TIPS FOR SELECTING AND USING LITERATURE WITH CHILDREN

Families often ask teachers for help with book selections and about the development of reading skills. Many families are looking for a quick method to determine a book's appropriateness for their child's independent reading level. Comprehension checks and ways to enhance oral reading are also key areas of interest. May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family!

• Select books that appeal to your child's interest level.
• Use the five-finger test to help your child select books appropriate for his/her reading level by encouraging your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is probably too difficult for independent reading. Save the book to use at a later time or include it as a read aloud selection.
• Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. Don't overlook chapter books! Primary grade children enjoy them as much as intermediate grade children.
• Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child.
• Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling or friend.
• Use repeated readings with your son or daughter. Allow your child to practice the story as many times as needed for the development of fluency with oral reading.
• Record your child reading a favorite selection. Mail the tape to a distant relative or friend. The recorded story could also become a wonderful addition to a childhood memory box.
• Use echo reading. Read a short passage from a favorite selection and ask your child to reread it matching your fluency and expression.
• Read paragraphs alternately with your child. Provide guide questions for the paragraphs read aloud. Allow your child to ask questions also.
• Help your child summarize a story using these five questions:
  o Who or what is the story about?
  o When or where does the story take place?
  o What happens first?
  o What happens next?
  o How does the story end?
• Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a story. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about it. Ask your child to read it to you.
• Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book.
• Invite your child to recommend three favorite books for you to enjoy!

Prepared by the Families and Reading Committee of the Keystone State Reading Association
GOOD BOOKS TO READ

PRESCHOOL

Classics:
- Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Corduroy by Don Freeman
- Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin
- Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney
- Blueberries for Sal by Robert McCloskey

Newer Picture Books:
- Duck in a Truck by Jez Alborough
- Good Night, Baby Bear by Frank Asch
- When Sophie Gets Angry by Molly Bang
- Who Ate All the Cookie Dough? by Karen Beaumont
- We’re Going on a Lion Hunt by Margery Cuyler
- Cat Secrets by Jef Czekaj
- Llama Llama Misses Momma by Anna Dewdney
- Koala Lou by Mem Fox
- Bedtime for Bear by Brett Helquist
- Kitten’s First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
- Humpty Dumpty Climbs Again by Dave Horowitz
- The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
- The Frogs and Toads All Sang by Arnold Lobel
- The Robot and the Bluebird by David Lucas
- Sort it Out! by Barbara Mariconda
- I Love You Just the Way You Are by Virginia Miller
- Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister
- The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney
- A Penguin Story by Antoinette Portis
- Big Cat, Small Cat by Ami Rubinger
- Beautiful Oops! by Barney Saltzberg
- Truckery Rhymes by Jon Scieszka
- I’m the Biggest Thing in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry
- First the Egg by Laura Stegger
- Rhyming Dust Bunnies by Jan Thomas
- Odd Bird by Leo Timmers
- I Don’t Like Gorilla by Kaye Umansky
- The Mouse that Snored by Bernard Weber
- There Is a Bird on Your Head by Mo Willems
- What Dads Can’t Do by Douglas Wood
- Sleep, Big Bear, Sleep! by Maureen Wright
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? by Jane Yolen

Newer Concept and Nonfiction Books:
- Chicka, Chicka Boom, Boom by John Archambault
- The Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin
Bounce by Doreen Cronin
Moonshot by Brain Floca
Arf! Beg! Catch! Dogs from A to Z by Henry Horenstein
Fish, Swish! Splash, Dash!: Counting Round and Round by Suse MacDonald
Chicka, Chicka 1 2 3 by Bill Martin
A Closer Look by Mary McCarthy
I’m Dirty by Kate McMullen
One by Kathryn Otoshi
Everything to Spend the Night from A to Z by Ann Whitford Paul
Read It, Don’t Eat It! by Ian Schoenherr
Waddle! by Rufus Butler Seeder
Dog by Matthew Van Fleet
Ten Little Fish by Audrey Wood

PRIMARY GRADES K-2

Classics:
The Mitten by Jan Brett
Are You My Mother? by Phillip D. Eastman
Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne
Love You Forever by Robert N. Munsch
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
The Napping House by Audrey Wood

Newer Fiction Books:
Giraffes Can’t Dance by Giles Andreae
There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy by Ted Arnold
Creaky Old House: A Topsy Turvy Tale of a Real Fixer-Upper by Linda Ashman
A Seed is Sleepy by D. Ashton
In a Blue Room by Jim Averbeck
Mirror by Jeannine Baker
Max’s Dragon by Kate Banks
Sally and the Purple Socks by Lisze Bechtold
Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme by Marianne Berks
You Can’t Go to School Naked! by Diane Billstrom
Luke on the Loose by Harry Bliss
Pete & Pickles by Berkeley Breathed
Hedgie Blasts Off by Jan Brett
The Umbrella Queen by Shirin Yim Bridges
The Practically Perfect Pajamas by Erik Brooks
Curious Garden by Peter Brown
Little Beauty by Anthony Browne
Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel
Abe’s Fish: A Boyhood Tale of Abraham Lincoln by Jen Bryant
Shin-chi’s Canoe by Nicola Campbell
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
Kitty Princess and the Newspaper Dress by Emma Carlow and Trevor Dickinson
First Grade, Here I Come by Nancy Carlson
Magda’s Tortillas by Becky Chavarria-Chairez
Magic Box by Katie Cleminson
Willie and the All Stars by Floyd Cooper
Dog Biscuit by Helen Cooper
Where’s My Mummy? by Carolyn Crimi
Titanicat by Marty Crisp
Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type by Doreen Cronin
Bartleby Speaks! by Robin Cruise
Thunder-Boomer! by Shutta Crum
Where Do Balloons Go? by Jamie Lee Curtis
Willy’s Silly Grandma by Cynthia DeFelice
The Girl Who Drew a Phoenix by Demi
Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken by Kate DiCamillo
Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio
No Hugs till Saturday by Julie Downing
Whoo Goes There? by Jennifer Ericsson
Snowball Fight by Jimmy Fallon
Buffalo Music by Tracey Fern
The Sandman by Ralph Fletcher
The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney
Don’t Worry Bear by Greg Foley
Star of the Week: A Story of Love, Adoption, and Brownies with Sprinkles by Darlene Friedman
The Perfect Nest by Catherine Friend
Let’s Do Nothing! by Tony Fucile
Crazy Hair by Neil Gaiman
When Stella Was Very, Very Small by Marie-Louise Gay
The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark by Ken Geist
Minifred Goes to School by Mordicai Gerstein
The Hermit Crab by Carter Goodrich
Spells by Emily Gravett
Ain’t Nobody Stranger Than Me by Ann Grifalconi
Red Truck by Kerstin Hamilton
Maybe a Bear Ate It! by Robie Harris
Most Loved in All the World by Tonya Hegamin
Old Bear by Kevin Henkes
That Book Woman by Heather Henson
Louie by Will Hillenbrand
Katie Loves the Kittens by John Himmelman
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Dogs Night by Meredith Hooper
’Twas the Night before Zoo Day by Catherine Ipcizade
The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers
Twelve Terrible Things by Marty Kelley
Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch by Mona Kirby
Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester
First Dog by J. Patrick Lewis and Beth Zappitello
Bats at the Library by Brian Lies
Ming Lo Loves the Mountain by Arnold Lobel
How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long
Henry the Impatient Heron by Donna Love
Crow Call by Lois Lowry
Lion’s Share by Matthew McElligott
Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day by Kate McMullan
Chippy Chipmunk Parties in the Garden by Kathy Miller
One Hen: How One Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway
Mister Rabbit’s Wish by Colleen Monroe
Stephanie’s Ponytail by Robert Munch
The Orange Shoes by Trinka Hakes Noble
Lousy Rotten Stinkin’ Grapes by Margie Palantini
Amelia Bedelia’s First Day of School by Peggy Parish
Not Afraid of Dogs by S. Pitzer
Pajama Day by Lynn Plourde
Thank You, Miss Doover by Robin Pulver
The Wheat Doll by Alison Randall
Hip Hop Dog by Chris Raschka
Peter and the Wolf by Chris Raschka
Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody by Michael Rex
Chicks and Salsa by Aaron Reynolds
A Kitten Tale by Eric Rohmann
Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld
Little Oink by Amy Rosenthal
Bandit by Karen Rostoker-Gruber
Those Darn Squirrels! by Adam Rubin
All the World by Liz Scanlon
My Corner Grocery Store by Joanne Schwartz
My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss
Sneaky Weasel by Hannah Shaw
I’m the Best Artist in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry
Bus-a-Saurus Bop by Diane Shore
Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors by Joyce Sidman
Little Mouse Gets Ready by Jeff Smith
13 Words by Lemony Snicket
A Walk with Grandpa by Sharon Soloman
Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy by David Somar and Jackie Davis
The Best Story by Eileen Spinelli
The Donut Chef by Bob Staake
The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson
Little Quack by Lauren Thompson
Rosie and Buttercup by Chieri Uegaki
A Isn’t for Fox: An Isn’t Alphabet by Wendy Ulmer
Probudit! by Chris Van Allsburg
Yoko Writes Her Name by Rosemary Wells
Art & Max by David Wiesner
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems
My Name is Sangoel by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed
Cottonball Colin by Jeanne Willis
Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends by Wong Yee
What a Trip! by Arthur Yorinks
Hook by Ed Young

**Newer Nonfiction Books:**

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau by Jennifer Berne
Frogs by Nic Bishop
Teedie by Don Brown
One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh
Teeth by Sneed Collard
Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle by Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, & Mary Nethery
My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by Christine King Farris
Lincoln and Douglass by Nikki Giovanni
Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Gift of Hope by Nikki Grimes
Birds by Kevin Henkes
A Home for Dixie by Emma Jackson
Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea by Steve Jenkins
Pennies for Elephants by Lita Judge
What Bluebirds Do by Pamela Kirby
Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans
Two Bobby’s: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery
Henry’s Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine
Metamorphoses: Butterfly by Arthur John L’Hommedieu
How Many Baby Pandas by Sandra Markle
Astronaut Handbook by Meghan McCarthy
Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai by Claire Nivola
Mr. Lincoln’s Boys by Staton Rabin
Looking Closely Along the Shore by Frank Serafini
A Place for Birds by Melissa Sewart
About Penguins by Cathryn Sill
Cathy Williams, Buffalo Soldier by Sharon Soloman
First Dog Fala by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk
When Rain Falls by Melissa Stewart
Building Manhattan by Laura Vila
Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer by Bill Wise
Teeth, Tails, & Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book by Christopher Wormell
Old Abe, Eagle Hero: The Civil War’s Most Famous Mascot by Patrick Young

Poetry Books:
Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue by Jon Agee
Dogku by Andrew Clements
The Bug in the Teacher’s Coffee and Other School Poems by Kalli Dakos
You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You: Very Short Fables by Mary Ann Hoberman
A Family of Poems by Caroline Kennedy
Sometimes I Wonder If Poodles Like Noodles by Laura Nummeroff
Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More by Jack Prelutsky
A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems by Deborah Ruddell
Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
William Wegman’s Mother Goose by William Wegman
Barefoot: Poems for Naked Feet by Stefi Weisburd
Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China by Ed Young

Series Books:
Cam Jansen by David Adler
Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Clifford, the Big Red Dog by Normal Bridwell
Arthur by Marc Brown
Cork & Fuzz by D. Chaconas
I Wonder by Dorling Kindersley
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Duck & Goose by T. Hills
Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor
The Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne
Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish
Clementine by Sara Pennypacker
Curious George by H. A. Rey
Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

INTERMEDIATE GRADES 3-5

Classic Books:
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
- The Watson’s Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
- James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
- The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
- Bunnicula by James Howe
- Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
- Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
- Chocolate Fever by Robery Kimmel Smith
- Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White

Newer Fiction Books:
- Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez
- The Moon over Star by Dianna Hutts Aston
- Murder at Midnight by Avi
- Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall by Emily Bearn
- Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog by Eileen Beha
- Just for Elephants by Carol Berkley
- The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap by H. M. Bouwman
- The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
- Stuck in the Mud by Jane Clark
- Extra Credit by Andrew Clements
- The Goodbye Time by Celeste Conway
- The Worst Name in Third Grade by Debbie Dadley
- Toby Alone by Timothee de Fombelle
- The Magician’s Elephant by Kate DiCamillo
- The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzig and Holly Black
- The Big Splash by Jack D. Ferraiolo
- Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale by Vivian French
- Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman
- Did Fleming Rescue Churchill? by James Giblin
- Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Umbrella Summer by Lisa Graf
- Sir Reginald's Logbook by Matt Hammill
- Well Itched by Frances Hardinge
- Night of the Spadefoot Toads by Bill Harley
- George’s Secret Key to the Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking
- Jack and the Beanstalk: A Graphic Novel by Blake Hoena
- Tsunami! by Kimiko Kajikawa
- Night of the Moon: A Muslim Story by Hena Khan
- Melonhead by Katy Kelly
- Itch by Michelle Kwasney
- Nana Cracks the Case by Kathleen Lane
- Savvy by Ingrid Law
Also Known as Harper by Ann Haywood Leal
The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had by Kristin Levine
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Punished! by David Lubar
11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass
Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children’s Day/Book Day by Pat Mora
Looking Like Me by Walter Dean Myers
Mogo, the Third Warthog by Donna Jo Napoli
Willow by Denise Brennan-Nelson and Rosemarie Brennan
The Learnin’ Dog by K. A. Nuzum
A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck
The Teacher’s Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts by Richard Peck
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick
Epssumondas Plays Possum by Coleen Salley
The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School by Judy Sierra
The Georges and the Jewels by Jane Smiley
Keeping the Night Watch by Hope Anita Smith
One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith
Binky the Space Cat by Ashley Spires
When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
Riding to Washington by Gwenneth Swain
Doom Machine by Mark Teague
The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson
The Listeners by Gloria Whelan
City Mouse, Country Frog by Mo Willems
A Chair for Always by Vera Williams
Bobby versus Girls (Accidentally) by Lisa Yee
Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story by Judy Young

Newer Nonfiction Books:
A Horse in the House and Other Strange but True Animal Stories by Gail Ablow
Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving by Laurie Anderson
River Boy: The Story of Mark Twain by William Anderson
The First Americans: The Story of Where They Came From and Who They Became by Anthony Aveni
The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob & Joe Switzer’s … by Chris Barton
Bubble Homes and Fish Farts by Fiona Bayrock
The Raucous Royals by Carlyn Becciav
Diego: Bigger Than Life by Carmen Bernier-Grand
Nic Bishop Marsupials by Nic Bishop
The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook by David Borgenicht
A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams by Jen Bryant
Florida Panthers: Struggle for Survival by William Caper
Mission Control, This is Apollo by Andrew Chaikin and Victoria Kohl
Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman by Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger
Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges
14 Cows for America by Carmen Deedy
50 American Heroes Every Child Should Meet by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe
One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia by DK Publishing
March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changes the World by Christine King Farris
Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World’s Best Kept Secrets by John Farndon
Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca
Let It Begin Here! Lexington and Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution by Dennis Fradin
Lincoln and Douglas: An American Friendship by Nikki Giovanni
Extreme Pets by Jane Harrington
See What You Can Be: Explore Careers that Could Be for You by Diane Heiman and Liz Sunehy
John Brown: His Fight for Freedom by John Hendrix
How Strong Is It? A Mighty Book All About Strength by Ben Hillman
Howard Thurman’s Great Hope by Kai Jackson Issa
Real-Life Sea Monsters by Judith Jango-Cohen
How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly? by Steve Jenkins
Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember by Steve Jenkins
One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II by Lita Judge
Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People by Sheila Keenan
My Senator and Me: A Dog’s Eye View of Washington, D.C. by Edward Kennedy
The Boy Who Invented TV by Kathleen Krull
Big Cats: Hunters of the Night by Elaine Landau
A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet by Kathryn Laskey
Queen of the Scene by Queen Latifah
Southern Sea Otters: Fur-tastrophe Avoided by Jeanette Leardi
Ann Frank and the Children of the Holocaust by Carol Ann Lee
Easy Earth-Friendly Crafts in 5 Steps by Anna Llimos
Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories by Sandra Markle
Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy
Listen to the Wind” The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & Susan Roth
The Legend of the Teddy Bear by Frank Murphy
Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts that Happen Every 60 Seconds by Steve and Matthew Murrie
Tiger Math: Learning to Graph from a Baby Tiger by Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel
Bad News for Outlaws by Vaunda Nelson
When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature’s Balance in Yellowstone by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride by Marjorie Priceman
Abe’s Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln by Doreen Rappaport
Lady Liberty: A Biography by Doreen Rappaport
Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody by Michael Rex
Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II by Marisabine Russo
Manny Ramirez and the Boston Red Sox: 2004 World Series by Michael Sandler
When’s a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto by Elaine Scott
Wolves by Duncan Seari
Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange
I, Vivaldi by Janice Shefelman
If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States by David Smith
Explorer: A Daring Guide for Young Adventurers by Dugald Steer
Underwear: What We Wear Under There by Ruth Freeman Swain
Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas
Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize by Kathy-Jo Wargin
I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer by Carole Weatherford
Lincoln and His Boys by Rosemary Wells
How to Speak Cat by Sarah Whitehead
How to Speak Dog by Sarah Whitehead
Spooky Cemeteries by Dinah Williams
You Never Heard of Sandy Kaufax? by Jonah Winter

Series Books:
American Girls
The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks
The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
Sports by Matt Christopher
Ramona by Beverly Cleary
The Bailey School Kids by Debbie Dadley
Amber Brown by Paula Danziger
Dear America
The Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon
The Polk Street Kids by Patricia Reilly Giff
My Weird School by Dan Gutman
Russell Sprouts by Johanna Hurwitz
Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Clementine by S. Pennypacker
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
Goosebumps by R. L. Stine
The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Poetry:
Swing Around the Sun by Barbara Juster Esbensen
Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian
Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems by Douglas Florian
Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems by Kristine O’Connell George
Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits
Thanks a Million by Nikki Grimes
The Monarch’s Progress: Poems with Wings by Avis Harley
Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: a Collection of Family Poems by Mary Ann Hoberman
My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States by Lee Bennett Hopkins
A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout compiled by Paul Janeczko
Birds on a Wire: A Renga ‘Round Town by J. Patrick Lewis
The Bill Martin, Jr. Big Book of Poetry Edited by Bill Martin, Jr.
Yum! MMMM! Que Rico: America’s Sproutings by Pat Mora
Slam Dunk: Basketball Poems by Lillian Morrison (Ed.)
The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System by Jack Prelutsky
Words with Wings: A Treasury of African- American Poetry and Art by Belinda Rochelle (Ed.)
Today at the Blue Bird Café: A Branchful of Birds by Deborah Ruddell
A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk by Deborah Ruddell and Joan Rankin
Toad by the Road: A Year in the Life of These Amazing Amphibians by Joanne Ryder
Button up! by Alice Schertle
Lunch Money and Other Poems about School by Carol Diggory Shields
This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness by Joyce Sidman
Tour America: A Journey through Poems and Art by Diane Siebert
A Pocketful of Stars: Poems about the Night by Nikki Siegen-Smith
Summerhouse Time by Eileen Spinelli
Nature’s Paintbox: A Seasonal Gallery of Art and Verse by Patricia Thomas
Yuki and the One Thousand Carriers by Gloria Whelan
Holiday Stew by Jenny Whitehead
Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak by Kay Winters
Animal Poems by Valerie Worth

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8

Classics:
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L’Engle
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert O’Brien
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell
Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth Speare

Newer Fiction Books:
The Savage by David Almond
Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
Freeze Frame by Heidi Ayarbe
A Difficult Boy by M. P. Barker
The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Peeled by Joan Bauer
What I Saw and How I Lied by Judy Blundell
Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger by Kevin Bolger
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
SOS Titanic by Eve Bunting
A Thousand Never Evers by Shana Burg
Yes, I Know the Monkey Man by Dori Hillstad Butler
Dragon’s Keep by Janet Lee Carey
Wild Things by Clay Carmichael
Al Capone Shines My Shoes by Gennifer Choldenko
Extra Credit by Andrew Clements
The Steps by Rachel Cohn
Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins
Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine
Replay by Sharon Creech
Mexican White Boy by Matt de la Pena
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
Where I’d Like to Be by Frances O’Roark Dowell
The Diamond of Darkhold by Jeanne DuPrau
The Mystery of the Fool and the Vanisher by David and Ruth Ellwand
The Year the Swallows Came Early by Kathryn Fitzmaurice
Washington at Valley Forge by Russell Freedman
As If Being 13½ Isn’t Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President by Donna Gephart
The Brooklyn Nine by Alan Gratz
Bronte’s Book Club by Kristiana Gregory
Stepping on the Cracks by Mary Downing Hahn
Dark Water Rising by Marion Hale
The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse
Time to Smell the Roses by Michael Hoeye
Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told through Stuff by Jennifer Holm
My One Hundred Adventures by Polly Horvath
Pigling: A Cinderella Story by Dan Jolley
Stolen Children by Pat Kehret
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly
The Dog Days of Charlotte Hayes by Marlane Kennedy
Amulet, Book One: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi
Schooled by Gordon Korman
The Cheat by Amy Goodman Koss
Weeping Under This Same Moon by Jana Laiz
The Wish by Gail Carson Levine
Hana’s Suitcase by Karen Levine
The Willoughbys by Lois Lowry
The Big Field by Mike Lupica
The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z by Kate Messner
Thirteen by Lauren Myracle
We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson
The Freedom Business by Marilyn Nelson
Heart of a Shepherd by Rosanne Parry
Marching for Freedom by Elizabeth Partridge
The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Paton
Lawn Boy by Gary Paulson
A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck
The Cat Master by Bonnie Pemberton
Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins
The Storm in the Barn by Matt Phelan
Nation by Terry Pratchett
The Book of Time by Guillaume Prevost
Red Glass by Resau
Jimmy’s Stars by Mary Ann Rodman
The Magician (The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel) by Michael Scott
I Kissed a Zombie, and I Liked It by Adam Selzer
Keeping Corner by Kashmira Sheth
Alien Feast (Chronicles of the First Invasion) by Michael Simmons
When the Whistle Blows by Fran Cannon Slayton
Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto
Wringer by Jerry Spinelli
Barnaby Grimes: Curse of the Night Wolf by Paul Stewart
The Short and Incredibly Happy Life of Riley by Colin Thompson and Amy Lissiat
A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban
It’s Only Temporary by Sally Warner
Extraordinary by Nancy Werlin
Zorgamazoo by Robert Paul Weston
Dandelion Fire by N. D. Wilson
Peace, Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson
Minn and Jake’s Almost Terrrible Summer by Janet Wong

Newer Nonfiction Books:

Extraordinary Explorers and Adventures by Judy Alter
Great Peacemakers: True Stories from Around the World by Ken Beller and Heather Chase
Swords: An Artist’s Devotion by Ben Boos
100 Most Dangerous Things on the Planet: What to Do If It Happens to You by Anna Claybourne
What the World Eats by Faith D’Aluisio
Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure by Marfe Delano
Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family by Barry Denenberg
My Last Skirt: The Story of Jenny Hodgers, Union Soldier by Lynda Durrant
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