

Monitos and Koalas

Isabel Schon presents a selection of new books for Spanish-speaking children and Spanish learners

Charming books for the very young

Christelow, Eileen

En un árbol están los cinco monitos
Five Little Monkeys Sitting in a Tree

Illus: by the author. Translated by Victoria Ortiz. New York: Clarion, 2006. 30p. ISBN: 978-0-618-75248-5. \$5.95. Gr. Preschool-2.

When mama takes a nap, five mischievous little monkeys climb a tree and discover, one by one, that teasing a crocodile *Es desagradable — ¡y muy peligroso!* / It's not nice — and it's dangerous. The bright and cheery ink-and-watercolor illustrations are as lighthearted as the bilingual text. Notably, the simple Spanish rendition in a purple font is followed by the English text in a black font. The fact that English and Spanish learners can clearly distinguish between the two languages adds to the appeal of this well-constructed board book.

Kimiko

El Camaleón/Chameleon ISBN: 84-8470-229-4.

El Cerdito/The Little Pig ISBN: 84-8470-140-9.

El Conejo/Rabbit ISBN: 84-8470-203-0.

El Dinosaurio/Dinosaur ISBN: 84-8470-171-9.

El Koala/Koala ISBN: 84-8470-227-8.

La Ratita/The Little Rat ISBN: 84-8470-205-7.

Ea. vol.: 10p. Translated by Rafael Ros. Barcelona: Corimbo, 2004-2006. \$11.95. Ages 2-5.

Like the previous four titles — *El avión* (Airplane), *El lobo* (Wolf), *El elefante* (Elephant), *El gato* (Cat)—originally published by L'Ecole Des Loisirs, Paris, these are delightful board books for the very young. With colorful illustrations against flat backgrounds and well-constructed pull-the-tabs, pop-ups, cutouts, and an easy-to-understand, simple text, they encourage joyful interaction. Combining fantasy with well-known facts, they tell about chameleons, pigs, rabbits, dinosaurs, koalas, and rats and can be used as vocabulary builders or just plain fun.



Grahame, Kenneth

El viento en los sauces
The Wind in the Willows

Illus: Elena Odriozola. Translated by Lourdes Huanqui. Madrid: Anaya, 2006. 213p. ISBN: 84-667-5213-7. \$15.95. Gr. 4-6.

Kenneth Grahame's classic series of animal tales, originally published in 1908, is now available in this joyful Spanish rendition with Odriozola's sensitive black line and pastel watercolor illustrations. Like their English-speaking counterparts, Spanish speakers will delight in the adventures of four animal friends — *la Rata* (Rat), *el Topo* (Mole), *el Sapo* (Toad), and *el Tejón* (Badger) — along a river in the English countryside. Well-done notes at the end of the book clarify English terms and expressions.

Perrault, Charles. *Pulgarcito*. Tom Thumb

Illus: Jean-Marc Rochette. Translated by Remedios Diéguez Diéguez. Barcelona: Blume, 2005. ISBN: 84-9801-035-7. \$16.99. Gr. K-3.

This fluid Spanish rendition of the classic tale maintains the gore and meanness of the flesh-eating ogre and the cleverness and courage of *Pulgarcito* (Tom), the smallest of seven brothers, who repeatedly saves them and brings back riches to his poor family. Appropriately somber and dark full-page color as well as black-and-white line illustrations add interest to the original tale. Despite a few Peninsular Spanish pronouns and conjugations, Spanish speakers from the Americas will enjoy *Pulgarcito* and its concluding *Moraleja* (Moral). ❧

Isabel Schon is the director of the Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents California State University San Marcos. For additional high-quality books in Spanish for children and adolescents, visit Barahona Center at www.csusm.edu/csb.