



Memorable Student Favorites

In my reading picture books aloud experiences, I found that some primary students' favorites are not those chosen by scholars or critiques as either great literature or dearly beloved by educators. In my experience, students couldn't relate to *Eloise* or *Miss Rumphius*. They sat quietly, yet unenthused, for my beloved favorites, *Madeline* and *Owl Moon*. They yawned even at some of the most lauded titles.

However, some storybooks I read year after year, based on choruses of "Read it again!" These titles stand *their* test of time and are "classics" in *their* eyes.

A few favorites—with the corresponding grade level recommended for reading—that they loved having read to them:

Cold Feet by Cynthia DeFelice (2nd)

Dancing Skeleton by Cynthia DeFelice (1st)

I Stink by Kate and Jim McMullen (K)

(The) Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams (P-K)

Lon Po Po by Ed Young (2nd)

Miss Nelson Is Missing by Harry Allard (1st)

Mother Bruce by Ryan Higgins (1st)

Mouse Mess by Linnea Riley (P-K)

No, David! By David Shannon (P-K)

Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth (K)

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell (K, 1st)

Stella Luna by Janell Cannon (1st)

Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stephens (K-1st)

The Widow's Broom Chris Van Allsburg (2nd)

And pretty much anything by Mo Willems

Why these? Common themes were humor or suspense and relatability.