

# HOLIDAY HOUSE

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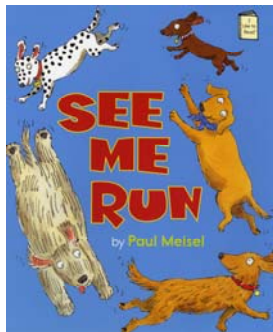
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Holiday House Introduces **I Like to Read™** books, a Distinguished Picture Book Series for Emerging Readers

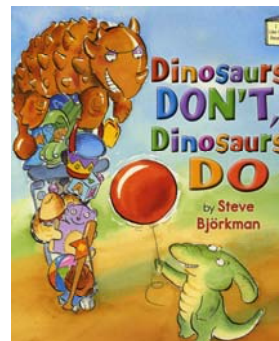
New York, NY—June 2011—Holiday House launches **I LIKE TO READ™** books, an innovative series of trade picture books designed for the newest readers. The **I LIKE TO READ™** inaugural list, to be published this fall, features four universally appealing stories with exquisite illustrations by award-winning picture book veterans Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley, David McPhail, Paul Meisel, and Steve Björkman. **I LIKE TO READ™** picture books, for children in the four-through-eight age group, are written at kindergarten and early first grade reading levels. The first four books are guided reading levels D and E, based on the Fountas and Pinnell system.



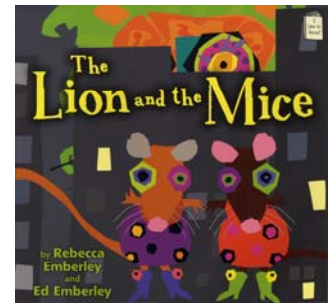
ISBN: 978-0-8234-2349-1



ISBN: 978-0-8234-2346-0



ISBN: 978-0-8234-2355-2



ISBN: 978-0-8234-2357-6

The **I LIKE TO READ™** books feature short texts with high-frequency words and words that are easily decodable, familiar vocabulary, repetition to reinforce learning, and illustrations that support comprehension. What sets **I LIKE TO READ™** books apart from other emerging readers is the quality story and high standard of literary and artistic value of every title.

The books on the first **I LIKE TO READ™** list introduce familiar childhood themes and experiences, including camaraderie and active play, making friends, good manners, and trust. *SEE ME RUN* by Paul Meisel is an energetic adventure about dogs in a park; *BOY, BIRD, AND DOG* by David McPhail is a poignant story about a boy and his pets; *DINOSAURS DON'T, DINOSAURS DO* by Steve Björkman

introduces young children to good manners and the secret to making friends; and Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley have created a bold interpretation of a beloved fable in *THE LION AND THE MICE*.

With no other children's book publisher producing trade picture books for this level of reader, Holiday House is breaking ground for emergent readers, who will find these books delightful and accessible and just right to give them the confidence to learn to read on their own.

***SEE ME RUN* by Paul Meisel**

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2349-1 • Guided Reading Level D

***BOY, BIRD, AND DOG* by David McPhail**

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2346-0 • Guided Reading Level E

***DINOSAURS DON'T, DINOSAURS DO* by Steve Björkman**

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2355-2 • Guided Reading Level E

***THE LION AND THE MICE* by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley**

ISBN: 978-0-8234-2357-6 • Guided Reading Level E

EACH BOOK: 24 pages • illustrated in full-color • priced at \$14.95

#### **About the Authors/Illustrators:**

**Paul Meisel**, who holds a master of fine arts degree from Yale University, has illustrated more than sixty-five books for children, including *Go to Sleep, Groundhog!* by Judy Cox and *Barnyard Slam* by Dian Curtis Regan. He lives with his family in Connecticut.

**David McPhail** is a beloved author and illustrator of more than fifty books for children, including the classic *Emma's Pet*. As an illustrator, he has appeared on *The New York Times* Children's Books Best Sellers list for *When Sheep Sleep*, written by Laura Numeroff. He lives in New Hampshire.

**Steve Björkman** has illustrated more than seventy books for children, including *Supersnouts!*, which he also wrote. He lives in Aliso Viejo, California.

**Rebecca Emberley** has written and illustrated more than thirty books for children. **Ed Emberley** has created more than eighty books for children, including *Drummer Hoff*, which won the Caldecott Award. Rebecca lives in Maine; Ed lives in Massachusetts.

# # #

**COMING IN 2012!** *FISH HAD A WISH* by Michael Garland ♦ *I WILL TRY* by Marilyn Janovitz



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## EMERGENT READER 411 ALL ABOUT I LIKE TO READ™ BOOKS



### What exactly is an emergent reader?

Emergent readers are the very newest readers. They are learning to recognize sight words that are used frequently such as *it*, *can*, and *see*. They are learning short-vowel sounds, such as the sound *a* makes in *hat*. And they are learning simple and frequent letter-sound relationships of consonants, such as the sound the letter *m* makes. As readers progress, they learn two-letter blends such as *st* and diphthongs such as *sh*.

### Why do emergent readers need I Like to Read™ books?

Research shows that emotion, motivation, and confidence are essential for reading success. Though written with controlled vocabulary and short sentences, I Like to Read™ books are interesting, beautiful, and fun. High-interest content provides the motivation; simple text gives new readers confidence; and top-quality illustrations guarantee a joyful reading experience.

### What are the key features of I Like to Read™ books?

- Texts are written with short, simple sentences; and punctuation is carefully considered.
- Texts feature high-frequency words and words that are easily decodable, including many CVC\* and CVCe\*\* words.
- Words and word-families are repeated for reading ease and to reinforce learning.
- Vocabulary is familiar.
- Illustrations closely match text, support meaning, and provide characterization and setting.
- Story length, subject, font, and page design all consider the abilities of the child who is new to reading.
- Guided reading levels are available on the Holiday House website.

### Decoding emergent reader language!

High-frequency: words that are used often. Such as: *a*, *the*, and *and*.

Easily decodable: words that have simple letter-sound relationships. *Cat* is easily decodable; *thought* is not.

CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words: words that have consonants with familiar letter-sound relationships and short-vowel sounds, such as *cat*, *dot*, *rag*.

CVCe (consonant-vowel-consonant-silent *e*) words: words that use consonants with familiar letter-sound relationships, long-vowel sounds, and silent *e*, such as *kite*, *lake*, *home*.



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## **ADVANCE QUOTES FOR I LIKE TO READ™ BOOKS**



### **From the Editors:**

“Most of us in children’s books were drawn to the field because of our passions for stories, for unforgettable characters, for language, for knowledge, and for illustration.

We ardently want children to discover these marvels and become lifelong readers. So we have a strong stake in making sure that our children’s earliest independent reading experiences give them a real taste of these wonders.

“We kept hearing from librarians and educators that there was a great need for distinguished easy-to-read books, but we also knew that when and how children are learning to read has been changing. We needed to take into consideration that children are learning to read at a younger age than ever, that there are a great many more bilingual children learning to read, and that new approaches, such as guided reading, are being embraced by educators. We were told that the greatest need was for books at the most basic levels, which was particularly exciting to us because these would be the very first books that children would read all by themselves.

“I Like to Read™ books are high-quality, high-interest books that the fledgling reader can enjoy independently. Some of the most talented and beloved author-illustrators have joined Holiday House in its mission: to publish easy-to-read picture books that provide a satisfying literary experience and foster a love of reading.”

**—Mary Cash, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief**

“The name of this series says it all: I Like to Read™.

“As young children are learning from their teachers HOW to read, I Like to Read™ books can provide the WHY: because reading is an enlightening, joyful activity and because wonderful stories and great art make us smarter, more noble, and happier people. Emerging readers—the very newest readers—put great effort into mastering high-frequency words, decoding simple three-and-four letter words, and reading simply constructed sentences. They need great books that they can read independently so they’ll know that their efforts are worthwhile and that reading is fun. And here are those books—with text that is easier to read than the typical trade easy reader.

“In publishing this line, Mary Cash and I approached some of the talented people we’ve worked with and asked for wonderful stories. And we got them! These first four I Like to Read™ books were written and illustrated by five highly regarded creators of children’s literature. All are passionate about picture books, children, and reading.

“The first four books include . . .

- a classic with a twist—Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley rejuvenate Aesop’s fable in *The Lion and the Mice*.
- a humorous romp—Paul Meisel writes about a wacky pack of dogs in *See Me Run*.
- self-help—A funny bunch of dinosaurs teach kids how to behave properly and why it’s important to do so in Steve Björkman’s *Dinosaurs Don’t, Dinosaurs Do*.
- a love story (of sorts)—Friends help one another, share, and enjoy each other’s company in David McPhail’s warmhearted *Boy, Bird, and Dog*.

“We named the line I Like to Read™ because that’s what we want to hear the children say: ‘I like to read!’ ”

—Grace Maccarone, Executive Editor

## From Readers:

“Thank you for the books! I love them!”

—Franklin, Kindergartner

“Franklin was so excited. He didn’t think he’d be able to read a picture book on his own. He was so proud of himself when he was able to do it. Franklin laughed as he read about the dogs and the dinosaur in *See Me Run*. He could hardly wait until his mother and sister came home so he could read the book to them too. Franklin brings home reading books from school, but none of them are as good as this. This is what reading is all about!”

—Mike Wohnoutka, Franklin’s dad



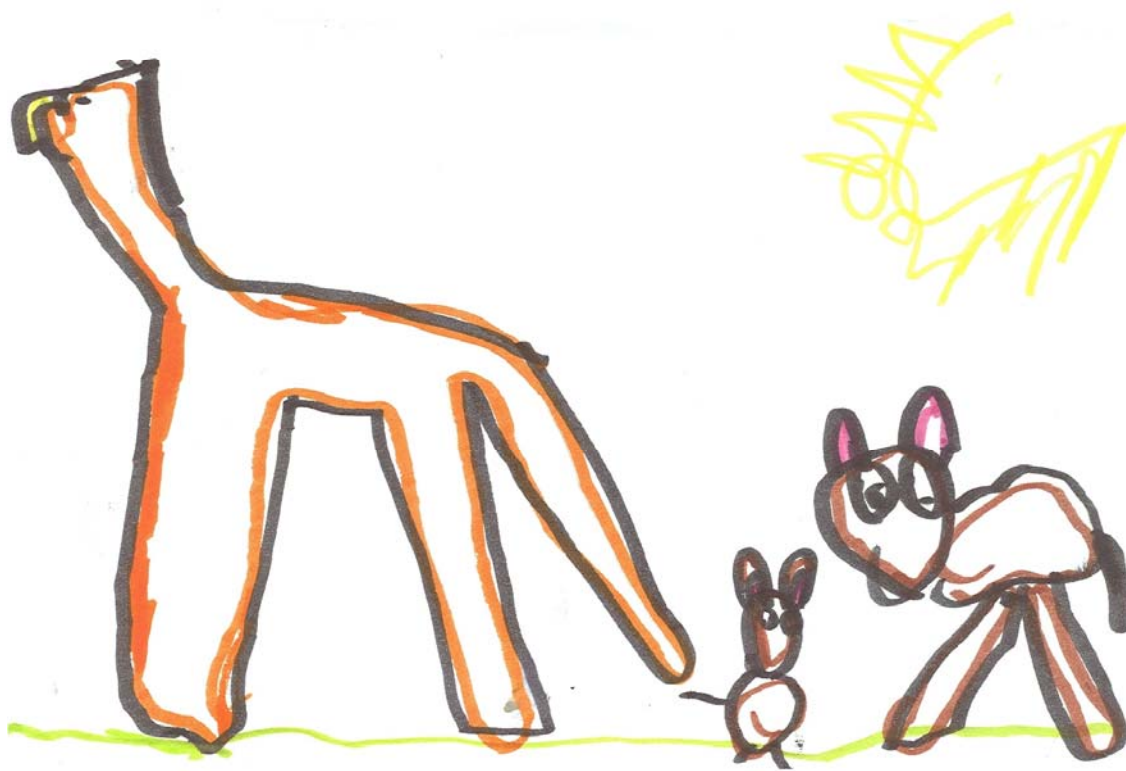
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Thank you for  
the books!  
I love them!



—Franklin, Kindergartner  
on I Like to Read™ books