

Elementary English/Language Arts

NOVEL LIST – GRADES 3/4

A Dog Called Kitty

Author: Wallace	Readability: 5.3
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Summary: Afraid of dogs since he was attacked by a mad one, Ricky resists taking in a homeless pup that shows up at the farm.

A Lion To Guard Us

Author: Bulla	Readability: 3.9
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Summary: Left on their own in London, three impoverished children draw upon all their resources to stay together and make their way to the Virginia colony in search of their father.

A Taste of Blackberries

Author: Smith	Readability: 4.6
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Summary: A young boy recounts his efforts to adjust to the accidental death of his best friend.

Abel's Island

Author: Steig	Readability: 5.5
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Summary: Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell

Author: Gregory	Readability: 5.2
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Summary: In her diary, thirteen-year-old Hattie chronicles her family's arduous 1847 journey from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail.

Anpao

Author: Highwater	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: Traditional tales from North America Indian tribes woven into one story that relates the adventures of one boy as he grows to manhood.

Bandit's Moon

Author: Fleischman	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: Twelve-year-old Annyrose, left behind when her brother joins the Gold Rush, escapes the unscrupulous woman with whom she is staying and sets out on a grand adventure with the notorious bandit Joaquin Murieta and his band of outlaws.

Because of Winn Dixie

Author: DiCamillo	Readability: 3.8
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Summary: Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Ben and Me

Author: Lawson	Readability: 7.3
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Summary: Benjamin Franklin's companion, Amos the mouse, recounts how he was responsible for Franklin's inventions and discoveries.

Best Friends

Author: Kellogg	Readability: 3.9
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Summary: Kathy feels lonely and betrayed when her best friend goes away for the summer and has a wonderful time.

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Beverly Cleary books

Author: Cleary	Readability:
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Summary: Any of these books are appropriate for 3rd and 4th graders.

Birchbark House

Author: Erdrich	Readability: 5.6
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Summary: Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Blubber

Author: Blume	Readability: 4.3
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Summary: Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target.

Bound for Oregon

Author: Van Leeuwen	Readability: 6.1
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Summary: A fictionalized account of the true life journey made by nine-year-old Mary Ellen Todd and her family from their home in Arkansas westward over the Oregon Trail in 1852.

Bunnicula

Author: Howe	Readability: 4.9
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Summary: Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

By the Great Horn Spoon

Author: Fleischman	Readability: 6.5
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Summary: A Gentleman's gentleman from Boston flees to the wilds of California during the Gold Rush and becomes a hero.

Caddie Woodlawn

Author: Hyman	Readability: 5.3
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Summary: The adventures of an eleven-year-old tomboy growing up on the Wisconsin frontier in the mid-nineteenth century.

Catwings

Author: LeGuin	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hands.

Champion of Merrimack County

Author: Drury	Readability: 5.6
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Summary: The discovery of a bike-riding mouse in the bathtub is just the beginning of a series of humorous communications for the Berryfield family.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Author: Dahl	Readability: 5.9
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Summary: Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

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Charlotte's Web

Author: White	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him.

Chocolate Fever

Author: Smith	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence.

Dear Levi: Letters From the Overland Trail

Author: Woodruff	Readability: 4.9
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Summary: Twelve-year-old Austin Ives writes letters to his younger brother describing his three-thousand-mile journey from their home in Pennsylvania to Oregon in 1851.

Ella Enchanted

Author: Levine	Readability: 4.2
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Summary: In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

Fantastic Mr. Fox

Author: Dahl	Readability: 4.9
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Summary: Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family.

Felita

Author: Mohr	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: The everyday experiences of an eight-year-old Puerto Rican girl growing up in a close-knit, urban community.

Fourth Grade Rats

Author: Spinelli	Readability: 4.3
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Summary: Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown up fourth grader.

Frindle

Author: Clements	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

From Rags to Riches: People Who Started Businesses From Scratch

Author: Aaseng	Readability: 6.5
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Summary: Presents brief biographies of the enterprising individuals who started such products and companies as Apple computers, Sears, the Dow Jones Index and The Wall Street Journal, J.C. Penney, Hershey's chocolate, Ebony magazine, and, Kinney shoes. (nonfiction)

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Author: Konigsburg	Readability: 5.6
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Summary: Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury.

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Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

Author: Creech	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Helen Keller

Author: Davidson	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: A biography stressing the childhood of the woman who overcame the handicaps of being blind and deaf. (nonfiction)

Henry Huggins

Author: Cleary	Readability: 4.9
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Summary: Henry Huggins picks up a stray dog, names him Ribsy, and sets out on numerous adventures with him, including breeding hundreds of fish and collecting over a thousand worms.

Herbie Jones

Author: Kline	Readability: 4.2
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Summary: Herbie's experiences in the third grade include finding bones in the boy's bathroom, wandering away from his classmates on their field trip, and being promoted to a higher reading group.

Honus and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure

Author: Gutman	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus.

How To Eat Fried Worms

Author: Rockwell	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Tells a story about a boy who sets out to eat fifteen worms in fifteen days in order to win a bet.

If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon

Author: Levine	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Describes what it was like to travel and live in a covered wagon as a pioneer on the way to Oregon, presenting information in a question-and-answer format on such topics as trail guides, clothes, food, chores, Native Americans, distances traveled, and wild animals. (nonfiction)

Island of the Blue Dolphins

Author: O'Dell	Readability: 5.5
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Summary: Records the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind.

James and the Giant Peach

Author: Dahl	Readability: 6.3
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Summary: Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach.

Jason's Gold

Author: Hobbs	Readability: 5.1
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Summary: Fifteen-year-old Jason embarks on a ten thousand-mile journey in 1897 in hopes of striking it rich after hearing the news that gold has been discovered in Canada's Yukon Territory.

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Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher

Author: Coville	Readability: 4.9
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Summary: Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg.

Kavik, The Wolf Dog

Author: Morey	Readability: 5.9
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Summary: A wolf-dog instinctively travels 2000 miles from Washington to Alaska to return to the boy who once saved his life.

Little House (series)

Author: Wilder	Readability: 4.3
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Summary: Young Laura Ingalls and her family experience many adventures living in the remote American Midwest.

Marvin Redpost: Class President

Author: Sachar	Readability: 2.8
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Summary: Even though they have all come to school in holey clothes, Marvin and his third grade class manage to impress their surprise visitor--the President of the United States.

Matilda

Author: Dahl	Readability: 5.2
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Summary: Matilda applies her untapped mental powers to rid the school of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and restore her nice teacher, Miss Honey, to financial security.

Molly's Pilgrim

Author: Cohen	Readability: 3.6
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Summary: Told to make a doll like a pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly's Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving for Russia to seek religious freedom -- much to Molly's embarrassment.

Mr. Popper's Penguins

Author: Atwater	Readability: 6.3
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Summary: The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.

Mr. Tucket

Author: Paulsen	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: In 1848, while on a wagon train headed for Oregon, fourteen-year-old Francis Tucket is kidnapped by Pawnee Indians and then falls in with a one-armed trapper who teaches him how to live in the wild.

My Father's Dragon (series)

Author: Gannett	Readability: 5.1
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Summary: Any of these books are appropriate for 3rd and 4th graders.

My Side of The Mountain

Author: George	Readability: 6.7
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Summary: Young Sam Gibley leaves New York City and spends a year living by himself in a remote area of the Catskill Mountains.

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Nannabah's Friend

Author: Perrine	Readability: 4.6
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Summary: A Navajo girl feels lonely tending sheep by herself for the first time until she makes some dolls to keep her company and, even better, meets a new friend.

Pioneer Cat

Author: Hooks	Readability: 2.5
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Summary: When a young pioneer girl smuggles a cat aboard the wagon train taking her family from Missouri to Oregon, it turns out to be the best thing she could have done.

Pippi Longstocking

Author: Lindgren	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: Escapades of a lucky girl who lives with a horse and a monkey -- but without any parents -- at the edge of a Swedish village.

Pool Party

Author: Soto	Readability: 4.6
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Summary: While helping his father and grandfather work as gardeners in Fresno, California, ten-year-old Rudy sees some differences between his Mexican-American family and the wealthy families that live nearby.

Poppy(series)

Author: Avi	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: **Poppy**- Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

Poppy and Rye- Sequel to Poppy. When their home next to a brook is destroyed by beavers, a large family of golden mice is aided by Poppy the deer mouse and her grumpy porcupine friend, who in the process forges a relationship with the son he had abandoned.

Poppy's Return - Poppy, accompanied by her troublesome son Junior, his skunk friend, and Uncle Ereth the porcupine, responds to a summons to return to her ancestral home, Gray House, to save the mice there from destruction by a bulldozer.

Portraits of African American Heroes

Author: Bolden	Readability: 8.0
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Summary: Presents biographical profiles of twenty African-American men and women whose accomplishments have made a significant impact on their communities and their country, each accompanied by a portrait created by artist Ansel Pitcairn. (nonfiction)

Rosie and Michael

Author: Viorst	Readability: 3.4
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Summary: Two friends tell what they like about each other - even the bad things.

Ruby Holler

Author: Creech	Readability: 6.0
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Summary: Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.

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Sarah, Plain and Tall

Author: MacLachlan	Readability: 4.1
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Summary: Caleb and Anna are captivated by the mail-order bride their father has invited to live with them in their prairie home, and hope that she will stay.

Sasquatch

Author: Smith	Readability: 5.2
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Summary: Thirteen-year-old Dylan follows his father into the woods on the slopes of Mount St. Helens, which is on the brink of another eruption, in an attempt to protect the resident Sasquatch from ruthless hunters.

School Story

Author: Clements	Readability: 6.1
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Summary: After twelve-year-old Natalie writes a wonderful novel, her friend Zoe helps her devise a scheme to get it accepted at the publishing house where Natalie's mother works as an editor.

Shiloh

Author: Naylor	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: Marty finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, and tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Sideways Stories From Wayside School

Author: Sachar	Readability: 3.9
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Summary: Presents humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

The Sign of the Beaver

Author: Speare	Readability: 5.7
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Summary: Left alone to guard the family's wilderness home in eighteenth-century Maine, a boy is hard-pressed to survive until local Indians teach him their skills.

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

Author: Kehret	Readability: 5.2
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Summary: The author describes her battle with polio at age thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects. (nonfiction)

Snow Treasure

Author: McSwiggan	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: The fictionalized story of the group of Norwegian children who helped Norway move its gold reserves to the U.S. during the German occupation by carrying bullion to the sea on their sleds.

Stage Fright

Author: Martin	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: Shy Sara panics when her fourth-grade teacher announces that her class is to perform a play before the entire school, but she eventually learns that stage fright can sometimes be healthy.

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Stranded

Author: Mikaelson	Readability: 4.4
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Summary: Twelve-year-old Koby, who has lost a foot in an accident, sees a chance to prove her self-reliance to her parents when she tries to rescue two stranded pilot whales near her home in the Florida Keys.

Stuart Little

Author: White	Readability: 5.4
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Summary: After being adopted by a human family, a tiny mouse sets out to win over his resentful new brother and the family feline while fending off a gang of cats who want him out of the house.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Author: Blume	Readability: 3.9
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Summary: Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem.

The Boxcar Children (series)

Author: Warner	Readability: 2.1
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Summary: Four orphans, two boys and two girls, set up housekeeping in an old boxcar.

The Captain's Dog: My Journey With the Lewis and Clark Tribe

Author: Smith, R.	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.

The Case of the Missing Cutthroats

Author: George, J.C.	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: After Spinner Shafter catches a cutthroat trout in the Snake River, she and her cousin Alligator search the nearby mountains to determine where the endangered fish came from and how it survived.

The Castle in the Attic

Author: Winthrop	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

The Cat Who Went to Heaven

Author: Coatsworth	Readability: 6.6
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Summary: The cat "Good Fortune" watches the Japanese artist as he paints the animals going one by one to do homage to the Buddha. At long last, a miracle brings the cat into the picture.

The Chocolate Touch

Author: Catling	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

The Courage of Sarah Noble

Author: Dalgliesh	Readability: 4.4
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Summary: Remembering her mother's words, an eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.

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The Cricket in Times Square

Author: Seldon	Readability: 5.5
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Summary: The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

The Doll People

Author: Martin	Readability: 4.6
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Summary: A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

The Dragonling

Author: Koller	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: Finding a baby dragon accidentally left alive after his older brother's dragon quest, Darek risks death and the anger of his people in trying to return it to the Valley of the Dragons.

The Enormous Egg

Author: Butterworth	Readability: 5.4
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Summary: Problems develop when Nate's hen lays an egg that hatches into a dinosaur.

The Gift Giver

Author: Hansen	Readability: 3.9
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Summary: The year she is in the fifth grade, Doris meets a special friend in her Bronx neighborhood.

The Hundred Dresses

Author: Estes	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

The Indian In the Cupboard

Author: Banks	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: A nine-year old boy receives a plastic Indian, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and finds himself involved in adventure when the Indian comes to life.

The Journey Home

Author: Duey	Readability: 4.1
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Summary: Heart must free an old man from Lord Dunraven's castle so that he can help her find her family.

The Kid Next Door and Other Headaches

Author: Smith, J.	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: In a series of episodes, two young boys who are best friends share different viewpoints about neatness, the best kind of pet, super heroes, horrible cousins, and what consideration an overnight guest is entitled to.

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles

Author: Edwards	Readability: 7.3
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Summary: With help from an eccentric professor in giving their imaginations special intensive training, three children succeed in locating the last of the great Whangdoodles and granting his heart's desire.

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The Legend of Jimmy Spoon

Author: Gregory	Readability: 5.3
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Summary: Jimmy Spoon, a twelve-year-old boy in mid-nineteenth-century Salt Lake City, lets his yearning for adventure lead him into trouble when he accepts a horse from two Shoshoni boys, only to learn he is now expected to live with the tribe.

The Littles

Author: Patterson	Readability: 2.0
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Summary: When the Bigs go on a three month vacation, the Littles must be content with a family from the city who move in and are not very good housekeepers.

The Magic Finger

Author: Dahl	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Angered by a neighboring family's sport hunting, an eight-year old girl turns her magic finger on them.

The Mennymys

Author: Waugh	Readability: 6.0
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Summary: The Mennymys, a family of life-size rag dolls living in a house in England and pretending to be human, see their peaceful existence threatened when the house's owner announces he is coming from Australia for a visit.

The Penderwicks

Author: Birdsall	Readability: 4.6
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Summary: While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

The Report Card

Author: Clements	Readability: 3.5
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Summary: Fifth-grader Nora Rowley has always hidden the fact that she is a genius from everyone because all she wants is to be normal, but when she comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not important, things begin to get out of control.

The Search For Delicious

Author: Babbitt	Readability: 5.4
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Summary: The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary and when no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country.

The Story of Doctor Doolittle

Author: Lofting	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: The adventures of a kind-hearted doctor, who is fond of animals and understands their language, as he travels to Africa with some of his favorite pets to cure the monkeys of a terrible sickness.

The Story of George Washington Carver

Author: Moore	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: Briefly retells the life of the famous scientist, George Washington Carver.

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The Story of the Three Little Pigs

Author: Scieszka	Readability: 2.5
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Summary: The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs.

The Tale of Despereaux

Author: DiCamillo	Readability: 4.1
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Summary: The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

The Tarantula In My Purse

Author: George, J.C.	Readability: 5.9
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Summary: A collection of autobiographical stories about raising a houseful of children and wild pets including crows, skunks, and raccoons.

The Toothpaste Millionaire

Author: Merrill	Readability: 6.1
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Summary: A young girl describes how her school friend made over a million dollars by creating and marketing a cheaper and better toothpaste.

The Trumpet of the Swans

Author: E.B. White	Readability: 5.4
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Summary: A voiceless trumpeter swan named Louis, attempting to win the love of a beautiful swan named Serena, learns to play a trumpet stolen for him by his father, and then finds himself far from his wilderness home when he sets out to become a trumpeter and pay his father back.

The Velveteen Rabbit

Author: Williams	Readability: 4.2
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Summary: By the time the velveteen rabbit is almost worn out, he almost has given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

The Wanderer

Author: Creech	Readability: 5.7
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Summary: Thirteen-year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their transatlantic crossing aboard the Wanderer, a forty-five foot sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963

Author: Curtis	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

The Whipping Boy

Author: Fleischman	Readability: 4.8
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Summary: A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

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The Year of Miss Agnes

Author: Hill, K.	Readability: 4.2
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Summary: Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athapascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher.

The Year of the Panda

Author: Schlein	Readability: 4.0
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Summary: A Chinese boy rescues a starving baby panda and, in the process, learns why pandas are endangered and what the government is doing to save them.

There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom

Author: Sachar	Readability: 5.0
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Summary: An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too.

Toughboy and Sister

Author: Hill	Readability: 5.2
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Summary: The death of their drunken father strands ten-year-old Toughboy and his younger sister at a remote fishing cabin on the Yukon River near Ruby, Alaska, where they spend a summer trying to cope with dwindling food supplies and hostile wildlife.

Trouble for Lucy

Author: Stevens	Readability: 4.5
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Summary: As she and her family travel the Oregon Trail in 1843, Lucy's puppies persist in creating trouble.

Trouble River

Author: Byars	Readability: 5.8
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Summary: In order to escape the Indians and rejoin the rest of his family young Dewey Martin successfully negotiates the rapids of the Trouble River with his grandmother and his dog on a homemade raft.

Wagon Wheels

Author: Brenner	Readability: 2.6
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Summary: Shortly after the Civil War a black family travels to Kansas to take advantage of the free land offered through the Homestead Act.

Where Do You Think You Are Going, Christopher Columbus?

Author: Fritz	Readability: 5.6
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Summary: Discusses the voyages of Christopher Columbus who determined to beat everyone in the race to the Indies. (nonfiction)

Who Was...(series)

Publisher: Grosset & Dunlap	Interest Level: 3 rd -6 th
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Summary: An exciting, illustrated biography series perfect for kids who are beyond easy-to-read books about famous people, but not quite ready for thick, long biographies. (nonfiction)

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WindCatcher

Author: Avi	Readability: 5.3
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Summary: While learning to sail during a visit to his grandmother's at the Connecticut shore, eleven-year-old Tony becomes excited about the rumors of sunken treasure in the area and starts following a couple who seem to be making a mysterious search for something.