

Ben the Bear's Top 10 Picturebooks



Hello, I'm Ben from the **Say Hello!** Kindergarten English course. Read on for a list of my top 10 picturebooks, and visit www.deltapublishing.co.uk to find out more about my course!

Hooray for Fish!
by Lucy Cousins
Adjectives/colours/
numbers

Silly Suzy Goose
by Petr Horáček
Animals/onomatopoeia

Funny Face
by Nicola Smee
Emotions

Monkey and Me
by Emily Gravett
Zoo animals

Old MacDonald
by Jessica Souhami
Farm animals/
transport

"Pardon?" said the giraffe
by Colin West
Being polite/
savannah animals

My nose, your nose
by Melanie Walsh
Parts of the body

We All Go Travelling By
by Sheena Roberts
& Siobhan Bell
Transport/colours

Washing Line
by Jez Alborough
Zoo animals/
clothes

Brown Bear, Brown Bear
by Bill Martin Jr
& Eric Carle
Animals/colours

10 excellent reasons for using English stories in the classroom with young learners!

- 1 Children love stories and listening to stories is something they are used to doing at home and in other school contexts.
- 2 Stories help children understand their world, and they often want to share their understanding with others at home and school.
- 3 Stories provide for shared social experiences. Children laugh together, are happy and sad together, shout and sing together. This helps build children's confidence and encourages social and emotional development.
- 4 Stories exercise the imagination! Children become involved in the story, identifying with the characters, interpreting the narrative and illustrations.
- 5 Stories provide a natural and relevant context for exposure to language.
- 6 Stories develop children's learning strategies: listening for general meaning; predicting; guessing meaning; hypothesising.
- 7 Listening to stories helps children become aware of the rhythm, intonation and pronunciation of the language.
- 8 Many stories naturally provide for repetition. This allows children to participate by repeating large sections of narrative to join in as they are repeated in the stories.
- 9 Reading picturebooks has been shown to positively promote vocabulary development in children. They expose children to rich, authentic language, which they otherwise would not encounter.
- 10 The story visuals, the storyteller's voice, mime and gesture all support meaning, and enable children to develop their listening and concentration skills.



© Sandie Mourão 2015. Sandie is an expert on using picturebooks in the ELT classroom. Visit her blog here <http://picturebooksinelt.blogspot.pt/2015/07/ten-picturebooks-for-pre-primary.html> to read her posts on how to get the most out of each of Ben the Bear's top 10 picturebooks. Sandie's full list of 30 reasons for using stories with young learners can be found here: http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/BritLit_elt.pdf