



For Children in Grades K-1 reading at a 3rd Grade level

Here are 25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children's Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.



New for 2017-2018

***A New Class (Star Wars Jedi Academy #4)**

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Scholastic, 2016

Victor Starspeeder is psyched to be starting school at the Jedi Academy, but his sister, Christina, is horrified that her baby brother will be there to cramp her style.

Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine

by Laurie Wallmark

Illustrated by April Chu

Creston Books, 2015

This biography introduces young readers to the amazing Ada Byron Lovelace, creator of the world's first computer program.

Ada Twist, Scientist

by Andrea Beaty

Illustrated by David Roberts

Abrams, 2016

The story of Ada, a young scientist whose family embraces her passion for science despite some messy experiments.

***Anna Hibiscus**

by Atinuke

Illustrated by Lauren Tobia

Kane Miller, 2017

This charming book joyfully details Anna's life in contemporary Africa, while gently exploring social justice issues in a way sure to captivate young readers.

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings

by Douglas Florian

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007

Blast off into space with these poems about stars and planets!

***Detective Gordon: The First Case**

by Ulf Nilsson

Illustrated by Gitte Spee

Gecko, 2015

A chapter book mystery starring Detective Gordon, a toad searching for the thieves behind a stolen stash of nuts in a woodland setting.

Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths

by Marilyn Singer

Illustrated by Josee Masse

Dial Books for Young Readers /

Penguin, 2016

Mirror poems meant to be read backwards and forwards present two sides of classic Greek myths.

***Eyewitness Explorer: Bug Hunter**

by DK

DK, 2015

Interesting bug facts combined with up-close photographs and fun activities will pique young scientists' interests.

Frank and Lucky Get Schooled

by Lynne Rae Perkins

Greenwillow Books /

HarperCollins, 2016

Frank and his rescue dog Lucky experience learning in the "school" that is their neighborhood.

How We are Smart

by W. Nikola-Lisa

Illustrated by Sean Qualls

Lee and Low Books, 2009

Poetry, biography, and art combine to share the stories that highlight the different ways twelve individuals learn.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark

by Debby Levy

Illustrated by Elizabeth

Baddeley

Simon & Schuster, 2016

The first Jewish woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court, Ginsburg's life story and fight for equal rights for all is the subject of this biographical picture book.

***Juana & Lucas**

by Juana Medina

Candlewick Press, 2016

The series debut of Juana, a girl living in Colombia, and her dog Lucas. Ideal for fans of Judy Moody and Clarice Bean.

Mathematickles!

by Betsy Franco

Illustrated by Steven

Salerno

Margaret K. McElderry Books /

Simon & Schuster, 2003

A collection of seasonal poems that creatively incorporate mathematical language and concepts.

***Mighty Jack**

by Ben Hatke

First Second / Macmillan, 2016

What starts as a normal garden behind the house quickly grows up into a magical jungle with tiny onion babies, pumpkins that bite, and a dragon.

Pugs of the Frozen North

by Philip Reeve

Illustrated by Sarah

McIntyre

Random House Books for Young Readers, 2016

A step up from early chapter books, *Not-So-Impossible Tales* are packed with big adventure, quirky misfits, and lively art.

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos

by Deborah Helligman
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Roaring Brook Press /
Macmillan, 2013

A joyous biography of famed mathematician Paul Erdos.

The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk

by Jan Thornhill

Groundwood Books, 2016

This compelling book tells the true story behind the disappearance of the auk, a coldwater penguin-like bird that no longer exists.

Tiger Boy

by Mitali Parkins

Illustrated by Jamie Hogan

Charlesbridge, 2015

Acclaimed author Mitali Parkins crafts an adventure story about a young Bengali boy in search of an escaped tiger cub.

Toys Go Out

by Emily Jenkins

Illustrated by Paul Zelinsky

Yearling Books / Random House, 2008

A chapter book about the secret lives of stuffed animals.

Tricky Vic

by Greg Pizzoli

Viking Books for Young Readers / Penguin, 2015

A *New York Times* Book Review Best Illustrated Children's Book of 2015, this is the true story of the greatest conman of the early 20th century.

Trombone Shorty

by Troy Andrews

Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Abrams, 2015

The true story of a musician who bucked the odds to achieve his dreams.

Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank

by Paula Yoo

Illustrated by Jamil Akib

Lee and Low Books, 2014

The story of a Nobel Peace Prize winner who changed the lives of people in poverty through founding a micro-loans bank, making small but significant changes in the lives of millions of people.

Weekends with Max and His Dad

by Linda Urban

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015

Third-grader Max pursues neighborhood adventures with his dad as they both adjust to recent changes in their family.

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems

by Bob Raczka

Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2016

Raczka's quirky poems are fun and inspiring. They're sure to hook many young poets-who-just-don't-know-it!

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop

by Laban Carrick Hill
Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III

Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2013

The exciting story of DJ Kool Herc, who is credited with creating hip-hop music in New York City in the 1970s, told through rhythmic text and engaging illustrations.



For Children in Grades 2-3 reading at a 5th Grade level

Here are 25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children's Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.



New for 2017-2018

A Black Hole Is Not a Hole

by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano
Illustrated by Michael Carroll

Charlesbridge, 2012

What is a black hole? Where are they? How do you find one? A complicated concept is broken down for young readers.

***A Snicker of Magic**

by Natalie Lloyd

Scholastic, 2014

To stay in Midnight Gulch, Felicity must figure out how to bring back the magic, breaking the spell that's been cast over the town and her mother's broken heart.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

by Candace Fleming

Schwartz & Wade / Random House, 2011

A riveting look at the life, disappearance, and search for legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

Cars on Mars: Roving the Red Planet

by Alexandra Siy

Charlesbridge, 2009

Readers follow the course of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover mission as twin rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, explore the Red Planet.

Dash

by Kirby Larson

Scholastic, 2014

Dash tells the moving story of a Japanese-American girl who is separated from her dog upon being sent to an incarceration camp during WWII.

***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

by Chris Grabenstein

Yearling Books / Random House, 2014

Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library designed by famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello. However, he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project

by Dan Gutman

HarperCollins, 2016

Mysterious Miss Z sends four recruits back in time on a mission to capture, for the first time, one of the most important moments in American history -- Abraham Lincoln giving his famous Gettysburg address.

Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions of All Time

by Deborah Kespert

Thames and Hudson, 2015

Genius! tells the stories behind the amazing inventions that helped shape our modern world.

Mountain Dog

by Margarita Engle
Illustrated by Aleksey and Olga Ivanov

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers / Macmillan, 2013

A novel in verse is told from two points of view: troubled Tony and Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog who helps Tony learn about life in the wilderness.

National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems With Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!

by J. Patrick Lewis
Photographs by National Geographic

National Geographic Society, 2015

Poems based on a wide variety of nature topics, usually with a social studies or science connection.

Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy

by Karen Foxlee

Random House Children's Books, 2014

A modern-day fairy tale set in a mysterious museum that is perfect for readers of Roald Dahl and Blue Balliett.

Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse

by Leslie Bulion
Illustrated by Mike Lowery

Peachtree, 2015

Anatomy riddles with high-level vocabulary and a Shakespeare theme.

Raymie Nightingale

by Kate DiCamillo

Candlewick Press, 2016

Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo returns to her roots with a moving, masterful story of an unforgettable summer friendship.

Save Me a Seat
by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Scholastic, 2016

Two boys, one white, one Indian, gain strength from each other from afar as they struggle to navigate middle school, family, and friendships.

***Secret Coders**
by Gene Luen Yang
Illustrated by Mike Holmes

First Second / Macmillan, 2015

In this graphic novel, Hopper is a new student at the secretive Stately Academy. She and new friend Eni use the magic of coding to figure out what's been hidden and why.

Sisters Grimm
by Michael Buckley
Illustrated by Peter Ferguson

Abrams, 2007

Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead.

Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White
by Melissa Sweet

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

A fascinating biography explores the life and world of the writer of *Charlotte's Web* mixing pieces of his manuscripts with new illustrations.

The Dreamer
by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Illustrated by Peter Sis

Scholastic, 2010

A fictional biography of young poet Pablo Neruda, by Newbery Honor winner Pam Muñoz Ryan, and featuring illustrations by three-time Caldecott Honoree, Peter Sis.

The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend

by Sharon Robinson

Scholastic, 2016

Based on the true story of a young Jewish boy in Brooklyn whose hero, Jackie Robinson, moves in next door and becomes friends with him and his family, despite their differences.

***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy**

by Jeanne Birdsall

Knopf Books for Young Readers / Random House, 2005

This first novel by Jeanne Birdsall tells the story of four very modern sisters, spunky heroines and their summer holiday misadventures.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus

by Jen Bryant

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Eerdmans, 2014

The award-winning, illustrated story of Peter Roget, creator of the Thesaurus and lover of words and lists.

The Way Things Work Now

by David Macaulay

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

Clever illustrations and text explain how the technological wonders of the past and present work.

The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown

Little, Brown and Co. Books for Young Readers, 2016

Robot Roz is marooned on a desert island and becomes part of the wildlife family, but her new life is threatened when her creator discovers her new home.

What Elephants Know
by Eric Dinerstein

Disney-Hyperion, 2016

Author and renowned scientist Dr. Eric Dinerstein crafts an immersive, realistic world depicting the complexities of life in the Nepalese Borderlands during the 1970s and the delicate relationship between man and nature.

Wonderstruck
by Brian Selznick

Scholastic, 2011

Set fifty years apart in the 20s and 70s, two independent stories—Ben's told in words, Rose's in pictures—weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenge you, and leave you breathless with wonder.



for Children in Grades 4-5 reading at a 7th Grade level

Here are 25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children's Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.



New for 2017-2018

A Time to Dance
by Padma Venkatraman

Nancy Paulsen Books /
Penguin, 2014

Veda lives and breathes dance, until an accident shatters her dreams. This inspiring story, told through verse, recounts her struggle to regain her passion and find peace.

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"

by Michael O. Tunnell
Charlesbridge, 2010

A US Air Force pilot drops candy to the children of blockaded West Berlin at the end of the European conflict during World War II.

Earthrise: My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut
by Edgar Mitchell and Ellen Mahoney

Chicago Review Press, 2014

Recollections from the sixth man to ever walk on the Moon for young adult readers.

***Everland**
by Wendy Spinale

Scholastic, 2016

In a London destroyed by a blitz of bombs and disease, Gwen Darling and her siblings find safety with a daredevil boy named Pete and his gang of Lost Boys.

Falling Sideways
by Jordan Sonnenblick

Scholastic, 2016

When Claire's beloved father unexpectedly has a stroke in front of her, it changes everything.

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time

by Tanya Lee Stone

Wendy Lamb Books / Random House, 2016

A compelling collection of stories of girls around the world who pursue their education, despite efforts to keep them from attending school.

Gracefully Grayson
by Ami Polonsky

Disney-Hyperion, 2014

Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender's body, but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. Grayson's journey to self-discovery will move and inspire readers.

Hour of the Bees

by Lindsay Eagar

Candlewick Press, 2016

What does it mean to be fully alive? Magic blends with reality in a stunning coming-of-age novel about a girl, a grandfather, wanderlust, and reclaiming your roots.

Legends, Icons & Rebels: Music that Changed the World

by Robbie Robertson, et al.

Tundra Books, 2013

The lives of twenty-seven musicians are showcased in thoughtful biographies, gorgeous artwork, and CDs of their music.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers
by Steve Sheinkin

Scholastic, 2013

Learn how a counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95

by Phillip Hoose

FSG Books for Young Readers / Macmillan, 2012

National Book Award-winning author Phillip Hoose takes us around the hemisphere with the world's most celebrated shorebird.

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance
by Nikki Grimes

Bloomsbury USA, 2017

Using the Golden Shovel poetic form, Nikki Grimes shares classic poetry and her own poems to bring the Harlem Renaissance to life for young readers.

Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls

by Tonya Bolden

Abrams, 2017

A collection of sixteen mini-biographies of African-American trailblazers, brought to life with detailed histories and illustrations.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution

by Ji-li Jiang

HarperCollins, 1997

This accessible autobiography is the true story of one girl's determination to hold her family together during a terrifying era in Chinese history.

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story
by Caren Stelson

Lerner / Carolrhoda, 2016

In the aftermath of the bombing of her hometown of Nagasaki, survivor Sachiko Yasui seeks self-healing.

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune

by Pamela S. Turner
Illustrated by Gareth Hinds

Charlesbridge, 2016

This stylish graphic adaptation of the Bard's romantic tragedy offers modern touches and a diverse cast that underscores the story's universality.

Splendors and Glooms
by Laura Amy Schlitz

Candlewick Press, 2012

Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz brings her sorcery to a Victorian gothic thriller — an enthralling, darkly comic tale that would do Dickens proud.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Dial Books for Young Readers / Random House, 2016

The memoir of William Kamkwamba, who created a windmill to bring lighting to his family home in Malawi. A true story about ingenuity from a pioneering spirit.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog

by Adam Gidwitz

Illustrated by Hatem Aly

Dutton Children's Books / Random House, 2016

A medieval tale, told from multiple points of view, about three children with extraordinary gifts on an incredible journey.

The Lightning Queen
by Laura Resau

Scholastic, 2015

Inspired by true stories derived from rural Mexico, *The Lightning Queen* offers a glimpse of the encounter between the Rom and the Mixtec Indians, while telling the heart-warming story of an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

***The Ruins of Gorlan (The Ranger's Apprentice #1)**

by John Flanagan

Scholastic Inc., 2007

When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic

by Allan Wolf

Candlewick Press, 2013

The Titanic story told in verse through twenty-four distinct voices and extensive back matter, including coded messages to decipher and historical documents.

This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World
by Naomi Shihab Nye

Simon & Schuster, 1992

Poems by poets from sixty-eight countries, reflecting a wide variety of experiences.

Unidentified Suburban Object

by Mike Jung

Scholastic, 2016

A satirical but honest look at being both a bright, sensitive middle schooler, and a so-called "model-minority" in a decidedly not-diverse town... with a surprise twist!

We Will Not Be Silent
by Russell Freedman

Clarion / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

The true story of the White Rose student resistance movement that defied Nazi Germany.

"The READING BEYOND list celebrates the power of books to lift and expand children's minds, providing reading experiences beyond levels and limits."

- Susan Polos and Janet Wong, co-chairs of the ALA-CBC Joint Committee



These books were chosen from over 600 submitted for evaluation by the ALA member librarians of the committee and were chosen for their content, quality, and variety of genre and format.

We suggest the following sites for more book titles:

www.cbcbooks.org / www.ala.org

Questions? cbc.info@cbcbooks.org