

Suggestions for Students entering Fourth Grade

Fantastic Reads for Fourth Graders



We also recommend exploring other books by these authors:

Revised Summer 2009

Sorted by Author / Title

- Alexander, Lloyd. The black cauldron. [1st ed.]. New York : H. Holt, 1965.
Taran must conquer Arawn, lord of the land of Death, to protect his kingdom of Prydain.
- Alexander, Lloyd. The book of three. New York : H. Holt, c1964.
Taran, the Assistant Pig Keeper in the mythical kingdom of Prydain, sets out with the warrior Gwydion to save his country from evil. Enjoy all the titles in the Prydain series.
- Anderson, M. T. The clue of the linoleum lederhosen. 1st ed. Orlando : Harcourt, c2006.
Looking forward to a vacation, Katie, Lily, and Jasper attach their flying Gyroscopic Sky Suite to the Moose Tongue Lodge and Resort, where they mingle with other child heroes found in books, and where they become embroiled in a mystery involving lederhosen-clothed quintuplets and a screaming ventriloquist.
- Anderson, M. T. Whales on stilts. 1st ed. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, c2005.
Racing against the clock, shy middle-school student Lily and her best friends, Katie and Jasper, must foil the plot of her father's conniving boss to conquer the world using an army of whales.
- Armstrong, Alan W., 1939-. Whittington. 1st ed. New York : Random House, c2005.
Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story.
- Atwater, Richard. Mr. Popper's penguins. Boston : Little, Brown and Co., [1988], c1938.
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.
- Avi, 1937-. Poppy. New York : Orchard Books, c1995.
Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.
- Avi, 1937-. Who stole the Wizard of Oz? New York : Knopf :, c1981.
Becky and her brother use some ingenious clues to identify the person who stole five children's books from the town's library.
- Babbitt, Natalie. Kneeknock rise. Old Greenwich, CT : Listening Library Inc., c1996.
Read by Suzanne Toren. Everyone else in the village is afraid of the creature who supposedly dwells on the top of Kneeknock Rise but young Egan investigates for himself.
- Babbitt, Natalie. Tuck everlasting. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1975.
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.
- Barry, Dave. Peter and the shadow thieves. 1st ed. New York : Disney Editions/Hyperion Books for Children, c2006.
Realizing that Molly and the other Starcatchers are in danger when the sinister being Lord Ombra visits the island and seems to control people through their shadows, Peter and Tinker Bell travel to England to help save the stardust.
- Barry, Dave. Peter and the Starcatchers. 1st ed. New York : Disney Editions/Hyperion Books for Children, c2004.
Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship Never Land, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island.
- Benton, Jim. Lunch walks among us. 1st ed. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2003.
Franny K. Stein is a mad scientist who prefers all things spooky and creepy, but when she has trouble making

friends at her new school she experiments with fitting in--which works until a monster erupts from the trashcan. Look for other titles in this series.

Bertrand, Lynne. Granite baby. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

Five talented New Hampshire sisters try to care for a baby that one of them has carved out of granite.

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks : a summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy. 1st ed. New York : Knopf ;, c2005.

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Blume, Judy. Tales of a fourth grade nothing. [1st ed.]. New York, : Dutton, [1972].

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem.

Bond, Michael. A bear called Paddington. New York : Yearling Books, [c1958].

Brittian, Bill. The wish giver : three tales of Coven Tree. HarperCollins, c1983.

When a strange little man comes to the Coven Tree Church Social promising he can give people exactly what they ask for, three young believers-in-magic each make a wish that comes true in the most unexpected way.

Buckley, Michael. Fairy-tale detectives. New York : Amulet Books, 2005.

Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead. Enjoy the other titles in the *Sisters Grimm* series.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson, 1849-1924. The secret garden. Philadelphia, : Lippincott, 1962.

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. Bingo Brown and the language of love. New York, N.Y., U.S.A. : Puffin Books, 1991.

As fifth-grader Bingo Brown strives for the triumphs of today and steels himself against the tribulations of tomorrow, he discovers that he will have to undergo a few more trials and triumphs before growing up.

Byng, Georgia. Molly Moon's hypnotic time travel adventure. 1st American ed. New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, 2005.

Molly Moon, reunited with her parents, is hypnotized by a mysterious turbaned gardener and eventually transported to India, where she meets not only a maharajah with a speech defect but also former versions of herself.

Byng, Georgia. Molly Moon's incredible book of hypnotism. 1st American ed. New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, c2002.

Unlucky and unloved, Molly Moon, living in a dreary orphanage in a small English town, discovers a hidden talent for hypnotism and hypnotizes her way to stardom in New York City. Enjoy the other titles in the Molly Moon series.

Cleary, Beverly. Beezus and Ramona. New York : Morrow, 1955.

Four-year-old Ramona has an imagination that makes her a menace to everyone around her, particularly her older sister, Beezus.

Cleary, Beverly. Henry and Beezus. New York : Morrow, 1952.

Henry Huggins, his dog Ribsy, and his friend Beezus, busy themselves with trying to earn enough money for Henry to buy a bicycle. Enjoy other titles about Henry, Beezus and Ramona by Beverly Cleary.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. Frindle. 1st Aladdin pbk. ed. New York : Aladdin, 1998, c1996.

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. Jake Drake, bully buster. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2001.

Provides the "memoirs" of Jake Drake, a boy who transformed himself from first-grade geek to the cool dude of the fourth grade by using his wit to outsmart the bullies at his school. Look for other Jake Drake titles.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. The Landry News. 1st ed. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999.

A fifth-grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to really begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. The last holiday concert. 1st ed. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2004.

Life is usually easy for popular fifth grader Hart Evans, but when his music teacher puts him in charge of the holiday concert, Hart must use all of his leadership skills to unite the other students.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. Lunch money. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2005.

Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. No talking. 1st ed. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2007.

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Clements, Andrew, 1949-. The report card. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2004.

Fifth-grader Nora Rowley has always hidden the fact that she is a genius from everyone because all she wants is

to be normal, but when she comes up with a plan to prove that grades are not important, things begin to get out of control.

Collins, Suzanne. Gregor the Overlander. 1st ed. New York : Scholastic Press, 2003.

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving men, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy. Enjoy all 5 titles in this Gregor series.

Cooper, Susan, 1935-. The magician's boy. New York : Margaret K. McElderry Books, c2005.

A boy who works for a magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transported to the Land of Story in search of a missing puppet.

Coville, Bruce. Jeremy Thatcher, dragon hatcher. New York : Pocket Books, c1991, 1992.

Small for his age but artistically talented, twelve-year-old Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg.

Dahl, Roald. Charlie and the chocolate factory. New York : Knopf :, 2004.

Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.

Dahl, Roald. Danny the champion of the world. Rev. ed. New York : A.A. Knopf :, [2002].

A young English boy describes his relationship with his father and the special adventure they share together.

Dahl, Roald. James and the giant peach : a children's story. New York : Knopf :, c1996.

A young boy escapes from two wicked aunts and embarks on a series of adventures with six giant insects he meets inside a giant peach.

Dahl, Roald. The witches. 1st American ed. New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1983.

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, together foil a witches' plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

Danziger, Paula, 1944-. Snail mail no more. New York : Scholastic Press, 2000.

Now that they live in different cities, thirteen-year-old Tara and Elizabeth use email to "talk" about everything that is occurring in their lives and to try to maintain their closeness as they face big changes.

De Paola, Tomie. 26 Fairmount Avenue. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1999.

Children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy.

DeGross, Monalisa. Donavan's double trouble. 1st ed. New York : Amistad, c2008.

Fourth-grader Donavan is sensitive about the problems he has understanding math, and then when his favorite uncle, a former high school basketball star, returns from National Guard duty an amputee, Donavan's problems get even worse as he struggles to accept this "new" Uncle Vic.

DiCamillo, Kate. Because of Winn-Dixie. Old Greenwich, CT. : Listening Library, c2001.

Performance by Cherry Jones. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

DiCamillo, Kate. The miraculous journey of Edward Tulane. 1st ed. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2006.

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

DiCamillo, Kate. The tale of Despereaux : being the story of a mouse, a princess, some soup, and a spool of thread. 1st ed. Cambridge, Mass. : Candlewick Press, 2003.

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

DiCamillo, Kate. The tiger rising. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA : Candlewick Press, 2001.

Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by wood carving, is drawn by his spunky but angry friend Sistine into a plan to free a caged tiger.

DiTerlizzi, Tony. Arthur Spiderwick's field guide to the fantastical world around you. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2005.

Presents an introduction to the faerie world, examples of thirty-one faerie species such as boggarts, goblins, sprites and pixies, and instructions on how to prepare for faerie investigations.

DiTerlizzi, Tony. The field guide. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003.

When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. Enjoy the other titles in this series.

Donaldson, Julia. The giants and the Joneses. 1st American ed. New York : Henry Holt, 2005.

When Jumbleelia, an eight-year-old giant, climbs down a beanstalk and collects some "iggly plops," the little people of children's stories, she treats them like toys, unaware that she is endangering their lives.

Enright, Elizabeth, 1909-1968. Gone-Away Lake. San Diego, Calif. : Harcourt, Inc., 2000.

Portia and her cousin Julian discover adventure in a hidden colony of forgotten summer houses on the shores of a swampy lake.

- Enright, Elizabeth, 1909-1968. Thimble summer. New York : Holt, Rinehart and Winston, [c1938].
A summer full of happiness and good times begins after a little girl finds a silver thimble at the swimming hole.
- Erdrich, Louise. The birchbark house. 1st ed. New York : HyperionBooks for Children, c1999.
Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.
- Erdrich, Louise. The game of silence. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2005.
Nine-year-old Omakayas, of the Ojibwa tribe, moves west with her family in 1849.
- Erickson, John R., 1943-. The original adventures of Hank the Cowdog. Houston, TX : Gulf, 1983.
Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, is framed for the murder of a chicken and becomes an outlaw with the coyotes. Enjoy several titles in this series.
- A family of poems : my favorite poetry for children. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion/Hyperion Books for Children, c2005.
In this follow-up to "The Best-Loved Poems of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis," the author collects more than one hundred of her family's best-loved poems from all over the world.
- Fitzhugh, Louise. Harriet, the spy. New York : HarperCollins, 1964.
When Harriet's classmates find her diary and read what she has written about them, they decide to make life miserable for her.
- Fleming, Candace. The fabled fourth graders of Aesop Elementary School. 1st ed. New York : Schwartz & Wade Books, c2007.
An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising results.
- Freedman, Russell. Confucius : the golden rule. 1st ed. New York : Arthur A. Levine Books, 2002.
- Freedman, Russell. Out of darkness : the story of Louis Braille. New York : Clarion Books, c1997.
A biography of the nineteenth-century Frenchman who, having been blinded himself at the age of three, went on to develop a system of raised dots on paper that enabled blind people to read and write.
- Fritz, Jean. Can't you make them behave, King George? New York : Coward McCann, [1982], c1977.
A biography of George the Third, King of Great Britain at the time of the American Revolution.
- Fritz, Jean. Leonardo's horse. New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2001.
Examines the life of Leonardo da Vinci, focusing on his unfinished sculpture of a huge horse he was commissioned to create for the Duke of Milan in the late 1400s, and discusses how the project was taken up by pilot Charlie Dent in 1977 and, after several setbacks, completed and presented as a gift to Milan in 1999.
- Funke, Cornelia Caroline. Dragon rider. 1st American ed. New York : Scholastic, 2004.
After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy.
- Funke, Cornelia Caroline. Inkheart. New York : Chicken House, c2003.
Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service. Also enjoy the sequels Inkspell and Inkdeath.
- Funke, Cornelia Caroline. The thief lord. 1st American ed. New York : The Chicken House/Scholastic, 2002.
Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with--and protection from--Venice's "Thief Lord."
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. Left-handed shortstop. New York, N.Y. : Dell, [1989].
When his classmates brag that Walter is their star shortstop, Walter makes a cast for his left arm so the kids won't know what a terrible player he really is.
- Giff, Patricia Reilly. Lily's crossing. New York : Delacorte, c1997.
During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.
- Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth. Moxy Maxwell does not love Stuart Little. 1st ed. New York : Schwartz & Wade Books, c2008.
With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-fourth-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book. Look for other titles, including Moxy Maxwell does not love writing thank-you notes.
- Gregory, Kristiana. Five smooth stones : Hope's diary. New York : Scholastic, c2001.
In her diary, a young girl writes about her life and the events surrounding the beginning of the American Revolution in Philadelphia in 1776.
- Gutman, Dan. Abner & me : a baseball card adventure. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, 2005.
With his ability to travel through time using baseball cards and photographs, thirteen-year-old Joe and his mother go back to 1863 to ask Abner Doubleday whether he invented baseball, but instead find themselves in the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg.

- Gutman, Dan. Babe & me : a baseball card adventure. New York : Avon Books, Inc., c2000.
With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs. Look for other titles in the Baseball Card Adventure series
- Gutman, Dan. Casey back at bat. 1st ed. New York, NY : HarperCollins, c2007.
"The Mighty Casey is back at bat with a 2nd chance to bring joy to Mudville."--From source other than the Library of Congress.
- Gutman, Dan. The Get Rich Quick Club. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2004.
Summer vacation in their small Maine town does not look too promising until twelve-year-old Gina and four of her friends make a pact to become millionaires before school starts in September.
- Gutman, Dan. The kid who became President. New York : Scholastic, c1999.
Judson Moon, president at age 13, is dodging assassination attempts and facing off with a crazed South American dictator.
- Gutman, Dan. The kid who ran for President. New York : Scholastic Inc., 1996.
With his friend as campaign manager and his former babysitter as running mate, twelve-year-old Judson Moon sets out to become President of the United States.
- Gutman, Dan. Satch & me : a baseball card adventure. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, c2006.
With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.
- Gutman, Dan. Shoeless Joe & me : a baseball card adventure. New York : HarperCollins, c2002.
Joe Stoshack travels back to 1919, where he meets Shoeless Joe Jackson and tries to prevent the fixing of the World Series in which Jackson was wrongly implicated.
- Hale, Bruce. The big nap : from the tattered casebook of Chet Gecko, private eye. 1st ed. San Diego : Harcourt, c2001.
Someone is turning the students at Emerson Hickey Elementary into zombies, and it's up to fourth-grade private eye Chet Gecko to find out who. Look for other titles in the Chet Gecko series.
- Hannigan, Katherine. Ida B : --and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world. 1st ed. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2004.
In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
- Henry, Marguerite, 1902-. Misty of Chincoteague. Chicago, : Rand McNally, [1947].
Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.
- Hesse, Karen. The music of dolphins. New York : Scholastic Press, c1996.
After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.
- Hesse, Karen. Stowaway. New York : Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2000.
A fictionalized journal relates the experiences of a young stowaway from 1768 to 1771 aboard the Endeavor which sailed around the world under Captain James Cook.
- Hiaasen, Carl. Flush. 1st ed. New York : Alfred A. Knopf : , c2005.
With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.
- Hiaasen, Carl. Hoot. New York : Alfred A. Knopf, c2002.
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
- Hildick, E. W. (Edmund Wallace), 1925-. Manhattan is missing. [1st ed.]. Garden City, N.Y., : Doubleday, [1969].
A young English boy and his family sublet an apartment in New York City on the condition that they take care of the owner's prized Siamese cat, but suddenly the cat disappears.
- Hodges, Margaret, 1911-. Merlin and the making of the king. 1st ed. New York : Holiday House, c2004.
A retelling of four Arthurian legends, "The Sword in the Stone," "Excalibur," "The Lady of the Lake," and "The Last Great Battle," which feature Merlin, King Arthur, and other familiar figures.
- Holm, Jennifer L. Babymouse : our hero. 1st ed. New York : Random House, c2005.
An imaginative young mouse is terrified to face her enemy in dodgeball, but with the help of her best friend and support from her mother, she not only plays the game, she proves herself a hero. Enjoy other titles in this graphic novel series.
- Howe, Deborah. Bunnlicula : a rabbit tale of mystery. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum, 1979.
Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire. Enjoy several sequels and the newer series, Tales from the House of Bunnlicula.

- Howe, James, 1946-. Invasion of the Mind Swappers from Asteroid 6. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2002.
In his new book, Howie the wire-haired dachshund writes all about how the Mind Swappers from Asteroid 6 invade Earth and how he and his friend Delilah save the day.
- Howe, James, 1946-. It came from beneath the bed! : tales from the House of Bunnacula. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002.
With help from his Uncle Harold, who wrote books about Bunnacula, Howie the wire-haired dachshund writes a story in which he saves the world from a science experiment gone awry.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. The adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein. New York, N.Y. : Avon Books, 1995, c1985.
Eight-year-old David is convinced that his life will be more adventurous when he changes his name to Ali Baba.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. Class clown. New York : Morrow, 1987.
Lucas Cott, the most obstreperous boy in the third grade, finds it very hard to turn over a new leaf when he decides to become the perfect student.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. School's out. New York : Morrow Junior Books, c1991.
Lucas thinks his summer vacation is ruined when Mom hires a French au pair to watch over Lucas and his two-year-old twin brothers.
- Ibbotson, Eva. Journey to the river sea. 1st American ed. New York : Dutton Children's Books, 2001.
Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River.
- Jones, Charlotte Foltz. Mistakes that worked. 1st ed. New York : Doubleday, 1991.
Presents the stories behind forty things that were invented or named by accident, including aspirin, X-rays, frisbees, silly putty, and velcro.
- Kennedy, Richard, 1932-. Amy's eyes. 1st ed. New York : Harper & Row, c1985.
A girl who has changed into a doll and a doll who has changed into a sea captain sail the pirate-ridden high seas with a crew of Mother Goose animals, in search of gold treasure.
- Kennemore, Tim. Circle of doom. 1st American ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003.
Thirteen-year-old Lizzie uses ingredients both ordinary and not so ordinary to make a series of magic potions, to the growing astonishment of her younger brothers.
- Kessler, Liz. The tail of Emily Windsnap. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA : Candlewick Press, 2003.
After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world. Enjoy other sequels about Emily Windsnap.
- Kessler, Liz. Philippa Fisher's fairy godsister. 1st U.S. ed. Cambridge, MA : Candlewick Press, 2008.
Philippa Fisher, who wants to be able to summon a fairy, is surprised when Daisy, the new girl at school, says she is her fairy godmother--or godsister--who is grudgingly committed to grant three wishes, and Philippa struggles to wish for something that will improve her life instead of making it more difficult.
- King-Smith, Dick. Ace, the very important pig. 1st American ed. New York : Crown Publishers, 1990.
Farmer Tubbs' amazing pig, Ace of Clubs, eventually winds up on television for his cleverness.
- Konigsburg, E. L. From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. New York, : Atheneum, 1968 [c1967].
Two suburban children run away from their Connecticut home and go to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, where their ingenuity enables them to live in luxury.
- Konigsburg, E. L. The view from Saturday. 1st ed. New York, N.Y. : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1996.
Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.
- Krull, Kathleen. Wilma unlimited : how Wilma Rudolph became the world's fastest woman. 1st ed. San Diego : Harcourt Brace, c1996.
A biography of the African-American woman who overcame crippling polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympic.
- Kurlansky, Mark. The cod's tale. New York : Putnam's, c2001.
- Lasky, Kathryn. The librarian who measured the earth. 1st ed. Boston : Joy Street Books, c1994.
Describes the life and work of Eratosthenes, the Greek geographer and astronomer who accurately measured the circumference of the Earth.
- Lasky, Kathryn. The man who made time travel. 1st ed. New York : Melanie Kroups Books, c2003.
Describes the need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea and the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.

- Levine, Gail Carson. Dave at night. New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, 1999.
When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.
- Levine, Gail Carson. Ella enchanted. 1st HarperTrophy ed. New York : HarperTrophy, c1998.
In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.
- Levine, Gail Carson. Fairy dust and the quest for the egg. 1st ed. New York : Disney Press, c2005.
Rani, Vidia, and Prilla embark on a journey to repair the egg and save Neverland.
- Levine, Gail Carson. The fairy's return and other princess tales. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollins, [2006].
A collection of six Princess Tales features "The Fairy's Mistake" in which a meddling fairy's plans for good wreak havoc, and "For Biddle's Sake" in which a princess is turned into a toad by a mischievous fairy.
- Levine, Gail Carson. The princess test. 1st ed. New York : HarperCollinsPublishers, c1999.
In this humorous retelling of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and the Pea," Lorelei must pass many difficult tests in order to prove that she is a true princess and win the hand of Prince Nicholas.
- Lewis, C. S. (Clive Staples), 1898-1963. The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe. 1st HarperCollins ed. New York : HarperCollins, 1994.
Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. Enjoy all the titles in the Chronicles of Narnia series.
- Lin, Grace. The year of the dog : a novel. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown, 2006.
Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.
- Lowry, Lois. Anastasia Krupnik. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1979.
Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother. Enjoy other titles about Anastasia.
- Lowry, Lois. See you around, Sam! Boston : Houghton, 1996.
Sam Krupnik, mad at his mother because she won't let him wear his new plastic fangs in the house, decides to run away to Alaska.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. Sarah, plain and tall. Unabridged ed. New York : HarperCollins, c1991.
Read by Glenn Close. When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. Enjoy the sequels to this story.
- Martin, Ann M., 1955-. The doll people. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c2000.
A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.
- Martin, Ann M., 1955-. The meanest doll in the world. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, 2003.
Annabelle and Tiffany, dolls who are best friends living in the Palmer house, have an adventure when they hide in Kate Palmer's backpack, are carried to school, mistakenly go to another house, and try to stop Princess Mimi, a doll who threatens all dollkind.
- McCarthy, Meghan. The story of Charles Atlas, strong man. New York : A.A. Knopf, c2007.
Simple text and illustrations present the life of fitness legend Charles Atlas.
- McCloskey, Robert, 1914-. Homer Price. New York, : The Viking Press, 1943.
Six episodes in the life of Homer Price including one in which he and his pet skunk capture four bandits and another about a donut machine on the rampage.
- McCully, Emily Arnold. Marvelous Mattie : how Margaret E. Knight became an inventor. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2006.
Mattie Knight loved to make things ranging from a foot warmer for her mother or toys for her older brothers. Or, when she was 12, a metal guard to prevent shuttles from shooting off looms and hurting workers. Later, Mattie invented a machine that could cut and glue the square-bottomed paper bags we still use today. Meet the woman known as "the Lady Edison."
- McKay, Hilary. The amber cat. Margaret K McElderry, [c1997].
- Montgomery, L. M. (Lucy Maud), 1874-1942. Anne of Green Gables. New York : Buccaneer Books, 1977.
Anne, an eleven-year-old orphan, is sent by mistake to live with a lonely middle-aged brother and sister on a Prince Edward Island farm and proceeds to make an indelible impression on everyone around her.
- Montgomery, Sy. The snake scientist. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
Discusses the work of Bob Mason and his efforts to study and protect snakes, particularly red-sided garter snakes.

- Montgomery, Sy. The tarantula scientist. Boston : Houghton Mifflin Co, 2004.
Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath birdeating tarantula.
- Muth, Jon J. Zen shorts. New York : Scholastic Press, 2005.
When Stillwater the bear moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Alice in Blunderland. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2003.
Fourth-grader Alice tries unsuccessfully to avoid embarrassing mistakes and to establish better relations with her older brother Lester. Enjoy other titles about Alice.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. The boys start the war. New York, N.Y. : Delacorte Press, c1993.
Disgusted that a family with three girls moves into the house across the river, nine-year-old Wally and his three brothers declare a practical joke war on the girls.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Roxie and the hooligans. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2006.
Roxie Warbler, the niece of a famous explorer, follows Uncle Dangerfoot's advice on how to survive any crisis when she becomes stranded on an island with a gang of school bullies and a pair of murderous bank robbers.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Shiloh. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum ; , 1991.
When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Shiloh season. 1st ed. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1996.
When mean and angry Judd, who has never known kindness, takes to drinking and mistreats his dogs, Marty discovers how deep a hurt can go and how long it takes to heal.
- Nimmo, Jenny. Charlie Bone and the invisible boy. 1st Scholastic ed. New York : Orchard Books, 2004.
Charlie and his friends unite to rescue Ollie, a boy who was turned invisible and made to live in the attics at Bloor's Academy more than a year ago, but they are hindered by a mysterious new student who lives with Charlie's aunts. Look for several sequels in the Charlie Boone series.
- Norton, Mary. The Borrowers. [1st American ed.]. New York, : Harcourt, Brace, [1953].
A family of miniature people who live in an old country house cleverly "borrow" the things which they need.
- Paolini, Christopher. Eldest. 1st ed. New York : Alfred A. Knopf ; , c2005.
After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.
- Paolini, Christopher. Eragon. New York : Alfred A. Knopf ; , 2003.
In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.
- Park, Barbara. Skinnybones. New York : Knopf ; , c1982.
Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.
- Paterson, Katherine. The great Gilly Hopkins. 1st ed. New York : Crowell, c1978.
An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.
- Paulsen, Gary. Molly McGinty has a really good day. New York : Wendy Lamb Books, 2004.
When supremely organized seventh-grader, Molly McGinty, loses the notebook she relies on to keep her life in order she spends the day in chaos.
- Paulsen, Gary. The time hackers. New York : Wendy Lamb Books, c2005.
When someone uses futuristic technology to play pranks on twelve-year-old Dorso Clayman, he and his best friend set off on a supposedly impossible journey through space and time trying to stop the gamesters who are endangering the universe.
- Petersen, P. J. I hate camping. New York : Puffin Books, 1998, c1991.
Dan thinks he is going to have a terrible time when he is forced to go camping with his mother's boyfriend Mike and Mike's brainy son Raymond, but the two boys form a surprising friendship.
- Petersen, P.J. White water. New York : Simon & Schuster, 1997.
Greg confronts his own fears and assumes a leadership role when his father is bitten by a rattlesnake during a white-water rafting trip.
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Dear Benjamin Banneker. 1st ed. San Diego, CA : Harcourt Brace & Co., c1994.
- Pinkwater, Daniel Manus, 1941-. The Hoboken chicken emergency. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1999.
Arthur goes to pick up the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner but comes back with a 260-pound chicken.
- Polacco, Patricia. Mrs. Mack. New York : Philomel Books, c1998.

The author remembers the summer when she was ten years old and staying with her father in Michigan where she took riding lessons and became best friends with a perfect horse.

Polacco, Patricia. Pink and Say. New York : Philomel Books, c1994.

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, an African-American soldier, during the Civil War and their capture by Southern troops.

Polacco, Patricia. The trees of the dancing goats. 1st ed. New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c1996.

During a scarlet fever epidemic one winter in Michigan, a Jewish family helps make Christmas special for their sick neighbors by making their own Hanukkah miracle. Based on a memory from the author's childhood.

Pullman, Philip, 1946-. I was a rat. New York : Knopf, 2000.

A little boy turns life in London upside down when he appears at the house of a lonely old couple and insists he was a rat.

Ray, Deborah Kogan, 1940-. Down the Colorado : John Wesley Powell, the one-armed explorer. 1st ed. New York : Francis Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

Chronicles the experiences of John Wesley Powell, who led the first exploration down the Colorado River and through the Grand Canyon.

Rector, Anne Elizabeth, b. 1899. Anne Elizabeth's diary : a young artist's true story. 1st ed. New York : Little, Brown and Co., c2004.

The diary of a twelve-year-old girl living in New York City in 1912, with sidebars describing the author/illustrator's life and family and significant events of the year and the city.

Riordan, Rick. The lightning thief. 1st ed. New York : Miramax Books/Hyperion Books for Children, c2005.

Percy Jackson is special because his father is Poseidon, God of the Sea, and Percy sets out on an adventure across the United States to prevent a war between the gods.

Rockwell, Thomas, 1933-. How to eat fried worms. New York, : F. Watts, 1973.

Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

Rodda, Emily. Rowan of Rin. 1st American ed. New York : Greenwillow Books, 2001.

Because only he can read the magical map, young, weak, and timid Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and try to restore their water supply, as fears of a dragon and other horrors threaten to drive them back.

Rogers, Jonathan. The bark of the bog owl. Nashville, Tenn. : Broadman & Holman Publishers, c2004.

As Aidan Errol is pronounced Wilderking, a pact is signed between Corenwald and the Pyrthen Empire, but as Aiden shoulders the weight and glory of his destiny, Corenwald is double-crossed and an epic battle to save the kingdom ensues. Enjoy the other titles in this series.

Rowling, J. K. Harry Potter and the sorcerer's stone. [New York] : Scholastic Press, 1997.

Rescued from the outrageous neglect of his aunt and uncle, a young boy with a great destiny proves his worth while attending Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Enjoy all 7 titles in this series.

Rowling, J. K. The tales of Beedle the Bard. 1st ed. New York : Children's High Level Group in association with Arthur A. Levine Books, 2008.

Contains five illustrated moral tales for children from the world of Harry Potter, reportedly discovered and translated by young witch Hermione Granger, with an introduction and commentary from Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Rumford, James, 1948-. Beowulf, a hero's tale retold. Boston : Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.

A simplified and illustrated retelling of the exploits of the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Beowulf, and how he came to defeat the monster Grendel, Grendel's mother, and a dragon that threatened the kingdom.

Sage, Angie. Magyk. 1st ed. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, c2005.

After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home and carried toward safety by the Extraordinary Wizard, those she always believed were her father and brother, and a young guard known only as Boy 412--pursued by agents of those who killed her mother ten years earlier. Look for the sequels in this series.

San Souci, Robert D. Cut from the same cloth : American women of myth, legend, and tall tale. New York : Philomel Books, c1993.

A collection of twenty stories about legendary American women, drawn from folktales, popular stories, and ballads.

Scieszka, Jon. Math curse. New York : Viking, 1995.

When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse.

Scieszka, Jon. Science verse. New York, N.Y : Viking, 2004.

When the teacher tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything, a student is struck with a curse and begins hearing nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

Scieszka, Jon. Tut, Tut. New York : Puffin, 1998, c1996.

The Time Way Trio blunders into the world of the pyramids for a class assignment. Enjoy other titles in this *Time Warp Trio* series and the new graphic novel series.

Selden, George. The cricket in Times Square. New York : Farrar, 1960.

Selznick, Brian. The invention of Hugo Cabret : a novel in words and pictures. 1st ed. New York : Scholastic Press, 2007.

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

Shannon, George. Stories to solve : folktales from around the world. 1st ed. New York : Greenwillow, c1985.

Brief folktales in which there is a mystery or problem that the reader is invited to solve before the resolution is presented.

Silverstein, Shel. Runny Babbit : a billy sook. 1st ed. [New York] : HarperCollins, c2005.

Runny Babbit's topsy-turvy world is brought to life through wordplay and drawings.

Simon, Seymour. Earthquakes. New York : Morrow Junior Books, 1991.

Examines the phenomenon of earthquakes, describing how and where they occur, how they can be predicted, and how much damage they can inflict.

Simon, Seymour. Oceans. New York : Morrow Junior Books, c1990.

Text and photographs explore the physical characteristics, life forms, and fragility of the world's oceans.

Singh, Vandana. Younguncle comes to town. New York : Viking, 2006.

In a small town in northern India, three siblings await their father's youngest brother, Younguncle, who is said to be somewhat eccentric.

Smith, Lane. John, Paul, George & Ben. 1st ed. New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c2006.

A humorous look at five of our country's founding fathers.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. The Egypt game. New York : Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c1976.

Melanie and April turn a deserted lot into an imaginary Egypt where they spend many hours enacting rituals and consulting oracles, but there are real dangers and problems lurking outside their make-believe world that almost bring their game to a disastrous end.

Speare, Elizabeth George. The witch of Blackbird Pond. Boston, : Houghton Mifflin, 1958.

A young woman brought up in Barbados comes to live with her uncle in Connecticut, and finds their Puritan way of life difficult after her unconventional upbringing.

Spinelli, Jerry. Fourth grade rats. New York : Scholastic, c1991.

Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown up fourth grader.

Spinelli, Jerry. Loser. 1st ed. New York : Joanna Cotler Books, c2002.

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Spinelli, Jerry. Wringer. New York : Joanna Cotler Bks, [c1997].

Steig, William, 1907-. Abel's island. 1st ed. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1976.

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Stewart, Paul, 1955-. Beyond the Deepwoods. 1st American ed. Oxford ; : David Fickling Books, 2004.

Thirteen-year-old Twig, having always looked and felt different from his woodtroll family, learns that he is adopted and travels out of his Deepwoods home to find the place where he belongs.

Taylor, Mildred D. The friendship. 1st ed. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, c1987.

Four children witness a confrontation between an elderly black man and a white storekeeper in rural Mississippi in the 1930s.

Taylor, Sydney, 1904-. All-of-a-kind family. Chicago : Follett Publishing, 1951.

The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century.

Thimmesh, Catherine. Girls think of everything : stories of ingenious inventions by women. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 2000.

Tells the story of how women throughout the ages have responded to situations confronting them in daily life by inventing such items as correction fluid, space helmets, and disposable diapers.

Travers, P. L. (Pamela L.), 1906-. Mary Poppins. Rev. ed. San Diego : Harcourt Brace, 1997, c1934.

The wind brings two English children a new nanny who slides up the bannister and introduces them to some delightful people and experiences. Enjoy the other Mary Poppins titles.

Truss, Lynne. Eats, shoots & leaves : why, commas really do make a difference! New York : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006.

See how using (or not using) a comma can change the meaning of a sentence. Also look for The girl's like spaghetti : why, you can't manage without apostrophes!

Turner, Pamela S. Gorilla doctors : saving endangered great apes. Boston : Houghton Mifflin Co., 2005.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. Secret identity. 1st ed. New York : Knopf ;, 2004.

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!. Enjoy other titles in the Shredderman series.

Vande Velde, Vivian. Three good deeds. 1st ed. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, c2005.

Caught stealing some goose eggs from a witch, Howard is cursed for his heartlessness and turned into a goose himself, and he can only become human again by performing three good deeds.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. Moses : when Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom. 1st ed. New York : Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, c2006.

A fictionalized account of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery for freedom in Philadelphia, where she turns her talents to leading others along the Underground Railroad.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, 1867-1957. Little house in the big woods. Newly illustrated, uniform ed. New York, : Harper, 1953.

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors.

Wiles, Debbie. Love, Ruby Lavender. San Diego : Harcourt, 2001.

When her quirky grandmother goes to Hawaii for the summer, nine-year-old Ruby learns to survive on her own in Mississippi by writing letters, befriendng chickens as well as the new girl in town, and finally coping with her grandfather's death.

Wolverton, Dave. The rising force. New York : Scholastic, c1999.

Young Obi-Wan Kenobi strives to be a Jedi Knight.

Wright, Betty Ren. The dollhouse murders. New York : Scholastic, c1983.

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night and dolls that have moved from where she last left them lead Amy and her retarded sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

Wright, Betty Ren. Haunted summer. New York : Scholastic, c1996.

Shy, nine-year-old Abby surprises herself, her equally timid babysitter, and her older brother when they are haunted by a ghost that is trying to reclaim a stolen music box.

Yolen, Jane. Wizard's hall. 1st ed. San Diego : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1991.

A young apprentice wizard saves the wizard's training hall by trusting and believing in himself.

Yolen, Jane. The wizard's map. 1st ed. San Diego, Calif. : Harcourt Brace & Co., c1999.

Three children visiting relatives in Scotland become involved in the plans of a diabolical wizard.