & Miniver. Atheneum 1973. Recollections by Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine, who flouted 12th Century convention with her wit and courage. Gr. 5+
- Lawlor, Laurie. Addie Across the Prairie. Minstrel 1991. A spunky pioneer girls saves her brother from a

prairie fire. Gr.4-6

Addie's Dakota Winter Minstrel 1991. A pioneer family is tested by winter on the prairie.

Lurie, Allison. Clever Gretchen & Other Forgotten Folk Tales. Crowell 1980. Girls overcome obstacles as fairy tale heroines. Gr. 4+

Magorian, Michelle. Goodnight, Mr. Tom. Harper 1982. Formerly abused boy flourishes under the loving care of a foster father. Gr. 5.

Mills, Claudie. Dinah for President. Macmillan 1992. Dinah is determined to make her mark by becoming President of the sixth grade. Gr.4-6

O'Dell, Scott. Island of the Blue Dolphins. Houghton 1960. Brave girl lives alone on a Pacific island. Gr.5+

Phelps, Ethel Johnson, Ed. Tatterhood & Other Tales. Feminist Press 1978. A collection of folktales with strong resourceful females as central characters. Ages 7+

Reiss, Johanna. The Upstairs Room. Crowell 1972. Two sisters hide from the Nazis in a Dutch farmhouse. Gr.4+

San Souci, Robert D. The Talking Eggs: A Folktale from the American South. Dial 1989. Blanche is brave and kind when she encounters a strange old woman and is rewarded with talking eggs which contain riches. Ages 5+

Sleplan, Jan. The Alfred Summer. Macmillan 1980. Four young outcasts, two of them handicapped, cooperate to build a boat. Gr.5+

Step toe, John. Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard 1987. A folktale set in Zimbabwe contrasts the characters and fates of two pretty sisters. Gr.K-3

Thomas, Marlo. Free to Be You & Me, McGraw-Hill 1987. Collection of poems and stories discouraging stereotyping. Gr.2-4

Free to Be a Family McGraw-Hill 1990.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. Justin & the Best Biscuits in the World. Knopf 1986. Combines an exciting contemporary story with history of black cowboys. Reading level Gr. 2-3

Winter, Jeanette. Follow the Drinking Gourd. Knopf 1988.

A family flees slavery via the Underground Railroad.
Ages 5-

Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy. Viking Press 1955. Young Japanese boy ridiculed for being different is finally appreciated for his unusual talent. Gr. K-2

Yolen, Jane. The Girl Who Loved the Wind. HarperCollins 1987. The girl flees from her wealthy overprotective father, who has tried to prevent her from learning that "life isn't always happy". Ages 4-8

Dove Isabeau. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich 1989. Isabeau and her prince have to overcome powerful enchantments. Ages 7+

Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China
Philomel/Putnam 1989. Three girls outwit the wolf.
Ages 5-8

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Avi. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle. Orchard 1990. 13-yr old Charlotte is brought to trial for murder after a terrifying Atlantic crossing in 1832. Gr. 6+

DePauw, Linda Grant. Founding Mothers: Women of America in the Revolutionary Era. Houghton 1975. Includes biographies of soldiers, spies, and activists. Gr. 6+

Furlong, Monica. Juniper. Knopf 1990. With magic and spirituality, a medieval princess fights an evil ruler. Gr. 6+

Wise Child. Knopf 1987. An abandoned girl is fostered and instructed by a sorceress.

Kherdian, David. The Road from Home: the Story of an Armenian Girl. Greenwillow 1979. Woman driven from Turkey who arrives in the U.S.A. as a "mail order bride" must deal with many challenges. Gr. 6+

Paterson, Katherine. Lyddie. Dutton 1991. A young woman struggles to support herself and help her family by working in a mill in Lowell, MA, in the 1840's.

Speare, Elizabeth. Witch of Blackbird Pond. Houghton 1958. Defending another woman from accusations of witchcraft requires bravery. Gr. 6+

Taylor, Mildred. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Dial 1981. Events in rural Mississippi during the Depression call forth the courage of an 11-yr-old girl. Gr. 6+

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL TITLES

- Adell, Judith & Hilary Klein. A Guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books, Vol. I. Academy Press Unlimited (176 W. Addams St., Chicago, Ill. 60611) 1976. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries, Gaithersburg Regional Library.
- Conford, Ellen. Persons First. Montgomery County Dept. of Public Libraries 1983. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries, (301) 279-1401.
- Father Gander. Equal Rhymes Amendment. Larcheveque, Inc. 1985. Obtainable from publisher at Box 454, Indianola, Iowa 50125 for \$11.95 including shipping.
- 1987 Early Childhood Books. A catalog of Gryphon House. Obtainable from the publisher at 3706 Otis Street, P.O. Box 275, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712, or call toll-free (800) 638-0928.
- McBride, Brent and Jim LeVine. How to Start a Father child Group. Bank Street College of Education 1987.p Contains a list of books showing fathers in nurturing and non-traditional roles. Obtainable from the publisher at 610 W. 112th Street, New York, N.Y. 11025 for \$5.00.
- Ms. Magazine. Back issues of the last ten years, available in many libraries, contain information on non-sexist books for young people.
- Pogrebin, Letty Cotton. Growing Up Free. McGraw 1980. Obtainable by calling (212) 719-9800.
- Racism and Sexism Resource Center. Bulletin on Interracial Books for Children and related catalog. Council on Interracial Books for Children. Obtainable from the publisher at 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.
- Sadker, Myra and David. Now Upon a Time. Harper & Row 1976. Obtainable from Montgomery County Public Libraries.
- Shaffer, Susan. 101 Books for Summer Reading. Mid-Atlantic Center for Sex Equity. Obtainable from the publisher at 5010 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, or call (202) 885-8536.
- Sprung, Barbara. Non-sexist Education for Young Children. Citation Press (for Women's Action Alliance). Obtainable from the publisher at 50 W. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036.

Wilms, Denlshe and Irenen Cooper. A guide to Non-Sexist Children's Books, Vol. II. (1976-85). Academy Chicago (425 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611). Obtainable from the Cheshire Cat Bookstore, 5512 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015 for \$8.95.

This introductory list was prepared and distributed in Fall 1987 by the Montgomery County (MD) Chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women), at (301) 236-0069, in cooperation with the Child Care Technical Assistance Office of Montgomery College at (301) 424-2912. Revised in 1992 by Pamela Kempf at Borders Book Shop, as a volunteer project.