

from Pragmatic Mom:

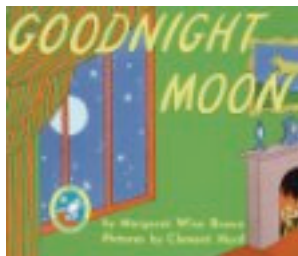
<http://www.pragmaticmom.com/?p=14734>

Top 10: Can You Find These Secret Hidden Things in These (Mostly) Picture Books?

This list was challenging for me to put together. The first six were easy but then the digging got hard. Did you know that ***Goodnight Moon*** has a little white mouse hidden on the full page color illustrations? OK, it took me a while to learn about that. This book was a gift my oldest received as an infant and is a cherished book that I read over and over and over again. I think I must have read it more than 25 times WITHOUT noticing the little white mouse when a mom friend casually mentioned it (who knows exactly what we were talking about?!). All of a sudden, the book was fresh again. AND that little white mouse was surprisingly hard to locate. As the kids grew older, they delighted in spotting it and continued to struggle with certain pages if we had long lapses between readings.

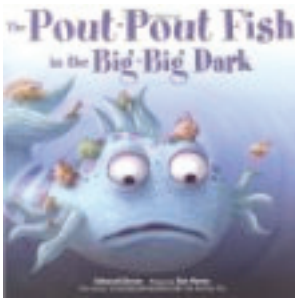
And then I noticed the red balloon (plus the mouse with the banana) in one of my favorite books, ***Goodnight Gorilla***. And I LOVE Peggy Rathman. On the umpteenth reading, my husband noticed the photographs on the walls of the zoo keeper's house...

I appreciate that the author/illustrator realizes that the adult might be reading their book 2650 times so they've added a little twist to keep us going. And these twists are not advertised anywhere in the book; they are just there for those who need a little something because repetition is numbing their mind. I love their creativity and the fact that the hidden things are under the radar. It feels like a secret club. Here's the secret handshake to join ... tell me your favorite book like this. I am still struggling to find one more! Thanks!



10. ***Goodnight Moon*** by [Margaret Wise Brown](#)

Find the little white mouse on the full color spreads. The mouse is somewhere in the bedroom. It's on every one but some of them are tricky!



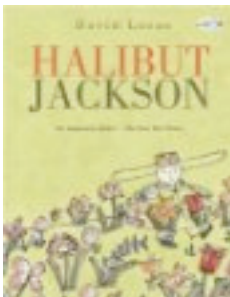
9. *The Pout Pout Fish in the Big Big Deep* by [Deborah Diesen](#)

There are fish shaped like sea weed leaves hidden on some of the pages. Can you find them? Also, Pout Pout's friend is hiding on most of the pages.



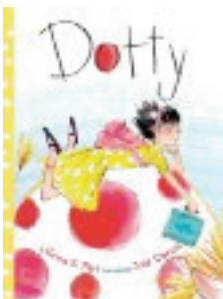
8. *I See the Sun In ...* series by Dodie King.

In the book about Nepal, find the yellow kite. In the book about China, find the red lantern.

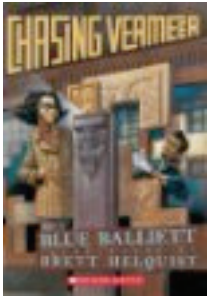


7. *Halibut Jackson* by [David Lucas](#)

Can you spot Halibut Jackson as he tries to blend into his surroundings?



6. *Dotty* by Erica S. Perl — find the teacher's imaginary friend



5. *Chasing Vermeer* by Blue Baillet

The clues for solving the mysteries are hidden in the book. I read this book a while ago and I wasn't able to solve the mystery myself with the pentominoes so I am getting an assist here from [Ashland Schools](#):

Throughout the book, many clues are given to the reader to help solve the mystery. The clues involve, the use of pentominoes and illustrations. Pentominoes are a mathematical tool consisting of twelve pieces. Each of the pieces is made up of five squares that share at least one side. To print out your own set of pentominoes, or learn more about the book, click [here](#).

On this website you will find copies of the pictures and letters from the book. These will help you uncover the clues necessary to solve the mystery. If you look carefully at Brett Helquist's chapter illustrations, you will find a hidden message. It is related to the pentomino code in the book, but not presented exactly in the same form. A certain living creature plays a part in deciphering this code, and pieces of the message appear in the artwork at regular intervals that create a pattern within the book. HINT. This pattern is even,,,,, but odd. it has as many pieces as a set of pentominoes.



4. *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity* by Mo Willems

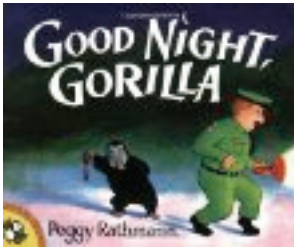
My Kindergarten son and I are HUGE fans of Mo Willems and we've read nearly all of his books. I had a feeling that Mo would do something fun in his books and when I read this last night, I found: a stuffed animal of *Leonardo the Terrible Monster, Don't Let The*

Pigeon Drive the Bus, and the squirrel from *Elephant and Piggie I Love My New Toy* scattered throughout this book. Maybe there are more references to his other books? Let me know if you find anything else!



3. *93 in My Family* by [Erica S. Perl](#)

Can you find Ed, the gerbil? He's on every page spread and he's easy to identify because he's the only one wearing a shirt with his name on it!



2. *Goodnight Gorilla* by [Peggy Rathman](#)

There is lots of fun stuff to spot. On every page spread, look for the red balloon. It's there but it gets tricky to find because some of the pages only have part of it showing! There is also a mouse carrying a banana on every page spread. That is less challenging to find but also fun. Finally, check out the photographs the zoo keeper and his wife have in their house. Notice anything?! I love this book!



1. *Arthur* series by [Marc Brown](#). Find Marc's children's names hidden throughout each book (Tolon, Eliza and Tucker) ... and I noticed there are more names in recent books so I am guessing that grandkids are being added as well!