

William Gillespie

communications coordinator, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Your invitation to contribute to the Summer Reading series arrived at an awkward time. Since having a baby seven months ago, I haven't read much. So I've invited my baby, Heather Rose Gillespie, to tell you about the books being read to her this summer.

—William Gillespie

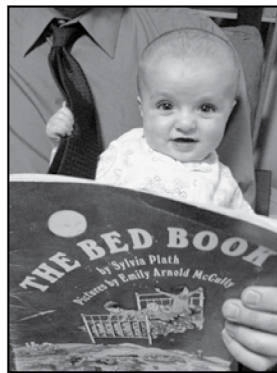
To Dads' credit, when he was given the advice to read aloud the same children's book every night while I was in the womb, he instead read me adult books. That was fine with me – it's hard to hear in there, and I got more from Moms' enjoyment than I would've gotten from a book targeted at 4-year-olds. Plus, Dads has outstanding taste. I love the whimsy combined with rigorous meter of Lewis Carroll's epic "The Hunting of the Snark" and T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats." Imagine my delight when, upon being born, I got to see the illustrations. "The Hunting of the Snark" never gets old, and there are so many illustrators to choose from, from Mahendra Singh to Henry Holiday's original plates. And Dads went all out with the hardback "Old Possum" with Edward Gorey's drawings. I can't wait to read more T.S. Eliot, though Dads says that his other books don't have kitties. Bah. Well, now I can see the words and pictures, but I still like a good beat. Which brings me to another great master of English verse – Dr. Seuss. Like Lewis and T., Dr. Seuss could also turn a line and

knew his way around an iamb!

Moms and Dads are Generation X nostalgia junkies and loaded up my bookshelf with favorites from their own childhoods, including Beverly

Cleary's books with the original Louis Darling illustrations. Apparently the eBay market for tattered old kids books is pretty vicious, so, while I appreciate the trouble, come on, guys, how about some new stuff?! The Ys had Harry Potter, but who's going to be the defining children's author of Generation Z? With these two dinosaurs in charge, I may never find out!

Please email Dads and Moms your suggestions at gillespi@illinois.edu or cdg@illinois.edu. —HRG ♦



Heather Rose Gillespie

photo courtesy William Gillespie