

The 2024-2025

BUILDING READERS®

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

Once Upon a Book by Grace Lin and Kate Messner (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Alice is swept up into the pages of a story in an enthralling tale about the power of books. Readers' imaginations will soar with this lively illustrated picture book. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir by Pedro Martín (Dial Books). In this award-winning memoir, Pedro sets out on a family road trip to Mexico to pick up his grandpa. Follow the adventure as Pedro discovers the value of belonging to two cultures. (*graphic novel, upper elementary*)

Cicada Symphony by Sue Fliess (Albert Whitman & Company). Learn about the fascinating life cycle of the cicada in this informative, award-winning book. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Elf Dog and Owl Head by M. T. Anderson (Candlewick). This is the heartwarming story of a young boy named Clay and his magical dog. Clay yearns for a bit of adventure in the midst of a pandemic and discovers a supernatural world. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Elena Rides by Juana Medina (Candlewick). In this story of determination and courage, Elena the elephant never gives up and masters the art of riding a bicycle. Young readers will enjoy the inspiring story and repetition of words and sounds. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

A Whale of a Time: Funny Poems for Each Day of the Year selected by Lou Peacock (Nosy Crow). A fantastic collection of kid-friendly poems—enough to read a poem a day all year long. Kids will love the dynamic artwork. (*poetry, upper elementary*)

What a Map Can Do by Gabrielle Balkan (Rise x Penguin Workshop). Get a fun introduction to maps with this revealing picture book that explores all different types of maps and their uses.

The silly raccoon narrator keeps children engaged. (*non-fiction, lower elementary*)

Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt (Scholastic Press). Selah struggles to follow her self-made rules for being “normal”—and learns it is OK to be different and advocate for her needs. This book offers insight into what it feels like to be on the autism spectrum. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Little Rosetta and the Talking Guitar by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow (Doubleday Books). This picture-book biography tells the story of Sister Rosetta

Tharpe, the woman who invented rock and roll. (*biography, lower elementary*)

The Worlds We Leave Behind by A.F. Harrold (Bloomsbury Children's Books). In this creepy tale, Hex feels he is unfairly blamed for accidentally injuring a young girl. Then, a mysterious old woman offers him a deal to alter the world. (*fiction, upper elementary*)



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Animals in Pants by Suzy Levinson (Harry N. Abrams). Looking for a laugh-out-loud picture book? Readers of all ages are sure to get a chuckle out of this award-winning illustrated collection of poems that feature animals wearing various styles of pants in silly ways. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

Santiago!: Santiago Ramón y Cajal!—Artist, Scientist, Troublemaker by Jay Hosler (Margaret Ferguson Books). Santiago wants to pursue art, but his father insists he go to medical school. Learn how Santiago combines artistic skills with research skills to win the Nobel Prize for medicine! (*biography, upper elementary*)

The Perfect Place by Matt de la Peña (G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers). Home life for Lucas isn’t perfect. But this moving picture book shows how even in a simple home and with a family that might not have a lot of money, there’s still plenty of love and beauty to be found. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Buzzing by Samuel Sattin (Little, Brown Ink). Isaac struggles with OCD, friendships and family relationships in this heartwarming graphic novel about mental health challenges and the healing power of friends and creativity. (*graphic novel, upper elementary*)

Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path by Amy Seto Forrester (Chronicle Books). This interactive pick-your-path adventure for emerging readers shows how exciting science can be! Get ready for adventure as you search the ocean’s twilight zone for a giant squid. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Lasagna Means I Love You by Kate O’Shaughnessy (Knopf Books for Young Readers). When Moe finds herself in foster care, she researches old family recipes and uncovers the necessary ingredients that make a family. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky by Nana Ekua

Brew-Hammond (Knopf Books for Young Readers). Discover the rich history of the color blue in this intriguing picture book with stunning illustrations. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by Beth Lincoln (Dutton Books for Young Readers). In this mystery set in a British country house, Shenanigan Swift has to figure out who committed a murder during a family reunion. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

The Dream Train: Poems for Bedtime by Sean Taylor (Candlewick). Get ready to

snuggle up with this illustrated collection of thirty bedtime poems. It is the perfect evening read-aloud to help youngsters drift off to sleep. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity by Nicholas Day (Random House Studio). This gripping narrative recounts the 1911 theft of the Mona Lisa. Learn about the events of the heist, the innovative investigation and the tale of the painting’s recovery. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

