Stories about Mice


Alexander, a real mouse, makes friends with Willy, a toy mouse. Alexander wants to be just like Willy until he discovers Willy is to be thrown away. Whimsical collages illustrate this story of friendship. A 1970 Caldecott Honor Book.

In this delightful story Angelina the mouse, with the help of her parents, learns to balance her love of dance with her daily responsibilities.


This book is a simple story of the day and night routines in the house with a family, and the nocturnal neighbor within the walls. A charming, brightly colored picture book with rhythmic text details the daily life of a busy family and the little mouse who waits all day for the busy house to become a quiet house. Cheerful pictures show that while the family is busy during the day, the mouse sleeps and while the family sleeps at night, the mouse is busy, busy.

Three little mice want to see the monster that lives at the top of the cellar stairs. The appealing illustrations will make this read aloud just scary enough to satisfy little ones that want to feel brave.


Doctor De Soto is a well-respected mouse-dentist who runs a successful practice with his wife (and able assistant), Mrs. De Soto. The De Sotos are friendly and professional toward all their patients, from chipmunks to donkeys to cows, the exception being "cats and other dangerous animals." But the De Sotos are tender-hearted rodents, so when a miserable fox shows up begging for treatment, they agree to have a look. Luckily, Doctor De Soto and his wife have anticipated the fox’s hungry intentions on the follow up visit and find a way to outfox the ungrateful fox.

Children will chuckle with every “Drip, Drop” as Pip Squeak the mouse tries desperately to deal with the results of a late night rain mixed with a leaky roof. The engaging rhyme pattern, punctuated with a chorus of “drip, drop, plip, plop” as well as the humorous illustrations, will draw young readers to this mouse’s funny attempts to handle the indoor flood.


Celestine, a young mouse, and Ernest, her adult guardian (a bear), try to find a replacement for her favorite toy when it gets left outside in a snow storm and ruined. First, Ernest tries to buy a replacement and then makes one to the specifications of Celestine’s drawing. Check you local library and used booksellers for the first book in this delightful series featuring this charming pair from France.

While other mice are gathering food for winter, Frederick seems to daydream the summer away. When dreary winter comes, it is Frederick, the poet mouse, who warms his friends and cheers them with his words.


Baby rabbit is getting ready for sleep. He is with “the little old lady who whispers, ““Hush”. Their “countdown” includes saying goodnight to almost everything they see in their great green room, including a little mouse who is seen in many of the illustrations.

Maisy's birthday is full of friends, cards, and gifts. The best thing about this book is that you can play while you learn to read - it's a lift-the-flap/pull-the-tab book!


Hide and seek mouse style! A mouse plays a game with a rather reluctant home owner. The ink and water color illustrations convey the thrill and suspense of game that just right for readers who are avid hide and seekers themselves.

A baby mouse tells of the joys of having an older sibling, but the picture on the back cover shows that it all sounds like gibberish. This sweet story will also be enjoyed for the humorous illustrations of family life with a baby.


This is the endearing story of a little boy and his friend, the Mouse who shares cookies; that snack, of course, requires a glass of milk starting a cause-effect spiral that finally ends with the need for a cookie! Felicia Bond does a remarkable job of illustrating the body language of these two lovable characters whose deep understanding of each other bespeaks a gentle give-and-take mutual response that should be recognized and respected by world leaders throughout the earth!

Mouse finds a yummy strawberry, but Bear just might get it in the end. The pictures are bright and the story is clever.


When Livingstone’s mother tells her litter of mice that it is time to go off on their own, he asks her, “Where is the greatest place in the world?” When she says that she has heard that China is nice, Livingstone decides to find China and make his home there. His adventures, while looking for China are funny and he learns a lot. After many false starts, he finds the perfect place and is amazed to learn it is indeed called China---the other kind! Illustrations are presented from a mouse’s point of view.

This book is like a dictionary: it has words and pictures of Maisy’s favorite things. Young readers will like the bright colors of this child-sized book.


Maisy the Mouse goes to the library in search of a book on fish. While there, she meets her friends and enjoys some of the other things that one can do in libraries and ends the day quietly reading her fish book outside of the library under a tree in a nearby park. Bold colors within thick black outlines will be familiar to fans of the Maisy series; equally familiar will be the thick black text which looks hand printed. This book encourages families to enjoy a library story time with out the fear of a “Shhhhh!”

Maisy, a little girl mouse, solves the problem of what to do when her friend comes to play—at bath time! Two, three and four-year olds will surely understand and enjoy this simple story.


A delightful grandma plans a birthday party with the help of a daily list and some mice in this group read aloud. Exuberant paintings with vibrant colors display the joy and energy of Rosa Maria, who loves to cook for her family. A glossary and pronunciation guide is included in the back of the book for several Spanish words,
as well as Rosa Maria’s recipe for Rice and Beans that celebrate the Latino heritage.


Miss Mouse, a beloved patchwork toy, accompanies her girl through a busy day and tells her story with enthusiasm and grace. The bright illustrations show the delight of a child at play.


Miss Mouse, a stuffed animal, goes on a plane trip with a little girl and her mother. Who are they visiting? The vivid illustrations invite children's curiosity, and will prompt children to tell about their own travel adventures.

Little Arthur Mouse is very interested in the moon because his mother tells him that she has heard that it is made of cheese. Arthur “visits” the delicious moon and is quite surprised at his appetite. Check your local library or used bookseller for this title.


*Mouse’s First Spring* by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Buket Erdogan. Simon & Schuster, 2005.
Mouse and Momma go for a nature walk on a windy spring day. A question and answer pattern makes it easy to follow along with the things that Mouse sees and experiences on the field trip.


One stormy night, a homeless mouse with house shaking snores finds refuge with a very, very, quiet family. How both sides learn to adapt to the other’s odd habits leads to an endearing read-aloud that will have readers moving from whispers to shouts and back again.

Oh, no! Mouse finds a nice large apple, but her home is too small for it, so mouse starts an adventure to find a new house. Young children will enjoy looking through the die-cut holes in the heavy pages for inside and outside views of different animal houses. The vivid colors add energy to this cheerful mouse’s quest.


Set the stage for this simple story by first asking toddlers, “Why do you think the mouse needs to run?” This book uses words like over, across, and up to track a mouse’s run to a safe mouse hole. Clever cut-outs in the board book pages add interest as young children follow the mouse home.

Parent-Child Activity:

Vocabulary: Extend the reading into play by reenacting the mouse’s trip from kitchen chair to floor using the mouse stick puppet or a favorite stuffed animal to make the daring escape. As your child moves the toy along the escape trail,
provide a running commentary, like a play-by-play sportscaster on the radio, to emphasize the words that indicate direction such as up, down, into, and through.

Parent Education Activity:

Vocabulary: Use story words and ideas after the reading by pointing out objects and actions during daily routines that match the prepositional words over, across, up, down, into, out, and through from the book. For example, while pointing a mug on a shelf you could say, “Look, that cup up there is like the one from your book.”


Bitty, a young mouse, follows her brothers and sisters to school to find out what goes on during the day. She helps the teacher as the day unfolds, until she falls asleep and Mama comes to take her home. Charming illustrations reveal that Bitty is no longer worried about school, but eagerly anticipates her turn to attend regularly.

Tiny and his big sister Katy have an exciting time playing in the wheat field together. Even when things get a little scary, Katy is there to make Tiny feel better.

Tiny and Katy, inked in the same rich brown of the text, are a strong contrast to the softer engravings backgrounds done in blue-grays and yellows.


Toby and his Dad make silly mouse faces in the mirror before bedtime. Toddlers will enjoy this simple story and the amusing illustrations. The final page has a shiny insert for children to make silly faces in just like Toby.

Using a traditional technique called story knifing (where the storyteller draws while telling the tale); two Yup’ik Eskimo sisters share a story about the mice that made a nest out of tinsel from a Christmas tree. Look for this title in your local library or used book store.

Wallace is a shy mouse who likes to write lists including a list of his adventures and another with his new friend. Textboxes of lined paper and mouse handwriting highlighting some of Wallace's lists are interspersed throughout the humorous illustrations.


Wemberly worries all the time, but will she ever stop worrying about going to school? The cute mice in this book may help calm down younger children’s worries about school.


To satisfy his need for attention, this little mouse uses his imagination to create stories where he is the hero. Charming line illustrations capture the big dreams of this little mouse needing a little extra notice when a new sibling arrives.

In this simple story, a little mouse tries on the shoes of different family members. This interactive book has full-page flaps for toddlers to lift that answers the title question “Whose shoes?” The illustrations capture the joy of dress-up play that will encourage young children to try the same.

**Concept Books Featuring Mice:**


An energetic mouse creates the alphabet using verbs that start with the letter being built. The poured-paper pulp technique produces pictures that are rich in color and vitality.

Children can follow little mouse’s hard work, Monday through Saturday, to prepare for a party on Sunday. Photographs of sculpted clay are intricate and invite opportunities to point, look, and talk about the pictures.


The two mice detectives, Dot and Jabber, are out to solve the science mystery of disappearing insects and along the way explore the concept of natural camouflage. Observant readers are sure to find the bugs hiding on each page, illustrated with cut paper collages. Pair this book with *Mouse in a Meadow*, by John Himmelman where children can look for flowers, bugs, birds, and other creatures that live in a meadow. This field guide type book has realistic illustrations on the concept of creature camouflage.

Mouse is very hungry and eats lots of colorful vegetables and fruits. The collage illustrations give helpful hints about what the little mouse is going to eat next. Young children will have fun identifying the colors of their favorite foods.


A hungry snake counts ten little mice and puts them into a jar as he anticipates his dinner. The clever little mice outwit the snake as they count down from ten until they have all gotten away.

This little gem is worth the trip to the library or used book store. Great for one-on-one sharing, this small-sized lap book tells through its pictures the story of a mouse’s trip to the beach and back home again. Things to count starting from zero are highlighted in pink ink to match the numeral. It is easy to point and count up to 10 then back down again.


Once there were three clever mice on a white sheet of paper. They enjoy a colorful romp one day as they discover three jars of paint - red, blue, and yellow. They dip their tails into the paint jars, creating new color combinations. By the end of the tale, the mice are painting all sorts of colors.

The class mouse gets a grand tour of the school after someone leaves the cage door open. Close-up photography, showing mouse-size views of school, encourages the reader to talk about the story.


This book features the concepts of counting and colors in simple rhyme with a predictable pattern. Observant readers will notice that the mouse collects souvenirs from each detailed illustration of sculpted clay as the pages count up to 10.

A parade of mice use a variety of signs, balloons, flags, and arrows to remind readers to use special words like please, excuse me, sorry, and thank you. Caldecott author/illustrator, Mo Willems’ delightful cartoon mice share the message of manners in a whimsical way that will entertain, and hopefully encourage, a few more pleases. Included with the book is a simple spinner - board game (printed on the reverse side of the dust jacket) called “Time to Say Please! Go For the Cheese!”

Nonfiction Books on Mice


This book shows young children how to care for mice as pets. Photographs feature children and their mice. This book is part of the Pet Care series for children ages 4-8. Share photographs, short sections, selected sentences, and/or information with preschoolers. This book can be used as a reference to answer children’s questions on mice.
**Mouse** by Barrie Watts. Lodestar, 1992.

The photographs in this nonfiction book show the growth of mice from newborn through 8 weeks old. Very basic information on mice is provided in the accompanying large print text. Share photographs, short sections, selected sentences, and/or information with preschoolers. This book can be used as a reference to answer children’s questions on mice.


This sophisticated nonfiction picture book is for primary school age children, so select only a few pages to read aloud to preschoolers, such as the opening pages on mouse body parts, and use the photographs to share information on interesting characteristics of real mice. This is a good source for finding information on mice to answer your child’s questions.

For young school age children, this book looks at the scientific group called an “order” that mice belong to and describes the characteristics of the animals in this group. Has a short section (one page of text and a full color photo) on house mice as well as an overview of other rodents living in fields and gardens, woods, by ponds, streams, and marshes. Share photographs, short sections, selected sentences and/or information with preschoolers. This book can be used as a reference to answer children’s questions on mice.


For young school age children, this book provides basic information on the behavior and characteristics of rodents and includes a short section (double-page spread) on mice. Colorful photos and instructional illustrations with captions help support the text. Colored text boxes highlight characteristics specific to individual rodent types. Share photographs, short sections, selected sentences, and/or
information with preschoolers. This book can be used as a reference to answer children’s questions on mice.

**Songs, Poems, and Rhymes**

*Mice are Nice* poems compiled by Nancy Larrick, illustrated by Ed Young, Philomel Books, 1990.

Visit your local library to find a copy of this out of print book. This collection of mice-themed poems makes a good introduction to different kinds of poetry.

The poems in this book are all written from the point of view of a little field mouse and take place during the night. Each poem is short enough for the attention span of the very youngest child. The soft water color illustrations help support the ideas found in the poems. Read the poems several times before introducing the activities.


This book expands on the Mother Goose song, by providing the story that lead up to the misadventure with the farmer’s wife and what happens to the mice later. The ink lined watercolors have an old fashioned fairytale feel. The music for the Mother Goose version of the song is provided on the back cover.

**Folktales with Mice**

A modern twist on the folktale features two female cousins and takes out the menace of predators. Cultures still clash when Bernelly, the fly-fishing country mouse, and Harriet, the artistic city mouse, trade visits.


This small-sized book is just right for lap-time reading with a preschooler. The illustrations tell the story and feature warm rich colors and amusing details.


This simple version of the folktale is good for beginning readers.

*City Mouse-Country Mouse And Two More Mouse Tales From Aesop,* illustrated by John Wallner. Scholastic, 1987.
This easy-to-read version has large print and is faithful to the Aesop fables. The pastel illustrations provide some whimsical details.


Oh, no! One day a wish goes wrong and everything Midas Mouse touches turns to gold--even cheese! This wonderful twist on a classic tale is beautifully illustrated with black-and-white photographs highlighted with gold accents. *Midas Mouse* is a story to be treasured just like the little golden footprints Midas leaves across the pages.

Tilly, country mouse, lives in the roots of a big, old tree. Milly, a city mouse, lives in a huge dollhouse filled with modern conveniences. Mutual visits convince each mouse that her own home suits her best. Check your local library or used bookseller for this charming story’s beautiful drawings.

**Seven Blind Mice** by Ed Young. Putnam, 2002.

Seven blind mice, each a different color, spend a different day of the week investigating a strange something by the pond. This visually appealing retelling of an Indian folktale illustrates the proverb of, “Knowing in part may make a fine tale, but wisdom comes from seeing the whole.” *A 1993 Caldecott Honor Book.*

This retelling of Aesop's fable features two mice couples within its intricate illustrations and detailed borders. The alternating scenes of this parallel story highlight the concepts of same and different. This sophisticated picture book will work well for one-on-one sharing with an older preschooler.