



Books That Sing

More Fun than a Barrel of Monkeys!

(and why they are important!)

Books that sing are picture books

based on traditional songs

based on original songs,

books with a song in a story

"books with a beat" (strong rhythm/repeated phrases)

1. **Are irresistible**, making them a must-have for your collection! There are hundreds of titles, both in and out of print and children and adults love them.
2. **Are interactive!** Traditional melodies and repeated phrased invite children to participate.
3. **Great words!** These books are packed with words children don't use everyday, greatly adding to their vocabulary. Larger vocabulary is a leading indicator of success with reading later on. When these books are sung, children get to say or sing the words themselves
4. **Tap into the way we all learn**
 - They connect something familiar (a traditional song) to something new (printed words)
 - They employ lots of repetition, key to learning and retention
 - They build memory, as singing organizes language into patterns
5. **Have Beautiful illustrations** These books expose children to a wide variety of artistic styles. Many traditional songs have multiple versions, each with different illustrations making it fun to compare, discuss, and even vote on favorites
6. **Extend! The Song** These books based on traditional songs extend traditional lyrics, adding even more words. Check the back for sheet music and additional activities
7. Because these books are already interactive, and extend songs they already know, children are surprised and delighted by the unexpected twists and turns, and want to talk about them- leading to building narrative skills

Your public library has countless titles of these books, but they can be hard to find. Just ask your children's librarian for help locating them.

Visit www.SingWithOurKids.com website and click on the "book shelf" page for lots of great titles and information on locating and using them.

4 Kinds of Books That Sing

Because of the overwhelming number of books that sing, I've divided them into four categories, pointing out the unique benefits of each.

Books Based on Traditional Songs: Because children already know the tune, they are accessible and inviting. They tap into the way we learn best, by connecting new information to familiar information. They have humor or added emotion, and show how different illustrations can completely change a story.

Books Based on Original Songs: You may have a favorite song that isn't actually a children's song, but when it's turned into a picture book the illustrations make it appeal to children. And there's nothing better than sharing a favorite song together!

Books with a Song in a Story: Help build listening skills, as children anticipate and love to join in singing a short familiar song that's repeated. It's an additional way to keep children engaged in the story. Any time you're reading a book and notice a short phrase repeated, you can make up a little melody and magically -the kids will automatically sing it with you!

Books With a Beat These books are so much fun, and the rhythm is so strong, it's almost like singing. They invite language play and you will hear children repeating phrases over and over from them just because it's fun.