

TOP Books for the Local Library 2015

by Chazda Albright -

<http://greatstorybook.com/top-books-for-library-2015/>

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For the past several years, I've been living as an English-language writer, artist and language/writing coach in a small German town.

Every year, the librarians at my local library ask me for my list of must-have storybooks and the other night I realized others might want to take a look at it. This is a list of eight books I requested last week.

After reading to the kids, we move to the large blue table for a crafts project.

My pick of the top English-language kids books for the new year.

1. [Exclamation Mark](#) from Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld.

[Rosenthal](#) is known for a lot of different projects to different people. She's written for adults and kids,

and you may have even seen her TEDx Talks on YouTube. As a writer of children's books, her best and most known are [Bedtime for Mommy](#) illustrated by [LeUyen Pham](#) and [Plant A Kiss](#), illustrated by [Peter H. Reynolds](#). These two books are incredible must-haves, created by some of the most talented people in the business.

When I found out that [Rosenthal](#) had paired up now with [Tom Lichtenheld](#), I got really excited. This is bound to be another great book. [UPDATE: It is. Now that I've read this book to kids at the library as well as several of my students, here are my thoughts about [this particular book](#).]

2. [The Day the Crayons Quit](#) from Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers.

[Drew Daywalt](#) is a screenwriter most known for his films, Stark Raving Mad and Bedfellows. This is his first illustrated storybook, and it is illustrated by none other than [Oliver Jeffers](#). If you aren't familiar with Jeffers' books, get to know them. The Crayons is now the third Jeffers book I've requested. The others: **This Moose Belongs to Me** and **Stuck**.

3. [Sam and Dave Dig A Hole](#) by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen.

[Mac Barnett](#), like Amy Krouse Rosenthal, has presented a TED Talk. He's funny and inspiring and writes imaginative stories for kids. He has again paired up with [Jon Klassen](#) (another favorite), after their success with **Extra Yarn**, another book I read to the kids at the local library. Other Klassen books I've presented: **This Is Not My Hat**.

Bottom line, you need to know about Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen.

[UPDATE: As I suspected, this book was a huge hit. It's become one of my all time favorite storybooks. Here are my [thoughts about this book.](#)]

4. [Meet the Parents](#) by Peter Bently and Sara Ogilvie.

[Peter Bently](#) is new to me, but he's been around for a while and very successfully. I found him while pecking around the Internet to find out more about [Sara Ogilvie](#). She caught my attention with her artwork for **Dogs Don't Do Ballet** by Anna Kemp, which is one of my all-time favorite books. I'm very excited about this new book she's done with Bently.

5. [A Possum's Tail](#) by [Gabby Dawnay](#) and [Alex Barrow](#).

I don't remember how I stumbled on this book, but it looks like really solid work. I'm very much looking forward to seeing how the kids in town react to this one.

6. [The Most Magnificent Thing](#) by Ashley Spires.

[Ashley Spires](#) is one of the top writers and illustrators, and I think she's someone to follow. Her work gets stronger with every project. [UPDATE: This book is lovely. Here's what [I have to say about it now that I've presented it to several groups of kids.](#)]

7. [Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes](#) by Anna Kemp and Sara Ogilvie.

Anna Kemp is the author of **Dogs Don't Do Ballet** (see above), which she did with Sara Ogilvie - an absolute favorite. I can't wait to get Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes, their latest collaboration.

8. [The Book With No Pictures](#) by [B.J. Novak](#).

[B.J. Novak](#) is an actor and comedian. Like Drew Daywalt (and many others), he has shifted his creative efforts from film to children's books. I hope to see more than this one book from him, but it's possible this is it. Get it. If you want to see kids screaming with laughter, rolling in the isles, this is the one to get.

Better than any joke book. **Here's [my full take](#) on it.**

These are the books I'll be reading to kids (and their parents) at my local library during the beginning months of 2015. I can hardly wait.

Keep creating, no matter what.

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