

## 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 Please remember that many of the classics present historical contexts that no longer represent the state of society today.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 Cox

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 Zeifert  
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 Hang 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. Tarcov  
Caps for Sale Esphyr Slobodkina  
Harold and the Purple Crayon Crockett Johnson  
Diary of a Worm by Dorreen Kronin (*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 Hates 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 Dagliesh  
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 Wiggles 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 Beverley 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 Bank

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 Rya  
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 Sachar  
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. Tolkien  
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 Kissingner
- 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.common sense media.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>

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Newbery Medal

<https://www.common sense media.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-helf-100-must-reads-for-kids-9-14>

Books about race, racism, and social justice

<https://coloursofus.com/37-childrens-books-to-help-talk-about-racism-discrimination/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.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>