

Early and emergent literacy is a wonderful time to share books as a family. This mix of newer and classic stand-alone stories and series support and delight kids as they are just beginning to identify as readers. Strong early readers may enjoy reading these independently; if not, you will enjoy reading them together.

Another by Christian Robinson (wordless)

Because by Mo Willems

Bee-Bim Bop! by Linda Sue Park

Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

Bilal Cooks Dal by Aisha Saeed

Brave Molly by Brooke Boynton-Hughes

Charlie and Mouse by Laurel Snyder (series)

Drawn Together by Minh Lê

Elephant and Piggie Like Reading (Various authors, series)

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel (series)

Hands Up by Breanna J. McDaniel

I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

King and Kayla by Dori Hillestad Butler (series)

Llama Destroys the World by Jonathan Stutzman

Meet Yasmin (series) by Saadia Faruq

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

Noodleheads by Tedd Arnold (series)

Owly (series) by Andy Runton

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré by Anika Aldamuy Denise (NF)

Princess in Black by Shannon Hale (series)

School's First Day of School by Adam Rex

Shape Trilogy: Triangle, Square, Circle by Mac Barnett

Snail & Worm by Tina Kugler (series)

Thank you, Omu by Oga Mora

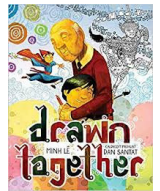
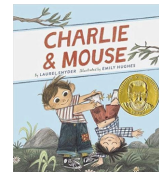
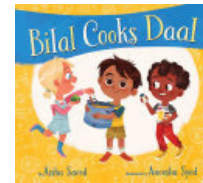
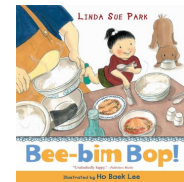
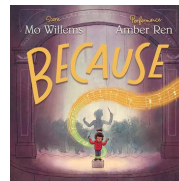
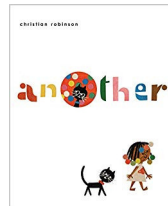
The Great Indoors by Julie Falatko

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan

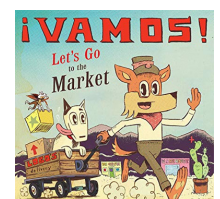
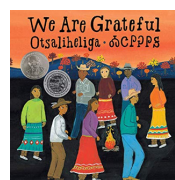
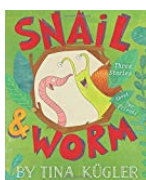
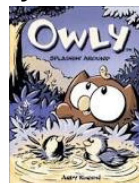
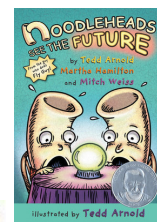
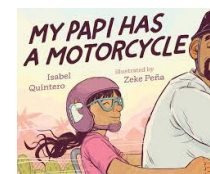
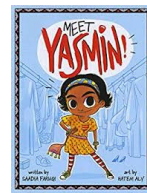
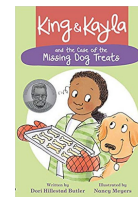
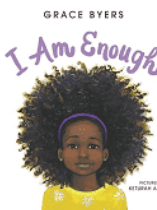
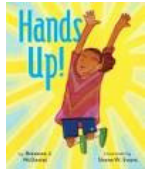
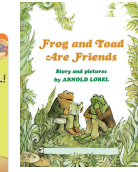
We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell

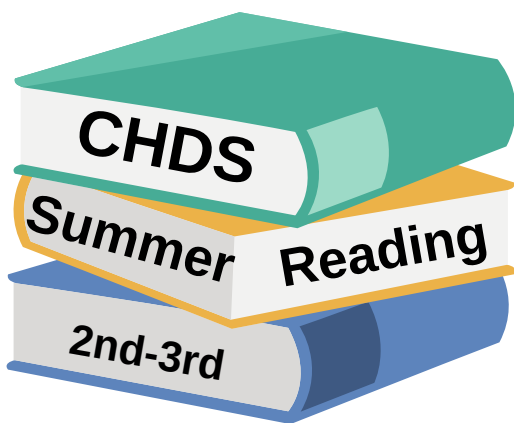
You Are Light by Aaron Becker

¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market by Raul the Third



Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! Series / Books





We recognize that as rising 2nd and 3rd graders, kids have different levels of comfort and desire around reading longer texts independently...and that's okay! These picture and chapter books have lots of kid appeal, and the list is varied enough that there's something for everyone. Remember, too, that these are just suggestions- your student may find something they're excited about on another grade's list- and that's great, too!

NF= Nonfiction, GN= Graphic Novel

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K Arnold (series)

Bink and Gollie by Kate DiCamillo (series)

Bo at Ballard Creek by Kirkpatrick Hill

Bowwow Powwow by Brenda J. Child

Bunnicula by James Howe (series)

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker (NF)

Craftily Ever After by Martha Maker (series)

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes

EllRay Jakes by Sally Warner (series)

Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story by Lesléa Newman

I Survived...by Lauren Tarshis (series)

Jasmine Toguchi by Debbie Michiko Florence (series)

Juana & Lucas by Juana Medina

Katie Woo by Fran Manushkin (series)

Lola Levine by Monica Brown (series)

Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang (NF)

Marty McGuire by Kate Messner (series)

My Weird School by Dan Gutman (series)

New Shoes by Sara Varon (GN)

Rotten!: Vultures, Beetles, Slime, & Nature's Other Decomposers by Anita Sanchez (NF)

Secret Coders by Gene Luen Yang (GN, series)

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar (series)

Stella Diaz Has Something to Say by Angela Dominguez

The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs by Kate Messner (NF)

The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell (GN)

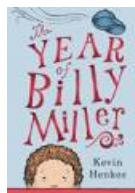
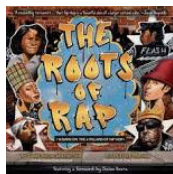
The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons by Natascha Biebow (NF)

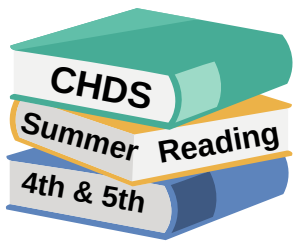
The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop by Carole Boston Weatherford (NF)

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes

Who Was/Where Is/What Was... Various Authors (series)

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton (NF)





A mix of current and recent middle grade novels and nonfiction selections. Books marked with an asterisk are getting early Newbery 2020 buzz and could potentially be on this year's 5th grade mock Newbery list. GN= Graphic Novel, NF= Nonfiction

Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle

An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of "E.T."

Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel José Older

It's 1863 and dinosaurs roam the streets of New York as the Civil War rages between raptor-mounted armies down South.

****Eventown*** by Corey Ann Haydu

To Elodee, eleven, things seem a little too perfect in Eventown when she moves there with her parents and identical twin, Naomi, especially since forgetting the past is so highly valued.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel. If the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting other immigrant families stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed.

Ghost (Track Series) by Jason Reynolds

Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill (2017 Newbery 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.

****Good Kind of Trouble*** by Lisa Moore Ramée

After attending a powerful protest, Shayla wears an armband to school to support the Black Lives Matter movement. When the school gives her an ultimatum, she is forced to choose: her education or her identity.

How I Became a Ghost by Tim Tingle

A Choctaw boy tells the story of his tribe's removal from the only land its people had ever known, and how their journey to Oklahoma led him to become a ghost--one with the ability to help those he left behind.

Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake

Ivy's house is destroyed by a tornado and her family of five is displaced. She feels invisible as her family struggles, and even worse: her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands has gone missing.

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina (2019 Newbery winner)

At school, Merci is the target of a bossy classmate's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either; Merci's grandfather, Lolo, has been acting strange lately and no one in the family will tell her why.

****New Kid*** by Jerry Craft (GN)

What it's like to be not just the new kid, but also one of the few students of color at a private school? Jordan makes new friends, comes to understand his classmates' quirks, and develops his passion for cartooning.

Orphan Island by Laurel Snyder

On an island where one child is delivered each year while the eldest is taken away, nine children live under the leadership of new elder Jinny, who trains the latest newcomer and wonders what will happen when her own departure occurs.

***Pay Attention Carter Jones** by Gary Schmidt

Sixth-grader Carter must adjust to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to help him become a gentleman, and also to deal with burdens from the past.

***Song for a Whale** by Lynne Kelly

Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.

Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore

In the wake of his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting, Lolly struggles to avoid being forced into a gang himself while constructing a fantastically creative LEGO city at the Harlem community center.

Stef Soto Taco Queen by Jennifer Torres

The Tía Perla, her family's taco truck, is really embarrassing. Stef just wants Papi to get a normal job- until her family's livelihood is threatened, and it looks like her wish will come true.

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier

In nineteenth-century England, Nan Sparrow, ten, works as a "climbing boy," aiding chimney sweeps, but when her most treasured possessions end up in a fireplace, she unwittingly creates a golem.

***The Bridge Home** by Padma Venkatraman

Eleven-year-old Viji and her younger sister, Rukku, escape from their abusive father and attempt to survive in the big chaotic city of Chennai, India. The pair connect with other homeless kids, kind adults, and a stray dog.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

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. An un-put-downable novel in verse.

The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone by Jacqueline Moriarty

Instructed by her parents' will, Bronte visits ten aunts including a veterinarian for dragons and former rock star who is now the reigning monarch of a small kingdom ...but what is the secret reason for her travels?

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez

Twelve year old Malu moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago where she accidentally violates the dress code with her punk rock look and starts a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science (NF)

Maria Merian discovered the truth about metamorphosis and documented the science behind the mystery in this visual biography that features many original paintings by Maria herself.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz

In 1242, Three kids are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon.

The Nest by Kenneth Oppel

Wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to fix his sick baby brother. "Yes" may not mean what he thinks.

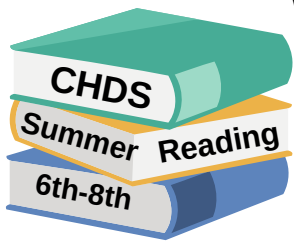
Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage

Mo LoBeau and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P! by Alex Gino

After her sister is born hearing impaired, White Jilly connects with a Black, Deaf, ASL user and struggles with the racism embedded in the extended family as she learns how to be an ally, sister, and friend

Young Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present by Jamia Wilson (NF)



While students entering grades 6 and up will find these books compelling, rising 8th graders are required to read at least one title marked with an asterisk*. These titles explore the theme of Identity formation, a common thread throughout our 8th grade humanities curriculum.

* = choose at least ONE for rising 8th grade, NF= Nonfiction, GN= Graphic Novel

***8th grade Superzero** by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

After half-heartedly joining his church youth group's project at a homeless shelter near his Brooklyn middle school, eighth-grade "loser" Reggie McKnight is inspired to run for school office on a platform of making a real difference in the community.

***A Time to Dance** by Padma Venkatraman

A novel in verse about a girl in India who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.

***American Born Chinese** Gene Luen Yang (GN)

Alternates three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

***Apple in the Middle** by Dawn Quigley

Apple's name, chosen by her Indian mother on her deathbed, has a double meaning: treasured apple of my eye, but also the negative connotation a person who is red, or Indian, on the outside, but white on the inside.

***Booked** by Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams in this novel in verse.

***Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson

In vivid poems, the National Book Award winner shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

***Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi

Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and end the monarchy.

Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown (NF, GN)

Don Brown's kinetic art and as-it-happens narrative capture both the tragedy and triumph of one of the worst natural disasters in American history. A portion of the proceeds from this book has been donated to Habitat for Humanity New Orleans.

***Finding Mighty** by Seetla Chari

Told in alternating chapters by the three main characters, this novel contains all the right elements for an intriguing adventure: a long-ago theft, a suspicious death, a lost cache of uncut diamonds, menacing gang members, and a shrouded family history.

Flying Lessons edited by Ellen Oh (short stories)

Whether it is basketball dreams, family fiascos, first crushes, or new neighborhoods, these stories -- written by ten award-winning and bestselling diverse authors -- celebrate the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

***Genesis Begins Again** by Alicia D. Williams

Thirteen-year-old Genesis must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse** by Joseph M. Marshall III

Jimmy McClean's father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is full Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage, including the famous Crazy Horse.

***It Ain't So Awful Falafel** by Firoozeh Dumas

Eleven-year-old Zomorod, originally from Iran, tells her story of growing up Iranian in Southern California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s.

March Trilogy by John Lewis , with Andrew Aydin, and illustrated and lettered by Nate Powell (GN)
Autobiographical black and white graphic novel trilogy about the Civil Rights Movement, told through the perspective of civil rights leader and U.S. Congressman John Lewis.

***Nimona** by Noelle Stevenson (GN)

Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. The pair are about to wreak some serious havoc.

***Piecing Me Together** by Renée Watson

Every day, Jade rides the bus away from her friends and to the private school where she feels like an outsider. She's tired of being singled out as someone who needs help, someone people want to fix.

***Rhyme Schemer** by K. A. Holt

This novel in verse tells Kevin's journey from bully to being bullied, and how he learns about friendship, family and his talent for poetry.

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez

In order to heal after his mother's death, thirteen-year-old Sal learns to reach into time and space to retrieve things--and people--from other universes.

***Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune** by Pamela S. Turner (NF)

The legendary samurai was raised in the household of the enemies who killed his father before being sent to live in a monastery where, against the odds, he learned and perfected his fighting skills.

See You at Harry's by Jo Knowles

Fern's sister Sarah is working at the family restaurant, brother Holden is struggling with school bullies and his emerging homosexuality, and adorable, three-year-old Charlie is always the center of attention...until tragedy strikes, the fragile bond holding the family together is stretched almost to the breaking point.

***Seraphina** by Rachel Hartman

Dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce. Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets.

***Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned...

***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora** by Pablo Cartaya

Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can thirteen-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL?

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

A stirring mystery of past and present, as two kids search for a place in their families, city, and country.

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices edited by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Wade Hudson

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? With 96 lavishly designed pages of original art and prose, fifty diverse creators lend voice to young activists.

***The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise** by Dan Gemeinhart

In this poignant, action-packed adventure, 12-year-old Coyote must hoodwink her father, Rodeo, into returning home to Washington State after years of vagabond life on a school bus.

***You Bring the Distant Near** by Mitali Perkins

Ranee worries that her children are losing their Indian culture. As each Das woman decides which Bengali traditions to uphold in America, one hard truth remains: some scars take generations to heal.