TOON pioneers a whole new approach to books for emerging readers by using all the sophisticated tools of good comics to engage young children. This groundbreaking approach to high-quality books has garnered TOON Books lavish praise and numerous awards since its launch. Joining forces with Candlewick, we are proposing here the new classics of the visual age: visually literate books that will delight, inspire, inform, and tickle the fancy of the children of the twenty-first century.
In her second TOON adventure, no job is too tough for Silly Lilly: first she’s a cook who paints, then an acrobat who tumbles, then a city planner. . . . Agnès Rosenstiehl’s spunky heroine, one of France’s most beloved children’s book characters, takes on a new role every day of the week. Lilly’s unstoppable antics are bound to spark young readers’ imaginations.

Agnès Rosenstiehl is the beloved writer and artist of nearly a hundred children’s books, many featuring the deceptively simple antics of Mimi Cracra, Silly Lilly’s French alter ego. In 1995, Agnès received the prestigious Grand Prize for Children’s Books from the Société des Gens de Lettres. Agnès is a scholar of literature as well as music, and is married to an eminent mathematician. She lives in a country house with a garden, hidden in the center of Paris. She has four children and fifteen grandchildren.

Silly Lilly in What Will I Be Today?
by Agnès Rosenstiehl
Early reader
9 x 6  32 pages
Ages 5–7
Kindergarten–Grade 2
India ink and watercolor
February  LC: 2010005308
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)

LEXILE LEVEL: BR
GUIDED READING LEVEL: E
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 7–8

>> See page 101 for more from this author.
Meet Patrick, a playful teddy with a sweet spot for Mama, who is put to the test when Big Bear shows up!

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award–winning author Geoffrey Hayes delights young readers with these easy-to-read stories about Patrick Brown, a puddle-jumping teddy bear whose biggest challenge is avoiding nap time . . . until he has to contend with Big Bear.

Geoffrey Hayes has written and illustrated more than forty children’s books, including the extremely popular series of early readers Otto & Uncle Tooth, the classic Bear By Himself, and When the Wind Blew by Caldecott Medal–winning author Margaret Wise Brown.
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— Time Out New York Kids

“Great practice for beginning readers.”
— Parenting

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Jack and the Box
by Art Spiegelman

HC: 978-0-9799238-3-8
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)
LEXILE LEVEL: GN 100
GUIDED READING LEVEL: G
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 11–12

“The artwork will appeal to a broad range of lower-level readers. True to its comic-strip roots . . . this title is a surefire hit.” — School Library Journal

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Silly Lilly
and the Four Seasons
by Agnès Rosenstiehl

HC: 978-0-9799238-1-4
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)
LEXILE LEVEL: BR
GUIDED READING LEVEL: E
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 7–8

★ “A little marvel of distilled storytelling . . . To know Lilly is to want to know what she has to say.”
— Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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Little Mouse
Gets Ready
by Jeff Smith

HC: 978-1-935179-01-6
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)
LEXILE LEVEL: GN 160
GUIDED READING LEVEL: F
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 9–10

“The big friendly panels in autumn pastels and the silly twist ending will have emergent readers going straight back to the first page over and over.” — Kirkus Reviews

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A Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book
An American Library Association Notable Children’s Book
A School Library Journal Best Comic for Kids
A Junior Library Guild Selection

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A Publishers Weekly Best Children’s Book of the Year
An International Youth Library White Raven Title
A Bank Street College Best Children’s Book of the Year

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A Publishers Weekly Best Children’s Book of the Year

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A Publishers Weekly Best Children’s Book of the Year

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Benny and Penny in *The Toy Breaker*  
*by* Geoffrey Hayes  
HC: 978-1-935179-07-8  
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)  
LEXILE LEVEL: BR  
GUIDED READING LEVEL: H  
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 13–14  
A Junior Library Guild Selection

Benny and Penny in *The Big No-No!*  
*by* Geoffrey Hayes  
HC: 978-0-9799238-9-0  
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LEXILE LEVEL: GN 30  
GUIDED READING LEVEL: H  
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 13–14  
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LEXILE LEVEL: GN 90  
GUIDED READING LEVEL: G  
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GUIDED READING LEVEL: J  
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 17  
A School Library Journal Best Comic for Kids  
A Junior Library Guild Selection

Stinky  
*by* Eleanor Davis  
HC: 978-0-9799238-4-5  
$12.95 ($15.00 CAN)  
LEXILE LEVEL: GN 170  
GUIDED READING LEVEL: J  
READING RECOVERY LEVEL: 17  
A Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book  
An American Library Association Notable Children’s Book  
A Bank Street College Best Children’s Book of the Year  
A *Booklist* Notable Children’s Book
“Lynch provides classic comic-book repartee in beginning-reader-friendly vocabulary ably matched to Haspiel’s bold images and zippy colors; the high-quality production supplies good, old-fashioned fun and a superhero lesson that packs a wallop.” — Kirkus Reviews

“Spiegelman weaves the science facts into the breezy narrative cleverly and painlessly, and the art . . . supports both the educational elements and the zingy story.” — Booklist

★ “A high-quality comic that is both loads of fun and easy to read. . . . Sure to engage a new generation in the art form; kids will want to read it once, then return to it again and again.” — Booklist (starred review)
Kids love comics! They are naturally drawn to the details in the pictures, which make them want to read the words. Comics beg for repeated readings and let both emerging and reluctant readers enjoy complex stories with a rich vocabulary. But since comics have their own grammar, here are a few tips for reading them with kids:

USE A FINGER TO GUIDE KIDS in following your place in the text, but keep your finger at the bottom of the speaking character so it doesn’t hide the very important facial expressions.

PROMPT KIDS TO PARTICIPATE. Think of the comic book story as a play. Don’t hesitate to be a ham, read with expression and intonation. Assign parts or get kids to supply the sound effects (which offers a great opportunity to reinforce phonics skills).

PAUSE BEFORE PAGE FLIPS. Practice making predictions: “What do you think will happen next?” Comics are like jigsaw puzzles that ask readers to make connections, so check a young audience’s understanding by asking “What’s this character thinking?” (but don’t be surprised if a kid finds some of the comics’ subtle details faster than you).

LINGER ON SILENT PANELS. Point out how the artist paces the story with pauses (silent panels) or speeded-up action (a burst of short panels). Discuss how the size and shape of the panels carry meaning.

ABOVE ALL, ENJOY! There is of course never one right way to read, so go for the shared pleasure. Once children make the story happen in their imagination, they have discovered the thrill of reading, and you won’t be able to stop them. At that point, just go get them more books, and more comics.

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FIRST COMICS FOR BRAND-NEW READERS

• 200–300 easy sight words
• short sentences
• often one character
• single time frame or theme
• 1–2 panels per page

LEVEL 2  GRADES 1–2
EASY-TO-READ COMICS FOR EMERGING READERS

• 300–600 words
• short sentences and repetition
• story arc with few characters in a small world
• 1–4 panels per page

LEVEL 3  GRADES 2–3
CHAPTER-BOOK COMICS FOR ADVANCED BEGINNERS

• 800–1000+ words
• long sentences
• characters interact with a broad world
• shifts in time and place
• long story divided in chapters