Predictable Books

Butterworth, Nick and Inkpen, Mick. ***Jasper's Beanstalk***. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Co. Ltd., 1992. ISBN 0773725768

Growing a plant requires time and patience, as Jasper, the cat, discovers during a week of planting and gardening. Watering, raking and weeding, working hard from Monday to Sunday, Jasper, discouraged by its lack of growth, digs up the bean seed and throws it aside. Much later, to his surprise, a beanstalk grows and grows and....... Can you imagine what he might find at the top of the beanstalk? Lively, charming illustrations capture Jasper's disappointment and excitement.

> ☞Related Reading: ***Just Like Jasper*** (same character); ***My Best Shoes***; ***Cookie's Week***; ***Today Is Monday***; ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** (days of the week)

Carle, Eric. ***The Very Busy Spider***. New York: Philomel Books, 1984. ISBN 0399211667.

Seeing, hearing and touching are strongly engaged in this story of an industrious spider who is too busy spinning her web to be distracted by adventurous farm animals. Young readers learn that the lowly spider is important in maintaining the balance of nature. Repetitive text encourages reader involvement. The raised lines of the web compel one to feel and the familiar animals invite imitation of their sounds. Creative design and vibrant illustrations make this a welcome addition to Eric Carle's literary contributions.

> ☞Related Reading: ***The Very Quiet Cricket***; ***The Very Lonely Firefly***; ***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*** (author)

Hill, Eric. ***Where's Spot?*** New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1980. ISBN 0399207589.

It's suppertime and Spot, the dog, is nowhere in sight. Where could a playful puppy hide, wonders his mother as she checks the many possible places - inside the clock, in the piano, under the bed. An amusing surprise awaits her in each place. Positional prepositions are prominent in the text. This book contains great features for beginning readers - lift-up flaps, controlled, repetitive vocabulary, bright humourous illustrations and an amusing storyline.

> ☞Related Reading: ***A Dark, Dark Tale*** (directionality); ***Spot Goes to a Party***; ***Spot's First Walk***; ***Spot Goes to School*** (same character)

McDonnell, Flora. ***Splash!*** Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 1999. ISBN 076360481X.

Lively and interactive, this book will invite young readers to chime in. Everything about the book is big - the size of the book, the size of the font and the double-page spreads of the animals. This book was written for children in every sense. The book is predictable in that children will predict what will happen next and follow the language patterns of the text. This is an enjoyable read for all.

> ☞Related Reading: ***Spots, Feathers, and Curly Tails***; ***I Love Animals***; ***Barnyard Banter***; ***My Barn*** (animals)

Williams, Sue. *I Went Walking* (illus. Julie Vivas). New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1989. ISBN 0152004718.

Repetitive, rhythmic text takes a young boy on a lively walk where he meets a variety of colourful animals who accompany him on his adventure. Humourous illustrations entertain young children who love to chime in and recite the simple text.

☞Related Reading: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*; *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?*; *Let's Go Visiting* (format)

Wood, Audrey. *The Napping House* (illus. Don Wood). New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1984. ISBN 0152567089.

Is it possible that a very tiny creature could be the source of the "undoing" of a peaceful night's sleep in a napping house? The soft, subdued tones reflect the cozy comfort of the granny, the child, the dog and others until the peace in unexpectedly disrupted. Brightly-coloured illustrations present a different mood as the peace is broken. Children love the humorous illustrations and the repetitive rhyme in this cumulative tale.

☞Related Reading: *Shoes from Grandpa*; *The World That Jack Built*; *The House That Jack Built*; *The Cake That Mack Ate* (cumulative)