

Notes on the Recommendations

This list is a compilation of personal recommendations from children's book experts at our local libraries, bookstores and EAP programs. Each was asked to recommend books by grade that were age appropriate for that grade but had a reading level of 2-4 grades above. Please note that the list from Barnes and Noble was not divided by grade; I added those divisions according to recommended age levels found in the book's web description.

This is just a list of suggested reading; none of the books are required by the EAP program.

2nd Grade

Recommended by Jane Morck, Third Place Books

***THE GREAT CAKE MYSTERY** by Alexander McCall Smith *A missing piece of cake from the classroom of a girl named Precious starts this exciting mystery.*

***NICK AND TESLA : HIGH-VOLTAGE DANGER LAB** by Pflugfelder *Sent to live with Uncle Newt, Nick and Tesla end up in a neighborhood full of secrets, mysteries, and an abandoned house. Simple household objects are the building materials for their arsenal of electromagnets, rocket launchers, etc., as they solve the great mysteries. This is the first of a series and includes directions for Nick and Tesla's projects!*

KEEPERS OF THE SCHOOL : WE THE CHILDREN by Andrew Clements *The kids snoop into the project where their beloved school is being bulldozed for a new amusement park. Money, power and a suspicious janitor surround this tale of kids saving a school.*

CINDERELLA SMITH by Stephanie Barden *Cinderella Smith is dismayed that her new teacher, Mr. Harrison, laughed at her name and seated her at the smart boys table. Her adventures often revolve about losing shoes; her red tap shoe she must have for her dance recital!*

Recommended by Barnes and Noble, Woodinville

FLY AWAY by Patricia MacLachlan

Recommended by David Ball, Children's Book Lead, University Book Store, Mill Creek branch

ALICE IN WONDERLAND AND THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS by Lewis Carroll *Future mathematicians fall in love with this book at a pretty young age.*

HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS by John Bellairs *This book is scary. Not graphic, but don't read it at night.*

Recommended by Mie-Mie Wu, King County Library System

MELONHEAD AND THE VEGALICIOUS DISASTER by Katy Kelly

THE AMBER CAT by Hilary McKay *second book in a series of books about a group of kids in a seaside town in England; I did not read the books in order and enjoyed them very much; main character's father has passed away before the first book starts. First book, Dog Friday, is a pretty slow read.*

THE FANTASTIC SECRET OF OWEN JESTER by Barbara O'Connor

THE PRINCE OF THE POND by Donna Jo Napoli

Recommended by Linda Mauer, King County Library System

MY FATHER'S DRAGON by Ruth Gannett

DEWEY THE LIBRARY CAT: A TRUE STORY by Vicki Myron

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE by Kate Dicamillo

Recommended by Stacey Robb, 2nd grade Bear Creek EAP teacher

SUMMER ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY by Betty G. Birney

Recommended by Thomas Crary Symons Jr., 2nd grade Shelton View EAP teacher

HENRY HUGGINS, HENRY AND BEEZUS, HENRY AND RIBSY, MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE, RUNAWAY RALPH, RALPH S. MOUSE by Beverly Cleary

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, FANTASTIC MR. FOX by Roald Dahl

ANASTASIA KRUPNICK by Lois Lowry

THE BAD BEGINNING by Lemony Snicket

3rd Grade

Recommended by Jane Morck, Third Place Books

***A TANGLE OF KNOTS** by Lisa Graff *Everyone has a special talent, and 11 year-old Cady's is baking the perfect cake for each person in the community. A strange man with a blue suitcase appears on the scene and threatens the talents of all! (Complete with Cady's cake recipes!)*

THE ELEPHANT IN THE GARDEN by Michael Morpurgo *It's World War II in Dresden, Germany, and Lizzie's mother, a zookeeper, brings home an elephant, Marlene, when the bombing of Dresden becomes very likely.*

PETER NIMBLE AND HIS FANTASTIC EYES by Jonathan Auxier *A 10 year-old blind orphan survives by stealing. One day he steals a mysterious box containing 3 pairs of magical eyes, and the adventure begins!*

THE HOBOKEN CHICKEN EMERGENCY by Daniel Pinkwater *Arthur Bobowitz, unable to find a turkey or any other bird for Thanksgiving dinner, brings home a 266 pound chicken, Henrietta. The product of a mad scientist's experiments, Henrietta becomes part of the family, and there is someone trying to nab her.*

SCHOOL OF FEAR by Daneshivari *The parents of 4 kids with extreme phobias have tried everything to cure their children. Now, the 4 are sent to a 6-week summer program guaranteed to cure any phobia, even Margaret (bugs), Theo (death), Lulu (confined spaces) and Garrison (deep water). Mrs. Wellington, head of this school, is scary enough to cure almost any phobia!*

Recommended by Barnes and Noble, Woodinville

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA by C. Lewis, Pauline Baynes (Illustrator)

FILE UNDER: 13 SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS by Lemony Snicket, Seth (Illustrator)

THE MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY (MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY SERIES #1) by Trenton Lee Stewart, Carson Ellis (Illustrator)

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH by Norton Juster, Jules Feiffer (Illustrator)

INKHEART (INKHEART TRILOGY #1) by Cornelia Funke, Anthea Bell (Translator)

THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET by Brian Selznick, Brian Selznick (Illustrator)

D'AULAIRES' BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS by Ingrid d'Aulaire, Edgar D'Aulaire (Joint Author)

WONDERSTRUCK by Brian Selznick, Brian Selznick (Illustrator)
FLORA AND ULYSSES: THE ILLUMINATED ADVENTURES by Kate DiCamillo, K. G. Campbell (Illustrator), K.G. Campbell (Illustrator)
THE BOUNDLESS by Kenneth Oppel, Jim Tierney (Illustrator)
ROOFTOPPERS by Katherine Rundell, Terry Fan (Illustrator)
FLIGHTS AND CHIMES AND MYSTERIOUS TIMES by Emma Trevayne, Glenn Thomas (Illustrator)
WONDER by R. J. Palacio
THE LUCK UGLIES by Paul Durham
WALK TWO MOONS by Sharon Creech

Recommended by David Ball, Children's Book Lead, University Book Store, Mill Creek branch

ROCKETSHIP GALILEO by Robert Heinlein *For those curious about how space travel looked to its pioneers.*
HEIST SOCIETY by Ally Carter *Fast, fun, kids working together - in Europe.*

Recommended by Mie-Mie Wu, King County Library System

ZOOBOTS by Helaine Becker
THE MUSIC OF DOLPHINS by Karen Hesse
KENSUKE'S KINGDOM by Michael Morpurgo *Note: boy stranded on island*
ALIENS ON VACATION by Clete Barrett Smith

Recommended by Linda Mauer, King County Library System

MRS. FRISBEE AND THE RATS OF NIMH by Robert O'Brien
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA by Katherine Paterson
WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS by Wilson Rawls
HACHIKO WAITS by Leslea Newman

Recommended by Christy Deer, 3rd grade Bear Creek EAP teacher

THE REPORT CARD by Andrew Clements
HOLES by Louis Sachar

Recommended by Sallie Hartman, 3rd grade Shelton View EAP teacher

"Newberry Award" Winning books (awards for Grade 3-6 level books)

Read Historical Fiction, with diverse heritage and Social Studies not having as strong a focus as the other subjects, students might receive help finding Historical Fiction to read to broaden their background

4th Grade

Recommended by Jane Morck, Third Place Books

***QUANTUM LEAGUE : SPELL ROBBERS** by Matthew Kirby *Ben and Peter are recruited for a science camp, where quantum physicist, Madeleine Hughes, shocks them with experiences of "actuation," changing reality by imagining it differently. The camp is invaded by mysterious men who want the physicist's secrets!*

ALIENS ON VACATION by Cleve Smith *Scrub is not thrilled to be shipped from his home in Florida to his grandmother's Washington state bed and breakfast for aliens. This intergalactic B & B is full of horrors and laughs, as Scrub helps to prevent the sheriff from closing down his grandmother's business.*

HOUSE OF POWER (BOOK 1 OF THE ATHERTON TRILOGY) by Patrick Carman *An alternate living space (after Earth has lost all of its resources) is caving in upon itself, and Edgar and Isabel are taking steps to finding a solution for the people of Atherton. Great characters and high adventure abound!*

THE FRIENDSHIP DOLL by Kirby Larsen *Miss Kanagawa is 1 of 58 life-sized dolls given to the United States by Japan in 1927. This tale follows Miss K. through the 1940's through the eyes of 4 very different girls. Wonderful characters people this tale of historical fiction.*

***ZANE AND THE HURRICANE** by Rodman Philbrick *Zane Dupree picks the worst possible time to meet his newly discovered grandmother in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina wreaks havoc in this exciting and heartfelt tale!*

Recommended by Barnes and Noble, Woodinville

CURIOSITY by Gary Blackwood

ICE WHALE by Jean George, John Hendrix (Illustrator)

Recommended by David Ball, Children's Book Lead, University Book Store, Mill Creek branch

GHOSTS I HAVE BEEN by Richard Peck *What if Huckleberry Finn had been a girl? With psychic powers?*

LOST IN THE BARRENS by Farley Mowat *The adventure novel to end all adventure novels.*

Recommended by Mie-Mie Wu, King County Library System

A BLACK HOLE IS NOT A HOLE by Carolyn DeCristofano

A TANGLE OF KNOTS by Lisa Graff

LOSER by Jerry Spinelli

ONE CAME HOME by Amy Timberlake

Recommended by Linda Mauer, King County Library System

THE TIGER RISING by Kate DiCamillo

WATERSHIP DOWN by Richard Adams

TALL STORY by Candy Goulay

Recommended by Jan Clements, 4th grade Shelton View EAP teacher

THE GIVER by Lois Lowry

A WRINKLE IN TIME by Madeleine L'Engle and the sequels (Wind in the Door, Swiftly Tilting Planet)

WONDER by R.J. Palacio

PETEY by Ben Mikaelson

THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH by Norton Juster

A TASTE OF BLACKBERRIES by Doris Buchanan Smith

5th Grade

Recommended by Jane Morck, Third Place Books

***UNDER THE EGG** by Laura Mary Fitzgerald *Theodora (Theo) Tenpenny is left with a crumbling New York townhouse and \$463, when her grandfather (Jack) dies unexpectedly. In following a clue Jack left for a "treasure," Theo dis covers a valuable painting, one that's been missing from the Metropolitan Art Museum for years. This art mystery will have you in great suspense and rooting for Theo!*

***EVER AFTER HIGH : THE STORYBOOK OF LEGENDS** *Every year these descendants of fairy tale characters have to sign a pledge to fulfill their destinies in the future generations of Snow Whites, etc.. Raven Queen and Apple White are in a battle which could result in Happily Never After!*

CHASING VERMEER by Blue Balliet *Petra and Calder attend a very non-traditional school in Chicago. They become involved in the disappearance of a famous Vermeer painting from the Chicago Art Museum. Very clever with plenty of math, art, philosophy, codes, mystery and suspense, this is an adventure from beginning to end!*

BECAUSE OF MR. TERUPT by Rob Buyea *One teacher changes everything in a 5th grade classroom, as the 7 narrators, each students in this class, will tell you very colorfully!*

RETURN TO SENDER by Julia Alvarez *Tyler's family has hired a Mexican family to help with their dairy farm in Vermont. Slowly, he becomes friends with Mari, the 12 year-old daughter of the migrant family. Conflicted by the idea of illegal immigrants, Tyler comes to realize how important this family is to his own family's survival!*

Recommended by Barnes and Noble, Woodinville

OUT OF MY MIND by Sharon M. Draper

THE NIGHT GARDENER by Jonathan Auxier

COUNTING BY 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan

THE GLASS SENTENCE by S. E. Grove

THE THICKETY: A PATH BEGINS by J. A. White, Andrea Offermann (Illustrator)

STORMBREAKER (ALEX RIDER SERIES #1) by Anthony Horowitz

STARDUST by Neil Gaiman

WEST OF THE MOON by Margi Preus

CHAINS by Laurie Anderson

THE THING ABOUT LUCK by Cynthia Kadohata, Julia Kuo (Illustrator)

A WRINKLE IN TIME (TIME QUINTET SERIES #1) by Madeleine L'Engle

Recommended by David Ball, Children's Book Lead, University Book Store, Mill Creek branch

RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA - Arthur C. Clarke *The universe is huge, mysterious, and waiting to be explored.*

WATERSHIP DOWN - Richard Adams *A book about nation-building. Oh, and rabbits.*

Recommended by Mie-Mie Wu, King County Library System

THE MISADVENTURES OF MAUDE MARCH by Audrey Coulombis

PERSEUS by Geraldine McCaughrean

BOMB!: THE RACE TO BUILD AND STEAL THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS WEAPON by Steve Sheinkin

THE SCHWA WAS HERE by Neal Shusterman *Note: use of words, d**n and j*****s*

Recommended by Linda Mauer, King County Library System

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS by Scott O'Dell

THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM by Nancy Framer

WAR HORSE by Michael Morpurgo

Recommended by Cathleen Draper, 5th/6th grade Bear Creek EAP teacher

<http://www.npr.org/2013/08/05/207953619/100-must-reads-for-kids-9-14-the-printable-list>

HOLES by Louis Sachar

6th Grade

Recommended by Jane Morck, Third Place Books

***COUNTING BY SEVENS** by Holly Goldberg Sloan *Willow Chance, expert in plants and medicine, enters public school for the first time (middle school) and soon finds herself, tragically, an orphan. Amazing wit and wisdom get Willow through this terrible time and give the readers a lot to laugh and think about!*

SAVING ZASHA by Randi Barrows *In rural Russian at the end of World War II two brothers, Nikolai and Mikhail, hide a gorgeous, smart German Shepherd and take great risks in doing so. This is a time when Russian soldiers raid private households to rid the country of anything German, even dogs. Zasha is everything to this small family.*

THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION by Nancy Farmer *It's a time when the rich and powerful live forever because of their clones. Matt, a clone, begins to figure out what's going on in this country of Opium, situated between what used to be the United States and Mexico. Full of adventure and danger, laced with rich characters and instances of discrimination, this story underlines the power of one determined boy, Matt!*

WEDNESDAY WARS by Gary Schmidt *It's 1967, and Holling Hoodhood (yes, that's his name!) is in the 7th grade. On Wednesday afternoons school is dismissed for religious instruction at the Catholic church or the Jewish synagogue, but Holling is Presbyterian and is the only student stuck at school with his English teacher, Mrs. Baker, who tricks him into loving Shakespeare. Funny and heartfelt throughout, readers love Holling!*

MISSISSIPPI TRIAL, 1955 by Chris Crow *Hiram spends his summer in Mississippi with his grandpa and meets Emmett Till (from Chicago), who is visiting family. Hiram is horrified to learn that Emmett is pulled from his bed, beaten and thrown into the river by the Ku Klux Klan. The trial offers cruel surprises in this riveting story based upon the true tale of Emmett Till's murder.*

Recommended by Barnes and Noble, Woodinville

THE BOOK THIEF by Markus Zusak

THE HOBBIT by J. Tolkien

THE RITHMATIST by Brandon Sanderson

MISTBORN by Brandon Sanderson

ENDER'S GAME (ENDER QUINTET #1) by Orson Card

**Recommended by David Ball, Children's Book Lead, University Book Store,
Mill Creek branch**

GODEL ESCHER BACH - Douglas Hofstadter *Warning: this is pretty advanced. A rewarding challenge.*

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD - Harper Lee *Deals with sophisticated issues, but through the eyes of a 3rd/4th grader.*

Recommended by Mie-Mie Wu, King County Library System

A STEP FROM HEAVEN by An Na

WEDNESDAY WARS by Gary Schmidt

COUNTING BY 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan *Note: parents die in car accident*

THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND by Jonathan Stroud

Recommended by Linda Mauer, King County Library System

WALK TWO MOONS by Sharon Creech

KIRA-KIRA by Cynthia Kadohata

WITHOUT TESS by Marcella Pixley

Recommended by Cathleen Draper, 5th/6th grade Bear Creek EAP teacher

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HOLES by Louis Sachar