Predictable Books

Predictable books make use of rhyme, repetition of words, phrases, sentences and refrains, and such patterns as cumulative structure, repeated scenes, familiar cultural sequences, interlocking structure and turn-around plots. These stories invite children to make predictions or guesses about words, phrases, sentences, events and characters that could come next in the story.

Kinds of Predictable Books

- Chain or Circular Story-Plot is interlinked so that the ending leads back to the beginning.
- Cumulative Story- Each time a new event occurs, all previous events in the story are repeated.
- Familiar Sequence-O rganized by recognizable theme, such as: Days of Week, etc. and Numbers
- Pattern Stories-Scenes are repeated with some variation.
- Question and Answer-The same or similar questions are repeated throughout the story.
- Repetition of Phrase-Word order in a phrase or sentence is repeated.
- Rhyme-Rhyming words, refrains, or patterns are used throughout the story.
- Songbooks- Familiar songs with predictable elements, such as repetitive phrase.

Chain or Circular Story

*Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears* by Verna Aardema  
J/398.20966/AAR

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and other books in the series by Laura Numeroff E/NUM

Cumulative

*The Bridge is Up* by Babs Bell  
E/BEL

*Mr. Gumpy's Outing* by John Burningham  
E/BUR

*Today Is Monday* by Eric Carle  
E/CAR

*Jack's Garden* by Henry Cole  
E/COL

*The Bag I'm Taking to Grandma's* by Shirley Neitzel  
E/NEI

*It's My Birthday* by Helen Oxenbury  
E/OXE

*In Enzo's Splendid Gardens* by Patricia Polacco  
E/POL

*The Pig In the Pond* by Martin Waddell  
E/WAD

"I Don't Care!" Said the Bear by Colin West  
E/WES

*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood  
E/WOO

Familiar Sequence (days of week, months of year, etc.)

*Today Is Monday* by Eric Carle  
E/CAR

*Chicken Soup With Rice* by Maurice Sendak  
E/SEN
Day by Day, a Week Goes Round by Carol Shields        E/SHE
Cookie's Week by Cindy Ward                           E/WAR

Familiar Sequence (Numbers)

Big Fat Hen by Keith Baker                        CONCEPT/COUNT/BAK
Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang                      CONCEPT/COUNT/BAN
Gathering: a Northwoods Counting Book by Betsy Bowen CONCEPT/COUNT/BOW

Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle                      E/CAR
Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle                      E/CAR
Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle               E/CAR
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow E/CHR

Splash by Ann Jonas                                 E/JON
Chicken Soup with Rice by Maurice Sendak            E/SEN

Pattern Story

Bus for Us by Suzanne Bloom                        E/BLO
Town Mouse and Country Mouse by Jan Brett           E/BRE
The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown           E/BRO
Millions of Cats by Wanda Gag                       E/GAG
The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone                E/GAL
Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone                      E/GAL
The Three Bears by Paul Galdone                     E/GAL
The Three Billy Goats Gruff by Paul Galdone        E/GAL
Chester's Way by Kevin Henkes                      E/HEN
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss                      E/KRA
Who Took The Farmers Hat? by Joan Nodset            E/NOD

Question And Answer

Have You Seen My Cat? by Eric Carle                 E/CAR
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman                  READER/EAS
Whose Mouse Are You by Robert Kraus                 E/KRA
Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin               E/MAR
Panda Bear, Panda Bear by Bill Martin               E/MAR
Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Bill Marting              E/MAR
Dig! by Andrea Zimmerman                            E/ZIM

Repetition of Phrase (and repetitive phrase)

Watch Out! Big Bro's Coming! by Jez Alborough        E/ALB
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown               E/BRO
A Dark, Dark Tale by Ruth Brown                     E/BRO
Do You Want To Be My Friend by Eric Carle           E/CAR
Have you Seen My Cat by Eric Carle                  E/CAR
Rhyme

*The Bedtime Train* by Joy Cowley  
*What the Grizzly Knows* by David Elliott  
*Barnyard Banter* by Denise Fleming  
*Is Your Mama A Llama?* by Deborah Guarino  
*Jake Baked The Cake* by B.G. Hennesy  
*A House Is A House For Me* by Mary Ann Hoberman  
*Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin  
*Don’t Climb Out Of The Window Tonight* by Richard McGilvray  
*If The Dinosaurs Came Back* by Bernard Most  
*Good Night, Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann  
*Chicken Soup With Rice* by Maurice Sendak  
*Have You Seen My Duckling?* by Nancy Tafuri  
*From My Window* by O. Wong  
*Silly Sally* by Audrey Wood  
*Let’s Eat* by Ana Zamorano

Look for other rhyming books under the subject heading *Stories in Rhyme.*

Songbooks

*Over In The Meadow* by Ezra Jack Keats  
*Over In The Meadow* by John Langstaff  
*The Farmer In The Dell* by Alexandra Wallner

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