

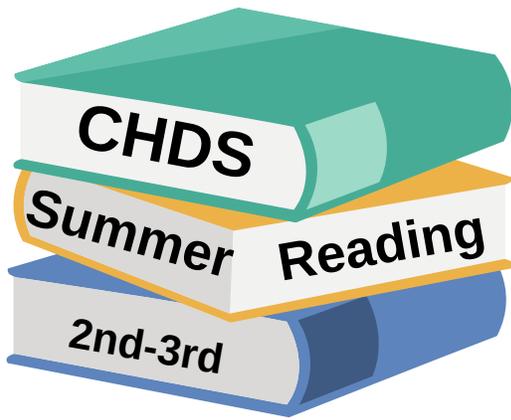
Early and emergent literacy is a wonderful time to share books as a family. This mix of newer and classic stand-alone stories and series support and delight kids as they are just beginning to identify as readers. Strong early readers may enjoy reading these independently; if not they are perfect to read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

- Bee-Bim Bop!* by Linda Sue Park
- Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin
- Bilal Cooks Dal* by Aisha Saeed
- Charlie and Mouse* by Laurel Snyder (series)
- Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy* by Tara Dairman
- Elephant and Piggie Like Reading* (Various authors, series)
- Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel (series)
- Hands Up* by Breanna J. McDaniel
- Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- Jules vs the Ocean* by Jesse Sima
- King and Kayla* by Dori Hillestad Butler (series)
- Lift* by Minh Lê
- Meet Yasmin* (series) by Saadia Faruq
- Nesting* by Henry Cole
- Owly* (series) by Andy Runton
- Outside In* by Deborah Underwood
- Princess in Black* by Shannon Hale (series)
- Priya Dreams of Marigold and Masala* by Meenal Patel
- School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex
- Shape Trilogy: Triangle, Square, Circle* by Mac Barnett
- Smashy Town* by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha
- Snail & Worm* by Tina Kugler (series)
- Under My Hijab* by Hena Khan
- We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- What Color is Night* by Grant Snider
- You Are Light* by Aaron Becker



Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! Series / Books

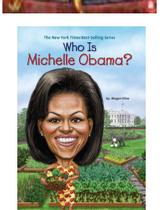
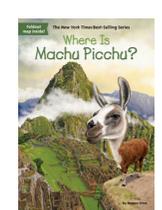
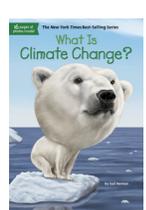
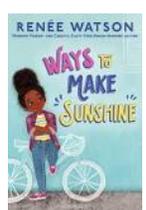
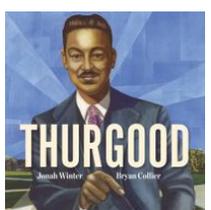
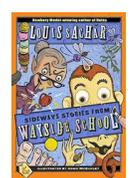
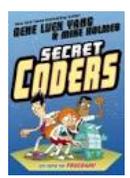
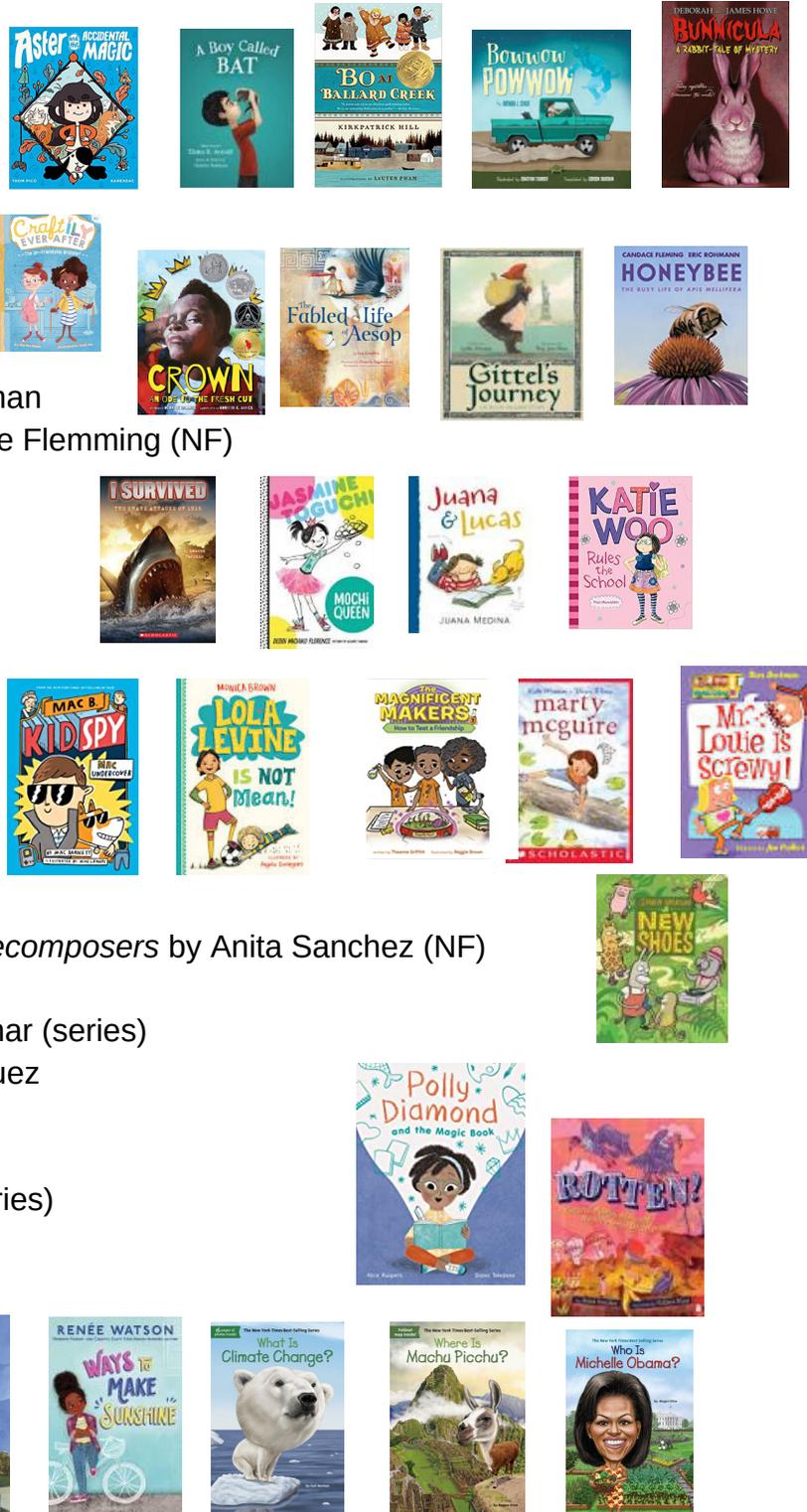


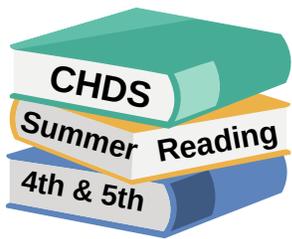


Rising 2nd and 3rd graders have different levels of comfort and desire around reading longer texts independently...and that's okay! These picture and chapter books have lots of kid appeal, and the list is varied enough that there's something for everyone. Remember, too, that these are just suggestions-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

NF= Nonfiction, GN= Graphic Novel

- Aster and the Accidental Magic* by Thom Pico (GN)
- A Boy Called Bat* by Elana K Arnold (series)
- Bo at Ballard Creek* by Kirkpatrick Hill
- Bowwow Powwow* by Brenda J. Child
- Bunnicula* by James Howe (series)
- Craftily Ever After* by Martha Maker (series)
- Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes
- The Fabled Life of Aesop* by Ian Lendler
- Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story* by Lesléa Newman
- Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera* by Candace Flemming (NF)
- I Survived...* by Lauren Tarshis (series)
- Jasmine Toguchi* by Debbie Michiko Florence (series)
- Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina
- Katie Woo* by Fran Manushkin (series)
- Kid Spy* by Mac Barnett (series)
- Lola Levine* by Monica Brown (series)
- Magnificent Makers* by Theanne Griffith (series)
- Marty McGuire* by Kate Messner (series)
- My Weird School* by Dan Gutman (series)
- New Shoes* by Sara Varon (GN)
- Polly Diamond* by Alice Kuipers (series)
- 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
- Thurgood* by Jonah Winter (NF)
- Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renee Watson
- Who Was/Where Is/What Was...* Various Authors (series)





A mix of current and recent middle grade novels and nonfiction selections.

Books marked with an asterisk are getting early Newbery 2021 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."

****Chirp*** by Kate Messner

Mia works to solve a mystery and save her grandmother's cricket farm while rebuilding her own physical and emotional strength after a traumatic year.

****Clean Getaway*** by Nic Stone

When G'ma, Scoob's favorite person asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's thrilled. With G'ma's old maps and a strange pamphlet called the 'Travelers' Green Book', the pair takes off on a journey down G'ma's memory lane. But adventure quickly turns to uncertainty- is there something she's keeping from him?

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

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.

****Get a Grip Vivy Cohen***

Vivy feels ready to pitch for a real baseball team, but her mom is worried about Vivy being the only girl on the team, and the only autistic kid. She wants Vivy to forget about pitching, but Vivy won't give up.

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.

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) (2020 Newbery Winner)

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.

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 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.

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.

****We Dream of Space*** by Erin Entrada Kelly

Cash, Fitch, and Bird Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties.

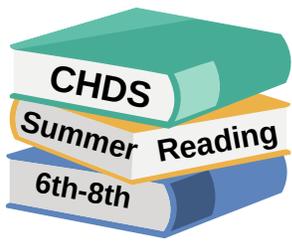
****Wink*** by Rob Harrell

Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table.

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 encouraged 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.

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.

***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.

***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.

***Butterfly Yellow** by Thanh Hà Lai

Hằng, who travelled to Texas from Việt Nam in 1981, wants to find her little brother who got there six years before. A wannabe cowboy ends up as her unlikely helper in this poignant story of family, traumatic memories, and daring to hope.

***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.

Fever Year: The Killer Flu of 1918 by Don Brown

A graphic novel of one of the darkest episodes in American history: the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918. (NF, GN)

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..

***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.

***Me and Banksy** by Tanya Lloyd Kyi

Dominica's private school is covered in cameras, and someone is hacking into them and posting embarrassing moments for the whole school to see. Who would do this, and why?

***Miles Morales Spider Man** by Jason Reynolds

Miles's spidey-sense has been on the fritz. When a misunderstanding leads to his suspension from school, Miles begins to question his abilities. Maybe kids like Miles aren't meant to be superheroes. Should he take his dad's advice and focus on saving himself?

***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.

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.

Stamped, Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (NF)

***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia

Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in.

***We're Not From Here** by Geoff Rodkey

Being an unwanted refugee on the planet Choom puts huge pressure on Lan, who must demonstrate that humans are acceptable. Awkward situations and plenty of humor demonstrate challenges in understanding alien perspectives and hint at contemporary, earth-bound events.

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.

***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.