[Michael Schwartz Library Publications](#)   [Michael Schwartz Library](#)

2008

Review of Beyond Picture Books

Kathyanne W. Dobda
Cleveland State University, k.dobda@csuohio.edu

Publisher's Statement

(c) 2008 Taylor & Francis (Routledge)

Original Citation

Dobda, K. (2008). Beyond Picture Books: Subject Access to Best Books for Beginning Readers 3rd Ed. Barbara Barstow, Judith Riggle, and Leslie Molnar. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008, 645 pp., ISBN 978-1-59158-545-9. Collection Management, 33, 4, 312-313.

Repository Citation

1-1-2008

Beyond Picture Books: Subject Access to Best Books for Beginning Readers, 3rd Ed.

Kathyanne W. Dobda

Kathyanne W. Dobda

BEYOND PICTURE BOOKS: SUBJECT ACCESS TO BEST BOOKS FOR BEGINNING READERS, 3rd ed.

BEYOND PICTURE BOOKS: SUBJECT ACCESS TO BEST BOOKS FOR BEGINNING READERS, 3rd ed. Barbara Barstow, Judith Riggle, and Leslie Molnar. *Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2008, 645pp., ISBN 978-1-59158-545-9.*

When Dr. Seuss wrote *The Cat in the Hat* in 1957, the concept of beginning readers was launched. The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, recently began granting the Theodor Seuss Geisel award for the best beginning reader published in English. Information about the award and a list of the winners follows the preface of this edition of the book.

This is the third edition of a book that indexes those beginning readers by Subject, Title, Illustrator, Readability, and Series. The largest section of the book is an Annotated Bibliography of 3,762 titles. Each entry in the alphabetical by author list includes publisher information, series, subjects, and reading level as well as a 25 to 60 word annotation. Lexile rankings are included if they are known. This new edition follows the format of Lima's *A to Zoo: Subject Access to Children's Picture Books* by putting the Subject index first, followed by the annotated bibliography and then the other indexes mentioned above. This arrangement makes good sense because the subject index is used so extensively. The Subject Guide lists authors, titles, and the referral number to the annotated bibliography. The listing consists of fiction and non-fiction; there is a long list of humorous stories that are very popular with this age group, but other subjects include individual states, pets, and other topics that interest the young reader.

Considering that it has been thirteen years since the publication of the second edition, one would expect many additions to this new edition. This is definitely the case. The second edition comprised almost 2,500 titles compared to the 3,762 in this new edition. Decisions to keep older books in the index were based on whether the book is in print or has at least 100 copies available through OCLC.

The authors are all librarians from the Cleveland, Ohio area who have many years of experience working in public libraries. A third author was added to this edition to complement the other two librarians who have retired from active library work.

This is a book with multiple uses. Librarians can use it as a selection tool for collecting beginning readers and as a reader's advisory tool for helping young readers find additional interesting books. Teachers can use it as a help in lesson planning in the early grades; the subject index could be used to select works of fiction and non-fiction that correspond to units of the K-3 curriculum. Pre-service teachers can use the Readability Index to familiarize themselves with what makes a book qualify for the various levels. Public, school, and academic libraries with juvenile or curriculum collections will want to have this book in their collections to use as a resource.

Kathyanne W. Dobda
Assistant Director for Public Services
Cleveland State University Library