

Volume I No, 2 — June 2019 Edition

TO READ
is to Fly



Anne Hance

Addendum

A supplement to the 144 page “TO READ Is To Fly” which is an annotated bibliography of selected classic, award winning and new author *story books, novels, subscription magazines, and poetry* for all ages - children, teens, young and old adults - created to foster a love of reading and, through reading, a lifelong interest in science and nature and an understanding of the ways in which they affect our lives and, in turn, how our lives influence and change our world.

Flights of Fact and Fancy

Family reading;

Reading *stories and novels* to encounter science and nature motifs, concepts and ideas.

Supplemental classroom reading.

How is the paperback, published book different from the Addendum?

The addendum has the advantage of showing book cover images but apart from that the book is much more comprehensive and a fine resource.

“To Read Is To Fly” Book-Index

Introduction

Foreword
And About Reading
How are the Books Selected?
How are the Book Lists Arranged?

Books Listed by Category and Title

Book Descriptions

Early readers [1] (25 Titles)
Intermediate readers [2] (42 Titles)
Proficient readers [3] (56 Titles)
Advanced readers [4] (35 Titles)
Graphic Novels with Science in the Story (10 Titles)
Poetry Books of Nature and Science (10 Titles)
Play Scripts with Science as Part of the Plot (10 Titles)
Kids' Magazines Featuring Nature and Science (10 Titles)

Index of Titles

Index of Story Book and Novel Authors

Index of Overt or Integrated Topics

- a. Biology, Animals and Plants
- b. Ecology, Environment, Earth Science
- c. Math, Chemistry, Physics, Technology
- d. Space, Time Travel, Science Fiction, Science Thriller
- e. Discovering, Inventing, Problem Solving
- f. Adventuring, Exploring, Surviving
- g. Miscellaneous

Afterword
Books and Butterflies!
Caveat

to Read
is to Fly
Anne Hance



Addendum

www.toreadistofly.com

This is a living-list of books discovered after our To Read Is To Fly bibliography went to press. For a brief introduction to the "To Read Is To Fly" bibliography see www.3Dogsblog.com

Contact us at threedogspublishing@gmail.com or at 216 #25, F Street, Davis, CA 95616 USA

To READ Is To Fly is a 144-page annotated bibliography of selected classic, award winning and new author story books, novels, subscription magazines, and poetry for all ages - children, teens, young and old adults - created to foster a love of reading and, through reading, a lifelong interest in science and nature and an understanding of the ways in which they affect our lives and, in turn, how our lives influence and change our world.

Flights of Fact and Fancy

- Family reading;
- Reading *stories and novels* to encounter science and nature motifs, concepts and ideas.
- Supplemental classroom reading.

Some of the stories are based directly on science or on biographical memoirs of scientists and their work. Many of the stories are fiction-based-on-fact. Others are fictional stories that present behaviors and ways of questioning and problem solving typically used by scientists as they work.

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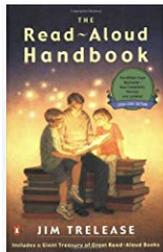
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Jottings

May 29, 2019 Jotting:

Yes, I have a passion for encouraging reading science and nature stories and novels for all ages but my basic passion is reading of all types and genres. Reading aloud to children and each other is a somewhat neglected activity. We do it infrequently as adults to each other and we stop reading to our children much too soon. Just because they can read does not mean they don't deserve to be read to. I like Trelease's book. Second-hand it cost me \$7. "Try it. You'll like it"!

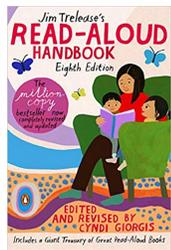
The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease (Published by Penguin Books)



(Left) This is the book I purchased a couple of weeks ago. It is the sixth edition of a book first published in 1982. Immensely popular with parents and teachers for more than 35 years it is more than a long list of books for reading aloud. It's also about the time that parents, teachers, and children spend together and the special effects of sharing that time with stories.



(Right) The 7th edition, published in 2013 is the one that is sold now.



(Left) Jim Trelease has retired! This new, updated version, due out September 2019 has been revised by Cindi Giorgis. Giorgis is a professor of children's and young adult literature and Director of Teacher Preparation in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University.

Trelease's book was originally self-published in 1979 as a 30 page book on reading aloud. In his retirement contemplations on the longevity of interest in his book Trelease says: "*Troubling now is the new breed among "anti-library" administrators who think books are outdated, especially novels ("after all, it's made-up stuff"). I actually had districts ask me not to dwell on fiction in my talks because 'most of the test material from the state is on informational text.' Lost on such people is the distinction between information and knowledge. As one writer put it, if all you need is information, then we could all be citizen heart surgeons.*"

Addendum Titles

Adult books on Reading, Books, and Storytelling

Reading Like a Writer by Francine Prose (2007);
A History of Reading by Alberto Manguel (2014);
A Reader on Reading by Alberto Manguel (2011);
Through the Magic Door by Arthur Conan Doyle (1907);
The Man Who Loved Books Too Much by Allison Hoover Bartlett (2010);
Daemon Voices: Essays on Storytelling by Philip Pullman (2017);
I'd Rather Be Reading by Anne Bogel (2018);
The Bookshop Book by Jen Campbell (2015);
The Book Addict: Stories of Bibliomania by David Christopher Lane (2016);
The Book: An Homage by Burkhard Spinnen (2018);
The Library at Night by Alberto Manguel (2009)
A Passion for Books by Harold Rabinowitz & Rob Kaplan (Editors), Ray Bradbury (Foreword) (2001)
The Library Book by Susan Orlean

[Many of the following books have Audible or audio versions available for an extra cost.
I have found the readings that I've listened to are very well done.]

Level [1] Early Readers

Early readers Ages 5-8, grades K-2 *Requiring developing/competent reading skills.*

Baby Scientist Series by Dr. Laura Gehl (April 2019)
Storm by Sam Usher (August 17, 2018)
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen (1962)
The Little Island by Margaret Wise Brown
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
James Herriot's Treasury For Children by James Herriot
Oh Say Can You Seed? by Bonnie Worth
Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner
Ladybug Girl's Day Out with Grandpa by Jacky Davis
Dazzle the Dinosaur by Marcus Pfister

Level [2] Intermediate Readers

Intermediate readers: Ages 8-12, grades 3-6 *Requiring good reading skills and some maturity.*

Extraordinary Birds by Sandy Stark McGuinnis (April 30th 2019)
The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell (2015)
A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry (May 2019)
Swoosh by Kurt Moehlmann (March 2019)
Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly (February, 2019)

The following five titles are included specifically because they are mysteries written in such a way that young readers can experience and learn from the questioning and problem-solving strategies that are representative of a type of thinking that is very relevant in science.

Basil of Baker Street by Eve Titus (Reissue edition 2016)
Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective by Donald J. Sobol (1963)
The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds by David A. Adler (2004)
The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene (1959; Reissue 2014)
Sherlock Academy by F. C. Shaw (©2009; 2015)

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (1719) Republished 2019 by Puffin books
Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Sophie Germain by Cheryl Bardoe
Green Was My Forest by Edna Iturralde
Abel's Island by William Steig
Li Lun: Lad of Courage by Carolyn Treffinger (1947)
A Home in the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown (2018)
They Say Blue by Jillian Tamaki (2018)
The Stuff of Stars by Marion Dane Bauer and Ekoa Holmes (2018)
Brambleheart by Henry Cole (2016)
Locomotive by Brian Floca (2013)
A Strange Case of Magic by Kenneth Oppel (1993, 2000)
Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech
Dolphin Adventure: A True Story by Wayne Grover
The Third Mushroom by Jennifer L. Holm
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty
Appleblossom the Possum by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Counting By 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by e.l. konigsberg
The Animals of Farthing Wood by Colin Dann

Level [3] Advanced Readers

Proficient readers: Ages 10-13, grades 4-7 Complex plots and themes requiring proficient reading skills and maturity.

Shelter: A Mickey Bolitar Novel by Harlan Coben (Sep 2011)
Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer John Grisham (2011)
Red Sails to Capri by Anne Weil (November 1952)
York: The Shadow Cipher by Laura Ruby (May 2017)
The Glass Sentence (The Mapmakers Trilogy) by S.E. Grove (June 2014)
The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (2009)
Minn of the Mississippi by Clancy Holling
Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas by Cheryl Bardoe
Rascal by Sterling North
A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader by Maria Popova
The Turn of the Tide by Rosanne Parry
Dry by Neal Shusterman & Jarrod Shusterman (2018)
Squirm by Carl Hiaasen (2018)
The Explorer by Katherine Rundell (2017)
The Sign Of The Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare (1983)
Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel (1997)
A Perilous Journey of Danger and Mayhem by Christopher Healy (2018)
Max Einstein: The Genius Experiment by James Patterson
Wishtree by Katharine Applegate
Dolphin Freedom by Wayne Grover
Mountain Born by Elizabeth Yates
Chasing at the Surface by Sharon Mentyka
His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
Gaia Girls by Lee Wells
Brian's Winter by Gary Paulson
Bevis: The Story of a Boy by Richard Jeffries
Brendon Chase by B.B. (Denys Watkins-Pitchford)

Level [4] Young Adult and Adult Readers

Advanced readers Adult and Young Adult stories generally suitable for ages 14 and up, grades 8 and up. Complicated plots and themes, demanding excellent reading skills

Cathedral of the Wild: An African Journey by Boyd Varty (2014)
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver
Guts by Gary Paulsen
The Science of Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials by Mary Gribbin and John Gribbin
Radioactive by Winifred Conkling
The Dun Cow Rib by John Lister-Kaye
The Hidden Half of Nature by David R. Montgomery
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

POETRY

Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems by Joyce Kilmer
Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS

[Note: The Lexile level of a book (shown for some titles) measures its reading level (length, complexity, vocabulary), not its subject content. The range extends from about 200L for a beginning reader and peaks at about 1,700L or greater for advanced readers.]

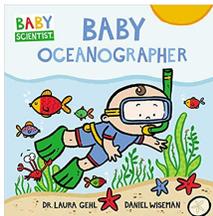
[!] Early Reader Stories

Baby Scientist Series by Dr. Laura Gehl (Author), Daniel Wiseman (Illustrator)

Age Range: interest 2-4 and up — independent reader 5-7 / Grade Level preschool and up / Picture Board-Book Fiction / Theme: Oceanography; Aeronautics ... [1]

Publisher: HarperFestival

The Baby Scientist story books bring fun, accessible science concepts to a baby's world using simple language, recognizable settings, and vibrant art. The author says, "The idea of this series is to show kids that scientific careers are fun, approachable, interesting, and relevant. Instead of wondering, "Could I be a scientist?" I want kids to wonder, "Which type of scientist should I be?" I want kids who read these books to grow up thinking, "Of course I could be a scientist! Why not???"

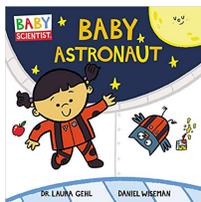


(Book 1. April 30, 2019)

Baby Oceanographer explores the oceans. With his snorkel and mask, he looks at the animals and plants under the sea.

What creatures are found deep down?

Are waves in the ocean like waves in the bathtub?



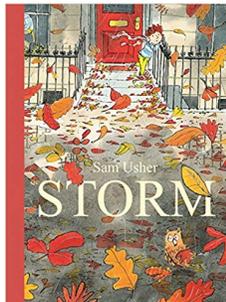
(Book 2. May 7, 2019)

Baby Astronaut explores the stars and planets in space. She wears her space suit and helmet and rides in a space craft.

Can ants live in space?

Can plants grow in space?

Storm by Sam Usher (August 17, 2018)



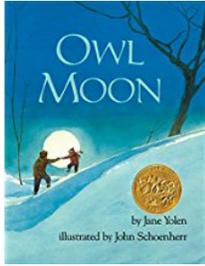
Age Range: interest 3-7 — independent reader 5-7 / Grade Level FreK-2 / Picture Book Fiction / Theme: Weather - Storm / 40 pages [1]

(Seasons with Granddad series)

A storm is brewing and the wind is picking up, so a boy and his grandfather decide it's the perfect weather for kite flying. There's just one problem: they have to find the kite! Their search brings up many wonderful memories of previous adventures together, and when they finally make it outside, their adventure really takes off trailing along after the kite as the blustery day evolves into a fully fledged storm.

"Throughout, Usher's watercolor-and-ink illustrations adopt a style similar to Quentin Blake's, and his shifting use of color, light, and shadow evokes excitement, peril, and finally the safety and security of the kitchen with the storm raging outside. It's a gentle home-away-home story tied up with a cozy message delivered by Granddad at the end: "The best adventure is an adventure shared."

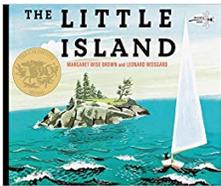
Owl Moon by Jane Yolen (1987)



Age Range: interest 3-7 — independent reader 5-7 / Grade Level Prek-2 / 630L / Fiction / Theme: Nature, Owls [1]

Winner of the 1988 Caldecott Medal. Late one winter night a little girl and her father go owling. Author Jane Yolen has created a gentle, poetic story that depicts the special companionship of a young child and her father as well as humankind's close relationship to the natural world. Complemented by John Schoenherr's soft, exquisite watercolor illustrations, this is a verbal and visual treasure, perfect for reading aloud.

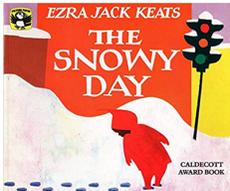
The Little Island by Margaret Wise Brown (Author), Leonard Weisgard (Illustrator) (1946)



Age Range: interest 3-7 — independent reader 5-7 / Grade Level Prek-1 / 590L / Fiction / Theme: Nature, Seasons / Dragonfly Books reissue 1993 [1]

Winner of the 1947 Caldecott Medal, this beautiful story centers around a tiny island and a curious kitten who comes to visit. As the seasons pass, the island and the creatures who call it home witness an ever-changing array of sights, smells, and sounds —proving that, no matter how small, we are all an important part of the world.

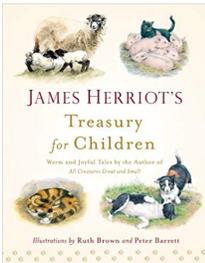
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats (1962)



Age Range: interest 2-5 — independent reader 4-6 / Grade Level Prek-K / 500L / Fiction / Theme: new snowfall / Reprint 1976 Picture Puffin [1]

Winner of the 1963 Caldecott Medal. There is minimal science or nature in this slim volume but Peter is intrigued by the snow. His curiosity is demonstrated in the simple images and text revealing a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever. The book is notable not only for its lovely artwork and tone, but also for its importance as a trailblazer. According to Horn Book magazine, The Snowy Day was the very first full-color picture book to feature a small black hero in an everyday life situation. In 2018 the US Post Office issued a set of four holiday stamps using illustrations from this book.

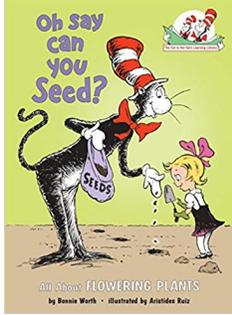
James Herriot's Treasury for Children by James Herriot (2014)



Age Range: 4 - 8 years / Grade Level: 1 – 2 and younger / fiction based on fact / Theme: Animal, Veterinary stories [1]

"James Herriot's Treasury for Children collects together the veterinarian's delightful tales for young readers illustrated by Peter Barrett and Ruth Brown. A delightful book for all readers, great and small. Herriot wrote his stories between 1974-1991. Herriot focuses not just on the animals, but on the people who lived with the animals, and their loving, sometimes difficult connections with one another. He did not start writing until the age of 50. In 1979, he was awarded the title Order of the British Empire (OBE) in honor of his body of work in literature about animals and people in farming communities in the British Yorkshire Dales.

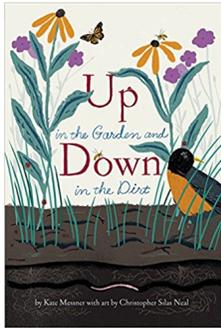
Oh Say Can You Seed? by Bonnie Worth (2001)



Age Range 4-8 / Grade Level PreK -3 / 650L / Fiction / Theme: Plant science [1]

The Seuss character The Cat in the Hat, with the able assistance of Thing 1 and Thing 2, examines the various parts of plants, seeds, and flowers; basic photosynthesis and pollination; and seed dispersal. The rhyming is not as smooth as the original Theodore Geisel but is satisfyingly similar. This is part of a series of books that take an off-beat look at nature and natural sciences through a fun combination of Seussian rhymes and zany illustrations. The story provides a foundation upon which complex facts and ideas can eventually be built.

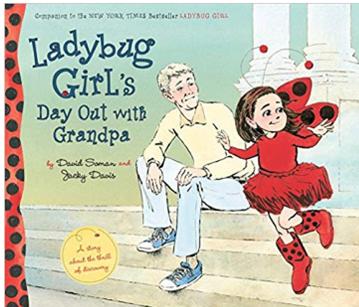
Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner (2017)



Age Range 5-8 / Grade Level 1-2 / Fiction / Theme: Nature in the garden. [1]

A companion to *Over and Under the Pond* and *Over and Under the Snow*, this is an exploration of the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year. Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home.

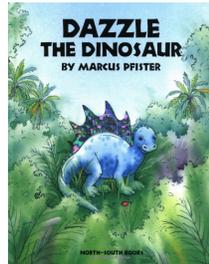
Ladybug Girl's Day Out with Grandpa by Jacky Davis (2017)



Age Range 3-5 years / Grade Level Preschool – Kindergarten / Fiction / Theme: natural history museum visit [1]

When Lulu and Grandpa visit the museum, Lulu wants to see it all! Grandpa suggests exploring bit by bit. Grandpa shows her something extra special: the butterfly room! Inside, Lulu slows down. She looks and listens. When a shining blue butterfly lands on her finger, she realizes that even if she can't learn everything in one day, she can learn so much from each moment, if she only takes the time.

Dazzle the Dinosaur by Marcus Pfister (1994)

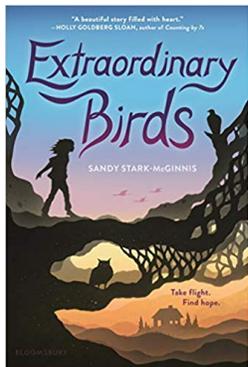


Age Range: 4–6 years / 640L / Fiction / Theme: Dinosaurs. [1]

A charming story with simple text readable by early readers with help on the dinosaur names. An important aspect of the book is that it clarifies the status of dinosaurs in fiction by noting that not everything that looks like a dinosaur is actually a dinosaur and that some stories are about imaginary dinosaurs.

[2] Intermediate Reader Stories

Extraordinary Birds by Sandy Stark McGuinnis (April 30th 2019)



Age Range: interest 7-and up — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / Fiction / Theme: Birds [2]

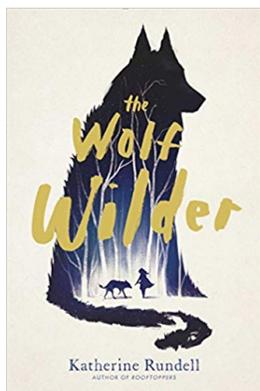
Publisher: Bloomsbury Children's Books

Eleven-year-old December knows everything about birds, and everything about getting kicked out of foster homes. All she has of her mom is the bird guide she left behind, and a message: "In flight is where you'll find me." December believes she's truly a bird, just waiting for the day she transforms. She imagines herself becoming a bird as a type of protection from heartbreak. She needs to be able to fly away when her heart is broken. The scar on her back is where her wings will sprout; she only needs to find the right tree and practice flying. When she's placed with foster mom Eleanor, who runs a taxidermy business and volunteers at a wildlife rescue,

December begins to see her life in a new light. Facts about birds are woven into the story organically and readers will learn about the science of flight and anatomy as well as the behavior and training of birds without hitting them over the head with learning experiences.

"Sandy Stark-McGinnis is a debut author and award-winning poet whose work has appeared in Quercus Review, In the Grove, and Penumbra. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Sandy lives with her husband and children in California, where she works as a fifth grade teacher. "

The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell (2015)



Age Range: interest 7 and up — independent reader 8-12/ Grade Level 4-7 / 640L / Fiction / Theme: Cross country adventure, Returning wolves to the wild [2]

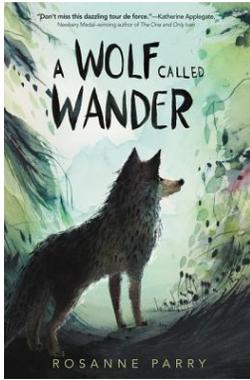
Feodora and her mother live in the snowbound woods of Russia. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder. She trains domesticated wolves to be able to fend for themselves in the wilderness of Russia. Feo is a wolf wilder in training. But not everyone is enamored with the wolves, or with the fact that Feo and her mother are turning them wild. When the active hostility of the Russian Army threatens her existence, and her mother is arrested, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run and learn from her wolves how to survive. What follows is a story of revolution and adventure, about standing up for the things you love and (sometimes literally) fighting

back. And, of course, wolves.

Katherine Rundell is the author of Rooftoppers, Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms (a Boston Globe–Horn Book Award winner), The Wolf Wilder, and The Explorer. She grew up in Zimbabwe, Brussels, and London, and is currently a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Philip Pullman, author of The Golden Compass, says: "A triumph! Exciting, moving, highly original, fierce, completely convincing. The world had better watch out. I don't really know what a cocked hat is, but you'll be knocking all the rest of us into one soon. I loved the characters, the speed, the force of it all."

A Wolf Called Wander by Rosanne Parry (May 2019)



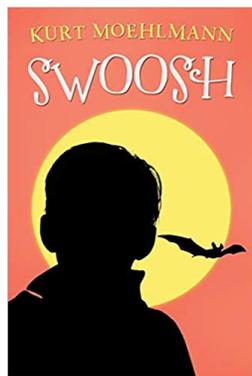
Age Range: interest 6yrs and up — independent reader 8-12yrs / Grade Level 3-7 / Fiction based on a true story / Theme: Nature, Wolves [2]
Greenwillow Books

Written from the point of view of a young wolf who is trying to find his way to a new home after his family is defeated by a rival wolf pack, the story provides insight into what it may be like to be a wild animal surviving on the edges of human civilization.

Inspired by the extraordinary true story of a wolf named OR-7 (or Journey), this tale is about family, courage, loyalty, and the natural world. It includes black-and-white illustrations throughout and a map as well as information about the real wolf who inspired the novel.

Swoosh by Kurt Moehlmann (March 2019)

Age Range: interest 6 and up — independent reader 7-10 / Grade Level 3-5 / Fiction / Theme: Bats [2]
110 pages; Balboa Press



Reflecting on the memories of bats being in his childhood home, Kurt Moehlmann was inspired to write this debut children's book.

The story will appeal to children and adults alike with its suspense, whimsy, awkwardness, and warmth. The premise, of a boy and a bat communicating telepathically, is balanced by real life issues like class stereotypes, crooked politics, and life lessons.

"Swoosh" is the first in a series. With his animal companion, the boy meets various life challenges and discovers how to solve them and grow with these experiences. He and the bat communicate so the boy can save the bat's colony from the effects of modern-day challenges. Through their dialogue, the boy learns skills and the universal lesson that one person can make a difference.

Moehlmann describes "Swoosh" as a magical and fun short read that will appeal to the imagination of young readers. He hopes readers learn that "By getting involved and following a passion, you can do something good." From the nature-science point of view the story would have been well served by some illustrations showing what bats look like.

Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly (February, 2019)

Age Range: interest 1-8 — independent reader 7-12/ Grade Level 3-7/ 800L / Fiction / Theme: Deafness; Whales [2]
320 pages; Delacorte Books for Young Readers

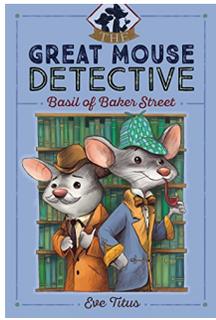


From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be.

When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's located off the coast of Alaska, nearly 3,000 miles from her Texas home.

How will she play her song for him?

Basil of Baker Street by Eve Titus (Reissue edition 2016)



Age Range: interest 5-9 — independent reader 6-9 / Grade Level 1-4 / 730L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery / 88 pages [2]

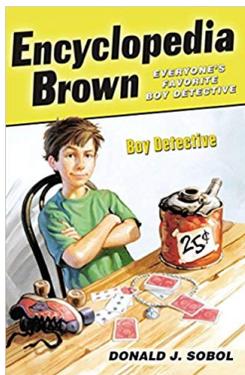
(Book 1 of 5. Series originally published from 1958 to 1982.)

Basil—the famous sleuth of mousedom—lives in the cellar of Sherlock Holmes’s house. A devoted admirer of the great detective, he has learned his craft by listening at the feet of Holmes himself. But will it be enough to help Basil solve his most baffling mystery yet?

The Mystery of the Missing Twins is one of the strangest cases in Basil’s career. With only a few crumbs of clues with which to find answers, how is he ever going to figure out where Angela and Agatha are being kept—and, of course, who mouse-napped them! Will Basil’s mouse sleuthing skills be up to the task of finding the twins before it’s too late?

Basil of Baker Street is a series of children's novels written by Eve Titus and illustrated by Paul Galdone. The stories focus on Basil of Baker Street and his personal biographer Doctor David Q. Dawson. Together they solve the many crimes and cases of the mouse world. Both live in Holmestead, a mouse community built in the cellar of 221B Baker Street, where Sherlock Holmes is a tenant upstairs.

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective by Donald J. Sobol (1963)



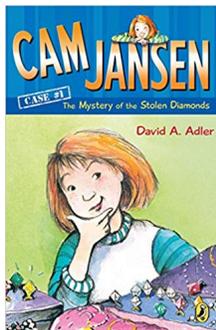
Age Range: interest 6-10 — independent reader 7-10 / Grade Level 3-5 / 590L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery / 88 pages [2]

(Book 1 of 29)

Leroy Brown, aka Encyclopedia Brown, is Idaville neighborhood’s ten-year-old star detective. With an uncanny knack for trivia, he solves mysteries for the neighborhood kids through his own detective agency. But his dad also happens to be the chief of the Idaville police department, and every night around the dinner table, Encyclopedia helps him solve his most baffling crimes. Each book in the Encyclopedia Brown mystery series is self-contained. The major characters, settings, etc. are introduced (or reintroduced) in each book. The books are subdivided into ten or more short stories, each of which presents a mystery. The mysteries are intended to

be solved by the reader, thanks to the placement of a logical or factual inconsistency somewhere within the text. Interactive and full of interesting bits of information.

The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds by David A. Adler (2004)



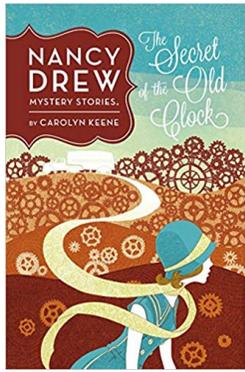
Age Range: interest 6-10 — independent reader 7-10 / Grade Level 2-4 / 590L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery 58 pages [2]

(Book 1 of 32. An early, chapter-book)

No mystery is too great for super-sleuth Cam Jansen and her amazing photographic memory! Can Cam help catch the diamond thief? Cam and her friend Eric are sitting at the mall when the jewelry store is robbed. Cam sees the thief, but the police arrest the wrong person. Now it's up to Cam to catch the real criminal! The Cam Jansen books are perfect for young readers who are making the transition to chapter books, and Cam is a spunky young heroine whom readers have loved for over two decades.

Fifth-grader Cam and her friend Eric use the clues around them to sleuth and solve, and to help people. The focus is on solving crimes, and no one in the books cares about the perpetrators or why they are such scoundrels. These formulaic books have simple sentences without challenging vocabulary, and are all about Cam Jansen and her amazing memory having fun while solving mysteries.

The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene (1959; Reissue 2014)



Age Range: interest 6-12 — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 3-6 / 760L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery / 180 pages [2]
(Nancy Drew Book 1)

Pictured is an 80th Anniversary Limited Edition

The Secret of the Old Clock is the first volume in the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories series written under the pseudonym Carolyn Keene. It was first published on April 28, 1930, and rewritten in 1959 by Harriet Stratemeyer Adams. *(In the Harriet Adams rewrite, Nancy is depicted as a less impulsive, less headstrong girl. Perceived racial stereotypes are omitted. Action is increased significantly and is faster-paced. Greater detail is given to develop Nancy and her home.)*

Nancy Drew is an 18-year-old high school graduate. Her father, Carson Drew, is a well-known criminal defense lawyer. The Drews reside in River Heights and employ a housekeeper, Hannah Gruen. In early editions, she is depicted as a mere servant; later in the series, she becomes more of a family member. Nancy Drew has to help Mr. Crowley's friends find his missing will, before the evil Topham family steals his full inheritance.

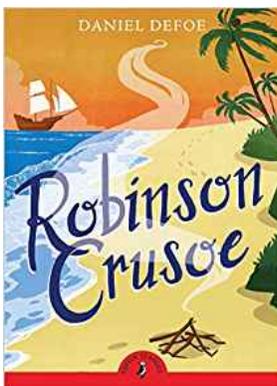
Sherlock Academy by F. C. Shaw (©2009; 2015)



Age Range: interest 8-12 — independent reader 9-12 / Grade Level 4-7 / 720L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery [2]
(Book 1 of 3)

Teachers in disguise, secret libraries, hollow books . . . All these and more await eleven-year-old Rollie Wilson at the mysterious Sherlock Academy of Fine Sleuths. When Rollie and his best friend, Cecily, are invited to attend a school where children learn the art of detection just like the great Sherlock Holmes, they discover a strange burglary has been committed and a mystery is afoot. Determined to investigate, Rollie discovers that appearances can be deceiving, the truth can be hurtful, and friends sometimes turn into foes. Does Rollie have what it takes to follow in Holmes's footsteps? Can he use his skills to solve the mystery and save the school from an unknown villain? *Sherlock Academy* is a mystery and detective story for young readers that takes place in the heart of London on the famous Baker Street.

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (1719) Republished 2019 by Puffin books



Age Range: interest 7-14 — independent reader 9-up / Grade Level 3-6 / Fiction / Theme: Desert island Survival / 288 pages [2]
Note: The pictured 2019 edition is lightly abridged, unillustrated version with somewhat simplified language.

The pictured version edited by Robin Waterfield is a 2019 Puffin edition celebrating the 300th anniversary of the story of Robinson Crusoe and has a new introduction from survivalist expert Bear Grylls.

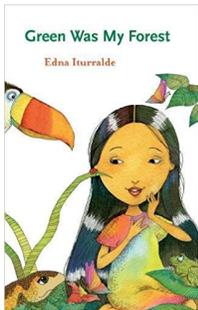
After surviving a terrible shipwreck, Robinson Crusoe discovers he is the only human on an island far from any shipping routes or rescue. At first he is devastated, but slowly he transforms his island into a tropical paradise. For twenty-four years he lives with no human companionship - until one fateful day, when he discovers he is not alone.

Daniel Defoe (c.1660-1731), one of the most famous writers in English literature, was born in London, the son of James Foe, a butcher. He was not a successful business man and became interested in

politics becoming a journalist writer on political issues and a satirical writer on various social issues of the time. He turned to full time writing after hearing the inspirational story of a sailor who was rescued after living alone on a desert island in the Pacific, the result being his first novel, Robinson Crusoe.

A reviewer writes, "According to Colin Wilson (in *A Criminal History of Mankind*) Defoe based the story on the adventures of a Scottish pirate named Alexander Selkirk who, following a quarrel with his pirate captain, asked to be marooned on what was then, one of the uninhabited islands of the Juan Fernandez group about 600 km off the coast of Chile in the South Pacific. After five years Selkirk return to England and became an overnight 'celebrity' and Defoe went to see him in Bristol in 1713 and probably paid for his written reminiscences."

Green Was My Forest by Edna Iturralde (2018) translated by Jessica Powell



Age Range: interest 6 and up — independent reader 8 and up / Grade Level 3– 6 and up / Fiction / Theme: Eco-Fiction, Environment, Anthropology [2]

Green Was My Forest is an illustrated collection of thirteen short stories, about each of Ecuador's six remaining Amazon indigenous groups, told from the point-of-view of the indigenous children themselves.

In simple language, the stories explore the native culture, customs and ancestral wisdom of the people living in the Ecuadorian Amazon, highlighting their collective love, respect and custodianship of the natural world.

These stories offer a rare perspective on these indigenous peoples whose culture and way of life are continuously being threatened by outsiders and the forces of modernization. After traveling to this little-known region and meeting the people who inhabit it, Iturralde studied their way of life, observed their culture, and then wrote these imaginative entertaining stories remaining faithful to the tribes and their world. Ecuadorian author,

Edna Iturralde, is considered the most important figure in children and young adult's literature in Latin America with nearly sixty published books. Three of her books have won the Skipping Stones International Book Prize, and five of her books won the International Latino Book Award.

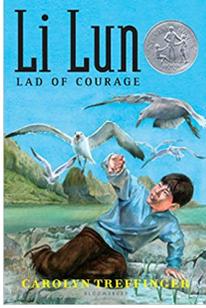
Abel's Island by William Steig (1977)



Age Range: interest 6-7 — independent reader 8-10 / Grade Level 3-6 / 920L / Fiction / Theme: Survival, Nature, Anthropomorphic Mouse [2]

A Newbery Honor Book. An engaging read-aloud for younger children, with a pleasant Audible version. Because Steig in the voice of the mouse Abel, is something of a self-styled intellectual, he cannot talk down to his audience, so the young reader will have to read up. In this Newbery Honor book Steig writes of a rather dandified mouse who shows true colors in a 'stranded on an island', survival tale as he comes head to head with nature. Abel is marooned on an island (about 12,000 tails long). He is sure that his rescue is imminent: But he is not so lucky. He busies himself with finding ways to get to shore (including bridges, boats, catapults, stepping stones, and gliders); figuring out what he should eat (everything from mulberries to roasted seeds); and investigating where he should take shelter (in a rotten log). As the mouse faces his new life Robinson Crusoe-style he discovers what it's like to be in tune with the natural world as well as his true nature.

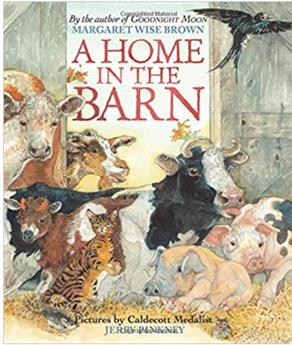
Li Lun : Lad of Courage by Carolyn Treffinger (1947)



Age Range: interest 6-12 — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / 720L / Fiction set in China / Theme: rice plants, survival [2]

Set in China, Li Lun tells the story of ten-year-old Li Lun who lives in the Village of Three Firs on Blue Shark Island off the coast of China. At age ten, Li Lun is supposed to make his first voyage on the fishing boat with his fisherman father. However, the boy is strangely afraid of sea water and refuses to go. His father calls him a coward and banishes him to the "Sorrow Mountain" or Lao Shan with seven grains of rice. Li Lun must plant the rice and grow seven times as many grains as he was given. He goes up the mountain to brave the gulls, the rats, the wind, the rain, the sun, and his own loneliness. From the wise man on Sorrow Mountain he learns that it will take him four moon changes or 120 days to grow the rice. Li Lun proves his courage as he fights the elements and his own loneliness to make his rice seedlings flourish where no one else has for generations. There are references to traditional Chinese beliefs in "spirits," but in general the story illustrates not only courage but also love, respect, adventure, hardship, and perseverance. The novel was a Newbery Honor recipient in 1948.

A Home in the Barn by Margaret Wise Brown (September 2018)



Age Range: interest 4-8 — independent reader 6-8 / Grade Level 1-3 / Picture Book Fiction / Theme: Farm Animals [2]

The comforting, snowy story of animals seeking shelter from the cold in a big warm barn brought to life by Caldecott Medalist and multiple award-winner Jerry Pinkney. This is perfect for wintertime readings.

A Reviewer's view: "As much as I respect Ms. Brown there just isn't any 'warmth' in her written words.....be prepared to make up your own words to describe what the animals are doing or feeling. Let the child use his/her imagination." *"Outside in the cold, hear the wind rattle, come to the barn, keep warm with the cattle..."*

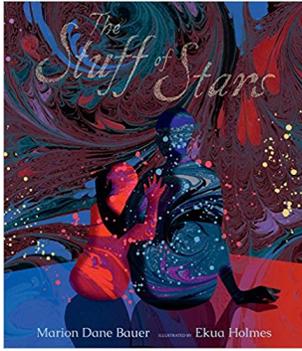
They Say Blue by Jillian Tamaki (March 13, 2018)



Age Range: interest 4-7 — independent reader 6-7 / Grade Level 1-3 / Picture Book Fiction / Theme: Color, Critical thinking [2]

Tamaki's picture book explores color and the seasons in a lyrical, philosophical way. A young girl contemplates things most assume as hard truths. "They say blue is the color of the sky....Which is true today! They say the sea is blue, too." But then she points out that it looks blue, but when she holds it in her hands "it's clear as glass." Then she wonders is a blue whale blue? She hasn't seen one. The pictures and thoughts will capture a child's imagination, mindfulness, and inquiry allowing opportunities for rich discussion. Large swathes of acrylic paint on top of inked illustrations bring energy, color, and light to each sensitively rendered moment. Tamaki uses a motif of the young girl with her arms raised throughout, radiant with joy whether she is playing in the ocean, shedding winter clothes, or imagining that she is the tree she watches outside her bedroom window. As her mother braids the child's hair, they watch crows and wonder together what they are thinking.

The Stuff of Stars by Newbery Honor winner Marion Dane Bauer author and Caldecott Honor winner Ekua Holmes Illustrator (September 2018)



Age Range: interest 4-8 — independent reader 6-8 / Grade Level K-3 / Picture Book Fiction / Theme: The Big Bang theory [2]

Carl Sagan’s famous quote, “We are made of star stuff,” is brought to life in this picture book. Before the universe was formed, before time and space existed, there was . . . nothing. But then . . . BANG! Stars caught fire and burned so long that they exploded, flinging stardust everywhere. And the ash of those stars turned into planets. Into our Earth. And into us. Vivid illustrations by Ekua Holmes capture the void before the Big Bang and the ensuing life that burst across galaxies. A seamless blend of science and art, this picture book reveals the composition of our world and beyond — and how we are all the stuff of stars.

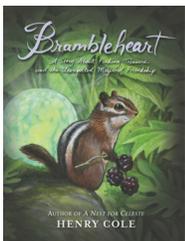
A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin (August 2018)



Age Range: interest 4-7 — independent reader 6-7 / Grade Level K-3 / Picture Book Fiction / Theme: Phases of the moon [2]

In this picture book Newbery Honor author Grace Lin creates a heartwarming original story that explains phases of the moon. In this tale, a little girl (Little Star) and her mother make a giant mooncake. Little Star cannot help but sneak and eat some of it each night. The mooncake, which begins full, slowly changes shape, diminishing a bit each night and evolving into the different crescent shapes of the moon. The warm bright golden moon, against the stark black page, leaves a lasting imprint on your memory.

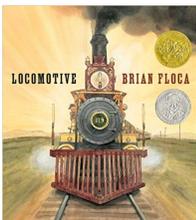
Brambleheart by Henry Cole (2016)



Age Range: interest 6-12 — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / 720L / Fiction / Theme: Animal Fantasy [2]

A tale about nature and imagination. Twig is a young chipmunk living with other rodents and small mammals on the Hill, which is made of discarded metal, plastic, and rubber. But the setting of the story is pastoral and abounds with golden sunlight, sweet-smelling earth, bird song, and bees in honeysuckle. In the Hill, animals work as Weavers, Smelters, and Carvers—but Twig doesn’t know who he wants to be. In his journey to discover his place in his world he and the reader both learn about metal craft as Twig eventually masters the techniques and creates his first successful project.

Locomotive by Brian Floca (2013)



Age Range: 4-10 / Grade Level: Preschool – 5 / 840L / Fiction based on non-fiction / Theme: Railways, Technology [2]

This Caldecott Medal winner story by Brian Floca uses nonrhyming stanzas highlighted by bold, detailed watercolors to tell the story of early American railways and rail travel through a family’s 1869 journey from Omaha to Sacramento via the newly completed Transcontinental Railroad. The unnamed family is a launching point for Floca’s exploration from crew responsibilities and machinery specifics to the sensory thrills of a bridge rumbling beneath and the wind blasting into your face. The illustrations are perfect for the youngest readers and the intelligent, informative text is suitable and interesting for older children. Opening and closing notes make this the book for young train enthusiasts.

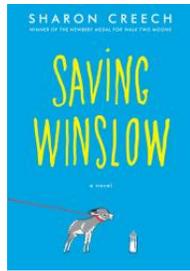
A Strange Case of Magic by Kenneth Oppel (1993, 2000)



Age Range 6-12 / Grade Level 2-5 / 560L / Fiction, Fantasy / Theme: Mystery, Invention [2]

Tina Quark has enlisted the help of her brother, Kevin, and Giles Barnes to locate some books for her at the library for her latest invention. Of course, they end up in the basement in a dusty old room, where no one would ever want to read these ancient tomes. While searching Giles sees books floating and Tina checks her trusty ghostometer but does not get a single ghostly reading. If not a ghost, then why are magic books floating? "It's just me" replies a voice and Barnes & The Brains now match science and wit to figure out how to help poor Mr. Kapoor, beginner magician who made himself invisible and can't reverse the spell. Another well-written, unique plot and highly recommended first chapter book from Oppel. Once they discover what is really going on, will Tina's science solve the problem, or will Barnes' more practical common-sense approach save the day

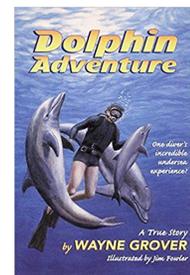
Saving Winslow by Sharon Creech (2018)



Age Range 8-12 years / Grade Level 3-7 / Fiction / Theme: Animal Care [2]. [2]

Saving Winslow is an uplifting modern classic about a young boy who befriends an ailing newborn donkey and nurses him back to health, from Newbery Medal winner Sharon Creech. Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures. So when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him. He names him Winslow. Everyone worries that Winslow won't survive but as Louie's bond with Winslow grows, surprising and life-altering events prove that this fragile donkey is stronger than anyone imagined.

Dolphin Adventure: A True Story by Wayne Grover (1990)



Age Range 9 and up / Grade Level 4-7 / 930L / Nonfiction narrative / Theme: Animal life, Dolphins [2]

Eighty feet below the ocean's surface, Wayne Grover hears a clicking sound. Soon he sees three dolphins--two adults and a baby--swimming toward him. A large fishing hook is embedded in the baby's back, and suddenly Wayne realizes that, in their own way, the dolphins are asking for his help.

The Third Mushroom by Jennifer L. Holm (2018)

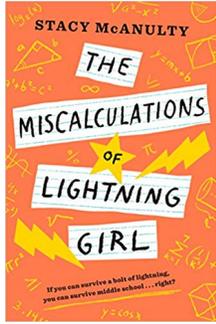


Age Range 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / 500L / Fiction / Theme: [2]

This is a sequel to the *New York Times* bestseller *The Fourteenth Goldfish*. A blend of science and art it is an engaging read with the message that failure is okay, and that experimentation is important. An Amazon review by Suzanne Amara innocently reveals the intent of all of the novels and stories included in *To Read Is To Fly* in her review comment, "There's a lot of science here However, the science is so well integrated into the story that you never get a feeling you are somehow secretly being taught under the guise of entertainment. ... I had not thought of the book as being focused on

science."

The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty (2018)



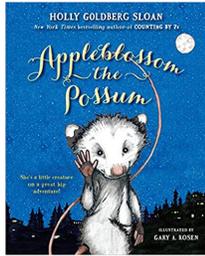
Age Range 8-12 years / Grade Level 3-7 / 530L / Fiction / Theme: Math [2]

Twelve-year-old Lucy, nicknamed Lightning Girl, has been homeschooled by her grandmother since she was eight; she's been a math genius ever since she was hit by lightning and survived. She also lives with OCD and has rituals that revolve around the number three. If she does not perform them, the numbers of Pi string out in her brain. "It's like getting a song stuck in your head. With Lucy's fun, funny fascination with numbers, even the most mathematical-averse reader will come away from this book with a new appreciation for and understanding of complex numerical concepts (but they'll never suspect, since this is accomplished with such a deft hand!). Stacy McAnulty

is a children's book author, who used to be a mechanical engineer

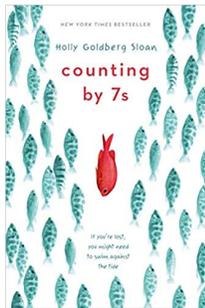
Appleblossom the Possum by Holly Goldberg Sloan (Author), Gary Rosen (Illustrator) (2016)

Age Range 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / Fiction / Theme: Animals, Possum [2]



With lively illustrations, and a glimpse at the world from a charming little marsupial's point of view, this cozy animal story is a perfect family or classroom read-aloud.

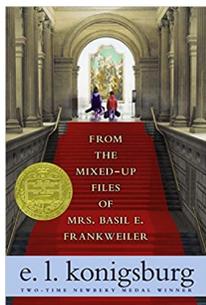
Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan (2014) Fiction



Age Range 10 and up / Grade level 5 and up / Fiction / 770L / [2]

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. This is an orphan-finds-a-home book with a truly multicultural cast. A charming read with plenty of science. (*Contar de 7 en 7* - Spanish Edition)

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by e.l. konigsberg (1968)

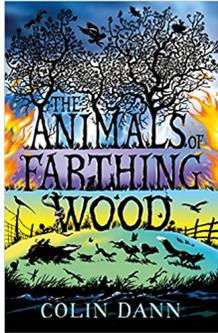


Age Range 8-12 / Grade Level 3-5 / 700L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery, Problem solving, Adventure. [2]

Claudia, nearly twelve years old, and her nine-year-old brother run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City where they settle in for several days. They find themselves caught up in the mystery of an angel statue and are determined to find out if it is an authentic Michelangelo. Won the annual Newbery for excellence in American children's literature in 1968

The Animals of Farthing Wood by Colin Dann (1979) (Egmont Modern Classics Paperback, 2016)

Age Range 7-11 / Grade Level 2-6 / Fiction / *Theme: Nature.* [2]

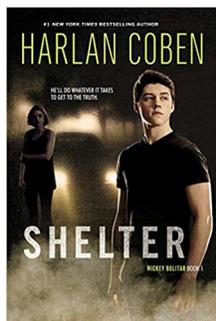


Farthing Wood is being bulldozed, and there's a drought. Fox, Badger, Toad, Tawny Owl, Mole, and the other animals must band together and set off to a far-away nature reserve. Their journey is full of adventure and fraught with disasters, and the animals must work together to survive. *The Animals of Farthing Wood* is one of the most popular animal stories in children's literature and is still in print 40 years after first publication.

A reviewer writes, "I often wondered where the stories of heroism, intelligence and good morals went. Luckily I happened upon this beloved story about how a group of very different forest animals are forced to work together and take care of one another, despite their individual faults and differences. This story not only teaches good morals, but also about strength, endurance, compassion and love for the animals in our forests."

[3] Proficient Reader Stories

Shelter: A Mickey Bolitar Novel by Harlan Coben (Sep 2011)



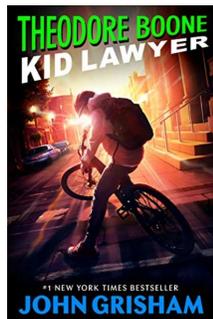
Age Range: interest 12 and up — independent reader 12 and up / Grade Level 7-12 / 530L / Mystery fiction thriller / Theme: Young adult thriller [3]
Series: A Mickey Bolitar Novel (Book 1)

First introduced to readers in Harlan Coben's adult novel, Live Wire, Mickey Bolitar is as quick-witted and clever as his uncle Myron, and eager to go to any length to save the people he cares about. With this new series, Coben introduces an entirely new generation of fans to the masterful plotting and wry humor that have made him an award-winning, internationally bestselling author.

Mickey Bolitar's year can't get much worse. After witnessing his father's death and sending his mom to rehab, he's forced to live with his estranged uncle Myron and switch high schools. Fortunately, he's met a great girl, Ashley, and it seems like things might finally be improving. But then Ashley vanishes. Mickey follows Ashley's trail into a seedy underworld that reveals that Ashley isn't who she claimed to be. And neither was Mickey's father. Soon Mickey learns about a conspiracy so shocking that it leaves him questioning everything about the life he thought he knew.

While Mickey's voice is occasionally too sophisticated for his age, and he's a little too good to be true, it doesn't make this thriller any less enjoyable. Coben's semi-noir style translates well to YA, and the supporting cast is thoroughly entertaining. It's a strong start to the series.

Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer John Grisham (2011)



Age Range: interest 8 and up — independent reader 10 to 15 / Grade Level 3-7 / 790L / Courtroom, Mystery Fiction / Theme: Young Adult courtroom drama [3]
Book 1 of 7 in the Theodore Boone Series

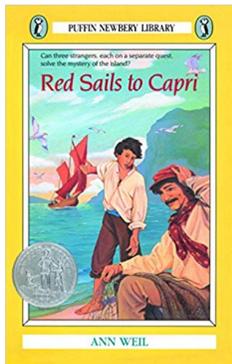
A thrilling young adult mystery series from internationally bestselling author John Grisham!

In the small city of Strattenburg, there are many lawyers, and though he's only thirteen years old, Theo Boone thinks he's one of them. Theo knows every judge, policeman, court clerk—and a lot about the law. He dreams of being a great trial lawyer, of a life in the courtroom.

But Theo finds himself in court much sooner than expected. Because he knows so much—maybe too much—he is suddenly dragged into the middle of a sensational murder trial. A cold-blooded killer is about to go free, and only Theo knows the truth. The stakes are high, but Theo won't stop until justice is served.

This is a series for middle schoolers or elementary school students with an advanced reading level. The content is somewhat mature. Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer, the first book, is about a murder trial and the suspect is a slimy man suspected of killing his wife. But the writing no more violent than most other books in this age group. There is good information about how the court system works, good common sense, and moral decision-making. This main character is an engaging role model for how kids should behave today.

Red Sails to Capri by Anne Weil (November 1952)



Age Range: interest 4-to adult— independent reader 9-12 / Grade Level 5-7 / 910L / Fiction / Theme: mystery adventure with philosophical overtones. [3]

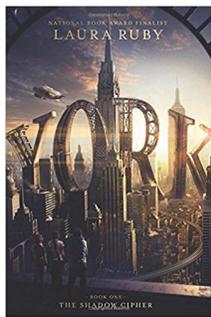
A 1953 Newbery Honor Book

Good for reading to first, through 4th graders.

Fourteen-year-old Michele Pagano lives in a mountainside village on the island of Capri, helping his family run an inn. One day, a ship with red sails arrives at the inn, and three travelers disembark. Each traveler has a different reason for visiting: one has come for adventure, one for beauty, and one for peace and quiet. It doesn't take long; however, for the visitors to get involved with a mystery behind a cove that the islanders are too afraid to speak of. An engaging story with mystery and adventure,

and rich characterizations in an exotic locale.

York: The Shadow Cipher by Laura Ruby (May 2017)



Age Range: interest 7and up — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 5-8 / 780L / Fiction / Theme: Alternate history mystery adventure [3]

Book 1 of 2 in the York Series.

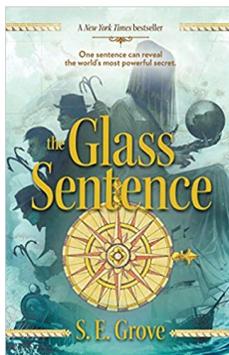
National Book Award finalist and Printz Award winner Laura Ruby has written an epic alternate history series about three kids who try to solve the greatest mystery of the modern world: a puzzle and treasure hunt laid into the very streets and buildings of New York City.

In an alternate present-day New York, three seventh graders embark on a citywide adventure as they attempt to solve a centuries-old cipher in order to save their home from real estate developers. In 1798 the Morningstars arrived in New York with a vision for a magnificent steampunkesque technology city: towering skyscrapers, dazzling machines, and winding train lines, all running on technology no one had ever seen before. Fifty-seven years later, the enigmatic architects disappeared, leaving behind for the people of New York the Old York Cipher—a puzzle laid into the shining city they constructed, at the end of which was promised a treasure beyond all imagining. By the present day, however, the puzzle has never been solved. Ruby juggles stunning plot choreography, realistic stakes in a captivating fantasy setting, well-wrought characters, and flashes of sharp cultural commentary

The Glass Sentence (The Mapmakers Trilogy) by S.E. Grove (June 2014)

Age Range: interest 10 and up — independent reader 12-and up / Grade Level 6-8 / 810L / Fantasy Fiction / Theme: [3]

Book 1 of 3 in the Mapmakers Trilogy Series



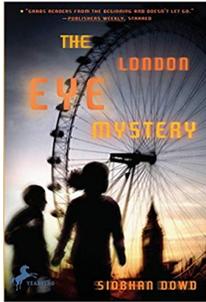
The story is set in Boston in 1891, but it's not simply historical fiction. Boston is the capital of New Occident, a country that formed when the Great Disruption tore apart time and space. The world has been sliced up, seemingly at random. In 1799, the Great Disruption threw all continents into different time periods with different eras coexisting in a chaotic mix and match of generations and historical periods. Europe is back to a papal state and parts of North America are pre-historical. Africa is a land of Pharaohs to the North whereas parts of Asia and South America are far into the future. In the Baldlands, past, present and future are dramatically fused into one single territory, the Triple Eras. Young Sophia Tims, from a family of explorers and cartologers who, for generations, have been traveling and mapping the New World, is living with her uncle, the Bostonian "cartologer" Shadrack Elli, when the local

legislature threatens to close New Occident's borders to all travelers without papers. Sophia is concerned

that her parents, who disappeared years earlier on some distant investigative task, will be barred from returning. Shadrack is kidnapped, his map collection ransacked, and Sophia joins forces with an unreliable Baldlands boy from a traveling circus. Together they embark upon a mad journey, by train and pirate ship, to what we know as Central America.

This story is complex; readers 12 and up are more likely to stick with it. Readers will enjoy Sophia, a smart, resourceful girl lead character, as well as the wild concept of memory maps

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (2009)



Age Range: interest 7-12 — independent reader 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / 640L / Fiction / Theme: Mystery / 322 pages [3]

Book 1 of 2 in the London Eye Mystery Series

The London Eye Mystery is a children's mystery novel by English author Siobhan Dowd. First published in 2007, it tells the story of how Ted, a boy with Asperger syndrome, and his sister Kat, solve the mystery of how their cousin, Salim, seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye

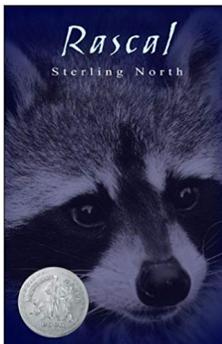
The family interactions are believable, if not always admirable.

Ted and Kat watched their cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and his older sister, Kat, become sleuthing partners, since the police are having no luck. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

*“Everything rings true here, the family relationships, the quirky connections of Ted’s mental circuitry, and, perhaps most surprising, the mystery.”—Booklist, Starred

* “The best mysteries have at their centers gifted but very human sleuths—their abilities balanced by equally significant flaws or idiosyncrasies. This one is no exception.”—The Horn Book Magazine, Starred

Rascal by Sterling North (1963)

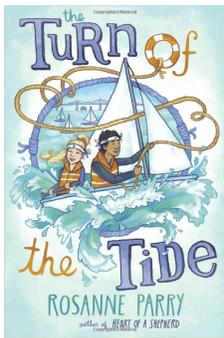


Age Range: interest 6 and up — independent reader 10 and up / Grade Level 3–7 and up / L1140 / Memoir, Fiction based on fact / Theme: Animals, Raccoon [3]

The content is accessible to the intermediate reader. The text might be challenging. The story is a true account of Sterling North’s adoption of a baby raccoon. He invests human characteristics in his furry hero, but without stretching credulity or sounding trite. Sterling kept the raccoon for a year but then, realizing that his pet is a wild animal and can no longer be kept. He travels for hours by canoe to release Rascal in the woods at the far side of nearby Lake Koshkonong.

A reviewer writes, “This book changed my life. It is truly a story for all ages and for all time. Sterling North clearly describes the Wisconsin that few of us have been lucky enough to experience. It is more than a story about a boy and his best friend. It is a story proving, indisputably the importance and necessity of maintaining and protecting our natural areas and wildlife. An effort inseparable from the quality of all life.” This is a Newbery Honor Book winner.

The Turn of the Tide by Rosanne Parry (2017)



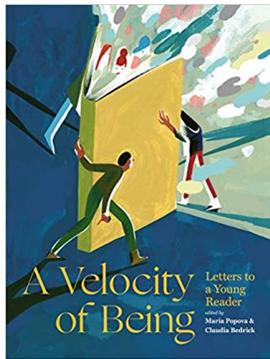
Age Range: interest 6-12 and up — independent reader 8 and up / Grade Level 3– 7 and up / L720 / Fiction / Theme: Tsunami, Boating [3]

An exciting and realistic story that tells about two cousins from separate worlds -Japan and Oregon, USA. - and the merging of two cultures wrapped in a nautical theme

“On a beautiful day in June, the ground broke open” are the first words in the story. In Japan, you’re always prepared for an earthquake. That’s why Kai knows what to do when the first rumbles shake the earth. But he does the exact opposite of what you’re supposed to do: He runs. And then the tsunami hits.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the Pacific, Kai’s cousin Jet sets sail off the coast of Astoria, Oregon. She knows she should have checked the tide—she *always* checks the tide. Except this time she didn’t. A reviewer writes, “This affecting work of realistic fiction is one to be savored—even by dedicated landlubbers.”

A Velocity of Being: Letters to A Young Reader by Maria Popova (December 2018)



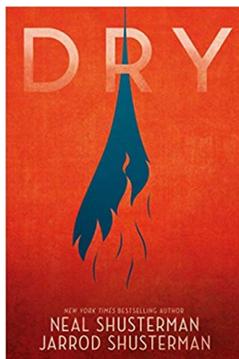
Age Range: interest 8 and up — independent reader 10 and up / Grade Level 4– 6 and up / Fiction / Theme: 121 Letters About Reading [3]

Published by Enchanted Lion Books

A treasury of thoughtful, quirky, heartfelt letters from notable writers and readers to the young reader. ... and for book lovers of any age. Some of today's culture-makers—writers, artists, scientists, entrepreneurs, and philosophers—reflect on the joys of reading, how books broaden and deepen human experience, and the ways in which the written word has formed their own character. Among the 121 contributions are letters from Jane Goodall, Neil Gaiman, Jerome Bruner, Ursula K. Le Guin, Judy Blume, Elizabeth Gilbert, and Jacqueline Woodson.

Everyone involved donated their time, and all profits will go to the New York Public Library systems.

Dry by Neal Shusterman & Jarrod Shusterman (October 2, 2018)



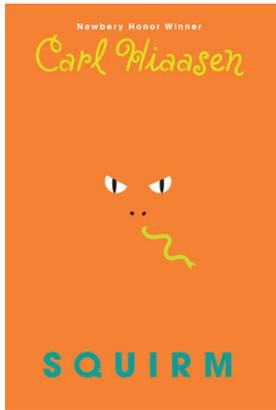
Age Range: 12 and up / Grade Level: 7-9 / Fiction / Theme: Catastrophic Drought, Survival [3]

A Barnes & Noble limited edition of Dry includes exclusive chapter-by-chapter commentary from Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman, providing background for characters and scenes and explanations of why they made specific decisions in writing this novel.

When the California drought escalates to catastrophic proportions, one teen is forced to make life and death decisions for her family in this harrowing story of survival. The drought—or the Tap-Out, as everyone calls it—has been going on for a while now.

Everyone’s lives have become an endless list of don’ts: don’t water the lawn, don’t fill up your pool, don’t take long showers —until the taps run dry. Suddenly, Alyssa’s quiet suburban street spirals into a warzone of desperation; neighbors and families turned against each other on the hunt for water.

Squirm by Carl Hiaasen (2018)

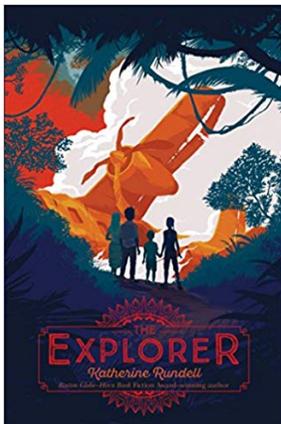


Age Range 8-12 / Grade Level 3-7 / 740L / Fiction / Theme: Eco-adventure [3]

A novel steeped in and celebrating the natural world, from panthers to swallows, and all the peril it contains involving snakes, grizzlies, a missing dad, and a menacing drone! Hiaasen’s ecological passion shows no sign of abatement, and neither does his faith in kid resourcefulness and family resilience. Hiaasen has written another wildlife-centered caper that is characteristically entertaining—and, genially improbable. The narrator, 13-year-old Billy Dickens, is a white, sarcastic outsider with a strong sense of justice and a deep affection for snakes. Billy’s mother, a bird lover, moves him and his older sister every few years so she can live within 15 minutes of an active eagle’s nest. In his search for the father

who left home when Billy was three he meets his father’s new wife and his stepsister, both members of the Crow Nation, and becomes involved in in his father’s dangerous attempts to protect wildlife from trophy hunters.

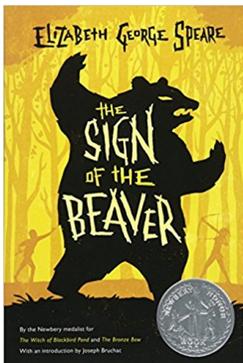
The Explorer By Katherine Rundell (2017)



Age Range: 8-12 / Grade Level: 3-7 / 600I / Fiction / Adventure, Survival [3]

Fred, Con, Lila, and Max are on their way back to England from Manaus when the small plane they’re on crashes in the Amazon, the pilot dies upon landing and the children must survive on their own. Then Fred finds a map that leads them to a ruined city, and to a secret. The author’s knowledge of the flora and fauna of the Amazon lends authenticity to the setting as the children experience both beauty and danger, pooling their own limited knowledge to build a fire, extract honey from a beehive, eat grub pancakes, watch cavorting pink dolphins, adopt a baby sloth, avoid treacherous piranhas and caimans, and face their fears and personal histories. Each character has a unique backstory and talent or special interest that contributes to his/her survival.

The Sign Of The Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare (1983)



Age Range 10-12 / Grade Level 5-7 / Fiction / Theme: Wilderness Survival, Frontier and Pioneer life [3]

Elizabeth George Speare’s Newbery Honor-winning survival story is filled with wonderful detail about living in the wilderness and the relationships that formed between settlers and natives in the 1700s. The idea for this book came from a factual story that Elizabeth George Speare discovered in Milo, Maine about a young boy who was left alone for a summer in the wilderness and was befriended by a Native American, named Attean, and his grandfather. The author has created a fictional telling of such a 13-year-old boy, Matt James Hallowell, and his father, who, as early settlers, together build a log cabin in the wilderness of 18th-century Maine in North

America. Matt is left alone to guard the cabin and his family’s claim to the land while his father heads back to Quincy, Massachusetts to pick up his mother, sister and their new baby and bring them back to the cabin. But his family seem to disappear and don’t return. The novel has been adapted into a television film titled Keeping the Promise.

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel (1997)

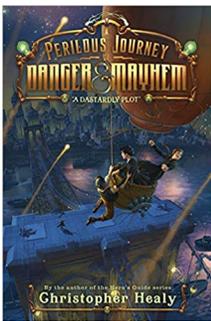


Age Range 8-12 / Grade level 6-8 / Fiction / Theme: Bats with human characteristics, Natural History, Adventure. [3]

Shade, a young Silverwing bat and the runt of his colony, wants to see the sun. He's determined to prove himself on the long, dangerous winter migration to Hibernaculum, millions of wingbeats to the south.

This epic journey is gripping, and details of bat life are inventively and convincingly imagined. As in *Watership Down* and other examples of this genre, the animals provide a conduit for their creator's social concerns. The story is replete with appealing characters, scary adversaries, bat lore, natural history, and unanswered questions.

A Perilous Journey of Danger and Mayhem (Book 1): A Dastardly Plot by Christopher Healy (2018)

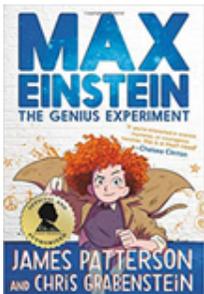


Age Range: 8-12 / Grade Level: 3-7 / Fiction / Theme: Adventure, Science, Invention. [3]

In this alternate-history adventure, set in 1883 New York City, Molly Pepper, daughter of brilliant but unknown inventor Cassandra Pepper, lives with her mother in New York. By day, they make ends meet running a pickle shop; but by night, they toil and dream of Cassandra taking her place among the most famous inventors in America. In 1883 New York. While trying to introduce her mother's flying machine to the men-only Inventors' Guild, twelve-year-old Molly uncovers a plot to destroy the World's Fair. Characters include creatively re-drawn famous scientist Inventors such as Thomas Bell and Alva

Edison. While Healy takes a few liberties with history, his inclusion of real inventors may inspire further reading about their lives and contributions.

Max Einstein: The Genius Experiment by James Patterson (2018)



Age Range: 8-12 / Grade Level: 3-9 / Fiction Series: Max Einstein (Book 1) / Hardcover: 352 pages / Publisher: jimmy patterson [3]

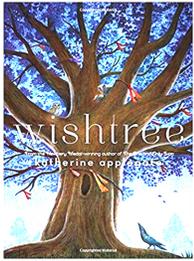
Max Einstein is not your typical genius. She hacks the computer system at NYU to attend classes, builds inventions to help the homeless, and talks to Albert Einstein! (Okay that's just in her imagination) But everything changes when Max is recruited by a mysterious organization! Their mission: solve some of the world's toughest problems using science. She's helped by a diverse group of young geniuses from around the globe as they invent new ways to power the farthest reaches of the planet. But that's only if the sinister outfit known only as The Corporation doesn't get to her first...

"Give this book to the future scientist in your life!"—Jennifer L. Holm, New York Times bestselling author of The Fourteenth Goldfish and three-time Newbery honor winner.

"Mix together these ingredients: a feisty heroine, a rambunctious plot, a nasty villain, and the notion that being smart is cool, and that working together across all sorts of barriers is even cooler, and you have this rollicking roller coaster of a book. You won't stop turning the pages!"—Gary D. Schmidt, author of Newbery Honor-winning The Wednesday Wars and National Book Award Finalist Okay for Now

James Patterson received the Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community from the National Book Foundation. A tireless champion of the power of books and reading, Patterson created a children's book imprint, JIMMY Patterson, whose mission is simple: "We want every kid who finishes a JIMMY Book to say, 'PLEASE GIVE ME ANOTHER BOOK.'" Patterson invests proceeds from the sales of JIMMY Patterson Books in pro-reading initiatives.

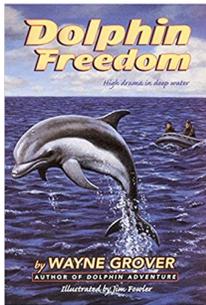
Wishtree by Katharine Applegate (2017)



Age Range 8-12 years / Grade Level 3-6 / 590L / Fiction / Theme: Ecology. [3].

Warm and thoughtful, this story is told from the perspective of a two hundred and sixteen rings old, ancient oak tree, a neighborhood “Wishtree” who has seen it all. people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Applegate gets readers rooting for the old tree, along with the people with wishes and the animals who come to shelter in it. The shorter length and strong plot are appealing for middle grade readers who are growing into novels with less illustrated narrative and more complex subject matter. Applegate is the author of *The One and Only Ivan*, winner of the Newbery Medal.

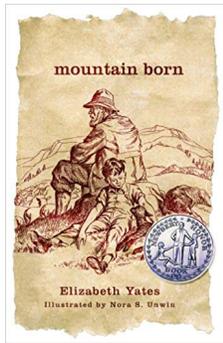
Dolphin Freedom by Wayne Grover (1990)



Age Range 9 and up / Grade Level: 4 – 7 / 850L / Fiction / Theme: Animal life, Dolphins [3]

In this third book of this marine adventure series of novels that began with the nonfiction *Dolphin Adventure* (1990) and continued in the fiction novel *Dolphin Treasure* (1996), diver Wayne Grover becomes involved in trying to save dolphins from being captured by an illegal poaching ring off the coast of Florida. Action and suspense combine with an informative account of dolphin life, and an environmentally aware message about the dangers of poaching. Grover includes many fascinating facts about dolphins, including their gentle nature and potential for human bonding, as well as the hazards of the flip side: how taming wild animals can have tragic repercussions.

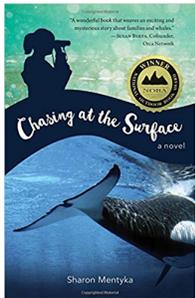
Mountain Born, by Elizabeth Yates (1943)



Age Range 9-12 / Grade Level 3-5 / 870L / Fiction / Theme: Animals, Sheep Farm Life. [3]

In *Mountain Born* Yates uses her experiences from her early years of living on her father's large farm and the hours spent with a New Hampshire shepherd in writing this fiction story about a young boy named Peter growing up on his family’s mountain farm. Wolves, weather, a black lamb, a trusty dog—all are part of Peter's life. Peter’s best friend is Benji, a wise old shepherd who teaches Peter how to take care of the sprightly black lamb that becomes his special pet. As the lamb grows into her place as leader of the flock, Peter grows too, learning the skills and joys of the shepherd’s life. *Mountain Born* is a Newbery Honor Book.

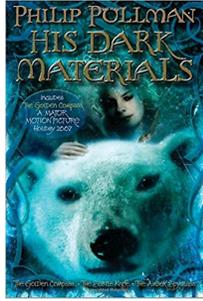
Chasing at the Surface by Sharon Mentyka (2016)



Age Range 8-12 / Grade Level 4-6 / 770L / Nonfiction narrative / Theme: Orcas, Whales [3]

Chasing at the Surface is a novel, and its characters and situations are fictional, the science behind the study of killer whales is authentic and the backstory is based on a true event that occurred in Dyes Inlet, a small estuary in Puget Sound, near Seattle, Washington. A poignant novel that celebrates the interconnected nature of all living creatures

His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman.



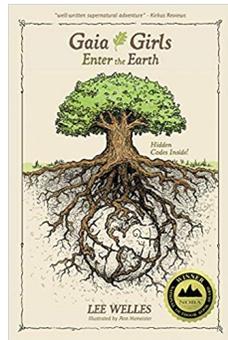
Young Adult and Adult / Fiction / Theme: Fantasy [3].

His Dark Materials is an epic trilogy of fantasy novels by *Philip Pullman* consisting of *Northern Lights* (1995) *The Subtle Knife* (1997), and *The Amber Spyglass* (2000). It follows two children, Lyra Belacqua and Will Parry, as they wander through a series of parallel universes. Pullman followed the trilogy with two shorter books set in the same universe, *Lyra's Oxford* (2003) and *Once Upon a Time in the North* (2008). *La Belle Sauvage* (2017) is the first book in a new trilogy, *The Book of Dust*

The Dark Materials trilogy has been named one of the top 100 novels of all time by Newsweek and one of the all-time greatest novels by Entertainment Weekly. He has also won many distinguished prizes, including the Carnegie Medal for *The Golden Compass* (and the reader-voted "Carnegie of Carnegies" for the best children's book of the past seventy years); the Whitbread (now Costa) Award for *The Amber Spyglass*; a Booker Prize long-list nomination (*The Amber Spyglass*); Parents' Choice Gold Awards (*The Subtle Knife* and *The Amber Spyglass*); and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, in honor of his body of work. In 2004, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The edition pictured above is a compilation of three thick books and has been printed with small-sized font text and thin paper in order for it to be portable.

Gaia Girls by Lee Wells (2006).



Age Range 9-13 / Grade Level 4-7 / Fiction / Theme: Conservation.[3]

Gaia Girls is a planned seven book series of children's books by Welles. It focuses on the dying earth, personified as Gaia, and girls with the powers to control the elements. *Enter the Earth* (2006) is the first book in the series. It is about Elizabeth Angier, a girl who has just finished the fourth grade, who finds out that Harmony Farms, a factory farming company, is trying to buy her family's farm in upstate New York. She must drive them away with her new powers from Gaia, the Earth's entity represented as a talking otter. Elizabeth has the ability to work with and command soil/trees/creatures in the soil. *Enter the Earth* features a total of 38 beautiful illustrations, and 36 of the illustrations have hidden codes in them. *Enter the Earth* has

won several awards, including the Independent Publisher Book Award for 2007. *Way of Water* (2007) is about Miho, a young girl whose parents died "lost at sea." She must move to Japan to live with an uncle she has never met before. She must use her powers given to her by Gaia to save her new dolphin friends and convince her uncle to stay and live by the sea in Goji. Miho is endowed with the power of water, air and fire. The book was a 2008 Nautilus Book Awards Gold Winner.

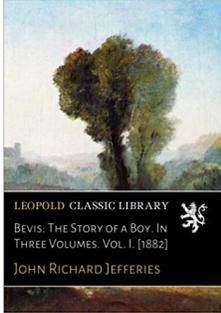
Brian's Winter by Gary Paulsen (1966)



Age Range 13 and up / 1140L / Fiction / Theme Wilderness survival. [3].

This book offers an alternate ending to Paulsen's previous book, *Hatchet*. In *Hatchet* 13-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. He was rescued at the end of the summer. *Brian's Winter* begins where *Hatchet* might have ended: Brian is not rescued, but must build on his survival skills to face his deadliest enemy--a northern winter.

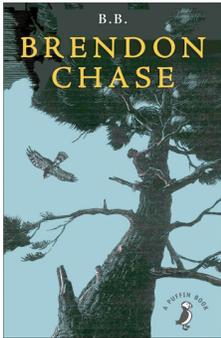
Bevis: The Story of a Boy by Richard Jeffries. Original copyright © 1923 (reissued in paperback 2018)



Age Range: 9-12. / Grade level: 4-6. Fiction / Theme: *Nature, Practical tool construction.* [3]

A tale of Bevis and his friends on and around a lake, and a story full of adventure and keen observation of nature and all its forms in a world unencumbered by adults for eleven days. There is great detail on all sorts of interesting subjects as the boys discover their secrets for themselves through trial and error: building a sailboat and learning to tack, building a working matchlock musket, an accurate sundial using the positions of the stars and the sun, and so on. Produced by Leopold Classic Library collections in three volumes; and also by Bibliobazaar with authentic reproductions of the text of this 1918 - 1923 book.

Brendon Chase by B.B. (Denys Watkins-Pitchford) Original Copyright ©1978 (1944)



Age Range: 9-12 years. / Grade level: 4-6 / Fiction / Theme: *Nature adventure.* [3]

Three brothers run away from home to live like Robin Hood deep in the forest of Brendon Chase in Warwickshire, England. They make their camp in an ancient oak tree loving the adventure and their wild surroundings. Also: *The Little Grey Men*, and *Down the Bright Stream*.

[4] Young Adult and Adult Stories

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens (2018) Fiction Novel / Young Adult, Adult / Theme: Natural history. [4]

An engrossing, original tale enfolded in an unforgettable, lyrical, portrayal of the natural history of the marsh land of North Carolina. (Yes, I'm biased. I loved the book.) For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl, has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is at once an ode to the natural world and a coming-of-age story. Delia Owens earned a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. in Animal Behavior from the University of California in Davis. She is the co-author of three internationally bestselling nonfiction books about her life as a wildlife scientist in Africa—*Cry of the Kalahari*, *The Eye of the Elephant*, and *Secrets of the Savanna*. She has won the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing and has been published in *Nature*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *The African Journal of Ecology*, and *International Wildlife*, among many others. *Where the Crawdads Sing* is her first novel.

Prodigal Summer by Barbara Kingsolver (2000) Fiction Novel / Young Adult, Adult/ Theme: Conservation [4]

Prodigal Summer weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives inhabiting the forested mountains and struggling small farms of southern Appalachia. At the heart of these intertwined narratives is a den of coyotes that have recently migrated into the region. Deanna Wolfe, a reclusive wildlife biologist, watches the forest from her outpost in an isolated mountain cabin. On a farm several miles down the mountain, a bookish city girl turned farmer's wife, finds herself unexpectedly marooned in a strange place where she must declare or lose her attachment to the land. And a few more miles down the road, a pair of elderly, feuding neighbors tend their respective farms and wrangle about God, pesticides, and the complexities of a world neither of them expected. Over the course of one humid summer, as the urge to procreate overtakes a green and profligate countryside, these characters find connections to one another and to the flora and fauna with which they necessarily share a place. Their discoveries are embedded inside countless intimate lessons of biology, the realities of small farming, and the final truth that humans are only a part of life on earth.

Guts by Gary Paulsen (2001) Nonfiction: Age Range 13 and up / Grade Level: 8 and up / 1230L [4]

Guess what -- Gary Paulsen was being kind to Brian. In *Guts*, Gary tells the real stories behind the Hatchet and the Brian books, the stories of the adventures that inspired him to write Brian Robeson's story: working as an emergency volunteer; the death that inspired the pilot's death in *Hatchet*; plane crashes he has seen and near-misses of his own. He describes how he made his own bows and arrows, and takes readers on his first hunting trips, showing the wonder and solace of nature along with his hilarious mishaps and mistakes. Readers may wonder how Gary Paulsen survived to write all of his books -- well, it took guts.

The Science of Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" by Mary Gribbin and John Gribbin (2007) Adult / Nonfiction / Theme: Physical science [4].

Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy is renowned for its mystery and magic. What's the truth behind it all? Drawing on string theory and space-time, quantum physics and chaos theory, award-winning science writers Mary and John Gribbin reveal the real science behind Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy in entertaining and crystal-clear prose.

Radioactive!: How Irène Curie and Lise Meitner Revolutionized Science and Changed the World by Winifred Conkling (2018) Non-fiction narrative / *Theme: Women in science, Science Discovery* [4]

Radioactive! presents the story of two women breaking ground in a male-dominated science field. They independently made crucial contributions to cutting-edge research. This is a nonfiction narrative that reads with the suspense of a thriller. Photographs and sidebars illuminate and clarify the science in the book.

The Dun Cow Rib by John Lister-Kaye (2017) Memoir / Young Adult and adult / *Theme Nature* [4]

A memoir *The Dun Cow Rib* is the story of a boy's awakening to the wonders of the natural world. Lister-Kaye's joyous childhood holidays - spent scrambling through hedges and ditches after birds and small beasts, keeping pigeons in the loft and tracking foxes around the edge of the garden.

The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health by David R. Montgomery (Author), Anne Biklé (Author) (2016) Nonfiction narrative / *Theme: Microbiology.*[4]

The Hidden Half of Nature reads like a fast-paced novel but tells the true story of the workings of microbes in the soil, and in our own bodies.

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder (2003) Nonfiction narrative / *Theme: Medicine.* [4]

Tracy Kidder's magnificent account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease. Thought-provoking and profoundly satisfying, this book will inspire feelings of humility, admiration, and disquietude; in some readers, it may sow the seeds of humanitarian activism.

* * * * *

Poetry

Flower Fairies by Cicely Mary Barker (1923) Poetry / Age Range 5-105/ Theme: Nature, Flowers.

These are tiny books (4.5" x 5.75") of beautiful art and poetry. A poem on each page describes characteristics of the flower it illustrates. New editions of Cicely Mary Barker's classic Flower Fairy books feature new cover designs but the books include the original classic poems and illustrations. Cicely Mary Barker (Author, Illustrator) was born in Croydon, South London in 1895. She found international acclaim as an artist with her delightful Flower Fairies books the first of which, *Flower Fairies of the Spring*, was printed in 1923. A complete collection, *The Complete Book of the Flower Fairies*, published in 2002 includes all of the well-loved illustrations and poems from Barker's eight original books, as well as a selection of fairy rhymes

Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems by Joyce Sidman (2005) — Poetry. Age Range 6-10 years and up.

School Library Journal: "An organic union of poetry and science, this book encourages readers to ponder the minutiae and magnificent life of the natural world. " From peepers to painted turtles, duckweed

to diving beetles—the animals and plants lead secret and fascinating lives. A unique blend of whimsy, science, poetry, and hand-colored woodcuts set in a colorful spread that includes a factual discussion of each featured subject. A Caldecott Honor-winning collection. Also by Sidman for same age levels: ***Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*** (2010) A 2011 Newbery Honor Book. Sidman continues her explorations of natural history in this set of poems about nocturnal life in the forest; ***Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold*** (2014) is about how animals stay alive in the wintertime and about their secret lives happening under the snow. All three of Sidman’s poetry books are charming and full of nature science.

The 144 page paperback book “To Read Is To Fly”, which includes many more titles and several very useful indices, is available on Amazon or from <http://www.3dogsbooks.com>

