



Anthology 3: Animals & Other Best Friends

Primary Library 2	
<i>The Little Mouse</i> by The Brothers Grimm Illustrated by Lightsource Studio	A field mouse who has lived all his life underground sets off to discover the unknown world above. Enchanted by the beauty he discovers, the field mouse is also dangerously misguided by appearances. He runs away from what he will later discover is only a harmless rooster. He perceives the cat as soft, handsome, and friendly at first, but later learns that this innocent-looking creature represents an enormous risk for him. A fable that offers an explicit moral about the dangers of making judgments based on appearances.
<i>An Elephant Never Forgets</i> by Kristin Collier Bennett Illustrated by Michelle Angers	Is it true that an elephant never forgets? Not according to this tale in which a little elephant forgets what mother has asked him to bring home for supper. When he returns home at the end of the day, worried that his mother will be angry, little elephant discovers that Mother, too, has forgotten all about her request.
<i>Mouse Deer and Crocodile</i> A Tale of Indonesia and Malaysia Retold by Aaron Shepard Illustrated by Brian Lies	The mouse deer, also called a chevrotain, is a traditional trickster character of Malaysia and Indonesia. In the tradition of smaller but smarter animals triumphing over scarier and bigger ones, this little character plays tricks on the scary crocodile to get what he needs without being eaten.
<i>The Yak</i> by Dennis Webster Illustrated by Kim Cunningham	This is a short poem about the shaggy yak from Tibet with its "hairy front and hairy back."
Early Intermediate Library 2	
<i>Ah-Choo!</i> by Rick Walton Illustrated by Tish Tusa	This short poem describes the chaos created in a barn by a simple sneeze. The chicken coop explodes, the goats cry, and the horse is sent flying with a tremendous "ah-choo!"
<i>Rosa's Basket</i> by Sally Gwin Illustrated by Barbara Knutson	Did Rosa know what happened in her basket while she took a siesta? A series of animals with various fruits stopped by to take a siesta as well. This entertaining story features animals and fruits found in the Guatemalan jungle.
<i>Cactus Jam</i> by Ruth J. Luhrs Illustrated by Yoshi Miyake	This informative text describes how the Tohono O'odham Indians from the Arizona desert produce jam from the giant saguaro cactus. The cactus tree, its fruit, and the cooking process are described through an illustrated narrative. The reader also learns how the Tohono O'odham Indians work together to create a delicious product, which everyone gets to enjoy at the end of the day.
<i>Crow Said No</i> by Angela B. Haight Illustrated by Normand Chartier	A crow who lives by himself in his own pine tree is not ready to share his home with anybody else. One day a finch arrives and asks the reluctant crow if she may stay with him. Next her mate joins her, and the finches build a nest and lay eggs. During the finches' entire stay, the crow complains about the intrusion onto his property. But at the end, when the finch family is finally ready to leave, the narrative takes an unexpected twist. Crow changes his mind! This story offers a fine starting point for a discussion about the benefits of sharing.



Advanced Intermediate	
<p><i>The Mystery of the Scythe</i> by Mat Rapacz Illustrated by Dennis Albetski</p>	<p>A scythe was found buried in an old oak tree in Billy Tubbs' garden. Billy decides to solve the mystery of who placed the scythe there and why. After searching for information from different sources—the tree's rings, old deeds, the library, a telephone book—Billy's hard detective work pays off. He finally learns the story of the scythe as told by the only one who remembers it—one of the oldest citizens in town.</p> <p>The scythe belonged to a soldier who was missing in action during the Civil War, over 100 years ago. It was a symbol of hope for a family who was waiting for their son to return from war. Instead the scythe became a symbol of loss and pain, for that son would never return. This unusual detective story may contain less suspense than traditional ones, but it offers a tale of persistence and collaboration that leads to success. A tale about the construction of history from a variety of sources and the transmission of memories from generation to generation.</p>
<p><i>A Sea Turtle's Journey</i> by Laurence Pringle Illustrated by Diane Blasius</p>	<p>Factual information about a sea turtle's journey through the Atlantic Ocean is conveyed in the form of a narrative in this illustrative tale. Caretta is a sea turtle mother who travels the ocean back and forth to lay her eggs in Florida. Somehow Caretta always finds her way. She knows in what direction to swim no matter what obstacles she encounters. This informational piece provides a description of sea turtles' amazing navigational abilities. It also offers scientific answers to the mystery of how these creatures instinctively orient themselves to their surroundings.</p>
<p><i>Eureka!</i> Retold by James Baldwin Illustrated by Carla Cruttenden</p>	<p>Long ago, the Greek scholar Archimedes made an important discovery. Hiero, the king of Syracuse, asked Archimedes to figure out whether the goldsmith had cheated him out of gold when fashioning his new crown. In the process of solving this difficult puzzle for the king, Archimedes made an important discovery that has become a basic law of physics.</p>
<p><i>The Dark of Night</i> by David Borden Illustrated by Eric von Schmidt</p>	<p>This poem describes a wicked man. He walks a wicked walk, laughs an awful laugh, and talks a troublesome talk, but scariest of all is his one empty eye, which is as dark as the night. The use of thrilling images contrasts with the playful use of repetitions, melodic verses, and similes. This poem takes a conventional topic and retells it in an unconventional way, providing a lively model for students who wish to create their own portraits of imaginary beings.</p>
<p><i>Fog</i> by Carl Sandburg Illustrated by J. Medeiros</p>	<p>This short poem describes the fog as if it were alive: it comes on little feet, sits down, looks around, and moves away. An aesthetic description of the gradual appearance and disappearance of fog.</p>
<p><i>Windy Nights</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson Illustrated by J. Medeiros</p>	<p>In this poem a mysterious man goes riding by on windy nights. But why does he gallop and gallop "late at night when the fires are out"?</p>