



KSRA
Keystone State Reading Association

The Keystone State Reading Association has proclaimed April as
Families and Reading Month



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www.ksrapa.org



KEYSTONE STATE READING ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of
THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION



March 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The Keystone State Reading Association is committed to developing a love of reading in all children across Pennsylvania. To this end, KSRA will again promote April as Families and Reading Month throughout Pennsylvania to call attention to the importance of families reading together at home.

Parents are a child's first – and most important – teacher; their influence needs to be recognized and encouraged. Research has shown that children who come from homes where reading is valued usually become more successful readers. We need to continue to stress to parents their importance in developing their children's lifelong reading pattern.

We ask that you partner with KSRA to promote Families and Reading Month and to encourage reading at home during the month of April. If you decide to do so, we recommend the following procedure:

- Reproduce the enclosed age-appropriate materials.
- Encourage participation by asking families to read for a minimum of 15 minutes daily or complete some of the attached calendar's activities during April.
- Have the families return the calendar to you at the beginning of May.
- Award the Certificate of Achievement to students whose families successfully participate.

In the past, many schools have partnered whole school reading projects with Families and Reading Month. Some of those activities have included author visits, book fairs, parent workshops, character dress-up days, mystery reader days, and book swaps. We encourage you to use your imagination or utilize the ideas in the packet to create an exciting month that promotes, encourages, and develops a love of reading.

We invite you to participate with other districts across the state to promote the importance of reading at home. Families and students will thank you for assisting and encouraging them to spend time reading. A love of reading will take one through life in a wonderful way.

Sincerely,

Debbie Urso
Families and Reading Chair



Providing Leadership in Literacy and Education for the Commonwealth

Promoting Family Involvement in School

SEND BOOKS HOME WITH CHILDREN

Whether you send guided reading books, borrowed books from your classroom library, or books that children may keep, it's important that children have books to read and share with their families.

READING PARTY

Invite families to come to school during the school day to read with their children. Have students read their favorite books, poems, and their own writing to their family members and other invited guests. Arrange for volunteers to read with those children whose family members cannot come to school.

KIDS' PICKS

Have older students in the school think about picture books that they enjoyed when they were younger. Have them write a letter to younger students telling them why they recommend a particular book. Have them illustrate their letters with characters or a favorite event from the story. Allow them to deliver their cards to the younger students or post them on a bulletin board for the younger students to read.

CHARACTER DAY

Encourage students to dress as their favorite storybook character for a day. They can bring the book along with them to school and share a portion or all of the book with a friend.

READING BACKPACK

Use an old backpack to store a variety of books and reading games that children can share with their families. Allow students to take turns taking the backpack home.

STUFFED TOY JOURNAL

Allow a stuffed toy to visit the homes of students on a rotating basis. Send a journal along with the toy and encourage the students to write about the toy's experiences at their homes from its point of view.

BOOK SWAP

Encourage children to bring books to school that they have read and would like to trade with other children. Spend a week collecting books. Give students a ticket for each book they bring in, and at the end of the week have them choose a different book for each ticket they have. Make extra books available for those unable to bring a book.





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March 2018

Dear Families,

Let's read!

Children develop a love of stories and poems when they read or are read to on a regular basis. These experiences enrich and expand their world and encourage imagination. At the same time, you will be building family memories to last a lifetime.

With this in mind, the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) – which is committed to developing a love of reading in all children across Pennsylvania, – is proclaiming the month of April as Families and Reading Month. Throughout the month, families all across the state will be sharing the joys of reading at home. We hope you will join in the fun by reading with your child each day in April.

Throughout Families and Reading Month, we encourage families to engage in reading or reading activities for 15 minutes each day during the month of April. Attached you will find a calendar of ideas and activities to promote reading. The activities are suggestions that can also be incorporated into a reading schedule throughout the year.

As a thank-you for your support and encouragement, we ask, at the end of April, that you sign the attached calendar and return it to your child's teacher. In return, you and your child will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

We hope you will take time to create some special memories during April. Now, *let's read!*

Sincerely,

Debbie Urso
Families and Reading Chair





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Marzo 2018

Queridas Familias,

¡Vamos a leer!

Los niños desarrollan un amor a los cuentos y poemas cuando leen o les leen regularmente. Estas experiencias enriquecen y amplía su mundo y fomentan la imaginación. Al mismo tiempo, se le construyen recuerdos familiares que durarán toda la vida.

Con esto en mente, La Asociación Estatal de Lectura Keystone de Pensilvania (KSRA)- que se compromete a desarrollar un amor por la lectura en los niños a través de Pensilvania - proclama el mes de abril como el Mes de las Familias y la Lectura. Durante todo el mes, las familias en todo el estado va a compartir las alegrías de la lectura en casa. Esperamos que se unan a la diversión de la lectura con su hijo(a) todos los días en abril.

Por medio de las familias y Mes de Lectura, animamos a las familias a participar en la lectura o las actividades de lectura por 15 minutos cada día durante el mes de abril. Adjunto encontrará un calendario de ideas y actividades para promover la lectura. Las actividades son sugerencias de que también se pueden incorporarse en un horario de lectura durante todo el año.

Como agradecimiento por su apoyo y ánimo, nos le pedimos que a finales de abril firme el calendario adjunto y devolverlo al profesor(a) de su hijo(a). A cambio, usted y su hijo(a) recibirán un Certificado de Aprovechamiento.

Nosotros esperamos que usted crea memorias especiales durante el mes de abril. *¡Ahora vamos a leer!*

Sinceramente,

Debbie Urso
Families and Reading Chair





Reading Aloud to Your Children

Reading aloud is a gift you can freely give to your children from the day they are born until the time they leave the nest. Children's reading experts agree that reading aloud offers the easiest and most effective way to help children become lifelong readers. It will be as much fun for you as it is for your children.

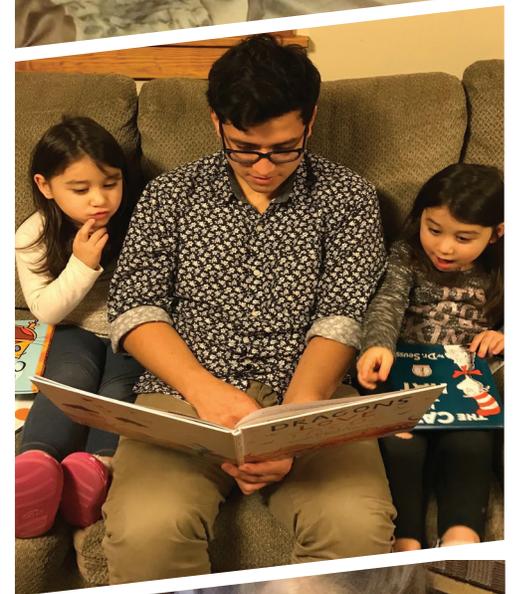
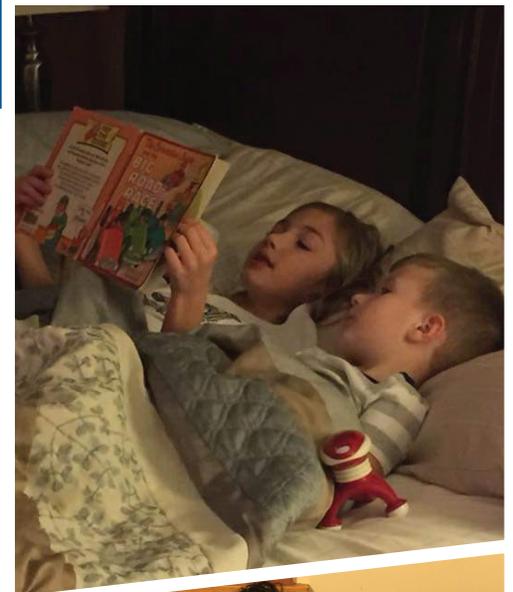
A child whose day includes listening to lively stories is more likely to grow up loving books and wanting to read them. To spark this desire in your children, you may want to try some of these suggestions offered by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a national nonprofit organization that inspires youngsters to read.

- Set aside a special time each day to read aloud to your children. Fifteen minutes a day is an ideal time.
- Vary your selections. For very young children, look for picture books with illustrations or photographs and print that is simple and clear. Once your child enters elementary school, consider picture books, magazines, and even chapter books.
- Read slowly and with expression. The more you ham it up, the more your children will love it. Try substituting your child's name for a character in the story.
- Have your children sit where they can see the book clearly, especially if it is a picture book or magazine.
- Allow time for your children to settle into the story, as well as time afterwards to talk about it.
- As you read aloud, encourage your children to get in on the act. Invite them to describe pictures, read bits of text, or predict what will happen next. It is even fun to dramatize the roles in the story or read lines of dialogue.
- Children like a sense of completion, so finish what you begin. If the book is too lengthy to finish in one sitting find an appropriate stopping point, such as the end of a chapter, and visit it later in the day or the next day.
- Continue to read aloud to your children even after they begin school and are independent readers. There is no age limit to reading to your children.
- Older children may enjoy reading aloud to a younger sibling. They often like to revisit some of their old favorites.

Tips for Selecting & Using Literature With Children

With so many books to choose from, how do you select the right ones for your child? How do you know if your child is enjoying or understanding what you're reading together? May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family!

- Select books that appeal to your child's interests.
- Take your child to the local public library. If he/she doesn't already have a library card, get him/her one. Browse the bookshelves and borrow some new titles that you can read together.
- Talk to your child about what you are reading together.
 - Ask questions about what is happening and why.
 - Encourage him to ask questions to clarify what is happening or wonder about something that isn't clear.
 - Ask questions that begin with why or how to promote deep thinking.
- Use the Internet to research answers to unanswered questions or to extend learning about a certain topic from a book.
- Help your child summarize a story using these questions:
 - Who or what is the story about?
 - When or where does the story take place?
 - What happens first?
 - What happens next?
 - How does the story end?
 - What lesson did the character learn?
- Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. No matter your child's age, reading aloud to him/her is a great bonding experience.
- Use the five-finger rule to help your child select books appropriate for his/her independent reading level. Encourage your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page, and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is too difficult for independent reading. Save the book for him/her to read at a later time or read it to your child.
- Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading a page or a paragraph.
- Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling, friend, or even a family pet.
- Record your child reading a favorite book or part of a book. Email the video to a relative or friend.
- Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a book. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about the scene or character. Ask your child to read it to you.
- Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book or create a skit about it.



Special Thanks!

Many people have contributed to the Families & Reading resources. Their book recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the materials were invaluable.

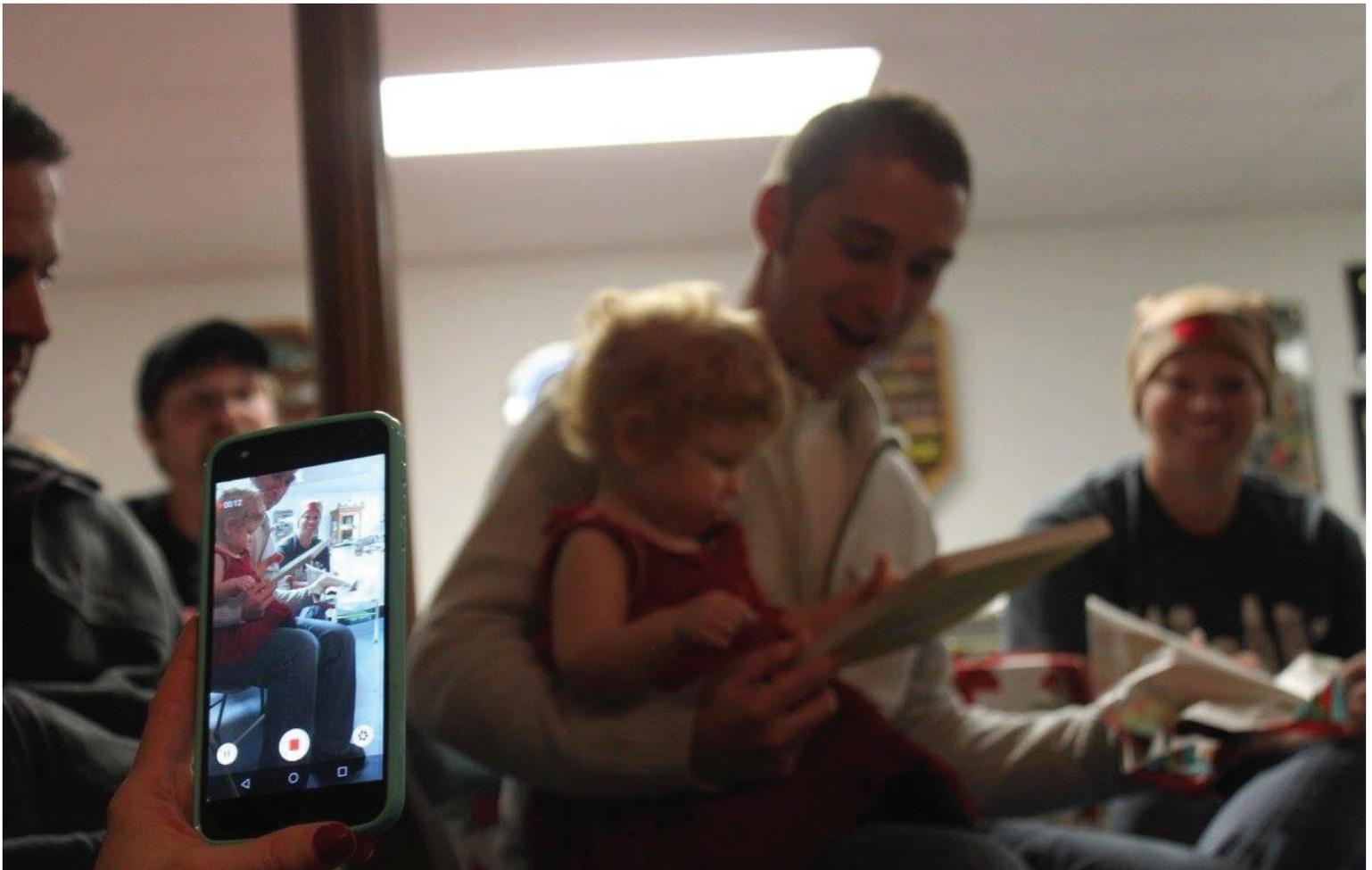
- Susan Berrier, Chambersburg Area School District
- Kelly Cote, Chambersburg Area School District
- Maria Fagert, Washington County Public Schools, MD
- Jennifer Kump, Big Spring School District
- Samantha Luckenbaugh, Solanco School District
- Marybeth Maloskey, Chambersburg Area School District
- Caitlyn McGee, Chambersburg Area School District
- Bethann McCain, Central Intermediate Unit 10
- Katie Miller, Chambersburg Area School District
- Tracy Panzer, Cumberland Valley School District
- Vanessa Powers, Wilson School District
- Jessica Shafnisky, Cumberland Valley School District
- Heather Zeger, Chambersburg Area School District

Also, thank you to all of the families who submitted photographs of themselves reading together. The response was overwhelming! It makes my heart smile to see so many adults inspiring life-long readers.

Happy reading!

Debbie Urso

KSRA Families & Reading Chair



Reading List: Preschool

The Families & Reading resources are created to give families suggestions of new books, magazines, and apps to share. The information presented in these books and magazines represent the thoughts and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Keystone State Reading Association.

PRESCHOOL

For more resources, visit your local library or one of the following sites:

- Power Library (www.powerlibrary.org) A PA library collaboration of shared materials and resources. Click on the links at the top of the homepage to view recommendations or to visit Power Kids.
- Unite for Literacy (<http://www.uniteforliteracy.com>) Access a free digital library.
- Scholastic (www.scholastic.com/parents) and Amazon (www.amazon.com) for more book options.

Classics:

- *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown
- *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon* by Crockett Johnson
- *The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf
- *Frederick* by Leo Lionni
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin
- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
- *The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

Newer Concept and Informational Books:

- *A Number Slumber* by Suzanne Bloom - Countdown to bedtime as each group of animals prepares for bed.
- *Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page - Guess which animal will be revealed on the next page based on the clues. More facts are shared about each of the animals as well.
- *123 Dream* by Kim Krans - Each object being counted begins with the same first letter as its corresponding number. From one owl to twenty toes, each page features a numeral paired with a wordless image.
- *City Shapes* by Diana Murray - Enjoy a walk through the city discovering the many colors and shapes that make up the cityscape.
- *ABCs on Wheels* by Ramon Olivera - Start your engines! This alphabet book is sure to be a hit with children who love moving vehicles and their parts.
- *Plume* by Isabelle Simler - Learn about different birds and count their feathers, but beware of the cat lurking in the background.
- *Thank You, Bees* by Toni Yuly - Nature's gifts are celebrated in this simply stated book.

Newer Picture Books:

- *I Have a Balloon* by Ariel Bernstein - This is not a book about sharing, but it is about loving the things that we have and not wanting to give them to others.
- *Good Day, Good Night* by Margaret Wise Brown - When

the sun comes up and the day begins, the little bunny says good day to all the familiar things outside. As the sun starts to set, it's time for the little bunny to say goodnight.

- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall - Jabari is ready to jump off the diving board. Well almost. With some courage and determination, he can overcome his fears.
- *Love* by Matt de la Peña - Celebrate love from a newborn's eyes all the way through childhood and beyond.
- *A Hop Is Up* by Kristy Dempsey - Act out the story of a little boy taking his dog for a walk.
- *It Is Not Time for Sleeping* by Lisa Graff - As the day comes to an end, bedtime draws near. But the little boy in this book is quite sure it is NOT time for sleeping.
- *Wheris My Birthday?* by Julie Fogliano - Share in the excitement as the narrator lists all the things that will make her birthday the BEST birthday.
- *Little Fox in the Forest* by Stephanie Graegin - When a young girl brings her beloved stuffed fox to the playground, much to her astonishment, a real fox takes off with it! But where is the little fox? And how will she find him?
- *Warts and All: A Book of Unconditional Love* by Lori Haskins Houran - Someone loves you no matter what you look like.
- *I Just Want to Say Good Night* by Rachel Isadora - It's time for bed, but Lala isn't ready. She needs to say goodnight to everything.
- *Canticos* by Susie Jaramillo - Enjoy popular Spanish nursery rhymes and songs in this bilingual book.
- *Who Wants Broccoli?* by Val Jones - Broccoli is a hyper dog who can't wait to have an owner and a big backyard. But when the perfect owner comes to the shelter, Broccoli is hidden away.
- *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker - The construction vehicles team up for the biggest job yet.
- *Wordy Birdy* by Tammi Sauer - This book will have kids and their families in stitches as they learn the importance of paying attention—and the importance of standing by your friends through thick and thin.
- *Safe in a Storm* by Stephen Swinburne - All the animals find cozy places to keep them safe and warm, no matter how loud the storm rumbles or how dark the night gets.
- *Bus! Stop!* by James Yang - A little boy misses his bus, so he must wait for the next one. The buses that pass him by aren't the right ones, but they look interesting. Maybe he should try a different bus.

Magazines

- Big Backyard
- Chickadee
- CLICK
- Highlights for Children
- Humpty Dumpty
- Ladybug: The Magazine for Young Children
- National Geographic Little Kids
- Sesame Street Magazine
- Thomas & Friends
- Turtle Magazine for Preschool Kids
- Zootles

Reading List: Preschool

Educational Apps:

- ABC Mouse- leveled learning of letters, numbers, colors, songs, and stories
- ABC Ninja- slash through given letters
- Curious World (iOS)- features games, books, and videos for reading, math, and science
- Duck Duck Moose Reading (iOS)- teaches letters, sounds, and words
- Endless Alphabet- teaches letters, letter sounds, and vocabulary
- Endless Reader- teaches sight words (like a sequel to Endless Alphabet)
- Find It Match It for Kids HD (iOS)- develop visual and memory skills
- iStoryTime (iOS)- narrated children's storybooks
- LumiKids Park by Lumocity- cognitive games
- Phonics Island (iOS)- levels of letter and phonics games
- Read Me Stories- introduces a new book everyday
- Reading Raven HD (iOS)- teaches letters and sounds
- Sky Fish Phonics- teaches letter/sound correspondence, blending sounds, and phoneme substitution
- Starfall-sounds, letters, words, and sentences with interactive games



Reading List: Grades K-1

The Families & Reading resources are created to give families suggestions of new books, magazines, and apps to share. The information presented in these books and magazines represent the thoughts and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Keystone State Reading Association.

PRIMARY GRADES K-1

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- Unite for Literacy (<http://www.uniteforliteracy.com>) Access a free digital library.
- Scholastic (www.scholastic.com/parents) and Amazon (www.amazon.com) for more book options.

Classics:

- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *Are You My Mother?* by Phillip D. Eastman
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- *The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne
- *Love You Forever* by Robert N. Munsch
- *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
- *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg

Newer Informational Books:

- *Penguin Day* by Nic Bishop - Just like human parents, penguin parents work hard to take care of their babies.
- *The Polar Bear* by Jenni Desmond - Learn about the polar bears' habitat, physical characteristics and adaptations, and feeding and hunting habits.
- *The Curious Guide to Things that Aren't* by John and James Fixx - Read and solve riddles - one for each letter of the alphabet.
- *Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page - Guess which animal will be revealed on the next page based on the clues. More facts are shared about each of the animals as well.
- *This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from around the World* by Matt Lamothe - Follow one day in the real lives of seven kids from around the world—Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia.
- *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner - Discover what plants and animals live in and around the pond.
- *Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus - This book is an inspiring and patriotic tribute to the beauty of the American flag, a symbol of America's history, landscape, and people.
- *Can an Aardvark Bark?* by Melissa Stewart - Barks, grunts, squeals — animals make all kinds of sounds to communicate and express themselves. This book is full of fun facts to enlighten young animal experts.
- *The Hidden Life of a Toad* by Doug Wechsler - Examine

the life cycle of an American toad from tadpole to adult.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *Groundhog's Runaway Shadow* by David Biedrzycki - Phil and his shadow used to do everything together. But Phil got tired of Shadow shadowing him, so Shadow up and left. If the groundhog doesn't see its shadow on February 2nd, what will happen?
- *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts - Ruben really wants a bike like Sergio's for his birthday, but his family can't afford it. When Sergio finds some money, he's faced with a tough decision.
- *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers - Love who you are, respect others, and be kind to one another.
- *Rot, the Cutest in the World* by Ben Clanton - Rot, a mutant potato, enters a "Cutest in the World Contest" and discovers that he's up against adorable, fuzzy animals. Does he have a chance at winning?
- *Wolf in the Snow* by Matthew Cordell - A girl is lost in a snowstorm. A wolf cub is lost, too. How will they find their way home?
- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall - Jabari is ready to jump off the diving board. Well almost. With some courage and determination, he can overcome his fears.
- *Tuktuk: Tundra Tale* by Robin Currie - Tuktuk the collared lemming finds a furry boot to use as a bed. As he drags it home, other animals want it for their own.
- *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet* by Carmen Agra Deedy - In La Paz the mayor outlaws everything noisy, but he can't seem to stop the rooster from singing.
- *Lucia the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza - Lucia dons her cape just like the boys, but when they tell her "girls can't be superheroes," suddenly she doesn't feel so mighty. That's when her beloved abuela reveals a dazzling secret.
- *Natsumi!* by Susan Lendroth - Natsumi is full of energy, but can she find a way to put her exuberance to good use? This heartwarming tale about being true to oneself is perfect for readers who march to their own beat.
- *A Well-Mannered Young Wolf* by Jean Leroy - A young wolf is hungry and in search of food to eat. Because of his good manners, he lets two possible food sources get away—a rabbit and a chicken. Will the third food source be so lucky?
- *We're All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio - Wonder, originally written for older readers, was rewritten for a younger audience, but it still carries the importance messages of empathy and choosing kindness.
- *Wordy Eirdy* by Tammi Sauer - This book will have kids and their families in stitches as they learn the importance of paying attention—and the importance of standing by your friends through thick and thin.
- *Sarabella's Thinking Cap* by Judy Schnachner - Sarabella is always thinking and daydreaming. But there are times when daydreaming is decidedly not a good thing.
- *The Antlered Ship* by Dashka Slater - An inquisitive fox sets off on a seafaring voyage with a crew of deer and pigeons in this enchanting tale of friendship and adventure.
- *Simon's New Bed* by Christian Trimmer - Simon has been looking forward to snuggling up in his new bed all day...until the cat steals it.
- *Professional Crocodile* by Giovanna Zoboli - Like

Reading List: Grades K-1

everyone else, Mr. Crocodile wakes up in the morning and gets ready for work. But what IS his job?

Series Books:

- *Clifford, the Big Red Dog* by Normal Bridwell
- *Arthur* by Marc Brown
- *Pete the Cat* by James Dean
- *Pinkalicious* by Victoria Kann
- *I Wonder* by Dorling Kindersley
- *What If You Had* by Sandra Markle
- *Ordinary People Change the World* by Brad Meltzer
- *Fancy Nancy* by Jane O'Connor
- *Who Would Win?* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Billie B. Brown* by Sally Rippen
- *The Giggle Gang* by Jan Thomas
- *Elephant & Piggie* by Mo Willems

Poetry Books:

- *Slickety Quick: Poems about Sharks* by Skila Brown - Each poem features a different species of shark.
- *Full of Fall* by April Pulley Sayre - Discover the magic and the science behind leaves as they undergo a transformation during the fall season.
- *Read! Read! Read!* by Amy Ludwig Vanerwater - Revisit the joys of reading from the moment when a child first learns to decipher words to the excitement that follows in reading everything to exploring what reading does for us.
- *Did You Hear What I Heard?: Poems about School* by Kay Winters - This collection covers a range of activities from dashing to the bus and science class discoveries to seeing a teacher outside the classroom.
- *Sleepy Snoozy Cozy Cozy Animals: A Book of Animal Beds* by Judy Young - This nonfiction book teaches about animals' homes in poetic form.

Magazines:

- Big Backyard
- Kids Discover
- National Geographic Little Kids
- Nickelodeon
- Zoobooks

Educational Apps:

- Curious World (iOS)- features games, books, and videos for reading, math, and science
- Endless Alphabet- teaches letters, letter sounds, and vocabulary
- Endless Reader - teaches sight words (like a sequel to Endless Alphabet)
- Epic-build an unlimited library of children's books
- iStoryTime - narrated children's storybooks
- Little Bird Tales (iOS) - take photos and record audio and use them to create a story
- Metamorphabet - animated alphabet book
- My Story (iOS) - create a book with visuals and text
- ABC Phonics Make a Word - increase phonics skills by building short vowel words
- Reading Raven HD (iOS) - teaches letters and sounds
- Sight Words: Kids Learn - different interactive activities to learn sight words
- Sight Word Ninja - slash through given sight words
- Sushi Scramble - make words from the given letter tiles
- The Word Monsters: Learn to Read - phonics-based books with activities based on the books
- Word Wizard - phonics and word building

Reading List: Grades 2-3

The Families & Reading resources are created to give families suggestions of new books, magazines, and apps to share. The information presented in these books and magazines represent the thoughts and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Keystone State Reading Association.

PRIMARY GRADES 2-3

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- Visit Scholastic (www.scholastic.com/parents) and Amazon (www.amazon.com) for more book options.

Classic Books:

- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox
- *Bunnicula* by James Howe
- *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
- *Chocolate Fever* by Robert Kimmel Smith
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams

Newer Informational Books:

- *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille* by Jen Bryant - Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read.
- *She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton - Celebrate women in history who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard.
- *A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars* by Seth Fishman - Count the stars and blades of grass and everything in between. The numbers are huge and just right for curious minds.
- *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial* by Susan E. Goodman - Sarah Roberts attended school in Boston, but then she was told she could never come back. Sarah's cause was won when people, black and white, stood together to end segregation.
- *Fallingwater: The Building of Frank Lloyd Wright's Masterpiece* by Marc Harshman and Anna Egan Smucker - Wright's inspiration, talent, and determination are highlighted in this book. How will Wright inspire your young reader?
- *A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider* by Barbara Herkert - This is a great biography of E.B. White to read before reading *Stuart Little* or *Charlotte's Web*.
- *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Mosca - This is the first book in a series about women in science. Grandin, who was diagnosed with autism at a young age, invented many breakthroughs in science that improved farms.
- *How to be an Elephant* by Katherine Roy - Baby elephants thrive because of their families. The facts and other informational text features in this book are balanced

with beautiful illustrations.

- *When Wilma Rudolph Played Basketball* by Mark Weakland - From battling polio to playing basketball, Wilma was a determined and strong child who became one of America's famous athletes.
- *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai - Malala tells her life story of wishing for a magic pencil. She wanted to use it for simple wishes but learned that even without a magic pencil she could work hard to make her wishes come true.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *The Bad Guys in Intergalactic Gas* by Aaron Blabey - The world is ending but the Bad Guys are back to save it! Surviving this mission may only be one small step for man, but it's one giant leap for the Bad Guys.
- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown - ROZZUM unit 7134, Roz for short, is a robot who finds herself shipwrecked on an island. She uses her computer brain to gather information about her unfamiliar surroundings and figure out how to survive.
- *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea* by Ben Clanton - Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal, and Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. As friends, the two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties, and adventures.
- *Let the Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson - Thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak in Birmingham. These children used their voices to change the world.
- *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* by Drew Daywalt - Meet the fictional characters behind a favorite game that's solved many arguments and passed a lot of time while waiting in line.
- *The Infamous Ratsos* by Karen LaReau - Louie and Ralphie Ratsos are tough — and bad. To prove just how tough they are, they devise devious plans. But every devious plan ends up with them performing kind deeds.
- *Ida, Always* by Caron Levis - Gus spends his days in a park with Ida, always. When Ida gets sick, Gus thinks that will change. Gus realizes that even after Ida is gone, she will still be with him — through memories.
- *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill - Mean Jean bullies every child during recess. But when tiny Katie Sue, a new student, arrives, everything changes.
- *The Word Collector* by Peter Reynolds - Jerome collects words and discovers the impact he can have when he shares them with the world.
- *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* by Dan Santat - Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened after?
- *Simon's New Bed* by Christian Trimmer - Simon has been looking forward to snuggling up in his new bed all day...until the cat steals it.
- *Voices from the Underground Railroad* by Kay Winters - It's the 1850s and enslaved siblings Jeb and Mattie are about to make a break for freedom. Their stories, along with those who help them along the Underground Railroad, are shared.

Reading List: Grades 2-3

Series Books:

- *The Bailey School Kids* by Debbie Dadey
- *Owl Diaries* by Rebecca Elliott
- *The Treehouse Books* by Andy Griffiths
- *Extreme Animals* by Steve Jenkins
- *Ballpark Mysteries* by David Kelly
- *I Wonder* by Dorling Kindersley
- *What If You Had?* by Sandra Markle
- *The Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Weird But True* by National Geographic Kids
- *Junie B. Jones* by Barbara Park
- *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Who Would Win.?* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey
- *Calendar Mysteries* by Ron Roy

Poetry:

- *Slickety Quick: Poems about Sharks* by Skila Brown - Each poem features a different species of shark.
- *When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons* by Julie Fogliano - Celebrate the four seasons through journal entries in poetic form.

Magazines:

- American Girl
- Highlights for Children
- Kids Discover
- National Geographic for Kids
- Nickelodeon
- Ranger Rick
- Sports Illustrated for Kids
- Stone Soup: The Magazine by Young Writers and Artists
- Zoobooks

Educational Apps:

- Adobe Spark - create graphics, web pages, and video stories

- Chicktionary - create as many possible words from seven letters
- Curious World (iOS) - features games, books, and videos for reading, math, and science
- Epic – build an unlimited library of children’s books
- Jumblin 2 – word games
- Kodable (iOS) - a fuzzy character follows sequenced directions that you write to complete mazes
- Little Bird Tales (iOS) - take photos and record audio and use them to create a story
- Mad Libs - like the paper-pencil version, create stories using various parts of speech
- My Story (iOS) - create a book with visuals and text
- Sushi Scramble - make words from the given letter tiles
- That’s Baloney - quiz-like game for all content areas
- Word Wizard - phonics and word building
- ZooBurst (iOS) - create 3D pop-up books



Reading List: Grades 4-5

The Families & Reading resources are created to give families suggestions of new books, magazines, and apps to share. The information presented in these books and magazines represent the thoughts and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Keystone State Reading Association.

PRIMARY GRADES 4-5

For more resources, visit your local library or one of the following sites:

- Power Library (www.powerlibrary.org) A PA library collaboration of shared materials and resources. Click on the links at the top of the homepage to view recommendations or to visit Power Kids.
- Visit Scholastic (www.scholastic.com/parents) and Amazon (www.amazon.com) for more book options.

Classics:

- *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
- *The Whipping Boy* by Sid Fleischman
- *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
- *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan
- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Newer Informational Books:

- *Baking Class: 50 Fun Recipes Kids Will Love to Bake* by Deanna Cook - Enjoy 50 easy-to-follow recipes with photos every step of the way.
- *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina. Young Readers Edition* by Misty Copeland - As the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre, Misty Copeland has been breaking down all kinds of barriers in the world of dance.
- *Her Right Foot* by Dave Eggers - Discover concrete and symbolic details about the Statue of Liberty in this fun take on nonfiction while learning the importance of acceptance.
- *Animals by the Numbers* by Steve Jenkins - Explore facts about the animal kingdom through graphic representation.
- *Finding Gobi: Young Reader's Edition: The True Story of One Little Dog's Big Journey* by Dion Leonard - Dion Leonard was befriended by a stray dog while running an ultramarathon through the Gobi Desert. Named for the desert in which he found her, Gobi became Dion's closest companion.
- *Bad Pets Hall of Shame* by Allan Zullo - These wacky troublemakers deserve the ultimate dishonor and notoriety - as members of the Pets Hall of Shame.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *The Ms. Bixby's Last Day* by John Anderson - Toph, Brand, and Steve know that Ms. Bixby is the best teacher. When she unexpectedly announces her resignation, the boys devise a plan to give Ms. Bixby

the last day she deserves.

- *Wish Tree* by Katherine Applegate - Red, an old oak tree, is the neighborhood "wish tree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Red's job becomes even more important when a new family moves to the area.
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill - Thinking that there's an evil witch in the woods, the townspeople sacrifice a baby to her to save their town. Unbeknownst to them, the witch is really a caring woman who raises the girl as her own.
- *The Losers Club* by Andrew Clements - Alec can't put a good book down and gets frustrated when he is asked to stop. He begins the Losers Club as a way to get time alone to read. No one would want to join something called the Losers Club, right?
- *The Great Shelby Holmes* by Elizabeth Eullberg - Shelby Holmes is a sixth-grade detective known for solving problems in her neighborhood. When John Watson moves near Shelby, she discovers that their friendship might be the greatest mystery of all.
- *Ruby Lee and Me* by Shannon Hitchcock - Sarah Beth is struggling with her sister's accident, friendships, and school integration. Why can't she and Ruby become best friends? Her teacher shows her that change invites unexpected possibilities.
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney - The Heffleys decide to escape to a tropical island resort for a few weeks in winter. However, Greg's family soon discovers that paradise isn't everything it's cracked up to be.
- *A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord - When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away, it's Salma who manages to catch him. Together the girls tackle the themes of prejudice and friendship, loss and love.
- *Snow and Rose* by Emily Winfield Martin - Based on the fairytale of Snow White and Rose Red, it emphasizes friendship and the incredible bond between sisters.
- *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor - Charlie has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade. After many heart aches, Charlie is discovering that what she thought she wanted may not be what she needs at all.
- *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker - Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild.
- *Tucky Jo and Little Heart* by Patricia Palocco - Based on a true story, Tucky Jo befriends a little girl and her family during the war. Years later, their paths cross again and Little Heart is able to repay Tucky Jo's kindness.
- *Orphan Island* by Laurel Snyder - Nine children live alone on an island where every day is the same. Only one thing ever changes: on one day each year, a boat appears carrying one young child to join them—and taking the eldest one away, never to be seen again.
- *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: This Book is a Classic* by Susan Tan - Cilla has just finished her (future) bestselling memoir, and now she's ready to write a classic. This one promises to have everything: romance, adventure,

Reading List: Grades 4-5

and plenty of drama - just like her life.

- *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* by Karina Van Glaser - The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. So when their landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five children have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home.
- *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk - Crow was set adrift in the sea as a baby. It's her journey to find who she is and what true family means.

Series:

- *According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney
- *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer
- *Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by Chris Grabenstein
- *The Treehouse Books* by Andy Griffiths
- *Horse Diaries* by Catherine Hapka and Ruth Sanderson
- *Goddess Girls* by Joan Hulab and Suzanne Williams
- *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- *Swindle* by Gordon Korman
- *Lunar Chronicle* by Marissa Meyer
- *Next Time You See...nonfiction series* by Emily Morgan
- *39 Clues* by Rick Riordan
- *I Survived...* by Lauren Tarshis
- *Predator Vs. Prey* by various authors
- *Who Was...?* by various authors
- *Ten True Tales* by Allan Zullo

Poetry:

- *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets* by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderley, and Marjory Wentworth - Enjoy original poems that pay homage to twenty famed poets who have made the authors' hearts sing and their minds wonder.
- *That Is My Dream!: A Picture Book of Langston Hughes's "Dream Variation"* by Langston Hughes - Follow a boy through his day as the harsh reality of segregation and racial prejudice comes into vivid focus. But the boy dreams of a different life full of freedom and hope.

Magazines:

- Highlights for Children
- Kids, Codes, and Computer Science
- Kids Discover
- National Geographic Kids
- Owl Kids
- Ranger Rick
- Sports Illustrated for Kids
- Zoobooks

Educational Apps

- Adobe Spark - create graphics, web pages, and video stories
- Bloxels - build, play, and share your own video games
- Book Creator - create, publish, and share books that you make
- Chicktionary - create as many possible words from seven letters
- Duolingo (iOS) - learn another language
- Epic - build an unlimited library of children's books
- Four Letters - given four letters, build the word
- GoodReader (iOS) - can open content from many sources and allows students to annotate the text
- Google Arts and Culture: People, places, and events that shaped our world (also a website)
- Jumble 2 - word games
- Little Bird Tales (iOS) - take photos and record audio and use them to create a story
- Mad Libs - like the paper-pencil version, create stories using various parts of speech
- My Story (iOS) - create a book with visuals and text
- News-O-Matic - interactive, subscription based newspaper app
- OverDrive or Libby by OverDrive - borrow eBooks from your local library
- Popplet Lite - visual organizers to organize thoughts, pictures, etc.
- Shadow Puppet (iOS) - create presentations with photos and record voices
- Sushi Scramble - make words from the given letter tiles
- That's Baloney - quiz-like game for all content areas
- ZooBurst (iOS) - create 3D pop-up books

Reading List: Grades 6-8

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MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8

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- Power Library (www.powerlibrary.org) A PA library collaboration of shared materials and resources. Click on the links at the top of the homepage to view recommendations or to visit Power Kids.
- Visit Scholastic (www.scholastic.com/parents) and Amazon (www.amazon.com) for more book options.

Classics:

- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster
- *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle
- *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert O'Brien
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth Speare

Newer Informational Books:

- *Sabotage: The Mission to Destroy Hitler's Atomic Bomb* by Neal Bascomb - Armed with little more than skis, explosives, and great courage, a group of Norwegian commandos will execute the greatest act of sabotage in all of World War II.
- *A Dog in the Cave: The Wolves Who Made Us Human* by Kay Frydenborg - Fossils show we've shared our work and homes with dogs for tens of thousands of years. Now there's growing evidence that we influenced dogs' evolution — and they, in turn, changed ours.
- *Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win* by Rachel Ignatofsky - Learn about the achievements and stories of fifty notable women athletes from the 1800s to today, including trailblazers, Olympians, and record-breakers in more than forty sports.
- *Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly - Learn about the four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.
- *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story* by Caren Stelson - Sachiko Yasui was just six years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her hometown of Nagasaki. She went from playing house with her friends to burying them.

Newer Informational Books:

- *Baking Booked* by Kwame Alexander - Twelve-year-old Nick learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams.
- *Wish Tree* by Katherine Applegate - Red, an old oak tree, is the neighborhood "wish tree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Red's job becomes even more important when a new family moves to the area.

- *What Light* by Jay Asher - Sierra leads a normal life on her family's Christmas tree farm in Oregon. Then she meets Caleb, a boy with a painful secret from his past that he's still trying to live down.
- *The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin - Suzy's best friend, Franny Jackson, was a strong swimmer, so there is no way she could have drowned. Suzy is determined to discover what really happened.
- *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain* by John Boyne - When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must live with his aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy Austrian household - the home of Adolf Hitler.
- *The War I Finally Won* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley - Set during World War II, Ada finally had surgery to fix her club foot. Now she and her brother need to move into another family's home with their guardian. Ada is at war within herself as the war rages on around her as well.
- *The Charmed Children of Rookskill Castle* by Janet Fox - Kat and her brother and sister are sent away to live at Rookskill Castle. It's hard to keep calm in the strange castle that seems haunted by ghosts or worse.
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz - Three children from different countries go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow.
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Getaway* by Jeff Kinney - The Heffleys decide to escape to a tropical island resort for a few weeks in winter. However, Greg's family soon discovers that paradise isn't everything it's cracked up to be.
- *Fate of the Gods (Last Descendants: An Assassin's Creed Novel)* by Matthew Kirby - Only one piece of the Trident of Eden remains after Isaiah, a rogue Templar agent, discovered the other two prongs. It is up to Owen and his friends to stop Isaiah.
- *Outrun the Moon* by Stacey Lee - Mercy Wong is determined to free herself from the poverty of Chinatown by attending St. Clare's School for Girls, a school reserved for the wealthiest white girls. Through a mix of cunning and bribery Mercy gains admittance, only to discover that getting in was the easiest part.
- *A Handful of Stars* by Cynthia Lord - When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away, it's Salma who manages to catch him. Together the girls tackle the themes of prejudice and friendship, loss and love.
- *Pax* by Sara Pennypacker - Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild.
- *The Best Man* by a Richard Peck - Archer Magill has the best male role models: his dad, his grandpa, his uncle Paul, and his teacher Mr. McLeod. Then Archer finds himself as the best man when two of his role models get married.
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds - Ghost wants to be the fastest sprinter on his elite middle school track team, but his past is slowing him down.
- *Towers Falling* by Jewel Parker Rhodes - When Deja's teacher begins a lesson about September 11, she and her two friends learn how the day's events relate to them as individuals and as part of their wider community.

Reading List: Grades 6-8

- *Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys - In World War II, four different teens grapple with the bitter cold, the ever-present danger of falling bombs, and their own dark secrets. (For more mature readers)
- *The Enemy Above: A Novel of World War II* by Michael Spradlin - The Germans are closing in. And twelve-year-old Anton knows his family can't outrun them.
- *Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier - Cat and Maya discover their new town is haunted. Can Cat suppress her fears to satisfy Maya's desire to find a ghost?
- *Beyond the Bright Sea* by Lauren Wolk - Crow was set adrift in the sea as a baby. It's her journey to find who she is and what true family means.

Series Books:

- *Baking Oragami Yoda* by Angelberger
- *Skeleton Creek* by Patrick Carman
- *Ruby Redfort* by Lauren Child
- *The Land of Stories* by Chris Colfer
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner
- *Theodore Boone* by John Grisham
- *Guinness World Record* books by Guinness World Records
- *The Shadow Children* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *The Warriors* by Erin Hunter
- *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney
- *Masterminds* by Gordon Korman
- *Vietnam* by Chris Lynch
- *Middle School* by James Patterson
- *Among the Hidden* by Margret Haddix Peterson
- *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* Series by Ransom Riggs
- *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* by Rick Riordan
- *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* by Rick Riordan
- *Divergent* by Veronica Roth
- *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
- *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield

Poetry:

- *One Last Word* by Nikki Grimes - Grimes pairs original poems with classics from the Harlem Renaissance.

Magazines:

- Calliope
- Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People
- Kids, Codes, and Computer Science
- Kids Discover
- National Geographic Kids
- Owl Kids
- Ranger Rick
- Sports Illustrated for Kids

Educational Apps

- Adobe Spark - create graphics, web pages, and video stories
- Bloxels - build, play, and share your own video games
- Book Creator - create, publish, and share books that you make
- Comic Life 3 (iOS) - create comic books
- Duolingo (iOS) - learn another language
- Four Letters - given four letters, build the word
- GoodReader (iOS) - can open content from many sources and allows readers to annotate the text
- Google Arts and Culture: People, places, and events

that shaped our world (also a website)

- Jumblin 2 – word games
- OverDrive or Libby by OverDrive - borrow eBooks from your local library
- Show Me - create voice over white-board tutorials and share them online
- Sparkle Fish - (iOS) audio story completion game similar to Mad Libs
- Study Stack - find or create flash cards for any subject
- Swift Playground - learn coding

