

# SPRING BOOK LIST



## **And Then It's Spring** (Ages 2-7)

**Written by Julie Fogliano and Illustrated by Erin E. Stead**

After a snow filled winter, a young boy patiently waits for his seeds to grow and to see the brown mud turn green with new plants.

**What We Love:** This book is a great book to teach about being patient and waiting for things. The boy knows the seeds will grow when they are ready. It's written simply and very sweetly.

**Concepts:** Spring, Plants, Seeds, Gardening, Patience, Seasons

**Diversity:** The lead character is white/euro-centric. He is the only human character.

## **Fletcher and the Springtime Blossom** (Ages 3-8)

**Written by Julia Rawlinson and Illustrated by Tiphanie Beeke**

Fletcher the Fox is very excited for spring, but wait-is that a snowflake? Oh no! Fletcher must tell all of the animals to take shelter, as it looks like there is one last winter storm! As all of the forest animals gather together to get ready for snow, they discover a wonderful surprise!

**What We Love:** Fletcher is such a sweet character. We love that Fletcher wants to help all the animals and keep everyone safe.

**Concepts:** Snow, Spring, Seasons, Forest Animals, Taking Care of Others, Friendship

## **Spring Is Here: A Bear and Mole Story** (Ages 2-6)

**Written and Illustrated by Will Hillenbrand**

Mole can smell spring in the air! He must wake up bear from his long winter nap. But Bear is still fast asleep! Can Mole get Bear awake?

**What We Love:** This book is a silly look at hibernation and how animals wake up from hibernation in the spring. You can talk about hibernation while laughing at all of Mole's attempts to wake bear.

**Concepts:** Hibernation, Spring, Forest Animals, Seasons

## **Abracadabra It's Spring** (Ages 3-7)

**Written by Anne Sibley O'Brien and Illustrated by Susan Gal**

Winter magically transforms into spring in this gatefold book. Each page reveals beautiful drawings as you watch snow melt, eggs hatch, and flowers bloom!

**What We Love:** This book let's children interact with the unfolding pages using fun "magic" words. The illustrations are beautiful and it presents the seasonal changes in a very tangible way.

**Concepts:** Magic, Spring, Changes, Nature

## **What Will Hatch** (Ages 3-7)

**Written by Jennifer Ward and Susie Ghahremani**

Eggs come in all shapes and sizes! What will hatch from each one? Try to guess which animal laid each set of eggs. Is it a tadpole? A bird? Or a platypus?!

**What We Love:** This book let's kids take a guess for which animal is about to hatch based on a cute rhyming clue and illustration! The book focuses on all oviparous animals, (a word we learned from this book) or animals that hatch from eggs!

**Concepts:** Animals, Nature, Spring, Hatching, Animal Babies

## **Spring: An Alphabet Acrostic** (Ages 3-8)

**Written by Steven Schnur and Illustrated by Leslie Evans**

A collection of acrostic poems featuring spring themes from April to zenith!

**What We Love:** This is a lovely way to introduce sight words and the alphabet. The illustrations wonderfully support each page with a beautiful spring theme.

**Concepts:** Spring, Alphabet, Reading, Poetry

**Diversity:** Overall this book shows a diverse range of characters, but the leading character is never featured as black. There are other BIPOC leads on some of the photos and there are black authority figures (a fireman).

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**When Spring Comes** (Ages 2-6)

**Written by Kevin Henkes and Illustrated by Laura Drozdek**

Using clean illustrations, repetition, and imagery this book presents the transition from the cold, snowy winter to the new, budding spring.

**What We Love:** This book moves well and is simply charming. It's not overwhelmingly stimulating and creates lovely word patterns. A great book for young listeners and readers alike.

**Concepts:** Change, Spring, New Growth, Seasons

**Finding Spring** (Ages 3-7)

**Written and Illustrated by Carin Berger**

One little bear, Maurice, doesn't want to hibernate until spring comes. After searching all over the forest for spring, Maurice thinks he has finally found it- something beautiful, white, and fluffy! He wraps up his snowball to show his family and settles in for a needed nap. When he wakes up his beautiful ball of snow has melted, but something else magical has arrived!

**What We Love:** It's a charming story of not wanting to go to sleep and not wanting wait until something exciting happens. Children will delight and laugh as bear mistakenly thinks snow is spring!

**Concepts:** Hibernation, Forest Animals, Spring, Seasons

**Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt** (Ages 3-7)

**Written by Kate Messner and Illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal**

Up in the garden the world is green- leaves shoot up out of the ground, vegetables grow, and fruit ripens. But down in the dirt underneath the garden the world is brown- earthworms dig, snakes hunt, and animals burrow underground. Explore the contrast of these two worlds with beautiful prose and simple repetition.

**What We Love:** This book has beautiful illustrations, science exploration, and it's a great way to show children that spring begins underground before we can see it! A great book to explore as kids get impatient for flowers to bloom and plants to grow!

**Concepts:** STEM, Biology, Gardening, Nature, Dirt, Spring

**Diversity:** While the book focus on the nature aspects, the humans featured are all white/euro-centric.

**Spring is Here** (Ages 2-5)

**Written and Illustrated by Taro Gomi**

Using simple language and vibrant illustrations, this book helps children explore the changing seasons.

**What We Love:** This book is a great early listener/reader book. It's very simple with strikingly bold illustrations that melt away with the seasons.

**Concepts:** Early Language, Spring, Seasons

**Diversity:** The children portrayed in the book are BIPOC.

**Neither** (Ages 3-8)

**Written and Illustrated by Airlie Anderson**

In the land of this and that there only two types of creatures: blue bunnies and yellow birds. One day an egg hatches, and out pops a green creature that's not quite bird and not quite bunny. It's both! But the bunnies and birds of this and that don't see that it can be both. "Neither!" they all shout. Feeling left out Neither looks for a new home and stumbles upon the Land of All where everyone is accepted!

**What We Love:** Okay, so this book isn't a spring book but the blue bunnies and yellow birds in this book remind us of the Easter Peeps candy! This is a great book about fitting in and feeling left out. It's very open to interpretation and introduces important messages of inclusion to young children.

**Concepts:** Inclusion, Being Different, Being Proud of Who You Are, Embracing Differences, Being Kind

**Diversity:** While this book uses non-human characters this book can be used to address general and more specific diversity. Neither is a different color than this or that, so it can be used to show racial diversity. Neither also is not quite a bird or rabbit, which could be used to talk about gender fluidity. The creatures Neither meets are a rainbow of colors, which evokes images of gay pride, but also shows that creatures come in many colors and shapes.

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## **The Twelve Days of Springtime: A School Counting Book** (Ages 4-8)

**Written by Deborah Lee Rose and Illustrated by Carey Armstrong-Ellis**

It's time for spring! That means school gardens, class pets, and field trips! Explore spring themes while counting up to twelve using the pattern from the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

**What We Love:** This book is zany, fast paced, and full of fun things to spot on each page!

**Concepts:** Spring, School, Classrooms

**Diversity:** While the teacher is white/euro-centric, the classroom features a diverse group of students.

## **Bear Wants More** (Ages 2-7)

**Written by Karma Wilson and Illustrated by Jane Chapman**

Bear wakes up from his winter hibernation to spring-and an empty stomach! Bear eats everything in sight and he's still hungry for more!

**What We Love:** This book is simple and funny, but does introduce some science. When animals come out of hibernation they are very hungry and looking to take advantage of all the new plants and flowers blooming!

**Concepts:** Hibernation, STEM, Biology, Forest Animals, Spring

## **Farfallina and Marcel** (Ages 3-7)

**Written and Illustrated by Holly Keller**

Farfallina the caterpillar and Marcel the gosling are best friends. But one day Farfallina goes to hide and doesn't come back. While he waits, Marcel grows and changes so much he barely recognizes himself. Farfallina emerges from her nap as butterfly, and can't find her friend Marcel anywhere. Will the two friends find each other again?

**What We Love:** This book shows a strong friendship while also addressing the life cycles of geese and butterflies. While it is not a "spring" book it's a great intro to the changes and growth of spring.

**Concepts:** Friendship, Change, Growing Up

## **Spring for Sophie** (Ages 3-7)

**Written by Yael Werber and Illustrated by Jen Hill**

Sophie listens and watches for signs of spring. But day after day the snow is still there and the skies are still grey. Will spring ever come?

**What We Love:** This book shows patience and shows the way spring slowly comes in before bursting into full bloom. Sophie is a very relatable character for young children.

**Concepts:** Spring, Changes, Waiting, Patience, Seasons

**Diversity:** The family featured in this book is white/euro-centric.

## **The Best Four Questions** (Ages 3-8)

**Written by Rachelle Burk and Illustrated by Melanie Florian**

This year it's Marcy's turn to ask the four questions at her family's Passover seder. Marcy has plenty of questions to ask, so when her turn comes she has come up with the best four questions ever! However, they aren't the four questions from the Haggadah she was supposed to read.

With a little help from her family, all of Marcy's questions get answered as well as the four traditional ones.

**What We Love:** This book was our favorite for introducing the holiday to non-Jewish children. It explains the components of a seder plate, that horseradish isn't made of horses (a very important question for little ones), and contains the traditional four questions in English with traditional answers. This is a great way to learn a bit about the holiday with out going in depth, and what child can't relate to being great at asking questions?

**Concepts:** Passover, Passover Seder, Seder Plate, Jewish Holidays, Holidays, Exploring Other Cultures

**Diversity:** While the characters are featured as a white/euro-centric Jewish family, the Jewish culture is an important and diverse group of people.

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## **Rechenka's Eggs** (Ages 4-9)

**Written and Illustrated by** Patricia Polacco

Babushka is known through all of Moskva for her beautifully painted eggs she brings to the Easter Festival every year. One day she takes in an injured goose, which she names Rechenka. The two live happily together, but one day Rechenka accidentally knocks over the basket of Babushka's beautiful eggs. Babushka is sad to lose all the eggs and knows she cannot make enough in time for the festival, but the next morning a wonderful surprise awaits her!

**What We Love:** This is a beautifully told whimsical story of kindness and love between Babushka and her goose.

**Concepts:** Friendship, Caring For Others, Magic, Fairy Tale

**Diversity:** Babushka (Russian for grandmother) lives in Russia and the story takes place near Moskva (Moscow). The eggs in the story are created from authentic Ukrainian designs.

## **A New Beginning: Celebrating the Spring Equinox** (Ages 4-9)

**Written by** Wendy Pfeffer **and Illustrated by** Linda Bleck

The Spring Equinox signals the time of year when days get longer, new life blooms, and animals give birth to their young. Around the world people have celebrated this season in many ways. This book explores the roots of Easter in Germany, the Lunar New Year in China, Harvest Festivals of the Cree, Holi in India, and many more.

**What We Love:** This is a great way to learn about other cultures and celebrations around the world. The book includes ancient festivals and how they've changed and are celebrated today.

**Concepts:** Holiday, Cultures, Around the World, Spring Equinox, Passover, Holi

**Diversity:** This book features celebrations from a wide group of cultures around the world.

## **Festival of Colors** (3-8)

**Written by** Surishtha and Kabir Sehgal **and Illustrated by** Vashti Harrison

Spring is here and it's almost time for Holi, the Festival of Colors. Mintoo and Chintoo are gathering flowers to make colorful powders to toss during the festival. They are excited for the big day when they gather with friends, family, and neighbors for a colorful celebration of friendship and forgiveness!

**What We Love:** This book is as vibrant as the holiday itself. Holi is a delightful celebration of color and renewal. Let children explore the Indian festival through this story!

**Concepts:** Indian Culture, India, Asian Cultures, Around the World, Holidays

**Diversity:** This book is written by a mother and son duo of Indian heritage and teaches children about a traditional and ongoing holiday from India.

## **Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail** (Ages 3-8)

Inside the house a boy and his family sit warm and happy as they celebrate their Passover Seder. Outside the house a white kitten walks around hungry and alone. When it's time for the symbolic custom of opening the door for the prophet Elijah, the two worlds collide for a delightful surprise.

**What We Love:** The parallel stories of the boy and the cat will keep children engaged and curious. The book talks through many of the Passover seder traditions, including the opening of the door for Elijah.

**Concepts:** Passover, Passover Seder, Traditions, Family, Holidays, Exploring Other Cultures

**Diversity:** This book shows a beautifully diverse Jewish family.

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## More Book About Spring:

**The Thing About Spring** by Daniel Kirk

**I am Spring** by Rebecca McDonald

**It's Spring** by Linda Glasner

**Kite Day** by Will Hillenbrand

**My Spring Robin** by Anne Rockwell

**Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit** by Il Sung Na

**Bunny's First Spring** by Sally Lloyd Jones

**In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb** by Marion Dane Bauer

**Make Way For Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey

**Spring Song** by Barbara Seuling

**Splash, Splash, Spring** by Jan Carr

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle

**The Easter Egg** by Jan Brett

**The Passover Lamb** by Linda Elovitz Marshall

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit** by Beatrix Potter