



2nd into 3rd Grade 2024 Summer Reading List

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Prepared by SFWS Grade School Librarian Liz Perry for Class Teacher Kiki LaCroix

Listed below are books to read to your children and books for your children to read on their own. A fine guide to reading comfort is a thoughtful evaluation of your child's response to what sits in their lap: Are they mastering most of the words on the page? If there is frustration, consider an easier read.

For your own read-aloud interest—and to connect with stories you might have encountered long ago—books below are separated into categories contemporary and classic. While books published more than 50 years ago may have old-fashioned views, they represent takes on cultural views and rituals of family life that become more varied in later works of fiction. It is worth noting that an “adventure” a hundred years ago could dwell in the simplest of activities: finding stray buttons while dusting or following a butterfly across a meadow. What is worthy of the term “adventure” in juvenile literature today?

Parent read-alouds are still important, rewarding social exchanges even with proficient readers. Conversations around stories can give revealing glimpses into how your child experiences and interprets the world.

Inclusive Picture and Read-aloud Books from embracerace.org for the early grades

1. *The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore* by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. In the 1930s, Lewis's dad, Lewis Michaux Sr., had an itch he needed to scratch—a book itch. How to scratch it? He started a bookstore in Harlem and named it the National Memorial African Bookstore. People from all over came to visit the store. People swapped and traded ideas and talked about how things could change. They came together here all because of his father's book itch.
2. *The Boy and the Wall* by Palestinian refugee children in the Aida Refugee Camp. The writers and illustrators of this English/Arabic bilingual picture book are Palestinian refugee children in the Aida Refugee Camp near the city of Bethlehem in the West Bank. The wall that led to this picture book was built in 2004 across the West Bank, home to more than a million Palestinians. This wall separates the refugee camp from the children's old village and the land where their grandparents used to harvest. This hard-to-believe reality is conveyed through a poetic tone to the narration.
3. *Coretta Scott* by Ntozake Shange, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Walking many miles to school in the dusty road, young Coretta knew, too well, the unfairness of life in the segregated south. A yearning for equality began to grow. Together with Martin Luther King, Jr., she gave birth to a vision and a journey -- with dreams of freedom for all. This extraordinary union of poetic text by Ntozake Shange and monumental artwork by Kadir Nelson captures the movement for civil rights in the United States and honors its most elegant inspiration, Coretta Scott. [PIC BIO SHA]
4. *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson. A heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when scared and alone. This book reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway.
5. *Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History* by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Frederick Douglass was a self-educated enslaved man in the South who grew up to become an icon. He was a leader of the abolitionist movement, a celebrated writer, an esteemed speaker, and a social reformer, proving that, as he said, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

6. *Filipino Friends* by Liana Romulo and Corazon Dandan-Albano. From the author of *Filipino Children's Favorite Stories* comes a book for young children that features a Filipino-American boy visiting the Philippines for the very first time. Each watercolor illustration is labeled with English words and their Filipino translations and shows readers both the similarities and differences between Western and Philippine lifestyles. *Filipino Friends*, perfect for Filipino-American's or those just interested in the culture, is indispensable in bridging the gap between the two cultures.
7. *Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jamey Christoph. His white teacher tells her all-Black class, "You'll all wind up porters and waiters". What did she know? Gordon Parks is most famous for being the first Black director in Hollywood. With his camera in hand, he found a way. Told through lyrical verse and atmospheric art, this is the story of how, with a single photograph, a self-taught artist got America to take notice.
8. *Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills* by Renée Watson. Born to parents who were both former slaves, Florence Mills knew at an early age that she loved to sing, and that her sweet, bird-like voice resonated with those who heard her. Performing catapulted her all the way to the stages of 1920s Broadway where she inspired everyone from songwriters to playwrights. Florence chose to support and promote works by fellow Black performers while heralding a call for their civil rights. *Harlem's Little Blackbird* is a timeless story about justice, equality, and the importance of following one's heart and dreams.
9. *I Am Not A Number* by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland. When Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school, she is confused, frightened and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from despite being told to do otherwise. *I Am Not A Number* is a powerful story of resistance, resilience, family and identity.
10. *The Legendary Miss Lena Horne* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. Celebrate the life of Lena Horne, the pioneering African American actress and civil rights activist, with this inspiring and powerful picture book from award-winning author Carole Boston Weatherford.
11. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters* by Andrea Davis Pinkney. The lives of ten Black women activists are featured in an incredible story about courage in the face of oppression; about the challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights; and about speaking out for what you believe in — even when it feels like no one is listening.
12. *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History 20* by Vashti Harrison. An important book for all ages, *Little Leaders* educates and inspires as it relates true stories of forty trailblazing Black women in American history. Illuminating text paired with irresistible illustrations bring to life both iconic and lesser-known female figures of Black history.
13. *Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X* by Ilyasah Shabazz, illustrated by AG Ford. Malcolm X grew to be one of America's most influential figures. But first, he was a boy named Malcolm Little. Written by his daughter, this inspiring picture book biography celebrates a vision of freedom and justice. Ilyasah Shabazz gives us a unique glimpse into the childhood of her father, Malcolm X, with a lyrical story that carries a message that resonates still today — that we must all strive to live to our highest potential.
14. *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Carole Boston Weatherford depicts Harriet Tubman's initial escape from slavery and her mission to lead others to freedom as divinely inspired, and achieved by steadfast faith and prayer. A foreword introduces the concept of slavery for children and an author's note includes a brief biography of Tubman.

15. *My Hair is a Garden* by Cozbi A. Cabrera. After a day of being taunted by classmates about her unruly hair, Mackenzie can't take any more and she seeks guidance from her wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie. Using the beautiful garden in the backyard as a metaphor, Miss Tillie shows Mackenzie that maintaining healthy hair is not a chore nor is it something to fear. Most importantly, Mackenzie learns that natural Black hair is beautiful.
16. *Pan de Sal Saves the Day: An Award-winning Children's Story from the Philippines* by Norma Olizon-Chikiamco and Mark Salvatus. A heart-warming story of a young Filipino girl who builds self-confidence after spending a day with her classmates. For anyone who has ever felt like an outsider or experienced adversity, *Pan de Sal Saves the Day* teaches children to see the unique qualities in everything and everyone, even themselves.
17. *Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis* by Jabari Asim. John wants to be a preacher when he grows up -- a leader whose words stir hearts to change, minds to think, and bodies to take action. But why wait? This inspirational story includes an author's note about John Lewis, who grew up to be a member of the Freedom Riders; chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; demonstrator on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama; and Georgia congressman, who is still an activist today.
18. *Rosa* by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. Award-winning poet, writer, and activist Nikki Giovanni's evocative text combines with Bryan Collier's striking cut-paper images to retell the story of this historic event from a wholly unique and original perspective.
19. *Ruth and the Green Book* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey, illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Ruth was so excited to take a trip in her family's new car! But she soon found out that Black travelers weren't treated very well in some towns. Daddy was upset about something called Jim Crow laws. Finally, a friendly attendant at a gas station showed Ruth's family *The Green Book*. With this guidebook—and the kindness of strangers—Ruth could finally make a safe journey from Chicago to her grandma's house in Alabama.
20. *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation* by Duncan Tonatiuh. Almost 10 years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. Mendez, an American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage, was denied enrollment to a "whites only" school. Her parents took action by organizing the Latinx community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California. [379.2 TON]
21. *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library* by Carole B. Weatherford. In luminous paintings and arresting poems, two of children's literature's top African-American scholars track Arturo Schomburg's quest to correct history. Where is our historian to give us our side? Arturo asked. Amid the scholars, poets, authors, and artists of the Harlem Renaissance stood an Afro-Puerto Rican named Arturo Schomburg. This law clerk's life's passion was to collect books, letters, music, and art from Africa and the African diaspora and bring to light the achievements of people of African descent through the ages. A century later, his groundbreaking collection, known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, has become a beacon to scholars all over the world. [PIC BIO SCH] [PIC AAC WEA]
22. *Shining Star: The Anna May Wong Story* by Paula Yoo. The true story of Chinese American film star Anna May Wong, whose trail-blazing career in Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s broke new ground for future generations of Asian American actors.
23. *Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride* by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Born into slavery, Belle had to endure the cruelty of several masters before she escaped to freedom. But she knew she wouldn't really be free unless she was helping to end injustice. That's when she changed her

name to Sojourner and began traveling across the country, demanding equal rights for Black people and for women. Many people weren't ready for her message, but Sojourner was brave, and her truth was powerful.

24. *Something Happened in Our Town* by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin. This story follows two families — one white, one Black — as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives. Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with guidelines for discussing race and racism with children, child-friendly definitions, and sample dialogues.
25. *That's Not Fair! Emma Tenayuca's Struggle for Justice* by Carmen Tafolla and Sharyll Tenayuca, illustrated by Terry Ybáñez. A vivid depiction of the early injustices encountered by a young Mexican-American girl in San Antonio in the 1920's. Through astute perception, caring, and personal action, Emma begins to get involved, and eventually, at the age of 21, leads 12,000 workers in the first significant historical action in the Mexican-American struggle for justice.
26. *Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army* by Art Coulson. In the autumn of 1912, the football team from Carlisle Indian Industrial School took the field at the U.S. Military Academy, home to the better-equipped West Points Cadets. For lightning-fast Jim Thorpe and the other Carlisle players, that day's game was about skill, strategy, and determination. Known for unusual formations and innovative plays, the Carlisle squad was out to prove just one thing—that it was the best football team in all the land.
27. *Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!:* by Jody Nyasha Warner and Richard Rudnicki. In 1946, Viola Desmond bought a movie ticket at the Roseland Theatre in Nova Scotia. After settling into a main floor seat, an usher came by and told her to move, because her ticket was only good for the balcony. She offered to pay the difference in price but was refused: "You people have to sit in the upstairs section." Viola refused to move. She was hauled off to jail, but her actions gave strength and inspiration to Canada's Black community.
28. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes. Despite fierce prejudice and abuse, even being beaten to within an inch of her life, Fannie Lou Hamer was a champion of civil rights from the 1950s until her death in 1977. Voice of Freedom celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer's life and legacy with a message of hope, determination, and strength.
29. *We Are Grateful, Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac. The Cherokee community is grateful for the blessings and challenges that each season brings. This is modern Native American life as told by an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences.
30. *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade. Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all . . . When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. [PIC LIN]
31. *When We Were Alone* by David A. Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett. When a young girl helps tend to her grandmother's garden, she begins to notice things that make her curious. Why does her grandmother have long braided hair and beautifully colored clothing? Why does she speak another language and spend so much time with her family? *When We Were Alone* is a story about a difficult time in history and, ultimately, one of resilience, empowerment and strength.
32. *When I Was Eight* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard. Olemaun is eight and knows a lot of things. But she does not know how to read. Ignoring her father's warnings, she travels far from her Arctic home to the outsiders' school to

learn. Young readers can meet this remarkable girl who reminds us what power we hold when we can read.

33. *The Whispering Town* by Jennifer Elvgren. The dramatic story of neighbors in a small Danish fishing village who, during the Holocaust, shelter a Jewish family waiting to be ferried to safety in Sweden. Worried about their safety, Anett devises a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story.
34. *The White Nights of Ramadan* by Maha Addasi and Ned Gannon. Mid-Ramadan is a special time for families in the Arabian (Persian) Gulf. When Noor sees the full moon rising, signaling the coming of Girgian, she and her brothers prepare for the fun. Together, they decorate the bags they'll carry to collect the candies. But along with the fun, Noor remembers the true meaning of Ramadan: spending time with family and sharing with those less fortunate.

I Can-Read/Ready-to-Read Series

While there are many worthy reads in this genre featuring books children will want (and perhaps need) to read multiple times, choices below tend toward more traditional illustration and a gentler narrative voice. As you make your selections, try to avoid cartoon-like formats that sometimes over-simplify the beauty of nature or caricature the human form.

1. *Amelia Bedelia Series* by Peggy Parish [ER PAR]
2. *Arthur Series* by Lillian Hoban [ER HOB]
3. *Cork and Fuzz: Short and Tall* by Dori Carconas
4. *Frog and Toad, Grasshopper, Mouse Tales, and Uncle Elephant Series* by Anita Lobel [ER LOB]
5. *Frances Series* by Russell Hoban [ER HOB]
6. *Houndsley and Catina Series* by James Howe [ER HOW]
7. *Iris and Walter Series* by Elissa Guest [ER GUE]
8. *Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same* by Grace Lin
9. *Little Bear Series* by Else Minarek [ER MIN]
10. *Mouse and Mole Series* by Wong Herbert Yee [ER YEE]
11. *Mr. Putter Series* by Cynthia Rylant (also *Henry and Mudge*) [ER RYL]
12. *Nate the Great Spy Series* by Marjorie Sharmat [yFIC SHA]
13. *Park Pals Adventures* by Johanna Hurwitz

Early Chapter Books: Family and Friends (under 125 pages)

1. *Anna, Grandpa, and the Big Storm* by Carla Stephens, 1998, (pp.63). Anna's grandfather doesn't take to city life until he can show his country skills navigating a city storm.
2. *Anna Hibiscus* by Atinuke (2007). A little girl, whose mother is from Canada and father from Africa, lives with a large, supportive family in a loving compound "where the trees are full of sweet juicy fruit" and where in this hot distant place she wishes one day to experience snow and meet her Canadian family. Part of a series. [Y ATI]
3. *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* by Alice Dalgliesh, 1952, (64 pp.). When Jonathan's mother says that only her sister's pot will do for the preparation of a family dinner for 20, he must leave his farm chores to retrieve the pot, trusting he will meet no bears on the way.....Also read *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by the same author. [yFIC DAL]
4. *Bird Boy* by Elizabeth Starr Hill, 1999, (64 pp.). Born mute, Chang longs to train a cormorant to catch fish from his houseboat on the Li River in China. A bullying neighbor and brother of his best friend, however, plays a trick and Chang must think of a solution.

5. *Crow Boy* by Taro Yashima, 1955, (40 pp.). A shy mountain boy in Japan leaves his home each morning to go to the village school; on the way, he learns the calls of the crows. **[EAC PIC YAS]**
6. *Donovan's Word Jar* by Andrew Clements, 1994, (80 pp.). When the jar Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he discovers a special means of giving his words away and receiving something wonderful in return.
7. *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World* by Mildred Pitts Walter, 144 pp., (1986). Justin would prefer sports to doing chores, but when he stays with his cowboy grandfather, he learns men, too, must cook and clean. Thoughtful references to this country's African-American pioneers and cowboys give this younger novel a rich historical backdrop.
8. *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen, 1983, (32 pp.). Molly, a Jewish girl from Russia, brings a pilgrim doll to school for Thanksgiving in her new country and finds her classmates have a very different view of what a pilgrim doll should look like. **[yFIC COH]**
9. *My Happy Life* by Rose Lagercrantz (2013—134 pp.). Episodes in the life of a young optimist, who is determined that every moment of the day—even a not so good moment—has its silver lining.
10. *The Skirt* by Gary Soto, 1994, (80 pp.). Bringing her mother's folklorico skirt to school, Miatta accidentally leaves it on the bus and must find it before the class performance. **[yFIC SOT]**

Early Chapter Books: Fantasy (under 125 pages)

1. *The Cat Who Went to Heaven* by Elizabeth Coatsworth, 1930, (96 pp.) A white cat, thought to bring luck to a gifted painter, turns out to bring him ill until Buddha intervenes and a happy ending is made possible for all. **[yFIC COA]**
2. *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Catling, 1952, (128 pp.). What would happen when young John receives Midas's touch, but with a twist children might even enjoy more—for a while, perhaps. **[JFIC CAT]**
3. *The Dragonling* by Jackie Koller, 1990, (64 pp.). When a boy, Darek, finds the men and older boys of the village return with a Great Blue Dragon, he discovers a baby in the mother's pouch and changes from a hunter of dragons to one who wishes to protect them. Part of a series.
4. *The Gingerbread Rabbit* by Randall Jarrell, 1964, (64 pp.). When a mother bakes a large gingerbread rabbit to give to her daughter, the rabbit jumps out into the forest, much to the mother's surprise. The rabbit is in for a surprise, too, when he visits some crafty foxes in this story that ends well for all. **[Y JAR]**
5. *The Gold-Threaded Dress* by Carolyn Marsden, 2002, (80 pp.). New to America, Oy (called Olivia by her teacher) wishes to make friends quickly and finds a way when she secretly brings her silk Thai dancing dress to school. **[JFIC MAR]**
6. *The Invisible Dog* by Dick King-Smith, 1993, (80 pp.). A young girl, whose parents are not able to afford a dog, must muster an imaginary Great Dane, Henry, to prove she can handle the job. Mystery of mysteries and a bit of luck: a dog miraculously appears. Also read *Princess Lollipop* and *A Mouse Called Wolf* by the same author. **[yFIC KIN]**
7. *The King's Equal* by Katherine Paterson, 1992, (64 pp.). To wear the crown, an arrogant prince must find an equal in his bride and stumbles upon one more perfect than he.
8. *The Little Leftover Witch* by FlorenceLaughlin, 1960, (111 pp.). When Felina is left behind by her witch mother, she must adjust to life with a very sweet girl, Lucinda, who becomes her "sister", and also make an effort to blend in with the mother and father of the Doon family. **[yFIC PAT]**
9. *Many Moons* by James Thurber with illustrations by Louis Slobodkin, 1973, (48 pp.). When Princess Lenore becomes ill from eating too many raspberry tarts, she believes that possessing the moon is the only thing that will cure her. **[J THU]**

10. *The Real Thief* by William Steig, 1973, (64 pp.). When Gawain the Goose is unjustly accused of stealing from his king, the real culprit is bitten by a guilty conscience. **[yFIC STE]**
11. *The White Stallion* by Elizabeth Shub, 1982, (62 pp.). When a girl falls asleep on the back of an old mare on a trip across the country, she wakes up in a herd of wild horses.

Early Chapter Books: Animals (under 125 pages)

1. *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (112 pp). The legendary tale of a sled dog, not necessarily the fastest, who leads a dog team on a medicine delivery to a remote Alaskan town where children are suffering from diphtheria.
2. *Chester Cricket's Pigeon Ride* by George Selden (illustrated by Garth Williams) (64 pp.). When Chester of Times Square begins to miss the country, a pigeon takes him on a restorative flight.
3. *Duck for Day* by Meg McKinlay (89 pp.). Two children vie for the privilege of taking the class duck home for an overnight, but they must prove to their very picky teacher and duck they deserve this great honor. **[yFIC MCK]**
4. *Jacob Two-Two and the Dinosaur* by Mordecai Richler (about 65 pp.). When eight-year-old Jacob Two-Two (who always says things twice) receives a tiny lizard from parents returning from Kenya, Dippy surprises all by turning into a dinosaur (part of a series).
5. *Lady Lollipop* by Dick King-Smith (125 pp). A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a very spoiled princess. Also read the sequel. **[yFIC KIN]**
6. *The School for Cats* (and others in this series: *Jenny Goes to Sea*, *Jenny's Moonlight Adventure*, *The Hotel Cat*) by Esther Averill; reissued by the New York Children's Collection, this series celebrates the life of a black cat facing obstacles while traveling and at home in New York City.
7. *Sophie's Snail* by Dick King-Smith (96 pp.). The friendship between a young girl and the first pet she has: an obliging snail, who inspires her to create and possibly acquire her first farm (also read *Sophie's Lucky* and other books in this series). **[yFIC KIN]**
8. *White Fur Flying* by Patricia MacLaughlin (112 pp.). Rescue dogs and one rescue parrot help a 9-year-old boy, who refuses to speak, socialize once again with friends and family in a rural Maine setting. **[yFIC MAC]**
9. *The Year of the Panda* by Miriam Schlein (82 pp.). A Chinese boy rescues a tiny baby panda and learns what the government is doing to save this endangered species. **[EAC jFIC SCH]**

Early Chapter-Book Series (under 125 pages)

1. *Akimbo Series* by Alexander McCall Smith (80 pp.). A young boy lives on a game preserve in Africa and helps his father through various adventures. **[J MCC]**
2. *Absolutely Lucy Series* by Ilene Cooper (80 pp.). When a young boy, who is quite shy, receives a puppy, the dog—who loves to make friends—introduces him to many in her irrepressible urge for adventure.
3. *BallPark Mysteries: The San Francisco Splash* by David A. Kelly, 2013, (103 pages). While they are kayaking outside the San Francisco Giants' ballpark, Mike and Kate rescue an old ballplayer who has fallen overboard and discover his World Series ring is missing. **[Y KEL]** Others in the series too.
4. *Cam Jansen Series* by David Adler (65 pp.). This spunky girl is an intrepid solver of mysteries, from buried treasure to dinosaur bones. **[yFIC ADL]**
5. *Catwings* by Ursula LeGuin (around 50 pp.). Mrs. Jane Tabby can't explain why her four precious kittens were born with wings, but when it's time for them to go out on their own, their flying skills take them away from dangerous city slums. **[yFIC LEG]**
6. *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker (125 pp.). In the latest 2013 release (Book 6), wry and observant third-grader Clementine goes on a school field trip to the "Plimouth" Plantation,

giving careful consideration to everything from how the bus smells to what fourth graders eat. **[yFIC PEN]**

7. *Cobble Street Cousins* by Cynthia Rylant (80 pp.). Three cousins—one who wants to be a poet, another a Broadway star, and the third a homemaker living in a cottage with flowers by the door—find friendship and adventure in spite of their different interests. **[yFIC RYL]**
8. *Daisy Dawson* by Steve Voake (100 pp.). One day when Daisy is late for school, an encounter with a butterfly leaves her suddenly able to communicate with animals, which proves particularly handy when she loses her best friend, Boom, to the pound. **[yFIC VOA]**
9. *Encyclopedia Brown Series* by Donald Sobol (96 pp.). Famed series about a boy detective who likes to solve brain-teasing mysteries. **[yFIC SOB]**
10. *Flat Stanley Series* by Jeff Brown (100 pp.). When Stanley Lambchop is sleeping, a bulletin board falls on him, making him a half-inch thick; it is fun sliding under doors and being mailed to friends' houses, but eventually seems better to be like everyone else. **[yFIC BRO]**
11. *Jake Drake Series* by Andrew Clements (75 pp.). A boisterous second grader explores the positive and negative consequences of being the class clown, being a bully-buster, and being the teacher's pet. Humorous takes on real-life classroom issues.
12. *The Lighthouse Series* by Cynthia Rylant (64 pp.). Animals washed ashore on an island—a whale, a turtle, an eagle, a dog—learn to live together happily in their new setting. **[Y RYL]**
13. *The Littles* by John Peterson (80 pp.). Tiny people in a big-people world rise to the occasion in every challenging episode. **[Fic]**
14. *McBroom's Wonderful One-Acre Farm* by Sid Fleischman, 1972, (64 pp.). When Josh McBroom discovers the 80 acres he purchased are actually 80 acres piled one on top of the other at the bottom of a pond, he believes he's been tricked until he discovers the fertile soil can grow just about anything, from seeds growing overnight into full-grown plants and nickels growing into quarters. **[yFIC FLE]**
15. *Sophie Mouse* by Poppy Green (115 pp.). A young mouse and her friends—a tree snake, a groundhog, and a frog experience gentle adventures in their neighborhood. **[Y GRE]**

The Classics: Adventure

1. *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton (1953). Unfolds the adventures of a tiny family—Pod, Homily, and Arrietty—who survive by living under the floorboards and borrowing cast-offs from humans. Look for the 50th-anniversary edition featuring sepia-toned illustrations by original illustrator, Diana Stanley. **[JFIC NOR]**
2. *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner (1924). The Alden children begin their independent lives by making a home in an abandoned boxcar—a beautiful story about optimism, loyalty, and resourcefulness. **[Y WAR]**
3. *The Centerburg Tales* by Robert McCloskey (1951). Homer Price returns in this book, solving small-town problems as usual, such as ragweeds growing taller than fire ladders and music that makes an entire town dance with a frenzy. Each story is prefaced by Grandfather Hercules' tall tales.
4. *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* by Ian Fleming (1964). A flying car takes the Pott family on a colorful range of adventures as they try to catch an elusive gang of thieves. **[J FLE]**
5. *Daughter of the Mountains* by Louise Rankin (1948). Momo, who trusts in the sheltering love of Lord Buddha, embarks on a dangerous journey through the mountains of Tibet to see the city of Calcutta and to recover her stolen Lhasa Terrier, Pempa.
6. *The Island of Adventure* by Enid Blyton (1944). Four children—Philip, Dinah, Lucy-Ann, and Jack (along with their pet parrot)—are determined to discover what is going seriously wrong on the

Island of Gloom. Could it have something to do with the copper mines or with the secret tunnels beneath the sea? **[J BLY 1]**

7. *Li Lun, Lad of Courage* by Carolyn Treffinger (1947). A boy, living on an island and afraid of the sea, where his village receives its livelihood, is banished to a mountain, where he battles the elements and loneliness to harvest a small crop from six grains of rice. From this he learns another way to feed his family. **[JFIC TRE]**
8. *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene Du Bois (1947). Famous tale of a retired mathematics teach, who wishes to embark on a year-long journey in a hot-air balloon. **[J DUB]**

Contemporary Fiction: Fantasy, Adventure and Friendship

1. *Aaron Slater and the Sneaky Snake* [part of The Questioners series] by Andrea Beaty (2023). When Zookeeper Fred's green snake Vern gets loose in the zoo, the Questioners need all their talents to help find him, but in the end, it is Aaron's art that leads the way. Includes facts about snakes. **[Y BEA]**
2. *The Adventures of King Midas* by Lynne Reid Banks (1976). A retelling of the famous legend, but as an expanded fantasy for boys and girls.
3. *Gwinna* by Helen Berger. Having grown wings and felt the longing for the freedom of the skies, Gwinna goes to the Mother of the Owls, who sends her on a mysterious quest. **[PIC 398.2 BER]**
4. *The Magician's Boy* by Susan Cooper (2005). A boy who works for a Magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transplanted to the Land of Story in search of a missing puppet. **[Y COO]**
5. *The Ordinary Princess* by M.M. Kaye (1980). At her christening, a princess is given the gift of "ordinariness" by a fairy, which leads her to the job of 14th assistant kitchen maid. Still, a prince seems to be in her future.
6. *The Secrets of Eastcliffe-by-the-Sea* by Eileen Beha (2014). In a tale about Annaliese Easterling and her loyal sock monkey, Throckmorton, life begins with Throckmorton abandoned and forgotten in a pile of stuffed toys. But when Great Grandmama Easterling requires a sock monkey reunion on her 90th birthday, Annaliese renews contact with her forgotten toy. **[JFIC BEH]**
7. *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo. Despereaux Tilling—a mouse in love with music, stories and a Princess named Pea—must battle a fierce rat to assist a simple servant girl, Miggery Sow, in her wish to gain royal status. **[JFIC DIC]**
8. *When the Sea Turned to Silver* by (2017). This breathtaking, full-color illustrated fantasy is inspired by Chinese folklore, and is a companion to the Newbery Honor winner *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. **[JFIC LIN]**
9. *Wishworks Inc.* by Stephanie Tolan (2009). When third-grader Max is granted his hope for a dog from Wishworks, he is frustrated that the new arrival doesn't appear to match the dog he had imagined. **[JFIC TOL]**
10. *Tumtum and Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall* by Emily Bearn. Comfortable, married mice, Tumtum and Nutmeg, secretly try to help a brother and sister living in a tumbledown cottage with their kind, but absent-minded father. **[Y BEA]**

Time to Laugh

1. *Freckle Face* by Judy Blume. When Andrew Marcus longs for freckles, he resorts to paying for a secret potion concocted by a calculating classmate.

2. *Gooney Bird Greene Series* by Lois Lowry (2002). A unique child at Watertown Elementary School, Gooney Bird loves telling stories with wonderful word play and plot twists; Gooney Bird, herself, is a delightfully complex, eccentric, and confident character. **[Y LOW]**
3. *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary (1950). When Henry adopts a dog of no particular breed, many humorous adventures abound. **[J CLE]**
4. *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Anne Rockwell (1973). What if you made a bet that you could eat 15 worms in 15 days—what methods would you use to get those squiggly things down?
5. *Making Mistakes on Purpose* by Elise Primavera (2017). The charming sequel to Ms. Rapscott's Girls. Children of busy parents attend a whimsical school where they go on magical adventures. For fans of Mary Poppins and The Mysterious Benedict Society. **[JFIC PRI]**
6. *Marvin Redpost Series* by Louis Sachar (1992). Nine-year-old Marvin, who has bright red hair, is certain he doesn't look like the rest of his family because he is actually the long-lost King of Shampoo. Many humorous school-day moments in this fun series. **[yFIC SAC]**
7. *Minnie and Moo: Hooves of Fire* by Denys Cazet (2014). A ridiculous romp centered around the First Annual Hoot, Holler, and Moo Talent Festival, has these two famous cows overseeing a judging event based on "whim." Entries include hyenas telling jokes, a fox playing magic tricks, sheep reciting poetry, and a rooster playing bagpipes.
8. *George and Martha Tales* by James Marshall (1970s). This anthology chronicles the supportive friendship between two hippos through their various spoofs and mishaps. **[ER MAR]**

Stories of Family Life

1. *All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor (1951) Recounts the adventures of five young sisters—Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie—living on Manhattan's Lower East Side at the beginning of the 20th century. **[J TAY]**
2. *Betsy-Tacy Series* by Maude Lovelace (1940). Friendship begins with two girls, then expands to include three; children who really like this also enjoy the more contemporary *The Cobble Street Cousins* by Cynthia Rylant. **[yFIC LOV]**
3. *The Five Little Peppers and How they Grew* by Margaret Sidney (1881). Living without their father, a close-knit Massachusetts family survives on optimism and the frugal earnings of the mother, who takes in tailoring. Part of a series. **[F SID]**
4. *The Cottage at Bantry Bay* by Hilary Von Stockum (1938). Story—part of a series—of the O'Sullivan family in County Cork, Ireland; part of a series. **[J VAN]**
5. *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri, 1984. A Swiss orphan is heartbroken when she must leave her beloved grandfather and their happy home in the mountains to go to school and to care for a girl in the city. **[J SPY]**
6. *The Secret Garden* (1911), *A Little Princess* (1905), and *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) by Frances Hodgson Burnett; from the many beautiful editions of these fine works, look for ones illustrated by Tasha Tudor, Lucy Corvino, or Inga Moore. **[JFIC BUR]**
7. *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers (1934). The famous story of a British governess, practically perfect in every way, who creates havoc and transformation on Cherry Tree Lane (part of a series and filled with humor). **[JFIC TRA]**
8. *The Moffats* by Eleanor Estes (1941). The adventures and misadventures of the four Moffat children and their widowed mother, struggling to make ends meet in their yellow house on New Dollar Street at the turn of the last century. Other books by this author include *Ginger Pye*, *Pinky Pye*, and *Rufus*. **[JFIC EST]**
9. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* by Kate Wiggin with new illustrations by Barbara McKlintock (1903). Homespun tale of a high-spirited, 10-year-old girl being raised by her two mannered

aunts on a Maine farm. The author of this book helped establish the first “free” kindergarten west of the Rockies—in San Francisco, actually.

10. *The Secret Language* by Harper/Collins famed children’s book editor, Ursula Nordstrom (1960). Off to boarding school at a young age, a girl finds her way into lasting friendships through a secret language.
11. *The Year of the Book* by Andrea Cheng (2012) Follows a young Chinese American girl, as she navigates relationships with family, friends, and her fourth-grade classroom, and finds a true best friend. Also read *The Year of the Baby* and others in the series. [J CHE]
12. *Ways to Make Sunshine* by Renee Watson (2020) The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones. [J WAT]

The Classics: Animals Finding Their Way

1. *Along Came a Dog* by Meindert DeJong (1958). A friendless little red hen receives the protection of a homeless dog in this book that relates interesting details about chickens and also dogs. Better as a read-aloud for children who might be sensitive to animals suffering—all comes out well in the end.
2. *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond (1960). Look for the beautiful new hardcover Edition of this work about a stuffed bear from the darkest Peru, who ends up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown after having been discovered in Paddington Station. [J BON]
3. *Higglety, Pigglety, Pop!: Or, There Must be More to Life* by Maurice Sendak (1967). Jenny, a Sealyham terrier, leaves the comfort of her home to see if there is more to life and ends up as the lead performer in the World Mother Goose Theater.
4. *Lassie* by Eric Knight (1938). The inspiring tale of a boy and his beloved collie, who braves a thousand miles to escape from Scotland to reunite with his owner. [J KNI] Look for the unabridged version or the shortened tale retold by Rosemary Wells. [PIC WEL]
5. *Rabbit Hill* by Robert Lawson (1944). New folks are coming to live in the Big House and animal inhabitants wonder if they will plant a fertile garden and be good providers.
6. *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry (1947). A pony from an island off the coast of Virginia lived with the author as she researched the valuable horses of this tale, believed to be descendants of those on an old Spanish ship that was lost at sea. [JFIC HEN]
7. *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary (1965). Ralph isn’t like the timid mice at the Mountain View Inn; he is always looking for adventure—and finds it with a boy and a toy motorcycle (also read *Runaway Ralph* and *Ralph S. Mouse*). [J CLE]
8. *The Otter Who Wanted to Know, The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up*. [yFIC TOM]
9. *Pinkie Pye* by Eleanor Estes (1958). Traveling with their father to study birds on Fire Island, the Pye children discover a very angry black cat on their doorstep and invite him into their family. Also read Newbery-winning *Ginger Pye*, a dog story by the same author, writer of the *Moffats*.
10. *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* by Richard Atwater (1938). An unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper. [JFIC ATW]
11. *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame and illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard (1908). Tale of fast friends—Rat, Mole, Toad and Badger—whose magical exploits have entertained children for over 100 years. Other fine illustrators of this work include Michael Hague, Inga Moore, and Patrick Benson. [J GRA]

The Classics: Fantasy

1. *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett (1948). A young boy is determined to save a baby dragon, who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across a river on Wild Island—part of a trilogy. **[yFIC GAN]**
2. *Finn Family Moomintroll Series* by Tove Jansson (1958). Published originally in Finland, this series recounts the adventures of beasts in the Moomin Valley. **[yFIC JAN]**
3. *Five Children and It* by E. Nesbit (1902) (look for versions illustrated by H.R. Miller or Paul Zelinsky). When four children, digging to Australia, discover a grumpy Psammead, or sand fairy, in the gravel pit of the house where they are staying, they look to a future of wish-making. Also read *The Railway Children* and *The Phoenix and the Carpet*.
4. *Half Magic* by Edward Eager, with illustrations by Quentin Blake (1951). Magic can be tricky if you are only granted half your wish—what might that look like, let's say, if you wanted to be invisible? Also read other books in this series. **[jFIC EAG]**
5. *James and the Giant Peach* by Raold Dahl (1961). A mistreated boy and a group of overgrown garden insects inhabit a peach the size of a house, which travels with them. **[jFIC DAH]**
6. *The Light Princess* by George MacDonald and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Tongue-in-cheek tale of a young princess who “having lost her gravity,” explores through a playful dream-world the predicaments of levity. Also read *The Princess and the Goblin* (1872).
7. *Miss Hickory* by Carolyn Bailey (1946). Made of apple-wood twigs and a hickory nut, this indomitable doll must survive a harsh New England winter with the help of some local animal friends. (Better as a read-aloud, since this stubborn little doll's hickory nut head is accidentally eaten—but all ends well.) **[yFIC BAI]**
8. *Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren (1945). Part of series recording the adventures of a young girl and her very ordinary neighbors. **[yFIC LIN]**
9. *The Reluctant Dragon* by Kenneth Grahame (1938). The boy who finds the dragon in the cave knows it is a kindly one, but how can he persuade the frightened villagers, particularly St. George, that there is no cause for concern? **[PIC GRA]**
10. *The Search for Delicious* by Natalie Babbit (1969). How do wars begin? Often with something small. In one kingdom, people argue over the true meaning of the word “delicious.” The air of a folk tale, a morality tale, told in the perfect voice for a young audience. Also read *Kneeknock Rise* by the same author. **[jFIC BAB]**
11. *The Wind Boy* by Ethel C. Eliot (1923). Gentian and Kay, ages 8 and 9, and their mother have been separated from their father by the reality of war; with the arrival of a servant girl, Detra, from the mountains, the children are introduced to the Clear Land and the Wind Boy. **[J ELI]**
12. *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet* by Eleanor Cameron (1988). A mysterious man invites a boy to build a space ship and travel to Basidium to help the Mushroom people (part of a series including *Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet*).

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