



## Suggested Reading

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### 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Listed below are books to read to your children and books for your children—if they are ready—to read on their own. A fine guide to reading comfort is a thoughtful evaluation of your child’s response to what sits in his or her lap: Is he or she mastering most of the words on the page? If there is frustration, consider an easier read.

For your own read-aloud interest—and to connect with stories you might have encountered long ago—books below are separated into categories contemporary and classic. While books published more than 50 years ago may have old-fashioned views, they represent takes on cultural views and rituals of family life that become more varied (politically correct) in later works of fiction. It is worth noting that an “adventure” a hundred years ago could dwell in the simplest of activities: finding stray buttons while dusting or following a butterfly across a meadow. What is worthy of the term “adventure” in juvenile literature today?

Parent read-alouds are still rewarding social exchanges even with proficient readers, and conversation around stories can give revealing glimpses into how your child experiences and interprets the world.

While folktales are not listed here, multicultural folktales in both picture book and anthology form are easily located in your libraries in separate shelving: 398 (398j).

#### I Can-Read/Ready-to-Read Series

While there are many worthy reads in this genre featuring books children will want (and perhaps need) to read multiple times, choices below tend toward more traditional illustration and a gentler narrative voice. As you make your selections, try to avoid cartoon-like formats that sometimes over-simplify the beauty of nature or caricature the human form.

- **Tales of Amanda/Oliver Pig Series** by Jean Van Leeuwen
- **Amelia Bedelia Series** by Peggy Parish
- **Arthur Series** by Lillian Hoban
- **Cork and Fuzz: Short and Tall** by Dori Carconas
- **Frog and Toad, Grasshopper, Mouse Tales, and Uncle Elephant Series** by Anita Lobel
- **Frances Series** by Russell Hoban
- **Houndsley and Catina Series** by James Howe
- **Iris and Walter Series** by Elissa Guest



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- **Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same** by Grace Lin
- **Little Bear Series** by Else Minarek
- **Mouse and Mole Series** by Wong Herbert Yee
- **Mr. Putter Series** by Cynthia Rylant (also Henry and Mudge)
- **Nate the Great Spy Series** by Marjorie Sharmat
- **Park Pals Adventures** by Johanna Hurwitz
- **Penny Stories** by Kevin Henkes

### Early Chapter Books: Family and Friends (under 125 pages)

Distinguished by smaller type faces and fewer supportive illustrations, these books often appear on shelves separate from Early Reader Carousels under banners such as “Stepping Stones,” “Trophy Chapters,” and “Puffin Chapters”.

- **Anna, Grandpa, and the Big Storm** by Carla Stephens, 1998, (pp.63). Anna’s grandfather doesn’t take to city life until he can show his country skills navigating a city storm.
- **Anna Hibiscus** by Atinuke (2007). A little girl, whose mother is from Canada and father from Africa, lives with a large, supportive family in a loving compound “where the trees are full of sweet juicy fruit” and where in this hot distant place she wishes one day to experience snow and meet her Canadian family. Part of a series.
- **The Bears on Hemlock Mountain** by Alice Dalgliesh, 1952, (64 pp.). When Jonathan’s mother says that only her sister’s pot will do for the preparation of a family dinner for 20, he must leave his farm chores to retrieve the pot, trusting he will meet no bears on the way.....Also read *The Courage of Sarah Noble* by the same author.
- **Bird Boy** by Elizabeth Starr Hill, 1999, (64 pp.). Born mute, Chang longs to train a cormorant to catch fish from his houseboat on the Li River in China. A bullying neighbor and brother of his best friend, however, plays a trick and Chang must think of a solution.
- **Crow Boy** by Taro Yashima, 1955, (40 pp.). A shy mountain boy in Japan leaves his home each morning to go to the village school; on the way, he learns the calls of the crows.



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- **Donovan's Word Jar** by Andrew Clements, 1994, (80 pp.). When the jar Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he discovers a special means of giving his words away and receiving something wonderful in return.
- **Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World** by Mildred Pitts Walter, 144 pp., (1986). Justin would prefer sports to doing chores, but when he stays with his cowboy grandfather, he learns men, too, must cook and clean. Thoughtful references to this country's African-American pioneers and cowboys give this younger novel a rich historical backdrop.
- **Molly's Pilgrim** by Barbara Cohen, 1983, (32 pp.). Molly, a Jewish girl from Russia, brings a pilgrim doll to school for Thanksgiving in her new country and finds her classmates have a very different view of what a pilgrim doll should look like.
- **My Happy Life** by Rose Lagercrantz (2013—134 pp.). Episodes in the life of a young optimist, who is determined that every moment of the day—even a not so good moment— has its silver lining.
- **Rickshaw Girl** by Mitali Perkins, 2008, (96 pp.). When Naima, a young girl and gifted Bangladeshi apana painter, borrows her father's only means of transportation, she damages his rickshaw, then must think of a way to assist her father in making the expensive repairs.
- **The Skirt** by Gary Soto, 1994, (80 pp.). Bringing her mother's folklorico skirt to school, Miatta accidentally leaves it on the bus and must find it before the class performance.

### Early Chapter Books: Fantasy (under 125 pages)

- **The Cat Who Went to Heaven** by Elizabeth Coatsworth, 1930, (96 pp.) A white cat, thought to bring luck to a gifted painter, turns out to bring him ill until Buddha intervenes and a happy ending is made possible for all.
- **The Chocolate Touch** by Patrick Catling, 1952, (128 pp.). What would happen when young John receives Midas's touch, but with a twist children might even enjoy more—for a while, perhaps.
- **The Dragonling** by Jackie Koller, 1990, (64 pp.). When a boy, Darek, finds the men and older boys of the village return with a Great Blue Dragon, he discovers a baby in the



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mother's pouch and changes from a hunter of dragons to one who wishes to protect them. Part of a series.

- **The Gingerbread Rabbit** by Randall Jarrell, 1964, (64 pp.). When a mother bakes a large gingerbread rabbit to give to her daughter, the rabbit jumps out into the forest, much to the mother's surprise. The rabbit is in for a surprise, too, when he visits some crafty foxes in this story that ends well for all.
- **The Gold-Threaded Dress** by Carolyn Marsden, 2002, (80 pp.). New to America, Oy (called Olivia by her teacher) wishes to make friends quickly and finds a way when she secretly brings her silk Thai dancing dress to school.
- **The Ice Dragon** by George R. R. Martin, 1980, (112 pp.). Physical and spiritual cold infuse a land inhabited by a child, born in winter chill, who must either seek comfort in familiar icy realms or broach uncomfortable warmth to save her kingdom.
- **The Invisible Dog** by Dick King-Smith, 1993, (80 pp.). A young girl, whose parents are not able to afford a dog, must muster an imaginary Great Dane, Henry, to prove she can handle the job. Mystery of mysteries and a bit of luck: a dog miraculously appears. Also read *Princess Lollipop* and *A Mouse Called Wolf* by the same author.
- **The King's Equal** by Katherine Paterson, 1992, (64 pp.). To wear the crown, an arrogant prince must find an equal in his bride and stumbles upon one more perfect than he.
- **The Little Leftover Witch** by FlorenceLaughlin, 1960, (111 pp.). When Felina is left behind by her witch mother, she must adjust to life with a very sweet girl, Lucinda, who becomes her "sister", and also make an effort to blend in with the mother and father of the Doon family.
- **Many Moons** by James Thurber with illustrations by Louis Slobodkin, 1973, (48 pp.). When Princess Lenore becomes ill from eating too many raspberry tarts, she believes that possessing the moon is the only thing that will cure her.
- **The Real Thief** by William Steig, 1973, (64 pp.). When Gawain the Goose is unjustly accused of stealing from his king, the real culprit is bitten by a guilty conscience.
- **The White Stallion** by Elizabeth Shub, 1982, (62 pp.). When a girl falls asleep on the back of an old mare on a trip across the country, she wakes up in a herd of wild horses.



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### Early Chapter Books: Animals (under 125 pages)

- **Balto and the Great Race** by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (112 pp). The legendary tale of a sled dog, not necessarily the fastest, who leads a dog team on a medicine delivery to a remote Alaskan town where children are suffering from diphtheria.
- **Chester Cricket's Pigeon Ride** by George Selden (illustrated by Garth Williams) (64 pp.). When Chester of Times Square begins to miss the country, a pigeon takes him on a restorative flight.
- **Duck for Day** by Meg McKinlay (89 pp.). Two children vie for the privilege of taking the class duck home for an overnight, but they must prove to their very picky teacher and duck they deserve this great honor.
- **Jacob Two-Two and the Dinosaur** by Mordecai Richler (about 65 pp.). When eight-year-old Jacob Two-Two (who always says things twice) receives a tiny lizard from parents returning from Kenya, Dippy surprises all by turning into a dinosaur (part of a series).
- **Lady Lollipop** by Dick King-Smith (125 pp). A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a very spoiled princess. Also read the sequel, out spring of 2013.
- **The School for Cats (and others in this series: Jenny Goes to Sea, Jenny's Moonlight Adventure, The Hotel Cat)** by Esther Averill; reissued by the New York Children's Collection, this series celebrates the life of a black cat facing obstacles while traveling and at home in New York City.
- **Sophie's Snail** by Dick King-Smith (96 pp.). The friendship between a young girl and the first pet she has: an obliging snail, who inspires her to create and possibly acquire her first farm (also read Sophie's Lucky and other books in this series).
- **White Fur Flying** by Patricia MacLaughlin (112 pp.). Rescue dogs and one rescue parrot help a 9-year-old boy, who refuses to speak, socialize once again with friends and family in a rural Maine setting.
- **The Year of the Panda** by Miriam Schlein (82 pp.). A Chinese boy rescues a tiny baby panda and learns what the government is doing to save this endangered species.

### Early Chapter-Book Series (under 125 pages)



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- **Akimbo Series** by Alexander McCall Smith (80 pp.). A young boy lives on a game preserve in Africa and helps his father through various adventures.
- **Absolutely Lucy Series** by Ilene Cooper (80 pp.). When a young boy, who is quite shy, receives a puppy, the dog—who loves to make friends—introduces him to many in her irrepressible urge for adventure.
- **Cam Jansen Series** by David Adler (65 pp.). This spunky girl is an intrepid solver of mysteries, from buried treasure to dinosaur bones.
- **Catwings** by Ursula LeGuin (around 50 pp.). Mrs. Jane Tabby can't explain why her four precious kittens were born with wings, but when it's time for them to go out on their own, their flying skills take them away from dangerous city slums.
- **Clementine** by Sara Pennypacker (125 pp.). In the latest 2013 release (Book 6), wry and observant third-grader Clementine goes on a school field trip to the "Plimouth" Plantation, giving careful consideration to everything from how the bus smells to what fourth graders eat.
- **Cobble Street Cousins** by Cynthia Rylant (80 pp.). Three cousins—one who wants to be a poet, another a Broadway star, and the third a homemaker living in a cottage with flowers by the door—find friendship and adventure in spite of their different interests.
- **Daisy Dawson** by Steve Voake (100 pp.). One day when Daisy is late for school, an encounter with a butterfly leaves her suddenly able to communicate with animals, which proves particularly handy when she loses her best friend, Boom, to the pound.
- **Encyclopedia Brown Series** by Donald Sobol (96 pp.). Famed series about a boy detective who likes to solve brain-teasing mysteries.
- **Flat Stanley Series** by Jeff Brown (100 pp.). When Stanley Lambchop is sleeping, a bulletin board falls on him, making him a half-inch thick; it is fun sliding under doors and being mailed to friends' houses, but eventually seems better to be like everyone else.
- **Jake Drake Series** by Andrew Clements (75 pp.). A boisterous second grader explores the positive and negative consequences of being the class clown, being a bully-buster, and being the teacher's pet. Humorous takes on real-life classroom issues.



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- **The Lighthouse Series** by Cynthia Rylant (64 pp.). Animals washed ashore on an island— a whale, a turtle, an eagle, a dog—learn to live together happily in their new setting.
- **The Littles** by John Peterson (80 pp.). Tiny people in a big-people world rise to the occasion in every challenging episode.
- **Magic Tree House** by Mary Pope Osborne (80 pp.). Jack and Annie travel through time to experience quick takes on defining moments in history.
- **McBroom’s Wonderful One-Acre Farm** by Sid Fleischman, 1972, (64 pp.). When Josh McBroom discovers the 80 acres he purchased are actually 80 acres piled one on top of the other at the bottom of a pond, he believes he’s been tricked until he discovers the fertile soil can grow just about anything, from seeds growing overnight into full-grown plants and nickels growing into quarters.
- **Sophie Mouse** by Poppy Green (115 pp.). A young mouse and her friends—a tree snake, a groundhog, and a frog experience gentle adventures in their neighborhood.

### The Classics: Adventure

- **The Borrowers** by Mary Norton (1953). Unfolds the adventures of a tiny family—Pod, Homily, and Arrietty—who survive by living under the floorboards and borrowing cast-offs from humans. Look for the 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition featuring sepia-toned illustrations by original illustrator, Diana Stanley.
- **The Boxcar Children** by Gertrude Chandler Warner (1924). The Alden children begin their independent lives by making a home in an abandoned boxcar—a beautiful story about optimism, loyalty, and resourcefulness.
- **The Centerburg Tales** by Robert McCloskey (1951). Homer Price returns in this book, solving small-town problems as usual, such as ragweeds growing taller than fire ladders and music that makes an entire town dance with a frenzy. Each story is prefaced by Grandfather Hercules’ tall tales.
- **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** by Ian Fleming (1964). A flying car takes the Pott family on a colorful range of adventures as they try to catch an elusive gang of thieves.



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- **Daughter of the Mountains** by Louise Rankin (1948). Momo, who trusts in the sheltering love of Lord Buddha, embarks on a dangerous journey through the mountains of Tibet to see the city of Calcutta and to recover her stolen Lhasa Terrier, Pempa.
- **Hitty: Her First Hundred Years** by Rachel Field (1930). A beloved doll, in first-person narrative, talks of her many homes, beginning with her creation by a peddler in Maine and adventures on a whaling ship.
- **The Island of Adventure** by Enid Blyton (1944). Four children—Philip, Dinah, Lucy-Ann, and Jack (along with their pet parrot)—are determined to discover what is going seriously wrong on the Island of Gloom. Could it have something to do with the copper mines or with the secret tunnels beneath the sea?
- **Li Lun, Lad of Courage** by Carolyn Treffinger (1947). A boy, living on an island and afraid of the sea, where his village receives its livelihood, is banished to a mountain, where he battles the elements and loneliness to harvest a small crop from six grains of rice. From this he learns another way to feed his family.
- **The Twenty-One Balloons** by William Pene Du Bois (1947). Famous tale of a retired mathematics teach, who wishes to embark on a year-long journey in a hot-air balloon.

### The Classics: Stories of Family Life

- **All-of-a-Kind Family** by Sydney Taylor (1951) Recounts the adventures of five young sisters—Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie—living on Manhattan’s Lower East Side at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery (1908). The beloved novel about an 11-year-old girl finding her place among new friends (and a few spiteful people—young and old) on Prince Edward Island.
- **Betsy-Tacy Series** by Maude Lovelace (1940). Friendship begins with two girls, then expands to include three; children who really like this also enjoy the more contemporary *The Cobble Street Cousins* by Cynthia Rylant.
- **“B” is for Betsy** by Carolyn Haywood (1939). In this favorite series, Betsy travels through the ordinary days of school and home life, facing a child’s struggles and triumphs with the early grades (in chapter four, a description of how the Indians lived





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may need a fuller explanation).

- **The Five Little Peppers and How they Grew** by Margaret Sidney (1881). Living without their father, a close-knit Massachusetts family survives on optimism and the frugal earnings of the mother, who takes in tailoring. Part of a series.
- **The Cottage at Bantry Bay** by Hilary Von Stockum (1938). Story—part of a series—of the O’Sullivan family in County Cork, Ireland; part of a series.
- **The Secret Garden** (1911), **A Little Princess** (1905), and **Little Lord Fauntleroy** (1886) by Frances Hodgson Burnett; from the many beautiful editions of these fine works, look for ones illustrated by Tasha Tudor, Lucy Corvino, or Inga Moore.
- **Mary Poppins** by P.L. Travers (1934). The famous story of a British governess, practically perfect in every way, who creates havoc and transformation on Cherry Tree Lane (part of a series and filled with humor).
- **The Moffats** by Eleanor Estes (1941). The adventures and misadventures of the four Moffat children and their widowed mother, struggling to make ends meet in their yellow house on New Dollar Street at the turn of the last century. Other books by this author include *Ginger Pye*, *Pinky Pye*, and *Rufus*.
- **Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** by Kate Wiggin with new illustrations by Barbara McClintock (1903). Homespun tale of a high-spirited, 10-year-old girl being raised by her two mannered aunts on a Maine farm. The author of this book helped establish the first “free” kindergarten west of the Rockies—in San Francisco, actually.
- **Roller Skates** by Ruth Sawyer. Winner of the Newbery award, this work, set in the 1890s in New York City, tells of Lucinda’s year with the Misses Peters, who let her skate everywhere with a certain degree of freedom and aren’t particularly interested in a focus on ladylike behavior.
- **The Secret Language** by Harper/Collins famed children’s book editor, Ursula Nordstrom (1960). Off to boarding school at a young age, a girl finds her way into lasting friendships through a secret language.

### The Classics: Animals Finding Their Way



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- **Along Came a Dog** by Meindert DeJong (1958). A friendless little red hen receives the protection of a homeless dog in this book that relates interesting details about chickens and also dogs. Better as a read-aloud for children who might be sensitive to animals suffering—all comes out well in the end.
- **A Bear Called Paddington** by Michael Bond (1960). Look for the beautiful new hardcover Edition of this work about a stuffed bear from the darkest Peru, who ends up in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown after having been discovered in Paddington Station.
- **Higglety, Pigglety, Pop!: Or, There Must be More to Life** by Maurice Sendak (1967). Jenny, a Sealyham terrier, leaves the comfort of her home to see if there is more to life and ends up as the lead performer in the World Mother Goose Theater.
- **Lassie** by Eric Knight (1938). The inspiring tale of a boy and his beloved collie, who braves a thousand miles to escape from Scotland to reunite with his owner. Look for the unabridged version or the shortened tale retold by Rosemary Wells.
- **Rabbit Hill** by Robert Lawson (1944). New folks are coming to live in the Big House and animal inhabitants wonder if they will plant a fertile garden and be good providers.
- **Misty of Chincoteague** by Marguerite Henry (1947). A pony from an island off the coast of Virginia lived with the author as she researched the valuable horses of this tale, believed to be descendants of those on an old Spanish ship that was lost at sea.
- **The Mouse and the Motorcycle** by Beverly Cleary (1965). Ralph isn't like the timid mice at the Mountain View Inn; he is always looking for adventure—and finds it with a boy and a toy motorcycle (also read Runaway Ralph and Ralph S. Mouse).
- **Pinkie Pye** by Eleanor Estes (1958). Traveling with their father to study birds on Fire Island, the Pye children discover a very angry black cat on their doorstep and invite him into their family. Also read Newbery-winning Ginger Pye, a dog story by the same author, writer of the Moffats.
- **Mr. Popper's Penguins** by Richard Atwater (1938). An unexpected delivery of a large crate Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame and illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard (1908). Tale of fast friends—Rat, Mole, Toad and Badger—whose magical exploits have entertained children for over 100 years. Other fine illustrators of this work include



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Michael Hague, Inga Moore, and Patrick Benson.

- **Heidi** by Johanna Spyri.

### The Classics: Fantasy

- **The Castle in the Attic** by Elizabeth Winthrop (1986). When a boy receives a medieval castle with a knight from his housekeeper, he is pulled into the turbulent times of this toy-come-to-life to fight an evil wizard (also read *The Battle for the Castle*).
- **The Children of Green Knowe** by L.M. Boston (1955). When Tolly comes to live with his great Grandmother in an ancient manor house, he discovers and befriends three children from 17<sup>th</sup> century England. Also read other books in this series.
- **My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett (1948). A young boy is determined to save a baby dragon, who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across a river on Wild Island—part of a trilogy.
- **Finn Family Moomintroll Series** by Tove Jansson (1958). Published originally in Finland, this series recounts the adventures of beasts in the Moomin Valley.
- **Five Children and It** by E. Nesbit (1902) (look for versions illustrated by H.R. Miller or Paul Zelinsky). When four children, digging to Australia, discover a grumpy Psammead, or sand fairy, in the gravel pit of the house where they are staying, they look to a future of wish-making. Also read *The Railway Children* and *The Phoenix and the Carpet*.
- **Half Magic** by Edward Eager, with illustrations by Quentin Blake (1951). Magic can be tricky if you are only granted half your wish—what might that look like, let's say, if you wanted to be invisible? Also read other books in this series.
- **James and the Giant Peach** by Raold Dahl (1961). A mistreated boy and a group of overgrown garden insects inhabit a peach the size of a house, which travels with them.
- **The Light Princess** by George MacDonald and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. Tongue-in-cheek tale of a young princess who “having lost her gravity,” explores through a playful dream-world the predicaments of levity. Also read *The Princess and the Goblin*



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(1872).

- **Miss Hickory** by Carolyn Bailey (1946). Made of apple-wood twigs and a hickory nut, this indomitable doll must survive a harsh New England winter with the help of some local animal friends. (Better as a read-aloud, since this stubborn little doll's hickory nut head is accidentally eaten—but all ends well.)
- **Nancy and Plum** by Betty MacDonald (1952). Two orphaned sisters are sent to live in a boarding house run by the cruel and greedy Mrs. Monday. How can these kind girls hope for enough to eat and have a meaningful Christmas?
- **Pippi Longstocking** by Astrid Lindgren (1945). Part of series recording the adventures of a young girl and her very ordinary neighbors.
- **The Reluctant Dragon** by Kenneth Grahame (1938). The boy who finds the dragon in the cave knows it is a kindly one, but how can he persuade the frightened villagers, particularly St. George, that there is no cause for concern?
- **The Search for Delicious** by Natalie Babbit (1969). How do wars begin? Often with something small. In one kingdom, people argue over the true meaning of the word "delicious." The air of a folk tale, a morality tale, told in the perfect voice for a young audience. Also read *Kneeknock Rise* by the same author.
- **The Wind Boy** by Ethel Cool Eliot (1923). Gentian and Kay, ages 8 and 9, and their mother have been separated from their father by the reality of war; but with the arrival of a servant girl, Detra, from the mountains, the children are introduced to the Clear Land and the Wind Boy.
- **The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet** by Eleanor Cameron (1988). A mysterious man invites a boy to build a space ship and travel to Basidium to help the Mushroom people (part of a series including *Stowaway to the Mushroom Planet*).
- **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** by L. Frank Baum (1900). After a cyclone transports her to the Land of Oz, Dorothy must seek out the great wizard with the help of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion in order to return to Kansas.

### Contemporary Fiction: Fantasy



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- **The Adventures of King Midas** by Lynne Reid Banks (1976). A retelling of the famous legend, but as an expanded fantasy for boys and girls.
- **Gwinna** by Helen Berger. Having grown wings and felt the longing for the freedom of the skies, Gwinna goes to the Mother of the Owls, who sends her on a mysterious quest.
- **The Magician's Boy** by Susan Cooper (2005). A boy who works for a Magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transplanted to the Land of Story in search of a missing puppet.
- **The Ordinary Princess** by M.M. Kaye (1980). At her christening, a princess is given the gift of "ordinariness" by a fairy, which leads her to the job of 14<sup>th</sup> assistant kitchen maid. Still, a prince seems to be in her future.
- **The Secrets of Eastcliffe-by-the-Sea** by Eileen Beha (2014). In a tale about Annaliese Easterling and her loyal sock monkey, Throckmorton, life begins with Throckmorton abandoned and forgotten in a pile of stuffed toys. But when Great Grandmama Easterling requires a sock monkey reunion on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Annaliese renews contact with her forgotten toy.
- **The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo. Despereaux Tilling—a mouse in love with music, stories and a Princess named Pea—must battle a fierce rat to assist a simple servant girl, Miggery Sow, in her wish to gain royal status.
- **Wishworks Inc.** by Stephanie Tolan (2009). When third-grader Max is granted his hope for a dog from Wishworks, he is frustrated that the new arrival doesn't appear to match the dog he had imagined.
- **The Otter Who Wanted to Know, The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark, The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up.**
- **Trumpet of the Swan** by E.B White .
- **Tumtum and Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall** by Emily Bearn. Comfortable, married mice, Tumtum and Nutmeg, secretly try to help a brother and sister living in a tumbledown cottage with their kind, but absent-minded father.

### Time to Laugh



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- **Freckle Face** by Judy Blume. When Andrew Marcus longs for freckles, he resorts to paying for a secret potion concocted by a calculating classmate.
- **Gooney Bird Greene Series** by Lois Lowry (2002). A unique child at Watertower Elementary School, Gooney Bird loves telling stories with wonderful word play and plot twists; Gooney Bird, herself, is a delightfully complex, eccentric, and confident character.
- **Henry Huggins** by Beverly Cleary (1950). When Henry adopts a dog of no particular breed, many humorous adventures abound.
- **How to Eat Fried Worms** by Anne Rockwell (1973). What if you made a bet that you could eat 15 worms in 15 days—what methods would you use to get those squiggly things down?
- **Humbug Mountain** by Sid Fleishman (1978). Using his family newspaper, The Humbug Mountain Hurrah, a boy, outwits Wild West outlaws to locate his missing grandfather.
- **Marvin Redpost Series** by Louis Sachar (1992). Nine-year-old Marvin, who has bright red hair, is certain he doesn't look like the rest of his family because he is actually the long- lost King of Shampoo. Many humorous school-day moments in this fun series.
- **Minnie and Moo: Hooves of Fire** by Denys Cazet (2014). A ridiculous romp centered around the First Annual Hoot, Holler, and Moo Talent Festival, has these two famous cows overseeing a judging event based on "whim." Entries include hyenas telling jokes, a fox playing magic tricks, sheep reciting poetry, and a rooster playing bagpipes.
- **George and Martha Tales** by James Marshall (1970s). This anthology chronicles the supportive friendship between two hippos through their various spoofs and mishaps.