Children’s Books

My conclusions concerning historical shifts in (attitudes toward) the noisiness of children are based upon my reading of the following children’s books. Although authors of works for children often use rhyme, alliteration, and onomatopoeia, the titles listed here have plots or themes explicitly driven by sounds, by issues of loudness or quietness, by a quest for silence or for the source of an unfamiliar, hidden, or disturbing noise.

This bibliography is neither global nor comprehensive. Most of the titles are Anglophone picture books that I have had in my hands (or in the hands of friends—and here I must thank Harold Boll, Laura Nelson, Jane and Jeremy Palin, Anne S. Prussing, Bill Rable and Libby Reuter, David G. Roskies, and June Sekera). Entire genres are generally absent: comic books, introductions to all five (or more) senses, music appreciation texts, phonics series. Nor have I systematically searched the thousands of lullabies, poems, and stories in children’s periodicals or in collections of folktales retold for children. In addition, I have neglected educational videos and electronic games, which may be noisy but are rarely driven by sound-plots.

The titles appear in the following categories: fiction, animal noises, nonfiction, historical anthologies. Within the second category, I have designated a distinct subgenre in which a young animal, unable to make its species-specific sound, learns—or prefers—to make the sounds of other animals (i.e., displaced sounds, or noise) before it masters, or accepts, its own.

Unless otherwise noted, the place of publication is New York City.

CHILDREN’S FICTION
Aesop (AKA Babrius, Phaedrus, et al.), “The Cicada and the Owl,” *Babrius and Phaedrus,*
ed. and tr. Ben Edward Perry (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U, 1965) 285, = Phaedrus, Book III, Fable 16. [Dating of these fables is unsettled; Phaedrus, who translated many of them into Latin, lived in the first century C.E.]


Translated into Spanish as Puaj!


2010.
Behrman, Carol H.; illus. Hideko Takahashi. *The Ding Dong Clock*. Henry Holt, 1999
*B. B. Wigglebottom Learns to Listen*. Marina del Rey, CA:
Thunderbolt, 2006.
Bridwell, Norman. “Clifford’s Noisy Day” (1992) in Clifford: Preschool Treasury. Scholastic,


Brook, Sally; illus. Stephen Cartwright. *I’m So Noisy!* Worldwide Media, 1996.


Brown, Margaret Wise (listed by date of first publication):


posthumously (an ever-growing list, but only sound-driven works noted here):


Burningham, John. “Noisy Words” series of books for Viking, by title:

- Skip Trip. 1984.


DeFelice, Cynthia C. “The Dancing Skeleton.” In Ireland anthology, pp. 17–22.


Elliott, David; illus. Timothy B. Ering. *Finn Throws a Fit!* Somerville, MA: Candlewick,


Fowler, Richard. Series of “Mr. Little” books for Grosset and Dunlap, by title:

*Mr. Little’s Noisy 123*. 1987.

*Mr. Little’s Noisy ABC*. 1987.

*Mr. Little’s Noisy Boat*. 1986.

*Mr. Little’s Noisy Car*. 1986.

*Mr. Little’s Noisy Fire Engine*. 1990.


*Mr. Little’s Noisy Train*. 1987.


   *Nelly’s Illness*. Dodd, Mead, 1881.


Garriel, Barbara; illus. John O’Brien. *I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello*. Honesdale,
Good Little Mary; Noisy Cecilia; &c., &c. Providence, RI: Weedon and Peek, 1849.
Graham, Elspeth; illus. Jan Lewis. Be Quiet! (Series: Animal Crackers, vol. 6.) Orlando,


Harris, Monica A.; illus. Susan E. Kwas. Wake the Dead. Walker, 2004.

Harris, Robie H. I’m So Mad. Little Brown, 2005.


Hughes, Shirley. “Noisy.” Final story (p. 53) in *The Nursery Collection.* Lothrop, Lee &


Ichikawa, Satomi. *My Father’s Shop.* La Jolla: Kane/Miller, 2006.


Johnson, Jacob (author?); illus. Alexander Anderson. *Trifles for Children.* Part II. London:


Kompaneys, Marc. *The Squishiness of Things*. Knopf, 2005. Section on the land of the Bobnatabobs, “where the people have a passion for loud noises of all kinds.”

Lawrence, Mary; illus. Lynn Adams. *What’s That Sound?* Kane, 2002.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long, Ethan</td>
<td><em>One Drowsy Dragon</em></td>
<td>Orchard</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Long, Loren</td>
<td><em>Drummer Boy</em></td>
<td>Philomel</td>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>Long, Melinda</td>
<td><em>Hiccup Snickup</em></td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Long, Melinda</td>
<td><em>When Papa Snores</em></td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Lotz, Karen E.</td>
<td><em>Snowsong Whistling</em></td>
<td>Dutton</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>Lukasewich, Lori</td>
<td><em>The Night Fire</em></td>
<td>Stoddart</td>
<td>2001</td>
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<td>Lynn, Sara</td>
<td><em>Noises</em></td>
<td>Derrydale</td>
<td>1988; Crescent</td>
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<td>Lyon, David</td>
<td><em>The Biggest Truck</em></td>
<td>Lothrop, Lee &amp; Shepard Books</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<td>MacDonald, Amy</td>
<td><em>Little Beaver and the Echo</em></td>
<td>G. P. Putnam</td>
<td>1990</td>
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<td>MacDonald, Margaret Read</td>
<td><em>The Squeaky Door</em></td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>MacDonald, Ross</td>
<td><em>Achoo! Bang! Crash! The Noisy Alphabet</em></td>
<td>Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook</td>
<td>2003</td>
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<td>MacKinnon, Debbie</td>
<td><em>What Noise?</em></td>
<td>Dial</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Madden, Don</td>
<td><em>Lemonade Serenade or the Thing in the Garden</em></td>
<td>Chicago: Whitman</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<td>Maestro, Giulio</td>
<td><em>Leopard and the Noisy Monkeys</em></td>
<td>Greenwillow Books</td>
<td>1979</td>
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<td>Maguire, Gregory</td>
<td><em>Crabby Cratchitt</em></td>
<td>Clarion</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Maguire, Gregory</td>
<td><em>The Peace and Quiet Diner</em></td>
<td>Parents’ Magazine</td>
<td>1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahy, Margaret</td>
<td><em>Boom, Baby, Boom! Boom! Viking</em></td>
<td>1997</td>
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<td>Mahy, Margaret</td>
<td><em>The Horrendous Hullabaloo</em></td>
<td>Viking</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>Mahy, Margaret</td>
<td><em>The Rattlebang Picnic</em></td>
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<td>Maier, Inger</td>
<td><em>When Fuzzy Was Afraid of Big and Loud Things</em></td>
<td>DC: Magination</td>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>Maitland, Barbara</td>
<td><em>Moo in the Morning</em></td>
<td>Farrar Straus Giroux</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Manning, Mick</td>
<td><em>Cock-a-Doodle Hooooooo!</em></td>
<td>Intercourse, PA: Good Books</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>Mantinband, Gerda</td>
<td><em>Bing Bong Bang and Fiddle Dee Dee</em></td>
<td>Garden City, NY: 1979; 1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mantinband, Gerda</td>
<td><em>Papa and Mama Biederbeck</em></td>
<td>Boston: Houghton Mifflin</td>
<td>1983</td>
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<td>Manushkin, Fran</td>
<td><em>Peeping and Sleeping</em></td>
<td>Clarion Books</td>
<td>1994</td>
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<td>Maria, Sarah</td>
<td><em>Winter Scenes in the Denham Family</em></td>
<td>Bangor, ME: D. Bugbee</td>
<td>1847</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marino, Dorothy B.</td>
<td><em>Good-bye Thunderstorm</em></td>
<td>Philadelphia: Lippincott</td>
<td>1958</td>
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<td>Marizabel</td>
<td><em>C’est quoi ce bruit?</em></td>
<td>Paris: Épigones</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<td>Markes, Julie</td>
<td><em>Shhhhh! Everybody’s Sleeping</em></td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>Martin, Bill</td>
<td><em>A Spooky Story</em></td>
<td>Holt Rinehart Winston</td>
<td>1970</td>
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<td>Martin, Bill</td>
<td><em>Old Devil Wind</em></td>
<td>Holt Rinehart Winston</td>
<td>1970</td>
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Spanish as *Qué es ese ruido, Isabel?* Barcelona: Timun Mas, 1998.
Mitchell, Lucy Sprague. *Here and Now Story Book, Two- to Seven-Year-Olds; Experimental Stories Written for the Children of the City and Country School (formerly the Play School) and the Nursery School of the Bureau of Educational Experiments.* Dutton, 1921.


Murphy, Jill; illus. Norman Gorbaty. *A Quiet Night In*. London: Walker, 1993; Cambridge,
Nagishkin, Dmitri; illus. Gennady Pavlishin; translated from the Russian by Emily Leh-
Oxford: Blackwell, 1919. Poems on street cries and street musicians including “The
Scissor-Man,” “The Fiddler Man,” “The Organ-Grinder,” “The Muffin-Man,” “The
Waists.”
Noonan, Diana; illus. David Cunningham. Stop That Noise! Wellington, New Zealand:
Learning Media, 1997; Glenview, IL: Celebration Press, distributor.
Norelli, Sallianne; illus Dean Yeagle. Is It an Earthquake? Waterbury, CT: Letter People,
[2002?]
(1954). Tr. by Margaret Wettlin in Morton anthology, pp. 108–10
Odanaka, Barbara; illus. Will Hillenbrand. Smash! Mash! Crash! There Goes the Trash!
Oliver, Susan; illus. Suzanne Smith. Thump, Bump! Sandy, UT: Waterford Inst./Sunnyvale,
CA: Electronic Education, 2006?


Pilkey, Dav. The Paperboy. Orchard/Scholastic, 1996.


... Mommies Say Shhh! Philomel, 2005.


Prelutsky, Jack; illus. Doug Cushman. What a Day It Was at School. Greenwillow, 2006, esp. “We’re Shaking Maracas” and “I Made a Noise This Morning.”


Prim, Peter. Peter Prim’s Pride, or Proverbs, That Will Suit the Young or the Old. London: Harris, 1810, and excerpted in Tuer anthology.


Rojany-Buccieri, Lisa, and Debra M. Zakarin; illus. Marcela Cabrera; designer Willabel Tong; paper engineering by Americhip Studios. *Let’s Make Noise At the Ballpark*. San
Roth, Carol; illus. Pat Schories. *Quiet as a Mouse*. Checkerboard, 1991; Wilton, CT: Tiger Tales, 2002.


Schneider, Christine M. Saxophone Sam and His Snazzy Jazz Band. Walker, 2002.


Seeger, Pete; illus. Michael Hays. Abiyoyo. Scholastic, 1963; Macmillan, 1986; many other editions, as well as audiobooks, videotapes, CDs.


Seuss, Dr. (= Theodore Geisel). The Cat in the Hat. Random House, 1957. Animated
Seuss, Dr. (= Geisel, Theodor, with Allan Scott, screenplay; music by Frederick Hollander; Roy Rowland, director. *The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T*. Columbia, 1953; re-released in 1958 as *Crazy Music*.


Hreen, 2007).


Strathearn, Chris, from the books of Rob Scotton, with cover art by same; internal illus. Robert Eberz. *Splat the Cat Sings Flat*. Harper, 2011.


Turner, Elizabeth. “Miss Peggy,” in *The Daisy; or, Cautionary Stories in Verse, Adapted to the Ideas of Children from Four to Eight Years Old*. London: Harris, 1807, and excerpted in Tuer anthology.
Tuwim, Julia; illus. Lewitt and Hirn. Adapted from the Polish by Bernard Gutteridge and


Wilson, Jacqueline; illus. Nick Sharratt. *Elsa, Star of the Shelter!* Morton Grove, IL:
Whitman, 1996.
Young America Series. *The Noisy Boy*. McLoughlin Brothers, 1870?

**ANIMAL NOISES**

Battles, Edith; illus. Toni Hortmann. *What Does the Rooster Say, Yoshio?* Chicago: Whitman,
1978.


Manson, Christopher. A Farmyard Song: An Old Rhyme with New Pictures. North-South,
McGee, Marni; illus. Leonie Shearing. *The Noisy Farm: Lots of Animal Noises to Enjoy!*

Nurse Lovechild. “Artificial Memory for Infants; Whereby They may Acquire the Knowledge of Animals, and Some of the sounds, before They can Go or Speak,” in *Tommy Thumb’s Song Book, For all little Masters and Misses, to be Sung to them by their Nurses, until they can sing themselves.* Worcester, MA: Isaiah Thomas, 1788 [1744].


*Not listed here:* most retellings of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*, such as those by Pam Adams, Holly Berry, Jane Cabrera, David A. Carter, Lorinda Bryan Cauley, Gus Clarke, Frances Cony, Alan and Lea Daniel, Penny Dann, Siobhan Dodds, Kathi Ember, David Frankland, Abner Graboff, Nancy Hellen, Carol Jones, Ann Owen, Tracey Campbell Pearson, Robert Quackenbush, Fay Robinson, Glen Rounds, Leonard W. Shortall, William Stobbs, and Prue Theobalds.

*Animal Noises Subgenre:* an animal cannot make the sound appropriate to its own species and must learn that sound after (ineptly, inaptly, noisily) trying out others:


**CHILDREN’S NON-FICTION**, e.g., works for children concerning acoustics, animal communication, anti-noise activism, bells, birdsong, body noises, deafness, ear aches, ears, hearing, listening, noise pollution, parts of speech, poltergeists, (noisy) rituals, silence, signals, soundmaking, tantrums, and (fears of) thunder.

Goodrich, Samuel G., known as Peter Parley. The Third Reader. Louisville, KY, 1839.


Knight, David C. *Silent Sound.* Morrow, 1980.


**Historical Anthologies**