The Patterson Puppies and the Rainy Day
Written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli

“It was a rainy, rainy, day, and the Patterson puppies had run out of things to do.” And so begins this story of how the Patterson puppies use their imaginations to occupy their time on a rainy day. Join Andy, Penelope, Zack, and Petra as they pretend their living room is the beach. Creating some mischief, the puppies pour buckets of water on the floor to create a “real ocean.” See the puppies as they use their imagination to swim with the dolphins and discover buried treasure. The playing continues until the parents walk in on the fun. Of course, the fun with the Patterson puppies is not over. Read to find out what happens when they bundle up to watch a movie, and popcorn goes flying across the room.

The appeal of this book is enhanced by the bright colors and bold lines of the illustrations. The cartoon art of the book makes the Patterson puppies come to life and would certainly appeal to young children. The endpapers reflect the change in the storyline. At the beginning of the book, the endpapers show a warm and simple beach scene with small puppy footprints. At the end of the book, readers will see a cool snow scene where the Patterson puppies have obviously been. Enjoy reading The Patterson Puppies and the Rainy Day and discovering how imagination can take you anywhere. (KH)

This column features a collection of picture-books (with the exception of one title) with endpapers (also referred to as endpages) that are worthy of attention from children and teachers. Sipe (1998) writes, “These are the first pages one sees when opening the picturebook and the last pages one sees at the end of the book before closing it. Endpages are like stage curtains, framing the performance of a play. The color and/or design are chosen to coordinate in some way with the rest of the book” (p. 69). I am pleased to have written this column with students enrolled in a graduate children’s literature course that I taught in the spring of 2012. We read, discussed, and voted on our favorite picturebooks with unique and engaging endpapers. We looked closely at the literary merit of the books as well as the endpapers. Because there were so many we enjoyed, we also chose to include a list of additional recommended picturebooks.

Sipe and McGuire (2006) wrote that “endpapers represent a great variety of visual forms and perform a number of different functions” (p. 293). The books that we have included in this column display a range of endpapers in both type and ways of coordinating with the rest of the book. Some books, such as City I Love and Orani: My Father’s Village feature maps related to the places highlighted in the stories. Others like Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site depict a change in time, and some, such as E-mergecy, even provide additional information related to the book’s topic. It is our hope that this column will encourage teachers and students to pay closer attention to the endpapers of picturebooks.

This column features a collection of picture-books (with the exception of one title) with endpapers (also referred to as endpages) that are worthy of attention from children and teachers. Sipe (1998) writes, “These are the first pages one sees when opening the picturebook and the last pages one sees at the end of the book before closing it. Endpages are like stage curtains, framing the performance of a play. The color and/or design are chosen to coordinate in some way with the rest of the book” (p. 69). I am pleased to have written this column with students enrolled in a graduate children’s literature course that I taught in the spring of 2012. We read, discussed, and voted on our favorite picturebooks with unique and engaging endpapers. We looked closely at the literary merit of the books as well as the endpapers. Because there were so many we enjoyed, we also chose to include a list of additional recommended picturebooks.

Sipe and McGuire (2006) wrote that “endpapers represent a great variety of visual forms and perform a number of different functions” (p. 293). The books that we have included in this column display a range of endpapers in both type and ways of coordinating with the rest of the book. Some books, such as City I Love and Orani: My Father’s Village feature maps related to the places highlighted in the stories. Others like Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site depict a change in time, and some, such as E-mergecy, even provide additional information related to the book’s topic. It is our hope that this column will encourage teachers and students to pay closer attention to the endpapers of picturebooks.

This column features a collection of picture-books (with the exception of one title) with endpapers (also referred to as endpages) that are worthy of attention from children and teachers. Sipe (1998) writes, “These are the first pages one sees when opening the picturebook and the last pages one sees at the end of the book before closing it. Endpages are like stage curtains, framing the performance of a play. The color and/or design are chosen to coordinate in some way with the rest of the book” (p. 69). I am pleased to have written this column with students enrolled in a graduate children’s literature course that I taught in the spring of 2012. We read, discussed, and voted on our favorite picturebooks with unique and engaging endpapers. We looked closely at the literary merit of the books as well as the endpapers. Because there were so many we enjoyed, we also chose to include a list of additional recommended picturebooks.

Sipe and McGuire (2006) wrote that “endpapers represent a great variety of visual forms and perform a number of different functions” (p. 293). The books that we have included in this column display a range of endpapers in both type and ways of coordinating with the rest of the book. Some books, such as City I Love and Orani: My Father’s Village feature maps related to the places highlighted in the stories. Others like Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site depict a change in time, and some, such as E-mergecy, even provide additional information related to the book’s topic. It is our hope that this column will encourage teachers and students to pay closer attention to the endpapers of picturebooks.

This column features a collection of picture-books (with the exception of one title) with endpapers (also referred to as endpages) that are worthy of attention from children and teachers. Sipe (1998) writes, “These are the first pages one sees when opening the picturebook and the last pages one sees at the end of the book before closing it. Endpages are like stage curtains, framing the performance of a play. The color and/or design are chosen to coordinate in some way with the rest of the book” (p. 69). I am pleased to have written this column with students enrolled in a graduate children’s literature course that I taught in the spring of 2012. We read, discussed, and voted on our favorite picturebooks with unique and engaging endpapers. We looked closely at the literary merit of the books as well as the endpapers. Because there were so many we enjoyed, we also chose to include a list of additional recommended picturebooks.

Sipe and McGuire (2006) wrote that “endpapers represent a great variety of visual forms and perform a number of different functions” (p. 293). The books that we have included in this column display a range of endpapers in both type and ways of coordinating with the rest of the book. Some books, such as City I Love and Orani: My Father’s Village feature maps related to the places highlighted in the stories. Others like Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site depict a change in time, and some, such as E-mergecy, even provide additional information related to the book’s topic. It is our hope that this column will encourage teachers and students to pay closer attention to the endpapers of picturebooks.
“Tuck Me In!” All the baby animals are ready for bed. Will you tuck them in and say goodnight? The baby animals have colorful, unique blankets in the form of half-pages that fold to snuggle right up to their chins. The illustrator created pictures using bright, bold colors that really add to the simple text. Each baby animal has his or her own pattern on the blankets that gives the illusion of texture. The bold lines around each figure add a fun, kidlike touch to the story. But don’t forget to look at the endpapers. At the beginning of the book, all of the baby animals are present with their eyes wide open. After all the baby animals are tucked in, the endpapers at the back of the book show them fast asleep with their eyes closed, therefore capturing the essence of the book. *Tuck Me In!* would be a great addition to every child’s bookshelf and will be a sure favorite at naptime and bedtime. (VM)

**Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for Baby?**

Written and illustrated by Barney Saltzberg


The opening endpapers depict Cornelius P. Mud’s mother who is about to have a new baby. Above the image of her is the color green, possibly to represent the jealousy that Cornelius is feeling about expecting a new sibling. Once the baby is born, Cornelius’s mother attempts to introduce him to his new brother; however, Cornelius asks a number of questions such as “Can he talk?” and “Can he eat pizza?” When his mother explains “not yet,” Cornelius wishes that they could send the baby back. Eventually, Cornelius realizes that there is something that the baby can do—he can simply be Cornelius’s little brother, and that is enough. The closing endpapers show Cornelius lovingly holding his baby brother, and the color orange hovers above to represent enthusiasm and happiness. Pair this book with *Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for Bed?*, which also has endpapers worth noting. (JM)

**The Twins’ Blanket**

Written and illustrated by Hyewon Yum


*The Twins’ Blanket* is a story about two five-year-old twin girls. Told from their perspective, the story entails how they have shared the same room, the same crib, the same toys, and even the same blanket ever since they were born. When they grow too big for their bed, their mother tells them they must sleep in their own separate beds. This means new blankets for them both. The book playfully describes the relationship between two sisters, following their emotions through every tug and pull of their new blankets as they embrace their struggle toward independence. Hyewon Yum’s artwork is simplistically beautiful. Through her paintings, she is able to convey the various emotions of the twin girls. The endpapers are especially unique, showing the colors of the fabric that each of the girls chooses for her new blanket—pink fabric in the front and yellow fabric at the back. The author effectively distinguishes between the twins’ identities by giving them different sides of each double-page spread, yet still allows them to reach out to each other by the time the story ends. (RP)
A Call for a New Alphabet
Written and illustrated by Jef Czekaj

A always comes before B and Z is always last. That’s the alphabet we all learned, but in A Call for a New Alphabet, X is not happy about his position in the alphabet. He’s envious of the other letters and wonders what it would be like to not always be the third to the last letter of the alphabet.

Czekaj includes illustrations with vibrant colors in a graphic-novel style and keeps the reader entertained with his introduction to the rules of the alphabet and English grammar. Czekaj has created endpapers that summarize the emotions of the letters of the alphabet as the book progresses. The front endpapers show complete chaos as the letters are not sure whether they are content with their positions in the alphabet. Each letter is also shown with an illustration beginning with that letter: M has a mustache and wears mittens, U wears underwear and carries an umbrella, and B has a beard, wears a baseball hat, and rides a bicycle. The back endpapers are illustrated with the letters of the alphabet in the order we all know them. Is this a reflection of the end of the story? Are they content with their current roles in the alphabet? Read this entertaining book about the life of a letter of the alphabet and find out for yourself! (KP)

Sea Monster’s First Day
Written by Kate Messner
Illustrated by Andy Rash

“Keep your flippers to yourself.” This is rule number one in Sea Monster’s new classroom. This delightful story puts a fun twist on the oh-so-familiar worries that accompany the first day of school. Sea Monster faces many of the same struggles that human students do on the first day of school, but he also faces a few that are unique to being a sea monster. The artwork captivates the young and the old with big-eyed sea monsters and carefully crafted scenes of the deep blue sea. The endpapers of this book complement the story and provide the book with character from the time the cover is opened. The front endpapers provide the readers with a creatively engineered map of Sea Monster’s community. Everything from the amusement park to the treacherous quicksand is featured. For the back endpapers, a map of the world is shown with Sea Monster’s relatives spotlighted all around it. He has relatives from Sweden to Canada! The back endpapers also just might mirror a change in Sea Monster’s perspective. From the endpapers to the story to the artwork, this is a wonderfully crafted book sure to delight teachers and students from the first day of school to the last. (TB)

The Obstinate Pen
Written and illustrated by Frank W. Dormer

The Obstinate Pen is a hilarious book that will be enjoyed by both children and adults. This story is about a pen that has a mind of its own and goes on mini-adventures with each person who tries to write with it. The characters who interact with the pen have their own stories as well and express different types of emotions concerning what has been written. This book has great descriptive adjectives that will help develop and build young children’s vocabularies.

The endpapers are another great feature. The first set of endpapers shows different pieces of
famous artwork displayed in a hallway. Everything looks orderly in the hallway, exactly as it should be. Once you get to the end of the book, you see how the pen has taken over every aspect of the story. The same hallway is shown, but now there are new features added to each piece of art. Portraits of people now have birthday hats, dinosaurs walk in the backgrounds of paintings, and animals have been given glasses and mustaches. This terrific book has a mind of its own that will be loved by all. (KJ)

In many picturebooks, endpapers contain illustrations that add to the text. In The Day-Glo Brothers, the endpapers not only add to the story, they are bright fluorescent colors: yellow, green, and orange. These unique endpapers help tell the story of brothers Bob and Joe Switzer, who invented Day-Glo fluorescent colors. Barton narrates the Switzer brothers’ fascinating story. Joe wanted to be in show business, while Bob wanted to be a doctor. A freak accident at a pickle and ketchup factory where Bob worked over the summer leaves him with seizures, double vision, and memory damage, and ends his chance at becoming a doctor. Interestingly, while Bob is recuperating, the brothers are able to devote more time to developing the Day-Glo colors. Once developed, Day-Glo colors were used during World War II and even in the paintings of the artist Andy Warhol. Today, Day-Glo colors are still used in advertising (e.g., billboards) and in highway departments across the United States (e.g., glowing safety cones). As Barton reminds readers, Day-Glo colors made the brothers millions, and allowed Joe to woo crowds and Bob to help others. Through his artwork, Persiani adds to the “illuminating” tale. Swashes of fluorescent colors add to the life of the narrative, giving this informational text an added flair. (CM)

**City I Love**
Written by Lee Bennett Hopkins
Illustrated by Marcellus Hall

“Sing a song of cities. / If you do, / Cities will sing back / to you.” City I Love is a captivating collection of poems by popular children’s poet and anthologist Lee Bennett Hopkins. Take a whirlwind trip around the world visiting different major cities through these 18 unique poems. This collection explores the defining characteristics and unique landmarks of numerous cities (e.g., St. Louis, London, Cairo, and San Francisco) throughout the world. The illustrations, which feature a combination of vivid ink and subdued watercolor, bring each poem alive. The endpapers feature a world map identifying the major cities highlighted throughout the book. Can you use the poems, endpapers, and illustrations to determine which city is being portrayed? City I Love would make a good read-aloud for children of all ages and could just stir up a sense of adventure in future world travelers. (AR)

**Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site**
Written by Sherri Duskey Rinker
Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

Language Arts, Volume 90 Number 3, January 2013
Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site is a rhyming text that children will enjoy reading at bedtime. As the sun sets behind the construction site, all the hardworking trucks get ready to say goodnight. One by one they finish their work and go to sleep so that they are ready for another day. One page reads, "The sun has set, the work is done; / It’s time for trucks to end their fun. / So one by one they’ll go to bed / To yawn and rest their sleepy heads, / Then wake up to another day / Of rough-and-tough construction play!"

The rhyming words are catchy, and as children listen to them, they can be developing a sense of phonological awareness. Tom Lichtenheld’s use of color complements the mood and energy of the text. The opening endpapers depict the sun rising behind the construction site, which is how the story and day begin. The closing endpapers show the sun setting, and then the night sky when all the trucks have gone to sleep. Read this story about the construction site right before you say goodnight! (MBW)

Pig Pig Meets the Lion
Written and illustrated by David McPhail

In this delightful story, a lion escapes from the zoo and climbs into Pig Pig’s room through the window! While Pig Pig’s mother is downstairs preparing breakfast, Pig Pig and the lion run down the stairs and play throughout the house. Pig Pig tries to tell his mom that the escaped lion is in their home, but she does not listen. What will happen to Pig Pig? Will the lion have to go back to the zoo? Readers will have to find out for themselves. The reader can feel the warmth of Pig Pig and the lion’s friendship leap off the page in both the illustrations and text. One of the most interesting parts of this book is the endpapers, which show the power of pictures and how they can allow us to create a story without written text. The beginning endpapers show the lion escaping from the zoo, while those at the end of the story show him climbing out of Pig Pig’s window as workers from the zoo speak to Pig Pig’s mother at her front door. (LC)

E-mergency!
Written by Tom Lichtenheld and Ezra Fields-Meyer
Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

An E-mergency has happened! The most frequently used letter in the alphabet, E, has had a major accident while coming down the stairs, and the other letters in the alphabet need to decide who can possibly fill in while E is in the hospital recuperating. E-mergency! is the hilarious story of just that. The other letters in the alphabet decide to have O fill in for E and travel all around the world to let others know that the letter E can no longer be used. Pandemonium sets in everywhere because no one can communicate. Finally, E is healed just in time for the ending. The artwork throughout the book was created using ink, pastels, and colored pencils and is done in cartoon-like fashion. Each letter in the alphabet has a unique style and persona, which adds to the humor of the story, but also shows how important each letter of the alphabet really is. The endpapers in E-mergency! add to the whimsy throughout the story. The front endpapers play on words to showcase the “cast” in both senses of the word—the letters of the alphabet are the cast for this story and then there is the image of the letter E wearing a cast on her leg after her accident. The back endpapers show the frequency of use in the English language for each letter in the alphabet. And the most frequently used letter? E, who is also back to her old ways, sleds down the bar graph. (MK)
Orani: My Father’s Village
Written and illustrated by Claire A. Nivola

This book depicts a young girl’s fascination with the Italian village of Orani where her father grew up. A native New Yorker, the girl looks forward to her trips to Orani where she plays with her cousins and experiences life in Italy. She recounts several memories of adventures, such as visiting a newborn baby and rescuing a fledgling fallen from a nest. She states, “All I needed to learn and feel and know was down there. Oh, how I loved that village of Orani!” Beautifully illustrated with realistic attention to detail, Nivola captures the likeness of an Italian village. The endpapers of this book truly enhance the overall story. The front endpapers feature a map of Italy with the island of Sardinia and the village of Orani highlighted. The back endpapers show a close-up map of the island of Sardinia with the village of Orani highlighted. This book is an excellent way to expose children to Italian culture and have them ponder how many cultures combine to make America. (CD)

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot”
Written by Michael O. Tunnell

Can one person make a difference? After reading Candy Bomber, anyone would say, “Yes!” This inspiring story, depicted through authentic photographs and essential anecdotes, shows how one pilot decided to make a difference by disbursing candy and hope to the children of war-torn Berlin. The endpapers serve as a testimonial to Lt. Gail Halvorsen’s work by sharing children’s thank-you notes to the pilot for dropping much-needed candy and happiness during the rebuilding process; in this way, they frame the account in an important and personal way. In a practical sense, this book can be excellent supplemental material for students studying specific historical time periods. The in-depth reporting done by the author, Michael O. Tunnell, supported by artifacts (e.g., photographs, letters, and drawings from children, etc.) serves as an asset for any social studies or language arts lesson. Engaging personal stories help children make historical connections in a meaningful way. Even though life can, at times, be full of suffering, one person can make a difference to many people in need. Lt. Halvorsen proved that, and by doing so, set an example for us all! (HMA)

References

Additional Recommended Picturebooks with Noteworthy Endpapers*

*Please note that sometimes the endpapers are not present in paperback copies.

Language Arts, Volume 90 Number 3, January 2013

Jonda C. McNair is an associate professor of Literacy Education at Clemson University in South Carolina. The following authors were graduate students enrolled in READ 868/942: Tyler Bennett, Leianne Cade, Caitlin Davis, Koti Hubbard, Kate Jensen, Melissa Kopec, Valerie Marsh, Christopher Massey, Heather McCrea-Andrews, Rachael Peterson, Kimberly Pierce, Amy Rossi, and Mary Beth Weir.

Please contact Jonda C. McNair at jmcnair@clemson.edu for questions related to submitting review materials.

**CEE Awards Announced**

A number of awards were presented by the Conference on English Education at the NCTE Annual Convention in Las Vegas. The 2012 *James N. Britton Award* for Inquiry within the English Language Arts was presented to Sara Kajder, *Adolescents and Digital Literacies: Learning Alongside Our Students* (National Council of Teachers of English, 2010). The 2012 *Cultural Diversity Grants* went to Zaira R. Arvelo-Alicea and Ileana Cortes Santiago for their joint proposals, “Enhancing ELLs’ Reading Skills through Music, Storytelling, and Digital Media” and “Latino/a Families—English Educators’ Literacy Partnerships.” The 2012 *Janet Emig Award* for Exemplary Scholarship in *English Education* was presented to Brian White for his article, “The Vulnerable Population of Teacher-Researchers; Or, ‘Why I Can’t Name My Coauthors’” (*English Education*, July 2011). The 2012 *Richard A. Meade Award* for Research in English Education was not awarded in 2012. The 2012 *James Moffett Award* for Teacher Research was presented to Dana Maloney, Tenafly High School, Tenafly, New Jersey.