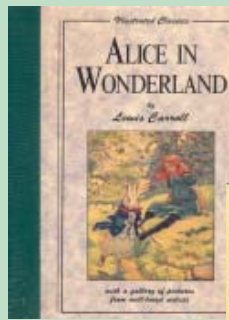
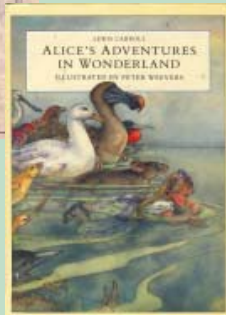


COME ON A FANTASTIC JOURNEY WITH ALICE...



Alice in Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll
#7499



**Alice's Adventures
in Wonderland**
by Lewis Carroll
#7341

ONE summer's day on the river at Oxford in England, a 32-year-old lecturer in mathematics at Christ Church was taking the three daughters of his Dean, Edith,

Lorina and Alice, out in his boat.

His name was Charles Dodgson. The day was hot and the children wanted a story told to them. The young man complied, his imagination taking flight along paths that led directly down the rabbit hole and into fantastic adventures in Wonderland with the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter.

The story told that afternoon in 1862 made such an impression on Alice that she pestered Dodgson to write it down. He did, gave it to her as a gift and three years later, published it under the pseudonym, Lewis Carroll.

Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" were a milestone in children's literature because, for the first time in the 19th Century, a story was written purely to give pleasure to children, without a trace of a moral or a lesson!

In Term 3 The BookRoom takes the journey that Alice took, when she followed the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole and into a world of fantasy. You'll see Alice and the March Hare and the Caterpillar and don't forget to visit the diarama where the Mad Tea-Party's going on with the Mad Hatter, Alice and the Dormouse.

And if you look up before you enter The BookRoom, you might notice some of the red roses that the Queen of Hearts' gardeners painted white so she wouldn't find out that they'd planted the wrong colour.

To test your powers of observation, we'll be challenging our students to find as many Cheshire Cats as they can – inside and outside The BookRoom – and as always, we'll reward their efforts with stickers when their names appear as winners on the BookRoom notice boards.

— Caroline Holland

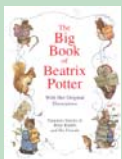
BOOK REVIEW

compiled by Mary Lee



3 to 5 years
Drummer Hoff
by Barbara Emberley
#7738

Ed Emberley won the 1968 Caldecott Medal for his bold illustrations for Barbara Emberley's jaunty adaptation of the cumulative folk song about seven soldiers who build a magnificent cannon piece by piece. Corporal Farrell brings the barrel, Sergeant Chowder supplies the powder, and General Border gives the order — but it's Drummer Hoff who finally fires off the cannon and explodes the story into a blast of brilliant colours. This sturdy board book edition is sure to inspire a smart salute and a march about the room. And gales of laughter from the fun rhymes with the names!



Up to 5 years
**The Big Book of
Beatrix Potter**
#16625

Helen Beatrix Potter is well known for her children's books with beautiful illustrations of animals. Few people know, however, that her first love was mycology — the study of fungus. It was only after becoming frustrated because no one appreciated the work of a female scientist that she began writing and illustrating children's books. Beatrix collected animals around her family's rented country house in summer for two purposes. She used them to study, but also created characters with personalities based on the animals. For example, she had a pet hedgehog which she used to study the hibernation process. She named the hedgehog Mrs Tiggy-winkle and used her in some of her stories. In a letter to the son of one of her old governesses, Beatrix tells a story about four rabbits named Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter. Seven years later, she edited the story and pictures and published it. No publishing companies were interested in the story so she had to publish it herself, but the first printing was successful. From this point until her death in 1943, Beatrix's writing career was very successful. In all, she wrote and illustrated over 30 children's books. This Big Book contains many of her exquisite illustrations, displaying a scientist's attention to detail.



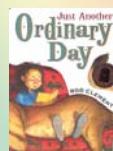
5 to 7 years
The Rainbow Goblins
by Ul De Rico
#8305

Since its first publication more than 15 years ago, the fantastic colours, amazing detail, and sweeping scope of *The Rainbow Goblins* (who threaten to drain the world of all its colour) have irresistibly invited tens of thousands of children (and their parents) to plunge their imaginations into its vivid world.



5 to 8 years
Little Oh
by Laura Krauss Melmed
#8546

Illustrated with exquisite paintings, this original fairy tale about an origami girl who comes to life is a tender and exciting adventure. From her wild river ride aboard a teacup boat to her escape from an angry dog to her flight home on the neck of a crane to her transformation into a real little girl, *Little Oh* is sure to capture your heart. Winner of Georgia's Picture Storybook Award 2000-2001.



6 to 8 years
Just Another Ordinary Day
by Rod Clement
#7137

Author and illustrator Rod Clement has crafted a charming, clever tale depicting the ordinary day in the life of young Amanda, who has to "endure" her daily grind of getting ready for and going to school, coming home, reading with her cat, and so on. Or so the very understated text would have you believing. Clement pairs the seemingly mundane depiction of Amanda's routine with madcap illustrations that wildly play upon the notion of ordinariness. Her alarm clock is a fat, shirtless genie; she hitches a ride to school with her old neighbour (who happens to be a dinosaur). The vivid illustrations not only run counter to the blasé tone of the text, they also have subtle sublayers that may not be obvious during the first pass. His attention to facial expressions is also worth noting. I loved this book!



12 to teens years
Northern Lights *
by Philip Pullman
#7381

This novel, the first of the trilogy, is also published under the title *The Golden Compass* in the United States. It is set in "a universe like ours, but different in many ways". The most notable difference is that all humans have daemons — creatures that must and do always remain near them, and which can change form until the humans they are paired with reach puberty, when they settle down in a fixed form. And while human-plus-daemon life dominates, witches and talking bears and a few other species also inhabit this universe.

The central character in this book is Lyra Belacqua, "a half-wild, half-civilised" special girl: many people take an interest in her, and try to help her — and, occasionally, use her. She's apparently destined to play a significant role in future events — but one of the things that concerns those in the know is that she, for some unexplained reason, must not know what she's destined for. She must be allowed to make her own mistakes if there is to be any hope...

Lyra carries with her a valuable and rare device, given to her when she left Oxford: an alethiometer (the golden compass of the American title) which, when handled and read properly, can answer questions, including about what lies in store in the future. Usually operators of the device need to study for ages and consult the books that explain the many meanings, but Lyra quickly develops a knack for figuring out how to use it — a talent that comes in handy (and is added proof that she is a special little girl).

Pullman offers a fine series of adventures here. Lyra is a fairly well-developed little heroine but Pullman manages to avoid making too much of a super-girl out of her. She's described as "a sanguine and practical child" and, interestingly in a book so wildly imagined, Pullman insists: "She wasn't imaginative."

There are some gruesome events in the book, but it all makes sense in this struggle between good and evil. Pullman does hold the reader's interest throughout: he creates a vivid enough tableau, with so much going on (and so many questions unanswered) that one readily (and easily) gulps the book down.

* Book II "The Subtle Knife" #8139 and Book III "The Amber Spyglass" #13093 are also on The BookRoom shelves.