

Wesleyan School

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising Second Grade Students

Students must read a minimum of ten books.

Other books may be chosen with parental approval.
Students should read independently with parental support.

Numbers following each annotation are reading levels determined by commercial reading management programs. Creating reading levels is not an exact science. There is not a consensus among experts on the best way to determine a reading level for a book. Remember that the best books are those that are read and enjoyed by your child. These levels are guidelines only and should never be the sole consideration in determining if a book is appropriate for your child.

AR=Accelerated Reader: managed by Renaissance Learning

RC=Reading Counts: managed by Scholastic

L = Lexile Measures: managed by MetaMetrics

*The ♥ symbol indicates the book received a “highly recommended” endorsement from one or more review sources.
The term “Notable Book” indicates the book is highly recommended by the American Library Association.
The Caldecott Medal/Honor is given for outstanding illustrations.*

Picture Books

Agee, Jon: *Terrific*

Eugene wins a trip to Bermuda, but when his ship sinks, and he ends up stranded on a tiny island with only a parrot, he wonders how he will ever get back home. AR 2.9, 440L ♥

Becker, Bonny: *A Birthday for Bear*

Despite Bear's efforts to ignore his birthday, Mouse will not rest until his friend celebrates. AR 2.6, RC 3.1, 520L

Bemelmans, Ludwig: *Madeline*

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. AR 3.1, RC 3.8, 480L, Caldecott Honor

Best, Cari: *Three Cheers for Catherine the Great!*

Sara's Russian grandmother has requested that there be no presents at her seventy-eighth birthday party so Sara must think of a gift from her heart. AR 3.2, RC 2.6, 360L Notable Book ♥

Blake, Robert: *Togo*

Togo, a Siberian husky who loves being a sled dog, leads a team that rushes to bring diphtheria antitoxin from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. AR 3.8, RC 3.3, 420L Notable Book ♥

Brett, Jan: *Hedgie's Surprise*

Hedgie, the hedgehog, helps Henny, the speckled hen, trick the Tomten who has been eating all of Henny's eggs for breakfast. AR 3.5, RC 3.4, 550L

Child, Lauren: *But Excuse Me That Is My Book*

When Lola's favorite book is not on the library's shelf, her older brother, Charlie, tries to find another book she will enjoy. AR 2.3, RC 2.8, 570L

Cleary, Beverly: *Two Dog Biscuits*

Four-year-old twins in search of a dog to eat their two dog biscuits find all the dogs undeserving and so they look for another recipient. AR 3.2, RC 2.2, 590L

Coles, Robert: *The Story of Ruby Bridges*

For months six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960. AR 4.4 RC 5.4

Cronin, Doreen: *Diary of a Fly*

A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes. AR 3.2, RC 2.5, 490L ♥

Demas, Corinne: *Always in Trouble*

Emma's dog Toby misbehaves every day, but after he passes some training classes, Toby learns new tricks which reminds Emma of the reasons why she loves her pet. AR 2.8, RC 2.2, 540L ♥

DiPucchio, Kelly: *Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!*

The entire town of Up Yonder joins in to help their favorite teacher clean up her messy classroom. AR 4.4

Fleming, Candace: *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*

In 1801, the townspeople of Cheshire, Massachusetts, create a gigantic cheddar cheese to present to President Jefferson at his New Year's Day party. AR 4.1, RC 3.5, 450L

Fox, Mem: *Possum Magic*

When Grandma Poss's magic turns Hush invisible, the two possums take a culinary tour of Australia to find the food that will make her visible once more. AR 3.0, RC 3.5, 530L ♥

Gilliland, Judith Heide: *Not in the House, Newton!*

Everything Newton draws with his magic red crayon becomes real, and heeding his mother's admonition he flies the airplane he draws right out the window. AR 3.3, RC 3.1, 530L

Henkes, Kevin: *Sheila Rae, the Brave*

When brave Sheila Rae, who usually looks out for her sister Louise, becomes lost and scared one day, Louise comes to the rescue. AR 2.5, RC 2.3, 440L

Kellogg, Steven: *Island of the Skog*

To escape the dangers of urban life, Jenny and her friends sail away to an island, only to be faced with a new problem--its single inhabitant--the Skog. AR 3.5, RC 4.2, 530L

Knudsen, Michelle: *Library Lion*

A lion starts visiting the local library but runs into trouble as he tries to both obey the rules and help his librarian friend. AR 2.7 RC 2.3 ♥

Lester, Helen: *Listen Buddy*

A lop-eared rabbit named Buddy finds himself in trouble with the Scruffy Varmint because he never listens. AR 2.7 RC 2.8

Long, Melinda: *How I Became a Pirate*

Jeremy Jacob joins Braid Beard and his pirate crew and finds out about pirate language, pirate manners, and other aspects of their life. AR 3.1, RC 2.3, 470L Notable Book

Lucado, Max: *You are Special*

Punchinello's opinion of himself changes after talking to his creator. AR 3.0, RC 4.1, 480L

McBrier, Page: *Beatrice's Goat*

A young girl's dream of attending school in her small Ugandan village is fulfilled after her family is given an income-producing goat. Based on a true story about the work of Project Heifer. AR 4.0, RC 3.5, 640L

McPhail, David: *Edward and the Pirates*

Once Edward has learned to read, books and his vivid imagination provide him with great adventures. AR 4.0, RC 4.8, 550L

Mora, Pat: *Tomas and the Library Lady*

While helping his family in their work as migrant laborers far from their home, Tomas finds an entire world to explore in the books at the local public library. AR 2.7, RC 3.5, 440L

Moss, Lloyd: *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!*

Ten instruments take their parts one by one in a musical performance. AR 3.3 RC 3.5 Caldecott Honor ♥

Munsch, Robert: *Get Out of Bed!*

Amy's mother, father, brother, and the school principal use very unusual measures to try to get the sleepy girl out of bed. AR 2.7, RC 2.5, 470L

O'Neill, Alexis: *The Recess Queen*

Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean's status as the Recess Queen. AR 3.0, RC 1.9, 450L ♥

Palatini, Margie: *Piggie Pie!*

Gritch the witch flies to Old MacDonald's farm for some pigs to make a piggie pie, but when she arrives she can't find a single porker. AR 2.5, RC 2.7, 420L ♥ Notable Book

Pawagi, Manjusha: *The Girl Who Hated Books*

Although she lives in a house full of avid readers, Meena hates books--until she discovers the magic inside them. AR 3.8, 450L

Pitzer, Susanna: *Not Afraid of Dogs*

Young Daniel must confront his fear of dogs when his mom agrees to dog-sit his aunt's pet. AR 2.2, RC 2.2 ♥

Polacco, Patricia: *Aunt Chip and the Great Triple Creek Dam Affair*

Aunt Chip saves the town of Triple Creek, where everyone has forgotten how to read because of the invasion of television. AR 4.2, RC 3.5, 510L ♥

Spinelli, Eileen: *Six Hogs On a Scooter*

The Hog family tries various modes of transportation to get to the opera with decidedly unexpected results. RC 2.1, 430L

Stevens, Janet: *Tops and Bottoms*

Hare turns his bad luck around by striking a clever deal with the rich and lazy bear down the road. Caldecott Honor. AR 3.2, RC 3.8, 580L ♥

Stevenson, James: *The Mud Flat Mystery*

When a large box is delivered to Duncan while he is away, the other animal inhabitants of Mud Flat are consumed with curiosity about what might be inside. AR 2.8, 320L

Teague, Mark: *Pigsty*

When Wendell doesn't clean up his room, a whole herd of pigs comes to live with him. AR 2.8, RC 2.9, 590L ♥

Tidd, Louise Vitellaro: *Did You Hear About Jake?*

Jake tells his friend Hank that he's learning to bake, but Hank misunderstands and begins a chain of misinformation that spreads throughout school. AR 1.7 RC 1.8

Van Allsburg, Chris: *Jumanji*

Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical jungle adventure board game. AR 2.7, RC 2.5, 470L Caldecott Medal ♥ Notable Book

Van Allsburg, Chris: *Wreck of the Zephyr*

A boy's ambition to be the greatest sailor in the world brings him to ruin when he misuses his new ability to sail his boat in the air. AR 2.7, RC 2.5, 470L

Wiesner, David: *Flotsam*

A colorful picture book that features a young, science-minded boy who goes to the beach to collect and examine anything floating that has been washed ashore and discovers an underwater camera that contains a collection of unusual pictures. This is a wordless book. Caldecott Medal ♥

Willems, Mo: *Leonardo the Terrible Monster*

Regardless of all his efforts, Leonardo the monster simply cannot seem to frighten anyone, until he meets the perfect nervous little boy AR 2.3, RC 2.1, 670L ♥

Fiction Chapter Books

Amato, Mary: *The Word Eater*

Lerner Chase, a new student at Cleveland Park Middle School, finds a worm that magically makes things disappear, and she hopes it will help her fit in, or get revenge, at her hated school. AR 4.5, RC 4.8, 590L

Cameron, Ann: *Gloria's Way*

Gloria shares special times with her mother and father and with her friends Julian, Huey, and Latisha. AR 3.1, RC 2.9, 410L

DiCamillo, Kate: *Bink and Gollie*

Two roller-skating best friends--one tiny, one tall--share three comical adventures involving outrageously bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion. AR 2.5, RC 1.1, 310L ♥ Notable Book

Duffey, Betsy: *Camp Knock Knock*

If Willie would change into clean clothes while at summer camp, he may find the joke book which Crow has hidden from him. AR 1.8, RC 1.8, 180L

Duffey, Betsy: *The Gadget War*

Kelly is an ingenious inventor with 43 inventions to her credit and she is only in third grade. Then she meets Albert and he is determined to prove that he is the real gadget wiz. AR 3.7, RC 4.9, 540L

Fine, Anne: *Jamie and Angus Stories*

Six stories about Angus, a toy bull, and Jamie, the boy who owns him. AR 4.3 RC 4.3, 770L ♥

Gardiner, John Reynolds: *Stone Fox*

Little Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters. AR 3.2, 650L

Grimes, Nikki: *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel!*

Spunky third-grader Dyamonde Daniel misses her old neighborhood, but when she befriends a boy named Free, another new student at school, she finally starts to feel at home. AR 3.3, RC 3.5, 620L

Haas, Jessie: *Jigsaw Pony*

Twins Kiera and Fran have never agreed on anything but when their dream comes true and their father surprises them with a pony, they must learn to work together to care for their new pet. AR 2.3, 450L ♥

Hannigan, Katherine: *Emmaline and the Bunny*

Everyone and everything in the town of Neatasapin is tidy, except Emmaline who likes to dig dirt and jump in puddles, and wants to adopt an untidy bunny. AR 2.0, 410L ♥

Lin, Grace: *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!*

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different. AR 1.8, RC 2.3, 390L ♥

Marshall, James: *Rats on the Roof*

An illustrated collection of seven stories about various animals, including a frog with magnificent legs, a hungry brontosaurus, and a mouse who gets married. AR 3.7, RC 3.5, 520L

Mead, Alice: *Isabella's Above Ground Pool*

Nine-year-old Isabella doesn't like to share, until a tornado destroys a neighbor's house and she realizes that the money she has earned to buy a swimming pool might be put to a better use. AR 3.5, RC 3.3, 600L

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds: *Cuckoo Feathers*

When two pigeons that Sarah wants as pets move from her Chicago apartment's window ledge to the building next door, Sarah tries to figure out how to get them to come back. AR 3.7, RC 3.3, 620L

Pardo, Gina Wilner: *Jumping into Nothing*

Nine-year-old Sophie tries to deal with her fear of jumping off the high diving board at the community pool by listing other things she is afraid of doing and forcing herself to do them. AR 3.3, RC 3.8, 470L

Westera, Marleen: *Sheep and Goat*

Follows the daily activities of Sheep and Goat who, despite often being grouchy or grumpy, are always there for one another when it counts. AR 2.6, RC 2.5, 340L

Whybrow, Ian: *Little Wolf's Book of Badness*

Little Wolf has not been behaving too courteously, so his parents send him to his uncle's Big Bad Wolf school to learn to be a proper wolf. AR 3.9, RC 2.1, 600L

Fiction Series

Adler, David: *Andy Russell*

Andy is an endearing fourth grader who stirs up good-natured mischief without even trying. AR 3.0 – 4.0, 520L

Adler, David: *Cam Jansen*

Follow girl detective Cam Jansen, who has a photographic memory, as she solves mysteries 420L

Applegate, Katherine: *Rosco Riley Rules!*

Short chapters, fast moving action, and a funny, first-grade boy! 400L

Bruel, Nick: *Bad Kitty Takes a Bath / Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty*

Takes a humorous look at cat and human behaviors in a graphic art style. 610L

Clifford, Eth: *Flatfoot Fox*

Follow Detective Flatfoot Fox as he solves mysteries with the help of his friends. 310L

Conford, Ellen: *Jenny Archer*

Jenny Archer follows her own path with humorous results. 350L

DiCamillo, Kate: *Mercy Watson*

Mercy the pig is much loved by the Watsons, and she is treated just like a member of the family. 450L

Giff, Patricia: *The Kids of the Polk Street School*

Follow these elementary students as they cope with everyday sorts of problems. AR 3.0

Guest, Elissa: *Iris and Walter*

Together, Iris and Walter discover that anything--from adjusting to a new home, to facing the first day of school--is easier when you have a best friend to help you. 330L

- Howe, James: *Houndsley and Catina*
Friends Houndsley and Catina solve their differences in thoughtful and creative ways. AR 2.5 – 3.5, 450-650L
- Howe, James: *Pinky and Rex*
Rex and her best friend Pinky, each the proud possessor of twenty-seven stuffed animals or dinosaurs, find their visit to the museum and its gift shop complicated by Pinky's little sister Amanda. AR 4.0, 490L
- Hurwitz, Johanna: *The Riverside Kids*
Nora; her little brother, Teddy; her neighbor Russell; and his little sister, Elisa, live in an apartment building in New York City, have loads of fun and learn what being a good neighbor is all about. AR 2.5-3.5, 650L
- Jacobson, Jennifer: *Andy Shane*
Andy Shane has problems at school, mainly because of a tattletale, know-it-all named Dolores, but Andy has friends who help him solve his problems. AR 3.0-3.5, 550-600L
- Keene, Carolyn: *Nancy Drew Clue Crew*
See how Nancy Drew, everyone's favorite super sleuth, got her start! Using simple chapter-book language and deductive reasoning to piece together each case, this series will appeal to junior mystery buffs and chapter-book readers alike. AR 3.0 – 4.0, 500 – 600L
- Keene, Carolyn: *Nancy Drew Notebooks*
Eight-year old Nancy and her best friends collect clues and solve mysteries. 450L
- Klein, Abby: *Ready, Freddy!*
Join Freddy and his friends for a great first-grade adventure! Content, humor, characters, and vocabulary are perfect for the chapter-book reader. AR 2.0-4.0, 550L
- Kline, Suzy: *Horrible Harry*
Harry and his detective classmates try to find clues relating to a mystery in Room 3B. AR 3.0, 440L
- Krensky, Stephen: *Lionel*
Lionel faces such ordeals as having to eat green beans, going to the doctor, and looking for the snake his sister lost in his room. AR 2.2, 280L
- Kvasnosky, Laura McGee: *Zelda and Ivy*
Each book features three fresh, funny stories about the fabulous fox sisters, perfect for beginning readers. AR 2.5 – 3.0, 470L
- Landon, Lucinda: *Meg Mackintosh*
Meg gets excited by the challenge of solving a good mystery--once she starts a case, she works on it steadily. Even if she grows confused, she never gives up, and with the help of the reader, each case will be solved! AR 3.5 – 4.5, 490L
- Lobel, Arnold: *Frog and Toad*
Frog and Toad spend their days together, but find sometimes it's nice to be alone. AR 2.1, 400L
- Marshall, James: *George and Martha*
Hippo companions George and Martha learn simple lessons about friendship in these adventures. AR 2.5 – 3.5, 500L
- Mills, Claudia: *Gus and Grandpa*
Gus receives expert guidance from his grandfather through many everyday events. AR 2.5-3.0, 470L
- Nolan, Lucy: *Down Girl and Sit: Smarter Than Squirrels*
Recounts the adventures of a rambunctious dog who thinks her name is Down Girl and her next door neighbor, Sit, as they try to keep the world safe from dangerous squirrels, the paper boy, and a frightening creature named Here Kitty Kitty. AR 2.9, 380L ♥
- Numeroff, Laura: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*
Hilarious stories about goofy animals and the predicaments they get into! 660L
- Osborne, Mary Pope: *The Magic Tree House*
Follow the adventures of Annie and Jack as they travel through time via their magical tree house AR 3.0-4.0, 290L
- Pennypacker, Sara: *Flat Stanley's World Wide Adventures*
Ever since Stanley was flattened by a bulletin board, he has captured imaginations with his ability to travel by mail. Now, he's off on a global tour in an all-new, geography-themed chapter book series. 670L
- Preller, James: *Jigsaw Jones*
Puzzle-crazy Jigsaw Jones searches for clues and pieces them together to solve the mystery. AR 3.0, 390L
- Rylant, Cynthia: *Mr. Putter and Tabby*
Warmhearted stories of elderly Mr. Putter and his favorite companion, Tabby, the cat. AR 2.8, 540L

Sachar, Louis: *Marvin Redpost*

Short, easy-to-read chapter books about comical nine-year-old Marvin and his buddies. AR 2.8-4.0, 300-400L

Sweet, Melissa: *Pinky and Rex*

The adventures of close neighbors and best friends: Pinky, a boy who loves to collect stuffed animals and whose favorite color is pink, and Rex, a sports-crazy girl who is passionate about dinosaurs. AR 3.0, 490L

Thaler, Mike: *Black Lagoon*

Follow Hubie's imagination as he faces his comically horrific fears at school. 450L

Thompson, Kay: *Eloise*

Stories about a little girl who lives on the top floor of the Plaza Hotel. AR 4.5

Various authors: *Bryer Stablemates*

A series that features fun facts about horses and a keepsake card of a real pony. With Stablemates, every horse has a story. 400-600L

Watt, Melanie: *Scaredy Squirrel*

Scaredy Squirrel is afraid to leave his nut tree, but when he is finally one day forced out of his home, he discovers some interesting things about the great unknown. AR 3.6, RC 2.9, 560L ♥

Yee, Wong Herbert: *Mouse and Mole*

Join Mouse and her downstairs neighbor, Mole, in their high-flying adventures in which teamwork, brainstorming, and good ideas always make for a fun day. AR 3.0, RC 2.7, 510L

Zion, Gene: *Harry the Dog*

The adventures of a little dog. AR 3.5, 530L

Math

Remember to include math in your everyday activities.

Alelrod, Amy: *Pigs Will Be Pigs*

The hungry Pig family learns about money and buying power as they turn the house upside down looking for enough money to buy dinner at the local restaurant. AR 2.7, RC 2.2, 490L

Demi: *One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale*

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl. AR 4.6, RC 4.2, 830L

Fromenthal, Jean-Luc: *365 Penguins*

When a box containing a penguin arrives anonymously on New Year's Day, a family of four is puzzled, and as they continue to receive one penguin a day throughout the year, their problems--and food budget, and storage issues--multiply. AR 3.1

Goldstone, Bruce: *Great Estimations*

Photographs and easy-to-follow text teach children about estimations and offer tips to help them create accurate estimates.

Helakoski, Leslie: *The Smushy Bus*

When the regular schoolbus is in the shop, a clever driver must use all that he knows about addition and subtraction to ensure that seventy-six children get on--and off--of the four-seat substitute bus. AR 3.3, RC 2.6, 440L

Jenkins, Steve: *Actual Size*

Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals. RC 2.8, RC 2.5, 1080L ♥

Leedy, Loreen: *Follow the Money!*

A quarter describes all the ways it is used from the time it is minted until it is taken back to a bank. AR 2.5, 130L

Leedy, Loreen: *Measuring Penny*

Lisa learns about the mathematics of measuring by measuring her dog Penny with all sorts of units, including pounds, inches, dog biscuits, and cotton swabs. AR 3.2, RC 4.2, 500L ♥

McElligott, Matthew: *Bean Thirteen*

Two bugs, Ralph and Flora, try to divide thirteen beans so that the unlucky thirteenth bean disappears, but they soon discover that the math is not so easy. AR 2.4, RC 2.1, 320L

Pinczes, Elinor: *One Hundred Hungry Ants*

One hundred hungry ants head towards a picnic to get yummys for their tummies. They stop to change their line formation, showing different divisions of one hundred, causing them to lose both time and food in the end. RC 4.5, 650L

Tang, Greg: *Math Appeal*

Rhyming anecdotes present opportunities for simple math activities and hints for solving. AR 3.5, RC 3.1

Tang, Greg: *Math for All Seasons*

Contains twelve riddles, each paired with a color illustration, that together pose math puzzles based on the seasons of the year.
AR 3.4, RC 3.1 ♥

Nonfiction

Aliki: *How a Book is Made*

Describes the stages in making a book, starting with the writing of the manuscript and the drawing of the pictures, and explaining all the technical processes leading to printed and bound copies. 390L

Arnosky, Jim: *All About Frogs* or any other nonfiction/animal book by the author

Introduces young readers to the lives of frogs, lizards, owls, sharks, and other animals. Various titles
AR 4.0-5.0 RC 4.0-5.0

Ashman, Linda: *Stella Unleashed*

The family dog describes her life in a series of rhymes. AR 2.9, 490L

Barber, Tiki: *By My Brother's Side*

Introduces twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber, who worked hard to overcome obstacles and become National Football League stars, one as running back for the New York Giants, the other as cornerback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. AR 2.8, 500L

Borden, Louise: *America Is...*

Presents an illustrated celebration of the history, people, and natural and manmade wonders of the United States of America.
AR 3.7 RC 1.5

Bourke, Anthony: *Christian the Lion*

Details the experiences of Anthony Bourke and John Rendall, who bought a lion cub from a department store, named him Christian, raised him as a pet, reintroduced him to the wild in Kenya, and years later received a warm welcome from the grown lion. AR 3.6, 600L

Brown, Don: *Alice Ramsey's Grand Adventure*

Describes the difficulties faced by the first woman to make a cross-country journey from New York to San Francisco by automobile in 1909. AR 4.1, 560L ♥

Calmenson, Stephanie: *Shaggy, Waggy Dogs*

Brief rhymes describe more than two dozen dog breeds. Includes an author's note with advice on choosing a dog as a pet.
AR 3.4, RC 2.2, 320L

Chandra, Deborah: *George Washington's Teeth*

A rollicking rhyme portrays George Washington's lifelong struggle with bad teeth. A timeline taken from diary entries and other nonfiction sources follows. AR 3.6 RC 3.5 ♥

Cheney, Lynne: *America: A Patriotic Primer*

Each letter of the alphabet is represented by important people, ideas, and events in the history of the United States. AR 5.8, 840L

Cheney, Lynne: *When Washington Crossed the Delaware: A Wintertime Story for Young Patriots*

Tells the story of how General George Washington led his exhausted, defeated troops across the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 to attack the Hessians and the British at Trenton and Princeton, turning the tide of the Revolution in favor of the Americans.
AR 5.8 RC 5.6, 860L ♥

Christelow, Eileen: *Vote!*

Using a campaign for mayor as an example, shows the steps involved in an election, from the candidate's speeches and rallies, to the voting booth where every vote counts, to the announcement of the winner. AR 3.8, RC 3.7, 420L Notable Book ♥

Cole, Joanna: *Magic School Bus Sees Stars*

The kids in Ms. Frizzle's class get a first-hand lesson about stars when they board the Magic School Bus and head out into the solar system in search of a present for Dorothy Ann. AR 3.3, 580L

Fowler, Allan: *Animals in the Zoo*

Examines a variety of zoo animals and their housing, including elephants, bears, reptiles, and killer whales.
AR 2.7, RC 2.6

George, Jean: *How to Talk to your Cat or How to Talk to your Dog*

Describes how cats communicate with people through their behavior and sounds and explains how to talk back to them using sounds, behavior, and body language. AR 4.2, RC 3.5 ♥

Gutelle, Andrew: *Baseball's Best: Five True Stories*

Examines the accomplishments of Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio, Jackie Robinson, Roberto Clemente, and Hank Aaron, all of whom were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. AR 4.4, RC 3.9, 700L

Hansard, Peter: *A Field Full of Horses*

Text and illustrations describe horse behavior, biology, and care. RC 2.3

Jenkins, Steve: *Move!*

Vivid illustrations and playful text introduce a variety of animals that swing, walk, dive, swim, leap, slither, climb, fly, run, dance, float, slide, and waddle. Includes facts on each animal at the back of the book. AR 1.9, 450L ♥

Kudlinski, Kathleen: *Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!*

Describes how information and ideas about prehistoric dinosaurs are constantly changing as new discoveries are made. AR 5.0, RC 3.7, 900L ♥

Osborne, Mary Pope: Nonfiction companions to *The Magic Tree House* books

Nonfiction companions to the "Magic Tree House" series provide all the facts behind the fiction. These chapter books are full of up-to-date information, exciting photos, fun illustrations, large type, and short sentences. AR 4.5- 5.5, 650-750L

Rappaport, Doreen: *Lady Liberty: A Biography*

Presents an illustrated biography of the Statue of Liberty, describing who designed it and why, and how it came to become a symbol of the United States. AR 4.8, 760L ♥

Various Authors: *Read and Wonder* nonfiction series

Read and Wonder books combine science and story, and reveal how big and Wonder-full the natural world really is. AR 3.5–4.5

Biography

Barber, Tiki: *Teammates*

A story of teamwork and perseverance based on the childhoods of National Football League stars and twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber. AR 3.1, RC 2.9, 560L

DePaola, Tomie: *26 Fairmount Avenue*

Children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy. AR 4.8, RC 3.8, 760L Newbery Honor

Golenbock, Peter: *Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way*

A biography of the Hall of Fame baseball player who broke Babe Ruth's career home run record. AR 4.8, 600L ♥

Hopkinson, Deborah: *Fannie in the Kitchen*

Fannie Farmer is a mother's helper in the Shaw house, where the daughter gives her the idea of writing down precise instructions for measuring and cooking, which eventually became one of the first modern cookbooks. AR 3.9, RC 2.8, 380L ♥

Krull, Kathleen: *The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss*

Introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts. AR 5.7, RC 4.2, 950L ♥

McCarthy, Meghan: *The Story of Charles Atlas, Strong Man*

An illustrated account of the life of Angelo Siciliano, an Italian immigrant who, tired of being pushed around, developed a program of physical fitness that transformed his life and earned him the name Charles Atlas. AR 4.0, RC 3.8, 740L ♥

McCully, Emily Arnold: *Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor*

Describes inventor Margaret E. Knight's childhood, explaining how her interest in mechanical innovations began, and tells the story of her invention of a paper bag maker and her legal battle for the patent after someone stole her idea. AR 4.2, RC 4.2, 720L Notable Book ♥

Ripken, Cal: *The Longest Season*

An illustrated version of the story of how Cal Ripken and the Orioles broke their losing streak of twenty-one consecutive games in 1988. AR 4.5, 800L

Slaymaker, Melissa: *Bottle Houses: The Creative World of Grandma Prisbrey*

An introduction to the world of folk artist Grandma Prisbrey. AR 4.4, RC 5.2, 850L

St. George, Judith: *You're on Your Way, Teddy Roosevelt*

As a young boy, "Teedie" Roosevelt was frequently ill, but worked hard to become strong and fit while also avidly reading and pursuing his love of natural history. AR 3.8, 600L ♥

Folk Tales, Fairy Tales and Tall Tales

Brett, Jan: *Honey, Honey... Lion!*

After working together to obtain honey, the African honey badger always shares it with his partner, the honeyguide bird, until one day when the honey badger becomes greedy and his feathered friend decides to teach him a lesson. AR 3.5, 710L ♥

Brett, Jan: *The Mitten: A Ukrainian Folktale*

Several animals sleep snugly in Nicki's lost mitten until the bear sneezes. AR 3.9, RC 3.2, 800L

Carle, Eric: *The Rabbit and the Turtle*

Fables originally published in: Eric Carle's treasury of classic stories for children. AR 3.8, RC 3.5, 650L

De Paola, Tomie: *The Legend of Old Befana*

Because Befana's household chores kept her from finding the Baby King, she searches to this day, leaving gifts for children on the Feast of the Three Kings. AR 2.9, RC 3.9, 460L

Kellogg, Steven: *Paul Bunyan*

Recounts the life of the extraordinary lumberjack whose unusual size and strength brought him many fantastic adventures. AR 5.7, RC 3.8, 1030L

MacDonald, Margaret Read: *Bat's Big Game*

A simplified retelling of the classic Aesop's fable about a ball game between the birds and the animals, and Bat, who wants to play on the winning team. AR 2.2, RC 1.3, 400L

MacDonald, Margaret Read: *Go to Sleep, Gecko!: A Balinese Folktale*

Retells the folktale of the gecko who complains to the village chief that the fireflies keep him awake at night but then learns that in nature all things are connected. AR 2.3

MacDonald, Margaret Read: *Slop! A Welsh Folktale*

An old man and old woman throw their dinner leftovers unknowingly onto the tiny house of a little man and his wife. AR 2.6, RC 2.5, 320L

Mosel, Arlene: *Tikki Tikki Tembo*

Adaptation of a Chinese folktale. When the eldest son fell in the well and most of the time getting help was spent pronouncing the name of the one in trouble, the Chinese, according to legend, decided to give all their children short names. AR 4.2 RC 3.7, 1090L

Pinkney, Jerry: *The Lion and the Mouse*

In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle. Caldecott Medal ♥

Vagin, Vladimir: *The Enormous Carrot*

A group learns the value of teamwork as one animal after another joins in the effort to pull a giant carrot out of the ground. Based on a Russian folktale. AR 3.0, 470L

Willey, Margaret: *Clever Beatrice: An Upper Peninsula Conte*

A small, but clever young girl outwits a rich giant and wins all his gold. AR 3.8, RC 2.7 Notable Book

Young, Ed: *Seven Blind Mice*

Retells in verse the Indian fable of the blind men discovering different parts of an elephant and arguing about its appearance. The illustrations depict the blind arguers as mice. AR 1.9, 350L Caldecott Honor