



## ROSS LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2019

Greetings, Readers!

It's about that time; summer is almost here. You're wrapping up your final weeks of school and you're planning and thinking about all of the fun adventures you'll have this summer. Your teachers love summertime too! We love going on bike rides with our families and friends. We love going to the beach and swimming in the ocean. But the one thing that your teachers look forward to most about summer is Summer Reading!

Finally, we all have a few months to read the books we have wanted to read all year, but just could not find the time. Finally, we can sit down on our beach chairs with our sunglasses on to simply read. Summertime is DEAR time: Drop Everything And Read! Your teachers are always talking to one another about favorite books and the literary adventures we embark upon with every turn of the page. This year, we designed a new summer reading program that we hope will inspire you to share your literary adventures during your summer of reading.

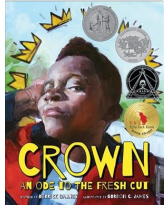

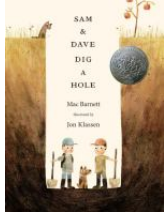
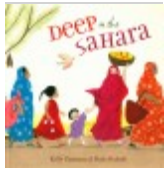
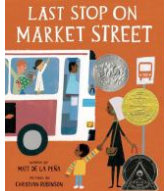
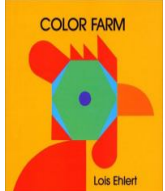

When we return to school in the fall, be ready to introduce the characters you've met and places you have traveled through your reading. As a school group, we will work together to create a visual representation of all of our summer reading adventures for our annual Back-to-School Night celebration.

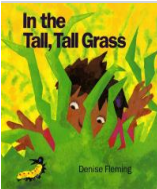




### **Summer Reading Requirements**

Students in grades 3–6 must read three books this summer. You can choose titles from the suggested lists provided, or feel free to ask a librarian, friend, or parent to help you!


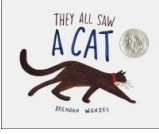

Happy reading!

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

	<p><b><i>Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut.</i> Barnes, Derrick.</b></p> <p>The barbershop is where the magic happens. Boys go in as lumps of clay and, with princely robes draped around their shoulders, a dab of cool shaving cream on their foreheads, and a slow, steady cut, they become royalty. That crisp yet subtle line makes boys sharper, more visible, more aware of every great thing that could happen to them when they look good: lesser grades turn into As; girls take notice; even a mother's hug gets a little tighter. Everyone notices.</p>
	<p><b><i>Juna's Jar.</i> Bahk, Jane. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>After her best friend, Hector, moves away, Juna's brother Minh tries to make her feel better by finding things to put in her special kimchi jar, and each night, whatever is in the jar takes her on a magical journey in search of Hector.</p>
	<p><b><i>Sam &amp; Dave Dig a Hole.</i> Barnett, Mac. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Hoping to find something spectacular, Sam and Dave begin digging an immense hole and enjoy an unexpectedly spectacular day despite finding nothing.</p>
	<p><b><i>Deep in the Sahara.</i> Cunnane, Kelly. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Longing to wear a colorful malafa cloth like the women in her Muslim community in Mauritania, young Lalla learns how the garment honors her faith and cultural traditions before her mother invites her to try on a beautiful blue cloth and join her in prayers.</p>
	<p><b><i>Last Stop on Market Street.</i> De la Peña, Matt, and Robinson, Christian. (And others by these authors)</b></p> <p>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? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.</p>
	<p><b><i>Color Farm.</i> Ehlert, Lois. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>In a farm full of colors, shapes, and magical animals, a die-cut rooster is transformed into a duck, and then on the next page, the duck becomes a chicken.</p>
	<p><b><i>Beach Baby.</i> Elmquist, Laurie. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>A gentle, poetic lullaby for baby, filled with memories from a perfect day playing on the beach. Castles, sand dollars, seals peering out of the waves and the beat of the ocean become sweet reminders of all the magical things that await baby tomorrow. A lyrical celebration of natural beauty and a soft, reassuring reminder for little ones being tucked into bed that fun and adventure will return with a new day.</p>

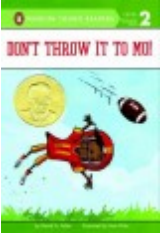
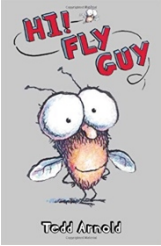
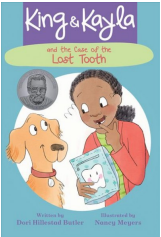
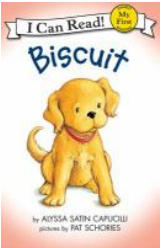
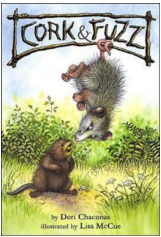
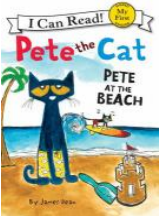
	<p><b><i>In the Tall, Tall Grass.</i> Fleming, Denise. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>If you were a fuzzy caterpillar crawling through the tall, tall grass on a sunny afternoon, what would you see? To find out, just follow the tiny tour guide as he inches his way through the pages of this book. You'll see ants and bees and birds—hip-hopping bunnies too. You'll even hear the sounds some of them make. Crunch, munch, caterpillars lunch . . . Crack, snap, wings flap . . . Beginning as the sun is high in the sky and ending as fireflies blink and the moon rises above, this backyard tour is one no child will want to miss.</p>
	<p><b><i>Farming.</i> Gibbons, Gail. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>An introduction, in simple text and illustrations, to farming and the work done on a farm throughout the seasons.</p>
	<p><b><i>Shh! We Have a Plan.</i> Haughton, Chris. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Four friends creep through the woods, and what do they spot? An exquisite bird high in a tree! “Hello birdie,” waves one. “Shh! We have a plan,” hush the others. They stealthily make their advance, nets in the air. Ready one, ready two, ready three, and <i>go!</i> But as one comically foiled plan follows another, it soon becomes clear that their quiet, observant companion, hand outstretched, has a far better idea.</p>
	<p><b><i>Waiting.</i> Henkes, Kevin. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>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! What will happen? Will patience win in the end? Or someday will the friends stop waiting and do something unexpected?</p>
	<p><b><i>How to Catch a Star!</i> Jeffers, Oliver. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Once there was a boy, and that boy loved stars very much. So much so that he decided to catch one of his very own. But how? Waiting for them to grow tired from being up in the sky all night doesn't work. Climbing to the top of the tallest tree? No, not tall enough. The boy has a rocket ship . . . but it is made of paper and doesn't fly well at all. Finally, just when the boy is ready to give up, he learns that sometimes things aren't where, or what, we expect them to be.</p>
	<p><b><i>Whistle for Willie.</i> Keats, Ezra Jack. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>In the heat of a city summer, young Peter, an African American child, wishes to be able to whistle for his dog. Keats's illustrations boldly, colorfully capture the child, his city world, and the shimmering heat of a summer's day.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Big Mooncake for Little Star.</i> Lin, Grace.</b></p> <p>Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble? In this stunning picture book that shines as bright as the stars in the sky, Newbery Honor author Grace Lin creates a heartwarming original story that explains phases of the moon.</p>

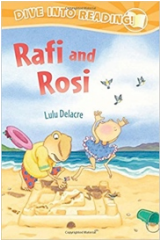

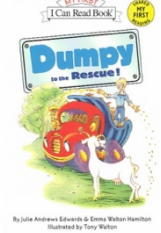

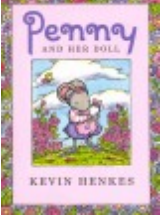
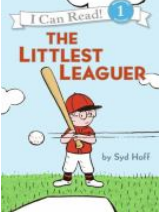
	<p><b><i>Inch by Inch</i>. Lionni, Leo. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>This favorite classic picture book introduces children to a winning, winsome inchworm who can measure anything under the sun, from a robin's tail to a toucan's beak. When a hungry nightingale threatens to eat him for breakfast unless he can measure her song, the inchworm will have to cleverly solve the dilemma. This is a whimsical and sweet picture book that asks, "Can a song be measured?"</p>
	<p><b><i>Mango, Abuela, and Me</i>. Medina, Meg. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Mia's <i>abuela</i> has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela before they go to sleep and discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside. So while they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English ("Dough. <i>Masa</i>."), and Mia learns some Spanish too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn the words she needs to tell Mia all her stories.</p>
	<p><b><i>Niño Wrestles the World</i>. Morales, Yuyi. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Believing himself capable of fending off the most monstrous opponents, underpants-clad Lucha Libre champion Niño is challenged by a no-holds-barred wrestling match that truly tests his skills when his younger sisters wake up from their naps.</p>
	<p><b><i>Beautiful Hands</i>. Otoshi, Kathryn, and Baumgarten, Bret. (And others by these authors)</b></p> <p>A celebration of the many things children can accomplish with their little hands is illustrated with artwork created using thumbprints and handprints.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Family Book</i>. Parr, Todd. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p><i>The Family Book</i> celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two moms or two dads, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, Todd Parr assures readers that no matter what kind of family you have, every family is special in its own unique way.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Sick Day for Amos McGee</i>. Stead, Philip C. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Friends come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. In Amos McGee's case, all sorts of species, too! Every day he spends a little bit of time with each of his friends at the zoo, running races with the tortoise, keeping the shy penguin company, and even reading bedtime stories to the owl. But when Amos is too sick to make it to the zoo, his animal friends decide it's time they returned the favor.</p>
	<p><b><i>Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors</i>. Thong, Roseanne Greenfield. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>In this lively picture book, children discover a world of colors all around them: red is spices and swirling skirts; yellow is masa, tortillas, and sweet corn cake. Many of the featured objects are Latino in origin, and all are universal in appeal. With rich, boisterous illustrations, a fun-to-read rhyming text, and an informative glossary, this playful concept book will reinforce the colors found in every child's day!</p>

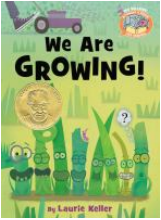


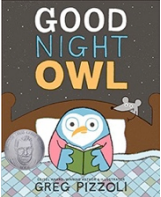
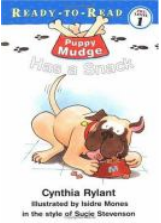
	<p><b><i>The Whale in My Swimming Pool.</i> Wan, Joyce. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>One sunny day, a little boy heads outside for a swim, but his pool is already taken . . . there's a big whale in the water and it's not budging! The boy tries everything to get the whale to leave. Nothing seems to work. Not fetch. Not tag. Not even offering his allowance. What's a boy to do? Luckily, he comes up with the perfect solution: he decides to chill out on a spray of water over the whale's spout.</p>
	<p><b><i>They All Saw a Cat.</i> Wenzel, Brendan. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws. . . . In this glorious celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, 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?</p>
	<p><b><i>Knuffle Bunny.</i> Willems, Mo. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p>Trixie, Daddy, and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the neighborhood laundromat. But the exciting adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes somebunny was left behind. Using a combination of muted black-and-white photographs and expressive illustrations, this stunning book tells a brilliantly true-to-life tale about what happens when Daddy's in charge and things go terribly, hilariously wrong.</p>



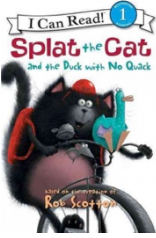
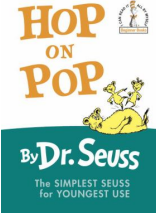

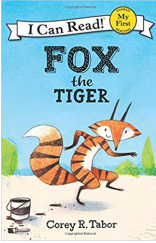
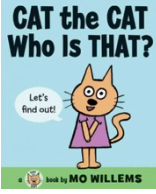
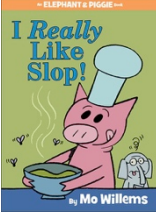
## RISING 1ST GRADE

	<p><b><i>Don't Throw It to Mo.</i> Adler, David A.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Mo Jackson is a little boy with a big passion for sports. He may not be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest player, but he won't let that stop him from playing!</p> <p>Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins, his football team. His classmates don't mind, but the kids on their rival team tease him for being a "butterfingers" who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins!</p>
	<p><b><i>Hi! Fly Guy (series).</i> Arnold, Tedd.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>"A fly was flying. He was looking for something to eat. Something tasty. Something slimy. A boy was walking. He was looking for something to catch. Something smart. Something for The Amazing Pet Show." The boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful friendship. Er, and so begins a very funny friendship. Using hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings, best-selling author/illustrator Tedd Arnold creates an easy reader that is full of fun.</p>
	<p><b><i>King and Kayla and the Case of the Lost Tooth.</i> Butler, Dori Hillestad.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>In five short chapters, Kayla and her clever dog, King, solve the case of a missing tooth. Narrated by the canine sleuth, this simple mystery features creative repetition, predictable action, and supportive illustrations that reward children with a successful and satisfying reading experience.</p>
	<p><b><i>Biscuit.</i> Capucilli, Alyssa Satin.</b></p> <p><b>24 pages</b></p> <p>Time for bed, Biscuit! Biscuit is a little yellow puppy. And like most puppies, he would rather play than go to bed. Will Biscuit ever go to sleep? It's Biscuit's bedtime, but this lively little puppy doesn't want to go to sleep! Before he gets into bed, Biscuit plays out the familiar bedtime drama of wanting just one more thing. A perfect story for young readers who won't be able to resist reading about this adorable puppy for themselves.</p>
	<p><b><i>Cork &amp; Fuzz.</i> Chaconas, Dori.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Cork is a muskrat. Fuzz is a possum. From their first meeting in a hollow log to playing pin-the-tail-on-the-turtle, from collecting rocks to dodging falling pinecones, Cork and Fuzz are always up to something unusual. The gentle humor and simple story will entertain beginning readers, while warm, expressive illustrations add just the right amount of visual cues to help them along.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pete the Cat: Pete at the Beach.</i> Dean, James.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Pete the Cat is one groovy cat at finding shells and building sand castles at the beach. But when it gets too hot, there's only one way to cool off—jump into the ocean! Except Pete might be a scaredy-cat when it comes to the water. This My First I Can Read! book is perfect for shared reading with a child.</p>

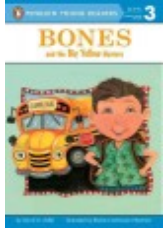

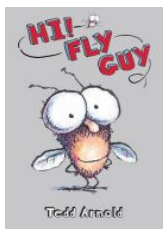
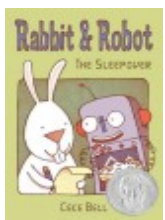

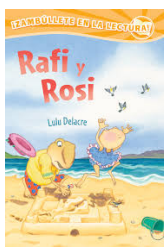
	<p><b><i>Rafi and Rosi/Rafi y Rosi (series).</i> Delacre, Lulu.</b></p> <p><b>63 pages</b></p> <p>In this chapter book series, Rafi and his younger sister, Rosi, explore their surroundings and learn about the traditions, plants, animals, and environment of Puerto Rico. Young readers will enjoy the adventures of these curious siblings and will relate to their special bond as brother and sister. An added plus is the sprinkling of easy Spanish words that add flavor to the stories.</p>
	<p><b><i>Go, Dog. Go!</i> Eastman, P. D.</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>Reading goes to the dogs in this timeless Beginner Book edited by Dr. Seuss. From big dogs and little dogs to red, green, and blue dogs, dogs going up and dogs going fast . . . who knew dogs were so busy? And laughter will ensue at the repeated question “Do you like my hat?” Like P. D. Eastman’s classic <i>Are You My Mother?</i>, <i>Go, Dog. Go!</i> has been a go-to favorite for over 50 years, leaving audiences of all breeds wagging their tails with delight.</p>
	<p><b><i>Dumpy to the Rescue!</i> Edwards, Julie Andrews, and Hamilton, Emma Walton.</b></p> <p><b>24 pages</b></p> <p>Many things are missing at Merryhill Farm—the cat’s milk, the baby roses, Pop-Up’s hat, and nuts and apples. Even Baby Goat is missing until Dumpy finds him!</p>
	<p><b><i>Pig Is Big on Books.</i> Florian, Douglas.</b></p> <p><b>24 pages</b></p> <p>Pig loves books, both big and small, and reads them at school, at home, and on the bus.</p>
	<p><b><i>Penny and Her Doll.</i> Henkes, Kevin.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>When Penny receives a surprise box in the mail from Gram, she is thrilled. The surprise is a doll, and she is absolutely perfect from her head to her toes. Penny loves her immediately. She introduces her new doll to Mama and to the babies and to Papa.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Littlest Leaguer.</i> Hoff, Syd.</b></p> <p><b>48 pages</b></p> <p>Of all the players in the little league, Harold is the littlest. No matter how hard he tries, Harold is no good at baseball. The ground balls always bounce over his head, and his little legs never get him to the pop flies fast enough. So the only place Coach Lombardi puts him is on the bench—until one day, during a very important game, when Harold gets his big chance to show that being little isn’t so bad after all.</p>


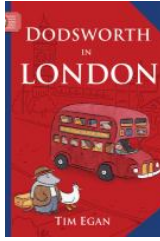
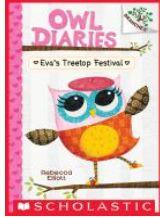
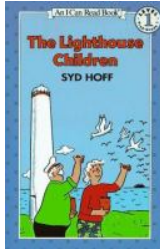
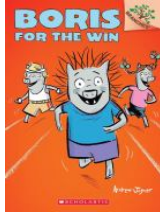

	<p><b><i>We Are Growing!</i> Keller, Laurie.</b></p> <p><b>57 pages</b></p> <p>Walt and his friends are growing up fast! Everyone is the something-est. But . . . what about Walt? He is not the tallest, or the curliest, or the silliest. He is not the anything-est! As a BIG surprise inches closer, Walt discovers something special of his own!</p>
	<p><b><i>Ling &amp; Ting: Not Exactly the Same!</i> (series). Lin, Grace.</b></p> <p><b>48 pages</b></p> <p>Ling and Ting are twins. They have the same brown eyes. They have the same pink cheeks. They have the same happy smiles. Ling and Ting are two adorable identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving—people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same.</p>
	<p><b><i>Days with Frog &amp; Toad</i> (series). Lobel, Arnold.</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>Celebrate the power of friendship with Frog and Toad. From writing letters to going swimming, telling stories to finding lost buttons, Frog and Toad are always there for each other—just as best friends should be.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Adventures of Otto</i> (series). Milgrim, David.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Making numerous friends since landing on Earth, a homesick Otto the alien robot misses his family and decides to work, work, work on a spaceship that will take him up, up, up into space so that he can visit his own planet.</p>
	<p><b><i>Good Night Owl.</i> Pizzoli, Greg.</b></p> <p><b>48 pages</b></p> <p>Owl is ready for bed. But as soon as he settles in, he hears a strange noise. He'll never get to sleep unless he can figure out what's going on! He looks everywhere—in his cupboard, underneath the floorboards—even in his walls. But while he's busy tearing his house apart, he doesn't notice one tiny, squeaky, mouse-shaped detail . . . will Owl ever get a good night's sleep?</p>
	<p><b><i>Puppy Mudge</i> (series). Rylant, Cynthia.</b></p> <p><b>39 pages</b></p> <p>Welcome, Mudge! Mudge is Henry's puppy. Mudge is cute. Mudge is snuggly. Mudge also has a BIG appetite! With a hungry pup on his hands, will Henry get ANYTHING to eat?</p>



	<p><b><i>Splat the Cat and the Duck with No Quack.</i> Scotton, Rob.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p><i>Clickity clack, clickity clack . . .</i> Splat's bicycle bumps and jumps over the bumpy track on his way to school, until . . . crack! Splat takes a tumble off of his bike and finds himself nose to beak with a duck. A crash of this caliber should certainly merit some alarm from this duck, but Splat hears no sound. A duck with no quack? Splat thinks that his teacher, Mrs. Wimpydimple, will know what to do, so Splat packs the duck in his backpack along with his school supplies and heads off to Cat School.</p>
	<p><b><i>Hop on Pop.</i> Seuss, Dr. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>Pairs of rhyming words are introduced and used in simple sentences, such as "Day. Play. We play all day. Night. Fight. We fight all night."</p>
	<p><b><i>Puppy Pirates (series).</i> Soderberg, Erin.</b></p> <p><b>93 pages</b></p> <p>Ahoy, mateys! Set sail for fun and adventure on a pirate ship full of puppies!</p> <p>Wally is a pup with a nose for adventure. So when he stumbles onto a ragtag group of puppies who sail the seven seas, he knows he has to join the fun! But if pirates are supposed to be gruff and tough, this furry little guy isn't exactly first-mate material. Does he have what it takes to become a full-fledged puppy pirate?</p>
	<p><b><i>Fox the Tiger.</i> Tabor, Corey R.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Fun-loving, mischievous Fox wishes he were a tiger. Tigers are big and fast and sneaky. So he decides to become one! Soon Turtle and Rabbit are joining in the fun. But will Fox want to be a tiger forever? In <i>Fox the Tiger</i>, this winning trickster character and his animal friends learn that the best thing to be is yourself.</p>
	<p><b><i>Cat the Cat: Who Is That?</i> Willems, Mo.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Cat the Cat sure likes her friends. You will too! Join this spunky feline as she introduces the very youngest readers to her world, where a surprise is waiting in every book!</p>
	<p><b><i>Elephant and Piggie series.</i> Willems, Mo.</b></p> <p><b>57 pages</b></p> <p>Gerald is careful. Piggie is not.</p> <p>Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can.</p> <p>Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to.</p> <p>Gerald and Piggie are best friends.</p>

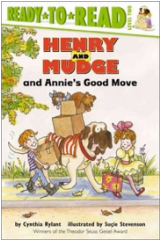
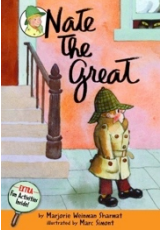
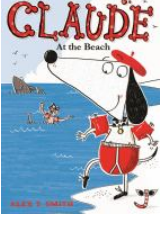
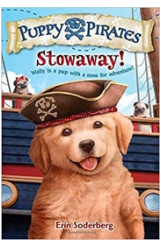
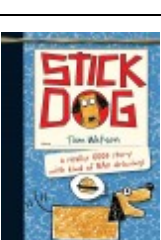

## **RISING 2ND GRADE**

	<p><b><i>Bones and the Big Yellow Mystery (series).</i> Adler, David A.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>With his bag of detective tools in hand, Detective Jeffrey Bones can solve any mystery. Good thing, because Mr. Green has lost his school bus! Will Detective Bones be able to solve the case?</p>
	<p><b><i>Cam Jansen: The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds (series).</i> Adler, David A.</b></p> <p><b>58 pages</b></p> <p>No mystery is too great for super-sleuth Cam Jansen and her amazing photographic memory! Can Cam help catch the diamond thief? Cam and her friend Eric are sitting at the mall when the jewelry store is robbed. Cam sees the thief, but the police arrest the wrong person. Now it's up to Cam to catch the real criminal! The Cam Jansen books are perfect for young readers who are making the transition to chapter books, and Cam is a spunky young heroine whom readers have loved for over two decades.</p>
	<p><b><i>Hi! Fly Guy (series).</i> Arnold, Tedd.</b></p> <p><b>30 pages</b></p> <p>"A fly was flying. He was looking for something to eat. Something tasty. Something slimy. A boy was walking. He was looking for something to catch. Something smart. Something for The Amazing Pet Show." The boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful friendship. Er, and so begins a very funny friendship. Using hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings, best-selling author/illustrator Tedd Arnold creates an easy reader that is full of fun.</p>
	<p><b><i>Rabbit &amp; Robot: The Sleepover (series).</i> Bell, Cece.</b></p> <p><b>50 pages</b></p> <p>Rabbit is excited about the sleepover he has carefully planned for his friend Robot, but Robot has some different ideas about how things should go.</p>
	<p><b><i>Stinky.</i> Davis, Eleanor.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Stinky is a monster who loves pickles and possums but is terrified of people. This hilarious and heartwarming story by ferociously talented cartoonist Eleanor Davis proves that even monsters can make new friends . . . warts and all!</p>
	<p><b><i>Rafi and Rosi/Rafi y Rosi (series).</i> Delacre, Lulu.</b></p> <p><b>63 pages</b></p> <p>In this chapter book series, Rafi and his younger sister, Rosi, explore their surroundings and learn about the traditions, plants, animals, and environment of Puerto Rico. Young readers will enjoy the adventures of these curious siblings and will relate to their special bond as brother and sister. An added plus is the sprinkling of easy Spanish words that add flavor to the stories.</p>

	<p><b><i>Mercy Watson to the Rescue (series).</i> DiCamillo, Kate.</b></p> <p><b>73 pages</b></p> <p>To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig—she’s a porcine wonder. And to the portly and good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them. This is not, however, so good for the Watsons’ bed. BOOM! CRACK! As the bed and its occupants slowly sink through the floor, Mercy escapes in a flash—“to alert the fire department,” her owners assure themselves.</p>
	<p><b><i>Dodsworth (series).</i> Egan, Peter.</b></p> <p><b>48 pages</b></p> <p>Join Dodsworth, a traveling mouse, as he takes his mischievous duck friend on his journeys around the world.</p>
	<p><b><i>Owl Diaries (series).</i> Elliott, Rebecca.</b></p> <p><b>71 pages</b></p> <p>Having a Bloomtastic Festival at school to celebrate spring is a great idea—but Eva Wingdale, a young owl, discovers that it is also a lot of work, and there is nothing wrong with asking her friends for help.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Lighthouse Children.</i> Hoff, Syd.</b></p> <p><b>42 pages</b></p> <p>Sam and Rose live in a lighthouse by the sea. Every day, they feed the hundreds of seagulls that come to visit them—treating the gulls like their own children. But one day a storm destroys the lighthouse, and Sam and Rose must move away. Will their lighthouse children be able to find them?</p>
	<p><b><i>Boris for the Win (series).</i> Joyner, Andrew.</b></p> <p><b>80 pages</b></p> <p>You’ll never be bored when Boris is around! With his big dreams and super-sized imagination, anything is possible—and adventure is guaranteed.</p> <p>Boris is an enthusiastic and mischievous warthog with an adventurous streak. He lives in a converted old bus with his parents and wants to explore the world, own a pet Komodo Dragon, and win Best Carrot Cake at the Hogg Bay Show.</p>
	<p><b><i>Horrible Harry Moves Up to Third Grade (series).</i> Kline, Suzy.</b></p> <p><b>58 pages</b></p> <p>For Horrible Harry, Song Lee, and the rest of their friends in Room 3B every day at school is a chance for fun, mystery, and adventure. And Harry is always at the center of it all!</p>


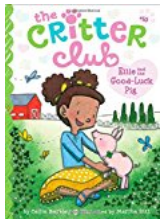
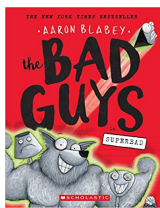


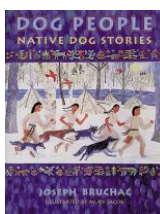
	<p><b><i>Puppy Academy (series).</i> Lewis, Gil.</b></p> <p><b>112 pages</b></p> <p>Meet the students at Puppy Academy: a team of plucky puppies learning to be working dogs.</p>
	<p><b><i>Ling &amp; Ting: Not Exactly the Same! (series).</i> Lin, Grace.</b></p> <p><b>43 pages</b></p> <p>Ling and Ting are twins. They have the same brown eyes. They have the same pink cheeks. They have the same happy smiles. Ling and Ting are two adorable identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving—people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same.</p>
	<p><b><i>Frog and Toad Are Friends.</i> Lobel, Arnold.</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>Celebrate the power of friendship with Frog and Toad. From writing letters to going swimming, telling stories to finding lost buttons, Frog and Toad are always there for each other—just as best friends should be.</p>
	<p><b><i>Katie Woo and Friends (series).</i> Manushkin, Fran.</b></p> <p><b>24 pages</b></p> <p>Katie Woo loves playing with her friends JoJo and Pedro. They do everything together, from losing teeth to looking for ghosts. Even when they argue, they always make up in the end. After all, there's nothing like a good friend.</p>
	<p><b><i>Juana &amp; Lucas.</i> Medina, Juana.</b></p> <p><b>88 pages</b></p> <p>Juana loves many things: drawing, eating Brussels sprouts, and living in Bogota, Colombia. Most of all, she loves her dog, Lucas. She does NOT love her itchy school uniform, math problems, or dance class. But above all, Juana does NOT love learning “the English.”</p>
	<p><b><i>Little Bear.</i> Minarik, Else Holmelund.</b></p> <p><b>63 pages</b></p> <p>Meet Little Bear, a friend to millions of children. And meet Mother Bear, who is there whenever Little Bear needs her. When it is cold and snowy outside, she finds just the right outfit for Little Bear to play in. When he goes to the Moon, she has a hot lunch waiting for him on his return. And, of course, she never forgets his birthday.</p>

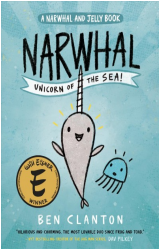
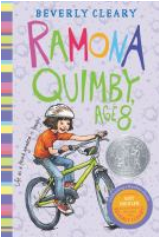






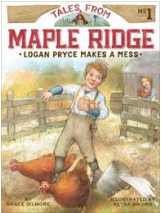


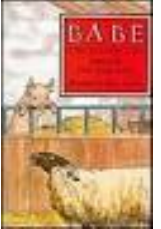
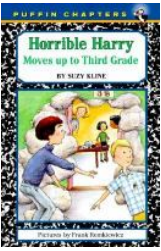
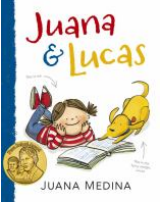
	<p><b>Henry and Mudge (series). Rylant, Cynthia.</b></p> <p><b>39 pages</b></p> <p>Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.</p>
	<p><b>Nate the Great (series). Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman.</b></p> <p><b>80 pages</b></p> <p>Nate the Great has a new case! His friend Annie has lost a picture. She wants Nate to help her find it. Nate the Great must get all the facts, ask the right questions, and narrow the list of suspects so he can solve the mystery.</p>
	<p><b>Claude at the Beach (series). Smith, Alex T.</b></p> <p><b>93 pages</b></p> <p>Claude is no ordinary dog—he leads an extraordinary life! In the third installment of Claude’s hilarious adventures, Claude and Sir Bobblysock pack their bags and go on vacation to the beach. They rescue a man from a shark, win a sandcastle-building competition, and hunt for pirate treasure. Of course, they make it back home just before Mr. and Mrs. Shinyshoes come home from work.</p>
	<p><b>Puppy Pirates (series). Soderberg, Erin.</b></p> <p><b>93 pages</b></p> <p>Ahoy, mateys! Set sail for fun and adventure on a pirate ship full of puppies!</p> <p>Wally is a pup with a nose for adventure. So when he stumbles onto a ragtag group of puppies who sail the seven seas, he knows he has to join the fun! But if pirates are supposed to be gruff and tough, this furry little guy isn’t exactly first-mate material. Does he have what it takes to become a full-fledged puppy pirate?</p>
	<p><b>Stick Dog. Watson, Tom.</b></p> <p><b>189 pages</b></p> <p>Introducing everyone’s new best friend: Stick Dog! He’ll make you laugh . . . he’ll make you cry . . . but above all, he’ll make you hungry. Follow Stick Dog as he goes on an epic quest for the perfect burger. With hilarious text and stick-figure drawings, reluctant readers will eat this one up!</p>
	<p><b>Commander Toad in Space (series). Yolen, Jane.</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>Brave Commander Toad and the crew of the spaceship <i>Star Warts</i> have a mission: they must go where no spaceship has gone before and bring a little bit of Earth out to the alien stars. But when they try to land their sky skimmer on the planet made of water, a terrible sound rises from the waves. Deep Wader is not pleased at being disturbed. “This planet belongs to me,” he roars. It looks as though the crew of the <i>Star Warts</i> might become the monster’s lunch.</p>

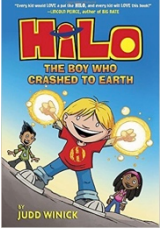


## **RISING 3RD GRADE**

	<p><b><i>Secrets of Droon: The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet (series).</i> Abbott, Tony.</b>  <b>80 pages</b></p> <p>A hidden door. A magical staircase. Discover the world of Droon! Eric, Julie, and Neal have just found something magic in Eric's basement. They have discovered a staircase to another world! The world of Droon is amazing—full of magic, flying lizards, and fun, furry creatures. But how will Eric, Julie, and Neal find their way home? Maybe their new friend, Princess Keeah, can help?</p>
	<p><b><i>Critter Club.</i> Barkley, Callie.</b>  <b>128 pages</b></p> <p>In the small California town of Santa Vista, four 8-year-old best friends help found and maintain The Critter Club, a rescue shelter set on saving “lost and lonely” animals in their town. Amy is smart and shy. Marion is organized and competitive. Liz is an artistic free spirit, while Ellie is loud and dramatic. One thing the girls have in common (besides their friendships with each other) is a serious love of animals.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Bad Guys (series).</i> Blabey, Aaron.</b>  <b>144 pages</b></p> <p>The Bad Guys are scary and dangerous and well . . . just BAD. But these guys want to be heroes, and they're ready to spring into action. Get ready to laugh up your lunch with the baddest bunch of do-gooders in town!</p>
	<p><b><i>Going, Going, Gone! With the Pain and the Great One.</i> Blume, Judy.</b>  <b>110 pages</b></p> <p>The Pain and the Great One are going places! In these new stories the kids are on the go—the Pain needs a trip to the emergency room; the family goes to the mall and not everyone stays together; the kids visit a county fair and want to ride the Super Slide; and a beach outing includes a boogie board. Lots more action and adventure for the dynamic duo who never stay still.</p>
	<p><b><i>Flat Stanley.</i> Brown, Jeff.</b>  <b>72 pages</b></p> <p>When Stanley Lambchop wakes up one morning, his brother, Arthur, is yelling. A bulletin board fell on Stanley during the night, and now he is only half an inch thick! Amazing things begin happening to him. Stanley gets rolled up, mailed, and flown like a kite. He even gets to help catch two dangerous art thieves. He may be flat, but he's a hero.</p>
	<p><b><i>Dog People: Native Dog Stories.</i> Bruchac, Joseph.</b>  <b>63 pages</b></p> <p>A series of stories set in northern New England 10,000 years ago about the special relationship between the Abenaki people and the dogs who were their faithful friends.</p>

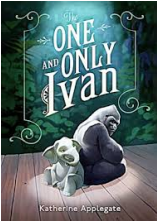
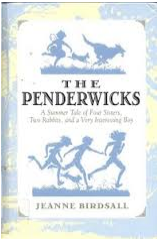
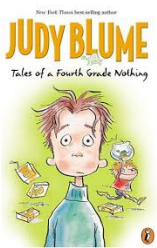

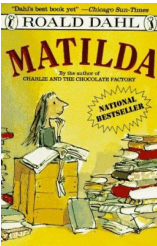
	<p><b><i>Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea</i> (Narwhal and Jelly series). Clanton, Ben.</b></p> <p><b>64 pages</b></p> <p>A happy-go-lucky, waffle-loving narwhal and a cynical, no-nonsense jellyfish forge an unlikely friendship and share adventures while exploring the ocean together.</p>
	<p><b><i>Ramona Quimby, Age 8</i> (series). Cleary, Beverly.</b></p> <p><b>190 pages</b></p> <p>Kids everywhere feel connected to Ramona's unique way of looking at the world as she tries to adjust to new teachers, feels jealous about Susan's curls, and is secretly pleased by Yard Ape's teasing. The scrapes she gets herself into—like wearing pajamas to school or accidentally making egg yolk shampoo—are funny and heartwarming, and sometimes embarrassing. No matter what, Ramona's lively, curious spirit shines through.</p> <p>Also consider <i>Henry Huggins</i>. Cleary, Beverly.</p>
	<p><b><i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i>. Dahl, Roald.</b></p> <p><b>90 pages</b></p> <p>In this book you will find Boggis, an enormously fat man, a chicken farmer, and a mean man; Bunce, a pot-bellied dwarf, a duck-and-geese farmer, and a nasty man; Bean, a thin man, a turkey-and-apple farmer, and a beastly man; Badger, the most respectable and well-behaved animal in the district; Rat, a rude creature and a drunkard; and also Mrs. Fox and her four children.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Spiderwick Chronicles</i>. DiTerlizzi, Tony.</b></p> <p><b>107 pages</b></p> <p>The Grace children discover the faerie world is closer than you think. After finding a mysterious, handmade field guide in the attic of the ramshackle old mansion they've just moved into, Jared, his twin brother Simon, and their older sister Mallory discover that there's a magical and maybe dangerous world existing parallel to our own—the world of faerie. The Grace children want to share their story, but the faeries will do everything possible to stop them.</p>
	<p><b><i>Owl Diaries: Warm Hearts Day</i>. Elliott, Rebecca.</b></p> <p><b>72 pages</b></p> <p>It's almost Warm Hearts Day in Treetopolis! Everyone is busy making gifts for their loved ones. Eva LOVES crafting, so she creates all sorts of fun gifts and treats for her friends. She is excited to give out her homemade gifts at the big party at the Old Oak Tree. But then Eva realizes she forgot to make gifts for her family! Will she be able to make the gifts in time?</p>
	<p><b><i>My Father's Dragon</i> (series). Gannett, Ruth Stiles.</b></p> <p><b>86 pages</b></p> <p>When Elmer Elevator hears about the plight of an overworked and underappreciated baby flying dragon, he stows away on a ship and travels to Wild Island to rescue the dragon.</p>

	<p><b><i>Tales from Maple Ridge: Logan Pryce Makes a Mess.</i> Gilmore, Grace.</b></p> <p><b>128 pages</b></p> <p>It's 1892 in Maple Ridge, Illinois, and Logan Pryce is worried about his family. His dad, Dale, needs to find a new job because their farm is failing. He may even need to look for work in another city. Logan offers to earn some money by selling his latest invention, but his parents tell him not to worry and that everything will be fine. Then Dale is hired for a temporary job at the general store, and Logan can't wait to lend a hand! But his eagerness may cause his dad to lose the job he so badly needs. Can Logan's mistake be fixed in time?</p>
	<p><b><i>Princess in Black.</i> Hale, Shannon.</b></p> <p><b>96 pages</b></p> <p>Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!</p>
	<p><b><i>Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Takes Off (series).</i> Jules, Jacqueline.</b></p> <p><b>88 pages</b></p> <p>One day Freddie Ramos comes home from school and finds a strange box just for him. What's inside? ZAPATO POWER—shoes that change Freddie's life by giving him super speed! But what will Freddie do with his fast new skills? Weird things are happening at the Starwood Park Apartments where he lives, and his friends at school need his help. Is Freddie Ramos ready to be a hero? In this imaginative new story by Jacqueline Jules, an ordinary boy in a city neighborhood learns how to use his new-found powers for good.</p>
	<p><b><i>Babe: The Gallant Pig.</i> King-Smith, Dick.</b></p> <p><b>184 pages</b></p> <p>When Babe arrives at Hogget Farm, Mrs. Hogget's thoughts turn to sizzling bacon and juicy pork chops—until he reveals a surprising talent for sheepherding, that is. Before long, Babe is handling Farmer Hogget's flock better than any sheepdog ever could. Babe is so good, in fact, that the farmer enters him into the Grand Challenge Sheepdog Trials. Will it take a miracle for Babe to win?</p>
	<p><b><i>Horrible Harry: Moving Up to Third Grade (series).</i> Kline, Suzy.</b></p> <p><b>58 pages</b></p> <p>For Horrible Harry, Song Lee, and the rest of their friends in Room 3B every day at school is a chance for fun, mystery, and adventure. And Harry is always at the center of it all!</p>
	<p><b><i>Juana &amp; Lucas.</i> Medina, Juana.</b></p> <p><b>88 pages</b></p> <p>Juana loves many things: drawing, eating Brussels sprouts, and living in Bogota, Colombia. Most of all, she loves her dog, Lucas. She does NOT love her itchy school uniform, math problems, or dance class. But above all, Juana does NOT love learning "the English."</p>

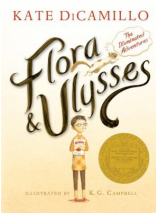
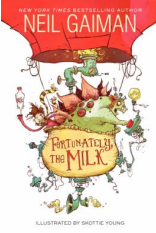
	<p><b><i>Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark (series).</i> Osborne, Mary Pope.</b></p> <p><b>182 pages</b></p> <p>The first Magic Tree House book was published in 1992—introducing the world to Jack and Annie, a brother and sister who discover a magical tree house filled with books. In <i>Dinosaurs Before Dark</i>, the tree house takes them on their first journey, to prehistoric times. Since then, Jack and Annie have been on many more adventures through time and space.</p>
	<p><b><i>Third Grade Angels.</i> Spinelli, Jerry.</b></p> <p><b>160 pages</b></p> <p>George, aka “Suds,” has just entered third grade, and he’s heard the rhyme about “first grade babies/second grade cats/third grade angels/fourth grade rats,” but what does this mean for his school year? It means that his teacher, Mrs. Simms, will hold a competition every month to see which student deserves to be awarded “the halo”— which student is best-behaved, kindest to others, and, in short, perfect. Suds is determined to be the first to earn the halo, but he’s finding the challenge of always being good to be more stressful than he had anticipated.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Boxcar Children.</i> Warner, Gertrude Chandler.</b></p> <p><b>195 pages</b></p> <p>Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden take care of one another. They have no parents, no other family—except for a grandfather they don’t care to see—and no home . . . until the night they find the boxcar. Old, rusty, lonely, and abandoned in the woods, it’s the perfect home for four brave children on their own. Through hard work and courage, the Aldens begin to build a life full of fun and adventure. But when they’re faced with a problem they can’t solve themselves, they’re forced to look for adult help—and will find it in the most unlikely ally.</p>
	<p><b><i>Charlotte’s Web.</i> White, E. B.</b></p> <p><b>184 pages</b></p> <p><i>Some Pig. Humble. Radiant.</i> These are the words in Charlotte’s web, high up in Zuckerman’s barn. Charlotte’s spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur’s life when he was born the runt of his litter.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Story of Diva and Flea.</i> Willems, Mo.</b></p> <p><b>65 pages</b></p> <p>Diva, a small yet brave dog, and Flea, a curious streetwise cat, develop an unexpected friendship. For as long as she could remember, Diva lived at 11 avenue Le Play in Paris, France. For as long as he could remember, Flea also lived in Paris—but at no fixed address. When Flea flaneurs past Diva’s courtyard one day, their lives are forever changed. Together, Diva and Flea explore and share their very different worlds, as only true friends can do.</p>
	<p><b><i>Hilo (series, graphic novel).</i> Winick, Judd.</b></p> <p><b>191 pages</b></p> <p>D.J. and his friend Gina are totally normal kids. But Hilo isn’t! Hilo doesn’t know where he came from, or what he’s doing on Earth. What if Hilo wasn’t the only thing to fall to our planet? Can the trio unlock the secrets of Hilo’s past? Can Hilo survive a day at school?</p>



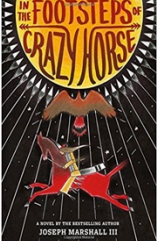


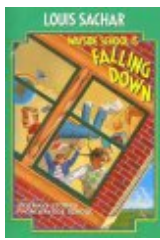
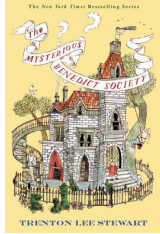
## **RISING 4TH GRADE**

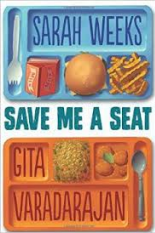
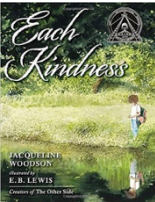
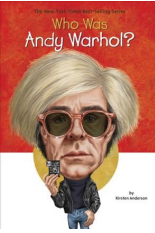
	<p><b><i>The One and Only Ivan.</i> Applegate, Katherine.</b></p> <p><b>351 pages</b></p> <p>Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends, Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy.</i> Birdsall, Jeanne.</b></p> <p><b>262 pages</b></p> <p>This summer, the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel's sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts. But the best discovery of all is Jeffrey Tifton, son of Arundel's owner, who quickly proves to be the perfect companion for their adventures, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.</p>
	<p><b><i>Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.</i> Blume, Judy.</b></p> <p><b>160 pages</b></p> <p>Living with his little brother, Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing smashed potatoes on walls at Hamburger Heaven, or scribbling all over Peter's homework, he's never far from trouble. He's a 2-year-old terror who gets away with everything—and Peter's had enough. When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge too long. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?</p>
	<p><b><i>The Wild Robot.</i> Brown, Peter.</b></p> <p><b>231 pages</b></p> <p>Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is—but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a fierce storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home—until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.</p> <p>Also consider <b><i>The Wild Robot Escapes.</i> Brown, Peter.</b></p>
	<p><b><i>Matilda.</i> Dahl, Roald.</b></p> <p><b>231 pages</b></p> <p>Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull, she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves, and Matilda may be just the one to do it!</p>




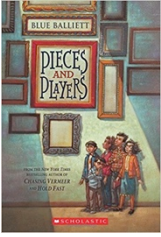

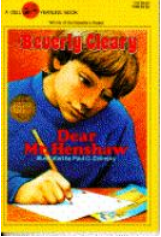
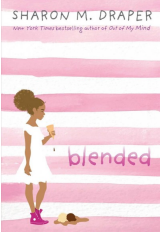
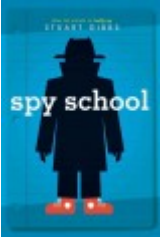
	<p><b><i>Flora &amp; Ulysses.</i> DiCamillo, Kate.</b></p> <p><b>231 pages</b></p> <p>Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived. A laugh-out-loud story filled with eccentric, endearing characters and featuring an exciting format—a novel interspersed with comic-style graphic sequences and full-page illustrations, all rendered in black and white by up-and-coming artist K. G. Campbell.</p>
	<p><b><i>Sees Behind Trees.</i> Dorris, Michael.</b></p> <p><b>104 pages</b></p> <p>A Native American boy with a special gift to “see” beyond his poor eyesight journeys with an old warrior to a land of mystery and beauty.</p>
	<p><b><i>Fortunately, the Milk.</i> Gaiman, Neil.</b></p> <p><b>101 pages</b></p> <p>“I bought the milk,’ said my father. ‘I walked out of the corner shop, and heard a noise like this: t h u m m t h u m m. I looked up and saw a huge silver disc hovering in the air above Marshall Road.’ ‘Hullo,’ I said to myself. ‘That’s not something you see every day. And then something odd happened.’ Find out just how odd things get in this hilarious <i>New York Times</i> best-selling story of time travel and breakfast cereal, expertly told by Newbery Medalist and best-selling author Neil Gaiman and illustrated by Skottie Young.</p>
	<p><b><i>Stories to Solve: Folktales from Around the World.</i> George, Shannon.</b></p> <p><b>55 pages</b></p> <p>How can a thirsty crow drink from an almost-empty pitcher? How does arresting a stone help a judge find a boy’s stolen money? This artfully illustrated book presents 14 intriguing mysteries from world folklore. Each brain-teasing tale is followed by a simple explanation of the solution, while notes at the back of the book describe the origins of these classic mysteries.</p>
	<p><b><i>Just Juice.</i> Hesse, Karen.</b></p> <p><b>138 pages</b></p> <p>Letters and numbers don’t make any sense to Juice Faulstich. She’d rather skip school and help her father in his workshop. But when the bank threatens to repossess her family’s home, Juice faces her first life-size problem and is determined to find a way out.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pippi Longstocking.</i> Lindgren, Astrid.</b></p> <p><b>160 pages</b></p> <p>This beloved story chronicles a spunky young girl and her hilarious escapades. Tommy and his sister Annika have a new neighbor, and her name is Pippi Longstocking. She has crazy red pigtails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse that lives on her porch, and a pet monkey named Mr. Nilsson. Whether Pippi’s scrubbing her floors, doing arithmetic, or stirring things up at a fancy tea party, her flair for the outrageous always seems to lead to another adventure.</p>

	<p><b><i>Half a Chance.</i> Lord, Cynthia.</b></p> <p><b>218 pages</b></p> <p>Lucy, with her mother and her photographer father, has just moved to a small rural community in New Hampshire, and with her new friend Nate she plans to spend the summer taking photos for a contest. But pictures sometimes reveal more than people are willing to see.</p>
	<p><b><i>Waiting for the Magic.</i> MacLachlan, Patricia.</b></p> <p><b>198 pages</b></p> <p>When William's father leaves, his mother promptly goes out and adds four dogs and a cat to their lives. William's sure that nothing can fill the hole left by his father, but the new additions to the family are determined to help. With his sister, Elinor, and his mother, William will learn that "family" can come in all shapes and sizes, because sometimes we find love through magic, and sometimes that magic is all around us.</p>
	<p><b><i>In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse.</i> Marshall, Joseph, III.</b></p> <p><b>176 pages</b></p> <p>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. The book follows the heroic deeds of the Lakota leader who took up arms against the U.S. federal government to fight against encroachments on the territories and way of life of the Lakota people, including leading a war party to victory at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Through his grandfather's tales about the famous warrior, Jimmy learns more about his Lakota heritage and, ultimately, himself.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pablo and Birdy.</i> McGhee, Alison.</b></p> <p><b>288 pages</b></p> <p>Pablo, nearly 10, has many questions about his origins and how he arrived at Isla as a baby, but finding the answers may mean losing his lifetime companion, Birdy the parrot.</p>
	<p><b><i>Shiloh.</i> Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds.</b></p> <p><b>137 pages</b></p> <p>When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight—and also big trouble. It turns out the dog, which Marty names Shiloh, belongs to Judd Travers, who drinks too much and has a gun—and abuses his dogs. So when Shiloh runs away from Judd to Marty, Marty just has to hide him and protect him from Judd. But Marty's secret becomes too big for him to keep to himself, and it exposes his entire family to Judd's anger. How far will Marty have to go to make Shiloh his?</p>


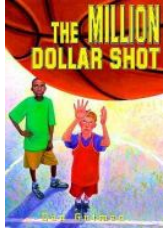
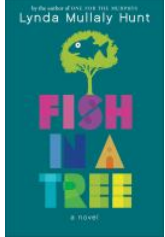
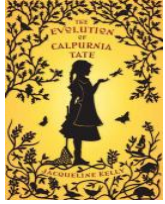

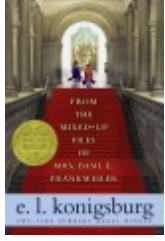
	<p><b><i>Wayside School Is Falling Down.</i> Sachar, Louis.</b></p> <p><b>152 pages</b></p> <p>Yum! Miss Mush is dishing out her famous Mushroom Surprise in the Wayside School cafeteria. Ron says it tastes like hot dogs and grape jelly. Clean your plate and you'll turn green in time for class picture day. Wear your craziest outfit and you'll fit right in between Maurecia in her striped bikini and Clavin, who's wearing his birthday tattoo. Say cheese!</p>
	<p><b><i>Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin.</i> Shurtliff, Liesl.</b></p> <p><b>272 pages</b></p> <p>In a magic kingdom where your name is your destiny, 12-year-old Rump is the butt of everyone's joke. But when he finds an old spinning wheel, his luck seems to change. Rump discovers he has a gift for spinning straw into gold. His best friend, Red Riding Hood, warns him that magic is dangerous, and she's right. With each thread he spins, he weaves himself deeper into a curse. To break the spell, Rump must go on a perilous quest, fighting off pixies, trolls, poison apples, and a wickedly foolish queen.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Series of Unfortunate Events.</i> Snicket, Lemony.</b></p> <p><b>162 pages</b></p> <p>It's a good thing that Violet Baudelaire has a real knack for inventing things. When misery comes to call, the right invention at the right time can mean everything. It's also fortunate that her brother, Klaus, has read lots of books and knows many important things. It's lucky, too, that Sunny Baudelaire, the youngest sibling, likes to bite things. Even though she is an infant, and scarcely larger than a boot, she has four very big and sharp teeth. When trouble comes along, sharp teeth can save the day. But most of all, it is good fortune that Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are as sturdy and resilient as they are, for ahead of these three children lies a seemingly infinite series of unfortunate events.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Mysterious Benedict Society.</i> Stewart, Trenton Lee.</b></p> <p><b>198 pages</b></p> <p>Dozens of children respond to a peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it, they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. If you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse code, they could probably use your help.</p>
	<p><b><i>I Survived (series).</i> Tarshis, Lauren.</b></p> <p><b>114 pages</b></p> <p>History's most exciting and terrifying events come to life in these stories of amazing kids and how they survived.</p>

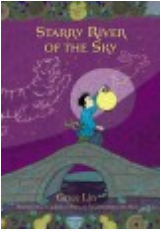
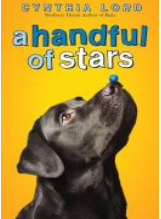

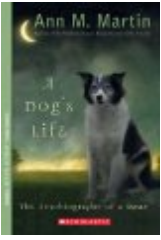


	<p><b>Save Me a Seat. Weeks, Sarah, and Varadarajan, Gita.</b></p> <p><b>219 pages</b></p> <p>Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL.</p> <p>Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common—but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.</p>
	<p><b>Each Kindness. Woodson, Jacqueline.</b></p> <p><b>32 pages</b></p> <p>Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.</p>
	<p><b>Who Was? What Was? Where Is? Various authors.</b></p> <p><b>182 pages</b></p> <p>These titles tell the incredible stories of trailblazers, legends, innovators, cool places, and important events.</p>

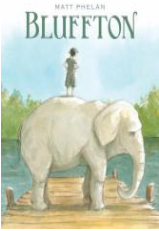


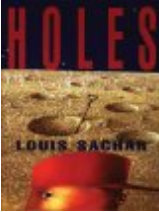

## **RISING 5TH GRADE**

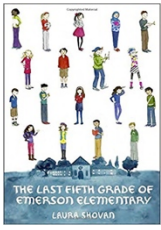
	<p><b><i>Chasing Vermeer.</i> Balliett, Blue.</b></p> <p><b>254 pages</b></p> <p>When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, 11-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pieces and Players.</i> Balliett, Blue.</b></p> <p><b>320 pages</b></p> <p>When 13 high-value pieces of art are stolen from a secret museum, Calder, Petra, and Tommy are grouped with two new companions to solve puzzles that are complicated by the clever Mrs. Sharpe.</p>
	<p><b><i>Gertie's Leap to Greatness.</i> Beasley, Kate.</b></p> <p><b>249 pages</b></p> <p>When her estranged mother decides to move out of town, Gertie devises a five-step plan that will make her the best fifth grader ever in order to show her mother what she'll be leaving behind, but a new student challenges her efforts.</p>
	<p><b><i>Dear Mr. Henshaw.</i> Cleary, Beverly.</b></p> <p><b>133 pages</b></p> <p>Leigh Botts, the new kid in school, plagued by his parents' divorce, his stolen lunchbox treats, and a lost dog, pours out his heart in letters to his favorite author, Mr. Henshaw. Leigh's growth and acceptance of divorce are tempered with much humor.</p>
	<p><b><i>Blended.</i> Draper, Sharon.</b></p> <p><b>262 pages</b></p> <p>Piano prodigy Isabella, 11, whose black father and white mother struggle to share custody, never feels whole, especially as racial tensions affect her school, her parents both become engaged, and she and her stepbrother are stopped by police.</p>
	<p><b><i>Spy School.</i> Gibbs, Stuart. (And others by this author)</b></p> <p><b>290 pages</b></p> <p>Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.</p>



	<p><b><i>The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street.</i> Glaser, Karen Yan.</b></p> <p><b>297 pages</b></p> <p>Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages 4 to 12, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Million Dollar Shot.</i> Gutman, Dan.</b></p> <p><b>114 pages</b></p> <p>When Eddie Ball finds out about the contest—a chance to win a million dollars just by sinking a foul shot at the NBA finals—he realizes it could be the end of his family's troubles. But someone is trying to sabotage his million-dollar shot.</p>
	<p><b><i>Fish in a Tree.</i> Hunt, Lynda Mullaly.</b></p> <p><b>276 pages</b></p> <p>Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate.</i> Kelly, Jacqueline.</b></p> <p><b>340 pages</b></p> <p>In central Texas in 1899, 11-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.</p>
	<p><b><i>Boy on the Lion Throne: The Childhood of the 14th Dalai Lama.</i> Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody.</b></p> <p><b>146 pages</b></p> <p>On a quiet winter morning in 1937, several men on horseback rode into the tiny Tibetan village of Taktser. Disguised as peasants, the high lamas were on a secret mission—soon they would identify 3-year-old Lhamo Thondup as the 14th reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. With a foreword by the Dalai Lama himself, this dramatic narrative follows his remarkable childhood, illuminating the story of Tibet and introducing a remarkable world figure to a new generation.</p>
	<p><b><i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.</i> Konigsburg, E. L.</b></p> <p><b>162 pages</b></p> <p>Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 12-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home, and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.</p>

	<p><b><i>Starry River of the Sky.</i> Lin, Grace.</b></p> <p><b>288 pages</b></p> <p>An innkeeper's chore boy discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the Moon to the Starry River of the Sky.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Handful of Stars.</i> Lord, Cynthia.</b></p> <p><b>184 pages</b></p> <p>When her blind dog slips his collar, 12-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family are in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather—but as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, Lily and Selma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.</p>
	<p><b><i>Just Dance.</i> MacLachlan, Patricia.</b></p> <p><b>116 pages</b></p> <p>On a farm in the middle of the prairie, 10-year-old Sylvie struggles to understand why her mother gave up singing on stage while she sets off on an adventure of her own as the town reporter.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray.</i> Martin, Ann M.</b></p> <p><b>172 pages</b></p> <p>Squirrel, a stray puppy, tells her life story, from her nurturing mother and brother to making her own way in the world, facing busy highways, changing seasons, and humans both gentle and brutal.</p>
	<p><b><i>Book of the Dead (Tombquest series).</i> Northrop, Michael.</b></p> <p><b>208 pages</b></p> <p>Nothing can save Alex Sennefer's life. That's what all the doctors say, but his mother knows it's not true. She knows that the Lost Spells of the Egyptian Book of the Dead can crack open a door to the afterlife and pull her son back from the brink. But when she uses the spells, five evil ancients—the Death Walkers—are also brought back to life.</p>
	<p><b><i>Pax.</i> Pennypacker, Sara.</b></p> <p><b>276 pages</b></p> <p>Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather's house, 300 miles away from home, Peter knows he isn't where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.</p>

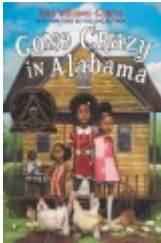
	<p><b><i>Bluffton: My Summers with Buster.</i> Phelan, Matt.</b></p> <p><b>208 pages</b></p> <p>In the summer of 1908, in Muskegon, Michigan, a visiting troupe of vaudeville performers is about the most exciting thing since baseball. They're summering in nearby Bluffton, so Henry has a few months to ogle the elephant and the zebra, the tightrope walkers and—lo and behold—a slapstick actor his own age named Buster Keaton. The show folk say Buster is indestructible; his father throws him around as part of the act and the audience roars, while Buster never cracks a smile. Henry longs to learn to take a fall like Buster, “the human mop,” but Buster just wants to play ball with Henry and his friends.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Red Pyramid (The Kane Chronicles, Book 1).</i> Riordan, Rick.</b></p> <p><b>176 pages</b></p> <p>After their father's research experiment at the British Museum unleashes the Egyptian god Set, Carter and Sadie Kane embark on a dangerous journey across the globe—a quest which brings them ever closer to the truth about their family and their links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.</p>
	<p><b><i>Esperanza Rising.</i> Ryan, Pam Muñoz.</b></p> <p><b>262 pages</b></p> <p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico—she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p> <p>Also consider <b><i>Echo.</i> Ryan, Pam Muñoz.</b></p>
	<p><b><i>Holes.</i> Sachar, Louis.</b></p> <p><b>233 pages</b></p> <p>As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.</p>
	<p><b><i>Byrd &amp; Igloo: A Polar Adventure.</i> Seiple, Samantha.</b></p> <p><b>186 pages</b></p> <p>Byrd is known for being the first to fly a plane over the North and South Poles, while Igloo is famous for being the only dog to explore both the North and South Poles. The adventures of Byrd and Igloo opened the door for science and research in the Antarctic. Featuring direct quotes from letters, diaries, and interviews; newspaper clippings; expedition records; maps; and charts, as well as never-before-seen photos, this book tells the complete story of the explorers' journey. Though rooted in history with evidence from many museums and research centers, <i>Byrd &amp; Igloo</i> is exciting in tone, making it accessible and interesting for young readers.</p>



***The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary.* Shovan, Laura.**

**256 pages**

Laura Shovan's engaging, big-hearted debut is a time capsule of one class's poems during a transformative school year. Families change and new friendships form as these terrific kids grow up and move on in this whimsical novel-in-verse about finding your voice and making sure others hear it.



***Gone Crazy in Alabama.* Williams-Garcia, Rita.**


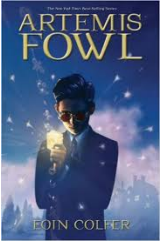
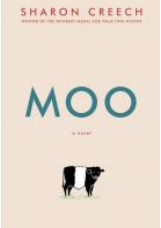


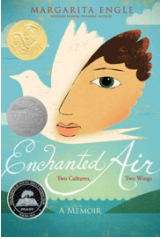
**293 pages**

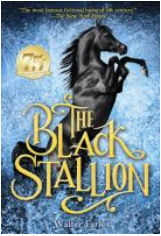
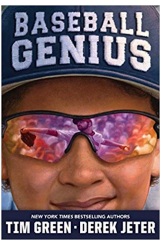
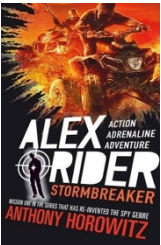


This sequel to *One Crazy Summer* tells the story of the Gaither sisters as they travel from the streets of Brooklyn to the rural South for the summer of a lifetime. Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother Big Ma and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's 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. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible.

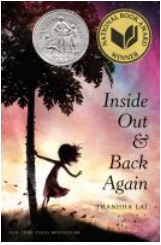

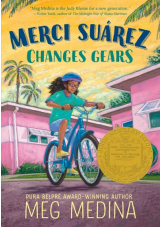
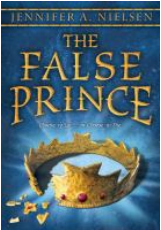
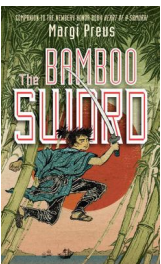
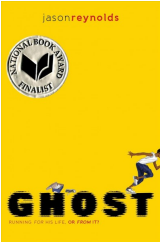
## RISING 6TH GRADE

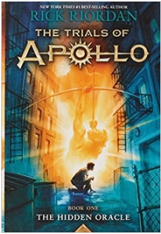

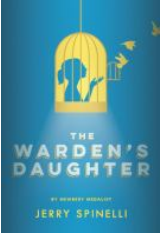
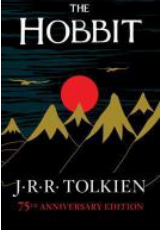
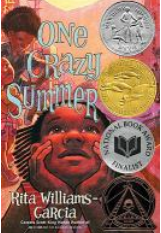
	<p><b><i>Little Women.</i> Alcott, Louisa May.</b></p> <p><b>388 pages</b></p> <p>Grown-up Meg, tomboyish Jo, timid Beth, and precocious Amy—the four March sisters couldn’t be more different. But with their father away at war, and their mother working to support the family, they have to rely on one another. Whether they’re putting on a play, forming a secret society, or celebrating Christmas, there’s one thing they can’t help wondering: will Father return home safely?</p>
	<p><b><i>The Crossover.</i> Alexander, Kwame.</b></p> <p><b>237 pages</b></p> <p>Twelve-year-old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood; he’s got mad beats, too, that tell his family’s story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court and realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story’s heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.</p> <p>Also consider <b><i>Booked.</i> Alexander, Kwame.</b></p>
	<p><b><i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon.</i> Barnhill, Kelly.</b></p> <p><b>388 pages</b></p> <p>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 and gentle. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster named Glerk and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, Fyrian. Xan rescues the abandoned children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey.</p>
	<p><b><i>What It’s Like to Climb Mount Everest, Blast Off into Space, Survive a Tornado, and Other Extraordinary Stories.</i> Belanger, Jeff.</b></p> <p><b>136 pages</b></p> <p>What is it like to reach the top of the world’s tallest mountain? To survive a shark attack? To fly with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds? To find out, Jeff Belanger conducted interviews with 12 ordinary people who just happened to do extraordinary things—and then turned the interviews into adrenaline-packed, thrilling stories told in the first-person voices of the interviewees.</p>
	<p><b><i>The War That Saved My Life.</i> Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.</b></p> <p><b>316 pages</b></p> <p>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. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie.</p> <p>Also consider <b><i>The War I Finally Won.</i> Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.</b></p>

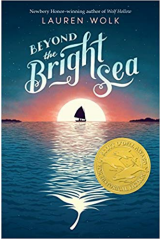
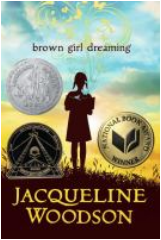
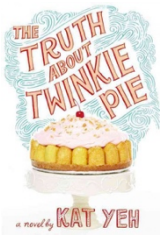


	<p><b><i>Talking Leaves.</i> Bruchac, Joseph.</b></p> <p><b>231 pages</b></p> <p>Thirteen-year-old Uwohali has not seen his father, Sequoyah, for many years. So when Sequoyah returns to the village, Uwohali is eager to reconnect. But Sequoyah's new obsession with making strange markings causes friends and neighbors in their tribe to wonder whether he is crazy—or worse, practicing witchcraft. What they don't know, and what Uwohali discovers, is that Sequoyah is a genius and his strange markings are actually an alphabet representing the sounds of the Cherokee language.</p>
	<p><b><i>Artemis Fowl.</i> Colfer, Eoin.</b></p> <p><b>277 pages</b></p> <p>When a 12-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.</p>
	<p><b><i>Moo.</i> Creech, Sharon.</b></p> <p><b>278 pages</b></p> <p>When 12-year-old Reena, her little brother Luke, and their parents move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries, and all the lobster she can eat. Instead, her parents "volunteer" Reena and Luke to work for an eccentric neighbor named Mrs. Falala, who has a pig named Paulie, a cat named China, and a snake named Edna—and one very ornery cow named Zora.</p>
	<p><b><i>Raymie Nightingale.</i> DiCamillo, Kate.</b></p> <p><b>272 pages</b></p> <p>Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. Raymie practices twirling a baton and performing good deeds as she is drawn into an unlikely friendship with a drama queen and a saboteur.</p>
	<p><b><i>Stella by Starlight.</i> Draper, Sharon M.</b></p> <p><b>320 pages</b></p> <p>When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town.</p>
	<p><b><i>Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir.</i> Engle, Margarita.</b></p> <p><b>192 pages</b></p> <p>Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother's tropical island country, a place so lush with vibrant life that it seems like a fairytale kingdom. But most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she can take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island. Words and images are her constant companions, friendly and comforting when the children at school are not.</p>

	<p><b><i>The Black Stallion.</i> Farley, Walter.</b></p> <p><b>197 pages</b></p> <p>First published in 1941, Walter Farley's best-selling novel for young readers is the triumphant tale of a boy and a wild horse. From Alec Ramsay and the Black's first meeting on an ill-fated ship to their adventures on a desert island and their eventual rescue, this beloved story will hold the rapt attention of readers new and old.</p>
	<p><b><i>Baseball Genius.</i> Green, Tim, and Derek Jeter.</b></p> <p><b>344 pages</b></p> <p>An average kid with an above-average talent for predicting baseball pitches tries to help his favorite player out of a slump.</p>
	<p><b><i>Stormbreaker (Alex Rider series).</i> Horowitz, Anthony.</b></p> <p><b>208 pages</b></p> <p>They told him his uncle died in an accident. He wasn't wearing his seatbelt, they said. But when 14-year-old Alex finds his uncle's windshield riddled with bullet holes, he knows it was no accident. What he doesn't know yet is that his uncle was killed while on a top-secret mission. But he is about to find out, and once he does, there is no turning back. Finding himself in the middle of terrorists, Alex must outsmart the people who want him dead. The government has given him the technology, but only he can provide the courage.</p>
	<p><b><i>Fish in a Tree.</i> Hunt, Lynda Mullaly.</b></p> <p><b>276 pages</b></p> <p>Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.</p>
	<p><b><i>Amina's Voice.</i> Khan, Hena.</b></p> <p><b>197 pages</b></p> <p>Amina, a Pakistani-American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.</p>

	<p><b><i>Inside Out &amp; Back Again.</i> Lai, Thanhha.</b></p> <p><b>262 pages</b></p> <p>Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (The Chronicles of Narnia series). Lewis, C. S.</b></p> <p><b>190 pages</b></p> <p>C. S. Lewis's Narnia chronicles have captivated readers of all ages for over 60 years, enchanting them with fantastical talking creatures, epic battles between good and evil, and magical doorways into new lands.</p>
	<p><b><i>Merci Suárez Changes Gears.</i> Medina, Meg.</b></p> <p><b>368 pages</b></p> <p>Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos's jealousy.</p>
	<p><b><i>Ascendance trilogy (The False Prince, The Runaway King, The Shadow Throne).</i> Nielsen, Jennifer A.</b></p> <p><b>342 pages</b></p> <p>In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Bamboo Sword.</i> Preus, Margi.</b></p> <p><b>335 pages</b></p> <p>In Japan in 1853, at the time of U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry's visit to Japan, Yoshi, a young Japanese boy who dreams of becoming a samurai one day, learns about America from Majiro and has adventures with Jack, a young cabin boy aboard one of the U.S. ships.</p>
	<p><b><i>Track series (Ghost, Patina, Sunny, Lu).</i> Reynolds, Jason.</b></p> <p><b>181 pages</b></p> <p>A fast but fiery group of kids from wildly different backgrounds are chosen to compete on an elite track team. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove—not only to each other, but to themselves.</p>

	<p><b><i>The Trials of Apollo, Book 1: The Hidden Oracle (series).</i> Riordan, Rick.</b></p> <p><b>176 pages</b></p> <p>After angering his father Zeus, the god Apollo is cast down from Olympus. Weak and disoriented, he lands in New York City as a regular teenage boy. Now, without his godly powers, the 4,000-year-old deity must learn to survive in the modern world until he can somehow find a way to regain Zeus' favor.</p> <p>Also consider <b>Magnus Chase series. Riordan, Rick.</b> A homeless boy living in Boston finds out he is the son of a Norse god.</p>
	<p><b><i>Esperanza Rising.</i> Ryan, Pam Muñoz.</b></p> <p><b>262 pages</b></p> <p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico—she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p> <p>Also consider <b>Echo. Ryan, Pam Muñoz.</b></p>
	<p><b><i>The Warden's Daughter.</i> Spinelli, Jerry.</b></p> <p><b>343 pages</b></p> <p>Cammie O'Reilly is an unusual kid with an even more unusual home life. She hangs out with a flamboyant black shoplifter named Boo Boo, her housekeeper is a sullen arsonist named Eloda Pupko, and she lives above the entrance of a prison where her dad is the warden. Trying to cope with the death of her mother, who died saving Cammie's life, causes Cammie to become a depressed, angry tween, driven mad by her life in prison. The more Cammie tries to figure out who she is, the more she spirals into depression, until someone close to her makes the ultimate sacrifice to free Cammie from her past.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Hobbit.</i> Tolkien, J. R. R.</b></p> <p><b>276 pages</b></p> <p>Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. They have launched a plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug the Magnificent, a large and very dangerous dragon. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.</p>
	<p><b><i>One Crazy Summer.</i> Williams-Garcia, Rita.</b></p> <p><b>162 pages</b></p> <p>In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn, New York, to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, 11-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.</p>

	<p><b><i>Beyond the Bright Sea.</i> Wolk, Lauren.</b></p> <p><b>283 pages</b></p> <p>Twelve-year-old Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny, isolated piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. Abandoned and set adrift in a small boat when she was just hours old, Crow's only companions are Osh, the man who rescued and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their fierce and affectionate neighbor across the sandbar.</p> <p>Crow has always been curious about the world around her, but it isn't until the night a mysterious fire appears across the water that the unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart. Soon, an unstoppable chain of events is triggered, leading Crow down a path of discovery and danger.</p>
	<p><b><i>Brown Girl Dreaming.</i> Woodson, Jacqueline.</b></p> <p><b>336 pages</b></p> <p>In vivid poems that reflect the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, an award-winning author shares what it was like to grow up in the 1960s and 1970s in both the North and the South.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Truth About Twinkie Pie.</i> Yeh, Kat.</b></p> <p><b>190 pages</b></p> <p>When 12-year-old GiGi and her big sister DiDi move to Long Island from South Carolina for GiGi to attend a fancy new private school, GiGi has a new recipe for success and makes new friends, but then discovers a family secret that turns her life upside-down.</p>