

“DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD BOOK SUGGESTIONS?” As librarians, we get this question a lot . . . and we never know quite where to begin. We could talk about books all day! Therefore, our goal with this list is to lead you to ***great books and authors you might not encounter elsewhere.*** None of these books are specifically in our TCA curriculum, used in TCA book clubs, etc.--yet they are wonderful stories we are confident your family will enjoy. Other than the board books, all of the titles below are available on our library shelves. The grade levels listed are loose guidelines, not hard-and-fast rules. Remember, too, that one is never too “big” for a good picture book. Please browse and enjoy!

~ Your TCA Elementary Librarians

SUGGESTED PICTURE BOOKS FOR . . .

TODDLERS (BOARD BOOKS):

That’s Not My Truck/Dog/etc. series- by Fiona Watt (touchy-feely books—Usborne Publishing)

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Jamberry by Bruce Degen

Polite Elephant by Richard Scarry

Hug Machine by Scott Campbell

PRE-SCHOOLERS:

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh

My Heart Is Like a Zoo by Michael Hall

Color Zoo, Color Farm, and others by Lois Ehlert

The Nice Book by David Ezra Stein

KINDERGARTENERS:

If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson

Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing by Judi Barrett

Your Hand in My Hand by Mark Sperring

Not a Box and Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis

Sometimes You Get What You Want by Meredith Gary

FIRST & SECOND GRADERS:

The Man with the Violin by Kathy Stinson

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

The Teddy Bear by David McPhail

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

Shadow Chasers by Elly Mackay

THIRD GRADE AND UP:

The Grudge Keeper by Mara Rockliff

Ada’s Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood

Yettele’s Feathers by Joan Rothenberg

Steamboat School by Deborah Hopkinson

Magnus at the Fire by Jennifer Armstrong

“Reading to young children, beginning even in early infancy . . . still has an effect four years later when they’re about to begin elementary school.”

*-Dr. Carolyn Cates,
NYU School of
Medicine*

SUGGESTED CHAPTER BOOKS SERIES FOR . . .

1st and 2nd GRADERS:

Nate the Great by Marjorie Sharmat
Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo
Tales of Deckawoo Drive by Kate DiCamillo
Princess in Black by Shannon Hale
Andrew Lost by J.C. Greenburg
Cam Jansen mysteries by David A. Adler
Jigsaw Jones by James Preller
Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka
Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist by Jim Benton
Doyle & Fossey, Science Detectives by Michele Torrey

3rd and 4th GRADERS:

The Secret Zoo by Bryan Chick
Brixton Brothers mysteries by Mac Barnett
Alvin Ho by Lenore Look
Ruby Lu by Lenore Look
Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows
Horse Diaries by various authors
Dog Diaries by Kate Klimo
Animal Ark by Ben M. Baglio
The Buddy Files (dog detective) by Dori Hillestad Butler
The Melendy Quartet by Elizabeth Enright

5th and 6th GRADERS:

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo
The Copernicus Legacy by Tony Abbott
The Squires' Tales by Gerald Morris
The Great Trouble and other historical fiction by Deborah Hopkinson
The Vanderbeekers by Karin Van Glaser
The Perfect Score by Rob Buyea
Savvy by Ingrid Law
The Misadventures of Benjamin Bartholomew Piff by Jason Lethcoe
The Secret of the White Stone Gate by Julia Nobel
Everest, Titanic, Dive, and other adventures by Gordon Korman

THREE TYPES OF DAILY READING:

*** TO** (read to your child)

*** WITH** (read w/ your child)

***BY** (have your child read to you &
assist as necessary)

*-recommended by Dr. Barbara
Swaby, Director: Graduate Reading
Clinic of UCCS*

SUGGESTED LEVELED READERS

“Readers” are books written in a way that specifically supports beginning readers. These books use predictable language patterns, repetition, and high frequency words to help kids grow in reading independence. Unfortunately, different publishers use different leveling systems. Please note that what is deemed a “level two” in one system might actually equate to a “level four” in a different system.

Low—*Biscuit* (puppy) by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Mittens (kitten) by Lola M. Schaefer
Aaron (alligator) by P.D. Eastman
Rocket (dog) by Tad Hills
animal books from DK Publishers—Pre-Level 1

Med.—*Clark the Shark* by Bruce Hale
Pony Scouts by Catherine Hapka
Moby Shinobi by Luke Flowers
Danny and Dinosaur by Syd Hoff
Penny (mouse) by Kevin Henkes

High (short chapters) —*Commander Toad* by Jane Yolen
Bones the Detective by David A. Adler
Minnie & Moo by Denys Cazet
Fluffy the Classroom Guinea Pig by Kate McMullan
Amanda and Oliver Pig by Jean Van Leeuwen

All—levels 1-4 of *National Geographic* readers (great for animal-lovers)

“The statistic most highly correlated to literacy is the number of books present in the home.”

-- Pamela Paul & Maria Russo in
How to Raise a Reader