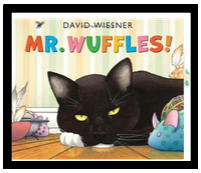
Book Recommendations

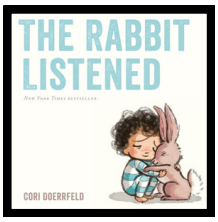
Here are some book recommendations for Pre-K through 5th grade. Reading for 20 minutes each day–or listening to an adult read–benefits every child. Older students may enjoy reading books at a lower level, which is wonderful for building confidence and improving comprehension through repeated readings of familiar texts. If a younger student is interested in more challenging books, try reading a chapter to them each night to help them develop a nightly reading habit. Audiobooks (available for checkout on Sora) are also a fantastic way to introduce more reading, whether at bedtime or any time during the day.

For a bit of fun, here's one of Ms. Ragghianti's favorite books for each grade level!

Pre-Kindergarten Mr. Wuffles by David Wiesner



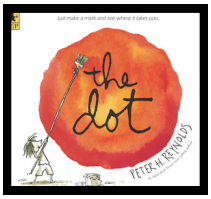
Kindergarten The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld



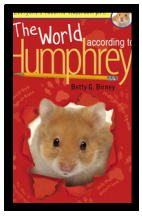
1st grade The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires



2nd grade The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds



3rd grade The World According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney



4th grade Percy Jackson and the Olympians by Rick Riordan



5th grade Pax by Sara Pennypacker

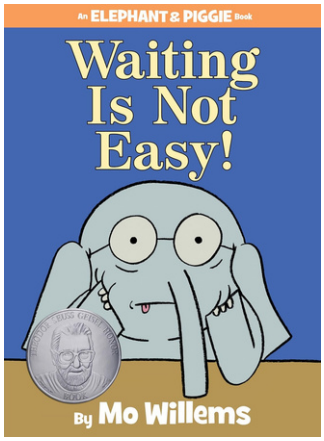


Pre-K and Kindergarten Reading

For Pre-K and Kindergarten, reading is more about story comprehension than independent reading. Classics like Eric Carle books are always a great choice. Students also love Elephant and Piggie and Pigeon books by Mo Willems, as well as Pete the Cat and Biscuit. The most important thing is to make reading fun and part of the daily routine. To build comprehension, ask questions before, during, and after reading:

Before Reading:

- What do you think this book will be about?
- What do you see on the cover?
- What do you think will happen in the story?



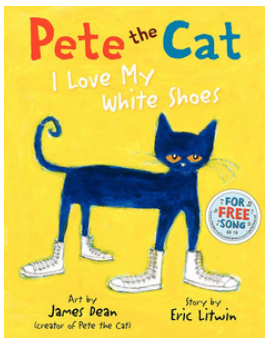
During Reading:

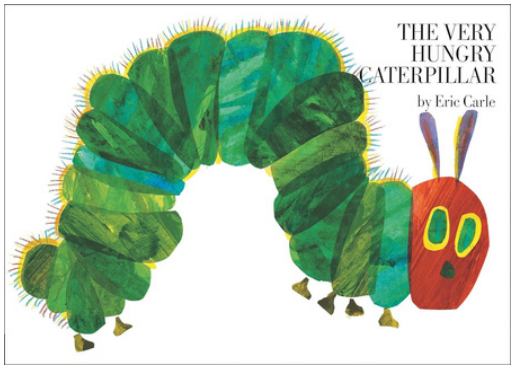
- What is happening now?
- How do you think the character feels?
- What do you think will happen next?

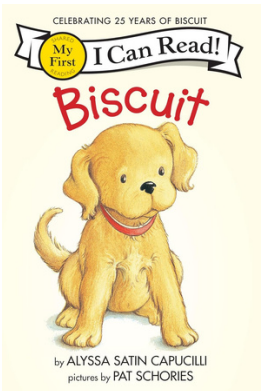
After Reading:

- What was your favorite part?
- Who was your favorite character?
- Can you retell the story in your own words?

What matters most is reading with your child every day, no matter which picture book you choose. Visit your local library and let your child get their own library card—they'll love picking out books that catch their eye! Remember to explore nonfiction too, especially animal books, since many young children enjoy learning about real things. Making reading a daily, enjoyable habit is key.

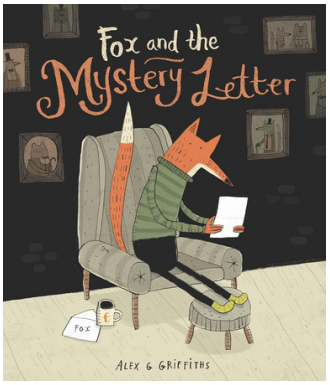






- Bob Books by Lynn Maslen Kertell are great for practice.

Picture Book Recommendations



Here are the current GA Children's Book Awards winners–new picture books that are sure to delight young readers:

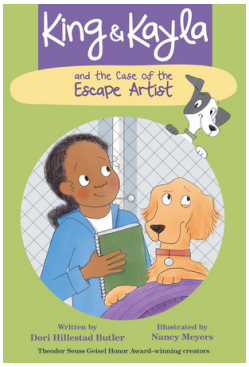
- And Then Came You by Christina Shawn, illustrated by Shahrzad Maydani
- Bats Beneath the Bridge by Janet Nolan, illustrated by Emily Cox
- The Bear Out There by Jess Hannigan
- Before I Lived Here by Stacy S. Jensen, illustrated by Victo Ngai
- The Blue Velvet Chair by Rio Cortez, illustrated by Aaron Marin
- The Boy Who Said Wow by Todd Boss, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh
- Cee Cee: Underground Railroad Cinderella by Shana Keller, illustrated by Laura Freeman
- A Chest Full of Words by Rebecca Gugger & Simon Röthlisberger, translated by Tim Mohr
- Daughter of the Light-Footed People by Belen Medina, illustrated by Natalia Rojas Castro
- Don't Trust Fish by Neil Sharpson, illustrated by Dan Santat
- Fox and the Mystery Letter by Alex G. Griffiths
- The Gabi That Girma Wore by Fasika Adefris & Sara Holly Ackerman, illustrated by Netsanet Tesfay
- Go and Get with Rex by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
- How to Pee Your Pants: The Right Way by Rachel Michelle Wilson
- I am Not Your Hat by Lisa Bentley
- The Man Who Didn't Like Animals by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
- Maybe Just Ask Me! by Katie Mazeika
- My Home is in My Backpack by Eugenia Perrella, illustrated by Angela Salerno
- We Are Definitely Human by X. Fang
- What Lolo Wants by Cristina Oxtra, illustrated by Jamie Bauza



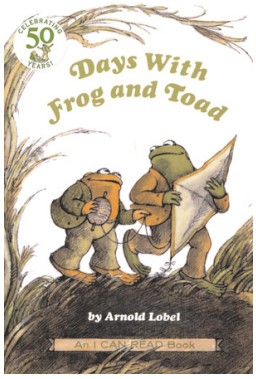
1st and 2nd Grade Reading

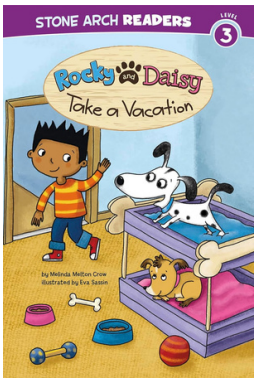
In 1st grade, it's all about practicing to build reading skills and confidence. Step #1 -#3 books on a variety of topics are a great starting point. It's also extremely important to continue reading picture books with your 1st grader–looking at the pictures helps them answer more questions, and being read to can feel less intimidating than always reading alone. Try taking turns reading pages or using "echo reading," where you read a page first and then your child follows along with their finger and rereads the page.

By 2nd grade, students can start exploring short chapter books. Rereading favorite books is wonderful for building confidence and word recognition.









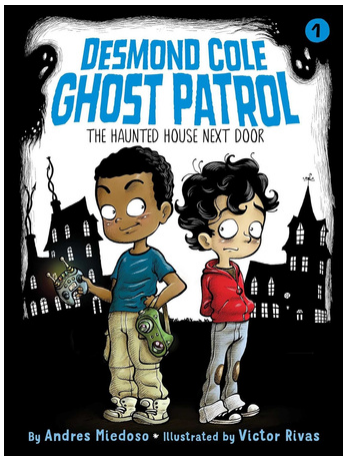
- Putter and Tabby – Cynthia Rylant
- Mercy Watson – Kate DiCamillo
- Annie and Snowball – Cynthia Rylant
- Henry and Mudge – Cynthia Rylant
- Max and Zoe – Shelley Swanson Sateren
- Princess in Black – Shannon Hale & Dean Hale
- Ana and Andrew – Christine Platt
- Sofia Martinez – Jacqueline Jules
- Pedro – Fran Manushkin
- Katie Woo – Fran Manushkin
- Young Cam Jansen – David A. Adler
- Bones Mystery – David A. Adler
- Rocky and Daisy – Melinda Melton Crow
- Libby Wimbley – Amy Cobb
- Frog and Toad – Arnold Lobel
- Meet Yasmin – Saadia Faruqi
- King and Kayla – Dori Hillestad Butler

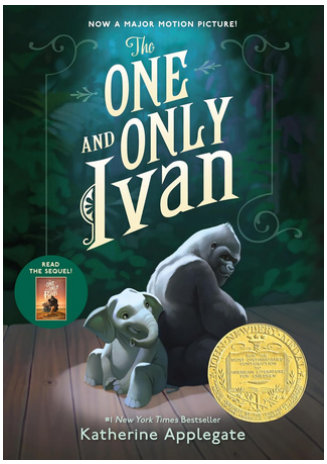
Many 1st and 2nd graders are checking out graphic novels. Graphic novels are similar to comics with lots of pictures on each page, but they're longer and often have more structured stories–not just action scenes. They're great for beginning readers because the images provide helpful clues to support understanding.

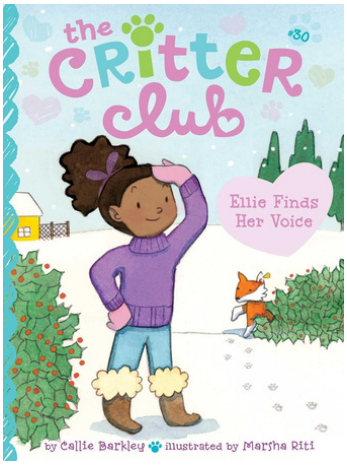
- Dog Man – Dav Pilkey
- The Bad Guys – Aaron Blabey
- Cat Ninja – Matthew Cody
- Phoebe and Her Unicorn – Dana Simpson
- Bird and Squirrel – James Burks
- Baby-Sitters Little Sister – Ann M. Martin & Katy Farina
- Magic Tree House (graphic novel adaptation) – Mary Pope Osborne, Jenny Laird, & Kelly Matthews
- InvestiGATORS – John Patrick Green
- Mr. Wolf's Class – Aron Nels Steinke

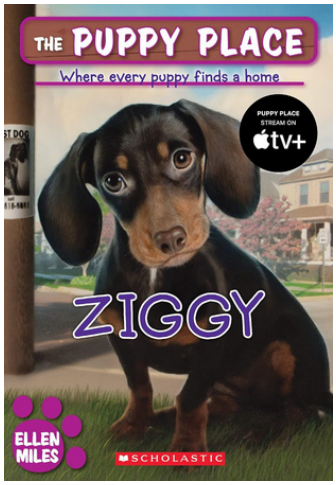
3rd Grade Readers

Reading in 3rd grade is especially important. Most children begin reading chapter books, and their skills can grow tremendously from the start to the end of the year. While many can read independently, reading alongside an adult helps keep them engaged and accountable. This is a great time to share a book series together–consider making it a family book club night! Below are some recommended series, but there are also many wonderful standalone ("singleton") books to enjoy. A simple rule when choosing books at the library: have your child read a page. If they stumble on five or more words, the book may be too challenging right now and they can try another.







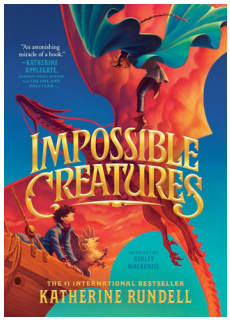


- Dragon Masters – Tracey West
- Shark School – Davy Ocean
- Nate the Great – Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
- Galaxy Zack – Ray O'Ryan
- Magic Tree House – Mary Pope Osborne
- Flat Stanley – Jeff Brown
- I Survived – Lauren Tarshis
- Weird School – Dan Gutman
- Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol – Andres Miedoso
- Mermaid Tales – Debbie Dadey
- Time Warp Trio – Jon Scieszka
- The Last Kids on Earth – Max Brallier
- According to Humphrey – Betty G. Birney
- Zoey and Sassafras – Asia Citro
- Junie B. Jones – Barbara Park
- Critter Club – Callie Barkley
- Cupcake Diaries – Coco Simon
- Ranger in Time – Kate Messner
- Puppy Place – Ellen Miles
- Disaster Squad – Mark Powers
- A-Z Mysteries – Ron Roy
- Ballpark Mysteries – David A. Kelly
- The Buddy Files – Dori Hillestad Butler
- Milo and Jazz Mysteries – Lewis B. Montgomery
- Owl Diaries – Rebecca Elliott
- The Rescue Princesses – Paula Harrison
- Ellie Ultra – Gina Bellisario
- Baby-Sitters Club (graphic novel adaptation) – Ann M. Martin (adapted by Raina Telgemeier and others)
- Geronimo Stilton – Geronimo Stilton (Elisabetta Dami)
- Anything by Katherine Applegate (e.g., The One and Only Ivan)

4th and 5th Grade Readers

For 4th and 5th graders, book recommendations become more about matching their interests. Finding books on topics they enjoy helps keep them engaged and motivated to read.

Here are the current GA Children's Book Awards winners. If a child isn't sure what to read next, these titles are a great place to start:



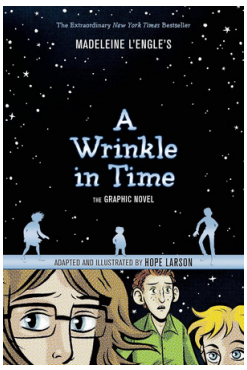


- The AI Incident by J. E. Thomas
- Botticelli's Apprentice by Ursula Murray Husted
- The Creepening of Dogwood House by Eden Royce
- Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell
- Into the Rapids by Ann Braden
- J vs. K by Jerry Craft and Kwame Alexander
- Monster Locker by Jorge Aguirre and Andrés Vera Martínez
- Opal Watson: Private Eye by Brittany J. Thurman
- Spark by Chris Baron
- Teddy vs. The Fuzzy Doom by Braden Hallett

Many 4th and 5th graders are drawn to graphic novels, which are similar to comics with lots of pictures on each page, but they're longer and have more structured stories–not just action. Graphic novels are great for readers because the images provide helpful clues for understanding the story.

For older kids, manga has become very popular. Manga are Japanese comic books or graphic novels, usually read from right to left. They cover a wide range of stories and genres, and many older elementary students love them for their engaging art and unique storytelling style.

Graphic novels and manga are both excellent ways to encourage reading and keep students excited about books!





Some notable books that are very popular:

The Wild Robot (movie out)

Holes (movie out)

Avatar: The Last Airbender (TV series and movies)

A Series of Unfortunate Events (Netflix series)

Percy Jackson Series (Netflix series)

Wings of Fire (both the chapter book and the graphic novels)

Harry Potter (movies out)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid (movies out)

Anything by author Gordon Korman



