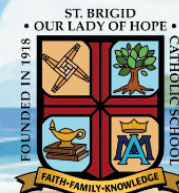


St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School

SUMMER READING 2026

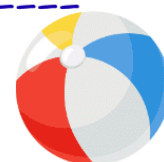


Student Name _____ Grade _____



Goal: Read every day for 20 minutes.

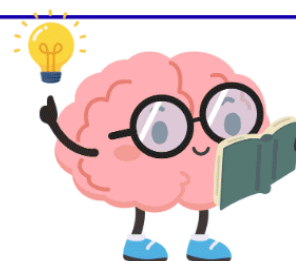
Color in the days you read between July 1 and August 31.



JULY



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Build your reading stamina,
read great stories and keep your
brain growing all summer long.

CHOICES:

- Read books from the list of suggested titles
- Read books from the library
- Read books you have at home

It's your choice!



AUGUST

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Why 20 minutes each day?

Experts recommend reading 20 minutes each day because it builds up huge rewards for your brain, your vocabulary, and your success in school over time. This specific amount of time is perfect because it is short enough to do every day, but long enough to give you real, proven results.

The class with the highest % of returned projects win's a pizza party!



HERE'S WHAT YOU DO:

- Color in the days you read for 20 minutes
- Depending on your grade level, read on your own, have someone read to you, or a combination of both!
- Complete two activities from the list of Summer Reading Projects
- Projects will be on display in the hallways during Meet the Teacher Night

Happy Reading!



St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School 2026 Summer Reading Program

June 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2026 Summer Reading Program. The goal this summer is to read 20 minutes each day. It is not to read a certain number of books. Preschoolers may have 40 books read to them during July and August. Middle Schoolers may read 3 or 4. Younger children will need to be read to. Older children may read independently. I encourage you to share the reading experience with your children. If you read aloud to your children, you will introduce them to vocabulary, model fluency, demonstrate expressive reading, and develop comprehension.

When I speak with the children at school, I often say to them that reading is like exercise for your brain. It is so true!

Here's what you do:

- Put the Reading Log Calendar on your refrigerator.
- Pick books from the suggested titles or pick others, or go to your local public library. Westbury has the historic Robert Bacon Children's Library.
- Color in the circle every day that you read for twenty minutes. Start on July 1 and end on August 31.
- Complete two projects from the suggested lists.
- Return the Reading Log Calendar and two projects when you return to school in September. They will be on display in the hallways during Meet the Teacher Night.
- The class with the highest percentage of returned log sheets and projects will win a pizza party.

Any questions? Email pclagnaz@stbolh.org

Happy Reading!

Yours truly,

Mr. Paul P. Clagnaz
Principal





St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School 2026 Summer Reading Program

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St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School 2026 Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading Project Ideas

Moving away from traditional book reports, these creative and engaging project ideas focus on comprehension, creativity, and fun for all grade levels.



Pre-School (Ages 3–5)

Focus on sensory experiences, verbal storytelling, and fine motor skills.

The "Character" Paper Plate Mask: Children decorate a paper plate to look like their favorite character using crayons, yarn, googly eyes, and cotton balls. Tape a popsicle stick to the bottom so they can hold it up and practice making the character's voice.

The Story-in-a-Bag Show & Tell: Kids find 3 everyday items around the house that represent elements of the book (e.g., a toy dog, a blue block for water, a leaf) and pull them out of a paper bag to explain the story.

Living Room Photo Reenactment: Parents help the child dress up as a character or pose like a specific illustration. Take a photo and print it out alongside the book's cover.

Storytime Rhythm & Dance: Children pick a favorite scene or animal from the book and invent a movement or dance to show what happened, using instruments or clapping to represent the action. Take photos or make a video.

The Sensory Story Tub: Fill a small plastic tub with materials matching the book's setting (e.g., sand for a beach book, shredded green paper for a jungle) and hide a few small toy characters or objects inside for the child to find and talk about.



Early Primary (Grades 1 & 2)

Focus on foundational plot sequencing, visualization, and introductory writing.

The Story Clothesline: Cut out 4 or 5 shapes of clothing from colored paper. Draw or write what happened first, next, and last, then clip them to a string using clothespins to show the sequence.

Postcard to a Character: On an index card, draw a setting from the book on the front. On the back, write a short message asking the character a question or sharing a favorite part.

The Character Paper Doll: Draw and cut out a simple paper doll of the main character, then design 2–3 different paper outfits or accessories that represent different parts of the story.

The Book Cover Remake: Design a brand new front cover for the book on a piece of construction paper, making sure to include a new title idea and a short sentence explaining why others should read it.



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Upper Primary (Grades 3 & 4)

Focus on structural understanding, introductory character analysis, and creative presentations.

The Cereal Box Book Report: Wrap an empty cereal box in paper. Front: Title, author, and illustration. Back: A short comic strip of the plot. Sides: Character list and "Ingredients" (themes or cool vocabulary words).

The Book-in-a-Box Diorama: Use a shoebox to recreate a favorite scene using clay, figures, or paper cutouts. Include a short "director's note" taped to the lid explaining why this scene was chosen.

The Tourist Brochure: Create a tri-fold travel brochure inviting people to visit the setting of the book. Include sections on "Major Attractions" (important plot locations), "Local Characters," and a hand-drawn map.

Graphic Novel Adaptation (Introduction): Take one key scene or chapter of the book and turn it into a 4-panel comic strip, focusing on simple dialogue bubbles and action drawings.



Middle School (Grades 5–8)

Focus on deeper critical thinking, textual evidence, media literacy, and complex creative expression.

Character Instagram Profile: Design a mock social media profile on a poster board or digital template. Include a profile picture, bio, and 4–6 "posts" (drawings or digital images) with captions and hashtags reflecting the character's internal journey.

The Movie Trailer or Video Recap: Create a 60-second trailer or hype video using a phone or tablet. Include a hook, a brief intro to the conflict, and a call-to-action without spoiling the ending.

The Survival Kit / Character Backpack: Gather or create 5–7 physical or digital items the main character absolutely needs to survive the novel, accompanied by a 2–3 sentence text-based justification for each item.



St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School 2026 Summer Reading Program

Middle School (Grades 5–8) continued

The Book Soundtrack: Curate a playlist of 5–6 songs that match the emotional arc or themes of the book. For each track, write a short paragraph explaining which scene or character it represents, citing specific textual evidence.

Interview with a Character: Write a script where the student plays a talk-show host interviewing the main character. The script must include at least 5 deep questions about their choices and 5 text-based answers.

The "Alternative Ending" or Missing Chapter: Write a short story rewriting the climax/ending, or a "lost chapter" that fits between existing chapters, keeping the characters' voices consistent with the author's style.

The Courtroom Trial: Put a character or antagonist "on trial" for a major decision or action they took in the book. Write out the prosecuting arguments, defending arguments, and a final verdict based on clues from the text.



St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School 2026 Summer Reading Program

I. Catholic Children's Reading List

Pre-School (Nursery, Pre-K, and Kindergarten)

Focus: Wonder, gentle theology, rhythm, and God's creation.

- ***The Legend of the Poinsettia*** by Tomie dePaola – A beautiful Mexican Christmas tale connecting a humble holiday custom to a young girl's heartfelt gift to the infant Jesus.
- ***Pascual and the Kitchen Angels*** by Tomie dePaola – A charming, humorous story about St. Paschal Baylón, a humble friar whose deep prayer life is aided by angels who step in to do his kitchen chores.
- ***God Gave Us You*** by Lisa Tawn Bergren – A tender picture book celebrating family, reassuring young children that they are a deliberate and valuable gift from God.
- ***The Tale of Three Trees*** by Angela Elwell Hunt – A traditional folk-legend tracing three trees on a mountain who dream of greatness, only to discover their ultimate destinies in the life, ministry, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Primary Grades (Grades 1 and 2)

Focus: Foundational virtues, early independent reading, and introductions to the saints.

- ***Francis: The Poor Man of Assisi*** by Tomie dePaola – A wonderfully accessible, beautifully illustrated look at the life, humility, and radical faith of St. Francis.
- ***Patrick: Patron Saint of Ireland*** by Tomie dePaola – Traces Patrick's historical journey from his youthful captivity by pirates to his missionary calling to bring Christianity to the Irish people.
- ***The Weight of a Mass: A Tale of Faith*** by Josephine Nobisso – A luminous, fairytale-style parable that demonstrates how the spiritual value of a single Mass outweighs all the physical riches of a kingdom.
- ***Petook: An Easter Story*** by Caryll Houselander (Illustrated by Tomie dePaola) – Follows a proud rooster who witnesses the Nativity as a young bird, and later watches his own new hatchlings emerge into the world on the very weekend of Christ's Resurrection.



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Intermediate Grades (Grades 3 and 4)

Focus: Early chapter books, historical faith narratives, and deeper moral complexity.

- ***The 26 Fairmount Avenue Series*** by Tomie dePaola – A Newbery Honor-winning autobiographical chapter book series recounting Tomie’s own childhood within a vibrant, traditional Irish-Italian Catholic family.
- ***Once Upon a Time Saints*** by Ethel Pochocki – Captivating, masterfully written short stories that present the lives of classic saints with color, wit, and deep reverence.
- ***The Father Brown Reader: Stories of Mystery and Mayhem*** by Nancy Carpenter Brown – An age-appropriate adaptation of G.K. Chesterton's clever, soul-searching Catholic detective.
- ***The Miraculous Medal*** by Joan Windham – A faith-building historical narrative introducing young readers to St. Catherine Labouré and the devotion behind the Marian medal.

Middle School (Grades 5 through 8)

Focus: Deep theological fiction, rich biographies, and virtuous epic adventures.

- ***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*** by C.S. Lewis – The timeless, deeply allegorical high-fantasy novel that beautifully mirrors the sacrifice, redemption, and Resurrection of Christ.
- ***St. Benedict: Hero of the Hills*** by Mary Fabyan Windeatt – A gripping historical biography detailing St. Benedict's spiritual battles, miracles, and his foundational role in Western monasticism.
- ***The Winged Watchman*** by Hilda van Stockum – A powerful historical fiction novel tracking a faithful Dutch Catholic family trying to survive and protect a downed Allied airman during World War II.
- ***St. Joan: The Girl Soldier*** by Louis de Wohl – A sweeping, historically authentic biography of Joan of Arc tailored perfectly to inspire middle school readers.



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The Reed of God (Young Readers' Adapted Edition)

by Caryll Houselander (Adapted) (2020)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 6–8

Description: This beautifully written spiritual book introduces middle schoolers to the life of the Virgin Mary, re-imagining her as an ordinary human being who said a courageous "yes" to God. It encourages students to see their own lives as "hollow reeds" that God can fill with His grace and music to change the world.

Saint John Paul II: The Boy Who Became Pope by Fabiola Garza (2017)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 2–5

Description: This vibrantly illustrated biography follows the childhood of Karol Wojtyła as he grew up in Poland, navigating the loss of his family and the occupation of his country. It highlights how his early prayer life, love of theater, and deep faith laid the foundation for him to become one of the most beloved popes in Catholic history.

Catholic Graphic Novels & Visual Narratives

The Adventures of Loupio

Author/Illustrator: Jean-François Kieffer

Year of Publication: Originally published in French in the early 2000s; English translations by Ignatius Press began releasing in **2010** (Volume 1: *The Encounter and Other Stories*).

Target Range: Grades 1–4

Description: Set in the colorful, challenging world of 13th-century Europe, this beloved graphic novel series follows Loupio, a young, orphaned musician and poet. After a rough start in life, Loupio encounters St. Francis of Assisi and the famous Wolf of Gubbio. This life-changing meeting sets him on a path of faith and adventure. The series is structured as a collection of short, vividly illustrated comic-strip stories. Through encounters with knights, thieves, and ordinary peasants, Loupio learns to navigate childhood and medieval societal challenges using his wit, musical talents, and a growing commitment to Christian virtue. The artwork is distinctively European in style (reminiscent of classic Franco-Belgian comics like *Tintin*), making it highly engaging and visually scannable for early readers.



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The Chime Travelers Series

Author: Lisa M. Hendey

Year of Publication: Released starting in **2015** (Books 1 and 2, *The Secret of the Shamrock* and *The Sign of the Carved Cross*).

Target Range: Grades 2–4

Description: While primarily structured as chapter books, this series heavily incorporates visual narratives, illustrations, and highly imaginative storytelling designed to captivate transitional readers. The plot centers on young Catholic twins, Patrick and Katie Brady. Whenever the church bells (the chimes) ring at their local parish, the children find themselves miraculously multi-dimensionally transported back in time. Once in the past, they don't just observe history—they interact directly with famous saints during their earthly lives, such as St. Patrick, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, and St. Francis Xavier. The brilliance of the series lies in how it mirrors the twins' modern-day childhood problems (like dealing with school bullies or chores) with the historical and spiritual challenges faced by the saints, allowing readers to see how ancient faith applies to modern lives.

Ignatius Press Graphic Biography Series

Authors/Illustrators: Various (including translations of renowned European graphic novels; e.g., the *Saint Maximilian Kolbe* graphic novel was published by Ignatius Press in **2022**). **Target Range:** Grades 5–8

Description: This premium series of graphic novel biographies tackles the complex, heavy, and deeply inspiring lives of modern saints and heroes of the Catholic Church. Utilizing sophisticated comic book layouts and dramatic, realistic artwork, these books do not shy away from the historical realities of the saints' eras.

For instance, the volume on **St. Maximilian Kolbe** takes readers from his childhood to his grueling but profoundly holy ultimate sacrifice inside the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. It serves as an excellent bridge for young teens, proving that real-world holiness requires immense grit, psychological strength, and heroism.



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II. Wordless Books

The stories in these books are told entirely through illustrations and contain no text. They offer an excellent opportunity for an adult and child to use imagination in creating the story.

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka (2011)

This Caldecott Medal winner captures the pure joy and eventual heartbreak of a little dog named Daisy and her favorite red ball. Through expressive, fluid brushstrokes, children experience Daisy's grief when her beloved toy is accidentally destroyed, followed by a heartwarming moment of recovery and new friendship. It is a masterful, wordless exploration of loss and resilience for young readers.

Ben's Dream by Chris Van Allsburg (2014)

While studying for a geography test on a rainy afternoon, Ben falls asleep and embarks on a remarkable, waterlogged dream sequence. He floats past the world's great monuments—like the Sphinx, the Eiffel Tower, and the Great Wall of China—all partially submerged in a global flood. Rendered in intricate, striking line art, this surreal journey beautifully blurs the line between imagination and reality.

Chalk by Bill Thomson (2010)

On a rainy day at the park, three children discover a bag of magical sidewalk chalk that brings whatever they draw to life. Delight turns to sudden peril when one child draws a massive T-Rex, forcing them to use their creativity to escape danger. The stunning, photo-realistic illustrations vividly capture the magic, wonder, and sudden suspense of a child's imagination.

The Farmer and the Clown by Marla Frazee (2014)

When a baby clown accidentally bounces off a passing circus train, a lonely, austere farmer takes the little performer in. Despite their surface differences, the two form an unexpected and tender bond as the farmer learns to embrace playfulness and joy. This wordless narrative beautifully demonstrates how kindness and connection can transcend generations and lifestyles.

Flora and the Flamingo by Molly Idle (2013)

In this elegant, interactive flap book, a young girl named Flora mimics the graceful, dramatic movements of a majestic flamingo. The two engage in a delicate, beautifully choreographed dance that transitions from initial awkwardness to a joyful, synchronized partnership. The minimalist pink-and-yellow color palette and clever flaps perfectly capture the rhythm of a blossoming friendship.



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I Got It! by David Wiesner (2018)

This visually dynamic story takes readers inside the mind of a young boy waiting to catch a soaring baseball in the outfield. As the ball hangs in the air, a split-second moment stretches into an epic, imaginative struggle against towering obstacles and internal doubts. It is a brilliant, cinematic exploration of anxiety, focus, and the ultimate thrill of triumph.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness by Kerascoët (2018)

This powerful wordless book explores the pain of bullying and the profound impact of allyship through the eyes of school children. When a girl named Vanessa is picked on, a classmate steps up the next morning to walk with her to school, inspiring the rest of the community to join them. It serves as a gentle, visually clear roadmap for empathy and standing up for others.

The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney (2009)

Set against the sweeping backdrop of the African Serengeti, this Caldecott-winning adaptation breathes new life into Aesop's classic fable. Pinkney's breathtaking, highly detailed watercolor illustrations capture the dignity and vulnerability of both the ferocious predator and the tiny rodent. Without words, the book powerfully conveys timeless lessons about mercy, gratitude, and how even the smallest creature can make a difference.

Little Fox in the Forest by Stephanie Graegin (2017)

When a young girl brings her favorite stuffed fox to school, a real-life little fox sneaks out of the woods and playfully steals it. The girl and her friend give chase, leading them into a magical, hidden woodland community filled with whimsical animal homes. This enchanting, wordless adventure ultimately delivers a sweet and comforting lesson about sharing and empathy.

Pip & Pup by Eugene Yelchin (2018)

This charming story depicts the blossoming relationship between a newly hatched, energetic chick named Pip and a sleepy, skeptical puppy named Pup. Through bold, expressive artwork, the book follows Pip's enthusiastic attempts to win over the dog, overcoming a few startled bumps along the way. It is a sweet, lighthearted look at setting boundaries and finding unexpected companionship.

The Red Book by Barbara Lehman (2004)

This clever Caldecott Honor book features a wordless, reality-bending loop that celebrates the transportive power of reading. A city girl finds a magical red book that shows a boy on a tropical island, while the boy looks at his own book and sees her looking back at him. It is a captivating, mind-bending visual puzzle about connection across vast distances.



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Time Flies by Eric Rohmann (1994)

A bird accidentally flies into a natural history museum and triggers a wondrous, time-traveling illusion among the dinosaur skeletons. As the bird darts through the exhibits, the bones vibrantly come alive, transforming the museum into a lush, prehistoric world where the tiny bird meets its ancient ancestors. The rich, oil-painted spreads offer an unforgettable, cinematic journey through time.

Wave by Suzy Lee (2008)

Using only shades of blue, black, and white, this brilliant book depicts a little girl's playful afternoon dance with the ocean waves. The boundary of the book's center fold acts as a physical barrier between the girl and the water until a massive wave crashes over, leaving behind a shore full of colorful treasures. It perfectly captures the sensory joy, excitement, and unpredictability of a day at the beach.

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell (2017)

A young girl in a bright red parka and a lost wolf pup both find themselves stranded in a fierce, blinding winter blizzard. In a mutual act of survival, the girl helps return the pup to its pack, and the wolves later protect the girl when she becomes too exhausted to walk. This Caldecott Medal winner uses raw, expressive pen-and-ink illustrations to tell a gripping story of compassion and shared humanity.



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III. Predictable Books

Words or sentence patterns are repeated often enough to enable children to predict their appearance and join in the reading. There is an appealing cadence to the text that encourages children's participation. Predictable books also stimulate reading naturally because words are learned more easily. This results in matching worlds they are saying with those on the page.

***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.; Eric Carle, Illus.**
Grades PreS-K (1983)

This classic picture book features a rhythmic call-and-response text that introduces young readers to a vibrant parade of animals. Eric Carle's iconic tissue-paper collage illustrations beautifully complement the repetitive structure, making it a perfect tool for teaching colors and early language skills.

***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr.; Lois Ehlbert, Illus.**
Recommended Ages: 1–5 years (1989)

A lively, rhyming alphabet book where all the lowercase letters of the alphabet race each other up a coconut tree. Chaos ensues when the tree bends under their weight and they all come tumbling down, only to be comforted by their uppercase parents.

***Dinosaur vs. Bedtime* by Bob Shea**
Grades Tod-K (2008)

A ferocious little red dinosaur takes on huge challenges like a big slide, a bowl of spaghetti, and talking grown-ups, triumphing with a loud "ROAR!" every single time. However, his biggest challenge arrives at the end of the day when he goes head-to-head with a sleepy bedtime.

***The Doghouse* by Jan Thomas**
Grades Tod-1 (2008)

When a stray ball rolls into the dreaded doghouse, a group of anxious animal friends must decide who is brave enough to go inside and retrieve it. One by one, Mouse, Pig, and Cow venture in, leading to a hilarious misunderstanding about what the "scary" dog actually wants.

***Duck in the Truck* by Jez Alborough (2000) Grades PreS-2**

Duck's truck gets hopelessly stuck in the muck, prompting a passing frog, sheep, and goat to step in and help push him out. Through bouncy, clever rhymes, the story highlights the chaotic fun of teamwork, even if Duck's driving leaves a little to be desired.



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***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff; Felicia Bond, Illus.**

Grades PreS-1 (1985)

This beloved tale explores a humorous chain reaction that begins when a generous young boy offers a passing mouse a single cookie. The high-maintenance mouse quickly demands a glass of milk, a straw, a mirror, and a cascade of other requests that loop right back to where they started.

***Move Over, Rover!* by Karen Beaumont; Janet Dyer, Illus.**

Grades PreS-2 (2006)

When a sudden storm hits, Rover seeks shelter in his cozy doghouse, but he is soon joined by a succession of other wet animals looking for a dry spot. The crowded space gets a bit too cozy for comfort until an unexpected, smelly visitor arrives and clears everyone out.

***Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin; James Dean, Illus.**

Grades PreS-2 (2010)

Pete the Cat takes a stroll in his brand-new white shoes, but along the way, he steps in piles of strawberries, blueberries, and mud that change his footwear's color. No matter what happens, Pete keeps moving, grooving, and singing his song, teaching kids a joyful lesson about keeping a positive attitude.

***Shh! We Have a Plan* by Chris Haughton**

Grades PreS-2 (2014)

A trio of clumsy, well-meaning hunters equipped with nets march through the woods trying to capture a beautiful, brightly colored bird. While their elaborate plans consistently end in hilarious disaster, their smallest, quietest companion shows them that kindness works much better than force.

***Snip Snap! What's That?* by Mara Bergman; Nick Maland, Illus.**

Grades PreS-1 (2005)

Three brave children hear a scary, rhythmic sound coming up the stairs and realize an alligator has wandered right into their house. As the alligator gets closer and bigger, the kids must gather all their courage to make a loud stand and scare the intruder away.

***This Is the Nest That Robin Built* by Denise Fleming**

Grades PreS-2 (2018)

In this beautifully illustrated, cumulative tale, a busy robin prepares a safe home for her future family with the help of her woodland neighbors. From Squirrel gathering twigs to Toad plastering mud, each animal plays a vital role in constructing the perfect nest.



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***Two Little Monkeys* by Mem Fox; Jill Barton, Illus.**

Grades PreS-2 (2012)

Cheeky little monkeys named Cheetah and Loud perspective-hop through the jungle trees, playfully hiding from a sleek, prowling leopard. With an infectious, rhyming rhythm, this suspenseful yet safe story keeps toddlers engaged until the monkeys successfully outsmart their predator.

***The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle**

Grades Tod-1 (1969)

A tiny, voracious caterpillar hatches from an egg and spends a full week eating his way through an incredible variety of foods, resulting in a bit of a stomachache. After resting inside a cozy cocoon, he undergoes a stunning transformation and emerges as a magnificent butterfly.



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IV. Stories with Rhyming Verse

Rhyming is sometimes a difficult concept for young children to learn. By repeatedly hearing words that rhyme through stories, poems, and songs, young children will begin to play with language and grasp this important concept.

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold; Suzanne Kaufman, Illus.

Grades PreS-2 (2018)

This vibrant picture book follows a group of children through a day at their school, where every culture, background, and ability is celebrated. Through rhythmic text and inclusive illustrations, it sends a powerful message of acceptance and community. It serves as a heartwarming reminder that school is a safe, welcoming space for everyone.

Be Brave, Little Penguin by Giles Andreae; Guy Parker-Rees, Illus.

Grades PreS-2 (2017)

Pip-Pip is a little penguin who is terrified of the water, unlike all of his playful peers. With some gentle encouragement and love from his mother, he finds the inner strength to take his first big splash. It is a charming, rhyming tale about overcoming fears and building self-confidence.

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson; James Chapman, Illus. (2005)

Grades PreS-1

While a big bear deeply sleeps through the winter chill, various woodland creatures slip into his cozy cave to escape the cold. They build a fire, brew tea, and pop corn, throwing a lively party right right next to the slumbering giant. When the bear finally wakes up to find he missed out on the fun, his animal friends find the perfect way to include him.

Did You Eat the Parakeet? By Mark Iacolina

Grades PreS-1 (2018)

This humorous, suspenseful tale follows a young boy who is highly suspicious of his pet cat after the family parakeet goes missing. He playfully interrogates the feline, trying to look for clues and extract a confession. The story delivers a fun, lighthearted mystery that young readers will find highly entertaining.

Double Take! A New Look at Opposites by Susan Hood; Jay Fleck, Illus.

Grades K-2 (2017)

This clever concept book challenges traditional views on opposites by showing how they change based on perspective. Through lively text and bold, retro-style illustrations, a curious cat and mouse demonstrate that words like "near," "far," "big," and "small" are all relative. It is an engaging way to introduce visual literacy and critical thinking to young minds.



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It's Only Stanley by Jon Agee Grades PreS-2 (2015) The Wimbledon family is repeatedly awoken in the middle of the night by a series of strange, loud noises echoing through their house. Each time, the father investigates only to find Stanley, the family dog, engaged in increasingly bizarre, industrious tasks. The compounding absurdity culminates in a delightfully out-of-this-world twist that will leave readers laughing.

Llama Llama Time to Share by Anna Dewdney Grades PreS-2 (2012)

Llama Llama is thrilled to have a new neighbor, Nelly Gnu, come over to play, but his excitement turns to reluctance when it is time to share his beloved toys. When a tussle over his favorite stuffed animal results in a minor accident, Llama learns a valuable lesson about cooperation. With Mama Llama's gentle guidance, the two little ones discover that sharing makes playing much more fun.

Pretty Kitty by Karen Beaumont; Stephanie Laberis, Illus. Grades PreS-1 (2018)

A self-proclaimed "old man who lives all alone" insists he does not want a pet, but a stray cat appearing on his porch slowly begins to change his mind. As one cat turns into two, then three, and more, his defenses hilariously crumble against the cute invaders. This sweet, counting-focused story captures how a little love can change someone's entire heart.

Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty; David Roberts, Illus. Grades K-3 (2013)

Rosie is a quiet young girl by day, but by night, she is a brilliant inventor who creates fantastic contraptions from odds and ends. After a failed flying machine leaves her feeling discouraged, her Great-Aunt Rose helps her see that failure is actually something to celebrate. This inspiring, rhyming story teaches children that the only true failure is quitting.

What About Moose? by Corey Rosen Schwartz; Keika Yamaguchi, Illus.

Grades PreS-2 (2015) A group of animal friends teams up to build an epic treehouse, but Moose quickly takes over as a loud, bossy project manager without doing any of the actual heavy lifting. When his demanding attitude gets him quite literally stuck in his own trap, he realizes he needs to change his ways. It is a fantastic, energetic lesson in teamwork, humility, and being a good friend.



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V. Picture Books

Text and illustration work together to create a story in picture books. A good picture book is for all ages, not just young children.

Agua, Agüita / Water, Little Water by Jorge Tetl Argueta (2017)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 1–4 (Ages 6–9)

Description: Written in English, Spanish, and the Indigenous language Nahuatl, this poetic trilingual picture book tells the life cycle of water from the perspective of a single drop. The drop journeys from the deep earth up to the sky, transforming into mist, rain, and rivers before returning home. It is a gentle, beautifully illustrated tribute to nature and Indigenous wisdom.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst; Ray Cruz, Illus. *Grades K and up* (1972)

This classic children's book by Judith Viorst follows a young boy named Alexander as he experiences a relentless chain of mishaps, from waking up with gum in his hair to getting a cavity at the dentist. Frustrated by his luck, he repeatedly threatens to move to Australia to escape his troubles. Ultimately, the story offers a comforting and humorous lesson that some days are just bad for everyone, no matter where you live.

Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings by Francie Latour (2018) **Grade Level:** Grades 1–4

Description: A young Haitian-American girl visits her artist aunt in Haiti and experiences the island's beauty and resilience through the vibrant stories told within her aunt's artwork. The journey empowers the girl to connect deeply with her roots and identity.

Blueberries for Sal **Author/Illustrator:** Robert McCloskey (1948)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: Little Sal and her mother go up Blueberry Hill to pick berries for the winter, while a mother bear and her cub arrive on the other side of the hill for the same reason. In a charming, gentle mix-up, the children accidentally swap mothers before safely reuniting.

Caps for Sale **Author/Illustrator:** Esphyr Slobodkina (1940)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: A peddler who carries his inventory of multicolored caps stacked high on top of his head decides to take a nap under a large tree. When he wakes up to find all his caps gone, he discovers a mischievous troupe of monkeys sitting in the branches, mimicking his every move.



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Carlos and the Cornfield / Carlos y la milpa de maíz by Jan Romero Stevens (1999)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 2–5 (Ages 7–10)

Description: In this engaging bilingual narrative, a young boy named Carlos works hard to earn money for a beautiful pocketknife by planting a cornfield for his father. However, when a bit of carelessness leads him to take a shortcut, he learns a valuable, humorous lesson about honesty, responsibility, and the rewards of a job well done. The book captures the warmth of rural family life and traditional farming.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

Authors: Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault | **Illustrator:** Lois Ehlert (1989)

Recommended Ages: 1–5 years

Description: In this lively, rhythmic alphabet chant, all the lowercase letters of the alphabet race each other up to the top of a coconut tree. The tree bends under their collective weight, causing a massive, colorful tumble that requires the uppercase "adults" to comfort them.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Author: Judi Barrett | **Illustrator:** Ron Barrett (1978)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: A grandfather tells a bedtime story about the magical town of Chewandswallow, where weather comes in the form of delicious food raining down three times a day. Things take a chaotic turn when the food portions grow massively out of control, forcing the citizens to evacuate.

Corduroy **Author/Illustrator:** Don Freeman (1968) **Ages:** 2–5 years

Description: A small teddy bear wearing green overalls waits patiently on a department store shelf for someone to take him home. After a little girl's mother points out that he is missing a button, Corduroy embarks on a midnight adventure through the store to find it.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! **Author/Illustrator:** Mo Willems (2003)

Recommended Ages: 2–6 years

Description: When a bus driver takes a quick break, he gives the reader one strict rule: do not let the pigeon drive the bus. The hilarious pigeon then spends the rest of the book pleading, bargaining, and throwing tantrums directly at the reader to change their mind.



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Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear

Author: Lindsay Mattick | **Illustrator:** Sophie Blackall

Date of Publication: 2015 (*Caldecott Winner 2016*)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: This heartwarming biography traces the real-life journey of a veterinarian soldier who rescues a bear cub on his way to World War I, naming her Winnie. The bear eventually makes her way to the London Zoo, where she captures the heart of a young boy named Christopher Robin.

***Freedom Soup* by Tami Charles (2019)**

Grade Level: Grades K–3

Description: As a young Haitian-American girl named Belle helps her grandmother cook traditional *soup joumou*, she learns how the delicious meal commemorates the Haitian Revolution and the nation's hard-won independence. It is a celebratory look at family, food, and historical pride.

***Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard (2019)**

Recommended Grade Level: Grades PreK–3

Description: Using a simple staple food as a centerpiece, this richly illustrated book explores modern Native American culture, history, and family life. It illustrates how food serves as a powerful symbol of resilience, heritage, and community across diverse Indigenous nations.

***The Giving Tree* Author/Illustrator: Shel Silverstein (1964)**

Recommended Ages: 4–10 years

Description: This poignant, beautifully minimalist parable outlines the lifelong relationship between a boy and a deeply loving apple tree. As the boy grows older and his demands increase, the tree selflessly gives him her leaves, apples, branches, and eventually her trunk.

Goodnight Moon

Author: Margaret Wise Brown | **Illustrator:** Clement Hurd (1947)

Recommended Ages: 0–3 years

Description: In a great green room, a little bunny tucked peacefully into bed bids goodnight to everything around him, from the pictures on the wall to the pair of socks. Its soothing, rhythmic poetry and alternating color schemes make it the quintessential bedtime story.



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Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss (1960)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: The persistent Sam-I-Am stops at nothing to convince a grumpy companion to try a plate of green eggs and ham. Using a masterful mix of rhythm, rhyme, and silly scenarios, the book shows that trying new things can lead to pleasant surprises.

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson (1955)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: Armed with nothing but an oversized purple crayon, a curious toddler named Harold decides to go for a walk in the moonlight. He draws his own landscapes, encounters a dragon, faces oceans, and ultimately sketches his way back to his very own bed.

Hot Dog

Author/Illustrator: Doug Salati (2022) (*Caldecott Winner 2023*)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: An overwhelmed dachshund reaches his breaking point amidst the sweltering heat, loud sirens, and crowded sidewalks of a summer day in the city. His mindful owner whisks him away on a ferry to a breezy island beach, giving them both a chance to rest and reset.

Last Stop on Market Street

Author: Matt de la Peña | **Illustrator:** Christian Robinson (2015)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: On a rainy Sunday afternoon, a young boy named CJ asks his grandmother why they don't own a car or have the same luxuries as his friends. His Nana gently guides him to see the vibrant beauty, music, and community spirit found along their routine bus route to a local soup kitchen.

The Legend of the Bluebonnet **Author/Illustrator:** Tomie dePaola (1983)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: This Comanche tale follows a young, orphaned girl named She-Who-Is-Alone, who sacrifices her most beloved possession to end a devastating drought. Her selfless act rewards her people with a beautiful blanket of bluebonnet flowers across the Texas hills.



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Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans (1939)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: In an old house in Paris covered in vines, twelve little girls live in two straight lines under the watchful eye of Miss Clavel. The smallest and bravest of them all, Madeline, turns a sudden middle-of-the-night appendicitis scare into a grand adventure that her classmates envy.

Make Way for Ducklings **Author/Illustrator:** Robert McCloskey

Date of Publication: 1941 (*Caldecott Winner 1942*)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: Mr. and Mrs. Mallard search diligently for the perfect place in Boston to raise their eight ducklings away from the dangers of foxes and turtles. With a little help from a kind police officer, the duck family safely marches through busy city streets to their new home in the Public Garden.

Miss Rumphius **Author/Illustrator:** Barbara Cooney

Date of Publication: 1982

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: As a young girl, Alice promises her grandfather that she will travel to faraway places, live by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful. As an older woman, she fulfills this last promise by scattering lupine seeds wherever she walks, earning the title "The Lupine Lady."

The Polar Express **Author/Illustrator:** Chris Van Allsburg

Date of Publication: 1985 (*Caldecott Winner 1986*)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: On Christmas Eve, a young boy who is beginning to doubt Santa Claus boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole. Through breathtaking illustrations, he receives a magical silver bell that only rings for those who truly believe.

A Sick Day for Amos McGee

Author: Philip C. Stead | **Illustrator:** Erin E. Stead

Date of Publication: 2010 (*Caldecott Winner 2011*)

Recommended Ages: 2–6 years

Description: Amos McGee is a dedicated zookeeper who always makes time for his animal friends, from running races with the tortoise to sitting quietly with the timid penguin. When Amos wakes up too sick to work, his loyal animal companions take the bus to his house to look after him instead.



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The Snowy Day

Author/Illustrator: Ezra Jack Keats

Date of Publication: 1962 (*Caldecott Winner 1963*)

Recommended Ages: 2–5 years

Description: A young boy named Peter wakes up to find the city covered in a fresh blanket of deep snow. The story gently captures the quiet magic of childhood as he explores tracks, makes snow angels, and tries to save a snowball in his pocket.

Stellaluna

Author/Illustrator: Janell Cannon (1993)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: Separated from her mother during an owl attack, a baby fruit bat falls headfirst into a nest of fledgling birds. Adopted by the avian family, Stellaluna must adapt to bird habits until she is finally reunited with her bat family and learns to celebrate their differences.

***Strega Nona* Author/Illustrator:** Tomie dePaola (1975)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: When "Grandma Witch" Strega Nona leaves her helper, Big Anthony, alone with her magic pasta pot, he ignores her warnings and accidentally buries the town in spaghetti. It takes Strega Nona's clever intervention to save the day and teach him a lesson about obedience.

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble

Author/Illustrator: William Steig

Date of Publication: 1969 (*Caldecott Winner 1970*)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: Sylvester the donkey finds a magic pebble that grants wishes, but he panics when faced with a hungry lion and accidentally wishes himself into a rock. The story follows his parents' heartbreaking search and a miraculous reunion that reminds readers of what truly matters.

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!

Author: Jon Scieszka | **Illustrator:** Lane Smith (1989)

Recommended Ages: 5–9 years

Description: Alexander T. Wolf breaks his silence to tell his side of what *really* happened to the three little pigs. He claims the entire incident was a giant misunderstanding resulting from a terrible cold, a bad sneeze, and a simple quest to borrow a cup of sugar.



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***The Very Hungry Caterpillar* Author/Illustrator:** Eric Carle (1969)

Recommended Ages: 1–5 years

Description: This iconic book follows a tiny caterpillar as he eats his way through an array of foods across the days of the week. Featuring Carle's legendary collage art and interactive die-cut pages, the caterpillar eventually builds a cocoon and emerges as a beautiful butterfly.

***Viva Frida* by** Yuyi Morales

Recommended Grade Level: Grades K–3 (Ages 5–8)

Description: This vibrant, art-driven picture book celebrates the creativity, spirit, and imagination of the legendary Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Using minimal text in both English and Spanish alongside stunning stop-motion puppet photography, it beautifully illustrates how Frida turned her dreams and struggles into world-renowned art. It serves as a luminous, sensory introduction to her life and legacy for young readers.

***I Want to Ride the Tap Tap* by** Danielle Joseph (2020)

Grade Level: Grades K–2

Description: A young boy named Claude anxiously counts down the days until the weekend so he can finally ride on a *tap tap*—the brightly painted, bustling taxi-buses used in Haiti. Along the way, the story showcases daily village life, local vendors, and a colorful community.

Watercress

Author: Andrea Wang | **Illustrator:** Jason Chin (2021) (*Caldecott Winner 2022*)

Recommended Ages: 4–8 years

Description: A young Chinese American girl feels embarrassed when her parents stop the car to forage for wild watercress growing in a muddy ditch. However, when her mother shares a poignant memory of famine in China, the girl learns to appreciate her family's heritage and resourcefulness.

We Are Water Protectors

Author: Carole Lindstrom | **Illustrator:** Michaela Goade

Date of Publication: 2020 (*Caldecott Winner 2021*)

Recommended Ages: 3–7 years

Description: Inspired by Indigenous-led movements, a young Ojibwe girl steps up to protect the Earth's vital water supply from a metaphorical "black snake" oil pipeline. The book uses sweeping, vibrant illustrations to issue a powerful call to safeguard our natural resources.



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Where the Wild Things Are

Author/Illustrator: Maurice Sendak

Date of Publication: 1963 (*Caldecott Winner 1964*)

Recommended Ages: 3–6 years

Description: Sent to bed without his supper for misbehaving, young Max transforms his bedroom into a vast jungle and sails away to the land of the Wild Things. There, he becomes king of the monsters before realizing that the comfort of home and his mother's unconditional love are what he wants most.

Wolf in the Snow

Author/Illustrator: Matthew Cordell

Date of Publication: 2017 (*Caldecott Winner 2018*)

Recommended Ages: 2–6 years

Description: Told almost entirely without words, this striking book follows a young girl lost in a howling blizzard on her way home from school. When she encounters a stranded wolf pup, she braves the cold to return it to its pack, leading to a reciprocal act of kindness.



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VI. Early Chapter Book Series

Dory Fantasmagory

Author: Abby Hanlon

Debut Publication Year: 2014

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 3

Description: Dory is a wildly imaginative youngest child trying to get her older siblings to play with her. This highly decorated series (an ALA Notable Book and Kirkus Best Book) brilliantly captures the authentic, chaotic logic of a child's imagination through hilarious text and illustrations.

Dragon Masters

Author: Tracey West

Debut Publication Year: 2014

Recommended Grades: Grade 1 – Grade 3

Description: Chosen to train a dragon for King Roland, a young farm boy named Drake must unlock his dragon's hidden powers. Highly praised by educators and literacy experts for its impeccable pacing and accessible vocabulary, this fantasy phenomenon is the gold standard for motivating reluctant readers.

InvestiGators

Author: John Patrick Green

Debut Publication Year: 2020

Recommended Grades: Grade 2 – Grade 5

Description: Mango and Brash are alligator secret agents who travel through the sewers solving high-stakes mysteries. This critically lauded, New York Times bestselling graphic novel series is heavily praised by reviewers for its complex visual storytelling, masterfully clever wordplay, and brilliant comedic timing.

Ivy + Bean

Author: Annie Barrows

Debut Publication Year: 2006

Recommended Grades: Grade 1 – Grade 4

Description: Two incredibly different neighborhood girls—one loud and adventurous, the other quiet and observant—initially think they can't stand each other but become best friends. This New York Times bestselling series has received numerous starred reviews for its witty, highly authentic depiction of childhood friendships.



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***Juana and Lucas* Author:** Juana Medina **Debut Publication Year:** 2016

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 3

Description: Juana loves her dog Lucas, her family, and her home in Bogotá, Colombia—but she does *not* love learning "the English." Winner of the prestigious **Pura Belpré Author Award**, this beautifully illustrated, heartfelt story captures the genuine frustrations and triumphs of learning a second language.

***King & Kayla* Author:** Dori Hillestad Butler **Debut Publication Year:** 2017

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 2

Description: A lovable golden retriever and his human partner work together to solve everyday neighborhood mysteries. This incredibly clever series has won multiple **Theodor Seuss Geisel Honors** for its exceptional ability to build reading confidence while telling a charming story entirely from a dog's perspective.

***Magic Tree House* Author:** Mary Pope Osborne **Debut Publication Year:** 1992

Recommended Grades: Grade 1 – Grade 4

Description: Siblings Jack and Annie discover a tree house full of magical books that transport them across history and geography. Decades after its debut, this series remains universally praised by educators and historians for its unparalleled success in seamlessly blending rigorous research with accessible adventure.

***Mercy Watson* Author:** Kate DiCamillo

Debut Publication Year: 2005

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 2

Description: Mercy is a "porcine wonder" whose single-minded love for buttered toast accidentally turns her into a local hero. Written by a two-time Newbery Medalist and winner of a **Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor**, this iconic series features deadpan humor and gorgeous, full-color art perfectly suited for transition readers.

***Mindy Kim* Author:** Lyla Lee

Debut Publication Year: 2020

Recommended Grades: Grade 1 – Grade 4

Description: After her mother passes away, Mindy Kim and her father move to a new town where Mindy navigates starting a seaweed snack business, making new friends, and staying connected to her culture. This widely praised series is celebrated for its deep empathy, emotional intelligence, and authentic representation of Korean-American life.



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***Narwhal and Jelly* Author:** Ben Clanton **Debut Publication Year:** 2016

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 2

Description: Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky, optimistic whale, and Jelly is a cynical, nervous jellyfish. Winner of the **Eisner Award** (the graphic novel equivalent of an Oscar), this brilliantly simple graphic series relies on pure imagination, gentle humor, and deep emotional resonance to captivate new readers.

***Nate the Great* Author:** Marjorie Weinman Sharmat **Debut Publication Year:** 1972

Recommended Grades: Grade 1 – Grade 3

Description: A sharp, pancake-loving young detective takes on neighborhood cases ranging from lost paintings to missing pets. This timeless classic is an ALA Notable Book, celebrated for using crisp, punchy sentences and classic noir style to make decoding text effortless for young readers.

***Owl Diaries* Author:** Rebecca Elliott **Debut Publication Year:** 2015 **Grades:** K-2

Description: Eva Wingdale shares her daily life, friendship dilemmas, and school events through a series of colorful, handwritten diary entries. Praise for this Scholastic Branches series focuses heavily on its brilliant, highly visual notebook format, which makes reading deeply accessible and unintimidating.

***Princess in Black* Authors:** Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

Debut Publication Year: 2014 **Grades:** Kindergarten – Grade 3

Description: Princess Magnolia appears to be a prim royal, but she secretly masquerades as a ninja-style superhero to stop monsters from eating her kingdom's goats. This Kirkus Best Book of the Year effortlessly subverts traditional gender tropes, matching fast-paced action with highly expressive full-color illustrations.

***Yasmin!* Author:** Saadia Faruqi **Debut Publication Year:** 2018

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 2

Description: Yasmin is an energetic Pakistani-American second-grader who solves life's little problems using a big imagination and her loving family. A Junior Library Guild Selection, this vibrant series is widely acclaimed for its positive cultural representation, engaging prose, and the effortless way it weaves Urdu words into the text.

***Zoey and Sassafras* Author:** Asia Citro **Debut Publication Year:** 2017

Recommended Grades: Kindergarten – Grade 4

Description: Zoey discovers she can see magical creatures and must use real STEM concepts and controlled scientific experiments to cure their ailments. An A_LA Notable Book and winner of numerous state awards, this series is widely praised by educators for seamlessly embedding genuine scientific thinking into an enchanting fantasy world.



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VII. Chapter Books and Novels

***Adam of the Road* by Elizabeth Janet Gray (1942)**

Grades: 5–8

Description: Set in 13th-century medieval England, eleven-year-old Adam is a minstrel's son who travels from abbey to castle, learning the songs and stories of the era. When his beloved dog Nick is stolen and he is separated from his father, Adam must navigate the highways alone, relying on the hospitality of parish priests, monks, and ordinary people. This Newbery Medal winner offers a vibrant, historically accurate window into the deeply faithful daily life of Catholic Christendom in the Middle Ages.

***All the Blues in the Sky* by Renée Watson (2025)**

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: After her best friend tragically passes away, thirteen-year-old Sage is consumed by overwhelming grief and guilt. By joining a grief support group, she begins a poignant journey of healing, learning to navigate her loss through poetry and verse.

***Behind the Mountains* by Edwidge Danticat (2002)**

Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: (Epistolary Historical Fiction / Diary Novel) Written in a personal diary format, this story follows a girl named Celiane as she navigates political unrest in rural Haiti before emigrating to New York to reunite with her father. It provides a deeply authentic look at the complexities of the immigrant experience and family bonds.

***The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak (2006)**

Grades: 7–8+

Description: This masterpiece centers on Liesel Meminger, a young foster girl living outside of Munich in Nazi Germany during World War II. Liesel finds solace from the horrors surrounding her by stealing books and sharing them with her neighbors, as well as with the Jewish man her foster parents are secretly hiding in their basement.

***The Bronze Bow* by Elizabeth George Speare (1961)**

Grades: 6–8

Description: Set in Galilee during the Roman occupation, Daniel bar Jamin is a young Jewish man consumed by a burning hatred for the Romans who killed his parents. His life begins to shift when he encounters a compelling new teacher named Jesus of Nazareth, who preaches a radical message of love and forgiveness. This Newbery Medal winner is a powerful exploration of moving from vengeance to grace.



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Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (2014)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: Written in vivid, moving verse, the author shares what it was like growing up as an African American girl in the 1960s and 1970s amid the Civil Rights Movement. Woodson reflects on the stark differences between Ohio, South Carolina, and New York as she searched for her unique voice as a writer.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander (2014)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: Written entirely in dynamic verse, this fast-paced novel follows twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan Bell as they dominate the court. Off the court, however, their strong brotherly bond is deeply tested by a new relationship and their father's declining health.

The Door in the Wall by Marguerite de Angeli (1949) Grades: 4–7

Description: In 14th-century England, a young noble boy named Robin is paralyzed by a sudden illness and abandoned by his servants during a plague outbreak. Rescued by a compassionate monk named Brother Luke, Robin is taken to a monastery where he learns patience, a trade, and the true meaning of fortitude and service to God. This Newbery winner beautifully illustrates the Catholic monastic tradition and finding one's spiritual purpose despite physical limitations.

The Eyes & the Impossible by Dave Eggers (2023) Grades 4–6

Description: Johannes is a free dog who lives in an urban park by the sea, serving as the "Eyes" for the park's three ancient bison elders. When major changes threaten his home, Johannes must run faster than ever to execute an impossible plan to save his animal friends.

The First State of Being by Erin Entrada Kelly (2024) Grades 4–7

Description: In the tense months leading up to the turn of the millennium in 1999, a twelve-year-old boy named Michael meets a mysterious teenager from the future who has accidentally traveled back in time. This speculative fiction novel beautifully explores the themes of anxiety, living in the present, and the power of unexpected friendships.

Flora & Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo (2013) Grades 3–6

Description: Flora is a self-proclaimed comic-book-loving cynic who rescues a regular squirrel from an unfortunate incident with a vacuum cleaner. To her surprise, the squirrel, whom she names Ulysses, develops superhero powers of flight, intelligence, and poetry, changing her cynical outlook on life forever.



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Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson (2022) Grades 5–8

Description: This lyrical historical novel follows two enslaved children, Homer and Ada, who escape from a plantation into the deep secrets of the Great Dismal Swamp. There, they discover Freewater, a thriving, secret community of formerly enslaved people where they must learn what it truly means to live free.

The Golden Goblet by Eloise Jarvis McGraw (1961) Grades: 5–8

Description: In ancient Egypt, Ranofer is a young boy who dreams of becoming a master goldsmith like his late father, but he is trapped as an apprentice to his cruel, abusive half-brother, Gebu. When Ranofer discovers a beautiful, stolen golden goblet in Gebu's possession, he realizes his brother is a tomb robber—the worst possible sin in their culture's religious beliefs. Ranofer must summon incredible courage, honesty, and moral rectitude to expose the crime and protect the sacred rest of the dead.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen (2002) **Grade Level:** Grades 5–8

Description: A new kid in Florida teams up with some unusual friends to save a group of tiny, endangered owls. Together, they try to stop a big restaurant company from building on the owls' homes.

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera (2021) Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: A young girl named Petra dreams of becoming a storyteller like her grandmother, but she must board a spaceship to escape an Earth threatened by a deadly comet. Centuries later, she wakes up to find she is the only person who remembers the past, making it her sole duty to keep human history alive through folklore.

Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller (2024) Grade Level: Grades 3–6

Description: Magnolia Wu is a ten-year-old "sock detective" determined to reunite lost laundry left behind at her parents' New York City laundromat with its rightful owners. Alongside her new best friend, she uses a pin map to track down neighbors, discovering vibrant community stories along the way.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo (2006)

Grades: 3–6

Description: Edward Tulane is a vain, cold-hearted china rabbit who is deeply loved by a young girl but is incapable of loving anyone in return. After being accidentally lost at sea, Edward goes on a decades-long, painful journey through the hands of various owners, suffering brokenness and loss that slowly opens his heart to empathy. The story serves as a profound, beautifully illustrated allegory for suffering, redemption, and the resilience of the human spirit.



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***New Kid* by Jerry Craft (2019) Grades 4–8**

Description: Seventh-grader Jordan Banks loves drawing cartoons, but his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its lack of diversity. This groundbreaking graphic novel explores Jordan's struggles to navigate his upscale school culture while staying true to his neighborhood roots.

***The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli* by Karina Yan Glaser (2025) Grades 4–7**

Description: This breathtaking novel weaves together a touch of magic with historical suspense across two parallel timelines: one in ancient China (731 CE) and another in New York's Chinatown (1931). Two courageous young protagonists embark on perilous journeys centuries apart to protect and save their families.

***Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (1997) Grades: 6–8+**

Description: Written in hauntingly beautiful free verse, this Newbery Medal winner follows fourteen-year-old Billie Jo Kelby as she struggles to survive on her family's failing wheat farm in Oklahoma during the height of the Dust Bowl. Amidst choking dust storms, economic ruin, and a devastating family tragedy, Billie Jo must find a way to harvest hope from the barren land.

***Serafina's Promise* by Ann E. Burg (2013)**

Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: (Novel in Verse) Living in a rural village outside Port-au-Prince, eleven-year-old Serafina dreams of going to school and becoming a doctor. Despite the immense obstacles of poverty and a devastating natural disaster, her fierce determination keeps her hope alive.

***Seven Riddles to Nowhere* (often stylized as *7 Riddles to Nowhere*)**

Author: A.J. Cattapan (Amy J. Cattapan)

Year of Publication: 2016

Recommended Ages: 10–14 years (Middle Grade / Grades 5–8)

Description: Seventh-grader Kameron Boyd is a selective mute who finally feels at home at St. Jude's, a small Catholic school. When the school faces sudden financial distress, Kam learns he is one of several potential heirs to a massive fortune left by a quirky benefactor. To win the inheritance, Kam and his friends must outsmart the school bully and solve a series of seven complex riddles. Their quest turns into a high-stakes scavenger hunt across the city of Chicago, forcing them to visit real, historic churches to decipher hidden theological and historical meanings embedded within the sacred artwork, statues, and architecture.



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A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park (2001) **Grades:** 5–8

Description: Tree-ear is an orphaned boy living under a bridge in a 12th-century Korean pottery village, fascinated by the master potter Min. When Tree-ear accidentally breaks one of Min's delicate pieces, he volunteers to work for the grueling master to pay off his debt, eventually embarking on a dangerous journey to the royal court to show Min's work to the Emperor.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (2000) **Grade Level:** Grades 6–9

Description: A unique, free-spirited girl named Stargirl shakes up a boring high school by always being herself. At first, everyone loves her, but soon they turn on her for being too different.

The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story by Daniel Nayeri (2025)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: Set in the shadow of World War II, two orphaned siblings must embark on a treacherous trek across the rugged mountains of Iran to survive. This deeply moving novel explores profound themes of providence, finding a common human language in a fractured world, and the enduring power of sacrificial love.

The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly (1928) **Grades:** 5–8

Description: Set in 15th-century Poland, this historical adventure follows Joseph Charnetski, a young boy whose family is guarding a mysterious, priceless pumpkin-sized diamond targeted by thieves and alchemists. Joseph's father takes a job as the night trumpeter at the Church of Our Lady Mary in Krakow, where the family must rely on their deep Catholic faith and courage to fulfill a sacred oath. This Newbery Medal winner is a thrilling story of loyalty, piety, and historical devotion.

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead (2009)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: In 1970s New York City, sixth-grader Miranda begins receiving mysterious, anonymous notes that accurately predict the future. The sender claims they are trying to save a life, forcing Miranda to solve a puzzle that ties directly to her best friend and a tragic accident.

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller (2020)

Grade Level: Grades 3–6

Description: When Lily moves in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of Korean folklore appears, offering a bargain to cure her grandmother. Lily is forced to confront secret family history, unravel hidden stories, and find her own inner courage to save her family.



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A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (1962)

Grades: 5–8

Description: Meg Murry, her brilliant younger brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin embark on a cosmic journey across space and time to rescue Meg's missing scientist father. Guided by three eccentric celestial beings, they must confront a dark, menacing force threatening the universe.

The Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord (1984)

Grades: 3–6

Description: In 1947, ten-year-old Shirley Temple Wong arrives in Brooklyn, New York, from China, speaking no English and knowing nothing of American culture. She struggles terribly with isolation and identity until she discovers baseball, the Brooklyn Dodgers, and the inspiring courage of Jackie Robinson, which teaches her about resilience and belonging. It is a wonderful story for Catholic schools exploring the virtues of hospitality, welcoming the stranger, and the inherent dignity of every human being.



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VIII. Nonfiction

Alberto Salas Plays Paka Paka con la Papa by Sara Andrea Fajardo (2025)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 1–4

Description: This playful biography follows Peruvian scientist Alberto Salas, who dedicated his life to hunting down wild potatoes across South America. His critical mission protects biodiversity and saves unique species from extinction, proving that even a humble potato can help save the world.

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat (2020)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 4–8

Description: This gripping account details the harrowing 2018 rescue of twelve young Thai soccer players and their coach trapped deep inside a flooded cave system. It highlights the immense scientific engineering, international cooperation, and sheer luck required to pull off the miracle rescue.

From Farmworker to Astronaut / De campesino a astronauta

by José M. Hernández (2019)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–14)

Description: This inspiring bilingual autobiography details the incredible true journey of José M. Hernández, who went from working in the California crop fields as a migrant child to flying in outer space aboard the Space Shuttle. Through perseverance, family support, and an unwavering work ethic, he overcame countless rejections to achieve his ultimate dream. It is a powerful testament to grit and the belief that no dream is too high.

Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)

by Margot Lee Shetterly (2016)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 4–7

Description: This book recovers the true story of four African American female mathematicians—Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden—who worked at NASA. It details how they overcame racial and gender barriers to provide the crucial calculations that sent American astronauts into space.

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Fleming (2020)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 1–5

Description: Readers are taken on a close-up, dramatic journey tracking the brief, industrious 35-day life cycle of a single worker honeybee. The narrative details her essential duties, from cleaning the hive and nursing larvae to her triumphant first flight into the world to gather nectar.



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***Kids Who Rule* by Charis Cotter (2017)**

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 4–7

Description: This book tells the true stories of five famous kids from history who became kings or queens at a very young age. It shows how difficult and dangerous it was for children to hold so much power.

***Life After Whale: The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall* by Lynn Brunelle (2024)**

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 2–5

Description: When a massive whale passes away, its body sinks to the dark, barren ocean floor, creating a thriving biological oasis known as a "whale fall." This beautifully illustrated book details how a single whale can sustain deep-sea marine life for decades after its death.

***March: Book One* by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin (2013)** **Grade Level:** Grades 6–9

Description: This graphic novel autobiography gives a first-hand account of Congressman John Lewis's lifelong struggle for civil rights. It traces his youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.

***Rad American Women A-Z* by Kate Schatz (2015)** Grades 3–6

Description: Organized alphabetically, this book profiles 26 extraordinary American women who made significant impacts on history through art, science, politics, and activism. It highlights iconic figures alongside lesser-known trailblazers who fought for justice and equality.

***Saint John Paul II: The Boy Who Became Pope* by Fabiola Garza (2017)**

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 2–5

Description: This vibrantly illustrated biography follows the childhood of Karol Wojtyła as he grew up in Poland, navigating the loss of his family and the occupation of his country. It highlights how his early prayer life, love of theater, and deep faith laid the foundation for him to become one of the most beloved popes in Catholic history.

***Seen and Unseen: What Photographs Reveal About Japanese American Incarceration* by Elizabeth Partridge (2022)** Grades 5–8

Description: This historical work examines the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II through the lenses of three iconic photographers. It deeply analyzes what these images captured—and what the U.S. government tried to keep hidden—offering a powerful lesson on civil rights.



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The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers' Edition) by Daniel James Brown (2015)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: This inspiring true story follows nine working-class American boys from the University of Washington who beat elite teams to represent the U.S. at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. It highlights their incredible grit, synchronized teamwork, and determination to overcome adversity during the Great Depression.

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science

by Joyce Sidman (2018) Grades 5–8

Description: This biography highlights Maria Sibylla Merian, one of the first environmentalists to document the metamorphosis of butterflies in the 17th century. Her beautiful, precise scientific illustrations corrected major misconceptions of her time and laid the foundation for modern entomology.

Maximilian & the Mystery of the Guardian Angel by Xavier Garza (2023)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8 (Ages 10–13)

Description: Eleven-year-old Max is a massive fan of lucha libre (Mexican wrestling), but his world is turned upside down when he suspects his favorite wrestler, the Guardian Angel, might actually be his own uncle. This fast-paced, illustrated chapter book blends family secrets, superhero-style action, and bilingual text into a fun mystery. It perfectly captures the excitement of cultural traditions and growing up.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day (2023)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 4–8

Description: This fast-paced true-crime narrative details the bizarre 1911 theft of the *Mona Lisa* from the Louvre Museum in Paris. The book explains how the heist turned Leonardo da Vinci's painting into an international phenomenon and explores the early history of modern policing.

The Twin Heroes and the Magic of Song by David Bowles (2023)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8 (Ages 10–13)

Description: Drawing deeply from Mesoamerican mythology, this dynamic graphic novel follows the legendary Hero Twins as they embark on a dangerous quest to save humanity. Utilizing the power of music, magic, and their wits, they must outsmart the gods of the underworld in a high-stakes, action-packed adventure. The book brilliantly reimagines ancient folklore with modern visual storytelling for older elementary and middle school readers.



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The **"Who Was?"** series (officially known as the **Who HQ** series) is a massive, highly popular collection of illustrated biography and history books designed for young readers. Known for their distinctive "big head" cover art, these books make history, science, pop culture, and sports accessible and engaging by focusing on the lives of influential figures, major historical events (*"What Was?"*), and iconic places (*"Where Is?"*).

Target Grade & Reading Level: 3rd to 7th grade (typically ages 8–12).

Engaging Format: Each book is around 110 pages long, broken into short, fast-paced chapters.

Massive Variety: The series covers anyone from Albert Einstein and Marie Curie to Bruce Lee, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Malala Yousafzai.

For the **America250** semiquincentennial celebration—which marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—the *Who HQ* catalog offers an excellent selection of titles. These books are fantastic for helping young readers connect with the people, places, and events that shaped the nation's birth.

The Revolutionary Leaders (*Who Was?*)

These biographies focus on the prominent "Founding Fathers" and "Founding Mothers" who spearheaded the move toward independence:

- ***Who Was George Washington?*** – Follows his journey from a young surveyor to the commander of the Continental Army and the first president.
- ***Who Was Alexander Hamilton?*** – A highly popular title covering his life from the Caribbean to his role as Washington's aide-de-camp and first Secretary of the Treasury.
- ***Who Was Benjamin Franklin?*** – Explores his life as an inventor, diplomat to France, and key architect of the revolution.
- ***Who Was Thomas Jefferson?*** – Focuses on his life and his monumental task of drafting the Declaration of Independence.
- ***Who Was Abigail Adams?*** – Documents her role as a vital advisor to John Adams and her early advocacy for women's rights during the founding.
- ***Who Was Samuel Adams?*** – Covers the fiery leader of the Sons of Liberty and organizer of early colonial resistance.

The Pivotal Events (*What Was?*)

These titles dive into the specific conflicts, protests, and documents that defined the era:

- ***What Was the Boston Tea Party?*** – Explores the 1773 protest that acted as a major catalyst for the war.
- ***What Was the Continental Congress?*** – Explains how leaders from the 13 colonies came together to unite against Britain and govern the new nation.



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The Pivotal Events (continued)

- ***What Is the Declaration of Independence?*** – Looks closely at the document signed in 1776, breaking down why it was written and what its words mean today.
- ***What Is the Constitution?*** – A great follow-up that explains how the founders built the framework for the U.S. government after winning the war.

The Iconic Places (*Where Is?*)

For a geographical look at the Revolution, these books highlight the epicenters of early American history:

- ***Where Is Independence Hall?*** – Centers on the Philadelphia building where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were debated and signed.
- ***Where Is Valley Forge?*** – Details the brutal winter camp of 1777–1778 that tested the resolve of Washington’s army and shaped them into a unified fighting force.



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IX. Mythology

Black Ships Before Troy by Rosemary Sutcliffe (1993)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 5–8

Description: This is an easy-to-read retelling of the famous Trojan War from ancient Greek mythology. It features legendary heroes like Achilles and Odysseus, magical gods, and the trick with the giant wooden horse.

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (1962)

Grade Level: 2–5

Description: (Picture Book) This timeless classic introduces children to the gods, goddesses, and heroes of ancient Greece through beautiful, lithographic illustrations. The stories are written in a whimsical, engaging tone that makes complex mythology easily digestible for younger readers. It remains a foundational staple for any child's mythology collection.

D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths (1967)

Recommended Grade Level: Grades 3–6

Description: This book uses exciting stories and pictures to introduce the ancient Viking gods and monsters. It follows the adventures of characters like Thor, Odin, and Loki all the way to their final, epic battle.

The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton (Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon) (1985)

Grade Level: 3–6

Description: (Illustrated Anthology) This award-winning collection brings together twenty African American folktales, including animal myths, supernatural stories, and moving tales of freedom. Beautifully illustrated, the book preserves a rich cultural oral tradition with vibrant storytelling. It serves as an essential exploration of American mythology and resilience.



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X. Poetry

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman (2014) **Grades:** 6–8

Description: Veda is a young prodigy in India whose life revolves around classical dance, until an accident results in the amputation of her right leg below the knee. Refusing to give up her dream, Veda must find a new way to move, ultimately discovering a spiritual connection to dance that transcends physical perfection. It was an **ALA Notable Book** and won the **South Asia Book Award**.

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson (2020) **Grades:** 5–8

Description: This poignant novel-in-verse explores the close bond between twelve-year-old ZJ and his professional football player father, who is starting to experience severe memory loss and anger issues from concussions. Through gentle, moving poetry, it tackles the heartbreaking reality of medical trauma and the power of family and friendship. It was awarded the **Coretta Scott King Author Award**.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (2014) **Grades:** 5–8

Description: Written in deeply personal free-verse poetry, this memoir chronicles the author's childhood growing up in South Carolina and New York during the Civil Rights movement. Woodson reflects on the struggle to find her unique voice as a writer amidst the historical changes of the 1960s and 70s. It won the **National Book Award**, a **Newbery Honor**, and the **Coretta Scott King Author Award**.

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanh Hà Lại (2011)

Grades Recommended: 4–8

Description: Based on the author's childhood, this beautiful novel-in-verse follows ten-year-old Hà as she and her family flee Saigon during the Vietnam War and resettle in Alabama. Through sparse, impactful poetry, Hà describes the heartbreak of leaving her home, the sting of bigotry, and the triumph of learning a new language. It won the **National Book Award** and a **Newbery Honor**.

Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices

Author: Paul Fleischman

Year of Publication: 1988

Grades Recommended: 3–6

Description: This classic collection features beautifully rhythmic poems designed to be read aloud by two people simultaneously, with voices alternating and combining to mimic the sounds of insects. From crickets to honeybees, the poems give a booming, buzzing life to the natural world. It is one of the rare poetry collections to win the prestigious **Newbery Medal**.



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Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Poems

Author: Marilyn Singer (Illustrated by Josée Masse)

Year of Publication: 2010

Grades Recommended: 1–5

Description: This innovative collection introduces "reverso poems," which can be read from top to bottom and then bottom to top with a completely different meaning. Each pair of poems explores a classic fairy tale from two opposing perspectives, such as Cinderella vs. her stepsister. It was named an **ALA Notable Children's Book**.

Other Words for Home

Author: Jasmine Warga

Year of Publication: 2019

Grades Recommended: 4–8

Description: This emotionally resonant novel-in-verse follows a young Syrian girl named Jude who must leave her volatile hometown behind to move to Cincinnati with her mother. The poems beautifully capture the culture shock, the pain of leaving family behind, and Jude's journey toward finding her voice in an American middle school. It was recognized as a **Newbery Honor** book.

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets

Author: Kwame Alexander, with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth

Year of Publication: 2017

Grades Recommended: 2–5

Description: This gorgeous anthology features original poems written in the unique styles of twenty famed poets, including Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, and Robert Frost. Paired with vibrant, mixed-media collage illustrations, it serves as a powerful visual and lyrical introduction to the craft of poetry. It won the **Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award**.

Snow in May: Poems

Author: Kalli Dakos (2021)

Grades: 4–7

Description: This touching collection captures the everyday emotional landscape of a middle school classroom, tackling everything from the excitement of a snow day to the quiet anxiety of fitting in. Written from the perspective of students and teachers alike, it celebrates the unspoken bonds formed in school. It received widespread acclaim from the **Children's Book Council**.



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The Crossover

Author: Kwame Alexander (2014)

Grades Recommended: 4–7 (Upper Elementary/Middle)

Description: Written in fast-paced, rhythmic verse, this novel follows twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan as they navigate the highs of winning on the court and the lows of growing apart. When their father's health takes a devastating turn, the boys must learn what truly matters in life. It won the prestigious **Newbery Medal**.

The Door of No Return

Author: Kwame Alexander (2022)

Grades: 5–8

Description: Set in 1860 Ghana, this epic historical novel-in-verse centers on eleven-year-old Kofi, a boy who loves swimming, stories, and a girl named Ama. His peaceful life is shattered when a sudden tragedy drags him into the harrowing reality of the transatlantic slave trade. It was a massive critical success and an **NAACP Image Award** winner. It handles a heavy, tragic historical subject with immense grace, poetry, and respect for human dignity. Ideal for 7th or 8th-grade history integration.

The Undeclared

Author: Kwame Alexander (Illustrated by Kadir Nelson) (2019)

Grades Recommended: 1–5

Description: Originally written as a spoken-word poem, this moving book is a love letter to Black life, trauma, and resilience in the United States. It highlights the grit of famous historic figures alongside the unnamed heroes of the past. The book was a massive critical success, winning the **Caldecott Medal** and a **Newbery Honor**.

Where the Sidewalk Ends

Author: Shel Silverstein

Year of Publication: 1974

Grades Recommended: K–5

Description: This legendary collection of whimsical, humorous, and sometimes subversive poetry features Silverstein's iconic line drawings. From a boy who turns into a TV set to a girl who eats a whale, the poems celebrate the wild imagination of childhood. It is a staple of children's literature, winning the **ALA Notable Children's Book** designation.