

MMS Elementary Reading Guide for Families

All Elementary learners are expected to read for at least 30 minutes daily outside of school. We know that the more time our learners spend reading, the more progress they will make in reading fluency and comprehension. In the following pages, we have put together a number of tips for reading with your child as well as book recommendations and resources that we hope will help you to make reading a regular practice in your home. We have included the following:

- [How to Determine Your Child's Reading Level](#)
- [Talking about Books - Conversation Starters for Lower Elementary](#)
- [Talking about Books - Conversation Starters for Upper Elementary](#)
- [Leveled Book List](#)
- [Anti-Racist Books for Children](#)
- [More Great Book Resources](#)

We encourage you to read *with* and *to* your child as much as possible. Even once they are independent readers, have them read aloud to you! This creates opportunities for rich discussions about genres, characters, friendship, how to solve mysteries, etc. We find the discussion questions we have included very helpful. And, we encourage you to go where your book conversations take you. Enjoy the experience of reading and talking about books with your child!

The books listed below are grouped by Guided Reading Level and Grade Level. When reading *to* your child, choose books from a grade level or two higher than your child's own reading level.

The leveling system takes into account the content and subject matter of the books as well as word choice and sentence structure. Therefore, if your child is reading above their grade level, please be mindful that content may not be age-appropriate and requires thoughtfulness and parent engagement to help you navigate their book choices.

Also, please note that we have included in this list some "classics". Please remember that many of the classics present historical contexts that no longer represent the state of society today. Often, the language and actions included in these stories are inappropriate in the world we live in today. But, the stories told can be a great way to spark meaningful discussion. Again, when reading these books, parent engagement and discussion is necessary.

How to Determine Your Child's Reading Level

Here is a guide to help your child choose books at their “just right” reading level. Note that their reading should sound *smooth and fluent*.

How to Pick Your Child's Summer Reading Level

Most experts agree that a child is reading at the appropriate level when they can decode 95% of the book they are reading. This means that the child should not struggle with more than five out of every 100 words they encounter. If you find your child is not able to read accurately and fluently, the book is probably too difficult.



Five Finger Test

1. Open the book to the middle and have your child start reading.
2. Each time they miss a word, have them fold down one finger.

If all five fingers are down by the time they reach the end of the page, the book is probably too difficult.

Talking about Books - Conversation Starters for Lower Elementary

RETELLING

“What were the most important things the writer had to say?”

“What was the problem in this story? How was it solved?”

“Tell about the whole story in just a few sentences.”

PREDICTING

“What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?”

(Read on, then ask...) “Are your predictions confirmed or discarded?”

MAKING CONNECTIONS

“This book reminds me of _____. Can you think why?”

“Have you read about other characters (places, problems) like this?”

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

“Why do you think the character is acting the way she is?”

“How would you describe this character? What kind of a person is she/he? What does she like/dislike?”

“How else could ____ have acted?”

“What lesson does the main character learn?”

INFERRING

“Why do you think ____ did that?”

“What lesson does the main character learn?”

“How do you feel about this character?”

Talking about Books - Conversation Starters for Upper Elementary

UNDERSTANDING AUTHOR'S CRAFT

"What did you notice about how the writer told the story?"

"What do you think the writer's purpose was in telling this story?"

"What did the writer do to keep you interested?"

"What words did the writer use to help you connect your feelings to... the topic (nonfiction) / the story (fiction)?"

"How does the author organize and identify the information?" (nonfiction)

"What does the author want you to know about the topic? Why did the author think this subject was important?" (nonfiction)

INFERRING

"Why do you think ___ did that?"

"What lesson does the main character learn?"

"How do you feel about this character?"

"That's what (the character) said. What did she really mean?"

"What does this book say to you?" (about the world, about human nature, etc)

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

"What inner/outer strengths does the character draw upon to meet her challenges/goals?"

"How are the character's inner feelings shown through her decisions?"

"What is the world like to the people in this story?"

"Were the characters or events portrayed in unexpected ways?"

Leveled Book List

LEVEL B-D (early 1st grade level)

Have You Seen My Cat? Eric Carle

Best Friends in the Snow Angela Shelf Medearis

Bathtime for Biscuit Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Grow a Pumpkin Pie! Jane E. Gerver

Bears on Wheels Berenstain

Duck Duck Dinosaur: Bubble Blast Kallie George

Cat the Cat Mo Willems

What People Do Best Laura Numeroff (some are level E)

Truck Buddies Melinda Melton Crow (some are level E)

Wonder Wheels Melinda Melton Crow (some are level E)

Puppy Mudge series Cynthia Rylant (some are level E)

LEVEL E (early 1st grade level)

I Am Water Jean Marzollo

Go, Dog, Go! P.D. Eastman

Wake Up, Sun! David L. Harrison

Bear Hugs Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Monkey Play Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Big Egg Molly Coxe

Otto series David Milgrim

Gus Gets Mad, Gus Grows a Plant Frank Remkiewicz

Tiny series Carrie Meister (some are level F)

Dear Dragon series Margaret Hillert (some are level F)

LEVEL F (mid 1st grade level)

Biscuit series Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Dear Dragon series Margaret Hillert

Cookie's Week Cindy Ward

Read to Your Bunny Rosemary Wells

Rosie's Walk Pat Hutchins

Pig and Pug Marchesani and Medina

Peedie Olivier Dunrea

The Teeny Tiny Woman Jane O'Connor

Moo Bird David Milgrim

A Splendid Friend, Indeed Suzanne Bloom

This Is the House That Jack Built Simms Taback

No, David! David Shannon

Digger the Dinosaur and the Cake Mistake Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox Grace Maccarone
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin Jr.
Grace the Green Sea Turtle Rebecca Johnson
All Wrapped Up Terra Callahan
How Lizard Lost His Colors Sara Shapiro

LEVEL G (mid 1st grade level)

Elephant and Piggie books by Mo Willems (some level H)
Nanette's Baguette Mo Willems
Little Critter by E Mayer (some level H)
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss
Sheep in a Jeep Nancy E. Shaw
Over In the Meadow John Langstaff
Good Boy, Fergus! David Shannon
Stick and Stone Beth Ferry
Nina, Nina Ballerina Jane O'Connor
Follow Me, Mittens, What's That, Mittens? Lola M. Schaefer
Dancing Dinos Go to School Sally Lucas
Max's Checkup Rosemary Wells
I'm a Seed (Hello Reader) Jean Marzollo
The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat Nurit Karlin
Digger Pig and the Turnip Caron Lee Cohen
Nicky Upstairs and Downstairs Harriet Ziefert
National Geographic Readers Swim, Sloth!, Swim, Fish!, Jump Pup Susan B. Neuman
I Am (Not) Scared Anna Kang
Shoe Town Janet Stevens
Little Green Peas Keith Baker
Barnacle Is Bored Jonathan Fenske
Flip Flop! Dana Meachen Rau
Chicken Said, "Cluck!" Judyann Ackerman Grant
Me And My Robot Tracy West
My Dog, Bob Richard Torrey

LEVEL H (mid 1st grade level)

Max & Mo series Patricia Lakin
Wemberly Worried Kevin Henkes
Do Like Kyle Angela Johnson
The Family Book Todd Parr
Goodnight Moon Margaret Wise Brown
Bear Snores On Karma Wilson

Katie's Noisy Music Fran Manushkin
Out to Lunch Peggy Perry Anderson
George Shrinks William Joyce
Whose Mouse Are You? Robert Kraus
More Spaghetti, I Say! Rita Golden Gelman
Morris the Mouse Hunter Vivian French
Oh! Kevin Henkes
A Tree Is Nice Janice May Udry
Fox & Rabbit Beth Ferry
Aaaarrgghh! Spider! Lydia Monks
What Do You Hear When Cows Sing? And Other Silly Riddles Marco Maestro
Star of the Show (Katie Woo series) Fran Manushkin
The Garden Project (Robin Hill School series) Margaret McNamara

LEVEL I (late 1st grade level)

Fly Guy by Todd Arnold
Katy Duck by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Oliver and Amanda Pig series by Jean Van Leeuwen
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! Mo Willems
Dixie and the School Trip (I Can Read!) Grace Gilman
Lola at the Library Anna McQuinn
If You Give a Dog a Donut Laura Numeroff
Me On the Map Joan Sweeney
The Kissing Hand Audrey Penn
The Napping House Audrey Wood
Leo the Late Bloomer Robert Kraus
Just Grandma and Me Mercer Mayer
Seven Blind Mice Ed Young
A Sick Day for Amos McGee Philip C. Stead
Olivia and the Kite Party Alex Harvey
There's a Giraffe in My Soup Ross Burach
Noisy Nora Rosemary Wells
Rappy and His Favorite Things Dan Gutman

LEVEL J (late 1st/early 2nd grade level)

Mr Putter and Tabby series Cynthia Rylant
Poppleton series Cynthia Rylant
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
High Rise Private Eyes series by Cynthia Rylant
Max and Zoe Shelley Swanson Sateren

Young Cam Jansen David A. Adler
Fox on the Job series by James Marshall
Little Bear series by Else Holmelund Minarik and Maurice Sendak
Harry the Dirty Dog Gene Zion
Max Rachel Isadora
Owl at Home Arnold Lobel
Danny and the Dinosaur Syd Hoff
I Saw You in the Bathtub: and Other Folk Rhymes Alvin Schwartz
There's Something in My Attic Mercer Mayer
Moonbear's Shadow Frank Asch
The Missing Tooth Joanna Cole
The Statue of Liberty Jada Rowland
On the Launch Pad Michael Dahl
The Snowy Day Ezra Jack Keats

LEVEL K (early/mid 2nd grade level)

Frog and Toad Together Arnold Lobel
Frog and Toad are Friends Arnold Lobel
Bedtime for Frances series Russell Hoban
Mercy Watson series Kate DiCamillo
Minnie and Moo series by Denys Cazet
Zelda and Ivy series Kvasnosky
Nate the Great Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Pete the Cat Tedd Arnold
Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story Ruby Bridges
If you Give a Mouse a Cookie
The Frog Prince Edith H. Tarlov
Caps for Sale Esphyr Slobodkina
Harold and the Purple Crayon Crockett Johnson
Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin (*I Can Read!* Level 1 book)
Corduroy Don Freeman
Earl the Squirrel Don Freeman
Miss Rumphius Barbara Cooney
Inch by Inch Leo Lionni
Chester's Way Kevin Henkes
Sheila Rae, the Brave Kevin Henkes
Owen Kevin Henkes
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale Mo Willems
Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late! Mo Willems
The Story of Ferdinand Munro Leaf
Fireflies Julie Brinckloe

George the Drummer Boy Nathaniel Benchley
Nate the Great and Me Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
The Important Book Margaret Wise Brown
First Flight George Shea
The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash Trinka Hakes Noble
Molly the Brave and Me Jane O'Connor
Jamaica's Find Juanita Havill
An Earthworm's Life John Himmelman

LEVEL L (mid 2nd grade level)

Boris series by Andrew Joyner (L and M)
Cam Jansen series
Eek! Stories to Make You Shriek
Katie Woo Fran Manushkin
Amelia Bedelia Peggy Parish (some are level M, by Herman Parish)
Tacky the Penguin series Helen Lester
Go Girl! series by Thalia Kalkipsakis
My Furry Foster Family series Debbi Michiko Florence
Pinky and Rex James Howe
Horrible Harry series Kline
The Milo and Jazz Mysteries series by Lewis B Montgomery

LEVEL M (late 2nd grade level)

Jada Jones books by Kelly Starling Lyons
Magic Tree House series Mary Pope Osborne
Absolutely Lucy series Ilene Cooper
The Pain and The Great One series by Judy Blume
Bink and Gollie series Kate DiCamillo
Calendar Mysteries series Ron Roy
Littles series John Peterson
Arthur series by Marc Brown
A Picture Book of... biographies by David A. Adler
Catalina Incognito by Jennifer Torres
The Complicated Life of Claudia Cristina Cortez by Diana G. Gallagher
The Blue Hills Meadow Cynthia Rylant
Chrysanthemum Kevin Henkes
The Island of the Skog Steven Kellogg
Freckle Juice Judy Blume
Frederick Leo Lionni

Ivy & Bean series Annie Barrows
Kids of Polk Street School series Patricia Reilly Giff
Flat Stanley series Jeff Brown
How a House Is Built Gail Gibbons
The Day of the Black Blizzard Candice Ransom

LEVEL N (early 3rd grade level)

Juneteenth for Mazie Floyd Cooper
Mia Mayhem series by Kara West
Sona Sharma books by Chitra Soundar
The Dragon Kingdom of Wrenly series Jordan Quinn
Nikki & Deja series Karen English
Tales from Deckawoo Drive Kate DiCamillo
My Father's Dragon series
Sylvie series Ali Bovis
Hardy Boys Secret Files Dixon
Genie Meanie Mahtab Narsimhan
Polly Diamond and the Magic Book Alice Kuipers
The Light at Tern Rock Julia Sauer
Lulu series Hilary McKay
Stella Diaz Has Something to Say Angela Dominguez
A to Z Mysteries series Ron Roy
Critter Club series Callie Barkley
Heidi Heckelbeck series Wanda Coven
Ruby's Wish Shirin Yim Bridges
Helen Keller Margaret Davidson
Jenius - The Amazing Guinea Pig Dick King-Smith
The Magic Finger Roald Dahl
Mystery of the Lunchbox Criminal Alison Lohans
The Milk Makers Gail Gibbons
Imani's Moon NaJay Brown-Wood
Phoebe G. Green series Veera Hiranandani
Danger at Sand Cave Candice Ransom
Endangered and Extinct Amphibians Candice Ransom
Gooney Bird Greene series Lois Lowry
Merlin Missions series by Mary Pope Osborne
Dragon Masters series by Tracey West
Data Set series by Ada Hopper

LEVEL O (mid 3rd grade level)

Zoey & Sassafras series Asia Citro
Chet Gecko Mystery series
West Meadows Detectives series Liam O'Donnell
Clementine series Sara Pennypacker (O and P)
Mindy Kim series Lyla Lee
The Courage of Sarah Noble Alice Dagliessh
The Year of the Book series by Andrea Cheng
Julian series Ann Cameron
Rosy Revere series Andrea Beaty
Ramona Beverley Cleary
The Mouse and the Motorcycle Beverley Cleary
Henry Huggins series Beverley Cleary
Lexi's Tale Johanna Hurwitz
Mrs. Piggle Wiggle Betty McDonald
Pippi Longstocking Astrid Lindgren
Redwoods Jason Chin
Flossy and the Fox Patricia McKissack
Mallory Friedman
The Story of Ruby Bridges Robert Coles
The Year of Miss Agnes Kirkpatrick Hill
The Carver Chronicles Karen English
Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin Barretta Gene
Jake Drake, Know-It-All Andrew Clements
The World According to Humphrey Betty Birney
My Wacky School series Dan Gutman (Deck the Halls, We're Off the Walls, Mr. Sunny is Funny)
Box Car Children

LEVEL P (late 3rd grade level)
Alvin Ho by Lenore Look
The Best Friend Battle by Lindsay Eyre
A Grain of Rice by Helena Clare Pittman
Book Uncle and Me Uma Krishnaswami
Clubhouse Mysteries series Sharon Draper
Stone Fox Gardiner
Riding Freedom Pam Munoz Ryan
Time Warp Trio Jon Scieszka
It's All Greek to Me Jon Scieszka
Tales from the Odyssey Part 1 Mary Pope Osborne
Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants Andrea Beaty
Encyclopedia Brown Sobol

Poppy's Return Avi
Pool Panic Jake Maddox
The Daring Escape of Ellen Craft Cathy Moore
Sideways Stories Sachar
George's Marvelous Medicine Roald Dahl
Fantastic Mr. Fox Roald Dahl
The Twits Roald Dahl
The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me Roald Dahl
Howliday Inn James Howe
Mr. Popper's Penguins Richard Atwater
Ellray Jakes series Sally Warner
Mr. Cooper is Super Dan Gutman
Bummer in the Summer Dan Gutman
Wheel on the Chimney Margaret Wise Brown
The Hundred Dresses Elenor Estes
The Kid Who Only Hits Homers Matt Christopher
Willie McLean and the Civil War Surrender Candice Ransom

Magic-themed Harry Potter alternatives for younger readers
The Kingdom of Wrenly by Jordan Quinn (level N)
Matter of Fact Magic series by Ruth Chew (level N)
The Worst Witch series by Jill Murphy (level P)
The Dragon Keepers by Kate Klimo (level R)
Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher by Bruce Coville (level R)
Half Magic by Edward Eager (level T)

LEVEL Q (early 4th grade level)
Frankie Sparks series Megan Frazer Blakemore
Power Forward Hena Khan
According to Humphrey Birney
Fudge books by Judy Blume
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Bunnicula by James Howe
Terror in the Caverns (Jake Maddox Adventure series) Jake Maddox
The Chalk Box Kid Clyde Robert Bulla
Little House series Laura Ingalls Wilder
Piper Reed Holt
Hopeless Heroes series by Stella Tarakson

Doyle and Fossey Science Detectives series by Michele Torrey
The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney
According to Humphrey series by Betty Birney
I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis (some are level R)
Henry's Freedom Box Ellen Levine
Scraps of Time: Away West (and other books in series) Patricia McKissack
The Year of the Dog series by Grace Lin
Dear Mr. Henshaw Beverly Cleary
Helen Keller's Teacher Margaret Davidson
James and the Giant Peach Roald Dahl
Crenshaw Katherine Applegate
The Man Who Walked Between Towers Mordicai Gerstein
The Big Wave by Pearl S. Buck

LEVEL R (mid 4th grade level)

Charlotte's Web E.B. White
Because of Winn-Dixie Kate DiCamillo
Frindle Andrew Clements
A Jar of Dreams Yoshiko Uchida
Sarah, Plain and Tall Patricia MacLachlan
Tia Lola Stories series Julia Alvarez
Every Living Thing Cynthia Rylant
The House of Wings Betsey Byars
I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis
Brian's Saga books Gary Paulsen
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Roald Dahl
Rules Cynthia Lord
Shiloh Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The School Story Andrew Clements
Leaving My Homeland: After the Journey series
How to Eat Fried Worms Thomas Rockwell
A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt C. Coco DeYoung
The Terrible Two series by Mac Barnett
Listening To Crickets: A Story About Rachel Carson Candice Ransom
The Indian in the Cupboard Lynne Reid Banks

LEVEL S (late 4th grade level)

Journey MacLachlan
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson Bette Lord
Save Me a Seat Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Out of My Mind Sharon Draper
Dancing Home Ada and Zubizarreta
The Lemonade War Jacqueline Davies
A Cricket in Times Square George Seldon
Sea of Monsters: Percy Jackson series book 2 Rick Riordan (all others in this series are level W)
Crenshaw Katherine Applegate
The Kite Fighters Linda Sue Park
Emily Windsnap series Liz Kessler
Thunder Rose Jerdine Nolan
Eliza's Freedom Road: An Underground Railroad Diary Jerdine Nolan
Sylvia & Aki Winifred Conkling
Salsa Stories Lulu Delacre
Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code Joseph Bruchac
The Matchbox Diary Paul Fleishman
Matilda Roald Dahl
The Twits Roald Dahl
Ida B. Hannigan
Stuntboy by Jason Reynolds
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler E.L. Koenigsberg
The Borrowers Mary Norton

LEVEL T (early 5th grade level)
Bridge to Terabithia Paterson
Flor and Miranda Steal the Show Jennifer Torres
Night of the Spadefoot Toads Bill Harley
The One and Only Ivan Katherine Applegate
The First Rule of Punk Celia Perez
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon series by Grace Lin
The Tiger Rising Kate DiCamillo
The Road to Paris Nikki Grimes
Rain Reign Ann Martin
Colonial Voices Kay Winters
Drita, My Homegirl Jenny Lombard
Unsinkable (Titanic Book #1) Gordon Korman
The Lion the Witch, and the Wardrobe C.S. Lewis
Harriet the Spy L. Fitzhugh

LEVEL U (mid 5th grade level)
Bud, Not Buddy Curtis

The Search for Delicious Natalie Babbitt
Sign of the Beaver Speare
Amina's Voice Hena Khan
Number the Stars Lois Lowry
The Watsons Go to Birmingham 1963 Christopher Paul Curtis
Flora and Ulysses Kate DiCamillo
The Magician's Elephant Kate DiCamillo
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane Kate DiCamillo
Hush Jacqueline Woodson
Inside Out and Back Again Thanhha Lai
Tangerine Edward Bloor
My Side of the Mountain Trilogy Jean Craighead George
Julie of the Wolves Jean Craighead George
The Secret Zoo Bryan Chick
The Secret Garden Frances Burnett

LEVEL V (late 5th grade level)

Front Desk Kelly Yang
Hatchet Gary Paulsen
Island of the Blue Dolphins Scott O'Dell
Esperanza Rising Pam Munoz Ryan
Becoming Naomi Leon Pam Munoz Ryan
The Dreamer Pam Munoz Ryan
The Harlem Charade Natasha Tarpley
Locomotion Jacqueline Woodson
A Series of Unfortunate Events series Lemony Snicket
Tiger Boy Mitali Perkins
Raymie Nightingale Kate DiCamillo
Overland Chronicles series Suzanne Collins
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh O'Bried
Lyddie Katherine Paterson
Stargirl Jerry Spinelli
Crash Jerry Spinelli
Holes Louis Sacher
Wonder R.J. Palacio
Harry Potter J.K. Rowling
Who Was... series
The Epic Fall of Arturo Zamora Pablo Cartaya
Capture the Flag (The Silver Jaguar Society Mysteries series) Kate Messner
Bayou Magic Jewell Parker Rhodes
Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus Dusti Bowling
The Westing Game Ellen Raskin

The Mango Shaped Space Wendy Mass
Merci Suarez series Meg Medina
The Green Book Jill Patton Walsh
Roller Girl Victoria Jamieson
Yolanda's Genius Carol Fenner
Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish Pablo Cartaya
Shooting Kabul N.H. Senzai
Schooled Gordon Korman
A Long Pitch Home Natalie Dias Lorenzi
Chew on This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food Charles Wilson and Eric Schlosser
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle Avi
Anne of Green Gables Lucy Maud Montgomery

LEVEL W (early 6th grade level)

The House on Mango Street Sandra Cisneros
The Phantom Tollbooth Norton Juster
Percy Jackson series Rick Riordan
Hoot Carl Hiaasen
New Kid Jerry Craft
When You Reach Me Rebecca Stead
A Long Walk to Water Linda Sue Park
Restart Gordon Korman
Slacker Gordon Korman
Stella by Starlight Sharon M. Draper
Fish in a Tree Lyndy Mullaly Hunt
Tuck Everlasting Natalie Babbitt
A Wrinkle in Time Madeleine L'Engle
Crispin Trilogy Avi
Maniac McGee Jerry Spinelli
Blood On the River: James Town 1607 Elisa Carbone
Towers Falling Jewell Parker Rhodes
Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess Richard Platt
Seedfolks Paul Fleishman
Malala Yousafzai Elisa Peters
The Hero Schliemann Laura Amy Schlitz
When I Was Your Age Amy Ehrlich
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry M.D. Taylor

LEVEL X (mid-late 6th grade level)

The Crossover (and series) Kwame Alexander

Where the Red Fern Grows Wilson Rawls
The Graveyard Book Neil Gaiman
The Wednesday Wars Gary D. Schmidt
Anything But Typical Norra Raleigh Baskins
The Midwife's Apprentice Karen Cushman
Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland Sally M. Walker
Novio Boy: A Play Garay Soto
42 Is Not Just a Number: The Odyssey of Jackie Robinson, American Hero Doreen Rappaport
Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie Jordan Sonnenblick
Over Sea, Under Stone (series) Susan Cooper
Other Words for Home Jasmine Warga
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg Rodman Philbrick
Dark Water Rising Marian Hale
Pashmina Nidhi Chanani
Nevermore: The Trials of Morrigan Crew Jessica Townsend
The River Between Us Richard Peck
Home of the Brave Katherine Applegate
Chinese Mythology Rocks! Irene Dea Collier
Freedom Walkers: The Story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott Russell Freedman
The Girl Who Drank the Moon Kelly Barnhill
The Great American Dust Bowl Don Brown
Shouting at the Rain Lynda Mallaly Hunt
Hidden Women Rebecca Rissman
Call It Courage Sperry Armstrong

LEVEL Y (7th grade level)

The Giver Lois Lowry
The Dark Hills Divide Patrick Carman
Artemis Fowl Eoin Colfer
The Devil's Arithmetic Jane Yolen
Messenger Lois Lowry
Call of the Wild Jack London
Milkweed Jerry Spinelli
Variant Robison Wells
Echo Pam Punoz Ryan
Doll Bones Holly Black
One Came Home Amy Timberlake
Breaking Barriers: The Story of Jackie Robinson Michael Burgan
Deep Cover Spies and Double Crossers of the Cold War Rebecca Ann Langston George
Fly Girls Keith O'Brien

Somewhere There is Still a Sun Michael Gruenbaum and Todd Hasak-Lowy
25 Women Who Protected Their Country Emma Carlson Berne
25 Women Who Thought of It First Jill Sherman
Becoming RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsberg's Journey to Justice Debbie Levy
Hidden Figures: Young Readers Edition Margot Lee Shetterly

LEVEL Z (8th grade level)

One for the Murphys Lynda Hunt
The Circuit: stories from the life of a migrant child Francisco Jimenez
A Wicked History series Sean Price
Shadow Children: Among the Hidden Margaret Peterson Haddix
Chains Laurie Halse Anderson
Night Elie Weisel
Of Mice and Men John Steinbeck
The Hobbit J.R.R. Tolkein
Lord of the Flies William Golding
The Hunger Games Suzanne Collins
Girl, Stolen April Henry
The House of the Scorpion Nancy Farmer
The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Catherine Reef
The Outsiders S.E. Hinton
Johnny Tremain Esther Forbes
Daniel's Story Carol Matas
Chasing Lincoln's Killer James L. Swanson

Anti-Racist Anti-Bias Books for Children

- A Kid's Book About Racism by Jelani Memory
- Africa is Not a Country by Margy Burns Knight and Mark Melnicove
- All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color by Katie Kissinger
- Skin Again by Bell Hooks
- Lets Talk About Race by Julius Lester
- Where Three Oceans Meet by Rajani Larocca
- The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi
- The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson
- Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Mendez
- What Is Given From the Heart by Patricia McKissack
- Love by Matt de la Pena
- I Am Enough by Grace Byers
- Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
- The 1619 Project: Born on the Water
- Eyes That Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho
- Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race by Megan Madison
- Being You: A First Conversation About Gender by Megan Madison

More Great Book Resources

- Remember, the lists above are resources that we hope will help you and your child choose books they will enjoy that are a "just right fit" for them.
- Here are a few more places to look for wonderful book options:

Award Winners for Elementary Readers:

Coretta Scott King Award

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/coretta-scott-king-book-award-winners>

E.B. White Read Aloud Award

<https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/65-e-b-white-read-aloud-award>

Newbery Medal

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/newbery-medal-and-honor-books>

Scott O'Dell Award

<https://scottodell.com/the-scott-odell-award>

The Golden Kite Award

<https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/1219-scbwi-golden-kite-award>

Horn Book Award

<https://www.goodreads.com/award/show/5614-boston-globe-horn-book-award>

- Search for more great book ideas here:

- [Social Justice Books](#)

- [Common Sense Media](#)

- [Here Wee Read](#)

- [Book Source](#) (use to find out the Guided Reading Level of a book)

- Or for Upper El readers, in particular, have a look at these lists we love:

Great books for upper elementary children:

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/upper-elementary>

Books with girl leads that even boys would love:

<https://www.readbrightly.com/girl-led-books-tween-boys-love/>

100 must read list for kids:

<https://www.npr.org/2013/08/05/207315023/the-ultimate-backseat-books-half-100-must-reads-for-kids-9-14>

Books about race, racism, and social justice

<https://colours of us.com/37-childrens-books-to-help-talk-about-racism-and-discrimination/>

<https://www.common sensemedia.org/lists/books-about-racism-and-social-justice>

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/want-to-nurture-kids-to-embrace-race-and-value-difference-check-out-these-fantastic-read-aloud-books-for-raising-a-brave-generation>