

BOOKS

Familiar friends fill new children's books

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Young children are drawn to the familiar. They like to eat the same foods, sing the same songs and wear the same shirts as often as their parents allow.

They also can't get enough of their favorite characters. Kids will read about a character, then watch him on television and then take the stuffed-animal version to bed.

Popular characters featured in new books include Bob the Builder, the Rugrats and Paddington Bear.

Paddington expands his appreciation of the great outdoors — and of his neighbors — in *Paddington Bear in the Garden* (HarperCollins, ages 3-8, \$12.95). The story, in which Paddington even takes off his trademark red hat as he works up a sweat gardening, is by Michael Bond and illustrated by R.W. Alley.

Paddington then is forced to think on his paws after his marmalade gets mixed with the cement at a nearby construction project. His creativity pays off in the form of the most beautiful rock garden he and the National Garden Day judges have ever seen.

Biscuit, a golden-colored

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BESTSELLERS

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. *Self Matters: Creating Your Life from the Inside Out* by Phillip C. McGraw (Simon & Schuster)
2. *The Wisdom of Menopause* by Christine Northrup (Bantam)
3. *Master of the Senate* by Robert Caro (Knopf)
4. *Find Me* by Rosie O'Donnell (Warner)
5. *The Healthy Kitchen* by Andrew Weil and Rosie Daley (Knopf)
6. *Lucky Man: A Memoir* by Michael J. Fox (Hyperion)
7. *Stupid White Men: And Other Sorry Excuses for the State of the Nation!* by Michael Moore (HarperCollins)
8. *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson (Putnam)
9. *Body for Life* by Bill Phillips and Michael D'Orso (HarperCollins)
10. *The Right Words at the Right Time* by Mario Thomas

and Friends (Atria Books)

- ### HARDCOVER FICTION
1. *The Shelters of Stone: Earth Children* by Jean M. Auel (Crown)
 2. *Star Wars: Episode II: Attack of the Clones* by R.A. Salvatore (Del Rey)
 3. *The Nanny Diaries* by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus (St. Martin's)
 4. *Daddy's Little Girl* by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster)
 5. *A Thousand Country Roads* by Robert James Waller (John M. Hardy)
 6. *City of Bones* by Michael Connelly (Little, Brown)
 7. *Everything's Eventual* by Stephen King (Scribner)
 8. *The Summons* by John Grisham (Doubleday)
 9. *Atanarjuat* by Ian McEwan (Doubleday)
 10. *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve (Little, Brown)

puppy, has two fun-filled days in *Biscuit Meets the Neighbors* and *Biscuit Goes to the Park* (HarperCollins, ages 2-6, \$4.95 each) by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, with colorful illustrations by Pat

Schories. Biscuit and his pal, Daisy the kitty, roll out the welcome mat in the *Neighbors* story. They also dig up the yard as they fetch flowers for their new friends.

In the *Park* story, Biscuit and Puddles, his scruffy sidekick, decide they'd rather chase butterflies and kites than the baseball they brought with them.

Barney, the purple dinosaur, is featured in four new books, including *Going to My Big Bed* (Scholastic, ages 1-4, \$5.99), which is part of the Little Lessons series. In the story, Barney tucks his friend Emily into her big bed for the first time. Barney's other new titles are *Babies and Barney: Hooryay for Mommy*, *Barney: Where's Barney?* and *Minel Minel Mine*, also Little Lessons books.

Afraid that she won't be the center of attention at her school's Career Day, Angelien tells her Rugrats pals that her parents are spies in *Secret Agent Dad* (Simon Spotlight, ages 3-7, \$3.50). Angelien makes sure she's within earshot of her classmates when she asks her father on her makeshift shoe phone. The Secretary of Steak says Mommy's on a special a-spyment right now in *Tim-Buck-Tooth!*

By the end of the book, by Sarah Wilson and illustrated by the group at Idea Plus Design Works, only Angelica's rival Susie figures out the truth.

Aspiring carpenters can get a head start with new Bob the Builder board books in the

shapes of a saw and hammer. Bob, wearing his signature yellow helmet, makes a picnic table and bench where he enjoys his lemonade in *Bob's Busy Saw*. And in *Bob's Busy Hammer*, he has a whole house to build. (Simon Spotlight, ages 3-6, \$5.99 each).

The Chubby Puppies that kids might know from the toy store are now starring in their own series of books. *Springtime in Chubby Town* and *Summer Picnic* (Scholastic, ages 4-8, \$3.50 each) introduce the plump puppies in tales centering on

seasonal fun. The stories by Olivia Barham are illustrated in a curvy, colorful style by Cary Rillo. Other titles featuring familiar faces include:

■ *Clifford Goes to Dog School* (Scholastic, ages 3-8, \$3.95), written and illustrated by Norman Bridwell. Clifford, learns he's not quite cut out for obedience lessons. Also: *Clifford's Busy Week* (\$3.50), in which Clifford and Emily Elizabeth retrace their steps looking for Mr. Squeaky, Clifford's toy mouse.

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MOVIE GUIDE

STAR WARS EPISODE 2: ATTACK OF THE CLONES (PG) • PARENTS/STRONGER THEMES

10:15, 12:35, 1:05, 2:25, 3:55, 6:15, 8:45, 9:05, 9:35

SPIDER-MAN (PG-13) • PARENTS/STRONGER THEMES

11:00, 11:30, 1:30, 2:00, 4:00, 4:30, 6:30, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30

UNFAITHFUL (R)

11:20, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25

THE NEW GUY (PG-13)

11:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

CHANGING LINES (PG-13)

12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 7:35, 9:40

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