

Recommended Reading List

“Just Right” Books That Can Turn Your Child On To Reading

Updated, December 2024*

Grade-Appropriate Interest Level	* Lower Grades K-3 (LG)	* Middle Grades 4-8th grade (MG)	+ Middle Grades 6th grade and up (MG+)	* Upper Grades 9th grade and up (UG)
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Title	Author First	Author Last	Reading Level	Interest Level*
One Two Three	Sandra	Boynton	K	LG
Clifford Makes a Friend	Norman	Bridwell	K	LG
The Berenstain Bears are a Family	Jan and Stan	Berenstain	K	LG
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom	Bill	Martin, Jr.	K	LG
Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus	Mo	Willems	K	LG
Elephant and Piggie: We Are In A Book	Mo	Willems	K	LG
Leo the Late Bloomer	Robert	Kraus	1.2	LG
Clifford the Big Red Dog	Norman	Bridwell	1.2	LG
I Love Me	Sally/Ambelin	Morgan/Kwaymullina	1.3	LG
The Very Busy Spider	Eric	Carle	1.3	LG
The Little Mouse, the Ripe Red Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear	Don	Wood	1.5	LG
Pete The Cat: I Love My White Shoes	Eric	Litwin	1.5	LG
Oliver's Tree	Kit	Chase	1.6	LG
Curious George Finds a Friend	Stephen	Krensky	1.6	LG
Baking Day at Grandma's	Anika	Denise	1.8	LG
Five Little Ducks		Raffi	1.8	LG
Inch by Inch	Leo	Lionni	1.8	LG
Peter's Chair	Jack	Keats	1.8	LG
Kitten's First Full Moon	Kevin	Henkes	1.9	LG
Olivia Saves the Circus	Ian	Falconer	1.9	LG
Nate the Great	Marjorie Weinman	Sharmat	2	LG
Olivia	Ian	Falconer	2	LG
Ish	Peter H.	Reynolds	2.1	LG
Hair Love	Matthew A.	Cherry	2.1	LG
The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash	Trinka Hakes	Noble	2.2	LG
Danny and the Dinosaur	Syd	Hoff	2.3	LG
The Gruffalo	Julia	Donaldson	2.3	LG
Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale	Mo	Willems	2.4	LG
Nate the Great Goes Undercover (series)	Marjorie Weinman	Sharmat	2.4	LG
Owen	Kevin	Henkes	2.4	LG
Amelia Bedelia	Peggy	Parish	2.5	LG
Dog Man Unleashed (series)	Dav	Pilkey	2.5	LG
The Giving Tree	Shel	Silverstein	2.6	LG
A Chair for my Mother	Vera B.	Williams	2.6	LG
Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs before Dark (series)		Osborne/Murdocca	2.6	LG
Over in the Meadow	John	Langstaff	2.6	LG
George and Martha (series)	James	Marshall	2.7	LG
It's Mine	Leo	Lionni	2.7	LG
Guess How Much I Love You	Sam	McBratney	2.8	LG
Snake Alley Band	Elizabeth	Nygaard	2.8	LG
Eloise	Kay	Thompson	2.9	LG

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Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business (series)	Barbara	Park	2.9	LG
Junie B. Jones and Some Sneaky Peeky Spying (series)	Barbara	Park	2.9	LG
Zen Shorts	Jon J.	Muth	2.9	LG
Julius, the Baby of the World	Kevin	Henkes	3	LG
Animals Born Alive and Well	Ruth	Heller	3	LG
The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs	Jon	Scieszka	3	LG
Madeline	Ludwig	Bemelmans	3.1	LG
Horton Hatches an Egg	Dr.	Seuss	3.1	LG
The Mitten	Jan	Brett	3.1	LG
The Lorax	Dr.	Seuss	3.1	LG
Enemy Pie	Derek	Munson	3.2	LG
The Lucky Baseball Bat	Matt	Christopher	3.2	LG
Whoever You Are	Mem	Fox	3.2	LG
Chrysanthemum	Kevin	Henkes	3.3	LG
The HICCUPotamun	Aaron	Zenz	3.3	LG
The Library	Sarah	Stewart	3.3	LG
Patrick's Dinosaurs	Carol	Carrick	3.3	LG
Skippyjon Jones	Judy	Schachner	3.3	LG
Officer Buckle and Gloria	Peggy	Rathmann	3.4	LG
Where the Wild Things Are	Maurice	Sendak	3.4	LG
The Dog That Stole Football Plays	Matt	Christopher	3.4	LG
Edwina the Emu	Sheena	Knowles	3.4	LG
Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs	Tomie	De Paola	3.4	LG
If Dinosaurs Came Back	Bernard	Most	3.5	LG
Cam Jansen and the Barking Treasure Mystery (series)	David A.	Adler	3.5	LG
Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain	Verna	Aardema	3.5	LG
Corduroy	Don	Freeman	3.5	LG
Chickens Aren't the Only Ones	Ruth	Heller	3.6	LG
Edward the Emu	Sheena	Knowles	3.6	LG
The Mysterious Tadpole	Steven	Kellogg	3.6	LG
Strega Nona: Her Story	DePaola	Tomie	3.7	LG
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day	Judith	Viorst	3.7	LG
Room on the Broom	Julia	Donaldson	3.7	LG
The Day the Crayons Quit	Drew	Daywalt	3.8	LG
Jumanji	Chris	Van Allsburg	3.9	LG
The Butterfly Alphabet	Cassie	Brian	4	LG
The Enormous Crocodile	Roald	Dahl	4	LG
The Snail and the Whale	Julia	Donaldson	4	LG
How Big Were The Dinosaurs	Bernard	Most	4.1	LG
If You Made a Million	David M.	Schwartz	4.1	LG
Thank You, Mr. Falker	Patricia	Polacco	4.1	LG
Mary Poppins from A to Z	P. L.	Travers	4.2	LG
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs	Barrett	Judi	4.3	LG
Cinder Edna	Ellen	Jackson	4.5	LG
Clemintine (series)	Sara	Pennypacker	4.5	LG
The Mary Celeste: An Unsolved Mystery		Yolen/Stemple	4.5	LG
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael	Bond	4.7	LG

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Two Bad Ants	Chris	Van Allsburg	4.7	LG
Trumpet of the Swan	E. B.	White	4.8	LG
The Velveteen Rabbit	Margery	Williams	4.9	LG
The Bus Ride that Changed History: The Story of Rosa Parks	Pamela Duncan	Edwards	5.5	LG
New Kid	Jerry	Craft	2.9	MG
Tales of Fourth Grade Nothing	Judy	Blume	3.3	MG
Superfudge	Judy	Blume	3.4	MG
How to Eat Fried Worms	Thomas	Rockwell	3.5	MG
The One and Only Ivan	Katherine	Applegate	3.6	MG
Crenshaw	Katherine	Applegate	3.8	MG
Because of Winn Dixie	Kate	DiCamillo	3.9	MG
Firegirl	Tony	Abbot	4.1	MG
Hat Trick	Matt	Christopher	4.1	MG
The Lemonade War	Jacqueline	Davies	4.1	MG
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes	Eleanor	Coerr	4.1	MG
Half Moon Investigations	Eoin	Colfer	4.2	MG
Charlotte's Web	E. B.	White	4.4	MG
Esio Trot	Roald	Dahl	4.4	MG
Love That Dog	Sharon	Creech	4.5	MG
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E.	E.L.	Konigsburg	4.7	MG
The Lightning Thief (series)	Rick	Riordan	4.7	MG
Maniac McGee	Jerry	Spinelli	4.7	MG
The Supernaturalist	Eoin	Colfer	4.8	MG
James and the Giant Peach	Roald	Dahl	4.8	MG
Wonder	R.J.	Palacio	4.8	MG
Where the Red Fern Grows	Wilson	Rawls	4.9	MG
Lemony Snicket (series)	Jill	Wheeler	5	MG
Tuck Everlasting	Natalie	Babbitt	5	MG
Artemis Fowl (series)	Eoin	Colfer	5	MG
Artemis Fowl The Arctic Incident (series)	Eoin	Colfer	5	MG
Old Yeller	Fred	Gipson	5	MG
The Watsons go to Birmingham, 1963	Christopher Paul	Curtis		MG
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever	Barbara	Robinson	5.1	MG
Frindle	A.	Clements	5.1	MG
Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh	Robert C.	O'Brien	5.1	MG
Ramona the Pest (series)	Beverly	Cleary	5.1	MG
Hoot	Carl	Hiaasen	5.2	MG
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series)	Jeff	Kinney	5.2	MG
The Sisters Grimm: The Fairy Tale Detectives (series)	Michael	Buckley	5.2	MG
Esperanza Rising	Pam	Munoz Ryan	5.3	MG
The Invention of Hugo Cabret	Brian	Selznick	5.3	MG
Johnny Tremain	Esther	Forbes	5.3	MG
The Borrowers	Mary	Norton	5.3	MG
The Westing Game	Ellen	Raskin	5.3	MG
The Best School Year Ever	Barbara	Robinson	5.4	MG
Dork Diaries: Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life (series)	Rachel Renee	Russell		MG
Island of the Blue Dolphins	Scott	O'Dell	5.4	MG

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Wonderstruck	Brian	Selznick	5.4	MG
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (series)	J. K.	Rowling	5.5	MG
The Hatchet	Gary	Paulsen	5.7	MG
Holes	L.	Sachar	5.7	MG
Jacob Have I Loved	Katherine	Paterson	5.7	MG
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Mildred	Taylor	5.7	MG
The Secret Garden	F.	Burnett	5.8	MG
Julie of the Wolves	Jean Craighead	George	5.8	MG
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (series)	C.S.	Lewis	5.9	MG
Stuart Little	E. B.	White	6	MG
Anne of Green Gables	L.M.	Montgomery	6.5	MG
Anne of Avonlea	L.M.	Montgomery	6.5	MG
Freaky Friday	Mary	Rodgers	6.5	MG
The Phantom Tollbooth	Norton	Juster	6.7	MG
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (series)	J. K.	Rowling	6.7	MG
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (series)	J. K.	Rowling	6.7	MG
The Many Rides of Paul Revers	James Cross	Giblin	6.8	MG
Ben and Me	Robert	Lawson	6.9	MG
The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming	Laurie	David	6.9	MG
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis	Carroll	7	MG
The Summer I Turned Pretty (trilogy)	Jenny	Han	4.1	MG+
The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne	Frank	6.2	MG+
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder	Hollly	Jackson	5.4	UG
Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry	Joya	Goffney	4.1	UG
Tiger Eyes	Judy	Blume	4.1	UG
Confessions of an Alleged Good Girl	Joya	Goffney	4.1	UG
Allegedly	Tiffany D.	Jackson	4.2	UG
The Inheritance Games	Jennifer Lynn	Barnes	4.7	UG
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen	Chbosky	4.8	UG
This is our Story	Ashley	Elston	4.8	UG
The Naturals	Jennifer Lynn	Barnes	5	UG
Better Than The Movies	Lynn	Painter	5.2	UG
The Poet X	Elizabeth	Acevedo	5.2	UG
Crave (series)	Tracy	Wolff	5.4	UG
The Fault In Our Stars	John	Green	5.5	UG
Eragon (series)	Christopher	Paolini	5.6	UG
Punching The Air	Ibi	Zoboi	5.7	UG
The Princess Diaries	Meg	Cabot	5.7	UG
Powerless (series)	Lauren	Roberts	5.8	UG
The Justice Project	Michael	Betcherman	6.1	UG
The Suble Knife (series)	Philip	Pullman	6.2	UG
The Amber Spyglass	Philip	Pullman	6.7	UG
The Golden Compass (series)	Philip	Pullman	7	UG

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