

Recommended Books for Grades 3-6

A selected list of fiction, nonfiction, poetry and biographies for students in grades 3 through 6.

GRADES THREE & FOUR:

Ackerman, K. (1995). *The night crossing*. New York: Random House.

In 1938, a young Jewish girl, and her family flee persecution in their Austrian homeland by escaping into Switzerland.

Call Number: J Ack 1995

Ada, A. F. (1997). *Gathering the sun: An A B C in Spanish and English*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepherd.

Poems in both Spanish and English (one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet) tell about working in the fields.

Call Number: j861 Ada

Atwater, R. & Atwater, F. (1938). *Mr. Popper's penguins*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

The unexpected delivery of an Antarctic penguin surprises and delights a house painter named Mr. Popper.

Call Number: J Atw 1988

Barrie, J. (1987). *Peter Pan*. Parsippany, NJ: Unicorn Publishing House.

In this timeless tale, the three Darling children share adventures in Never-Never land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up.

Call Number: J Bar 1987

Bartone, E. (1993). *Peppe the lamplighter*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard.

Young Peppe's father is upset when the boy takes a lowly job as a lamplighter in turn-of-the-century New York City.

Call Number: PJ Bar

Bunting, E. (1994). *A day's work*. New York: Clarion.

A young boy lies to get gardening jobs for his Spanish-speaking grandfather and himself, but everything goes wrong and his grandfather teaches him a lesson about honesty.

Call Number: PJ Bun

Cole, J. (1990). *The magic school bus: Lost in the solar system*. New York: Scholastic.

In this book from the popular, but fact-based science series, the unflappable Ms. Frizzle takes her students on an unexpected field trip through our solar system.

Call Number: j523.32 Col

Dahl, R. (1961). *James and the giant peach*. New York: Knopf.

James escapes a horrid home life by taking an amazing ride in a magical peach.

Call Number: J Dah

- De Paola, T. (1999). *26 Fairmount Ave.* New York: Penguin Putnam.
In the 1930's, when he was five, Tommie De Paola's family had a new home built. This is the first in a series of chapter books describing this popular author's early years.
Call Number: jB DeP
- DiCamillo, K. (2000). *Because of Winn-Dixie.* Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.
Ten year old India Opal Buloni is new in town. At the market, she meets and adopts a big ugly dog who helps her make new friends and learn some things about herself.
Call Number: J DiC
- Fitzhugh, L. (1987). *Harriet the spy.* Santa Barbara, CA: Cornerstone Books.
Eleven-year-old Harriet enjoys recording everyone's secrets in her hidden notebook until they find out and want revenge.
Call Number: J Fit
- Hiaasen, C. (2002). *Hoot.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
Roy has some problems at his new school, but things get more difficult when he decides to help a runaway boy and his tough stepsister save some tiny owls threatened by a construction project.
Call Number: J Hia
- Houston, G. (1992). *My Great Aunt Arizona.* New York: HarperCollins.
This beautifully illustrated biography of Arizona Houston Hughes, a teacher for 57 years, celebrates her dedication and influence across several generations.
Call Number: jB Hug
- King-Smith, D. (1985). *Babe: The gallant pig.* New York: Crown.
A piglet adopted by an old sheep-dog learns the secret to success in becoming a "sheep-pig".
Call Number: J Kin
- Kipling, R. (1997). *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.* New York: Morrow.
A brave mongoose saves his adopted family and outwits two big black cobras who live in the garden. Adapted and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.
Call Number: J Pin
- Lord, B. (1984). *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson.* New York: Harper & Row.
Newly renamed, Shirley Temple Wong moves from Chungking, China to Brooklyn, NY and hopes to fit in. It is tough going until her growing love for baseball and Jackie Robinson help her achieve acceptance.
Call Number: J Lor
- Lowry, L. (1989). *Number the stars.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Ten-year-old Annemarie lives in Nazi-occupied Denmark, where she learns bravery and courage as she helps hide her Jewish friend Ellen from the Nazis.
Call Number: J Low

- Norton, M. (1953). *The Borrowers*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World.
This is the first in a classic series about little people who secretly live under the floorboards of big peoples' houses.
Call Number: J Nor
- Ringgold, F. (1995). *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the sky*. New York: Crown.
Through a mix of history and fantasy, Cassie and Be Be fly through the sky and retrace Harriet Tubman's steps from slavery to freedom with the Underground Railroad.
Call Number: PJ Rin
- Sachar, L. (1998). *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Wrongly accused of stealing, Stanley Yelnats is sent to the correctional "Camp Green Lake," where nothing is green, and there is no lake. But the camp is where Stanley finally breaks free of a family curse, finds self-respect, a treasure, and his first real friend.
Call Number: J Sac
- Snickett, L. (1999). *The bad beginning: Book one*. New York: HarperCollins.
The three young Baudelaire children, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, are suddenly orphaned and must rely on their many talents to stay alive and resist their greedy Uncle Olaf.
Call Number: J Sni
- Van Allsburg, C. (1993). *The sweetest fig*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
Monsieur Bibot is a selfish and cruel dentist, but when he is given two magical figs that can make his dreams come true, Marcel, his long-suffering dog, turns the tables on him.
Call Number: PJ Van
- White, E. B. (1952). *Charlotte's web*. New York: Harper.
A friendship grows between a very special spider and a pig who becomes famous.
Call Number: J Whi
- Williams, V. (2001). *Amber was brave, Essie was smart: The story of Amber and Essie told here in poems and pictures*. New York: Greenwillow Books.
Two sisters fight hunger, play, talk, and take care of each other, while their mother works long hours and Amber keeps asking the dreaded question, "Where's daddy?"
Call Number: J Wil
- Winter, J. (2005). *The librarian of Basra: A true story from Iraq*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt.
This true story tells how librarian Alia Muhammad Baker fought to save her community's collection of thirty thousand books from the war that overtook her country.
Call Number: j020.92 Win
- Woodson, J. (2005). *Show way*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.
The author intertwines her family's history with their tradition of quilt-making, in which quilts were used as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves.
Call Number: J Woo

GRADES FIVE & SIX:

Ada, A. F. (1998). *Under the royal palms: A childhood in Cuba*. New York: Atheneum.
The author describes her life growing up in Cuba.

Call Number: jB Ada

Alexander, L. (1986). *The Illyrian adventure*. New York: E. P. Dutton.

A sixteen-year-old orphan and her guardian search for ancient treasure and become involved in a dangerous rebellion.

Call Number: J Ale

Armstrong, A. (2005). *Whittington*. New York: Random House.

A new cat suddenly appears in a barnyard. He fights the rats and restores order, and tells the story of Dick Whittington's cat, his famous ancestor from English folklore.

Call Number: J Arm

Avi. (2002). *Crispin: The cross of lead*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.

After his mother's death, a thirteen year old boy in medieval England finds that he has a price on his head. Crispin must flee his village to clear his name and gain his freedom.

Call Number: J Avi

Babbitt, N. (1975). *Tuck everlasting*. New York: Farrar, Straus.

Ten year old Winnie steps outside her safe, protected yard into a strange adventure. She meets a mysterious and wonderful family that she can live with forever, or return home to her quiet, loving parents.

Call Number: J Bab

Baum, L. F. (1956). *The Wizard of Oz*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap.

In this classic story, Dorothy is accompanied by the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion as they seek the Land of Oz, where all their problems will be solved.

Call Number: J Bau

Creech, S. (2003). *Granny Torrelli makes soup*. New York: Joanna Cotler Books.

Bailey, the boy next door, is really starting to get to Rosie! But Granny Torrelli's recipes mix good cooking with advice and stories from the old country, and Rosie begins to feel better about her best friend.

Call Number: J Cre

Dahl, R. (1989). *Matilda*. Santa Barbara, CA: Cornerstone Books.

Matilda uses newfound mental powers to get rid of the evil, child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, and comes to the aid of her nice teacher, Miss Honey.

Call Number: J Dah 1989

- Davis, S. (2005). *We beat the street: How a friendship pact helped us succeed*. New York: Dutton Children's Books.
Three young African-Americans from Newark overcame drugs and violence and made a friendship pact to complete high school, attend college, and graduate medical school. Their strong will to "beat the street," enabled them to achieve their goals and more.
Call Number: j920 Dav
- DiCamillo, K. (2006). *The miraculous journey of Edward Tulane*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press.
A spoiled, but much adored three-foot china rabbit is torn from his owner during an ocean voyage. Although he has no love in his heart for anyone but himself, his experiences teach him what is truly important in life.
Call Number: J DiC
- Erdrich, L. (1999). *The birchbark house*. New York: Hyperion.
In 1847, on an island in Lake Superior, a young Native American girl experiences the joys of summer and the terrible trials of winter.
Call Number: J Erd
- Fradin, J. (2004). *The power of one: Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine*. New York: Clarion Books.
In 1957, when nine youngsters were enrolled as the first black students to enter Little Rock, AK's Central High, they were protected and encouraged by Daisy Bates, successful newspaper publisher and NAACP activist.
Call Number: j323.092 Fra
- Funke, C. (2002). *The Thief Lord*. New York: Scholastic.
Pursued by a nasty aunt, (who only wants to adopt the cuter, younger brother), two orphans run away to the magical city of Venice. There they experience danger and excitement when they are taken under the wing of "the Thief Lord."
Call Number: J Fun
- Gantos, J. (2000). *Joey Pigza loses control*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Joey lives with his mom and takes medication to keep from "spinning out of control." However, this summer he is going to live with his dad who doesn't believe in medication. Students may relate to this touching, yet funny story about a boy with ADD.
Call Number: J Gan
- Grace, C. (2001). *1621: A new look at Thanksgiving*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society.
Beautiful photographs illustrate a modern reenactment of the first Thanksgiving, based on new research and Wampanoag accounts. It gives a balanced view of the three day harvest celebration.
Call Number: j394.264 Gra

Jacques, B. (1986). *Redwall*. New York: Philomel Books.

A young mouse named Matthias searches for a legendary sword to help save Redwall Abbey from the evil rat Cluny and his villainous followers.

Call Number: J Jac

Kadohata, C. (2004). *Kira-Kira*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Growing up in rural 1950's Georgia, Katie idolizes her older sister Lynn. They remain close as their Japanese-American family endures prejudice and hardships. When Lynn becomes terminally ill, Katie struggles to find the beauty and joy of life that Lynn sees.

Call Number: J Kad

L'Engle, M. (1997). *A wrinkle in time*. New York: Quality Paperback.

Meg Murry and her friends search through space and time to find her father who disappeared while doing secret government research.

Call Number: J Len 1997

Lewis, C. S. (1988). *The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe*. New York: Macmillan.

Four English children find a magical wardrobe through which they enter the land of Narnia and help the golden lion, Aslan, battle the White Witch.

Call Number: J Lew 1988

Nelson, M. (2001). *Carver, a life in poems*. Asheville, NC: Front Street.

The brilliant botanist, scholar, and scientist is depicted through a series of lyrical poems.

Call Number: jB Car

Park, L. (2001). *A single shard*. New York: Clarion Books.

In 12th century Korea, a young orphan lives in extreme poverty with the elderly man who has cared for him since he was two. Tree-ear longs to become a potter, and his character and courage help him accomplish his dream.

Call Number: J Par

Paulsen, G. (1998). *Soldier's heart: A novel of the Civil War*. New York: Delacorte Press.

As the Civil War begins, fifteen-year-old Charlie eagerly enlists, but is soon devastated by the bloody violence. Based on a true story, Charlie's condition was called "soldier's heart," and is comparable to the modern diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Call Number: J Pau

Peck, R. (2004). *The teacher's funeral: A comedy in three parts*. New York: Dial Books.

After mean old teacher, Myrt Arbuckle "hauls off and dies," 15 year old Russell imagines jumping a freight train for the Dakotas with his best friend. Unfortunately for this 1904 farm boy, they get a new teacher and their plans may have to change.

Call Number: J Pec

- Rowling, J. K. (2007). *Harry Potter and the deathly hallows*. New York: Arthur A. Levine.
In this seventh and last book of the series, Harry struggles with grave doubts and terrible losses as he leads the final journey to overcome the evil lord Voldemort.
Call Number: J Row
- Ryan, P. (2000). *Esperanza rising*. New York: Scholastic Press.
After her father's murder, Esperanza and her mother lose their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico. They are forced to experience the harsh conditions facing migrant farm workers during the 1930's.
Call Number: J Rya
- Selznick, B. (2007). *The invention of Hugo Cabret: A novel in words and pictures*. New York: Scholastic Press.
In 1931, a twelve-year-old orphan secretly repairs the clocks of a Paris train station. A young girl befriends him, but may jeopardize his greatest secret. This book has been described as a combination picture book, novel, graphic novel, and movie.
Call Number: J Sel
- Tillage, L. (1997). *Leon's story*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.
Leon Tillage, a Baltimore school custodian, describes growing up as the son of a black North Carolina sharecropper. He relates haunting, tragic, even brutal events (including his father's murder), in poignant and remarkably optimistic language.
Call Number: jB Til
- Tolkien, J. R. R. (1984). *The hobbit, or, there and back again*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
The esteemed hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, is called upon by the wizard Gandalf to leave his comfortable home and take part in an incredible adventure.
Call Number: J Tol 1984
- Yolen, J. (1988). *The devil's arithmetic*. New York: Viking Kestrel.
At the annual Seder, Hannah wishes she were anywhere else as she listens to family Holocaust stories. Everything changes when she is mysteriously transported back to 1940's Poland and she learns the importance of her family's survival and remembering the past.
Call Number: J Yol
- Yumoto, K. (1996). *The friends*. New York: Farrar, Straus.
Three Japanese youth become obsessed with death, and although preparing for important exams, they decide to spy on a lonely old man from their neighborhood so they can witness his death. A grudging friendship develops, and they begin to dread what they had hoped for.
Call Number: J Yum

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