

Great Books for Beginning Readers, Grades K-2

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
On the worst of days, kids can take solace in the fact that everyone has terrible times.

All About Frogs by Jim Arnosky
Dive into the pond for this lively (and factual) look at a favorite amphibian.

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
Shoot for the stars with a girl who dreams of starring in the school play.

Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon by Paula Danziger
Everything changes when your best friend moves away.

Anansi the Spider: A Tale From the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott
Discover how the moon ended up in the sky in this Caldecott-honored retelling of a West African traditional tale.

A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams
Celebrating family love, this Caldecott Honor book shows how a mother, grandmother, and child come together after they lose their possessions in a fire.

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Celebrate what makes you unique in this story about a mouse with an unusual name.

Clifford the Big Red Dog by Norman Bridwell
Live large on Birdwell Island in this favorite story about friendship and doing your best.

A Color of His Own by Leo Lionni
Share this tribute to friendship and self-identity with your own child, who simultaneously seeks comfort and independence.

Corduroy by Don Freeman
A lost button leads to lovable adventures for a bear who longs for a home.

Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel
Five funny, tender tales speak volumes about the power of friendship.

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann
Bid good night to the animals, but make sure they go to sleep!

If You Take a Mouse to School by Laura Numeroff
See how easily things can get out of hand in this best-selling tale of consequences.

Miss Nelson Is Missing by Henry Allard
When the misbehaving kids in Room 207 face an awful substitute, they learn to appreciate their own teacher.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
Featuring stunning illustrations, this African Cinderella story proves that beauty is only skin deep.

Pinky and Rex and Just the Right Pet by James Howe

A beginning chapter book about a family dilemma that will ring true with young grade-schoolers.

Snow Day by Lynne Plourde

Explore a winter wonderland with wide-eyed characters that play across the pages of this exuberant book.

Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews

What can you do with a group of dots? This dynamic book offers inspired counting practice.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

Laugh out loud at the wolf's account of what really happened.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

A tiny caterpillar "eats" his way through the book to become a butterfly.

Summer Reading List for Grades 3-5

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie by Kristiana Gregory

In this Dear America journal, your child will join a teen on the Oregon Trail in 1847.

Black Eagles by Jim Haskins

An engrossing account of the history of African Americans in aviation.

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery by Deborah & James Howe

Meet a vampire bunny in this hilarious book about the Monroe's unusual pet.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Discover the meaning of friendship in this remarkable story about Wilbur the pig and a spider named Charlotte.

Dear Whiskers by Ann Whitehead Nagda

When a fourth-grader reluctantly becomes the pen pal of a girl from Saudi Arabia, it leads her to unexpected places.

Fabulous Facts About the 50 States by Wilma S. Ross

From trivia to dates to maps, this lively look at the United States will build your child's sense of national pride.

The Geronimo Stilton Series by Geronimo Stilton

Meet a rodent reporter with an eye on all the happenings in Mouse City.

The Gold Cadillac by Mildred D. Taylor

When two girls take a family trip South during the 1950s, they come face to face with prejudice.

The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson

This poignant and funny story about an 11-year-old foster child earned a Newbery Honor.

The Harry Potter Books by J. K. Rowling

Visit Hogwarts for enchanted reading with these kid, parent, and teacher favorites.

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

Peer into a magic cabinet that brings a boy's toys to life with the help of a special key.

Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson
Draw inspiration from the core values of the legendary ballplayer and rights pioneer.

The Magic School Bus: Inside the Earth by Joanna Cole
Discover how rocks are made with Ms. Frizzle and friends.

Michael Jordan by Chip Lovitt
Meet the man behind the legend in this biography filled with photos and statistics.

Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
This 1948 Newbery Award-winner remains an engaging story for young horse lovers.

My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
A tale of self-discovery about a boy who runs away from New York City and survives in the Catskills Mountains

Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade by Barthe DeClements
Can a group of grade-schoolers learn to accept an obese student in their class?

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred E. Taylor
An African American family strives to stay strong in the face of hardships in the 1930s South.

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White
Discover the beauty of self-expression in this timeless classic about a mute swan who discovers a way to communicate.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt
When a young girl stumbles upon a family charmed with eternal life, she learns the gift is a mixed blessing.

Top Picks for Middle-Schoolers

Blitzcat by Robert Westall
Wander through WWII England with a cat on a mission to find her beloved master.

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
Journey to the 19th-century Wisconsin frontier for the enduring adventures of a spirited 11-year-old.

California Blue by David Klass
A teen and his dying father find themselves on opposite sides of an environmental battlefield.

Dealing With Dragons by Patricia C. Wrede
Delight in this favorite series that begins when a princess escapes marriage to a dull prince in favor of becoming a dragon's assistant.

Freedom Train: The Story of Harriet Tubman by Dorothy Sterling
Whisk your teen back in time with this gripping biography of Tubman's life — from her slave beginnings to her dangerous work on the Underground Railroad.

The Harry Potter Books by J. K. Rowling
Visit Hogwarts for enchanted reading with these kid, parent, and teacher favorites.

Holes by Louis Sachar

An unforgettable story-within-a-story about a boy with bad luck and what he does about it

Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman

Experience 19th- and 20th-century life through the chronicles of immigrant children at home, school, work, and play.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

A story inspired by the miraculous experiences of a 12-year-old Native American who survived alone for 18 years

Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By by Sharon Robinson

Draw inspiration from the core values of the legendary ballplayer and racial rights pioneer.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George

When a 13-year-old girl becomes lost in the Alaskan tundra, she survives by befriending a wolf pack.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

A Newbery Award-winning tale of a boy whose athletic accomplishments made him a legend and helped unify his segregated town

Max the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Meet two misfits who band together in this sequel to *Freak the Mighty*.

M.C. Higgins the Great by Virginia Hamilton

Witness a family's struggle to protect their home in this Newbery Award-winning classic.

The Music of Dolphins by Karen Hesse

When an adolescent girl who has been raised by dolphins is rescued, she has to assimilate into the human world.

My Brother Sam Is Dead by James Lincoln Collier

A boy faces an impossible choice: to follow his brother, father, or his own heart during the American Revolution.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Can a 10-year-old Danish girl help protect her friend from the Nazis?

Souder by William H. Armstrong

Discover the meaning of devotion in this story of a boy who draws support from his dog when his sharecropper father lands in jail.

There Comes A Time: The Struggle for Civil Rights by Milton Meltzer

A chronicle of a 300-year battle for equality, this engrossing history poses questions your child will ponder in today's times.

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

When a young girl stumbles upon a family charmed with eternal life, she learns the gift is a mixed blessing.