

**Adapted From:**  
**THE KEYSTONE STATE READING ASSOCIATION**  
(WWW.KSRA.ORG)

**TIPS FOR SELECTING AND USING LITERATURE WITH CHILDREN**

Families often ask teachers for help with book selections and about the development of reading skills. Many families are looking for a quick method to determine a book's appropriateness for their child's independent reading level. Comprehension checks and ways to enhance oral reading are also key areas of interest. May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family!

- Select books that appeal to your child's interest level.
- Use the five-finger test to help your child select books appropriate for his/her reading level by encouraging your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is probably too difficult for independent reading. Save the book to use at a later time or include it as a read aloud selection.
- Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. Don't overlook chapter books! Primary grade children enjoy them as much as intermediate grade children.
- Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child.
- Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling or friend.
- Use repeated readings with your son or daughter. Allow your child to practice the story as many times as needed for the development of fluency with oral reading.
- Record your child reading a favorite selection. Mail the tape to a distant relative or friend. The recorded story could also become a wonderful addition to a childhood memory box.
- Use echo reading. Read a short passage from a favorite selection and ask your child to reread it matching your fluency and expression.
- Read paragraphs alternately with your child. Provide guide questions for the paragraphs read aloud. Allow your child to ask questions also.
- Help your child summarize a story using these five questions:
  - Who or what is the story about?
  - When or where does the story take place?
  - What happens first?
  - What happens next?
  - How does the story end?
- Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a story. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about it. Ask your child to read it to you.
- Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book.
- Invite your child to recommend three favorite books for you to enjoy!

*Prepared by the Families and Reading Committee of the Keystone State Reading Association*

# GOOD BOOKS TO READ

## PRESCHOOL

### Classics:

Where the Wild Things Are *by Maurice Sendak*  
Goodnight Moon *by Margaret Wise Brown*  
The Runaway Bunny *by Margaret Wise Brown*  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar *by Eric Carle*  
Corduroy *by Don Freeman*  
Harold and the Purple Crayon *by Crockett Johnson*  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? *by Bill Martin*  
Guess How Much I Love You *by Sam McBratney*  
Blueberries for Sal *by Robert McCloskey*

### Newer Picture Books:

Duck in a Truck *by Jez Alborough*  
Good Night, Baby Bear *by Frank Asch*  
When Sophie Gets Angry *by Molly Bang*  
Who Ate All the Cookie Dough? *by Karen Beaumont*  
We're Going on a Lion Hunt *by Margery Cuyler*  
Cat Secrets *by Jef Czekaj*  
Llama Llama Misses Momma *by Anna Dewdney*  
Koala Lou *by Mem Fox*  
Bedtime for Bear *by Brett Helquist*  
Kitten's First Full Moon *by Kevin Henkes*  
Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again *by Dave Horowitz*  
The Snowy Day *by Ezra Jack Keats*  
The Frogs and Toads All Sang *by Arnold Lobel*  
The Robot and the Bluebird *by David Lucas*  
Sort it Out! *by Barbara Mariconda*  
I Love You Just the Way You Are *by Virginia Miller*  
Rainbow Fish *by Marcus Pfister*  
The Lion and the Mouse *by Jerry Pinkney*  
A Penguin Story *by Antoinette Portis*  
Big Cat, Small Cat *by Ami Rubinger*  
Beautiful Oops! *by Barney Saltzberg*  
Truckery Rhymes *by Jon Scieszka*  
I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean *by Kevin Sherry*  
First the Egg *by Laura Stegger*  
Rhyming Dust Bunnies *by Jan Thomas*  
Odd Bird *by Leo Timmers*  
I Don't Like Gorilla *by Kaye Umansky*  
The Mouse that Snored *by Bernard Weber*  
There Is a Bird on Your Head *by Mo Willems*  
What Dads Can't Do *by Douglas Wood*  
Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep! *by Maureen Wright*  
How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? *by Jane Yolen*

### Newer Concept and Nonfiction Books:

Chicka, Chicka Boom, Boom *by John Archambault*  
The Black Book of Colors *by Menena Cottin*

**Bounce by Doreen Cronin**

Moonshot by Brain Floca

Arf! Beg! Catch! Dogs from A to Z by Henry Horenstein

Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!: Counting Round and Round by Suse MacDonald

Chicka, Chicka 1 2 3 by Bill Martin

A Closer Look by Mary McCarthy

**I'm Dirty by Kate McMullen**

**One by Kathryn Otoshi**

Everything to Spend the Night from A to Z by Ann Whitford Paul

Read It, Don't Eat It! by Ian Schoenherr

Waddle! by Rufus Butler Seeder

Dog by Matthew Van Fleet

Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood

## PRIMARY GRADES K-2

### Classics:

**The Mitten by Jan Brett**

**Are You My Mother? by Phillip D. Eastman**

Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox

**Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey**

The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne

**Love You Forever by Robert N. Munsch**

**The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper**

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter**

**Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak**

**The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss**

**Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss**

**One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss**

**The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig**

**The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg**

**The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams**

**The Napping House by Audrey Wood**

### Newer Fiction Books:

**Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae**

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy by Ted Arnold

Creaky Old House: A Topsy Turvy Tale of a Real Fixer-Upper by Linda Ashman

A Seed is Sleepy by D. Ashton

In a Blue Room by Jim Averbeck

**Mirror by Jeannine Baker**

Max's Dragon by Kate Banks

Sally and the Purple Socks by Lisze Bechtold

Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme by Marianne Berks

You Can't Go to School Naked! by Diane Billstrom

Luke on the Loose by Harry Bliss

Pete & Pickles by Berkeley Breathed

**Hedgie Blasts Off by Jan Brett**

The Umbrella Queen by Shirin Yim Bridges

The Practically Perfect Pajamas by Erik Brooks

Curious Garden by Peter Brown

**Little Beauty by Anthony Browne**

Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel

Abe's Fish: A Boyhood Tale of Abraham Lincoln *by Jen Bryant*

Shin-chi's Canoe *by Nicola Campbell*

Stellaluna *by Janell Cannon*

Kitty Princess and the Newspaper Dress *by Emma Carlow and Trevor Dickinson*

First Grade, Here I Come *by Nancy Carlson*

Magda's Tortillas *by Becky Chavarria-Chairez*

Magic Box *by Katie Cleminson*

Willie and the All Stars *by Floyd Cooper*

Dog Biscuit *by Helen Cooper*

Where's My Mummy? *by Carolyn Crimi*

Titanicat *by Marty Crisp*

Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type *by Doreen Cronin*

Bartleby Speaks! *by Robin Cruise*

Thunder-Boomer! *by Shutta Crum*

Where Do Balloons Go? *by Jamie Lee Curtis*

Willy's Silly Grandma *by Cynthia DeFelice*

The Girl Who Drew a Phoenix *by Demi*

Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken *by Kate DiCamillo*

Grace for President *by Kelly DiPucchio*

No Hugs till Saturday *by Julie Downing*

Whoo Goes There? *by Jennifer Ericsson*

Snowball Fight *by Jimmy Fallon*

Buffalo Music *by Tracey Fern*

The Sandman *by Ralph Fletcher*

The Patchwork Quilt *by Valerie Flourney*

Don't Worry Bear *by Greg Foley*

Star of the Week: A Story of Love, Adoption, and Brownies with Sprinkles *by Darlene Friedman*

The Perfect Nest *by Catherine Friend*

Let's Do Nothing! *by Tony Fucile*

Crazy Hair *by Neil Gaiman*

When Stella Was Very, Very Small *by Marie-Louise Gay*

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark *by Ken Geist*

Minifred Goes to School *by Mordicai Gerstein*

The Hermit Crab *by Carter Goodrich*

Spells *by Emily Gravett*

Ain't Nobody Stranger Than Me *by Ann Grifalconi*

Red Truck *by Kerstin Hamilton*

Maybe a Bear Ate It! *by Robie Harris*

Most Loved in All the World *by Tonya Hegamin*

Old Bear *by Kevin Henkes*

That Book Woman *by Heather Henson*

Louie *by Will Hillenbrand*

Katie Loves the Kittens *by John Himmelman*

Amazing Grace *by Mary Hoffman*

Dogs Night *by Meredith Hooper*

'Twas the Night before Zoo Day *by Catherine Ipcizade*

The Way Back Home *by Oliver Jeffers*

Twelve Terrible Things *by Marty Kelley*

Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch *by Mona Kirby*

Hooway for Wodney Wat *by Helen Lester*

First Dog *by J. Patrick Lewis and Beth Zappitello*

Bats at the Library *by Brian Lies*

Ming Lo Loves the Mountain *by Arnold Lobel*

How I Became a Pirate *by Melinda Long*  
 Henry the Impatient Heron *by Donna Love*  
 Crow Call *by Lois Lowry*  
 Lion's Share *by Matthew McElligott*  
 Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day *by Kate McMullan*  
 Chippy Chipmunk Parties in the Garden *by Kathy Miller*  
 One Hen: How One Loan Made a Big Difference *by Katie Smith Milway*  
 Mister Rabbit's Wish *by Colleen Monroe*  
 Stephanie's Ponytail *by Robert Munch*  
 The Orange Shoes *by Trinka Hakes Noble*  
 Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes *by Margie Palantini*  
 Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School *by Peggy Parish*  
 Not Afraid of Dogs *by S. Pitzer*  
 Pajama Day *by Lynn Plourde*  
 Thank You, Miss Doover *by Robin Pulver*  
 The Wheat Doll *by Alison Randall*  
 Hip Hop Dog *by Chris Raschka*  
 Peter and the Wolf *by Chris Raschka*  
 Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody *by Michael Rex*  
 Chicks and Salsa *by Aaron Reynolds*  
 A Kitten Tale *by Eric Rohmann*  
 Duck! Rabbit! *by Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld*  
 Little Oink *by Amy Rosenthal*  
 Bandit *by Karen Rostoker-Gruber*  
 Those Darn Squirrels! *by Adam Rubin*  
 All the World *by Liz Scanlon*  
 My Corner Grocery Store *by Joanne Schwartz*  
 My Many Colored Days *by Dr. Seuss*  
 Sneaky Weasel *by Hannah Shaw*  
 I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean *by Kevin Sherry*  
 Bus-a-Saurus Bop *by Diane Shore*  
 Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors *by Joyce Sidman*  
 Little Mouse Gets Ready *by Jeff Smith*  
 13 Words *by Lemony Snicket*  
 A Walk with Grandpa *by Sharon Soloman*  
 Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy *by David Somar and Jackie Davis*  
 The Best Story *by Eileen Spinelli*  
 The Donut Chef *by Bob Staake*  
 The House in the Night *by Susan Marie Swanson*  
 Little Quack *by Lauren Thompson*  
 Rosie and Buttercup *by Chieri Uegaki*  
 A Isn't for Fox: An Isn't Alphabet *by Wendy Ulmer*  
 Probudit! *by Chris Van Allsburg*  
 Yoko Writes Her Name *by Rosemary Wells*  
 Art & Max *by David Wiesner*  
 Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed *by Mo Willems*  
 My Name is Sangoel *by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed*  
 Cottonball Colin *by Jeanne Wilis*  
 Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends *by Wong Yee*  
 What a Trip! *by Arthur Yorinks*  
 Hook *by Ed Young*

#### **Newer Nonfiction Books:**

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau *by Jennifer Berne*

Frogs *by Nic Bishop*

Teedie *by Don Brown*

One Giant Leap *by Robert Burleigh*

Teeth *by Sneed Collard*

Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle *by Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, & Mary Nethery*

My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. *by Christine King Farris*

Lincoln and Douglass *by Nikki Giovanni*

Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Gift of Hope *by Nikki Grimes* Birds *by Kevin Henkes*

A Home for Dixie *by Emma Jackson*

Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea *by Steve Jenkins*

Pennies for Elephants *by Lita Judge*

What Bluebirds Do *by Pamela Kirby*

Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet *by David McLimans*

Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival *by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery*

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad *by Ellen Levine*

Metamorphoses: Butterfly *by Arthur John L'Hommedieu*

How Many Baby Pandas *by Sandra Markle*

Astronaut Handbook *by Meghan McCarthy*

Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai *by Claire Nivola*

Mr. Lincoln's Boys *by Staton Rabin*

Looking Closely Along the Shore *by Frank Serafini*

A Place for Birds *by Melissa Sewart*

About Penguins *by Cathryn Sill*

Cathy Williams, Buffalo Soldier *by Sharon Soloman*

First Dog Fala *by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk*

When Rain Falls *by Melissa Stewart*

Building Manhattan *by Laura Vila*

Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer *by Bill Wise*

Teeth, Tails, & Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book *by Christopher Wormell*

Old Abe, Eagle Hero: The Civil War's Most Famous Mascot *by Patrick Young*

### Poetry Books:

Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue *by Jon Agee*

Dogku *by Andrew Clements*

The Bug in the Teacher's Coffee and Other School Poems *by Kalli Dakos*

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fables *by Mary Ann Hoberman*

A Family of Poems *by Caroline Kennedy*

Sometimes I Wonder If Poodles Like Noodles *by Laura Nummeroff*

Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More *by Jack Prelutsky*

A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems *by Deborah Ruddell*

Where the Sidewalk Ends *by Shel Silverstein*

William Wegeman's Mother Goose *by William Wegeman*

Barefoot: Poems for Naked Feet *by Steifi Weisburd*

Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China *by Ed Young*

### Series Books:

Cam Jansen *by David Adler*

Madeline *by Ludwig Bemelmans*

Clifford, the Big Red Dog *by Normal Bridwell*

Arthur *by Marc Brown*

Cork & Fuzz *by D. Chaconas*

I Wonder *by Dorling Kindersley*

Corduroy *by Don Freeman*

Duck & Goose *by T. Hills*



Frog and Toad by *Arnold Lobel*  
Fancy Nancy by *Jane O'Conner*  
The Magic Tree House by *Mary Pope Osborne*  
Amelia Bedelia by *Peggy Parish*  
Clementine by *Sara Pennypacker*  
Curious George by *H. A. Rey*  
Henry and Mudge by *Cynthia Rylant*

## INTERMEDIATE GRADES 3-5

### Classic Books:

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by *Judy Blume*  
The Watson's Go to Birmingham by *Christopher Paul Curtis*  
James and the Giant Peach by *Roald Dahl*  
The Whipping Boy by *Sid Fleischman*  
Bunnicula by *James Howe*  
Number the Stars by *Lois Lowry*  
Sarah Plain and Tall by *Patricia MacLachlan*  
Chocolate Fever by *Robery Kimmel Smith*  
Charlotte's Web by *E.B. White*

### Newer Fiction Books:

Return to Sender by *Julia Alvarez*  
The Moon over Star by *Dianna Hutts Aston*  
Murder at Midnight by *Avi*  
Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall by *Emily Bearn*  
Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog by *Eileen Beha*  
Just for Elephants by *Carol Berkley*  
The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap by *H. M. Bouwman*  
The Penderwicks by *Jeanne Birdsall*  
Stuck in the Mud by *Jane Clark*  
Extra Credit by *Andrew Clements*  
The Goodbye Time by *Celeste Conway*  
The Worst Name in Third Grade by *Debbie Dudley*  
Toby Alone by *Timothee de Fombelle*  
The Magician's Elephant by *Kate DiCamillo*  
The Spiderwick Chronicles by *Tony DiTerlizzig and Holly Black*  
The Big Splash by *Jack D. Ferraiolo*  
Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale by *Vivian French*  
Odd and the Frost Giants by *Neil Gaiman*  
Did Fleming Rescue Churchill? by *James Griblin*  
Eleven by *Patricia Reilly Giff*  
Umbrella Summer by *Lisa Graf*  
Sir Reginald's Logbook by *Matt Hammill*  
Well Itched by *Frances Hardinge*  
Night of the Spadefoot Toads by *Bill Harley*  
George's Secret Key to the Universe by *Lucy and Stephen Hawking*  
Jack and the Beanstalk: A Graphic Novel by *Blake Hoena*  
Tsunami! by *Kimiko Kajikawa*  
Night of the Moon: A Muslim Story by *Hena Khan*  
Melonhead by *Katy Kelly*  
Itch by *Michelle Kwasney*  
Nana Cracks the Case by *Kathleen Lane*  
Savvy by *Ingrid Law*

Also Known as Harper *by Ann Haywood Leal*  
 The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had *by Kristin Levine*  
 Where the Mountain Meets the Moon *by Grace Lin*  
 Punished! *by David Lubar*  
 11 Birthdays *by Wendy Mass*  
 Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day *by Pat Mora*  
 Looking Like Me *by Walter Dean Myers*  
 Mogo, the Third Warthog *by Donna Jo Napoli*  
 Willow *by Denise Brennan-Nelson and Rosemarie Brennan*  
 The Learnin' Dog *by K. A. Nuzum*  
 A Season of Gifts *by Richard Peck*  
 The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts *by Richard Peck*  
 The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg *by Rodman Philbrick*  
 Epossumondas Plays Possum *by Coleen Salley*  
 The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School *by Judy Sierra*  
 The Georges and the Jewels *by Jane Smiley*  
 Keeping the Night Watch *by Hope Anita Smith*  
 One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference *by Katie Smith*  
 Binky the Space Cat *by Ashley Spires*  
 When You Reach Me *by Rebecca Stead*  
 Riding to Washington *by Gwennyth Swain*  
 Doom Machine *by Mark Teague*  
 The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness *by Colin Thompson*  
 The Listeners *by Gloria Whelan*  
 City Mouse, Country Frog *by Mo Willems*  
 A Chair for Always *by Vera Williams*  
 Bobby versus Girls (Accidentally) *by Lisa Yee*  
 Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story *by Judy Young*

#### **Newer Nonfiction Books:**

A Horse in the House and Other Strange but True Animal Stories *by Gail Ablow*  
 Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving *by Laurie Anderson*  
 River Boy: The Story of Mark Twain *by William Anderson*  
 The First Americans: The Story of Where They Came From and Who They Became *by Anthony Aveni*  
 The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob & Joe Switzer's ... *by Chris Barton*  
 Bubble Homes and Fish Farts *by Fiona Bayrock*  
 The Raucous Royals *by Carlyn Beccia*  
 Diego: Bigger Than Life *by Carmen Bernier-Grand*  
 Nic Bishop Marsupials *by Nic Bishop*  
 The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook *by David Borgenicht*  
 A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams *by Jen Bryant*  
 Florida Panthers: Struggle for Survival *by William Caper*  
 Mission Control, This is Apollo *by Andrew Chaikin and Victoria Kohl*  
 DK State by State Atlas: A Kids' Guide to the People and Places of America *by Justine Ciovacco, Kathleen Feeley, and Kristin Behrens*  
 Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman *by Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger*  
 Through My Eyes *by Ruby Bridges*  
 14 Cows for America *by Carmen Deedy*  
 50 American Heroes Every Child Should Meet *by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe*  
 One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia *by DK Publishing*  
 March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changes the World *by Christine King Farris*  
 Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best Kept Secrets *by John Farndon*  
 Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 *by Brian Floca*  
 Let It Begin Here! Lexington and Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution *by Dennis Fradin*



Lincoln and Douglas: An American Friendship *by Nikki Giovanni*  
 Extreme Pets *by Jane Harrington*  
 See What You Can Be: Explore Careers that Could Be for You *by Diane Heiman and Liz Suneby*  
 John Brown: His Fight for Freedom *by John Hendrix*  
 How Strong Is It? A Mighty Book All About Strength *by Ben Hillman*  
 Howard Thurman's Great Hope *by Kai Jackson Issa*  
 Real-Life Sea Monsters *by Judith Jango-Cohen*  
 How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly? *by Steve Jenkins*  
 Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember *by Steve Jenkins*  
 One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II *by Lita Judge*  
 Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People *by Sheila Keenan*  
 My Senator and Me: A Dog's Eye View of Washington, D.C. *by Edward Kennedy*  
 The Boy Who Invented TV *by Kathleen Krull*  
 Big Cats: Hunters of the Night *by Elaine Landau*  
 A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet *by Kathryn Laskey*  
 Queen of the Scene *by Queen Latifah*  
 Southern Sea Otters: Fur-tastrophe Avoided *by Jeanette Leardi*  
 Ann Frank and the Children of the Holocaust *by Carol Ann Lee*  
 Easy Earth-Friendly Crafts in 5 Steps *by Anna Llimos*  
 Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories *by Sandra Markle*  
 Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum *by Meghan McCarthy*  
 Listen to the Wind" The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea *by Greg Mortenson & Susan Roth*  
 The Legend of the Teddy Bear *by Frank Murphy*  
 Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts that Happen Every 60 Seconds *by Steve and Matthew Murrie*  
 Tiger Math: Learning to Graph from a Baby Tiger *by Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel*  
 Bad News for Outlaws *by Vaunda Nelson*  
 When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone *by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent*  
 Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride *by Marjorie Priceman*  
 Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln *by Doreen Rappaport*  
 Lady Liberty: A Biography *by Doreen Rappaport*  
 Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody *by Michael Rex*  
 Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II *by Marisabine Russo*  
 Manny Ramirez and the Boston Red Sox: 2004 World Series *by Michael Sandler*  
 When's a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto *by Elaine Scott*  
 Wolves *by Duncan Seari*  
 Coretta Scott *by Ntozake Shange*  
 I, Vivaldi *by Janice Shefelman*  
 If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States *by David Smith*  
 Explorer: A Daring Guide for Young Adventurers *by Dugald Steer*  
 Underwear: What We Wear Under There *by Ruth Freeman Swain*  
 Farmer George Plants a Nation *by Peggy Thomas*  
 Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize *by Kathy-Jo Wargin*  
 I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer *by Carole Weatherford*  
 Lincoln and His Boys *by Rosemary Wells*  
 How to Speak Cat *by Sarah Whitehead*  
 How to Speak Dog *by Sarah Whitehead*  
 Spooky Cemeteries *by Dinah Williams*  
 You Never Heard of Sandy Kaufax? *by Jonah Winter*

#### **Series Books:**

American Girls  
 The Indian in the Cupboard *by Lynne Reid Banks*  
 The Stories Julian Tells *by Ann Cameron*  
 Sports *by Matt Christopher*

*Ramona by Beverly Cleary*  
*The Bailey School Kids by Debbie Dudley*  
*Amber Brown by Paula Danziger*  
*Dear America*  
*The Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon*  
*The Polk Street Kids by Patricia Reilly Giff*  
*My Weird School by Dan Gutman*  
*Russell Sprouts by Johanna Hurwitz*  
*Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney*  
*Clementine by S. Pennypacker*  
*Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar*  
*The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket*  
*Goosebumps by R. L. Stine*  
*The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner*  
*Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder*

### **Poetry:**

*Swing Around the Sun by Barbara Juster Esbensen*  
*Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian*  
*Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems by Douglas Florian*  
*Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems by Kristine O'Connell George*  
*Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits*  
*Thanks a Million by Nikki Grimes*  
*The Monarch's Progress: Poems with Wings by Avis Harley*  
*Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: a Collection of Family Poems by Mary Ann Hoberman*  
*My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States by Lee Bennett Hopkins*  
*A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout compiled by Paul Janeczko*  
*Birds on a Wire: A Renga 'Round Town by J. Patrick Lewis*  
*The Bill Martin, Jr. Big Book of Poetry Edited by Bill Martin, Jr.*  
*Yum! MMMM! Que Rico: America's Sproutings by Pat Mora*  
*Slam Dunk: Basketball Poems by Lillian Morrison (Ed.)*  
*The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System by Jack Prelutsky*  
*Words with Wings: A Treasury of African- American Poetry and Art by Belinda Rochelle (Ed.)*  
*Today at the Blue Bird Café: A Branchful of Birds by Deborah Ruddell*  
*A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk by Deborah Ruddell and Joan Rankin*  
*Toad by the Road: A Year in the Life of These Amazing Amphibians by Joanne Ryder*  
*Button up! by Alice Schertle*  
*Lunch Money and Other Poems about School by Carol Diggory Shields*  
*This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness by Joyce Sidman*  
*Tour America: A Journey through Poems and Art by Diane Siebert*  
*A Pocketful of Stars: Poems about the Night by Nikki Siegen-Smith*  
*Summerhouse Time by Eileen Spinelli*  
*Nature's Paintbox: A Seasonal Gallery of Art and Verse by Patricia Thomas*  
*Yuki and the One Thousand Carriers by Gloria Whelan*  
*Holiday Stew by Jenny Whitehead*  
*Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak by Kay Winters*  
*Animal Poems by Valerie Worth*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8**

### **Classics:**

*Little Women by Louisa May Alcott*  
*The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett*

The Phantom Tollbooth by *Norton Juster*  
The View from Saturday by *E. L. Konigsburg*  
A Wrinkle in Time by *Madeleine L'Engle*  
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by *Robert O'Brien*  
Island of the Blue Dolphins by *Scott O'Dell*  
Where the Red Fern Grows by *Wilson Rawls*  
The Sign of the Beaver by *Elizabeth Speare*

**Newer Fiction Books:**

The Savage by *David Almond*  
Chains by *Laurie Halse Anderson*  
Freeze Frame by *Heidi Ajarbe*  
A Difficult Boy by *M. P. Barker*  
The Boy Who Dared by *Susan Campbell Bartoletti*  
Anything But Typical by *Nora Raleigh Baskin*  
Peeled by *Joan Bauer*  
What I Saw and How I Lied by *Judy Blundell*  
Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger by *Kevin Bolger*  
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by *John Boyne*  
SOS Titanic by *Eve Bunting*  
A Thousand Never Evers by *Shana Burg*  
Yes, I Know the Monkey Man by *Dori Hillstad Butler*  
Dragon's Keep by *Janet Lee Carey*  
Wild Things by *Clay Carmichael*  
Al Capone Shines My Shoes by *Gennifer Choldenko*  
Extra Credit by *Andrew Clements*  
The Steps by *Rachel Cohn*  
Catching Fire by *Suzanne Collins*  
Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party by *Ying Chang Compestine*  
Replay by *Sharon Creech*  
Mexican White Boy by *Matt de la Pena*  
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by *Kate DiCamillo*  
Where I'd Like to Be by *Frances O'Roark Dowell*  
The Diamond of Darkhold by *Jeanne DuPrau*  
The Mystery of the Fool and the Vanisher by *David and Ruth Ellwand*  
The Year the Swallows Came Early by *Kathryn Fitzmaurice*  
Washington at Valley Forge by *Russell Freedman*  
As If Being 13½ Isn't Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President by *Donna Gephart*  
The Brooklyn Nine by *Alan Gratz*  
Bronte's Book Club by *Kristiana Gregory*  
Stepping on the Cracks by *Mary Downing Hahn*  
Dark Water Rising by *Marion Hale*  
The Music of Dolphins by *Karen Hesse*  
Time to Smell the Roses by *Michael Hoeye*  
Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told through Stuff by *Jennifer Holm*  
My One Hundred Adventures by *Polly Horvath*  
Pigling: A Cinderella Story by *Dan Jolley*  
Stolen Children by *Pat Kehret*  
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by *Jacqueline Kelly*  
The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes by *Marlane Kennedy*  
Amulet, Book One: The Stonekeeper by *Kazu Kibuishi*  
Schooled by *Gordon Korman*  
The Cheat by *Amy Goodman Koss*  
Weeping Under This Same Moon by *Jana Laiz*

The Wish by *Gail Carson Levine*  
Hana's Suitcase by *Karen Levine*  
The Willoughbys by *Lois Lowry*  
The Big Field by *Mike Lupica*  
The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z by *Kate Messner*  
Thirteen by *Lauren Myracle*  
We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by *Kadir Nelson*  
The Freedom Business by *Marilyn Nelson*  
Heart of a Shepherd by *Rosanne Parry*  
Marching for Freedom by *Elizabeth Partridge*  
The Higher Power of Lucky by *Susan Paton*  
Lawn Boy by *Gary Paulson*  
A Season of Gifts by *Richard Peck*  
The Cat Master by *Bonnie Pemberton* *Criss Cross* by *Lynne Rae Perkins*  
The Body of Christopher Creed by *Carol Plum-Ucci*  
The Storm in the Barn by *Matt Phelan*  
Nation by *Terry Pratchett*  
The Book of Time by *Guillaume Prevost*  
Red Glass by *Resau*  
Jimmy's Stars by *Mary Ann Rodman*  
The Magician (The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel) by *Michael Scott*  
I Kissed a Zombie, and I Liked It by *Adam Selzer*  
Keeping Corner by *Kashmira Sheth*  
Alien Feast (Chronicles of the First Invasion) by *Michael Simmons*  
When the Whistle Blows by *Fran Cannon* *Slayton*  
Baseball in April and Other Stories by *Gary Soto*  
Wringer by *Jerry Spinelli*  
Barnaby Grimes: Curse of the Night Wolf by *Paul Stewart*  
The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley by *Colin Thompsom and Amy Lissiat*  
A Crooked Kind of Perfect by *Linda Urban*  
It's Only Temporary by *Sally Warner*  
Extraordinary by *Nancy Werlin*  
Zorgamazoo by *Robert Paul Weston*  
Dandelion Fire by *N. D. Wilson*  
Peace, Locomotion by *Jacqueline Woodson*  
Minn and Jake's Almost Terrible Summer by *Janet Wong*

#### **Newer Nonfiction Books:**

Extraordinary Explorers and Adventures by *Judy Alter*  
Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World by *Ken Beller and Heather Chase*  
Swords: An Artist's Devotion by *Ben Boos*  
100 Most Dangerous Things on the Planet: What to Do If It Happens to You by *Anna Claybourne*  
What the World Eats by *Faith D'Aluisio*  
Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure by *Marfe Delano*  
Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family by *Barry Denenberg*  
My Last Skirt: The Story of Jenny Rodgers, Union Soldier by *Lynda Durrant*  
The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary by *Candace Fleming*  
Duel! Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words by *Dennis Brindell Fradin*  
The Spalulatta Cookbook by *Isabel & Oliver Gerasole*  
On My Journey Now: Looking at African American History through Spirituals by *Nikki Giovanni*  
Charles A. Lindbergh: A Human Hero by *James Giblin*  
The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming by *Laurie & Cambria Gordon*  
We Were There Too! Young People in U. S. History by *Phillip Hoose*  
The Bite of the Mango by *Mariatu Kamara & Susan McClelland*

Hottest NASCAR Machines *by K. C. Kelley*  
 Three Cups of Tea *by Greg Mortenson*  
 Snow Falling in Spring *by Moying Li*  
 Dance: No Matter What Kind of Dance You Like to Do, This Is the Book for You *by Apryl Lundsten*  
 Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out *by National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance*  
 In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Survivor *by Irene Gut Opdyke*  
 Children's Night Sky Atlas: The Universe Mapped, Explored, and Revealed *by Robin Scagell*  
 Kid's Almanac of Geography *by Alice Siegal & Margo McLoone*  
 Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women *by Catherine Thimmesh*  
 Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H. L. Hunley *by Sally Walker*

### Poetry:

I Feel a Little Jumpy Around You: Paired Poems *by Men & Women by Aladdin Paperbacks*  
 Talking Drums: A Selection of Poems from Africa South of the Sahara *by Bloomsbury*  
 Poetry from A to Z: A Guide for Young Writers *by Bradbury Press*  
 A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout *by Candlewick Press*  
 My Letter to the World and Other Poems *by Emily Dickenson*  
 The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom *by Margarita Engle*  
 Side by Side: New Poems Inspired by Art from Around the World *edited by Jan Greenberg*  
 More than Friends: Poems from Him and Her *by Sara Holbrook*  
 Black Stars in a White Night Sky *by JonArno Lawson*  
 The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse *by J. Patrick Lewis*  
 Honeybee: Poems & Short Prose *by Naomi Shihab Nye*  
 Boris *by Cynthia Rylant*  
 Well Defined: Vocabulary in Rhyme *by Michael Salinger*  
 Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing *by Gary Soto*  
 Behind the Wheel: Poems about Driving *by Janet S. Wong*

### Series:

Vet Volunteers *by Laurie Halse Anderson*  
 Clique *by Lisi Harrison*  
 Mates, Dates *by Cathy Hopkins*  
 The Warriors *by E. Hunter*  
 The Narnia Chronicles *by C. S. Lewis*  
 Ruby Oliver *by E. Lockhart*  
 Twilight *by Stephanie Meyer*  
 Anne of Green Gables *by Lucy Montgomery*  
 Percy Jackson & the Olympians *by Rick Riordan*  
 Harry Potter *by J. K. Rowling*

### MAGAZINES FOR CHILDREN:

Ages	Title	Ages	Title
8-13	American Girl	7-10	Jack and Jill
8-12	Ask	6-12	Kids Discover
6m-2	Baby Bug	2-7	Ladybug: The Magazine for Young Children
3-6	Big Backyard	8-14	National Geographic Kids
7-18	Boy's Life	3-6	National Geographic Little Kids
5-13	Boy's Quest	6-14	Nickelodeon
8-15	Calliope	8-14	Odyssey
3-8	Chickadee	8-12	Owl: The Discovery Magazine for Children
9-11	Child Life	6-12	Ranger Rick
6-8	Children's Playmate	2-6	Sesame Street Magazine
3-7	CLICK	6-9	Spider: The Magazine for Young Children
8-15	Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People	6-13	Stone Soup: The Magazine by Young Writers & Artists
7-11	Crinkles	8-13	Sports Illustrated for Kids
2-12	Highlights for Children	2-5	Turtle Magazine for preschool Kids
4-6	Humpty Dumpty	5-14	Zoobooks



## **REFERENCES FOR ADULTS:**

*Bialostok, Steven. RAISING READERS: HELPING YOUR CHILD TO LITERACY*  
*Butler, Dorothy and Marie Clay. READING BEGINS AT HOME*  
*Calkins, Lucy. RAISING LIFELONG LEARNERS: A PARENT'S GUIDE*  
*Cullinan, Bernice. LET'S READ ABOUT: FINDING BOOKS THEY'LL LOVE*  
*Gibson, Ray. YOU AND YOUR CHILD READING GAMES*  
*Hauser, Jill Frankel. GROWING UP READING: LEARNING TO READ THROUGH CREATIVE PLAY*  
*Kaye, Peggy. GAMES FOR READING: PLAYFUL WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD READ*  
*Kropp, Paul. RAISING A READER: MAKE YOUR CHILD A READER FOR LIFE*  
*Larrick, Nancy. A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S READING*  
*Liggett, Twila and Cynthia Mayer Benfield. READING RAINBOW GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS*  
*Olmsted, John. READING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: A PARENT'S GUIDE*  
*Pinnell, Gay Su and Irene Fountas. HELP AMERICA READ*  
*Stillman, Peter. FAMILIES WRITING*  
*Trelease, Jim. HEY! LISTEN TO THIS!*  
*Trelease, Jim. READ ALL ABOUT IT!*  
*U.S. Department of Education. READ-WRITE-NOW (call 1-800-USA-LEARN for information)*  
*U.S. Department of Education. READY-SET-READ (call 1-800-USA-LEARN for information)*

## **WEBSITES FOR CHILDREN:**

[www.bookadventure.com](http://www.bookadventure.com)  
[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)  
[www.funschool.com](http://www.funschool.com)  
[www.gamequarium.com](http://www.gamequarium.com)  
[www.iknowthat.com](http://www.iknowthat.com)  
[www.noggin.com](http://www.noggin.com)

[www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org)  
[www.primarygames.com](http://www.primarygames.com)  
[www.rainforestmaths.com](http://www.rainforestmaths.com)  
[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)  
[www.timeforkids.com](http://www.timeforkids.com)

## **PARENT & TEACHER WEBSITES:**

[www.abcteach.com](http://www.abcteach.com)  
[www.eduhound.com](http://www.eduhound.com)  
[www.eduplace.com/parents](http://www.eduplace.com/parents)  
[www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com)  
[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.kaboose.com](http://www.kaboose.com)  
[www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)  
[www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us)  
[www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

**FOR AWARD-WINNING BOOK SUGGESTIONS BE SURE TO VISIT WWW.KSRA.ORG**