Nana’s Literary Corner- Recommendations #2

Here are the latest recommendations from “Nana Langley” based on her explorations into the magical world of read-aloud children’s literature. A love of language can be ignited through the beauty of the spoken word, so I tend to gravitate towards books that are rich in alliteration (repetitive sounds), onomatopoeia (words that sound like their meaning, ex. “crunch”) and rhyme. This month’s gems are:

1. **Opposites** by Sandra Boynton- “Heavy and Light, Day and Night, In and Out, Whisper and Shout…” this little gem is so much fun to read, learning about opposites is just a plus. /the illustrations are fun, too. I especially like the “right and wrong” way to talk on the phone! (It is a board book-thick pages)

2. **Bunny Bungalow** by Cynthia Rylant- a sweet little story about a family of bunnies finding and making a little bungalow their home. Told in rhyme and nicely illustrated by Nancy Hayashi. “Father carved a weather vane (a carrot don’t you know), To twirl around and whirl around in wind and rain and snow.”

3. **There’s No Place Like Home** by Marc Brown- “Home is where you hang your hat, or where you hang if you’re a bat.” This exploration of the many different types of homes is told in rhyme- encourage your little one to finish the sentences.

4. **More Bugs in Boxes** by David A. Carter is the sequel to **How Many Bugs in a Box?**. It is a pop up book about color and features a number of outrageous bugs such as the loopy little lavender bug and some finger pinching purple pickle bugs. Not just your generic red, blue and yellow bugs in this book! Nice alliteration throughout.

5. **I Love You Through and Through** by Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak. This board book is one of my grandson’s favorites to read right before bed. “I love your fingers and toes, your ears and nose. I love your happy side, your sad side, your silly side, your mad side…I love you through and through, yesterday, today and tomorrow, too.” A very sweet way to let your little one know that know matter what- you love him (or her)!

6. **Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star** illustrated by Sylvia Long (also a board book). You will learn all of the lines to this timeless lullaby, while
moving through a beautifully illustrated depiction of animal children getting ready for bed- a delight.

A word of warning- I picked up a copy of Jean de Brunhoff’s The Story of Barbar, the little elephant. This was the first book in the well known series. (I had already read Babar Looses His Crown to Ryder, so thought nothing of getting this book.) I was shocked to discover that at the very beginning of the book, baby Babar’s mother is shot and killed right in front of him by a hunter- there is even a drawing of her dead on the ground. I think this is way too violent for pre-schoolers and would caution against reading this story.