Nana’s Literary Corner - Recommendations #3

We started reading short board books (those books for young children that have thick, cardboard pages) to Ryder when he was 3 months old. The classic *Goodnight Moon* is an example. I always encourage parents, when reading to young children, to take care and pronounce words accurately as they read. Since 65% of our written language is phonetic (spelled like it sounds), there is no better opportunity to lay down a solid foundation for spelling than when you are in close proximity to your child’s ear and speaking. When I started paying attention to this, I was surprised how often I didn’t pronounce the final consonants in words. This month’s gems are:

1. **Mia’s Apple Tree** by Nancy Jewel Poer - “Once upon a time there was a shiny red apple, and inside the apple was a star…” With this beautifully illustrated book, Cedar Spring’s very own Nana tells a story of the birth and growth of an apple tree and a little girl named Mia. Each page is so beautifully painted it could be taken out and framed; even the text is in blue ink, rather than black!

2. **Oh, What a Busy Day!** By Gyo Fujikawa - An artistic answer to Richard Scarry’s books, this was one of my daughter’s favorites and now one of Ryder’s. Starting with the most delectable breakfast you can imagine, the book takes children through the myriad of possibilities that could happen in any given day. Over time, you will spend hours enjoying and discussing Fujikawa’s beautiful illustrations. It’s worth every penny.

3. **Sing a Song of Popcorn** *every child’s book of poems* selected by de Regniers, Moore, White and Carr - This collection of poems, brilliantly illustrated by nine Caldecott Medal artists, reaches through the span of time from young childhood to the grades. There are poems for every occasion - some are just fun, some make you think. Many a Waldorf teacher (including this one!) has used this book to find poems to share in class.

4. **Grandfather Twilight** by Barbara Berger - There is not much action in this sweet little story about how the moon gets up into the sky...so it is perfect for bedtime! However, this book is worth having if only for the incredibly beautiful illustrations - the painting of Grandfather
Twilight streaming the sunset behind him as he walks through the forest is just magical.

5. **Hand Rhymes** by Marc Brown- Ryder loves it when I open this book- we do the finger/hand rhymes together- often several times and then he goes off and spends time looking at Marc Brown's playful illustrations of the story or scene described in the rhymes. "One little baby rocking in a tree. Two little babies splashing in the sea. Three little babies crawling on the floor. Four little babies banging on the door. Five little babies playing hide and seek. Keep your eyes closed tight until I say... PEEK!"