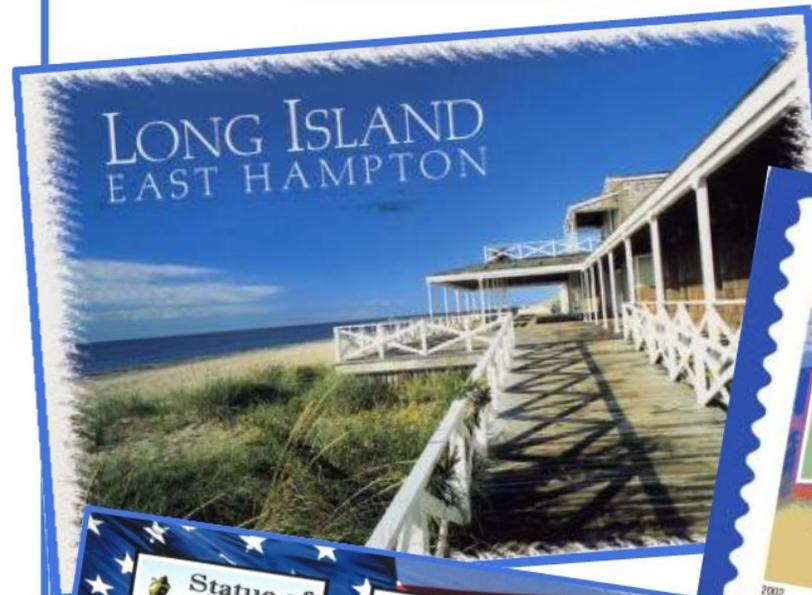


Grades
4-5

The Pingry School Lower School Library Summer Reading List 2019



Postcards to the Library



June 2019

A Message to Pingry Families,

Fostering a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.

The Lower School Library Summer Reading Lists have been developed to encourage reading and to guide our students with their book choices during the summer. Reading for pleasure helps to build reading skills and instills a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

We recommend that students read a variety of books from their reading list. Many different books, from challenging to easier choices, are listed. While specific book titles are suggested, students may choose any book by the authors listed. Titles are annotated to help in the selection process.

Children are not expected to read all the books on the list; these suggestions are intended to provide many possible choices.

We hope every child will find something on the list which will spark their interest in reading.

The following information and resources can be found in this booklet:

- **Postcards to the Library Program** – Students send picture postcards to the Library and share information about the books they are reading. See directions for participation on the next page.
- **Reading Log** – Set a reading goal, and record all the books read during the summer.

Browse the [Lower School Library Website](#) for subscription databases and other online resources for research and related activities. (These resources require a username and password for login.)

Have a Wonderful Summer and Happy Reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. D’Innocenzo

Lower School Librarian

Send Postcards to the Library

Dear Mrs. D'Innocenzo,

I am having fun this summer.

I go to soccer camp during the day, go swimming with my friends, and read every night before dinner.

I read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl. It was a great book and I loved it!

Your friend,
Taylor Jones



**Mrs. D'Innocenzo
The Pingry School Library
50 Country Day Drive
Short Hills, NJ 07078**

How to Participate in Postcards to the Library:

- Send picture postcards to the Library at the above address.
- Send one postcard for every book you read.
- A picture postcard can be sent from anywhere – even from your own hometown or from Grandma's house.
- Include the book title, author's name, and your first and last name.
- Write a short description of what you liked about the book and how you are enjoying your summer vacation.
- Each postcard is entered in a drawing to be held the first week of school in September.
- Ten postcards will be picked at random, with prizes of Barnes & Noble gift cards awarded at the assembly.
- All postcards will be displayed in the hallway at Back-to-School Night and later placed in an album available in the library.

Have a wonderful summer!

Happy Reading!

The Pingry Lower School Library

2019 Summer Reading List

Students Entering Grades 4 and 5



Fiction

The titles are presented by GENRE in alphabetical order by author.

Adventure/Action

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks** (*Series*). 2005.

While vacationing with their father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Read the sequels.

Brown, Peter. **The Wild Robot**. 2016.

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants. Read the sequel: **Wild Robot Escapes**.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Spy School British Invasion** (*Series*). 2019.

The kids from the CIA's Academy of Espionage return for another adventure in their battle with the villains of SPYDER. Ben and friends join up with British MI6 to defeat Mr. E and SPYDER.

Lion Down (*FunJungle Series*). 2019.

Teddy and Summer must find out the truth when a lion from FunJungle Wild Animal Park is accused of killing a famous dog. The dog's owner is making a lot of trouble, but Teddy thinks the lion was framed.

Grabenstein, Chris. **Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library**. 2013.

Twelve-year-old Kyle and his friends get to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by the famous Mr. Lemoncello, but in the morning they must solve puzzles in order to escape. Read Sequels: **Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics** (2016), **Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race** (2017), and **Mr. Lemoncello's All-Star Breakout Game** (2019).

The Island of Dr. Libris. 2015.

Twelve-year-old Billy discovers that an island in the middle of the lake where he is spending the summer is the testing ground of mysterious Dr. Libris, who may have invented a way to make characters in books come alive.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Greystone Secrets: The Strangers** (Book 1). 2019.

In this new series, the Greystone siblings hear startling news about three kidnapped children — who sound just like them. Who are these missing children? What is the secret they must solve?

Hiassen, Carl. **Squirm**. 2018.

Billy is a snake-loving kid, with a bird-loving mom and a missing dad who protects wildlife from poachers. This summer, Billy decides to try to find his dad, who left when Billy was only four. He takes off for Montana, where he meets his stepmother and stepsister, but his dad is nowhere to be found. *Read other eco-adventures by this author.*

Hanel, Rachael. **Can You Survive an Earthquake? An Interactive Survival Adventure**. 2014.

Readers can choose how the story ends in different adventures about survival during an earthquake. **Read any book in the *Can You Survive...? Series*.**

Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys**. 2008.

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become “deserving orphans” after their neglectful parents embark on an around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **The Book of Boy**. 2018.

In this medieval adventure, a boy with a humpback joins a mysterious pilgrim on the way to Rome, as they seek the seven relics of Saint Peter.

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet**. 1987. *Newbery Honor Book*.

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only a hatchet.

Ponti, James. **Trapped! (The Framed! Trilogy)**. 2018.

Florian and Margaret are middle school students — and unofficial agents for the FBI. They’ve solved art thefts and kidnappings, but for this case they have to clear their FBI mentor Marcus’s name, even if they have to break into the Library of Congress to crack the case.

Rundell, Katherine. **The Explorer**. 2017.

Left stranded in the Amazon jungle when their plane crashes on their way back to England from Brazil, four children struggle to survive for days until one of them finds a map that leads them to a ruined city and a secret hidden among the vines.

Selznick, Brian. **Wonderstruck**. 2011.

Stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing, and leaves his home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York; and Rose, who lives with her father but searches for what is missing in her life. Ben’s story is told in words; Rose’s in pictures.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The Mysterious Benedict Society (Series)**. 2007.

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Read the sequels.

Tarshis, Lauren. **I Survived The American Revolution, 1776 (I Survived Series)**. 2017.

Nathaniel never imagined he’d find himself in the middle of a battlefield fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He’d barely paid attention to the troubles between American and England. Nate is suddenly propelled toward a thrilling and dangerous journey into the heart of the Revolutionary War. *Read any title in the series.*



Fantasy & Science Fiction

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan**. Harper, 2012.

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. A novel of friendship, inspired by a true story. *Newbery Medal 2013*.

Crenshaw. Feiwel & Friends, 2015.

A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

The Last. Harper Collins, 2018.

Byx is the youngest member of her *dairne* pack. Believed to possess remarkable abilities, her mythical dog-like species has been hunted to near extinction in her war-torn kingdom.

Wishtree. Feiwel & Friends, 2017.

Red, an old red oak tree, tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

Baker, E. D. **Wide-Awake Princess (Series)**. 2010.

Annie, the younger sister of the princess, Sleeping Beauty, is immune to magic. She stays awake when everyone in the castle falls asleep, then sets out to break the spell.

Banks, Lynn Reid. **The Indian in the Cupboard**. 1980.

A nine-year-old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a key for his birthday and finds himself in an adventure when the Indian comes to life in the cupboard and befriends him.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. **The Girl Who Drank the Moon**. 2016. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Beatty, Robert. **Willa of the Wood**. 2018.

A night spirit living in the Great Smoky Mountains despairs as homesteaders destroy her forest home. Then she meets one of the "day folk" and changes her mind about her people and enemies.

Bracken, Alexander. **The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding (Series)**. 2017.

Prosper Redding's New England family is under a curse because his long-ago ancestor broke a deal with an evil demon. Now the fiend Alestor is plaguing Prosper, who has only days to get rid of him.

Chokshi, Roshani. **Aru Shah and the End of Time**. 2018.

Sometimes Aru Shah stretches the truth to impress her friends, but when they dare her to prove an ancient lamp is cursed, she accidentally frees an ancient demon. Adventurous and humorous, thanks to Aru's quick wit. Read the next book in the series: **Aru Shah and the Song of Death** (2019).

Colfer, Chris. **The Wishing Spell (The Land of Stories Series)**. 2012.

Through the mysterious power of a story book, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a unique land full of wonder and magic, where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. Read the series, including **Worlds Collide** (2017).

Dahl, Roald. **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. 2001, c1964.

Five lucky children discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory and take advantage of the situation, each in their own way. A rags-to-riches story, in which little Charlie Bucket strives to outlast his four selfish rivals in the quest to win the prize.

Matilda. 1988. Matilda applies her mental powers to rid the school of the evil headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey.

BFG. 1982. Kid-snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts a plan to save the world from the mean giants.

James and the Giant Peach. 1961. Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearsome aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach.

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Tale of Despereaux**. 2003. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess he loves, the servant girl longing to be a princess, and a rat determined to ruin them all.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **City of Ember (Series)**. 2003.

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger and finds a message that she and her friend Doon must decipher to save the city, before the lights go out on Ember forever! Read the sequels.

Edge, Christopher. **The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day**. 2019.

Maisie is turning ten today, and she can't wait to open her presents — especially the nuclear reactor parts she hopes for. But when she opens the front door, all she sees is the darkness of a shifted reality. Math & science whiz Maisie must work within the laws of the universe to restore what's real.

George, Jessica. **Tuesdays at the Castle (Series)**. 2011.

Princess Celie loves Tuesdays at Castle Glower, because every Tuesday the castle adds a new room or sometimes a whole new wing, and Celie likes to map the changes. When her parents, King and Queen Glower, are taken captive, Celie uses her knowledge of the castle to save the kingdom. Read the sequels: **Wednesdays in the Tower** (2013), **Thursdays with the Crown** (2014), **Fridays with the Wizards** (2016), and **Saturdays at Sea** (2017).

Griffiths, Andy. **104-Story Treehouse (Series)**. 2019.

Andy and Terry live in a 104-story treehouse. (It started as a 13-story treehouse, but they just keep building more levels!) It has a drive-thru car wash, a courtroom with a robot judge, an ALL-BALL sports stadium, a scribbletorium, a high-security potato chip storage facility, and an open-air movie theatre . . . which is a very useful thing to have now that Terry's going to be a big-shot movie star!

Read other Treehouse Books.

Gutman, Dan. **Return of the Homework Machine**. 2009.

After discarding their homework machine, four friends find themselves in trouble in an incident with a powerful computer chip and a Grand Canyon treasure.

Hale, Shannon. **Princess Academy**. 2005.

While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with other girls from her mountain village, fourteen-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland. Companion books to Princess Academy: **Palace of Stone** (2012) and **The Forgotten Sisters** (2015).

Hale, Shannon & Dean. **The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl**. 2017.

Doreen Green moved from California to the suburbs of New Jersey and must start at a new school, make new friends, and continue to hide her tail. Yes, Doreen has the powers of a squirrel! One day Doreen uses her extraordinary powers to stop a group of troublemakers from causing mischief in the neighborhood, and her whole life changes.

Korman, Gordon. **The Hypnotists**. 2013.

Twelve-year-old Jackson Opus is descended from two powerful hypnotist bloodlines, but he has just begun to realize that he can control other people's actions, with sometimes frightening results.

Sequels: **The Memory Maze** (2014) and **The Dragonfly Effect** (2015). Read any title by this author.

Lasky, Kathryn. **The Quest of the Cubs** (*Bears of the Ice Series*). 2018.

The polar bears' Northern Kingdom is threatened by a group of power-hungry bears. Twin cubs First and Second are on a quest to rescue their mother, who has been taken prisoner by the bear villains.

L'Engle, Madeleine. **A Wrinkle in Time**. 1962. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg, her brother, and her friend to another world in search of her missing father.

Lewis, C. S. **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (*The Chronicles of Narnia Series*). 1950.

Four English school children find their way through a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and help Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Lin, Grace. **Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**. 2009.

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and joins a dragon who cannot fly in a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon. Read companion books: **Starry River of the Sky** (2012) and **When the Sea Turned to Silver** (2016).

Mass, Wendy & Stead, Rebecca. **Bob**. 2018.

When Livy returns five years later to visit her grandmother in Australia, she suddenly remembers Bob, who's been waiting for her since she left. But Bob is not just any old friend — he's a short green creature dressed in a chicken suit, who cannot remember where he came from or who he is.

McMann, Lisa. **Dragon Captives** (*The Unwanted's Quests, Book 1*). 2017.

Magical twins Fifer and Thisbe Stowe have spent their lives wishing for an adventure. When a dragon shows up claiming that his family is being kept as slaves in their homeland, the twins sneak off to the land of the dragons to help them. Read: **Dragon Bones** (#2), 2018. Sequel series to *The Unwanted's*.

Mlynowski, Sarah. **Spill the Beans** (*Whatever After Series*). 2019.

Abby and her brother Jonah travel through the magic mirror and end up in the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk — Jonah's favorite story. Of course, things start to go wrong and Abby and Jonah must set the story right by climbing the beanstalk and trading with the giants. *Read the whole series.*

Older, Daniel Jose. **Dactyl Hill Squad**. 2018.

In this fantasy version of the Civil War, dinosaurs roam the streets of New York City and raptor-mounted armies battle down South. When their orphanage is burned down during the Draft Riots of 1863, hero Magdalys Roja and her friends take refuge in the "Dactyl Hill" neighborhood in Brooklyn, where they join the resistance, aided by fighting dinosaurs. A unique combination of historical fact and dinosaur-inspired fantasy. Read the sequel **Freedom Fire** (2019).

Oppel, Kenneth. **Inkling**. 2018.

Ethan and his father are burdened by grief and having trouble coping. An inkblot from his father's sketchbook comes to life and Ethan names it "Inkling." Inkling learns and grows with each story he consumes, encouraging Ethan's own creative ventures.

Park, Linda Sue. **Forest of Wonder** (*Wing & Claw Series*). 2016.

When Raffa makes a cure from a rare crimson vine he finds deep in the forbidden forest, the bat he saves transforms into something much more.

Cavern of Secrets, 2017. Hoping to return home after a winter in the Mountains so he can join his parents in the fight against the evil Chancellor, Raffa must use his skills to survive the journey.

Peck, Richard. **The Mouse With the Question Mark Tail**. 2013.

A tiny mouse runs away from school in the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace. Now he's running for his life through the history of Buckingham Palace to find out who he is and who he will become.

Riordan, Rick. **The Lightning Thief** (*Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series*). 2005.

Percy, expelled from six schools for his uncontrollable temper, learns that his father is the Greek god Poseidon. Percy is sent to Camp Half Blood, where he and a friend set out on a journey to the Underworld to retrieve Zeus's lightning bolt and prevent a catastrophic war.

The Lost Hero (*Series*). Hyperion, 2010. Three students from a school for "bad kids" find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. Read the sequels.

Magnus Chase: The Sword of Summer (*Series*). 2015.

Since his mother's mysterious death, Magnus Chase has lived alone on the streets of Boston, surviving by his wits. One day, he's tracked down by an uncle he barely knows who tells him a secret: Magnus is the son of a Norse god, Viking myths are true, and the gods are preparing for war. Also read: **9 from the Nine Worlds** (2018), short stories about Magnus Chase and his worlds.

Trials of Apollo: The Hidden Oracle (*Series*). 2016.

After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular boy. Now, without his godly powers, he must learn to survive in the modern world.

Rowling, J. K. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (*Series*). 1999, c1997.

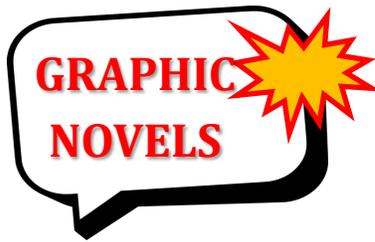
Rescued from the neglect of his aunt and uncle, Harry, age 11, attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, where he fights evil forces.

Seldon, George. **A Cricket in Times Square**. c1960. *Newbery Honor Book*.

The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

Sutherland, Tui. **The Dragonet Prophecy** (*Wings of Fire Series, Book #1*). 2012.

Clay and the other dragonets were stolen from their homes while they were still in their egg and hidden for years to fulfill a prophecy claiming that the dragonets would end the war.



Bell, Cece. **El Deafo**. 2014. *Newbery Honor Book*.

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest requires superpowers! *Graphic autobiography*.

Chanani, Nidhi. **Pashmina**. 2017.

Pri has so many questions about her mother's early life in India, but they go unanswered until she finds a mysterious pashmina shawl that magically whisks her away to a Bollywood dreamland, and back again to their home in America, so she can solve the mystery of her mother's past.

Craft, Jerry. **New Kid**. 2019.

Jordan loves drawing cartoons, but instead of an art school, his parents send him to an upscale academy, where he is one of only a few students of color. He feels torn between the worlds of his neighborhood and his school, not really fitting into either one. Through the school year, he and his middle-school classmates get to know each other, beyond first impressions and assumptions.

Hale, Shannon and Pham, LeUyen. **Read Friends**. 2017.

Shannon is afraid she is losing her best friend, Adrienne, in this autobiographical graphic novel about making her way through conflicts, arguments, and finding real friends.

Hatke, Ben. **The Return of Zita the Spacegirl (Trilogy)**. 2014.

Zita is sent to the mines of Dungeon World, where she meets a long-lost friend, manages a daring escape, and saves the day in her battle against intergalactic villains and space creatures. Also read **Zita the Spacegirl** (2010) and **Legends of Zita the Spacegirl** (2012) for the whole adventure.

Jamieson, Victoria. **All's Faire in Middle School**. 2017.

After years of homeschooling by her Renaissance Fair enthusiast parents, Imogene finally gets her wish to go to public school. But fitting in as the new kid in middle school is no easy quest.

Roller Girl. 2015.

Astrid discovers the thrills of roller derby, but worries about growing apart from her best friend.

Jun, Nie. **My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder**. 2016.

Yu'er and her grandpa live in a small neighborhood in Beijing, full of big personalities and imaginative adventures. Yu'er dreams of swimming in the Special Olympics, but without a pool, she and her grandpa must invent another way for her to practice and develop her skills.

Kibuishi, Kazu. **Amulet #8: Supernova (Series)**. 2018.

When Emily loses control of her amulet, she is imprisoned and must escape the Void, so she can join her brother Navin to battle the Shadow forces. Read the whole fantasy adventure series.

Libenson, Terri. **Just Jaime**. 2019.

A realistic day-in-the-life story of the last day of seventh grade for Jaime and her friends... or are they frenemies? Also read **Positively Izzy**, 2018, and **Invisible Emmie**, 2017.

Pilkey, Dav. **Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild (Series)**. 2019.

In the latest adventure of Dog Man, the half man/half dog police officer, the crime fighting hero has been sent to the pound for a crime he didn't commit. Can his friends set him free?

Steinke, Aron. **Mr. Wolf's Class**. 2019.

Mr. Wolf is a new fourth grade teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School. He wants the first day to go really well...but every school day has its ups and downs, especially with this cast of critters.

Telgemeier, Raina. **The Baby-sitters Club: Kristy's Great Idea (Series)**. 2015. *Based on the novels by Ann M. Martin*. Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey are best friends and the founders of The Baby-sitters Club. Ann M. Martin's stories are reinvented by Raina Telgemeier as vivid graphic novels, showing the girls' adventures and misadventures in baby-sitting.

Sisters. 2013. Companion book to **Smile** (2010)

Raina can't wait to be a big sister. But once Amara is born, things aren't quite how she expected them to be, but when a baby brother enters the picture, they realize they must figure out how to get along. They are sisters, after all.

Ghosts. 2016.

Catrina and her family move to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis -- and Cat is even less happy about their move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, and Maya sets her heart on meeting one. Also read **Drama** (2012).

Terry, Laura. **Graveyard Shakes**. 2017.

Katia and Victoria are sisters, starting at a new boarding school. While Victoria strives to fit in, Katia is determined to hold onto her quirks, even if kids tease her. When Katia runs away, Victoria searches for her, but tumbles into the hidden underground world of a nearby graveyard.



Barry, Dave. **The Worst Class Trip Ever**. 2015.

The eighth grade trip to Washington, D. C., should be a great time for Wyatt, Matt, and their friends from Miami. But suspicions about the mysterious pair seated behind them stir up a heap of trouble.

Patterson, James and Grabenstein, Chris. **Max Einstein: The Genius Experiment**. 2018.

Max Einstein goes to college, builds inventions to help the homeless, and talks to Albert Einstein — she's not your typical 12-year-old. Max is recruited by a secret organization of geniuses determined to solve world problems through scientific knowledge, but they must escape The Corporation.

Peirce, Lincoln. **Max & the Midnights**. 2019.

Max wants to be a knight, but first must rescue Uncle Budrick from evil King Gastley, journey into an ominous forest, ride a dragon, right unfair rules, and restore good humor to the land of Byjovia.

Tashjian, Janet. **My Life as a Book (Series)**. 2010.

Derek Fallon looks forward to a summer of laughs and pranks, but instead his parents send him to Learning Camp. He finds new friends and new adventures, which continue in **My Life as a ...Stuntboy, ...Cartoonist, ...Joke, ...Gamer, ...Ninja, ...Youtuber, and ...Meme**. *Read the series.*



Historical Fiction

Appelfeld, Aharon. **Adam & Thomas**. 2015.

Two young Jewish boys join together to survive the last winter of World War II, living alone in a forest, where they are visited by a young girl who brings them food.

Atkins, Jeannine. **Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science**. 2016.

Novel in verse about three girls in different times who grew up to be ground-breaking scientists.

Avi. **Crispin: The Cross of Lead**. 2002. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

An orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his lifelong home after being falsely accused of theft and murder. He travels from town to town with an itinerant juggler, trying to escape persecution and learn the secret of his past.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. **The War That Saved My Life**. 2015. *Newbery Honor Book, Best Books of 2015*.

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

The War I Finally Won. Dial Books, 2017. (*Sequel*)

As the frightening impact of World War II creeps closer and closer to her door, eleven-year-old Ada learns to manage life on the home front.

Bruchac, Joseph. **Talking Leaves**. 2016.

When his father, Sequoyah, returns to the village, Uwohali is eager to reconnect. But his father's mind seems far away and everyone thinks he is crazy because he is making strange markings. Uwohali discovers that Sequoyah is a genius and his strange markings are actually an alphabet representing the sounds of the Cherokee language.

Calkhoven, Laurie. **Daniel at the Siege of Boston, 1776** (*Boys of Wartime Series*). 2010.

Twelve-year-old Daniel, hiding his parents' allegiance to the Sons of Liberty from the British officers, tries to gather information and risks his life to reveal a traitor to George Washington.

Read: **Michael at the Invasion of France, 1943** and **Will at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863**.

Choldenko, Gennifer. **Al Capone Does My Shirts** (*Series*). 2004.

Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to adapt to his new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Read the sequels: **Al Capone Shines My Shoes** (2009), **Al Capone Does My Homework** (2013), and **Al Capone Throws Me a Curve** (2018).

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy**. 1999. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father — the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

Elijah of Buxton. 2007. *Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Award*.

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, a haven for slaves fleeing the South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to bring to justice the preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Mighty Miss Malone. 2012.

Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, who left to find work after the Great Depression hit. They end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan, in search of a new home.

Draper, Sharon. **Stella by Starlight.** 2015.

When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. *Notable Children's Books 2015.*

Gemeinhart, Dan. **Some Kind of Courage.** 2016.

In 1890 Washington, the only family Joseph Johnson has left is his half-wild Indian pony, Sarah, so when she is sold by a man who has no right to do so, he sets out to get her back--and he plans to let nothing stop him in his quest.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Gingersnap.** 2013.

In 1944, W.W. II is raging. Jayna's big brother Rob is her only family and he is called to duty. Jayna is left in their small town in upstate New York with their cranky landlady. But before he leaves, Rob tells Jayna a secret: they may have a grandmother in Brooklyn.

Island Born. 2018.

In 1942, Izzy and Matt are trapped on a Japanese-occupied island when the rest of the American population evacuates. They must survive on their own for the rest of WWII.

Gutman, Dan. **The Lincoln Project.** 2016.

Miss Z, a mysterious billionaire and collector of rare photographs, is sending her four very different kids back in time on a mission to capture one of the most important moments in American history — Abraham Lincoln giving his famous Gettysburg address.

Lai, Thanhha. **Inside Out and Back Again.** 2011.

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she leaves Vietnam with her family and resettles in Alabama.

Mattick, Lindsay. **Winnie's Great War.** 2018.

In this historical novel based on the true story of Winnie the Pooh, a special bear cub meets Canadian veterinarian Lieutenant Harry Colebourn, and becomes the mascot of his infantry brigade.

Park, Linda Sue. **A Single Shard.** 2001. *Newbery Medal Winner.*

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village and longs to learn how to create delicate celadon ceramics.

Paterson, Katherine. **My Brigadista Year.** 2017.

Lora, a young Cuban teenager, volunteers for Fidel Castro's national literacy campaign and travels into the impoverished countryside to teach others how to read.

Scattergood, Augusta. **Making Friends With Billy Wong.** 2016.

Told in two points of view, this is a powerful story about family, friendship, and the problems of racism and bullying. Set in small-town Arkansas in 1955, it depicts the unrest surrounding the arrival of Chinese immigrants in the segregated south.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. **Little House in the Big Woods** (*Series*). 1953.

A year in the life of two girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother, enjoy their father's stories, and share special occasions with relatives or neighbors.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **One Crazy Summer**. 2010. *Coretta Scott King Award*.

In the summer of 1968, three sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to visit the mother they barely know, and meet her friends in the Black Panthers.

P. S. Be Eleven. 2013. *Coretta Scott King Award*.

After spending the summer with their mother and the Black Panthers, sisters Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern return home to Brooklyn and discover many changes have occurred.

Gone Crazy in Alabama. 2015. *Coretta Scott King Award*.

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and great-grandmother, Ma Charles. Delphine learns more about their family history, and the secret that has kept Ma Charles and her half-sister from speaking for years. When a tragedy strikes, the girls find that family bonds run deeper than they imagined.

Wolk, Lauren. **Wolf Hollow**. 2016.

Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran.



Avi. **School of the Dead**. 2016.

In this spine-tingling story, a boy must solve the mystery of a ghost haunting him.

Balliett, Blue. **Chasing Vermeer** (*Series*). 2004.

When strange events occur and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, Petra and Calder use their detective talents to solve an international art scandal. Read the sequels: **The Wright 3** (2006), **The Calder Game** (2008), and **Pieces and Players** (2015).

Burnett, Francis Hodges. **The Secret Garden**. c1910.

Ten-year-old Mary, a spunky orphan, comes to live in a lonely servant-run house on the English moors. She discovers her invalid cousin and a mysterious locked garden. Can she find her own happiness and a key to the garden?

Cheaney, J. B. **Somebody on This Bus Is Going To Be Famous**. 2014.

Every morning, Mrs. B's school bus waits at an empty bus stop. Nobody ever gets on; nobody ever gets off. The middle school bus riders work together to solve the mystery of the missing passenger.

DelRio, Tania. **Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye**. 2016.

Twelve-year-old orphan Warren's pride and joy is his family's hotel, but he's been miserable ever since his evil Aunt Anaconda took over the management. Anaconda believes a mysterious treasure known as the All-Seeing-Eye is hidden somewhere on the grounds, and she'll do anything to find it. Solve the mystery by deciphering a series of clues.

Fairstein, Linda. **Secrets from the Deep (Series)**. 2018.

Sleuth Devlin Quick is on vacation in Martha's Vineyard with her best friend Booker's family. One day they scoop a surprise from Vineyard Sound — a gold doubloon with a mysterious past.

Gibbs, Stuart. **Spy School (Series)**. 2012.

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school. Read the series: **Spy Camp** (2013), **Evil Spy School** (2015), **Spy Ski School** (2016), and **Spy School Secret Service** (2017). Also read **Moon Base Alpha Series** — a murder mystery on the moon. **Fun Jungle Series** — mysteries at the zoo.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Scat**. 2009.

Like **Flush** and **Chomp**, **Scat** is a humorous, environmentally conscious and quick-paced mystery set in Florida. Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears, and try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster's insistence that nothing is wrong.

Johnson, Varian. **The Parker Inheritance**. 2018.

Candice Miller is spending the summer in Lambert, South Carolina, staying in the old house that belonged to her late grandmother. A long-lost letter draws her into a mystery of her grandmother's past, a mysterious treasure hunt, and a history of injustice.

Pflugfelder, Bob. **Nick and Tesla's Secret Agent Gadget Battle: A Mystery with Spy Cameras, Code Wheels, and Other Gadgets You Can Build Yourself**. (Series). 2014.

Sibling sleuths Nick and Tesla work to expose a spy in their midst and must engineer spy gadgets in order to catch the culprit.

Rubin, Sarah. **The Impossible Clue**. 2017.

Math whiz Alice Jones has cracked many codes, but when a famous scientist disappears from a locked room, she must put her detective skills to the test.

Schlitz, Amy. **Splendors and Glooms**. 2013. *Newbery Honor Book*.

When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival.

Stead, Rebecca. **When You Reach Me**. 2009. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

As her mother prepares to compete on the 1980s television game show, "\$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source.

Swanson, Matthew. **The Real McCoys**. 2017.

The world's greatest fourth-grade detective faces her biggest challenge! When someone kidnaps beloved school mascot Eddie the Owl, Moxie is on the case — but she's forced to fly solo now that her best friend (and crime-solving partner) has moved away.

Turnage, Sheila. **Three Times Lucky**. 2012. *Newbery Honor Book*.

Mo LoBeau, who was washed ashore as a baby, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel seems implicated in a murder.

The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing (*Sequel*). 2014. When Miss Lana accidentally buys a haunted inn at the Tupelo Landing town auction, Desperado Detectives open a paranormal division to uncover the ghost's identity before the town's big 250th anniversary celebration.

Read Classic Mystery Series:

- Nancy Drew
- Hardy Boys
- Encyclopedia Brown
- The Boxcar Children



Realistic

Allen, Crystal. **The Magnificent Mya Tibbs: The Wall of Fame Game**. (*Series*). 2017.

Mya Tibbs has her hands full. She wants to spend extra time with her mom before the new baby arrives. But then her enemy Naomi challenges her to win the Wall of Fame Game, which means studying every night. Can she find a way to beat Naomi, help her mom win a chili cook-off, and spend some quality mother-daughter time together?

Bauer, Joan. **Soar**. 2016.

Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan and he knows everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach.

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks**. 2005.

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Read the sequels: **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street** (2008), **The Penderwicks at Point Mouette** (2012), **The Penderwicks in Spring** (2016), and **The Penderwicks at Last** (2018).

Cavanaugh, Nancy. **Just Like Me**. 2016.

Three very different girls, adopted as babies from the same Chinese orphanage, spend a week at summer camp, where the adoption agency coordinator wants them to journal their "bonding experiences."

Cervantes, Angela. **Lety Out Loud**. 2019.

Lety's first language is Spanish, and she likes to take her time planning what to say. She loves volunteering at the animal shelter, but a competitive classmate challenges her to a contest. Lety doesn't want anything to get in the way of adopting Spike, her favorite dog at the shelter.

Creech, Sharon. **MOO**. 2016. *Read any title by this amazing author.*

When Reena, her little brother Luke, and their parents move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat -- instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for a neighbor who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, a snake named Edna, and that stubborn cow, Zora.

Davies, Jacqueline. **The Lemonade War** (*Series*). 2007.

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, battle it out through their lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn \$100. Includes tips for running a lemonade stand. Read the series: **The Lemonade Crime** (2011), **Bell Bandit** (2011), **Candy Smash** (2013), and **Magic Trap** (2014).

DiCamillo, Kate. **Louisiana's Way Home**. 2018.

Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her up dramatically in the middle of the night, announcing that "the day of reckoning" has arrived and they must leave home immediately. Granny has had many middle-of-the-night ideas, but this time she intends never to return. Louisiana worries that her life is destined only for good-byes. (*The sequel to Raymie Nightingale.*)

Raymie Nightingale. 2016.

Hoping that if she wins a local beauty pageant her father will come home, Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with two of her competitors, who challenge and support each other.

Dominguez, Angela. **Stella Diaz Has Something to Say**. 2018.

Stella is shy, and worries when she sometimes mixes up Spanish and English or mispronounces words. She loves to spend time with her family and her best friend Jenny, but this year Jenny is in a different class, and Stella misses her and feels nervous about a class presentation.

Draper, Sharon. **Out of My Mind**. 2010.

The story of a brilliant girl who cannot speak or write. Considered by many to be mentally challenged, this outstanding fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

Ferruolo, Jeanne. **Ruby in the Sky**. 2019.

Ruby Moon Hayes does not want to talk about herself in her new town in Vermont. She just wants to stay invisible, until she and her mother move again. But she begins to make unexpected friends, and realizes they are worth protecting.

Frederick, Heather Vogel. **The Mother-Daughter Book Camp** (*Series*). 2016.

Emma, Jess, Megan, Becca, and Cassidy go to Camp Lovejoy in New Hampshire to serve as counselors and when some of the young campers are stricken with homesickness, the friends decide to start a summer camp book club. *Final book in the series.*

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Jubilee**. 2016.

Judith stopped talking when Mom left her in the care of beloved Aunt Cora. Going back into a regular fifth-grade class won't be easy, but she has her Dog and a new friend who will help her.

Glaser, Karina Yan. **The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street**. 2017.

Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.

Graff, Lisa. **Lost in the Sun**. 2015.

As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little who helps him understand that he can move on.

Absolutely Almost. 2014.

Ten-year-old Albie has never been the smartest, tallest, best at gym, greatest artist, or most musical in his class, as his parents keep reminding him, but new nanny Calista helps him uncover his strengths and take pride in himself.

Greenwald, Lisa. **11 Before 12**. 2017.

Kaylan and Arianna start middle school with a list of 11 things they are determined to do before their shared 12th birthday party, from deep conversations with their moms to helping humanity.

Gutman, Dan. **Nightmare at the Book Fair**. 2008.

While Trip is on his way to lacrosse tryouts, the PTA president asks him to help with the book fair. His resulting head injury causes amnesia and leads to a strange journey home.

Kadohata, Cynthia. **The Thing About Luck**. 2013.

Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

Kine, Christina Baker. **The Orphan Train Girl**. 2017.

A young readers' version of the story about seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer, who is sent to perform community service at elderly Vivian Daly's home in order to avoid juvenile hall and discovers that the two are very much alike, despite the vast age difference.

Korman, Gordon. **Restart**. 2017.

Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof; in fact, he doesn't remember anything about himself. When he gets back to school, he gets clues about who he was through interactions with the other kids...but he doesn't like what is being revealed about him. Can he take this opportunity to "restart"?

Lee, Jenny. **Elvis and the Underdogs**. 2013.

All his life Benji has been sickly and has long been targeted by the school bully, but after a seizure Benji gets a therapy dog that is not only big enough to protect him, it can also talk.

Look, Lenore. **Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters**. 2009.

Alvin makes a new friend and learns that he can be brave despite his fear of everything when his father takes him camping, hoping to install a love of nature. A humorous look at things we fear.

Lord, Cynthia. **Half a Chance**. 2014.

Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small community in New Hampshire. With her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest, but pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.

A Handful of Stars. 2015.

When her blind dog slips his collar, twelve-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship.

Rules. 2006.

Catherine loves her brother who is autistic, but is embarrassed by his behavior and feels neglected by her parents. She wants him to be “normal” so much that she makes up rules for him to follow.

Magoon, Kekla. **The Season of Styx Malone.** 2018. *Coretta Scott King Honor Award.*

Brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene Franklin have the whole summer ahead of them to explore the woods around their Indiana town. They meet a new older neighbor, Styx Malone, a foster boy from the city, who is full of big ideas and plans for adventure.

Martin, Ann. **Rain Reign.** 2014.

Struggling with Asperger’s syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet. *Best Book of 2014.*

Medina, Meg. **Merci Suárez Changes Gears.** 2018. *Newbery Medal Winner.*

Merci Suarez knew sixth grade would be different, but it’s more challenging than she imagined, from conflicts and jealousy at the private school where she is a scholarship student, to the changes in her beloved grandfather. She worries that her family is not telling her what’s happening, so she’s left to worry on her own.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh.** 1991. *Newbery Medal Winner.*

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. Read the Trilogy.

Palacio, R.J. **Wonder.** 2012.

Ten-year-old Auggie, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, where he endures taunts and the fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. Read companion books: **Auggie and Me**, 2015, and **We’re All Wonders**, 2017.

Paterson, Katherine. **Bridge to Terabithia.** 1977. *Newbery Medal Winner.*

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with the new girl, Leslie, who has a tragic accident trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Ramee, Lisa. **A Good Kind of Trouble.** 2019.

Shayla is a bright student, adjusting to middle school and dedicated to following the rules. She realizes that standing up for what she believes is worth the challenge, when she joins the Black Lives Matter movement and stands against injustice and violence.

Reynolds, Jason. **Ghost (Track Series).** 2016.

“Ghost” is seventh-grader Castle Crenshaw, hassled by a bully, in trouble at school, looking for his place and his purpose. He finds it on the track team, with new teammates and a special coach who teaches him “you can’t run away from who you are, but you can run toward who you want to be.”

Saeed, Aisha. **Amal Unbound.** 2018.

Twelve-year-old Amal dreams of becoming a teacher, but her dreams are crushed when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village’s ruling family. As punishment, she is forced to work for them as a servant, facing her hardships with courage and planning a more just future.

Stoddard, Lindsey. **Right as Rain**. 2019.

It's been almost a year since the tragic death of her brother, and Rain's family tries to make a new start by moving to New York City. Rain slowly makes new friends on the track team, with each of them facing their own challenges.

Suneby, Elizabeth. **Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea: How a Science Project Helps One Family and the Planet**.

2018. As Iqbal plans his science project, he notices the problems of cooking indoors during monsoon season in Bangladesh. His mother and family members are sickened by the smoke of the open indoor cooking fire, but they cannot afford a gas stove. Iqbal has an ingenious idea for a science project that will solve this real-life problem.

Venkatraman, Padma. **The Bridge Home**. 2019.

Four homeless children are determined to make a life for themselves in Chennai, India. They search for food, sleep on an abandoned bridge, and form their own new family. A sensitive story of social justice and bonding as a chosen family.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Clayton Byrd Goes Underground**. 2017.

Clayton is forbidden by his mother from playing the blues after his grandfather dies, so he runs away to the subways to join a blues band. *Best Books of 2017, National Book Award Finalist*.



School Stories

Anderson, John David. **Ms. Bixby's Last Day**. 2016.

Ms. Bixby unexpectedly announces that she is sick and won't be able to finish the school year, and Topher, Brand and Steve come up with a plan to tell her how much she means to them.

Angleberger, Tom. **Fuzzy**. 2016.

When Max befriends her new robot classmate Fuzzy, she helps him navigate Vanguard Middle School and together they reveal the truth behind the Robot Integration Program.

Birney, Betty. **Summer According to Humphrey (Series)**. 2010.

When summer arrives, Humphrey, the pet hamster of Longfellow School's Room 26, is surprised to learn that he will be going to Camp Happy Hollow.

Buyea, Rob. **Because of Mr. Terupt**. 2010.

It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. Mr. Terupt, their energetic new teacher makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much... until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything and everyone.

Clements, Andrew. **About Average**. 2012.

Sixth-grader Jordan Johnson, unhappy that she is only average in appearance, intelligence, and athletic ability, reveals her special skills when disaster strikes her elementary school. Also read any other title by this author: **Room One, Lost and Found, Landry News, Lunch Money, The Report Card, No Talking, School Story, and Week in the Woods**.

Konigsburg, E.L. **A View from Saturday**. 1996. *Newbery Medal Winner*.

Four students develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Korman, Gordon. **Schooled**. 2007.

Cap has been raised in isolation and home-schooled by his hippie grandmother. When she breaks her hip, he is sent to a foster home and experiences his first year in public school.

Ungifted. 2013.

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, for gifted and talented students.

Supergifted. 2018.

Donovan Curtis has never been “gifted.” But his genius friend Noah is actually supergifted, with one of the highest IQs around. After years at the Academy for Scholastic Distinction, all Noah dreams of is to fail if he wants to. And he’s landed in the perfect place to do it — Donovan’s school.

Whatshisface. 2018.

As the new kid in school, who has moved five times in three years, Cooper’s not surprised when the kids at Stratford Middle School call him “Whatshisface.” What does surprise him is Roddy, an Elizabethan era ghost who lives in Cooper’s cell phone and claims to be the true author of *Romeo and Juliet*. A middle school story with a humorous, fantasy twist.

McAnulty, Stacy. **The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl**. 2018.

Lucy Callahan was struck by lightning. She doesn’t remember it but it changed her life. The zap gave her genius-level math skills. Lucy has been homeschooled but now, at twelve years old, she just has to pass one more test — middle school!

Sachar, Louis. **Sideways Stories from the Wayside School**. 1978.

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways, with one classroom on each story.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Loser**. 2002.

Even though classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff’s optimism and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Dr. Pearlman’s Required Reading for Rising Fifth Graders:

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E. L. Konigsburg. 1967. *Newbery Medal*.

Two children run away from home to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, enjoying their newfound independence and delving into the mystery of an angel statue donated by Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Who sculpted the statue? Only Mrs. Frankweiler knows....

Books about Fourth Grade

Blume, Judy. **Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.** 2002, c. 1972.

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem.

Fleming, Candace. **The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School.** 2007.

An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising results.

Salisbury, Graham. **Calvin Coconut, Dog Heaven.** 2010.

Fourth-grader Calvin creates a unique way to express his desire for a dog after his teacher asks him to write a persuasive argument about something he really wants.

Books about Fifth Grade

Clements, Andrew. **Homework Machine.** 2006.

Four fifth-grade students as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

A Week in the Woods. 2002.

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the woods tests Mark's survival skills and his ability to relate to the teacher he thinks doesn't like rich kids, or slackers, or know-it-alls.

DeClements, Barthe. **Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade.** 1981.

The new girl is not treated well by her classmates and nothing seems fair.

Frasier, Sundee Tucker. **Cleo Edison Oliver: Playground Millionaire.** 2016.

Fifth-grader Cleo Edison Oliver has money-making ideas, but things get complicated when she has to be a good listener when her best friend needs her, and deal with the bully teasing her about being adopted.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Jubilee.** 2016.

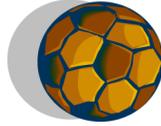
Judith stopped talking long ago when Mom left her in the care of Aunt Cora. Going back into a regular fifth-grade class won't be easy, but she has her dog and new friend.

Shovan, Laura. **The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary.** 2016.

The kids in the graduating fifth grade class of Emerson Elementary join together to try to save their school from being torn down to make way for a supermarket.

Woodrow, Allan. **Class Dismissed.** 2015.

Class 507 is terrible, and one day, after a disastrous science experiment, Ms. Bryce walks out in the middle of class. Should the students keep this a secret?



Sports Stories

Alexander, Kwame. **Rebound**. 2018.

Twelve-year-old Chuck Bell spends the summer with his grandparents, where he discovers jazz and basketball and learns more about his family's past.

Crossover. 2014. *Newbery Medal Winner, Coretta Scott King Honor Book*.

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health. Also read: **Booked** (2013) and **Playbook** (2017). Kwame Alexander shares poetry and lessons about the rules of life.

Aronson, Sarah. **Beyond Lucky**. 2011.

Twelve-year-old Ari Fish is sure that the rare trading card he found has changed his soccer team's luck, but after the card is stolen he realizes that we make our own luck, and that heroes can be fallible.

Bauer, Joan. **Soar**. 2016.

Jeremiah is the world's biggest baseball fan and he knows just about everything there is to know about his favorite sport. So when he's told he can't play baseball following an operation on his heart, Jeremiah decides he'll do the next best thing and become a coach.

Freitas, Donna. **Gold Medal Summer**. 2012.

After Joey learns that her best friend wants to quit competitive gymnastics, she considers giving up her dream of winning gold medals in order to have a normal life.

Green, Tim. **Kid Owner**. 2015.

When Ryan learns his estranged father left him the Dallas Cowboys in his will, it is all Ryan can do to keep his dad's other son from snatching the team away.

Jamieson, Victoria. **Roller Girl**. 2015. *Newbery Honor Book*.

When Astrid, about to begin junior high, heads to summer roller derby camp while best friend Nicole opts for ballet camp, their relationship is jeopardized by opposing interests. (Graphic novel.)

Lupica, Mike. **Strike Zone**. 2019.

Little League pitcher Nick Garcia dreams of winning this season's MVP award and the chance to throw out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium. He also dreams of a cure for Lupus, for his sister. Most of all, he dreams of his family no longer living in fear. *Read any title by this gifted sports writer.*

The Only Game. 2015.

Jack Callahan is the star of his baseball team and sixth grade is supposed to be his year with an undefeated season, records shattered, Little League World Series, until he up and quits. Read the series: **The Extra Yard** (2016). **Point Guard** (2017), **Team Players** (2018).

Morgan, Alex. **In the Zone** (*The Kicks Series*). 2018.

Spring season continues and the Kicks are working their hardest to be champions. But Emma's confidence takes a dive after tripping and letting a shot go into the goal.



Nonfiction



This is only a sampling of all the wonderful nonfiction books available.
Choose any nonfiction books to read!

Read any title in the “What is ...,” “What Was...,” and “What Were...” series.

What Is Climate Change? 2018. Learn more about what climate change means and how it affects our planet. What are the causes? What can we do to improve conditions?

What Were the Twin Towers? 2016.

Discover the true story of the Twin Towers — how they came to be the world’s tallest buildings and how they were destroyed.

What Was the Ice Age? 2017.

Look back 20,000 years ago when glaciers covered the earth and creatures such as the woolly mammoth and saber-toothed cats, now extinct, battled for survival.

Adler, David. **Mystery Math: A First Book of Algebra.** 2011.

A fun look at the basic concepts of algebra, inviting kids to solve “math mysteries.”

Burgan, Michael. **Ellis Island: An Interactive History Adventure (Series).** 2014.

Reader choose the course of a story about immigrants to the United States in the early 1900s.

Evans, Lady Hestia. **Mythology: The Gods, Heroes, and Monsters of Ancient Greece.** 2007.

Introduces Greek mythology, exploring gods and goddesses, origins of mankind, monsters, beasts, and battles, featuring fold-outs, pop-ups, maps, “secret” messages, and other interactive features. Read other “-ology” books, such as **Egyptology, Pirateology, Oceanology.**

Grimes, Nikki. **Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony.** 2015.

In this imaginative biographical story, Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony sit down in 1904 to reminisce about their struggles and triumphs in the service of freedom and women's rights.

Hale, Nathan. **Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales Series.** 2012-2016.

Elements of the strange but true are presented in this series, highlighting the larger-than-life characters that pop up in real history. (Graphic novels.)

Halls, Kelley Milner. **Saving the Baghdad Zoo: A True Story of Hope and Heroes.** 2010.

Firsthand account of how United States soldiers and volunteers saved the animals of the Baghdad Zoo after the start of the Iraq War.

Krull, Kathleen. **The Boy Who Invented Television: The Story of Philo Farnsworth.** 2009.

The biography of Philo Farnsworth, who created the world’s first television image in 1928.

Mortenson, Greg. **Three Cups of Tea (Young Readers’ Edition).** 2009.

Dr. Greg Mortenson was rescued and healed by Himalayan villagers after his failed attempt to climb K2. In gratitude, he returned to build schools for girls previously denied education by the Taliban.

National Geographic Kids Weird But True Series.

Fun reference books chock-full of wacky facts and bold illustration and photographs.

Olson, Tod. **Lost in Outer Space: The Incredible Journey of Apollo 13.** 2017.

On April 13, 1970, two hundred thousand miles from Earth, an explosion ripped through Jim Lovell's spacecraft, crippling the ship and leaking oxygen. Lovell and his crew were two days from walking on the surface of moon. Now, they will they set foot on Earth again?

Overdeck, Laura. **Bedtime Math: A Fun Excuse to Stay Up Late.** 2013.

This imaginative approach to math concepts aims to make math as much a comfortable habit as bedtime stories. Everyday math topics are introduced and explained in a fun, approachable way.

Shetterly, Margot Lee. **Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition).** 2016.

From WWII through NASA's golden age, four African American women mathematicians contributed to U. S. aeronautical advances. Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden did the calculations for plane production during wartime and for the space program.

Stewart, Whitney. **Mindful Me: Mindfulness and Meditation for Kids.** 2018.

Sometimes life gets busy and feels out of control. Worries take over, friends grow apart, loneliness sets in, with feelings of frustration or anger. Mindfulness techniques can help, guided by this book.



Poetry

Alexander, Kwame. **Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets.** 2017. *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award.*

"A poem is a small but powerful thing," says author Alexander, who has written twenty poems that pay tribute to well-known poets who have inspired him. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes.

Bowles, David. **They Call Me Güero: A Border Kid's Poems.** 2018. *Pura Belpre Honor Book.*

Life is tough for a border kid, but Güero has figured out how to cope. He writes poetry about his life as a middle-school mexicano who loves reading, gaming, and music.

Cleary, Brian. **Bow-Tie Pasta: Acrostic Poems.** 2016.

Acrostic? Actually, it's a poem! Award-winning author Brian P. Cleary explains how acrostics are created and shows how even the wackiest words can be turned into a poem.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. **Voices in the Air.** 2018.

Enjoy poetry by the Poetry Foundation's Young People's Poet Laureate, in this collection of poems about people who inspire peace, hope, and empathy.

Raczka, Bob. **Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems.** 2016.

Concrete poems are a favorite because they are fun to look at. Using the arrangement of the words on a page to convey the meaning of the poem, concrete or shape poems are also easy to write!

Silverstein, Shel. **Every Thing On It.** 2011.

A book of original, never-before published poems and drawings by Silverstein. Read any book by this author, such as: **Falling Up, Where the Sidewalk Ends, and A Light in the Attic.**



Biography

DK Biographies Series – Read any title in the series, written by different authors.

“Who is...” and “Who Was...” Series. Read any title in the series.

Brown, Dinah. **Who Is Malala Yousafzai?** 2015.

Malala loved to learn, but was told that girls were not allowed to go to school. She wrote a blog about what was happening in Pakistan and realized that words can bring about change. She won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize and continues to speak for all children’s right to an education.

Engel, Margarita. **Bravo!** 2017.

Musician, botanist, baseball player, pilot—the Latinos featured in this collection, *Bravo!* come from many different countries and from many different backgrounds.

Freedman, Russell. **Washington at Valley Forge.** 2008.

An account of the six months when George Washington’s soldiers camped at Valley Forge, enduring the harsh winter of 1777-1778 without adequate food, clothing, or blankets.

Halligan, Katherine. **HerStory: 50 Women and Girls Who Shook Up the World.** 2018.

Meet women from around the globe and throughout history who shaped the world we know today.

Harrison, Vashti. **Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History.** 2017.

Meet forty trailblazing black women throughout American history and learn their stories.

Krull, Kathleen. **Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame, and What the Neighbors Thought.** 2011.

Focuses on the lives of the presidents as parents, husbands, pet-owners, and neighbors, with humorous, little-known facts about hobbies, hairstyles, and habits.

McGinty, Alice. **Gandhi: A March to the Sea.** 2013.

Tells of the March to the Sea when Mohandas Gandhi and seventy protesters marched from Ahmedabad to Dandi, in twenty-four days, to protest the laws and taxes from Great Britain.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History.** 2017.

Frederick Douglass was self-educated and grew up to become an icon. He was an abolitionist leader, writer, speaker, and social reformer, who said, "Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."

Stanley, Diane. **Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer.** 2016.

A century before the digital age, Ada Lovelace envisioned the computer-driven world of today. In demonstrating how the machine would be coded, she wrote the first computer program.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Brown Girl Dreaming.** 2014. *Newbery Honor Book. Coretta Scott King Award.*

The author shares her childhood memories and reveals the first sparks that ignited her writing career in free-verse poems about growing up in the North and South.

Fourth Grade Teachers' Picks

Mr. Buckley recommends:

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, by Ian Fleming

Extra Credit, by Andrew Clements

Mr. Haber recommends:

Danny, the Champion of the World, by Roald Dahl

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J. K. Rowling

The Search for Delicious, by Natalie Babbitt

Mr. Kellner recommends:

A Tale Dark and Grimm, by Adam Gidwitz

Wonder, by R. J. Palacio

Glory Be, Making Friends with Billy Wong, and The Way to Stay in Destiny, by Augusta Scattergood

The Cardboard Kingdom, by Chad Sell

A Series of Unfortunate Events, by Lemony Snicket

Mrs. Tummarello recommends Science picks:

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, by William Kamkwamba

The Shocking Truth about Energy, by Loreen Leedy

Energy Island, by Allan Drummond

DK Biographies: Marie Curie and/or Albert Einstein

Fifth Grade Teachers' Picks

Dr. Pearlman recommends:

Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli

Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Paterson

