



*Pop-up Storytime Favorites of Rachel Anne Mencke*

***I Will Never NOT EVER Eat A Tomato*** by Lauren Child (ages 4-8)

“I have this little sister, Lola,” Charlie tells readers. “She is small and very funny... Sometimes Mom and Dad ask me to give Lola her dinner. This is difficult because she is a very fussy eater.” Carrots are for rabbits, peas are “too small and too green,” Lola would never eat a fish stick, and “absolutely will never not ever eat a tomato.” So, when Charlie is in charge of getting Lola to eat her dinner of peas, carrots, potato and fish sticks, he uses his imagination: “Oh, you think these are carrots. These are not carrots, these are orange twiglets from Jupiter...” The pop-up format really adds to the work; Lola rolls her eyes and swings her legs with melodramatic flair, while other pop-up and pull-tab elements work wonderfully to show how ordinary foods become exotic moonsquirters, Greenland greendrops, ocean nibbles, Mount Fuji cloud fluff and orange twiglets from Jupiter.

***Milo’s Special Words*** by Charise Mericle Harper (ages 2-6)

Milo decides that he wants milk, so he screams “Milk!” but Mommy doesn’t respond! When Lucy reminds Milo “to use the special word. The word that will make Mommy move,” Milo tries “Abracadabra,” “Floopindoodle,” and all kinds of other words on a spinning wheel, but Mommy still doesn’t move. Finally, Milo tries “please,” and Mommy moves “quick as a bunny,” bringing milk. but then she stays on the red rug until Milo finds another special word! On the second-to last page, Milo decides to test the power of his new special words: “Rocket, please!....” Now what will Mommy do?”

***Beautiful Oops!*** by Barney Saltzberg (ages 3-8)

A wonderfully inventive visual demonstration of how mistakes can turn into inspiration: a tear turns into the mouth of an alligator, crumpled white paper becomes the fleecy body of a sheep, and the ring left by a mug of cocoa becomes a hungry lizard.

***There Are Cats In This Book*** by Vivane Schwarz (ages 2-8)

“The cats aren’t on this page/... they’re on the next page. They’d love to play with you. They’re very friendly.” Die-cut pages and flaps change the scenes and the positions of characters in this goofily innovative book. Lifting a blanket flap wakes the three purring protagonists, who address the reader directly: “Hello. Who are YOU?/Are you NICE?/You LOOK nice./And STRONG. /Could you turn a whole PAGE?/Because there’s YARN on the next page. LOOK!” A delightfully personal, interactive book for one-on-one laptime, and a wonderfully engaging choice for younger groups in storytime. While there aren’t any pop-ups, it does have flaps and die-cut page edges, and it is wholly interactive.

***Dog*** by Matthew Van Fleet, photography by Brian Stanton (ages 1-4)

From the pug wagging his tail on the cover, young children will be charmed by the amiable assortment of dogs in this simple rhyming book: “Fluffy dog, scruffy dog, droopy dog sags, Perky little puppy dog-- wag, wag, wag!” The perky little puppy’s tail does indeed wag, and lap-sit groups will enjoy touching the inset fluffy and scruffy fur. The photos stand vividly against a clean white background, and all breeds are identified on the last two pages. It isn’t really a pop-up, but it does feature touch-&-feel panels and pull-tabs.

***Big Frog Can’t Fit In*** by Mo Willems (ages 2-6)

Big Frog can’t fit in; she’s just too big for this humorous pop-up book. Luckily, she has some enterprising friends.

