



Open a Book- Open the World

50 Books for Grades 3-6

I Want/ Read



Avi. *Poppy* 1995 192 pgs Age 8-12 In the third book in the Tales of Dimwood Forest, a tiny deer mouse named Poppy overcomes her fear and dares to stand up to a tyrannical owl. She also learns to use logic and trust in what she believes. (Ch; S; L670)



Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard* 1980 240 pgs Age 8-12 With the twist of a key in the cupboard, Omri turns small plastic figures into vigorous life and adventure. Captivating battles take place and the quirks of the individual figures make for humorous complications. The first of the series, the book has been made into a popular movie. (Ch; L780)



Bell, Cece. *El Deafo* 2014 248 pgs Age 8-12 Cece has a hearing impairment and must wear hearing aids when attending school. The author presents the challenges, criticism, and self-doubt that children with disabilities face with a compassionate and positive attitude. Cece will become a hero for hearing-impaired children and will give other children an opportunity to develop empathy and understanding for those who have disabilities. (GN; NH; L420)



Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* 2005 288 pgs Age 8-12 The first in a series about four sisters with very different personalities who, with their father, spend summer vacation at the Arundel estate. Escapades and adventures are found in every chapter. A delight to read. (Ch; S; L800)



Birney, Betty G. *The World According to Humphrey* 2004 144 pgs Age 8-11 Humphrey has become the class pet of Room 26. In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend he gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. With lots of friends and a cage that doesn't lock, Humphrey's life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn't out to get him! First book in the series. (Ch, S, Sp, L670)



Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* 1972 160 pgs Age 8-11 Being an older brother is hard, but it is nearly impossible when your little brother is almost three, has tantrums, and destroys your things. Hilarious antics will have you laughing until the final page. (Ch; L470)



Bradley, Kimberly. *The War that Saved my Life* 352 pgs Age 10-12 Ten-year-old Ada was born with a deformed foot, for which her mother has kept her hidden away in the house. When her brother and other children are taken out of London to avoid the war, Ada sneaks out to join her brother. Together, they make a new life with a woman who was reluctant to take them in. (Ch, NH, L580)



Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot* 2016 320 pgs Age 8-12 Roz the robot finds herself alone on a remote, wild island. She uses her abilities to adapt to life on the island as she befriends the animals and raises an orphaned gosling. Made into a motion picture. (Ch; L740)



Byars, Betsy. *Summer of the Swans* 1970 144 pgs Age 8-12 Sara Godfrey is having a difficult summer. One moment happy and the next miserable, she doesn't understand what is happening. But when her mentally handicapped brother goes missing, Sara is determined to find him. In the process, she is reminded about what is truly important. (Ch; NM; L830)



____ Cameron, Ann; Ann Strugnell (illustrator). *The Stories Julian Tells* 1981 96 pgs Age 8-10 Julian has a big imagination and is great at telling stories. He can make people believe just about anything. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble! (Ch, L520)



____ Clements, Andrew. *Frindle* 1996 112 pgs Age 8-12 5th grader Nicolas Allen loves to liven things up at school. He always has clever ideas, but one idea sets off a chain-reaction that Nick is unable to stop. How could calling a pen by a different name be such a big deal? By the end of the book, the reader realizes that his teacher, Mrs. Granger, is really the hero. (Ch; L830)



____, *A Week in the Woods* 2002 208 pgs Age 9-12 The fifth-grade Week in the Woods is a beloved tradition of Hardy Elementary, where Mark Chelmsley is a new student who will be going to prep school next year. Mark isn't interested in the Week in the Woods until he realizes that it might be a chance to prove to his teacher, Mr. Maxwell, that he's not just a rich, lazy kid. But the week doesn't go as expected for Mark or Mr. Maxwell. (Ch; L820)



____ Coville, Bruce. *The Monster's Ring* 2008 128 pgs Age 7-10 Russell is tired of Eddie's bullying at school. One afternoon, he comes upon a magic shop and the owner gives him a ring with a special message- "*Twist it once, you're horned and haired; Twist it twice and fangs are bared; Twist it thrice?*" *No one has dared!* Could this make Eddie leave him alone? A fun, light-hearted story that led to a series. (Ch, L550)



____ Dalglish, Alice. *The Courage of Sarah Noble* 1954 64 pgs Age 8-10 In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new home for their family. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy with wild animals and Indians nearby. True story with simple text appropriate for early elementary students. A timeless classic of early American life. (Ch; NH; L610)



____ Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War* 2007 192 pgs Age 8-12 Evan Treski and his younger sister, Jessie, challenge each other to a competition to see who can sell the most lemonade. Evan is good with people, while Jessie is good at math. This fun book highlights their talents while portraying what happens when a little challenge gets out of hand. (Ch; S; Sp; L630)



____ DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie* 2000 192 pgs Age 9-12 One summer day, 10-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends and finds the courage to ask important questions. (Ch; NH; L670)



____ DiCamillo, Kate; Timothy Basil Ering (illustrator). *The Tale of Despereaux* 2003 267 pgs Age 9-12 This is the story of three characters: Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who loves music, stories, and a princess, Roscuro, the rat, and Miggery Sow, a serving girl. They embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. (Ch; L670)



____ DiTerlizzi, Tony and Holly Black. *The Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide* (Bk 1 of series) 2003 144 pgs Age 8-12 Siblings Jared, Simon, and Mallory Grace find a mysterious, handmade field guide in the attic of the old mansion they've just moved into. When they learn that about a magical world existing parallel to their own, they also find that the faeries who live there do not want to be discovered. The first book in the series. (Ch; S; L600)



____ DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember (Book of Ember series Bk 1)* 2003 288 pgs Age 9-12 The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to dim. Can Lina and her friend, Doon, find a way to save the city? (Ch; S; L680)



____ Estes, Eleanor; Louis Slobodkin (illustrator). *The Hundred Dresses* 2004 96 pgs Age 8-12. When quiet, shy Wanda Petronski tells the girls in her class that she has 100 dresses in her closet, she is mercilessly teased. However, when Wanda wins the art contest, her classmates learn what it means to be a friend. A timeless, gentle story about bullies, bystanders, and having the courage to speak up. (Ch; NH; L870)



____ Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy* 1964 320 pgs Age 8-12 Harriet dreams of being a spy. She keeps a journal where she writes all of her thoughts and observations. But when her journal is found by her classmates, she learns that words can affect friendships. First in the series. (Ch; S; L670)



____ Hale, Shannon. *Real Friends* 2017 224 pgs Age 8-12 Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little, but things are changing. This graphic novel explores the challenges of making and keeping friends. (GN; L290)



____ Hanlon, Abby. *Dory Fantasmagory* 2015 176 pgs Age 8-10 Dory, the youngest in her family, is a girl with a very active imagination, and she spends the summer playing with her imaginary friend, pretending to be a dog, battling monsters, and generally driving her family nuts. First book in the series. (Ch, S, L650)



____ Hanson, Mary. *How to Save Your Tail* 2007 112 pgs Age 8-12 Once upon a time, there lived a rat named Bob, who loved baking and reading. When he is caught by the palace cats, Bob keeps them entertained with tales of his family (which sound a lot like well-known fairy tales) and cookies, of course! (Ch, L760)



____ Henry, Marguerite. *Misty of Chincoteague* 1947 176 pgs Age 8-12 On an island off the coasts of Virginia and Maryland, lives a centuries-old band of wild ponies. Among them is the most mysterious of all, Phantom, a rarely-seen mare that evades capture. During a round-up, Phantom and her new colt are corralled. While Phantom yearns for freedom, the colt Misty is content to remain with the children. (Ch; NH; L750)



____ Holling, Clancy. *Paddle-to-the-Sea* 1941 64 pgs Age 8-12 A young Indian boy carves a little canoe with a figure inside and names him Paddle-to-the-Sea. Paddle's journey through the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean provides an excellent geographic and historical picture of the region. (Ch; CH; L840)



____ Howe, Deborah and James; Alan Daniel (illustrator). *Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery* 1979 128 pgs Age 8-11 A new pet has arrived at the Monroe house, but Harold the dog and Chester the cat are suspicious of this bunny with unusual habits...and fangs! A great read-aloud for the entire family. (Ch; L700)



____ Jamieson, Victoria. *Roller Girl* 2015 256 pgs Age 9-12 Astrid and Nicole have been best friends for years. But when Astrid chooses roller derby camp and Nicole continues with dance, Astrid must find a way to make new friends and master the challenge of roller derby. Written by a real-life derby girl. (GN; NH; L440)



____ Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello Universe* 2020 352 pgs Age 10-12 One day, the lives of four children connect in a surprising way. When his bookbag (that has his pet guinea pig inside) is thrown into a well by the neighborhood bully, shy Virgil becomes trapped trying to retrieve it. It takes bravery, smarts, and a little help from the universe to rescue him. (Ch, NM, L690)



_____ Kline, Suzy; Richard Williams (illustrator). *Herbie Jones* 1989 111 pgs Age 7-10 Herbie and his friend Raymond stumble onto a bank robbery. When the robbers leave behind a dog, Herbie is determined to help find him a home, hoping that it will be his home. Don't miss the other Herbie Jones books. (Ch; L550)



_____ Le Guin, Ursula K.; S.D. Schindler (illustrator). *Catwings* 1988 48 pgs Age 8-10 Four tabby kittens are born with wings, which allows them to leave the dangerous city. But they find that country life has its own challenges. These winged cats will capture the imagination of children. First book in the series. (Ch; S; L700)



_____ Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted* 1997 240 pgs Age 8-12 Ella of Frell is bestowed a gift at birth from a foolish fairy- the gift of obedience. Total obedience is more like a curse and Ella is determined to find a way to break it. The reader will enjoy noticing the similarities with the fairy tale, Cinderella. (Ch; NH; L670)



_____ Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* 2009 278 pgs Age 9-12 In this enchanting story set amidst Chinese culture, Minli and her parents live in the valley of the Fruitless Mountain. Though poor, her father tells stories of magical places and the Old Man of the Moon that captivate Minli. Determined to bring prosperity to her home, she goes in search of this mysterious man. Along the way, she learns that true happiness lies in friendship and thankfulness. (Ch; NH; L810)



_____ Look, Lenore; LeUyen Pham (Illustrator). *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* 2008 192 pgs Age 8-10 Alvin, an Asian American second grader, is afraid of everything. In fact, he is so afraid of school that he doesn't speak during class. Can he overcome his fears with the help of his family? Alvin is a character many children will find relatable. (Ch, S, L600)



_____ Lord, Cynthia. *Rules* 2006 224 pgs Age 9-12 Twelve-year-old Catherine is looking forward to summer- especially hoping to become friends with the new girl next door. But life isn't easy when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. When she befriends a teenage boy with disabilities, Catherine must come to terms with what's "normal". An insightful look at autism and disabilities. (Ch; NH; L670)



_____ MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall* 2015 112 pgs Age 8-10 Anna and Caleb's father has sent for a "mail order bride" to come from Maine to the prairie. Set in the late 1800's and told from young Anna's point of view, this story illustrates the challenges that come with change and the joy found in adapting to new circumstances. (Ch; S; NM; L660)



_____ McAlpine, Gordon; Sam Zuppardi (illustrator). *The Misadventures of Edgar and Allan Poe: The Tell-Tale Start* 2013 208 pgs Age 8-12 Edgar and Allan Poe, 12-year-old identical twins, are the distant relatives of Edgar Allan Poe. When their beloved black cat, Roderick Usher, is kidnapped and transported to the Midwest, they convince their guardians that it's time for a road trip. Along the way, they find mayhem, mystery, and secret clues. (Ch; S; L850)



_____ O'Brien, Robert C.; Zena Bernstein (illustrator). *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* 1971 240 pgs Age 8-12 Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, is ill and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a way to help her. (Ch, NM, L790)



____ Palacio, R.J. *Wonder* 2012 320 pg Age 8-12 "I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse." August Pullman just wants to fit in at his new school, but his fellow classmates can't help but stare at his facial differences. Written from the perspective of Auggie, his sister, and friends, Palacio presents a portrait of a community of compassion, empathy, and acceptance. (Ch; L790)



____ Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus* 2020 272 pgs Age 10-12 Set in the 1880's, Hanna's family moves to the heartland of the country to begin a new life. There, Hanna, who is half-Asian, experiences prejudice from her classmates and the townspeople. But she is determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. (Ch, L730)



____ Rockwell, Thomas; Emily McCully (illustrator). *How to Eat Fried Worms* 1973 144 pgs Age 9-12 Billy is always ready for a bet, so he accepts Alan's dare to eat 15 worms in 15 days. Kids will love how Billy manages to eat the worms (think ketchup and mustard) and will be appropriately "grossed out" by it. (Ch; L560)



____ Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising* 2000 304 pgs Age 8-12 An inspiring immigration tale set in the 1930s about a wealthy young girl who is forced to flee Mexico with her mother after her father's death. When her mother becomes ill, Esperanza must find a way to take care of her and earn money to live. (Ch; L750)



____ Sachar, Louis. *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* 1990 176 pgs Age 8-10 Accidentally built 30 stories high rather than 30 classrooms wide, Wayside School has some of the wackiest teachers and students ever. Each chapter introduces a new, highly entertaining character. From the author of *Holes*. (Ch, L530)



____ Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* 2007 544 pgs Age 8-12 Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. When his life and precious secret are in jeopardy, Hugo must find a way to solve the mystery. This unique book contains 284 pages of original drawings and combines elements of picture book, graphic novel, and film. (PB; CM; L820)



____ Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee* 1990 192 pages Age 8-12 Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac Magee was living a normal life until his parents died in an airplane crash. After living miserably with his aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to take up running. That's when the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he performs amazing acts and changes the lives of a racially divided small town. (Ch; NM; L820)



____ Stewart, Trenton Lee; Carson Ellis (illustrator) *The Mysterious Benedict Society* 2007 512 pgs Age 8-12 After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Puzzles, clues, and quirky fun will entertain readers. First in the series. (Ch, S, L780)



____ Tarshis, Lauren; Scott Dawson (illustrator). *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912* 2010 112 pgs Age 8-12 The first book of the "I Survived" series describing historic disasters and how brave children survived them. In this book, two siblings are on the Titanic with their aunt when the ship begins to sink. Also available in graphic novel form. (Ch; S; GN; L590)



Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan. *Save Me a Seat* 2016 216 pgs Age 9-12 Joe and Ravi couldn't be more different. Ravi, recently moving from India, is a good student while Joe struggles to learn. But in the first week of 5th grade, they are brought together by a common enemy- the biggest bully in their class. (Ch, L780)



White, E.B.; Garth Williams (illustrator). *Charlotte's Web* 1952 192 pgs Age 8-12 Born the runt of the litter, Wilbur the pig is saved by Fern Zuckerman. Wilbur enjoys life on the Zuckerman's farm. His only worry is that one day he will be slaughtered as other pigs are. His friend Charlotte, the spider, promises to help him. A beautiful story of friendship and loyalty! (Ch; NH; L680)



Yee, Lisa; Dan Santat (illustrator). *The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum* 2024 304 pgs Age 8-12 Olive Cobin Zang has a knack for getting into trouble. So when her parents take her to a new boarding school, she learns that RASCH ("reforming arts school") isn't what it seems. She and a team of other "misfits" are trained as an elite group who fight crime...and Olive has arrived just in time. (Ch, S, L820)

**** Ch- Chapter Book, CH- Caldecott Honor, CM- Caldecott Medal, GN- Graphic Novel,
L- Lexile, NH- Newberry Honor, NM- Newberry Medal, PB- Picture Book, S- Series, Sp- Spanish**