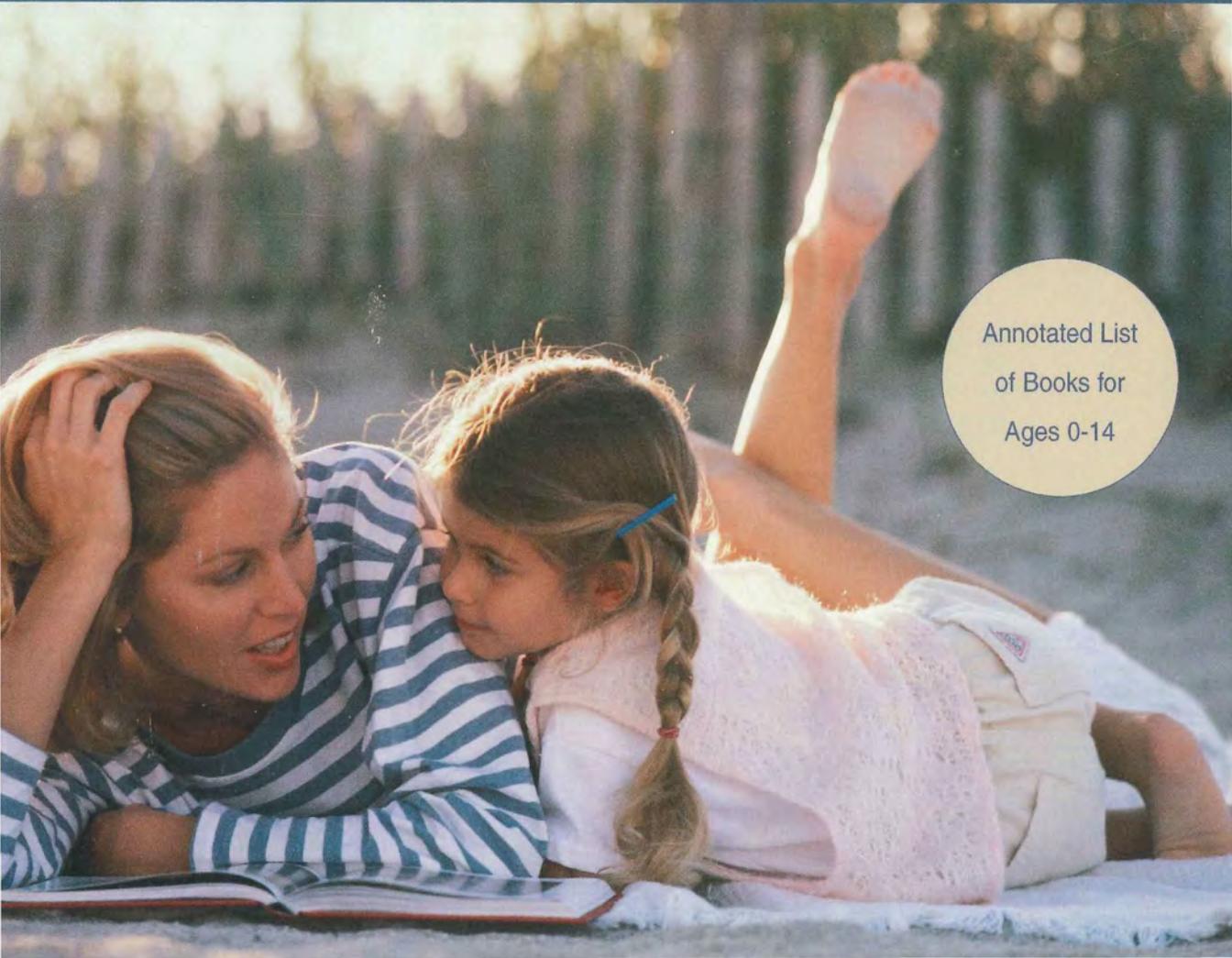


Gladys Hunt

HONEY FOR A  
child's heart

*The Imaginative Use of Books in Family Life*

Fourth Edition



Annotated List  
of Books for  
Ages 0-14

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*The Imaginative Use of Books in Family Life*

Fourth Edition

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*Honey for a Child's Heart*

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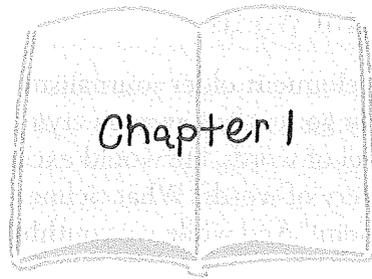
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## Bequest of Wings

I'm going to play in the Hundred Acre Wood," said the small boy who lived at our house.

I knew what he meant and where he was going, and so I said, "Fine. If you see Owl, be sure to ask him about Eeyore's tail."

We knew about Eeyore, Pooh, Piglet, Owl, and Christopher Robin. Together we had met them in a book written by A. A. Milne, and our life would always be richer because they had become our friends. To this day I feel sorry for anyone who hasn't made their acquaintance by reading the original book.

That is what a book does. It introduces us to people and places we wouldn't ordinarily know. A good book is a magic gateway into a wider world of wonder, beauty, delight, and adventure. Books are experiences that make us grow, that add something to our inner stature.

Children and books go together in a special way. I can't imagine any pleasure greater than bringing to the uncluttered, supple mind of a child the delight of knowing the many rich things God has given us to enjoy. Parents have this wonderful privilege, and books are their keenest tools. Children don't stumble onto good books by themselves; they must be introduced to the wonder of words put together in such a way that they spin out pure joy and magic.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*Magic*: "Any extraordinary or irresistible influence." *The Random House Dictionary*.

*Every child ought  
to know the pleasure  
of words so well  
chosen that they  
awaken sensibility,  
great emotions,  
and understanding  
of truth.*

## Wonderful Words

I had an eloquent older journalism professor at the university who frequently got carried away in trying to convince his students about the marvel of words. He would exclaim rapturously, "Oh, the beauty and mystery of words! What richness can be conveyed by those who master them!" And while we youthfully mocked him as we recounted his dramatic incantations to our friends, we ourselves coveted the mastery of words, the symbols that convey ideas. We knew that what he said was true.

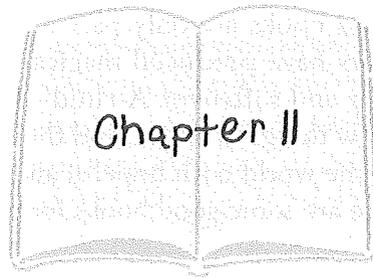
Take all the words available in the human vocabulary and read them from the dictionary, and you have only a list of words. But with the creativity and imagination God has given human beings, let these words flow together in the right order and they give wings to the spirit. Every child ought to know the pleasure of words so well chosen that they awaken sensibility, great emotions, and understanding of truth. This is the magic of words—a touch of the supernatural, communication that ministers to the spirit, a true gift.

We cannot underestimate the use of words in creative thought! Proverbs says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." The right word in the right place is a magnificent gift. Somehow a limited, poverty-stricken vocabulary works toward equally limited use of ideas and imagination. On the other hand, the provocative use of the right words, of a growing vocabulary, gives us adequate material with which to clothe our thoughts and leads to a richer world of expression.

What fun it is to encourage a personal awareness of words in a child—the delight of sound, the color and variety of words available to our use. What a difference there is between a vocabulary drill and feeling the beauty of words. Books, the right kind of books, can give us the experience of words. They have power to evoke emotion, a sense of spiritual conviction, an inner expansion that fills a child to the brim so that "the years ahead will never run dry."

Listen to Barbara Cooney's description of winter in *Island Boy*,

When the house had been banked with spruce boughs and the firewood cut for winter, the bitter cold came. Matthais would wake with the tip of his nose like ice. The windowpanes frosted over, and the wind whistled in the chimney. Sea smoke hung over the open water. Then the children would crowd into the steamy kitchen, learning to read and write under Ma's fierce eye.



## A Child's First Books: Ages 0–3

When parents ask me when to begin reading to a child, I always say, “Right away!” But, of course, I am not talking about reading to infants who can’t focus their eyes. Newborns need gentle rocking and lullabies more than books; they are still learning to look at their parents.

But within a few months the world around infants comes into focus—worth noticing and exploring through books. What a great idea to give infant “readers” the relatively new and popular board books! First of all, board books are pretty indestructible. They even survive new teeth, and that’s a wonder in itself. More than that, they are just the right size for small hands. The pages turn easily and even unintentionally as muscle control develops. Suddenly a new image to look at appears as the child plays with the book.

The best board books and beginner picture books are those first written with infants and toddlers in mind, books like *Runaway Bunny* or *Have You Seen My Duckling?* Some publishers are diluting classic stories from the past and making them into board books, and you will want to be aware of this when choosing books. Looking to extend a product, these publishers take the characters from a well-loved story for older children and simplify the story to fit a younger audience. I mention this, not because I think these books will scar your child’s psyche, but because you need to decide if you want to trivialize great stories in this way. Even Pooh loses out with too early an exposure.

Board books are only part of the treasures awaiting toddlers. Illustrators have produced magical books for little people, both in hardcover and softcover. A child's first books introduce wonderful colors, new things to notice, and the assuring cadence of select words to make the world both hopeful and wonderful.

Here are some good books for your little ones.

## Board Books

Margaret Wise Brown, *Big Red Barn*, il. Felicia Bond.

———, *Good Night, Moon*, il. Clement Hurd.

A forever favorite bedtime book.

———, *Runaway Bunny*, il. Clement Hurd.

Cuddly assurance of love.

Eric Carle, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

He eats a hole right through the book!

———, *The Very Busy Spider*.

———, *Have You Seen My Cat?*

———, *Will You Be My Friend?*

All of Carle's books have a winsome charm.

Tomie dePaola, *Tomie's Little Mother Goose*.

A wonderful first introduction to Mother Goose.

Mem Fox, *Time for Bed*, il. Jane Dyer.

A favorite sleepy-time story.

John Graham, *I Love You, Mouse*, il. Tomie dePaola.

A sweet book about caring for whoever you love.

Eric Hill, *Where's Spot*.

Nina Laden, *Peek-a-Who*.

Who will you find hiding?

Iona Archibald Opie, *Humpty-Dumpty and Other Rhymes*,

il. Rosemary Wells.

Another delightful Mother Goose book.

		<b>Peter Spier, <i>Big Trucks, Little Trucks.</i></b>
BG/HB	Boston Globe/Horn Book award	_____, <i>Fast Cars, Slow Cars.</i>
		_____, <i>Here Come the Fire Trucks.</i>
CM	Caldecott Medal	_____, <i>Trucks That Dig and Dump.</i>
CH	Caldecott Honor	Four wonderful board books by a favorite illustrator.
CSK	Coretta Scott King award	<b>Brian Wildsmith, <i>Animal Seasons.</i></b>
		_____, <i>Animal Colors.</i>
NA	Newbery Award	_____, <i>ABC.</i>
NH	Newbery Honor	
NM	Newbery Medal	<b>Vera Williams, <i>More More More Said the Baby: 3 Love Stories.</i></b> CH

## Toddler Picture Books

**Graeme Base, *Animalia.***

**Marc T. Brown, *Hand Rhymes.***

Put your hands up and prepare to wiggle through fourteen games of hand movements.

**Lois Ehlert, *Color Zoo.*** CH

Fascinating use of colors and cutouts to learn animals and shapes.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Market Day.*

Ehlert's ingredients from different cultures make going to market delicious.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Color Farm.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Nuts to You.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z.*

**Denise Fleming, *In the Small, Small Pond.*** CH

Who lives in the pond? Fleming's unique art form gives movement to images and words.

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Everything Book.*

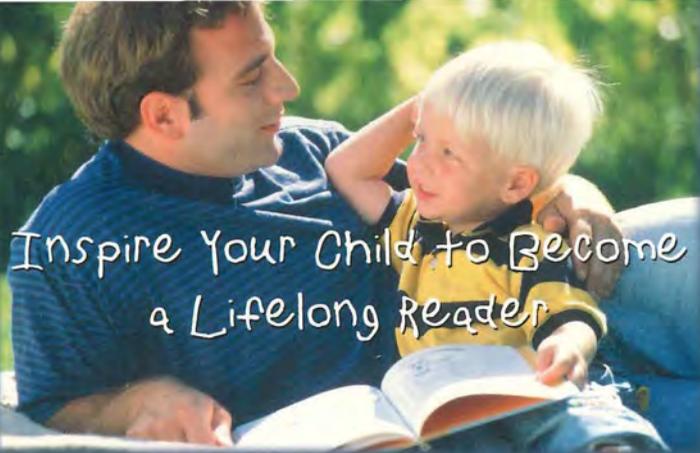
\_\_\_\_\_, *In the Tall, Tall Grass.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Where Once There Was a Wood.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Time to Sleep.*

**Stephen T. Johnson, *Alphabet City.***

\_\_\_\_\_, *City by Numbers.*



## Inspire Your Child to Become a Lifelong Reader

*Honey for a Child's Heart* is a compelling, essential guide for parents who want to find the best books for their children. Thousands of parents have used it to furnish their children's inner spirit with the wonder and delight of good reading.

A good book is a gateway into a wider world of wonder, beauty, delight, and adventure. But children don't stumble onto the best books by themselves. They need a parent's help. Author Gladys Hunt discusses everything from how to choose good books for your children to encouraging them to be avid readers.

Completely revised and updated to keep pace with the ever-changing world of children's literature, this fourth edition of *Honey for a Child's Heart* reflects Hunt's broad tastes in books. Rooted in experience, her suggestions will enrich the cultural and spiritual life of your home. She shows you how to

- Understand the importance of reading aloud to children
- Give your children a large view of the world, of truth, of goodness
- Encourage each child's imagination and good use of language
- Teach your children about life's choices
- Find the best books for your children

Illustrated with drawings from dozens of children's favorites, *Honey for a Child's Heart* includes booklists geared to your child's age and filled with nearly 1,000 long-time favorites, classics, and wonderful new books that will enrich your child's life.

Gladys Hunt has written twenty-two books on a variety of subjects, including *Honey for a Teen's Heart* and *Honey for a Woman's Heart*. A journalism major from Michigan State University, she lives with her husband, Keith, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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