

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING 2018

Pre-K Entering Kindergarten

Accident by Andrea Tsurumi When a clumsy armadillo named Lola knocks over a glass pitcher, she sets off a silly chain of events, encountering chaos wherever she goes. ©2017 Grade Level K-3

Beatrix Potter and Her Paint Box by David McPhail All her life, Beatrix Potter loved to paint. From a young age, she painted the bunnies, mice, and other pets who populated her family home. These became the characters of her stories. With beautiful scenes rich in detail, David McPhail transports us to the charming English countryside and the wonderful world of Beatrix Potter. ©2015 Grade Level Preschool-2

Before I Sleep I Say Thank You by Carol Gordon Ekster Before I Sleep takes readers through the nighttime routine of one little boy with his mother. As they reflect on the day, he recalls both things that he could have done better and blessings throughout his day. With its roots in the Examen prayer, Before I Sleep takes you through a bedtime ritual that is common to many religions. A finalist for the ACP Excellence in Publishing Awards 2016 and a third-place winner in the Catholic Press Association awards in the children's book category, ©2016. Grade Level Preschool-3

Counting on Community by Innosanto Nagara Counting up from one stuffed piñata to ten hefty hens-- and always counting on each other--children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in healthy eco-friendly activities, and the agency they possess to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of diversity is told through stories in words and pictures. And of course, there is a duck to find on every page! ©2015 Grade Level K-2

Drop It, Rocket! by Tad Hills Rocket is ready to find new words for his word tree with his teacher, the little yellow bird. He finds a leaf, a hat, and a star but when he finds a red boot, he doesn't want to let go. What will make Rocket drop it? ©2014 Grade Level Preschool-K

Green by Laura Vaccaro Seeger How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. 2013 Caldecott Honor Book, Geisel Honor Book, *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children's Book of ©2012 Grade Level Preschool-1

If You Give a Mouse a Brownie by Laura Numeroff If you give a mouse a brownie, he's going to ask for some ice cream to go with it. When you give him the ice cream, he'll probably ask you for a spoon. He'll start drumming on the table. Drumming will get him so excited he'll want to start a band. ©2016 Grade Level Preschool-3

Marley Firehouse Dog by John Grogan Marley's family is invited on a tour of the firehouse! Marley wasn't formally invited, but he decides to show up anyway. What will Marley's paws land in this time? ©2012 Grade Level Preschool-3

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima Growing up in the ocean, Kelp has always assumed that he was a narwhal like the rest of his family. Sure, he's always been a little bit different—his tusk isn't as long, he's not as good of a swimmer, and he really doesn't enjoy the cuisine. ©2017 Grade Level Preschool-3

The Red Hat by David Teague Billy Hightower spends his whole life alone in a skyscraper high above a big city. Then one day, a skyscraper is built next door and a girl moves in. Could she be a friend? But every time Billy tries to reach out to her, the wily Wind gets in his way! Can Billy find a way to outsmart the Wind and make a new friend, or will he be swept away? ©2015 Grade Level Preschool-K

Sam and Dave Dig a Hole by Mac Barnett Sam and Dave are on a mission. A mission to find something spectacular. So, they dig a hole. And they keep digging. And they find nothing. 2015 Caldecott Honor Book and Irma S. and James H. Black Award ©2014 **Grade Level Preschool-1**

Shy by Deborah Freedman "Shy loves birds, but he's only ever read about them in books. When a real bird finally comes along, he's dying to meet her, but he's too afraid to get leave the gutter of the book. Can he put aside his fears, step out onto the page, and get to know her?" ©2016 **Grade Level K-1**

The Thank You Book (An Elephant and Piggie Book) by Mo Willems Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. ©2016 **Grade Level K-2**

They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . . In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows us the many lives of one cat, and how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see? 2017 Caldecott Honor Book ©2016 **Grade Level Preschool-K**

Waiting by Kevin Henkes Five friends sit happily on a windowsill, waiting for something amazing to happen. The owl is waiting for the moon. The pig is waiting for the rain. The bear is waiting for the wind. The puppy is waiting for the snow. And the rabbit is just looking out the window because he likes to wait! 2016 Caldecott Honor and Geisel Honor Book ©2015 **Grade Level Preschool-K**

When You are Happy by Eileen Spinelli In this delightful and lyrical text by renowned children's author Eileen Spinelli, a young girl finds reassurance from all of her family members and learns that love complements every mood. Coupled with dazzling art by illustrator Geraldo Valério, her words become a beautiful reminder of the care and comforts of unconditional love. ©2006 **Grade Level Preschool-2**

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell A girl is lost in a snowstorm. A wolf cub is lost, too. How will they find their way home? 2018 Caldecott Medal ©2017 **Grade Level Preschool-1**

The Yes by Sarah Bee A cheerful orange creature who sets off to explore the big wide Where. But the Where is home to the Nos, who travel in packs and discourage the Yes at every turn. ©2015 **Grade Level K-3**

Kindergarten Entering First Grade

***Bear and Hare Go Fishing* – Emily Gravett** Friends Bear and Hare are going fishing. While Hare is putting together a picnic, Bear enthusiastically fishes...a hat. Then...a roller skate. Will Bear ever hook an actual fish? ©2015 Grade Level: K-2

***The Day the Crayons Came Home* by Drew Daywalt** I'm not sure what it is about this kid Duncan, but his crayons sure are a colorful bunch of characters! Having soothed the hurt feelings of one group who threatened to quit, Duncan now faces a whole new group of crayons asking to be rescued. ©2015 Grade Level K-2

***Don't Throw It to Mo!* by David A. Adler** "Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins football team. The kids on the rival team tease him for being a 'butterfingers' who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan up his sleeve to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins." ©2016 Grade Level 1-2

***Double Happiness* by Nancy Tupper Ling** For their move far away, Gracie and Jake are sad to leave the golden bridge, the trolley tracks, and Nai Nai. But they fill empty boxes with treasures—a marble, a snake, a pair of wings. ©2015 Grade Level K-2

***Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood* by F. Isabel Campoy** What good can a splash of color do in a community of gray? As Mira and her neighbors discover, more than you might ever imagine! ©2016 Grade Level K-3

***The Mermaid* by Jan Brett** When Kiniro, a young mermaid, comes upon a gorgeous house made of seashells and coral, she is so curious that she goes inside. She's thrilled to find a just-right breakfast, pretty little chair, and, best of all, a comfy bed that rocks in the current. ©2017 Grade Level K-3

***Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo** a young boy spends an overnight visit with his nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes him a special cape to help him be brave, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful. 2015 Caldecott Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level K-3

***Pop's Cookie Duster* – Don and Lee Doyle** Rainy afternoons aren't much fun for two lively little girls who love to play outside. But a hands-on kitchen activity with their visiting Pop might just save the day from being a washout! ©2016 Grade Level: K-3

***The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School* by Deborah Diesen** Mr. Fish is nervously awaiting his first day of school, and he frets about not knowing how to write his name, how to draw shapes, and how to do math—until he's reassured that school is the perfect place to learn how to master all of these new skills. ©2014 Grade Level K-1

***Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts** All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. ©2009 Grade Level K-2

***Thunder Boy Jr* by Sherman Alexie** Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his dad, but he wants a name that's all his own. Just because people call his dad Big Thunder doesn't mean he wants to be Little Thunder. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done, like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder. *New York Times* Notable Children's Book of the Year ©2016 Grade Level 1-3

***Trombone Shorty* by Troy Andrews** Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest. **2016 Caldecott Medal Book and Coretta Scott King Award ©2015 Grade Level 1-4**

***The Truth about my Unbelievable Summer* by Davide Cali** What really happened over the summer break? A curious teacher wants to know. The epic explanation? What started out as a day at the beach turned into a globe-spanning treasure hunt with high-flying hijinks, exotic detours, an outrageous cast of characters, and one very mischievous bird! Is this yet another tall tale, or is the truth just waiting to be revealed? **©2016 Grade Level 1-3**

***The Turnip* – Jan Brett** In a rollicking, cumulative tale, a badger family and their friends—Hedgie, Mr. Ram and Vanya, the horse—struggle to pull up a giant turnip. **©2015 Grade Level K–1**

***We’re All Wonders* by R. J. Palacio** *We’re All Wonders* may be Auggie’s story, but it taps into every child’s longing to belong, and to be seen for who they truly are. It’s the perfect way for families and educators to talk about empathy and kindness with young children. **©2017 Grade Level K-3**

***What Pet Should I Get?* – Dr. Seuss** What happens when a brother and sister visit a pet store to pick a pet? Naturally, they can’t choose just one! **©2015 Grade Level: K–2**

***Yard Sale* by Eve Bunting** Callie and her family are moving from their house to an apartment, so they’re having a yard sale. It can be hard to let things go, but in the end, it’s who you have - not what you have - that counts. **©2015 Grade Level 1-2**

First Grade Entering Second Grade

***After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again* by Dan Santat** Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened *after*? ©2017 Grade Level 1-2

***The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos* by Debotah Helligman** Most people think of mathematicians as solitary, working away in isolation. And, it's true, many of them do. But Paul Erdos never followed the usual path. At the age of four, he could ask you when you were born and then calculate the number of seconds you had been alive in his head. ©2013 Grade Level 1-2

***Caroline's Comets: A True Story* by Emily Arnold McCully** Caroline Herschel (1750–1848) was not only one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived but also the first woman to be paid for her scientific work. ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

***The Dead Bird* by Margaret Wise Brown** One day, the children find a bird lying on its side with its eyes closed and no heartbeat. They are very sorry, so they decide to say good-bye. In the park, they dig a hole for the bird and cover it with warm sweet-ferns and flowers. ©2016 Grade Level 1-3

***Dirt on my Shirt* by Jeff Foxworthy** In his bestselling picture book *Dirt on My Shirt*, Jeff Foxworthy warmed the hearts of kids both big and little. Now, in this I Can Read edition, poems have been hand selected for beginning readers to enjoy. ©2009 Grade Level 2-3

***Finding Winnie* by Lindsay Mann Malaspina** In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in World War I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. He named her Winnie, after his hometown of Winnipeg, and he took the bear to war. 2016 Caldecott Medal Book ©2015 Grade Level 1-2

***Habitats of the World* by Sindy McKay** This book features beautiful photographs and fascinating information on all the major animal habitats of our world. Readers will travel through savannas, rainforests, coral reefs, deserts, mountains, swamps, Arctic ice, and much more! ©2017 Grade Level 1-4

***The Kid from Diamond Street* by Audrey Vernick** Beginning in 1922, when Edith Houghton was only ten years old, she tried out for a women's professional baseball team, the Philadelphia Bobbies. ©2016 Grade Level K-3

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena** Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? 2016 Newbery Medal, 2016 Caldecott Honor Book, and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book ©2015 Grade Level K-2

***Madeline Finn and the Library Dog* by Lisa Papp** Fortunately, Madeline Finn meets Bonnie, a library dog. Reading out loud to Bonnie isn't so bad; when Madeline Finn gets stuck, Bonnie doesn't mind. ©2016 Grade Level 1-2

***National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Space* by Catherine D. Hughes** This beautiful book is the latest addition to the *National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book* series. These colorful pages will introduce young children to the wonders of space. ©2012 Grade Level 1-4

***Place Value* by David A. Adler** You had better not monkey around when it comes to place value. The monkeys in this book can tell you why! As they bake the biggest banana cupcake ever, they need to get the amounts in the recipe correct. There's a big difference between 216 eggs and 621 eggs. Place value is the key to keeping the numbers straight. ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

Pond by Jim LaMarche When Matt is out for a late winter hike he sees a trickle of water in the old deserted and junk filled dirt pit at the edge of his neighborhood. With quiet appreciation, Matt can imagine the pond that must once have been there, shining in the early spring light, freezing in the winter for skating and the perfect place for swimming in the summer. ©2016 Grade Level 1-3

Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty Rosie may seem quiet during the day, but at night she's a brilliant inventor of gizmos and gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer. ©2016 Grade Level 1-2

Spring According to Humphrey by Betty G. Birney Spring has sprung and everyone at Longfellow School, including Ms. Brisbane's class, are HAPPY-HAPPY-HAPPY! It also means Family Fun Night is coming up and all the students' families are involved in making amazing circus activities. ©2017 Grade Level 2-4

Wall by Tom Clohosy Cold A young boy and his mother and sister were separated from their father when the Berlin Wall was built between East and West Germany. ©2014 Grade Level 1-3

The Wolf, the Duck, and the Mouse by Mac Barnett When a woeful mouse is swallowed by a wolf, he quickly learns he is not alone: a duck has already set up digs, and, boy, has that duck got it figured out! ©2017 Grade Level 1-3

Second Grade Entering Third Grade

***All That's Missing* by Sarah Sullivan** Secretly providing for himself and a beloved grandfather who is succumbing to dementia, young Arlo is placed in the care of a social worker and runs away to find and connect with his only other family member. ©2013 Grade Level 3-7

***Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon** As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she's too much of a baby for them, so she's left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy. ©2015 Grade Level 2-3

***Grand Canyon* by Jason Chin** Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. 2018 Caldecott Honor Book, Sibert Honor Book ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***Honey* by Sarah Weeks** Melody has lived in Royal, Indiana, for as long as she can remember. It's been just her and her father, and she's been okay with that. But then she overhears him calling someone Honey -- and suddenly it feels like everyone in Royal has a secret. ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

***How to Avoid Extinction* by Paul Acampora** Leo's grandfather died a year ago, and ever since Leo has been tasked with tracking his grandmother down whenever she wanders away from their home in Allentown, Pennsylvania--but when she abruptly decides to take the trip to Utah that her husband was planning, Leo finds himself on the way to visit dinosaurs, in an old Buick with his grandmother, his seventeen-year-old cousin Abby, and Abby's old, smelly Golden retriever, Kermit, without telling his mother. ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

***Mallory McDonald, Super Sitter* by Laurie B. Friedman** "Mallory takes on a babysitting job, only to discover that it is more work than she expected and that she will have to learn to balance her commitments". ©2017 Grade Level 3-5

***One Green Apple* by Eve Bunting** Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. ©2006 Grade Level 1-4

***The Poet's Dog* by Patricia MacLachian** Teddy is a gifted dog. Raised in a cabin by a poet named Sylvan, he grew up listening to sonnets read aloud and the comforting clicking of a keyboard. ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

***St. John Bosco and His Big Gray Dog* by Hayley Medeiros** It is hard to believe that anyone would have ever wanted to hurt good Father John Bosco. He helped so many people. But there were times when his life was in danger. During those times, a very special guardian would appear to protect him. ©2015 Grade Level 2-4

***Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick** When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained to a packhorse. ©2017 Grade Level 1-5

***Shai & Emmie Star in Break an Egg!* By Quvenzane Wallis** Shai Williams was born to be a star (or a veterinarian—and maybe a dentist). She attends a special elementary school for the performing arts, and her grandma Rosa and aunt Mac-N-Cheese are both actresses. ©2017 Grade Level 1-4

***Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant** Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. ©2016 Grade Level 2-4

***The Sign of the Carved Cross* by Lisa M. Hendey** Katie joins her friends in being mean to the new girl, Lily. But suddenly, Katie becomes the new girl—in 1675! She has no idea how she traveled in time to a Native American village, but she's hoping the young woman she meets will be nicer to her than Katie was to Lily. ©2015 Grade Level 2-5

***Swimming with Sharks: The Daring Discoveries of Eugenie Clark* by Heather Lang** Before Eugenie Clark's groundbreaking research, most people thought sharks were vicious, blood-thirsty killers. From the first time she saw a shark in an aquarium, Japanese-American Eugenie was enthralled. ©2016 Grade Level 2-3

***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement* by Carole Boston Weatherford** 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. Integral to the Freedom Summer of 1964. 2016 Caldecott Honor Book, Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, and John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award ©2015 Grade Level 3-6

***We the Children (Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School)* by Andrew Clements** Benjamin Pratt's school is about to become the site of a new amusement park. It sounds like a dream come true! But lately, Ben has been wondering if he's going to like an amusement park in the middle of his town—with all the buses and traffic and eight-dollar slices of pizza. ©2011 Grade Level 2-4

***The Whisper in the Ruins (Chime Travelers)* by Lisa M. Hendey** Somebody is angry, and they're taking it out on St. Anne's. Patrick and his twin sister Katie are shocked when they learn that someone threw a brick through the St. Francis of Assisi stained glass window at St. Anne's. What would make someone angry enough to damage the beautiful old window? ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

***Wish* by Barbara O'Connor** "A story about a girl who, with the help of the dog of her dreams, discovers that family doesn't always have to be related--they are simply people who love you for who you are." ©2016 Grade Level 3-5

***Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes** Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons. 2013 Newbery Honor Book ©2013 Grade Level 2-4

***The Year of the Baby* by Andrea Cheng** Last year, Anna learned how to be a good friend. Now that her family has adopted a baby girl from China, she wants to learn how to be a good sister. ©2014 Grade Level 2-4

Third Grade Entering Fourth Grade

***Brave Like My Brother* by Marc Tyler Nobleman** When Charlie's brother, Joe, is called up to fight in World War II, he promises to write letters to ten-year-old Charlie as often as he can. It won't make up for not being there to help Charlie out with the neighborhood bullies, but it's all Joe can do. ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***The Cheese Experiment* by Geronimo Stilton** New Mouse City was in a panic. A strange epidemic had broken out -- mice everywhere were covered in weird blue spots! Mouse Island's most famous doctor immediately set to work with his team to try to find the cure... but someone was trying to stop him. ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***The Chestertons and the Golden Key* by Nancy Carpentier Brown** Summer vacation turns into an adventure for the three Nicholl sisters when Mr. Gilbert Chesterton and his wife come to town. Eleven-year-old Clare hopes to write a detective story. Eight-year-old Cece wants to be a champion roller-skater. And ten-year-old Joan just wants to learn how to play the locked piano in the family living room. But as they befriend the Chestertons, skating accidents, surprising friendships, puppet shows, and mystery solving ensue! ©2016 Grade Level 4-5

***Counting Thyme* by Melania Conklin** When eleven-year-old Thyme Owens' little brother, Val, is accepted into a new cancer drug trial, it's just the second chance that he needs. But it also means the Owens family has to move to New York, thousands of miles away from Thyme's best friend and everything she knows and loves. ©2016 Grade Level 4-7

***A Dog Called Homeless* by Sarah Lean** Cally Fisher knows she can see her dead mother, but the only other living soul who does is a mysterious wolfhound who always seems to be there when her mom appears. Schneider Family Book Award ©2014 Grade Level 4-6

***Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project* by Dan Gutman** Four very different kids are picked by a mysterious billionaire to travel through time and photograph some of history's most important events. This time, the four friends are headed to 1863 to catch Abraham Lincoln delivering his famous Gettysburg Address. ©2017 Grade Level 4-7

***For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story* by Rebecca Langston-George** She grew up in a world where women were supposed to be quiet. But Malala Yousafzai refused to be silent. She defied the Taliban's rules, spoke out for education for every girl, and was almost killed for her beliefs. ©2016 Grade Level 3-4

***I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* by Lauren Tarshis** Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He'd barely paid attention to the troubles between America and England. ©2017 Grade Level: 3-5

***Katerina's Wish* by Jeannie Mobley** Thirteen-year-old Trina's family left Bohemia for a Colorado coal town to earn money to buy a farm, but by 1901 she doubts that either hard work or hoping will be enough, even after a strange fish seems to grant her sisters' wishes. ©2012 Grade Level 4-7

***Lincoln and Kennedy: A Pair to Compare* by Gene Barretta** President Abraham Lincoln grew up in a one-room log cabin. President John F. Kennedy was raised in the lap of luxury. One was a Republican and one a Democrat. They lived and served a hundred years apart. ©2016 Grade Level 2-5

***Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert* by Gary D. Schmidt** As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man was performing miracles. 2013 Pura Belpre Award for Illustration ©2012 Grade Level 3-5

***Ms. Rapscott's Girls* by Elise Primavera** "At Great Rapscott School for Girls of Busy Parents, Ms. Rapscott teaches her students How to Get Lost on Purpose, resulting in a series of fantastical adventures that makes each learn a little something about courage, strength, bravery, and teamwork." ©2015 **Grade Level 4-6**

***Raffie on the Run* by Jacqueline Resnick** Raffie Lipton lives a rat's dream life. In his family's subway station home, he has all the food he can forage from the treasure chests humans call trash cans, and the perfect shoebox bed for telling his brother his famous adventure stories. ©2018 **Grade Level: 3-6**

***Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin** Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different – not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. ©2014 **Grade Level 4-7**

***The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price* by Jennifer Mascari** "A boy must rescue his sister after she finds - and wants to stay - in an almost-world beneath her bed, where their mother is still alive." ©2016 **Grade Level 4-6**

***Robots in Space* by Ruth Owen** Discusses how robots are being used in space to explore distant planets, conduct experiments, and fix spacecraft when those tasks are too dangerous for humans. ©2014 **Grade Level: 4-6**

***Rumf: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin* by Liesl Shurtliff** This funny fractured fairy tale goes behind the scenes of Rumpelstiltskin. "A most magical feat," writes Newbery Honor-winner Kirby Larson, "Liesl Shurtliff spins words into gold." ©2014 **Grade Level 4-7**

***When the Sea Turned to Silver* by Grace Lin** Pinmei's gentle, loving grandmother always has the most exciting tales for her granddaughter and the other villagers. However, the peace is shattered one night when soldiers of the Emperor arrive and kidnap the storyteller. ©2016 **Grade Level 3-6**

***A Whole New Ballgame* by Phil Bildner** "From the first morning with their odd new teacher fifth grade is full of shocking surprises for best friends Rip and Red." ©2015 **Grade Level 4-6**

Fourth Grade Entering Fifth Grade

27 Magic Words by Sharelle Byars Morganville Although Kobi's parents sailed into a storm five years ago, she believes they are alive, and when she is sent from her grandmother's luxurious Paris apartment to live with an uncle in Iowa, Kobi tells lies that soon catch up with her. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

Aim by Joyce Moyer Hostetter As World War II threatens the United States in 1941, fourteen-year-old Junior Bledsoe fights his own battles at home. Junior struggles with school and with anger—at his father, his insufferable granddaddy, his neighbors, and himself—as he desperately tries to understand himself and find his own aim in life. ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; **Danielle**, who never stands up for herself; shy **Anna**, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and **Jeffrey**, who hates school. ©2011 Grade Level: 4-6

Catching a Storyfish by Janice N. Harrington Keet knows the only good thing about moving away from her Alabama home is that she'll live near her beloved grandfather. When Keet starts school, it's even worse than she expected, as the kids tease her about her southern accent. ©2016 Grade Level 4-7

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein Kyle Keeley is the class clown and a huge fan of all games—board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative game maker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the construction of the new town library. ©2014 Grade Level 4-7

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half-sister, Miss Trotter. The two half-sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. Coretta Scott King Award ©2016 Grade Level: 5–7

One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. 2012 Newbery Honor Book, Scott O'Dell Award, and Coretta Scott King Award ©2011 Grade Level: 5–7

The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose & Me by Sara Nickerson To make some extra money, twelve-year-old Missy and her older brother Patrick get summer jobs picking blueberries at a local farm. For Missy, though, it's about more than just money-- it's the perfect distraction from the fact that her two best friends have gone off to summer camp without her and that her dad is getting remarried. ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

Soar by Joan Bauer Jeremiah is not one to let anything keep him down. Starting with his adoption by computer genius Walt, Jeremiah has looked on his life as a series of lucky breaks. When a weak heart keeps him from playing his beloved baseball, Jeremiah appoints himself the team coach. ©2017 Grade Level 5-6

Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. ©2016 Grade Level 5-8

***Sylvia & Aki* by Winifred Conkling** At the start of World War II, Japanese-American third-grader Aki and her family are sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona, while Mexican-American third-grader Sylvia's family leases their Orange County, California, farm and begins a fight to stop school segregation. ©2011 Grade Level 4-7

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley** Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So, when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. 2016 Newbery Honor Book and 2016 Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 5-6

Way of the Warrior Kid: From Wimpy to Warrior the Navy SEAL Way: A Novel Fifth grade was the worst year of Marc's life. He stunk at gym class, math was too hard for him, the school lunch was horrible, and his class field trip was ruined because he couldn't swim. But what was most awful thing about fifth grade? ©2017 Grade Level: 5-6

***What Color Is My World? The Lost History of African-American Inventors* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** While twins Ella and Herbie help the handyman Mr. Midal work on their new home, he tells them about such inventors as Granville Woods, Dr. Henry T. Sampson, and James West, giving them a new view of their heritage as African-Americans. ©2012 Grade Level: 5-7

Fifth Grade Entering Sixth Grade

A.K.A. Genius by Marilee Haynes "When standardized test scores identify seventh-grader Gabe Carpenter as St. Jude's resident genius, he wonders what it means to have brains when he can't even manage to open his own locker." ©2013 **Grade Level 5-7**

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor Eleven-year-old Perry was born and raised by his mom at the Blue River Co-ed Correctional Facility in tiny Surprise, Nebraska. His mom is a resident on Cell Block C, and so far, Warden Daugherty has made it possible for them to be together. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-7**

Almost Home by Joan Bauer Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. ©2012 **Grade Level 5-8**

The Best Man by Richard Peck Archer Magill has spent a lively five years of grade school with one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-6**

The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible by Leon Leyson
The biography of Leon Leyson, the only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. ©2013 **Grade Level 6-7**

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's note about the poet. Pura Belpré Award Winner ©2012 **Grade Level 5-9**

Fishbone's Song by Gary Paulsen Deep in the woods, in a rustic cabin, lives an old man and the boy he's raised as his own. This sage old man has taught the boy the power of nature and how to live in it, and more importantly, to respect it. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-7**

The Girl Who Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate "A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary" ©2015 **Grade Level 5-8**

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Regan Barnhill Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. 2017 Newbery Medal Book ©2016 **Grade Level 6-8**

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-7**

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-8**

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka
It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. All the other kids picked countries like France or Germany, but when Caitlin saw Zimbabwe written on the board, it sounded like the most exotic place she had ever heard of -- so she chose it. ©2015 **Grade Level 6-Up**

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 Grade Level 5-7

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff Everyone says that middle school is awful, but Trent knows nothing could be worse than the year he had in fifth grade, when a freak accident on Cedar Lake left one kid dead, and Trent with a brain full of terrible thoughts he can't get rid of. ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger In this funny, uncannily wise portrait of the dynamics of a sixth-grade class and of the greatness that sometimes comes in unlikely packages, Dwight, a loser, talks to his classmates via an origami finger puppet of Yoda. ©2015 Grade Level 5-7

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. 2016 National Book Award Finalist ©2016 Grade Level 5-8

Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan Julia is very short for her age, but by the end of the summer run of *The Wizard of Oz*, she'll realize how big she is inside, where it counts. ©2018 Grade Level 5-7

Slacker by Gordon Korman When eighth-grader Cameron Boxer creates the Positive Action Group at school he intends it as a diversion to fool his parents, teachers, and sister into letting him continue to concentrate on his video-gaming--but before he knows it other kids are taking it seriously, and soon he finds himself president of the P.A.G., and involved in community service, so the boy who never cared about anything is now the center of everything, whether he likes it or not. ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

Word of Mouse by James Patterson What makes Isaiah so unique? First, his fur is as blue as the sky--which until recently was something he'd never seen but had read all about. That's right--Isaiah can read and write. ©2016 Grade Level 5-7

SIXTH GRADE ENTERING SEVENTH GRADE

***Anything but Typical* by Nora Raleigh Baskin** Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoneixBird—her name is Rebecca—could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is. ©2010
Grade Level 5-7

***Forever, or a Long, Long Time* by Caela Carter** Flora and her brother, Julian, don't believe they were born. They've lived in so many foster homes, they can't remember where they came from. And even now that they've been adopted, Flora still struggles to believe in forever. ©2017
Grade Level 7-8

***Full Cicada Moon* by Marilyn Hilton** It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. ©2015
Grade Level 5-8

***Genevieve's War* by Patricia Reilly Giff** Thirteen-year-old American girl Genevieve has spent the summer of 1939 at her grandmother's farm in Alsace, France. Then she makes an impulsive choice: to stay in France. It proves to be a dangerous decision. World War II erupts. ©2017
Grade Level 6-7

***If I Ever Get Out of Here: A Novel with Paintings* by Erie L. Gansworth** Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white people being nice to him -- people like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. ©2015
Grade Level 6-8

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall** Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy—though you wouldn't guess it by his name: his father is part white and part Lakota, and his mother is Lakota. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, Nyles High Eagle, he learns more and more about his Lakota heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history. ©2015
Grade Level 6-8

***The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* by Adam Gidwitz** On a dark night, travelers from across France cross paths at an inn and begin to tell stories of three children. Their adventures take them on a chase through France: they are taken captive by knights, sit alongside a king, and save the land from a farting dragon. 2017 Newbery Honor Book ©2016
Grade Level 6-10

***Left Out* by Tim Green** Landon Dorch wants to be like everyone else. But his deafness and the way he talks have always felt like insurmountable obstacles. But now he finally sees his chance to fit in. ©2017
Grade Level 6-8

***Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* by Gary D. Schmidt** It only takes a few hours for Turner Buckminster to start hating Phippsburg, Maine. No one in town will let him forget that he's a minister's son, even if he doesn't act like one. But then he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a smart and sassy girl from a poor nearby island community founded by former slaves. 2014 Newbery Honor Book ©2013
Grade Level 6-9

***Riding Chance* by Christine Kendall** Troy is a kid with a passion. And dreams. And wanting to do the right thing. But after taking a wrong turn, he's forced to endure something that's worse than any juvenile detention he can imagine—he's "sentenced" to the local city stables where he's made to take care of horses. ©2016
Grade Level 6-8

***Saving Lucas Biggs* by Marisa de los Santos** Thirteen-year-old Margaret knows her father is innocent, but that doesn't stop the cruel Judge Biggs from sentencing him to death. Margaret is determined to save her dad, even if it means using her family's secret—and forbidden—ability to time travel. ©2015
Grade Level 6-8

***Slacker* by Gordon Korman** Cameron Boxer is very happy to spend his life avoiding homework, hanging out with his friends, and gaming for hours in his basement. ©2016 Grade Level 6–8

***The Wednesday War* by Gary D. Schmidt** Meet Holling Hoodhood, a seventh-grader at Camillo Junior High, who must spend Wednesday afternoons with his teacher, Mrs. Baker, while the rest of the class has religious instruction. Mrs. Baker doesn't like Holling—he's sure of it. Why else would she make him read the plays of William Shakespeare outside class? 2008 Newbery Honor Book @2007 Grade Level 5-7

***A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (50th Anniversary Edition)** Fifty years ago, Madeleine L'Engle introduced the world to *A Wrinkle in Time* and the wonderful and unforgettable characters Meg and Charles Wallace Murry, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe. 1963 Newbery Medal @2012 Grade Level 6–8

***What Elephants Know* by Eric Dinerstein** Abandoned in the jungle of the Nepalese Borderlands, two-year-old Nandu is found living under the protective watch of a pack of wild dogs. ©2016 Grade Level 5-9

***Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Wolk** Growing up in the shadows cast by two world wars, Annabelle has lived a mostly quiet, steady life in her small Pennsylvania town. Until the day new student Betty Glengarry walks into her class. 2017 Newbery Honor Book ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

***Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina* by Rodman Philbrick** Zane Dupree is a charismatic 12-year-old boy of mixed race visiting a relative in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hits. Unexpectedly separated from all family, Zane and his dog experience the terror of Katrina's wind, rain, and horrific flooding. Facing death, they are rescued from an attic air vent by a kind, elderly musician and a scrappy young girl--both African American. ©2015 Grade Level 6–8

SEVENTH GRADE ENTERING EIGHTH GRADE

***As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds** Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, Schneider Family Book Award ©2016 Grade Level 6-8

***Be: The Journey of Rol* – Ric Colegrove** In a time and place different than our own, a fourteen-year-old boy named Rol sets out on a journey, alone. He faces incredible challenges and makes lifelong friends. Rol learns what it takes to be who he is truly meant to be, with help from those he encounters along the way. **Website for downloading Free Companion Guide** <http://thejourneyofrol.com/guide/> ©2014 Grade Level 7-10

***Because They Marched* – Russell Freedman** In the early 1960s, tensions in the segregated South intensified. Tired of reprisals for attempting to register to vote, Selma's black community began to protest. ©2014 Grade Level 7–Up

***The Boy in the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible...on Schindler's list* by Leon Leyson** The only memoir published by a former Schindler's list child, perfectly captures the innocence of a small boy who goes through the unthinkable. Leon Leyson (born Leib Lezjon) was only ten years old when the Nazis invaded Poland and his family was forced to relocate to the Krakow ghetto. ©2015 Grade Level 6-9

***The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation): The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey to Win Gold at the 1936 Olympics* by Daniel James Brown** At the center of the tale is Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects, whose personal quest captures the spirit of his generation—the generation that would prove in the coming years that the Nazis could not prevail over American determination and optimism. ©2014 Grade Level 7-8

***Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan** Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now. ©2014 Grade Level 6-8

***Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan** Lost and alone in a forbidden forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and suddenly finds himself entwined in a puzzling quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. 2016 Newbery Honor Book ©2014 Grade Level 6-8

***I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora** When Lucy, Elena, and Michael receive their summer reading list, they are excited to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* included. But not everyone in their class shares the same enthusiasm. ©2015 Grade Level 6-8

***Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II* by Marin W. Sandler** While Americans fought for freedom and democracy abroad, fear and suspicion towards Japanese Americans swept the country after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. ©2013 Grade Level 7–Up

***A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park** The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. ©2011 Grade Level 6-8

***Navy Seal Dogs-My Tale of Training Canines for Combat* – Mike Ritland** *Trident K9 Warriors* gave readers an inside look at the SEAL teams' elite K9 warriors--who they are, how they are trained, and the extreme missions they undertake to save lives. From detecting explosives to eliminating the bad guys, these powerful dogs are also some of the smartest and highest skilled working animals on the planet. Mike Ritland's job is to train them. ©2014 Grade Level 8–9

***Pay It Forward: Young Readers Edition* by Catherine Ryan Hyde** Uplifting novel about Trevor McKinney, a twelve-year-old boy in a small California town who accepts his teacher's challenge to earn extra credit by coming up with a plan to change the world. ©2014 Grade Level 8–9

***Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein** Heart-wrenching adventures of the young women who helped the Allies by delivering planes across Europe during World War II. Here, teen pilot and poet Rose Justice strays into German territory and is soon a prisoner at the notorious Ravensbruck concentration camp. ©2015 Grade Level 8–10

Terror at Bottle Creek – Watt Key In this gritty, realistic wilderness adventure, thirteen-year-old Cort is caught in a battle against a Gulf Coast hurricane. Cort's father is a local expert on hunting and swamp lore in lower Alabama who has been teaching his son everything he knows. But when a deadly Category 3 storm makes landfall, Cort must unexpectedly put his all skills-and bravery-to the test. ©2016 Grade Level 6-9

***Woods Runner* by Gary Paulsen** Samuel, 13, spends his days in the forest, hunting for food for his family. He has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. Far from any town, or news of the war against the King that American patriots have begun near Boston. ©2011 Grade Level 8-9

***You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen* by Carole Brown Weatherford** *I WANT YOU!* says the poster of Uncle Sam. But if you're a young black man in 1940, he doesn't want you in the cockpit of a war plane. Yet you are determined not to let that stop your dream of flying. ©2016 Grade Level 8-10