

# Concept Books

## with Emma Walton Hamilton

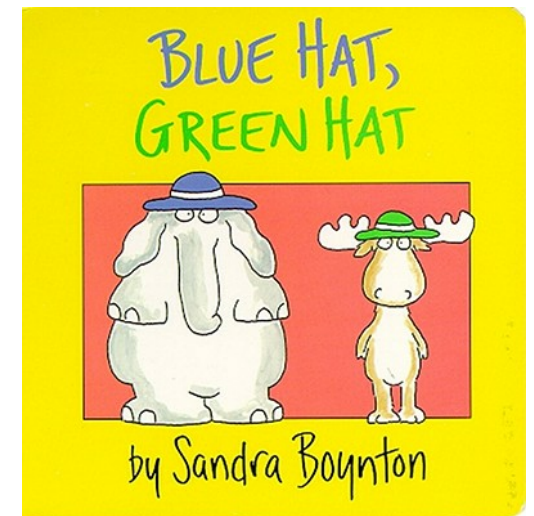
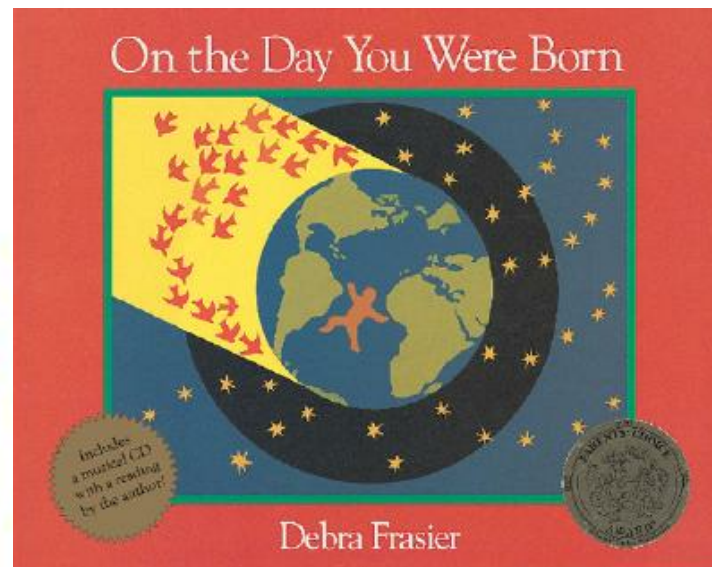
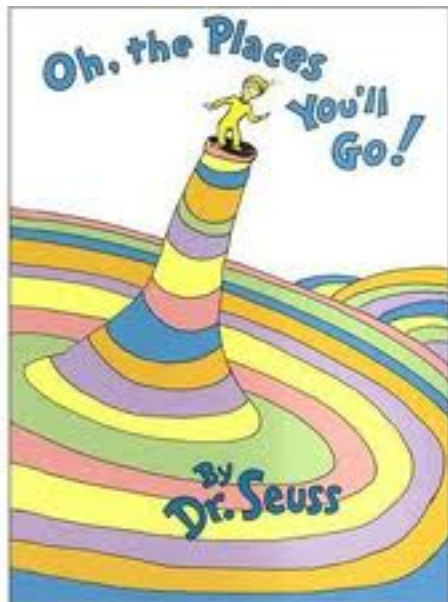
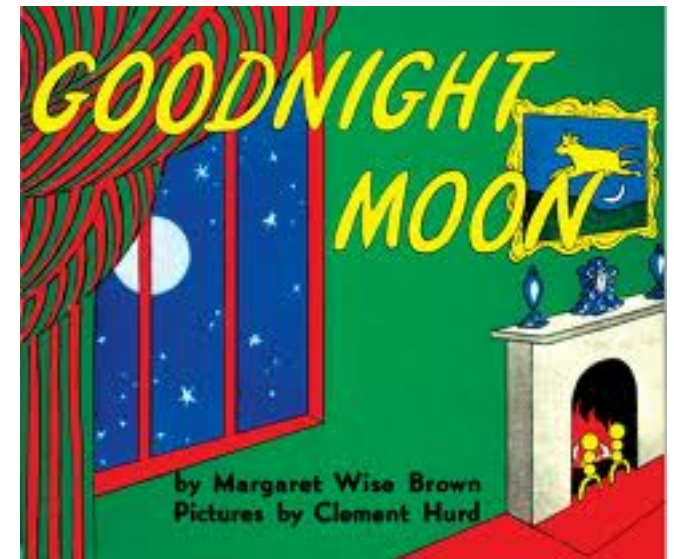
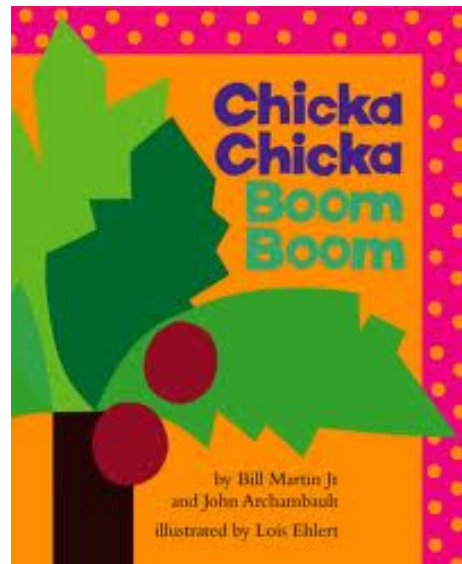
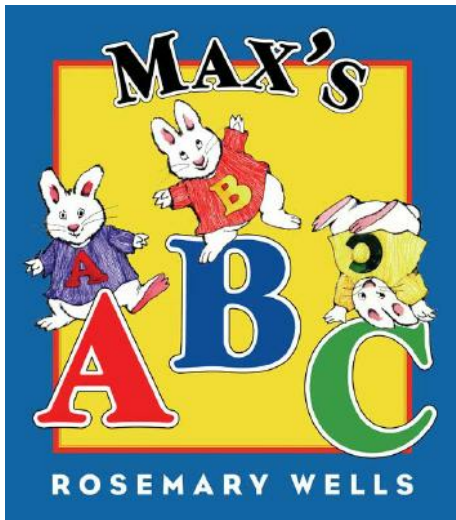


[www.emmawaltonhamilton.com](http://www.emmawaltonhamilton.com)

# What are Concept Books?

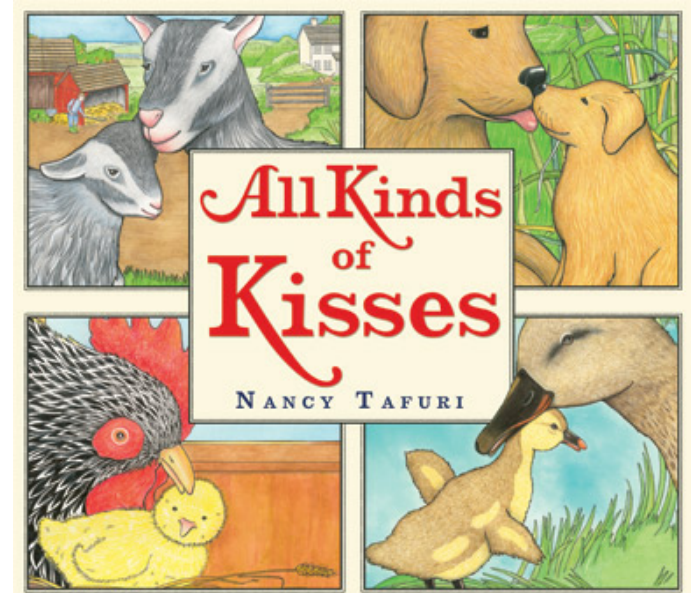
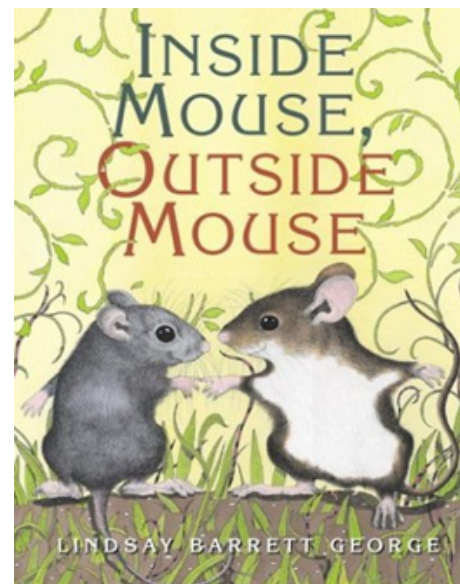
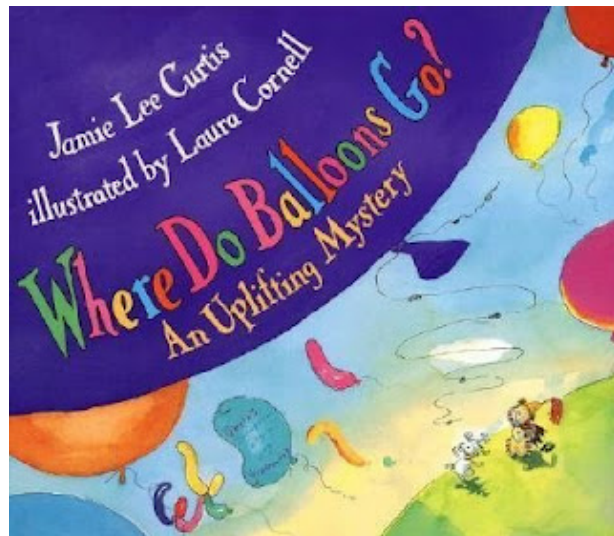
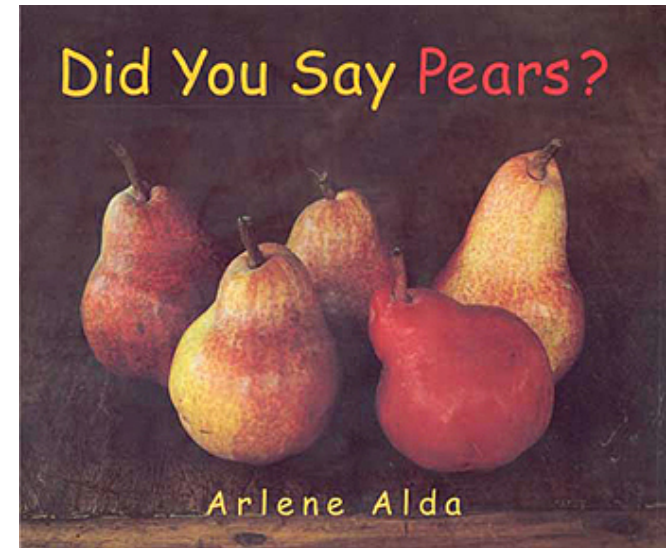
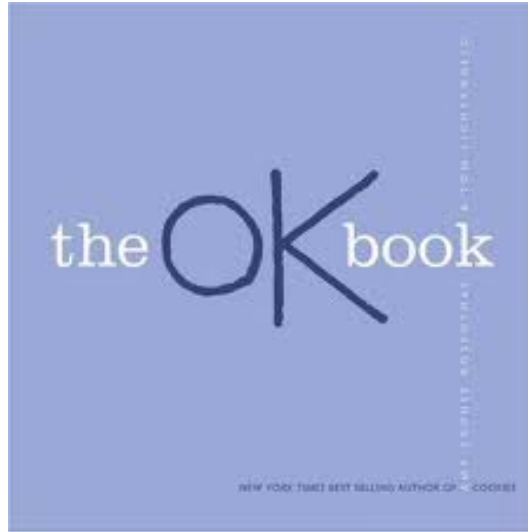
- Books designed to teach children about ideas, concepts or issues in their world.
- Usually picture books (though concept books also exist for older kids)
- Primarily non-fiction, and not story-driven – though some may have a narrative thread, especially if character-driven
- Alphabet, counting, shapes, colors, opposites, time, How-to books
- Books about nature and science
- Books dealing with specific concerns, such as divorce, moving, a new sibling, travel, surgery

# Some Classic Examples...





# More Examples





# What is the Purpose and/or Value of Concept Books?

- Introduce and reinforce concepts like ABCs, numbers, shapes, colors, and feelings.
- Expand children's understanding of an idea, relationship, or theme.
- Provide a starting point for adult-child conversations.
- Connect children's real life experiences to abstract ideas like opposites.
- Explore topics of interest to children in enjoyable ways.
- Help with language development. The pictures help children anchor words to images.
- Teach reading recognition - children begin to discover the connection between oral and written language.
- Positive experiences with concept books help prepare a child for becoming a successful reader.

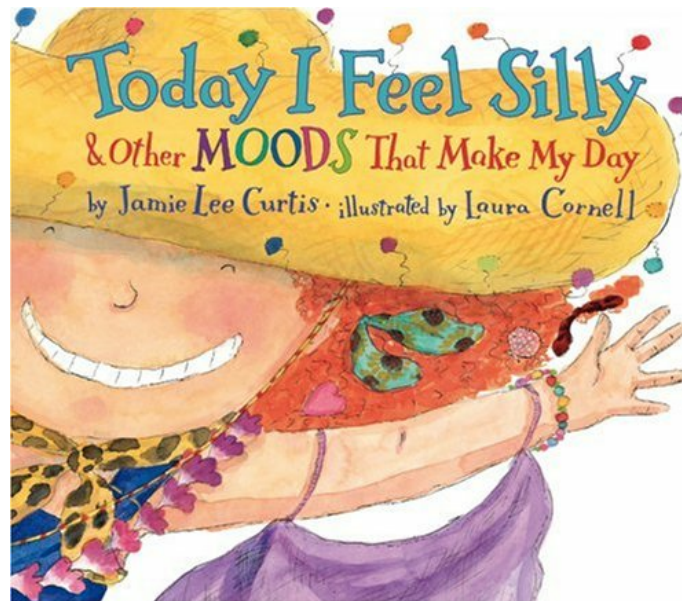
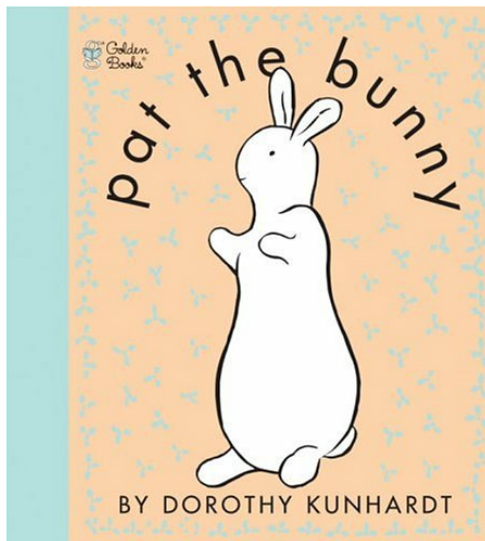
# Successful Concept Books...

- Teach and entertain at the same time.
- Have an interesting, if-untraditional, story to tell
- Hook the child reader by using *story* to introduce a *concept*
- Build interest and excitement by showing how the concept relates to a child's age/interest/life
- Rely on/respect the illustrator to tell at least half the story

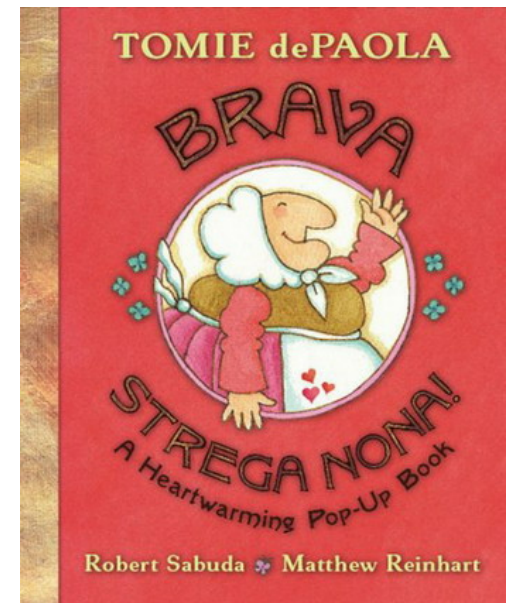


# What are Novelty Books?

- Interactive - pop-ups, lift-the-flaps, tabs, sticker books, books with sounds, peepholes, scratch-n-sniff, textures, built-ins, etc.

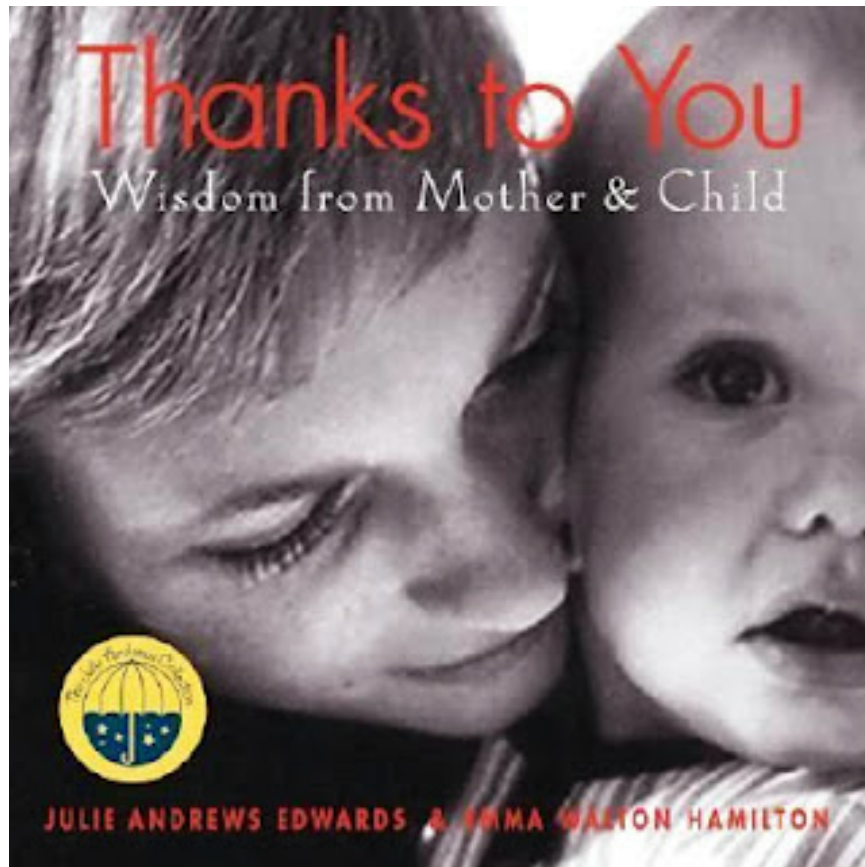


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Thanks to you...

a cloud becomes  
a castle for a king



Thanks to you...

I notice wonder in the smallest thing



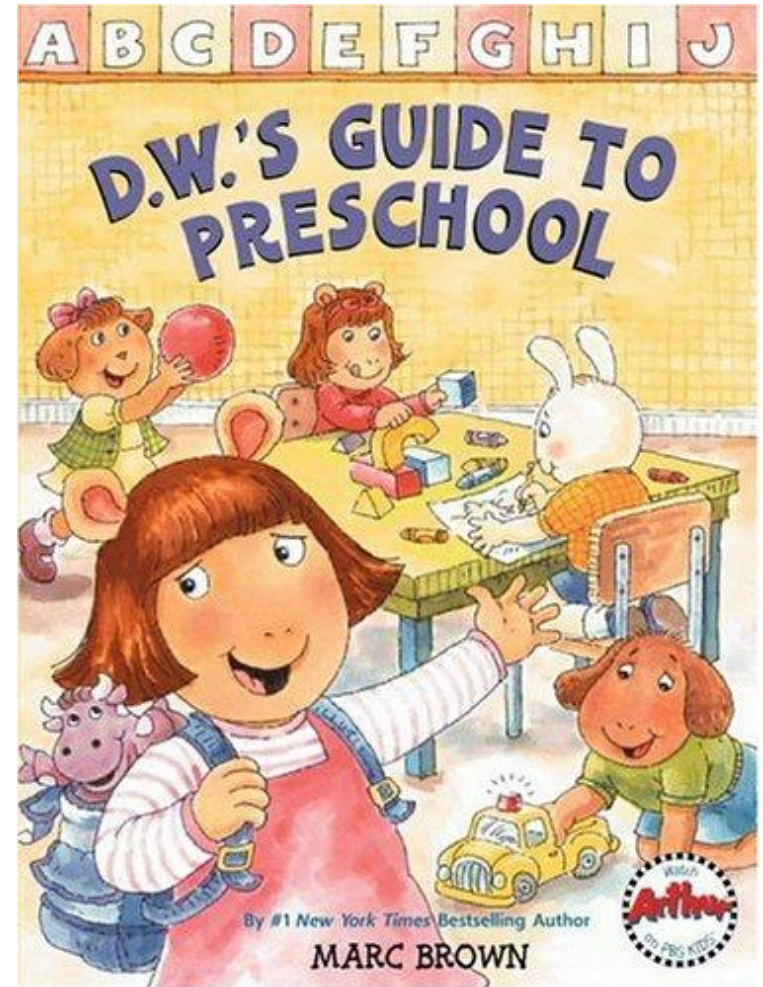
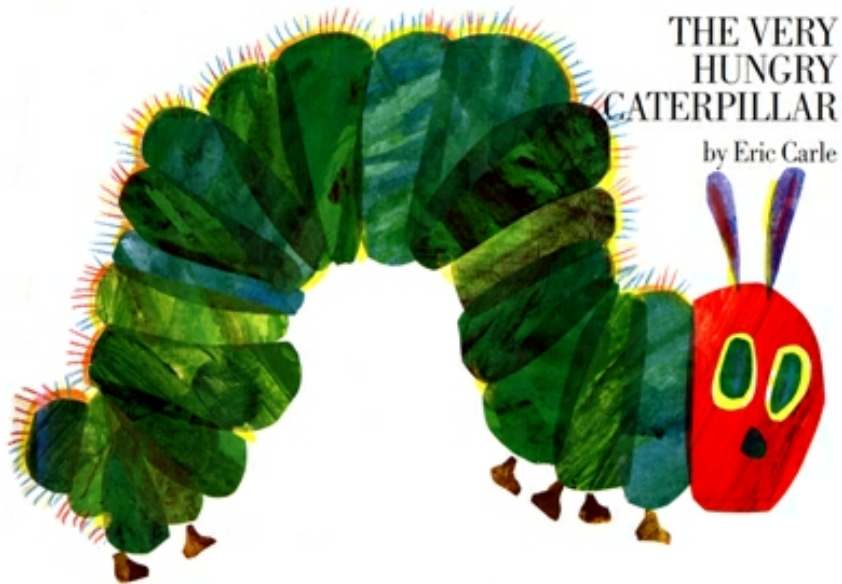
Thanks to you...

I take big steps  
to conquer a new land

Thanks to you...

I find my purpose in your trusting hand

# Can You Tell a Story in a Concept Book?



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