

## **PICTURE BOOKS**

**This Is the Rope** by Jacqueline Woodson

This award-winning title traces an African-American family's journey across generations from the South to a life in the North. Excellent classroom resource for students 4+.

**Hippos Are Huge** by Jonathan London

Colorful illustrations and brief text answer every young reader's questions about this huge and dangerous land animal. Outstanding nonfiction reference for students 5+ and their classrooms.

**The Lending Zoo** by Frank Asch

When Mr. Woozel, the zookeeper, notices that Pancake the tiger is not in his cage, the "zoobrarian" Miss Perkins and her new friend Molly head out to find him. A delightful adventure for everyone who would love to take an animal home! Ages 3+

**High-Tech Ninja Heroes** by Michael Petranek

The six members of the Secret Ninja Force once again defeat Lord Gardamon and his army of Sharkmen for control of Ninjago City. But as Master Wu warns, the six may have to develop true ninja skills to win the battle with this evil enemy when he attacks again. A picture book story for ninja fans 4+.

**Skippyjon Jones Class Action** by Judy Schachner

Despite his mama's objections, Skippyjon is determined to join his dog friends at school. They need this fearless feline to stand up to the woolly bully, a real terror on the playground. Fans of this ever-popular Siamese hero will enjoy his antics while learning a few Spanish words in the process. Age 5+

**I Will Never Get a Star on Mrs. Benson's Blackboard** by Jennifer K. Mann

Rose worries that her daydreaming and messy desk will keep her from ever getting a coveted star from her teacher. But when the class is assigned to make thank you cards for a visiting artist, Rose discovers that her creativity may be what Mrs. Benson notices after all. Great choice for every student who longs to be recognized for his or her special qualities. Age 5+

## **EARLY READERS**

**Warrior for Justice! Lv. 3** by Liz Marsham

A complete guide to the origins, skills, and weapons of the Amazon Princess Wonder Woman and her connections with Greek mythology, this book for readers 7+ also includes information about other members of the famed Justice League and the enemies they face. Perfect for fans of these protectors of Earth with a glossary and quiz questions.

**Pete the Cat and the Tip-Top Tree House My First Reader** by James Dean

Pete and his friends work together to build an amazing tree house that everyone can enjoy. Readers 4+

**Break Out! Lv. 2** By Cordelia Evans

Emojis Jailbreak and Gene work together to reach the Cloud and reprogram themselves. Fun adventure for fans of these popular symbols age 6+.

**Danny and the Dinosaur School Days Lv. 1** by Bruce Hale

Syd Hoff's popular dinosaur joins his friend Danny for a day at school. Perfect school story for readers 5+.

**Pirate Attack! Lv. 2** by Deborah Lock

Colorful illustrations and information give readers a look at the life of a pirate. Short chapters and a glossary of pirate terms will appeal to young readers 6+.

**How to Be a WWE Superstar Lv. 2** by Steve Pantaleo

Up-to-date facts about some of today's favorite WWE superstars and the training and hard work it takes to win in the ring. A must-have book for wrestling fans 6+ with a glossary of key terms and questions to test your knowledge of these awesome competitors.

**Fancy Nancy Time for Puppy School Lv. 1** by Jane O'Connor

When Nancy's dog Frenchy misbehaves, Mom decides it's time for her to go to puppy school. Perfect for dog lovers 5+.

**Strega Nona and the Twins Lv. 1** by Tomie dePaola

Strega Nona uses some special book magic when she, Big Anthony, and Bambolona watch some mischief-making twins on market day. Great first reader for Tomie dePaola fans 5+.

**Predator Face-Off Lv. 2** by Melissa Stewart

A nonfiction book from National Geographic filled with facts and pictures for young readers eager to learn about these animals in the wild. Great reference for kids 5+ and their classrooms.

## **BEGINNING CHAPTER**

**The Kid From Planet Z** by Nancy Krulik

When alien Zake Zander and his family find themselves stranded on Earth until they can repair their wrecked spaceship, they must pretend to be humans. That's easier said than done when you have antennae on your head and a cat that talks. The funny "fitting in" adventures in this illustrated series are sure to tickle the funny bones of readers 6+.

**The Secret Rescuers: The Sky Unicorn** by Paula Harrison

When Clover, a baby sky unicorn is taken from his herd by Sir Fitzroy, a knight determined to destroy all magical creatures, young Ava devises a plan to rescue the foal. Wearing a disguise, Ava sets out under cover of night to find Clover. The young unicorn must be able to fly, and fly quickly, if the rescue plan is

to work, but Clover has not learned how to even lift off the ground. Fantasy and fairy-tale lovers 6+ won't be able to put down this illustrated tale.

**Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt** by Ben Clanton

Super Narwhal and his sidekick Jelly Jolt want to be the best superheroes in the ocean. But discovering their superpowers may not be as easy as it seems. An illustrated book with text and action just suited for young readers 6+.

**The Infamous Ratsos** by Matt Myers

Louie and Ralphie Ratso are determined to prove to their dad, Big Lou, that they're "tough, tough, tough". But somehow their dastardly deeds don't turn out as planned! A fun read with a valuable lesson for readers 6+. Great choice for reluctant readers.

**Jigsaw Jones: The Case of the Smelly Sneaker** by James Preller

Back in print, this favorite series for readers 6+ will appeal to all junior detectives. It's the girls versus the boys in the biggest football game of the year. When one of Bigs Maloney's smelly sneakers goes missing – could this "secret weapon" have been swiped by the girls? - Jigsaw and fellow sleuth Mila must solve the mystery and save the day. Perfect for mystery loving clue solvers 6+.

**Jigsaw Jones: The Case of the Glow-in-the-Dark Ghost** by James Preller

When classmate Cassandra sees a glowing ghost in the school window at night, she turns to Jigsaw and Mila for help. Is their school haunted? Do the glimmering footprints in their classroom and on the school grounds belong to this spooky visitor? A perfect fall mystery for readers 6+.

**The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13** by Honest Lee

When Classroom 13 teacher Ms. LaCrosse wins the lottery and shares the money with her students, each one gets a billion dollars! What seems to be a stroke of luck, however, may turn out to be just the opposite. This first book in a new series is full of humor and will have readers 7+ pondering how they would spend a billion dollars.

**Puppy Place: Angel** by Ellen Miles

While on a hike with her new nature club, Lizzie Peterson finds a white Havanese puppy stranded in the woods. After a challenging rescue, Lizzie's family decides to foster Angel while looking for a home for the precious dog. Will a new owner be found? Animal lovers ages 6+ will love this new title in a popular series.

**Owl Diaries: Baxter is Missing** by Rebecca Elliott

When Eva's pet Baxter goes missing, she is sure that the squirrels must be responsible. With the help of all of her friends, the search for the missing bat is underway. This full-color illustrated series is a favorite of readers ages 6+.

## **TRANSITIONING CHAPTER**

### **The Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut: The Spinny Icky Showdown** by Laurie Keller

When Arnie, Peezo, and their buddies are chosen to participate in the traveling TV show, the Spinny Icky Showdown, they're determined to defeat the infamous Nick Pumpernickel and claim the winner's trophy. A rollicking illustrated adventure that will appeal to Captain Underpants lovers ages 6+.

### **Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible** by Ursula Vernon

Perfect for fans of Dragonbreath and Baby Mouse, this illustrated series title is a twist on the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale. Cursed at birth, Harriet is destined to fall into a deep sleep at age 12 after pricking her paw on a hamster wheel. Until then, our rodent heroine jumps, jousts, and slays dragons, knowing she's invincible. When the curse's magic gets twisted, Harriet (go girl power!) will demonstrate bravery and wit to save the kingdom. Readers age 7+.

## **CHAPTER**

### **Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story** by Nora Raleigh Baskin

A story that focuses on the lives of four middle schoolers in the 48 hours leading up to September 11<sup>th</sup>, this book provides insight into the before and after of this tragic event. Although Sergio, Will, Naheed, and Aimee live in different cities, their lives intersect and are impacted by the attacks on the Two Towers. This book explores an event that occurred before today's young readers were born and yet has changed their worlds. An excellent choice for readers 10+.

### **Maxi's Secrets** by Lynn Plourde

Timminy is a very short boy who is about to begin middle school in a new town, a school where his dad is an assistant principal. He quite accurately predicts that he is going to be an easy target for the school bully Rory, and relies on his new dog Maxi to provide much needed companionship. When the family discovers that Maxi is deaf, Tim's efforts to help the dog lead to a new friendship with a blind classmate, Abby, a girl who certainly does not sit around feeling sorry for herself. The perfect book for readers 9+ who love characters with the strength to overcome obstacles and form friendships of both the human and canine type.

### **The Serafina Series** by Robert Beatty

Serafina lives in the basement of the Biltmore House with her father, the estate caretaker. She is not an ordinary girl, however, with golden eyes and a preference for roaming the house and nearby forests at night. Desperate to uncover the puzzle of her past and destined to be the Protector of Biltmore, Serafina has many challenges to face to save her home and loved ones from evil forces that would destroy it. Beatty's trilogy for readers 11+ is a dark, yet engaging story of mystery, danger, and destiny.

**The Adventurer's Guide to Successful Escapes** by Wade Albert White

Anne and her best friend Penelope are now 13 and more than ready to escape from the horrid Saint Lupin's Institute for Perpetually Wicked and Hideously Unattractive Children and pursue their dream of a hero's quest. These two quirky misfits and their new companion Hiro must travel into a world of dragons, ancient robots, and unpredictable magic, solving riddles and defeating foes as they pursue an unknown destiny. Just the right book for readers 10+ who crave some humor sprinkled throughout a tale of magical adventure!

**A Handful of Stars** by Cynthia Lord

When Salma, the daughter of Hispanic migrant workers picking Maine blueberries, helps twelve year old Lily retrieve her blind dog Lucky, the two girls develop a summer friendship. When Salma decides to enter the annual Blueberry Festival however, Lily realizes that some in her town don't believe a young Hispanic girl should be the Blueberry Queen. A story about friendship, prejudice, and the challenges of migrant life, this book will open the eyes of readers 9+. A 2017-18 SC Children's Award Nominee.

**Beyond the Bright Sea** by Lauren Wolk

Eleven year old Crow knows she was rescued from a boat as a newborn and has been cared for ever since by Osh and Miss Maggie, but yearns to know the truth about where she came from. Is she a child of the lepers who inhabited nearby Penikese Island as the locals believe, a reason why they shun and fear her? A captivating story weaving history and mystery by a Newbery Honor author, this book is one of discovering the true meaning of family for readers 10+.

**Crenshaw** by Katherine Applegate

Jackson's family doesn't have money to pay the rent, and he's afraid they will have to live in their van yet again. Crenshaw, a large imaginary cat that appears when times are tough, is back but Jackson worries that his feline friend won't be able to make things better this time. He and his sister are always hungry and facing homelessness in spite of all of his parents' efforts to make life better. A touching story about hardship and resilience by a Newbery award winning author that is a must-read for students 10+. A SC 2017-18 SC Children's Award Nominee and a 2017-18 VA Elementary Reader's Choice Award Nominee.

**Fish In A Tree** by Linda Mullaly Hunt

Ally Nickerson is a spunky, sixth-grader with one big problem – no matter how hard she tries, reading is just something she can't master. Teased by other students for being "dumb", Ally desperately wants to be like everyone else. A perceptive teacher and two classmates who share Ally's feelings of being different, however, may just be the key to solving her problem. Perfect for fans of Wonder and Because of Mr. Terrupt ages 9+.

**The Book Scavenger** by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Twelve year old Emily, a devotee of the literary version of geocaching, Book Scavenger, has just moved to San Francisco, the home of the game's creator, Garrison Griswold. When she and her fellow book hunter James learn that Mr. Griswold has been attacked and is in a coma, apparently while in the process of launching a new game, the two are in a race to uncover the secret of this new game and its

connection to a discovered book in Emily's possession. Perfect for fans of Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library, this book is full of clues and codes and is sure to please readers 9+.

**A Whole New Ballgame** by Phil Bildner

Fifth grade is nothing like what best friends Rip and Red expected. With a new and quite unconventional teacher, Mr. Acevedo, who is also their school basketball coach, this pair -- one easy-going and the other affected by autism -- discovers they will need to work together to succeed in the classroom and on the court. A fresh look at a friendship that goes beyond the final buzzer for readers 9+.

**The Littlest Bigfoot** by Jennifer Weiner

Alice is a large twelve year old with an abundance of unruly hair who is attending her eighth school, having been mocked and bullied at the other seven. Millie is a small Bigfoot whose clan lives a hidden life in the woods by Alice's school. When Alice rescues Millie from drowning in the nearby lake, she discovers that this furry creature is very interested in the "No-Furs", i.e. humans, that her tribe believes must be avoided at all cost. When Jeremy, an obsessed Bigfoot hunter, discovers the tribe, the friendship of these two outcasts will be put to the test. A tender story for all readers 10+ who have ever yearned to be accepted.

**The Extra Yard** by Mike Lupica

Teddy's success on the spring baseball team and the support of new friends Jack, Cassie, and Gus have given him the confidence to try out for the sport he really wants to play, football. This new found excitement is put to the test, however, when Teddy's former star player father returns to town after years of not being in his son's life. Will Teddy have to be the star his dad was if he wants him to stick around? Another well-written story by this popular sports fiction author for readers 10+.

**Zoe in Wonderland** by Brenda Woods

A middle child stuck between a popular older sister and genius younger brother, shy eleven year old Zoe feels most at home when helping at the family's exotic plant nursery, Wonderland. When she and her best friend Quincy learn that the baobab tree requested by a customer is endangered, they are determined to save it and hopefully the struggling Wonderland as well. A story of family and friendship, this book will appeal to fans of Kate DiCamillo and Jennifer Holm ages 9+.

**Lock and Key** by Ridley Pearson

This first book in a series about young Sherlock Holmes and his famous rival James Moriarty finds the duo and James's sister Moira attending the elite Baskerville Academy. When the Moriarty family Bible, a treasure housed at the school, disappears, both boys are determined to unravel the clues to its theft and catch the culprit. This jealous competition is intensified by Moira's growing fondness for Sherlock. When this young sleuth agrees to help Moira discover the truth about her father's sudden and suspicious death, he realizes that Baskerville Academy holds even more secrets to uncover. A perfect choice for mystery lovers ages 11+ by a master of the genre.

**The Wild Bunch** by Jan Gangsei

Paul, who believes he knows everything about most everything, isn't sure that a weekend camping trip to Bear Falls with brainy Hector and bully Jack and their dads sounds like his kind of fun. His interest is peaked, however, when he learns that a local myth tells of a sasquatch that has been spotted close to their campsite. Determined to find and film the elusive beast, the trio embark on an outdoor adventure that will keep readers 9+ engaged and entertained.

**The Secret Keepers** by Trenton Lee Stewart

Twelve year old Reuben lives in a rundown neighborhood in New Umbra, a town controlled by a powerful and mysterious figure called the Smoke. Avoiding the henchmen who patrol the city, he finds a pouch containing a unique antique watch with a missing hand. When he begins asking questions about the device, Reuben attracts the attention of the Smoke who is intent on possessing the device and harnessing its magical powers. With an inscription on the watch as a clue, Reuben sets out to uncover the secrets of the device while evading the Smoke and his minions. A stand-alone selection by the author of The Mysterious Benedict Society, this book will be a new favorite of fantasy lovers 10+.

**Love You Like a Sister** by Robin Palmer

Avery is surprised to open her e-mail to see a message from the father she's seen little of since her parents divorced when she was two. Not only is he moving back to town, he is marrying a woman with three daughters. He and his fiancée want all four girls to be bridesmaids in the wedding but it's one disaster after another as Avery tries to get to know her future stepsisters – something they seem not to be interested in doing. With a look at the ups and downs of blended families, this story has characters and circumstances many of today's readers age 10+ can relate to.

**My Brother Is A Superhero** by David Solomons

When eleven year old comic book lover Luke misses out on getting the superhero powers a visiting alien bestows upon his studious older brother Zack, the result is a laugh out loud series of events that will appeal to fans of The Diary of a Wimpy Kid. The nerdy Zack knows nothing about being a superhero, but Luke is determined to teach him everything he needs to know to be Star Guy. Zack is going to need his brother's help to keep his true identity a secret from nosy neighbor Lara and save the world from a super villain named Nemesis. A light-hearted choice for superhero fans, and their brothers, age 9+.

**Bodyguard: Recruit** by Chris Bradford

Recruited to join a secret bodyguard unit known as the Guardian assigned to protect VIPs, teenage kickboxer Connor Reeves receives special training in martial arts, surveillance, and hand-to-hand combat. His first mission, protecting the President's daughter from being taken hostage by a terrorist sleeper cell, will put all of his skills to the test. A fast-paced action adventure that will appeal to even the most reluctant readers age 11+.

**Framed** by James Ponti

Twelve year old Florian Bates uses the T.O.A.S.T. – “Theory of All Small Things” – method to solve mysteries that baffle even the professionals. When priceless artwork is stolen from the National Gallery,

he and his sleuthing cohort Margaret agree to help the FBI catch the thief, even if it involves infiltrating an Eastern European crime syndicate. They'll do this while keeping up with their schoolwork, playing on an elite soccer team, and investigating another mystery that's very important to Margaret. One of the best mysteries of the year, Framed is perfect for readers age 10+.

**Time Stoppers** by Carrie Jones

When Annie, who thought she was a nobody, and James, who thought he was a normal kid, find themselves whisked away to the magical town of Aurora, both are in for surprising news. James's family are trolls in disguise who plan to eat him on his thirteenth birthday. Annie has the power to stop time, and may be the only person who can save Aurora from the evil enemy known as the Raiff. Filled with danger, adventure, and unforgettable characters of the real and fantasy kind, Time Stoppers is the first book in a new fantasy series bound to please readers 10+.

**Look Out for the Fitzgerald-Trouts** by Esta Spalding

The Fitzgerald-Trouts, a band of related children with a mix of parents, live on a lush, tropical island and sleep in their car. Resourceful and devoted to each other, Kim, Kimo, Toby, and Pippa attend school, take baths in the ocean, and eat local fish and fruit. Their moms, occupied with careers as a country music star and a stockbroker, drop by on occasion to leave money and check on the kids. The children do dream of having real house, however, and may just have the spunk to make their wish come true. A quirky adventure that will appeal to readers age 9+ who'd love to try living on their own.

**Friday Barnes: Girl Detective** by R.A. Spratt

Friday Barnes is a super smart eleven year old with an uncanny ability to solve crimes. When she collects a \$50,000 reward for solving a bank robbery, this determined detective enrolls at the exclusive Highcrest Academy. Her sleuthing talents are quickly apparent and fellow students and even the school headmaster ask her for help. Friday puts her skills to the test to solve these mysteries but her greatest challenge may be uncovering the secret classmate Ian Wainscott is hiding. A delightful new "girl power" series for mystery lovers 9+.

**Tumble and Blue** by Cassie Beasley

Blue Montgomery believes he's the victim of a family curse, destined to always lose, no matter the situation. Dropped off late one evening at his grandmother's house in the swampy Murky Branch GA, he is determined to break the curse with a once in a lifetime opportunity. Legend has it that a golden alligator named Munch appears in the swamp once every hundred years when the moon glows red. The first person to reach him will receive a lifetime of good luck. The red moon is just days away but Blue is not the only person looking for a change in fortune. Other Montgomery family members and the new to Murky Branch twelve year old Tumble Wilson are intent on turning their lives around as well. Tumble, dedicated to following the tenets of her idol, Maximal Star, has seen all of her efforts to rescue those in distress result in disaster. Which, if either, of these tweens can wrangle some good luck from this scaly creature – if it exists at all! A story of friendship by the author of Circus Mirandus for age 10+.

## **GRAPHIC NOVELS**

### **The Great Art Caper** by Victoria Jamieson

When mischievous mouse Harriet and her gang of unruly rodents plot to pilfer second-grader Carina's entry for the school art show, the little girl's classroom pets – GW the hamster, Sunflower the guinea pig, and Barry the bunny – must work together to save the show. A graphic novel that's just right for readers 6+.

### **All's Faire in Middle School** by Victoria Jamieson

Excited to attend public school after years of being homeschooled, eleven year old Imogene is also ready to begin training to be a squire at the area Renaissance Fair her family has been a part of for years. This spunky sixth grader soon discovers, however, that figuring out the web of middle school friendships is more challenging than she'd imagined, and learns that the support of family and "fair friends" shouldn't be taken for granted. An authentic look at the real life situations students 10+ encounter every day.

### **Big Nate: A Good Old-Fashioned Wedgie** by Lincoln Pierce

Nate Wright and the students of P.S. 38 are back with new hijinks. Whether it's Nate's interest in Lila, the team's new pitcher, his efforts to find a job and earn spending money, or the escapades of his classmates, these illustrated adventures will appeal to graphic novel lovers 9+.

### **The Baby-Sitters Club: Dawn and the Impossible Three** by Ann M. Martin

Dawn has just moved to Stoneybrook from California and is the newest member of the Babysitter's Club. Fitting in isn't easy though, especially since club member Kristy doesn't seem to want to get along. To make matters worse, her first big job, the Barrett kids, are the "Impossible Three". A popular series with heart and humor for readers age 9+.

### **Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties** by Dav Pilkey

Superhero canine Dog Man must deal with double trouble in this installment of the ever popular graphic novel series. Petey the mad scientist cat has cloned himself and Dog Man now has two villains to bring to justice. Can he bust these furry felines and remain top dog? Age 6+.

### **Real Friends** by Shannon Hale

Author Shannon Hale reflects on her own struggles in elementary school to create an authentic story about the challenges of family and friendship. When the fictional Shannon's lifelong best friend abandons her to join the queen bee popular crowd, "The Group", this shy loner must face the harsh realities of growing up. A poignant and perceptive look at real-life situations readers 8+ can understand.

### **Invisible Emmie** by Terri Libenson

Quiet, shy Emmie who just wants to go unnoticed and popular, confident Kate who feels comfortable in every situation are very different girls, but both have a crush on classmate Tyler. When a note Emmie intended only for Tyler's eyes goes public, Kate tries to help the embarrassed girl. Will Emmie always

rely on others or can she find the courage to stand up for herself? A graphic novel perfect for fans of the Dork Diaries 10+.

## **Non-Fiction**

### **Fantastic Fidget Spinners** by Emily Stead (Reference)

With a guide to choosing the best spinner and instructions for dozens of epic tricks, this book is a must-have for both beginner and experienced fidget spinner fans age 7+.

### **Just Joking LOL!** by National Geographic (Reference)

Packed with 300 kid friendly jokes, this book will keep kids age 6+ entertained for hours. The perfect choice to read alone or share with friends.

### **Guinness World Records Gamer's Edition** (Reference)

Filled with stats, facts, stories and photos, this comprehensive guide to the games, players, competitions, and collections is a must have resource for gamers age 10+.

### **The Story of Coding Lv. 2** by James Floyd Kelly (Science)

For students eager to learn the basics of computers and coding, this title provides the facts, diagrams, and photos to answer their questions. A glossary of key terms makes this an excellent reference for classrooms and readers age 6+.

### **Rising Above** by Gregory Zuckerman (Sports)

Inspirational real life stories of athletes who overcame obstacles to become outstanding in their sports, this book is a must read for young sports fans. Readers can discover the challenges faced at an early age by Stephen Curry, Dwayne Wade, Althea Gibson and others – challenges each faced with discipline and determination to become accomplished athletes. Nonfiction that will both inform and motivate readers 9+.

### **Who Are Venus and Serena Williams?** By James Buckley (History/Biography)

An illustrated fact-filled book that follows the lives of professional tennis star sisters, this biography shines the spotlight on two sisters who are fierce competitors on the court while remaining devoted siblings at the same time. Age 7+.

