

Isadora, Rachel (Retold by)

illus: \$6.99

PRINCESS AND THE PEA, THE

ISBN# 978-0-14-241393-7
Puffin

Series: 2009 E

AD+
Pre - 3

Rachel Isadora has set another traditional tale in an African setting. The vibrant colors and fabric designs of Eastern Africa make this a wonderful addition to the folk tale collection. The words are identical to those by Hans Christian Anderson with Paul Galdone's illustrations. The tale is simple enough for the young to understand, but still appeals to third grade students who can compare different versions. In the story, a prince hopes to find a real princess, so the queen devises a plan to test the bedraggled girl who comes to their door during a storm. Despite 20 mattresses and 20 featherbeds, the girl has a restless, uncomfortable night due to the hidden pea at the base, thus proving she's a real princess worthy to marry the prince. Isadora adds three African greetings in the middle of the story when girls claiming to be princesses greet the prince. At the end a map shows the three areas from whence these words come—Ethiopia (Amharic), Somalia(Somali) & Kenya(Swahili).

Sharon Turpin (Shoreline) – O

Jackson, Alison

illus: Graves, Keith \$16.99

DESERT ROSE AND HER HIGHFALUTIN PIG

ISBN# 978-0-8027-9833-6
Walker & Company

Series: 2009 E

AD+
K - 3

Desert Rose is a pig farmer in Texas. When she finds a gold nugget she buys a prize hog to take to the fair. Unfortunately, the hog is uncooperative when asked to cross a creek on the way to the fair. Rose calls on a list of animal (and a human) helper, but they are uncooperative until she promises the armadillo a load of insects for his troubles. They make it to the fair and sure enough the hog wins first place and both Rose and the armadillo are happy. This is a fun read aloud and would make a great comparison text to The Farmer's Wife, a Sufi folktale by Idres Shah that also features uncooperative helpers and a similar pattern.

Paula Wittmann (Seattle) – O

James, Brian

illus: Zivoin, Jennifer \$3.99

SHIVER ME, SHIPWRECK!

ISBN# 978-0-448-44888-6
Grosset & Dunlap

Series: Pirate School 2009 FIC

AD-
2

This is book eight in the *Pirate School Series*. The children are on a pirate ship learning skills of being a pirate. They spot another pirate ship on which Vicki and Aaron's parents are living. The captain lets them go on that ship for a week's vacation. But the savory crew's laziness abounds and no work or repairs are done on the ship. The kids try to clean up the ship and do chores but the captain orders them to have fun. Then the ship hits the rocks and starts to leak. None of the crew does anything to help. So the kids take it upon themselves to plug the holes with their clothing. Luckily, the Sea Rat comes to their rescue. A simple story which is trying to be rough and tough with a bit of adventure.

Didi Kearsley (Mercer Island) – W

Jenkins, Emily

illus: Potter, Giselle \$16.99

SUGAR WOULD NOT EAT IT

ISBN# 978-0-375-83603-9
Schwartz & Wade Books

Series: 2009 E

AD
Pre - 1

Leo found a cat outside. He did not seem to belong to anyone. So he brought her inside and gave her a piece of chocolate birthday cake. Sugar would not eat it. Leo consulted with many different people who all gave him advice about not giving in and not letting the cat leave the table until it ate its food. Finally, Leo gave up and poured himself a glass of milk. The cat was very interested in the milk. At the end of the story, Leo tries to give the cat a bath. That sounds like a lead in to another story. The computer generated pictures go along with the story.

Didi Kearsley (Mercer Island) – W

Jenkins, Martin
CLOCKS

illus: Holland, Richard \$18.99

THE TIME BOOK: A BRIEF HISTORY FROM LUNAR CALENDARS

TO ATOMIC

ISBN# 978-0-7636-4112-2
Candlewick

Series: 2009 529

AD+
3 - 4

Complex and whimsical illustrations by Richard Holland accompany this brief history of time measurement "from lunar calendars to atomic clocks." This is longer than the ordinary picture book – it's even divided into chapters – and peppered with advanced vocabulary. However, it explains some fairly complicated ideas about the way we perceive time, such as relativity, in a simple and clear manner. Full of facts, it still keeps each chapter short and readable. The creative shaping of the text is more annoying than attractive, but overall this is an attractive and highly informative book.

Audrey Kentor (UW ISchool) – W

Jennings, Sharon

illus: Lightburn, Ron

THE HAPPILY EVER AFTERNOON

ISBN# 1-55037-945-7
Annick Press

Series: 2006 813

NR
Pre - K

A young boy uses imagination to trick the guardians of the dessert table in this pointless and badly illustrated story. The boy, who eventually ends up with the sweets, finishes up in his room as punishment for eating them. On the last page he is invited to celebrate

his birthday with cake. This book is not recommended.
Kelly Ingalls (Quilcene) – W