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**Title:** The Cowboy and the Black-Eyed Pea

**By:** Tony Johnston

**Illustrated by:** Warren Ludwig

**First Line:** “Out where coyotes serenade the moon and sagebrush grays the land, there lived a young woman of bodacious beauty.”
**Last Line:** “Behind them, a full-grown Texas mule ambled along, piled high with saddle blankets – in case the need should arise.”

**Back Cover:** “Farethee Well is a woman of strong mind and bodacious beauty, but when suitors come to ask for her hand in marriage, can she tell a real cowboy from a fake?”

“This excellent retelling of Andersen’s ‘The Princess and the Pea’…is by far the most original to come along in the past few years.” *– School Library Journal*

“Johnston’s clever parody is rich with the language and details of the Wild West. Ludwig’s colorful illustrations heighten the story’s exaggerated humor…A great choice for a read-aloud.” – *Booklist*

“A humorous twist on a well-known tale.” – *Horn Book*

**Vocabulary:** coyotes, serenade, sagebrush, bodacious, longhorns, corral, pralines, devised, tambourines, bristling, neckerchief, fringes, galore, swagger, rivulets, gushed, twitched, culprit, fetched, gritted, sizzled, fearsome, bawling, locomotive, wedged, rampaging, stampede, stirrups, vexatious, skedaddled, ambled

**Hyphenated Words:** itty-bitty, black-eyed, a-jouncing, a-jingling, a-flying, a-flapping, a-working, a-rubbing, full-blown, full-grown

**Similes:** “Honey,” he whispered, “when I’m gone and you’re rich, men will flock here like flies to pralines, seeking your hand in marriage.”

“At the least touch he’ll bruise like the petals of a desert rose.”

“Should he return fresh as a Texas morning, he was a fake.”

“He was tall as a tree, with a mustache as big as tarnation.”

“Then he returned, fresh as a Texas morning and prideful as a rooster.”

“How can you tell?” he hissed, mean as a snake.”

“At the end of the day he returned, fresh as a Texas morning and swelled with swagger like a horned toad.”

“He glared with a look hard as petrified grits.”

“Rivulets of water gushed from his boots and over the porch like quicksilver streams.”

“Time and again Farethee Well gave him more blankets, till he was sitting on no fewer than fifty saddle blankets, all stacked up like flapjacks.”

“They set up a fearsome bawling and cut loose like a runaway locomotive.”

“Fact is, ma’am, setting on this saddle is like setting on sheer stone.”

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**Title:** The Princess and the Pea

**By:** Hans Christian Andersen

**Illustrated by:** Dorothee Duntze

**First Line:** “There was once a prince who wished to marry a princess, but she had to be a real princess.”

**Last Line:** “So you see, this is a true story!”

“[Duntze’s] illustrations are precise, intricate, and detailed…Children will relish these exquisite scenes.” *School Library Journal*

“Everything is delicately rendered in pale, warm shades of pencil and wash, resulting in some charming fantasy!” *The New York Times*

“Duntze draws in an elegant art nouveau style, which holds equal appeal to adults and children…Duntze’s haunting faces and unusual scenic perspectives demand attention.” *Booklist*

**Vocabulary:** sloshing, claimed, servants, bedclothes, quilts, mattresses, scarcely, dreadful

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**Title:** How I Spent My Summer Vacation

**By:** Mark Teague

**Back Cover:** “Some kids spend their summer vacation at camp. Some kids spend it at Grandma’s house. Wallace Bleff spent his out west…on a ride, a rope, and a roundup he’ll never forget!”

Winner of a Parents’ Choice Gold Award

A *Parents* Magazine Best Book of the Year

A *Time* Magazine Best Book of the Year

“This is one rootin’-tootin’ tall tale.” – *Publishers Weekly*

**First Line:** “When summer began, I headed out west.”

**Last Line:** “I can hardly wait for show-and-tell!”

**Vocabulary:** imagination, relax, aboard, captured, growled, captured, wrangler, roundup, delicious, stampede, cowhand, charging, matador, fantastic, buckaroo

**Hyphenated Words:** wild-looking, first-rate

****

**Title:** I Want to Be a Cowboy

A Firefly Book

**First Line:** “Cowboys learn from family and friends.”

**Last Line:** “They’re also getting ready to share stories about life as a cowboy.”

**Vocabulary:** equipment, roundup, ornery, wrestle, stray, rodeo, compete, bronco-riding, contests, roping, Stetson hat, pitching, lariat, lasso, looped, aimed, spurs

****

**Title:** Cowboys

**By:** Lucille Recht Penner

**Illustrated by:** Ben Carter

**Back Cover:** “What was it like to be a cowboy – to ride thousands of miles across the prairie…to sleep under the stars at night…to face storms and cattle rustlers and stampedes? Come take a ride with some cowboys and learn all about their exciting lives in the Old West!”

**First Line:** “If you were out west about a hundred years ago, you might have heard a cowboy yelling – ti yi yippy yay! – as he rode across the plains.”

**Last Line:** “There would be many more cold nights under the stars.”

**Vocabulary:** ranch, bunkhouse, roundup, cattle, market, Longhorns, charge, twirled, brand, trails, hooves, tramped, trail drive, bellowed, herd, brims, umbrellas, bandannas, chaps, leather, thorns, cactus spines, cow ponies, steers, “Cookie”, chuckwagon, flickering, campfire, chilly, bedrolls, stampede, galloped, six-shooters, rustlers, plunged, Indian Territory, plodded, barber, saddle

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**Title:** Black Cowboy Wild Horses A True Story

**By:** Julius Lester

**Illustrated by:** Jerry Pinkney

**Book Jacket:** “As lightning blazes through the night sky, Bob Lemmons sees the wild mustangs galloping across the open plains. Bob has tracked the horses for days, reading their hoofprints in the ground. Now he and his horse, Warrior, will run with the mustangs day and night until they accept his presence. Then Bob and Warrior will challenge the stallion leader to a fight to take over the wild herd and bring it into the corral. *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses* is based on the true story of Bob Lemmons, a former slave whose tracking ability as a Texas cowboy was legendary. This splendid collaboration by an award-winning team captures the beauty and harshness of the frontier, a boundless arena for the struggle between freedom and survival.

**First Line:** “First Light, Bob Lemmons rode his horse slowly up the rise.”

**Last Line:** “Maybe someday.”

**Vocabulary:** bluff, corral, hawk, suspended, bluff, reared, vastness, peering, intently, scarcely, hoofprints, mustangs, dismounted, saddlebag, mare, colt, stallion, draped, horizon, canteen, dusk, flickered, shivering, rumbling, vaulted, ravine, shuddered, remorse, poncho, grazed, flared, tensed, newcomer, gallop, chilling, fury, whinnied, pranced, feebly, vultures, milled, aimlessly, budge, skittered, descending, gracefully, fetlocks, neighed, snorted, forelegs, bulging, quivering, rippling, surge, swerved, enclosure

**Similes:** “He looked down at the corral where the other cowboys were beginning the morning chores, then turned away and stared at the land stretching as wide as love in every direction.”

“The sky was curved as if it were a lap on which the earth lay napping like a curled cat.”

“Near dusk, clouds appeared, piled atop each other like mountains made of fear.”

“Lightning flickered from within them like candle flames shivering in a breeze.”

“Then the rain came as hard and stinging as remorse.”

“The clouds thinned, and there, high in the sky, the moon appeared as white as grief.”

“Bob saw the rattler, as beautiful as a necklace, sliding silently through the tall grasses.”

 “Warrior rose, neighing triumphantly, his front legs pawing as if seeking for the rungs on which he could climb a ladder into the sky.”

“When his food was almost gone, Bob led the horses on one last ride, a dark surge of flesh flashing across the plains like black lightning.”

****

**Title:** Cowboys and Cowgirls Yippee-Yay!

**By:** Gail Gibbons

“Almost everything kids ever wanted to know about cowboys is packed into this colorful picture book.” – *Booklist*

**Back Cover:** Grab your wide-brimmed hats, chaps, and spurs – let’s round ‘em up and move ‘em along! The cowboys of the Old West are going on a cattle drive! In words and pictures, *Cowboys and Cowgirls* captures the excitement and adventure of the Old West. Colorful watercolors deftly re-create cowboys’ clothing, equipment, and lifestyle, and the lively text includes descriptions of famous cowboys and cowgirls. True to Gail Gibbon’s reputation as a quality nonfiction author for kids, *Cowboys and Cowgirls* will delight, excite, and inform every young buckaroo!”

**First Line:** “From the 1860s to the 1890s, the Old West was a rough and wild frontier.”

**Last Line:** “Cowboys and cowgirls today are still skilled in roping, branding, and riding horseback, just like the cowboys and cowgirls of the Old West.”

**Vocabulary:** frontier, era, harsh, cowgirl, cowboy, tracts, grazed, longhorn cattle, ranchers, profit, wide-brimmed hat, bandanna, vest, chaps, gloves, spurs, boots, possession, stirrups, blanket, cantle, saddle horn, bridle, lariat, quirt, knife, bullwhip, holster, canteen, bronco, broncobuster, corral, buckaroo, mount, trot, obediently, corral, busting, acres, lassoed, snag, brand, brand book, chopping out, cutting out, rustlers, outlaws, running iron, railhead, chuck wagon, cookie, remuda, wrangler, swing rider, trail boss, foreman, point rider, steer, arrowhead shape, pace, flank rider, drag rider, water barrel, chuck box, bedrolls, stampede, prevailed, rodeo, encircle, rowdy, agriculture

**Famous Cowboys and Cowgirls**

William F. Cody also called “Buffalo Bill”

Annie Oakley

Wyatt Earp

Bill Pickett

Calamity Jane

“Wild Bill” Hickok

****

**Title:** Bill Pickett Rodeo-Ridin’ Cowboy

**By:** Andrea D. Pinkney

**Illustrated by:** Brian Pinkney

**Back Cover:** “This is the true, sweat-and-dirt tale of the feisty cowboy-child who became the most famous black rodeo performer who ever lived.”

“[A] rip-snorting picture-book biography.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“[A] fitting tribute…The textured scratchboard illustrations are…reminiscent of the Frederic Remington and Charles Russell paintings of the Old West.” – *The New York Times Book Review*

**First Line:** “Long before Bill Pickett was born, a wagon train traveled west, all the way from South Carolina.”

**Last Line:** “When Bill’s children were grown, they gathered up their own young’uns and told them about their grandfather, Bill Pickett – the feisty cowboy-child from south of Abilene who grew up to be the Dusky Demon.”

**Vocabulary:** South Carolina, Great Plains, pioneers, enslaved, covered wagons, croaker-sacks, homespun duds, bedclothes, Thomas Jefferson Pickett, free-spirited, slavery, master, lariat, parched, prospering, Civil War, ravaged, bluebonnets, Austin, Texas, feistiest, plot, collards, straddled, rickety, corral, cattle drives, tramp, Chisholm Trail, gritty Rio Grande, Kansas, ornery, longhorn steers, stockyards, trail boss, corn pone, swapping, buffalo, stampedes, mossback cattle, herd, squirming, brazen, feisty, mesquite, lasso, steer, ranch, arena, bulldogging, feat, tackle, billowed, spectacle, Madison Square Garden, New York City, Mexico City, El Toro, Canada, South America, England, King George V, Queen Mary, snatch

**Hyphenated Words:** croaker-sacks, free-spirited, second-born, wide-eyed, hoof-beaten, trail-driving, up-jumpy, eye-popping, bite-hold, big-lipped, rip-roarin’, bite-‘em, fire-eyed, full-scale, hot-diggity-dewlap, wild-riding, fine-talkin’, small-time, yip-yapping, high-falutin’, best-loved, cowboy-child

**Simile:** “He was quick as a jackrabbit, more wide-eyed than a hooty owl – and curious.”

****

**Title:** Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa

**Written by:** Erica Silverman

**Painted by:** Betsy Lewin

**Back Cover:** “Cowgirl Kate and her cowhorse, Cocoa, are ready to ride! So saddle up, partners, and join them in this first book of their adventures together.”

“The humorous text, warm friendship between horse and owner and captivating illustrations add up to a cowgirl and ‘cowhorse’ with enough star power to ride the range together in subsequent sequels.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“Four amiable adventures…The genial humor and feisty horse have child appeal.” – *School Library Journal*

“Young children will see themselves in both characters…A fine choice for reading aloud to small groups or for confident new readers to tackle on their own.” – *Booklist*

**Chapter 1** A Story for Cocoa

**Chapter 2** The Surprise

**Chapter 3** Counting Cows

**Chapter 4** Bedtime in the Barn

**Chapter 1**

**Vocabulary:** pasture, herd, creek, sniffed, saddlebag, cowhorse, ranch, caramel, boots, mane

**Chapter 2**

**Vocabulary:** barn, sugar cookies, apple pie, surprise, oats, glared, frowned, snorted, groom, curried, hooves, stomped

**Chapter 3**

**Vocabulary:** leaned, munched, fence, galloped, talented

**Chapter 4**

**Vocabulary:** crawled, fluff, sleeping bag, water bin, groaned, shivered, lullaby, dawn, snuggled

****

**Title:** Cactus Hotel

**By:** Brenda Z. Guiberson

**Illustrated by:** Megan Lloyd

**First Line:** “On a hot, dry day in the desert, a bright-red fruit falls from a tall saguaro cactus.”

**Last Line:** “Through hot and cold, wet and dry, some will survive long enough to become other cactus hotels.”

**Vocabulary:** desert, saguaro cactus, glisten, skitters, clinging, paloverde tree, finch, chirping, sprouts, spiny, scurries, jackrabbit, gnaws, pulp, beckon, nectar, gila woodpecker, insulated, elf owl, prickly, sways, thud, thorny, millipede, scorpion, termites, collared lizard, dashes, huddles, cacti

**Simile:** “They beckon like a welcoming signal across the desert.”

****

**Title:** Little Red Riding Hood

**Retold and Illustrated by:** Trina Schart Hyman

**Caldecott Honor Book**

**First Line:** “Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Elisabeth who lived with her mother in a house on the edge of a village.”

**Last Line:** “She was comforted, though, that she had at least minded her manners, and had always said “Good morning,” “Please,” and “Thank you.”

**Vocabulary:** village, velvet, cloak, hood, stray, tire, forest, sly, wicked, murmured, hedge, plump, morsel, solemn, ferns, gulp, shawl, bed-curtains, huntsman, bursting, pelt

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**Title:** Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World

**By:** Mildred Pitts Walter

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award

**Contents:**

Justin is Grounded

Women’s Work

Grandpa Arrives

A Visit to Q-T Ranch

Making a Bed is Easy

Riding Fence

About Black Cowboys

The Exodusters

Arrival in Missouri

At Last, the Festival

Rodeo Time

Justin’s Triumph

**Chapter 1:**

**Vocabulary:** rebound, challenge, scattered, tetherball, dribbled, retorted

**Hyphenated Words:** one-on-one, free-throw, tree-lined

**Chapter 2:**

**Vocabulary:** reeked, suspiciously, mimicked, ajar, wedged, zest, bounded, challenged, aggressive, outscored, fumed, stumbled, strewn, jabbed

**Chapter 3:**

**Vocabulary:** delicious, presto, burst, dangling, beige, uncluttered, dazed, disposition, retorted, tidy, festival, beamed, rodeo, inspection, delicious

**Hyphenated Words:** twelve-year-old, lemon-flavored

**Chapter 4:**

**Vocabulary:** duffel bag, polished, boots, buckle, restlessly, Cropper, Bill Pickett, Kansas, railroads, Missouri, tranquil, chuck wagon, utensils, lantern, sourdough, trail, horizon, soothed, stampede, bedroll, cologne, scorcher, gleaming

**Hyphenated Words:** great-great-grandfather

**Chapter 5:**

**Vocabulary:** shimmered, prairie roses, blossomed, goldenrod, sweet William, black-eyed susans, lush, familiar, mane, straddled, fluttering, wallowing, trough, squealed, confidently, shuddered, knack, simmer, Tennessee, wild mustangs, Homestead Act, generation, loft, protested, mended, flexed, snug

**Chapter 6:**

**Vocabulary:** reluctant, rumpled, cuffs, surge, ride fence, inspecting, cinches, mounted, fiery, lingered, canter, taut, mend, lingered, fawn, hitched, pranced, sidestepped, commanded

**Hyphenated Words:** home-smoked, well-made, new-found

**Chapter 7:**

**Vocabulary:** beamed, swarmed, resounded, bobwhite quails, mockingbirds, mimicking, cardinal, securely, reined, dismounted, hitched, unsaddled, utensils, shallow, diamond back rattlers, lurked, rustling, opossum, sizzling, revealed, broncobusters, wild mustangs, bulldogging, cinches

**Chapter 8:**

**Vocabulary:** humid, pelt, spurs, kerchief, treadle sewing machine, flannel, mended, shoeing, tempted, sparkling, rinsed, pride, prosperous, exodusters, menial, flicked

**Chapter 9:**

**Vocabulary:** belongings, journey, passage, paced, “tarred and feathered”, huddled, sorghum, tribulation, deny

**Chapter 10:**

**Vocabulary:** crackled, ingredients, banners, domelike, glistened, gleaming, afghans, scrumptious, pavilion, suede, fringe, yoke, beige, sniffed, fragrance, whiff, contestant, lemon chiffon cake, wowed

**Chapter 11:**

**Vocabulary:** humdrum, strained, alerted, majorette, pranced, embroidery, frilly, finery, bountiful, horns of plenty, thrilled, exhibit, fidgeted, doffing, sorrel, shearing, referee, soar, stumbled, toppled, eel, surging, hitched, tempted, arena, pantalettes, waltzing, plunged, corral, trampled, broncobuster, disqualified, outbest, wrestled, Brahmans

**Similes:** “He will ride a bronco that’s as hot as cayenne pepper and as explosive as a volcano.”

“Justin’s heart seemed to stand still as one rider, moving as fast as the wind, rode very close to the barrels.”

**Chapter 12:**

**Vocabulary:** shortening, nibble, chores, stooped, rummaged, angles, assure, plea, task, skillet, pleaded, stewed, plump, generous, pride

**Similes:** “Wait’ll she sees that I can make a bed smooth as glass and wash dishes sparkly clean, he thought, and smiled.”

“The sky, crystal clear, was as blue as the lake.”

****

**Title:** Litte Red Riding Hood – A Newfangled Prairie Tale

**By:** Lisa Campbell Ernst

**Back Cover:** “Once again, Little Red Riding Hood sets off to her grandmother’s house with a basket full of goodies like delicious muffins and lemonade. But this isn’t the usual Little Red Riding Hood. First of all, she wears a sweatshirt, not a cape. Also, she rides her bike across the prairie rather than skips through the woods. And she doesn’t follow a path. She blazes her own trail between rows of swaying sunflowers.

 Of course, there’s still a pesky wolf following her around. He’s a vegetarian, though. He wants to take a bite of those muffins, not of Little Red Riding Hood or her grandma, and he wants to steal the secret ingredient that makes them so delectable. But Grandma knows how to take care of him. She’s not your usual grandma, either. Besides, she’s had a run-in with a pesky wolf before!”

“Ernst delivers again in this wacky Midwestern take on a familiar tale.” – *Kirkus*

“The spirited illustrations and rollicking narrative make this an ideal read-aloud choice.” – *School Library Journal*

**First Line:** “Once upon a time there was a little girl who lived at the edge of a great prairie.”

**Last Line:** “And Little Red Riding Hood never did again.”

**Vocabulary:** prairie, hood, wheat berry muffins, scorcher, lemonade, crabby, strangers, promised, pedaled, startled, swayed, whizzed, adores, wafting, quivered, scrumptious, tantalizing, crooned, ridge, smirked, slyly, dastardly, feeble, delectable, muddled, tottering, dim-witted, hicks, whirled, suspenders, scoundrel, tarnation, stammered, frail, loony, skulking, grumbling, lecturing, disposition

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**Title:** Little Red Cowboy Hat

**By:** Susan Lowell

**Illustrations by:** Randy Cecil

“A merry success, this Wild West fairy tale makes other versions look limp by comparison.” – Kirkus Reviews, pointer review

“An amusing addition to the growing collection of fairy-tale spoofs.” – School Library Journal, starred review

“A funny version of the familiar tale. A good choice for story hour; older kids will enjoy it, too.” – Booklist

**First Line:** “Once upon a ranch, far away in the wilds of the West, there lived a little girl with red, red hair.”

**Last Line:** “And they never had any wolf trouble around her ranch again.”

**Vocabulary:** cactus, dillydally, rattlesnake, saddled, buckskin, canyon, mesa, poppies, lupines, snort, reluctantly, tingled, whinnied, reared, hooves, seized, reins, galloped, ranch, windmill, buzzards, hitching post, muffled, stiffened, suspiciously, glittered, muzzle, bolt, morsel, snarled, varmint, mantel, leaped, twirled, rancid, parallelogram

**Similes:** “It was as quiet as a tree full of owls.”

“The wolf dropped Little Red like a hot potato and made a break for the window.”’

“You’d look mighty good as a rug, Mister Wolf!”

****

**Title:** John Henry

**By:** Julius Lester

**Pictures by:** Jerry Pinkney

**Caldecott Honor Book**

**Back Cover:** “When John Henry was born…The birds, bears, rabbits and even a unicorn came to see him. He grew so fast, he burst right through the porch roof, and laughed so loud, he scared the sun! Soon John Henry is swinging two huge sledgehammers to build roads, pulverizing boulders and smashing rocks to smithereens. He’s stronger than ten men and can dig through a mountain faster than a steam drill. Nothing can stop John Henry, and his courage stays with us forever.”

“Based on the popular black folk ballad…[this] is a tall tale and heroic myth, a celebration of the human spirit…The story is told with rhythm and wit, humor and exaggeration, and with a heart-catching immediacy that connects the human and the natural world.” – *Booklist,* starred review

**First Line:** “You have probably never heard of John Henry.”

**Last Line:** “What I do know is this: If you walk by the White House late at night, stand real still, and listen real closely, folks say you just might hear a deep voice singing:

I got a rainbow

RINGGGG!RINGGGG!

Tied round my shoulder

RINGGGG!RINGGGG!

It ain’t gon’ rain,

No, it aint’ gon’ rain.

RINGGGG!RINGGGG!”

**Vocabulary:** tending, peeping, glimpse, scurried, hollered, horizon, boulder, lend, dynamite, commotion, rumbling, vanished, shimmering, grit, pulverized, draped, Chesapeake, Ohio, West Virginia, shudder, flabbergasted

**Similes:** “His voice sounded like bat wings on tombstones.”

“It was as hard as anger and so big around, it took half a week for a tall man to walk from one side to the other.”

“That boulder shivered like you do on a cold winter morning when it looks like the school bus is never going to come.”

“The boulder shivered like the morning when freedom came to the slaves.”

“It was shining and shimmering in the dust and grit like hope that never dies.”

“In the distance where the new road connected to the main one, the road crew saw John Henry waving good-bye, a hammer on each shoulder, the rainbow draped around him like love.”

“What he saw was a mountain as big as hurt feelings.”

“He had a twenty-pound hammer in each hand and muscles hard as wisdom in each arm.”

“As he swung them through the air, they shone like silver, and when the hammers hit the rock, they rang like gold.”

“In the light from the tongues of fire shooting out of the tunnel from John Henry’s hammer blows, folks could see the rainbow wrapped around the mountain like a shawl.”

****

**Title:** Johnny Appleseed

**A Tall Tale Retold and Illustrated by:** Steven Kellogg

**Back Cover:** “John Chapman – better known as Johnny Appleseed – had wilderness adventures that became larger-than-life legends. Pioneering west from Massachusetts after the American Revolution, John cleared land and planted orchards for the settlers who followed, leaving apple trees and tall tales in his wake. In this glorious picture book retelling, Steven Kellogg brings one of America’s favorite heroes – and the stories that surrounded him – to live.”

“Kellogg’s exuberant illustrations and sprightly text create a unique blending of fact and fable in this tale of one of America’s most beloved folk heroes.” – ALA *Booklist* (starred review)

“Brimming with the lush detail for which Kellogg has become famous.” – *School Library Journal*

**First Line:** “John Chapman, who later became known as Johnny Appleseed, was born on September 26, 1774, when the apples on the trees surrounding his home in Leo minster, Massachusetts, were as red as the autumn leaves.”

**Last Line:** “Even today people still claim they’ve seen Johnny Appleseed.”

**Vocabulary:** John Chapman, Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, decade, overflowing, orchard, cellar, autumn, inspired, boisterous, tranquil, vast, Allegheny Mountains, plot, pouch, Pennsylvania, befriended, lean-to, butternuts, boasted, compete, wrestling, eagerly, replenish, Ohio, British, incited, invaded, Lake Erie, grieved, exaggerated, hammock, chatting, fangs, penetrate, tended, frolicking, feats, Indiana, trudging, Arkansas, Texas, Rocky Mountains, California

**Similes:** “Fortunately, Johnny’s feet were as tough as elephant’s hide, so the fangs didn’t penetrate.”

****

**Title:** Paul Bunyan

**A tall tale retold and illustrated by:** Steven Kellogg

**Back Cover:** “America’s favorite tall-tale hero! Who was the largest baby ever born in the state of Maine? Who dug the Great Lakes? Who gouged out the Grand Canyon? Why, Paul Bunyan, of course – America’s finest, fastest, and funniest lumberman. In this rollicking tale, beloved children’s author Steven Kellogg combines exuberant illustrations with an hysterical text to create a truly legendary tale.” A Reading Rainbow Featured Selection

**First Line:** “Paul Bunyan was the largest, smartest, and strongest baby ever born in the state of Maine.”

**Last Line:** “Sometimes his great bursts of laughter can be heard rumbling like distant thunder across the wild Alaskan mountain ranges where he and Babe still roam.”

**Vocabulary:** Maine, logging, lumber wagon, trespassers, tolerated, anchored, cradle, harbor, sturdy, lad, wrestled, grizzlies, snowdrift, shivering, ox calf, astonishing, rescued, urge, blacksmith, legendary, slopes, Appalachian Mountains, ambushed, ogres, thunderous, snatching, rumpus, historic, tussle, untangle, depths, bunkhouses, parachuted, flapjacks, muddle, colossal, griddle, target, St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes, barges, Vermont, slopes, Rocky Mountains, peaks, blizzard, snuffing, burrowed, hibernated, stumbled, gusto, blistering, varmints, Arizona, evaporated, deprived, gouging, jagged, trench, Grand Canyon, desperate, galloped, raging, swirling, California, Pacific Ocean, longevity

**Similes:** “While crossing Arizona the griddle curled up like a burned leaf, and the batter evaporated.”

“Sometimes his great bursts of laughter can be heard rumbling like distant thunder across the wild Alaskan mountain ranges where he and Babe still roam.”

****

**Title:** Pecos Bill **A Tall Tale Retold and Illustrated by:** Steven Kellogg

**Back Cover:** “Raised by coyotes, Pecos Bill grew up to be the greatest cowboy in Texas or anywhere else. Besides inventing lassoing, cattle roping, and rodeos, he could tame rattlesnakes, wrestle dangerous critters, and even make the terrible Hell’s Gulch Gang turn respectable! But his two greatest feats were winning the hearts of Lightning and of Slewfoot Sue – the wildest horse and the wildest woman in the West!”

“The hilarity if infectious and the language as smart and clean as a whip-crack…For pre-readers and beginning readers, there could scarcely be a more satisfying introduction to the mystique of those legendary frontier day.” – *Washington Post Book World*

“A high-spirited, high-stepping retelling.” – *The New York Times Book Review*

**First Line:** “Back in the rugged pioneer days when Pecos Bill was a baby, his kinfolk decided that New England was becoming entirely too crowded, so they piled into covered wagons and headed west.”

**Last Line:** “And today their descendants are still there, happily herding cattle.”

**Vocabulary:** kinfolk, New England, clan, Texas, homesteader, shack, grumbled, trout, nibbled, towed, coyote, breeches, romp, trousers, recruit, ambushed, fangs, coils, critter, puma, gorilla, tarantula, canyon, tangled, varmints, mumbled, ornery, sulking, inspiration, whirled, trample, snagged, hightailed, blood-curdling, howl, hullaballoo, declared, steer, stallion, Arctic Circle, Grand Canyon, stallion, devotion, steer, collapsed, bustle, soared, descent, clung, careening, kinfolk, wingding, descendants

**Simile:** “The snake squeezed hard, but Bill squeezed harder and he didn’t let up until every drop of poison was out of that reptile, leaving it skinny as a rope and mild as a goldfish.”

****

**Title:** Crazy Horse’s Vision

**By:** Joseph Bruchac

**Illustrated by:** S.D. Nelson

**First Line:** “Crazy Horse, they say, was always different.”

**Last Line:** “They would know Crazy Horse.”

**Vocabulary:** wiry, tipi, buffalo, stumbled, trampled, hooves, mortally, scaffolds, pinto, staggered, streaking, hobbled, perched, elders, generous

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**Title:** The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit

**Written by:** Susan Lowell

**Illustrated by:** Jim Harris

**First Line:** “One fine day, the desert was full of springtime magic.”

**Last Line:** “And slowly, happily, Tortoise ate it.”

**Vocabulary:** desert, sprouted, hatched, bloomed, burrow, tortoise, leaped, squawked, roadrunner, mesquite, slithered, volunteered, bolted, soared, scaly, slope, scorpion, peeked, prickly, trudged, saguaro, rustled, dandelions, poppies, verbena, lilies, scattering, nibble, drowsy, plodded, steadily, snoozing, somersaulted, javelin, skedaddled, bouquet

**Simile:** “I’ll watch from above,” called Buzzard, high in the sky, while Eagle floated silent as a cloud.”

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**Title:** B is for Buckaroo – A Cowboy Alphabet

**Written by:** Louise Doak Whitney & Gleaves Whitney

**Illustrated by:** Susan Guy

**Back Cover:** “B is for the Buckaroo, who’s a cowboy through and through. These broncobusters you’ll often see riding on horseback, yelling “Whoopee!” The word buckaroo comes from the Spanish name for cowboy, which is vaquero. If you say “vaquero” and “buckaroo,” you will hear that they sound similar. A cowboy is someone who tends cattle, usually from horseback. Cowboys do many jobs including watching over cattle as they graze on the prairie, rounding them up to bring them into the corral, taking care of them when they are sick, branding them to identify ownership, and working with the horses that are the cowboy’s partners.”

**A** – Andalusia, **B**- Buckaroo, **C** – Chuck Wagon, **D** – Dally, **E** – Endless plains, **F** – Frying Pan, **G** – Gear, **H** – Hats, **I** – Iron, **J** – Jinglebob, **K** – King Ranch, **L** – Lariat/Lasso, **M** – Mesteno, **N** – Night herd, **O** – Annie Oakley, **P** – Pecos Bill, **Q** – Quarter Horse, **R** – Rodeo, **S**-Saddle, **T**-Trails, **U** – Union Pacific, **V** – Vaquero, **W** – Will Rogers, **X** –XIT Ranch, **Y** – Yodeling, **Z** – Zane Grey

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**Title:** The Very First Americans

**By:** Cara Ashrose

**Illustrated by:** Bryna Waldman

**Back Cover:** “Long before Columbus landed in America, hundreds of groups of people had already made their homes here. You may have heard of some of them – like the Sioux, Hopi, or Seminole. But where did they live?...What did they eat?...How did they have fun?...And where are they today? From coast to coast, learn all about these very first Americans!”

**First Line:** “Long, long ago, nobody lived in America.”

**Last Line:** “They are part of today’s America, but at the same time, they keep the ways of their people – the very first Americans.”

**Vocabulary:** wooly mammoths, bison, tribes, Columbus, 1492, Indies, Northwest Coast, Chinook, Makah, Salish, canoes, speared, whales, harpoons, salmon, woodworkers, Haida, totem poles, Southwest, desert, Hopi, Navajo, Zuni, mesas, raided, zigzagging, Plains, Midwest, Cheyenne, Pawnee, Sioux, buffalo, herds, tipi, Comanche, flyswatters, Woodlands, Delaware, Iroquois, Penobscot, longhouses, disguised, deerskins, prey, Pilgrims, England, Wampanoag, Massasoit, Seminole, chickees, Europe, reservations

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**Title:** A Boy Called Slow

**By:** Joseph Bruchac

**Illustrated by:** Rocco Baviera

**Back Cover:** “A Boy Called Slow – The True Story of Sitting Bull”

“Being named Slow and growing up in the shadow of a great warrior hardly dwarfed the prospects of this protagonist: he grew up to be Sitting Bull. Bruchac’s sensitively told story of Sitting Bull’s coming of age reassures young boys that success comes through effort, not birth.” –*Booklist*

“Satisfying for its attention to historical and multicultural issues; stirring in its consummate storytelling.” – *Publishers Weekly*

“The pictures evoke a sense of timelessness and distance, possessing an almost mythic quality that befits this glimpse into history.” – *Horn Book*

**First Line:** “Many years ago, in the winter of 1831, a boy was born to the family of Returns Again of the Hunkpapa band of the Lakota Sioux.”

**Last Line:** “And this is his story.”

**Vocabulary:** Lakota Sioux, tiyospaye, extended, plains, wasicun, travois, buffalo, faithful, whirlwind, deed, vision, courage, battle, raided, retreat, bravery, respect, reputation, inherited, murmuring, wrestled, warrior, deliberate, yearling, determination, pride, shields, coup sticks, lances, mounted, moccasins, breech cloth, galloping, triumph, success, hero

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**Title:** The Gingerbread Man

**Pictures by:** Karen Schmidt

**Back Cover:** “Nothing in all of children’s literature can be as enriching and satisfying to children and adults alike as the folk fairy tale.” – Bruno Bettelheim author of **The Uses of Enchantment**

**First Line:** “Once upon a time there was an old man and an old woman and a little boy.”

**Last Line:** “And that was the end of the gingerbread man!”

**Recurring chant:**

“Run, run

As fast as you can.

You can’t catch me,

I’m the gingerbread man.”

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**Title:** The Gingerbread Cowboy

**By:** Janet Squires

**Illustrated by:** Holly Berry

**Book Jacket:** “The Gingerbread Cowboy can run from the rancher, he can dash past the javelinas, and he can giddyup right by the cattle grazing on the mesa. But what happens when he meets a coyote sleeping in the sun?

 Janet Squires and Holly Berry retell this classic tale with a Wild Western flair, filled with rodeo-romping fun.”

**Recurring Chant:** “Giddyup, giddyup as fast as you can. You can’t catch me, I’m the Gingerbread Man!”

**First Line:** “Once upon a time in the Wild Wild West, there lived a rancher and his wife.”

**Last Line:** “And that was the end of the Gingerbread Cowboy.”

**Vocabulary:** rancher, saddled, cattle, biscuits, vest, fringe, horned lizard, gobbling, roadrunner, wriggled, corral, fence, javelinas, munching, cactus pads, prickly, long-horned cattle, grazing, range, stampede, canyon, bragged, lariat

**Similes:** “Yes, those breakfast biscuits were plump as pillows, soft as clouds, and tasty as a big Texas barbecue.”

“He tossed the Gingerbread Cowboy into the air like a flapjack on a griddle and swallowed him in one gulp.”