

Great Reads for 4th & 5th grade!

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Because of Winn Dixie- Kate DiCamillo (F Dic)

Ten year old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

Frindle-Andrew Clements (F Cle)

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Flush-Carl Hiaasen (F Hia)

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

Homework Machine-Dan Gutman (F Gut)

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

Hoot-Carl Hiaasen (F Hia)

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Lawn Boy-Gary Paulsen (F Pau)

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

Mother Daughter Book Club-Heather Vogel Fredrick

No Talking -Andrew Clements (F Cle)

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

Out of my Mind-Sharon Draper

Rules-Cynthia Lord (F Lor)

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic.

Swindle –Gordon Korman (F Kor)

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the SmartPick fruit picker.

Wonder –R J Palacio (F Pal)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Fantasy

Among the Hidden-Margaret Peterson Haddix (F Had)

In a future where the "Population Police" enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong.

Artemis Fowl-Eoin Colfer (J Col)

When wealthy 12-year-old Artemis Fowl decides he wants something, he gets it. After he succeeds in copying the power-filled Fairy Book, the creatures of Lower Earth are led on an exciting mission that includes kidnapping, magic, and all kinds of danger.

Eragon-Christopher Paolini (J Pao)

In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.

Golly Whopper Games-Jody Feldman (Paperback)

Twelve year old Gil Goodsen competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling from Golly Toy and Game Company.

James and the Giant Peach-Roald Dahl (Misc)

How James escapes from his miserable life with two nasty aunts and becomes a hero to his new insect family, including Miss Spider, the Old-Green-Grasshopper, the Centipede (with his 21 pairs of gorgeous boots), is *Dahl-icious* fantasy at its best

Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe-

When Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy took their first steps into the world behind the magic wardrobe, little do they realise what adventures are about to unfold.

Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane- Kate DiCamillo (F Dic)

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Phantom Tollbooth-Norton Juster (Mystery)

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

Savvy-Ingrid Law (F Law)

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Spiderwick Chronicles-Tony

When the three Grace children -- Mallory, Jared, and Simon -- and their mom move into Aunt Lucinda's old house, readers know there's magic afoot. The kids uncover a nest of assembled junk, and on a visit to the secret library via the dumbwaiter, Jared finds a note describing "my secret to all mankind." After a few mysterious pranks that get blamed on Jared, the boy finally digs up the real prize: *Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You*.

A Tale Dark and Grimm-Adam Gidwitz (Misc)

Follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering such wicked creatures as witches, along with kindly strangers and other helpful folk. Based in part on the Grimms' fairy tales Faithful Johannes, Hansel and Gretel, The seven ravens, Brother and sister, The robber bridegroom, and The devil and his three golden hairs.

Mystery

39 Clues: Maze of Bones- Rick Riordan

The adventure begins when Amy and Dan's beloved aunt dies and reveals that there is a family fortune hidden and the first member of the family to find it gets to keep it. Amy and Dan begin a race against time as they travel the world trying to discover all 39 clues before their greedy family members. This is the first book in the 39 Clues series.

The Bad Beginning –Lemony Snicket (J Sni)

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune.

Chasing Vermeer-Blue Balliett (Mystery)

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Dork Diaries Series

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler- E L Konigsburg, (J Kon)

When suburban Claudia Kincaid decides to run away, she knows she doesn't just want to run from somewhere, she wants to run to somewhere — to a place that is comfortable, beautiful, and, preferably, elegant. She chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Knowing her younger brother Jamie has money and thus can help her with a serious cash-flow problem, she invites him along.

Humor

Sideways Stories from Wayside School-Louis Sachar (F Sac)

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

Joey Pigza Swallows the Key-Jack Gantos (F Gan)

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

Worst Years of my Life-James Patterson

Rafe Khatchadorian has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix. Luckily, he's got an ace plan for the best year ever, if only he can pull it off: With his best friend Leonardo the Silent awarding him points, Rafe tries to break every rule in his school's oppressive Code of Conduct. Chewing gum in class-5,000 points! Running in the hallway-10,000 points! Pulling the fire alarm-50,000 points! But when Rafe's game starts to catch up with him, he'll have to decide if winning is all that matters, or if he's finally ready to face the rules, bullies, and truths he's been avoiding.

Historical Fiction

Bridge to Terabithia- Katherine Patterson (F Pat)

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Cracker, the Best Dog in Vietnam-Cynthia Kadohata (J Kad)

A German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed.

The Great Brain-John D Fitzgerald (F Fit)

The best con man in the Midwest is only ten years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a silver-tongued genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkins boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day. Whether it's saving the kids at school, or helping out Peg-leg Andy, or Basil, the new kid at school, the Great Brain always manages to come out on top and line his pockets in the process.

Green Glass Sea-Ellen Klages (Hist Fiction paperback)

It is 1943, and 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is traveling west on a train to live with her scientist father--but no one will tell her exactly where he is. When she reaches Los Alamos, New Mexico, she learns why: he's working on a top secret government program.

Lions of Little Rock-Karen Levine (F Lev)

In 1958 Little Rock, Arkansas, painfully shy twelve-year-old Marlee sees her city and family divided over school integration, but her friendship with Liz, a new student, helps her find her voice and fight against racism.

Watson's go to Birmingham-1963-Christopher Paul Curtis (F Cur)

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

A Year Down Yonder-Richard Peck (F Pec)

During the recession of 1937, fifteen-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty, larger-than-life grandmother in rural Illinois and comes to a better understanding of this fearsome woman.

Adventure

Genuis Files-Dan Gutman

In eight days, Coke and Pepsi McDonald are going to turn thirteen. Before then, they'll jump off a cliff, get trapped in the locked basement of their burning school, chased cross-country by murderous lunatics, left for dead in the pit of a sand dune, forced to decipher mysterious coded messages, thrown into a giant vat of SPAM, and visit the world's largest . . . ball of twine. There's more, but if we told you here, we'd have to kill you.

Hatchet- Gary Paulsen (F Pau)

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Holes-Louis Sachar (F Sac)

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

I Q: Book 1 Independence Hall-Roland Smith

Thirteen-year-old Quest (Q for short) used to live with his mother, a singer, on a sailboat in Sausalito, California. Fifteen-year-old Angela lived with her father, a songwriter, in a loft in San Francisco. Now their parent are married and Q and Angela are on a luxury motor coach traveling around the country on tour with their parents' new band called Match. Their schoolwork for the year is a Web diary of their travels. Perfect... Q can practice his magic tricks and Angela can read her spy novels. What could go wrong?

Mostly True Adventures of Homer P Figg-W.R. Philbrick

Twelve year-old Homer, a poor but clever orphan, has extraordinary adventures after running away from his evil uncle to rescue his brother, who has been sold into service in the Civil War

Peak-Roland Smith (J Smi)

A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Silverfin:A James Bond Adventure-Charles Higson

This prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces us to the young James when he's just started boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.

Non Fiction

Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy US Marshall

Sitting tall in the saddle, with a wide-brimmed black hat and twin Colt pistols on his belt, Bass Reeves seemed bigger than life. As a U.S. Marshal - and former slave who escaped to freedom in the Indian Territories - Bass was cunning and fearless. When a lawbreaker heard Bass Reeves had his warrant, he knew it was the end of the trail, because Bass always got his man, dead or alive. He achieved all this in spite of whites who didn't like the notion of a black lawman.

Bomb: The Race To Build--and Steal--The World's Most Dangerous Weapon -Steve Sheinkin

Did you know the struggle to win World War II was not just fought on the battlefields, but in scientific research laboratories, too? This is the story of that research, from the discovery in 1938 that an atomic bomb – a super-weapon – was possible, to the detonation in 1945 of two of those bombs over Japanese cities. Espionage marked this research and followed it for years. This account of the science, politics, and international intrigue behind the development of the most destructive weapons in history is incredibly suspenseful. This is one history account you won't be able to put down!

Lincoln's Last Days-Bill O'Reilly

In the spring of 1865, President Abraham Lincoln travels through Washington, D.C., after finally winning America's bloody Civil War. In the midst of celebrations, Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theatre by a famous actor named John Wilkes Booth. What follows is a thrilling chase, ending with a fiery shoot-out and swift justice for the perpetrators.

***Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini* - Sid Fleischman**

Newbery award winning author Sid Fleischman began learning magic tricks as a child and grew up to become a professional magician who developed a friendship with Harry Houdini's widow. His biography of "the greatest magician of all time" offers an insider's view of the magician's world.

***Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* -Kadir Nelson**

This large volume is a history of African-Americans in The United States of America from the Revolution War times until the 1960's. Each of the twelve chapters begins with a large picture on the right and a quote under the title. The style of the text is sometimes conversational and is full of facts, dates, and information in an easy to read format. The illustrations are enormous and lush with Nelson's well-known talent for details and expression in his work. The illustrations complement each chapter and some of them are captivating two- page spreads. This 2012 Coretta Scott King Author award-winning book is sure to become a modern day classic of history for children.

***Marian Anderson*-Russell Freedman**

"A voice like yours," celebrated conductor Arturo Toscanini told contralto Marian Anderson, "is heard once in a hundred years." This insightful account of the great African American vocalist considers her life and musical career in the context of the history of civil rights in this country. Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other contemporary accounts, Russell Freedman shows readers a singer pursuing her art despite the social constraints that limited the careers of black performers in the 1920s and 1930s.

***Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*-Alan Schwartz (398.2 Sch)**

Stories of ghosts and witches, "jump" stories, scary songs, and modern-day scary stories.

***Street Through Time*-Steve Noon**

Castles, plagues, invasions, fires—all of this has happened on one street! Maybe these things happened on the street where you live too! Did someone once discover gold there? What if there was once a battle fought on that corner? How many people may have lived and walked and played on the very street where you live? With the help of a time machine, you can explore one street through 12,000 years! Look for Henry Hyde, a time traveler, who likes to hide on each set of pages. From stone-age farms to modern times, this street has secrets just waiting to be discovered...

Bomb:

Great Series

Percy Jackson (both the original and the Lost Hero)

Harry Potter -J K Rowling

Big Nate-Franklin Pierce

Dork Diaries-Rene Russell

Diary of a Wimpy Kid-Jeff Kinney

Classics that are rarely read

Nancy Drew

Little House Series