Free books for 3 year olds to read aloud

Peabody · checked 2026-11-10

Peabody has 55 free books for 3 year olds to read aloud online. Each is a very short story of 35 to 75 words with a picture on every page, and takes about a minute. They are Peabody's own stories, not books from other publishers. Free through the end of 2026.

What a 3 year old does with a book

A 3 year old listens, looks and joins in. They are not reading yet, and nothing here asks them to. These are stories for you to read aloud: a few words on a page, a picture on every page, and each one done in about a minute.

Stories with a line to join in on

A line comes back on page after page. By the third page many children say it with you.

- Jake and the Snake: Level 3 · 52 words · 11 pages
- Moss and the Box: Level 3 · 65 words · 16 pages
- Not Yet, Ted: Level 3 · 59 words · 15 pages
- The Hat Cat: Level 3 · 70 words · 14 pages
- Mop Can Hop: Level 3 · 46 words · 13 pages
- Where Is the Cat?: Level 3 · 63 words · 12 pages

Little stories where one thing happens

A loose tooth, a puddle, a bad mood. About a minute each.

- Nell's Loose Tooth: Level 4 · 54 words · 12 pages
- Jem Is Mad: Level 4 · 71 words · 17 pages
- Kate and the Puddle: Level 4 · 56 words · 15 pages
- Book: Go, Snail, Go! · Level: Level 3 · Words: 35 · Print: Print
- Book: In My Bag · Level: Level 3 · Words: 36 · Print: Print
- Book: At the Farm · Level: Level 3 · Words: 37 · Print: Print
- Book: Yum! · Level: Level 4 · Words: 39 · Print: Print
- Book: The Hat That Slid · Level: Level 3 · Words: 44 · Print: Print
- Book: At the Zoo · Level: Level 4 · Words: 46 · Print: Print
- Book: Mop Can Hop · Level: Level 3 · Words: 46 · Print: Print
- Book: Donkey Plays Lion · Level: Level 4 · Words: 49 · Print: Print
- Book: Red, Red, Red · Level: Level 4 · Words: 50 · Print: Print
- Book: Jake and the Snake · Level: Level 3 · Words: 52 · Print: Print
- Book: Ride the Wave · Level: Level 3 · Words: 52 · Print: Print

- Book: Look at the Big Pig · Level: Level 4 · Words: 53 · Print: Print
- Book: Mice and a Bell · Level: Level 4 · Words: 53 · Print: Print
- Book: Nell's Loose Tooth · Level: Level 4 · Words: 54 · Print: Print
- Book: Rain on the Hat · Level: Level 3 · Words: 54 · Print: Print
- Book: Ant and Dove · Level: Level 4 · Words: 55 · Print: Print
- Book: The Red Hat · Level: Level 3 · Words: 55 · Print: Print
- Book: Two Mice · Level: Level 4 · Words: 55 · Print: Print
- Book: Big Prints in the Hall · Level: Level 3 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: Bump, Bump, Bump · Level: Level 3 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: I See a Boy · Level: Level 3 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: Kate and the Puddle · Level: Level 4 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: Lion and Mouse · Level: Level 4 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: Pete Rides · Level: Level 3 · Words: 56 · Print: Print
- Book: Goat and Goat · Level: Level 4 · Words: 57 · Print: Print
- Book: Kip and the Crab · Level: Level 3 · Words: 57 · Print: Print
- Book: Meg and the Seed · Level: Level 3 · Words: 58 · Print: Print
- Book: A Kite for Kate · Level: Level 3 · Words: 59 · Print: Print
- Book: Not Yet, Ted · Level: Level 3 · Words: 59 · Print: Print
- Book: Bo and the Bath Duck · Level: Level 4 · Words: 60 · Print: Print
- Book: A Cat and a Dog · Level: Level 3 · Words: 61 · Print: Print
- Book: Boy Yells Wolf · Level: Level 4 · Words: 61 · Print: Print
- Book: Fox Wants Grapes · Level: Level 4 · Words: 61 · Print: Print
- Book: Hide, Mole! · Level: Level 3 · Words: 62 · Print: Print
- Book: June and the Mule · Level: Level 3 · Words: 62 · Print: Print
- Book: Who Eats the Lettuce? · Level: Level 4 · Words: 62 · Print: Print
- Book: The Dog and the Bone · Level: Level 4 · Words: 63 · Print: Print
- Book: Where Is the Cat? · Level: Level 3 · Words: 63 · Print: Print
- Book: Can I Pet It? · Level: Level 4 · Words: 64 · Print: Print
- Book: Dex on the Bus · Level: Level 3 · Words: 64 · Print: Print
- Book: Moss and the Box · Level: Level 3 · Words: 65 · Print: Print
- Book: Rose Makes a Home · Level: Level 3 · Words: 65 · Print: Print
- Book: Jem and Pug Sit · Level: Level 4 · Words: 67 · Print: Print
- Book: Go, Go, Go · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Print: Print
- Book: The Tall Thin Man · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Print: Print
- Book: Under the Sea · Level: Level 4 · Words: 68 · Print: Print
- Book: Snail Wins the Race · Level: Level 4 · Words: 69 · Print: Print
- Book: The Ghost in the Yard · Level: Level 4 · Words: 69 · Print: Print
- Book: Ant and Hopper · Level: Level 4 · Words: 70 · Print: Print

- Book: The Hat Cat · Level: Level 3 · Words: 70 · Print: Print
- Book: Jem Is Mad · Level: Level 4 · Words: 71 · Print: Print
- Book: Ben and the Blocks · Level: Level 3 · Words: 72 · Print: Print
- Book: Mop Is Sad · Level: Level 3 · Words: 73 · Print: Print
- Book: Duke Hides a Bone · Level: Level 3 · Words: 74 · Print: Print
- Book: Goat and the Boat · Level: Level 4 · Words: 75 · Print: Print

How to read one together

Sit so your child can see the screen. Read a page, then stop and let them look at the picture. Ask one small thing: what is the cat doing, or what comes next. When a line comes back, pause and let them say it. Read the same story again tomorrow. Hearing it again is how the words stick.

Published books for this age

These are Peabody's own short stories. For picture books and board books by other authors, to borrow from a public library, see published books for this age on Peabody Parents.

Printing, and what comes next

Every book in the table has a Print link. It prints as a small book to cut and staple, and your child can color the pictures. When your child starts asking about letters, the books for 4 year olds page adds very first books to try reading.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free books for 4 year olds and preschoolers to read online
- Free books for 5 year olds to read online
- Free short bedtime stories for kids
- Free animal stories for kids
- Free read aloud books for kindergarten
- Free kindergarten books to read online or print
- By level: Level 3 · Level 4

Questions parents ask

Can a 3 year old read these?

No, and they do not need to. These are for a grown-up to read aloud. A child who hears the same short story many times often starts to say the words along with you, which is a good start.

Are these toddler books?

They are short enough for a toddler to sit through, at about a minute each, with a picture on every page. They are stories on a web page, not board books, so a grown-up holds the screen and reads.

How long should we read for?

A few minutes is plenty. One or two of these stories, read twice, is a full sitting for a 3 year old. Stop while it is still fun.

Are these books from other publishers?

No. Every book on this page is a Peabody story, written for this site and free to read here through the end of 2026. For picture books to borrow, ask at your public library.

Do the books cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/books-for-3-year-olds