



The Keystone State Literacy Association has proclaimed April as

Families and Reading Month

Dear Colleagues,

The Keystone State Literacy Association is committed to developing a love of reading in all children across Pennsylvania. To this end, KSLA 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 KSLA 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Debbie Urso". The script is cursive and fluid.

Debbie Urso
KSLA Families and Reading Chair

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. A Similar event could be hosted in the evening.

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 the entire 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.

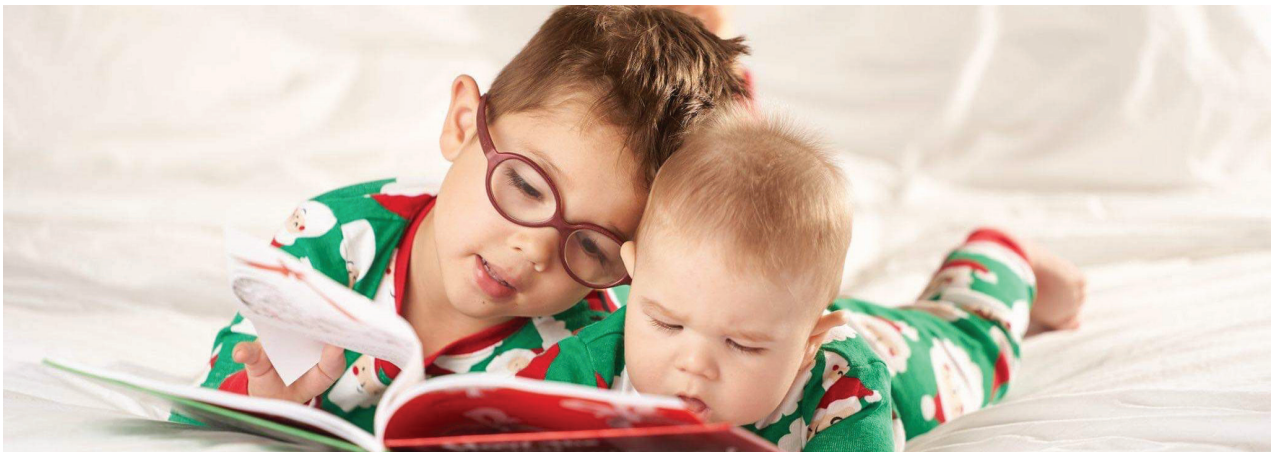
STUFFED TOY JOURNAL

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.

A special message to our families



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 Literacy Association (KSLA) – 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!*

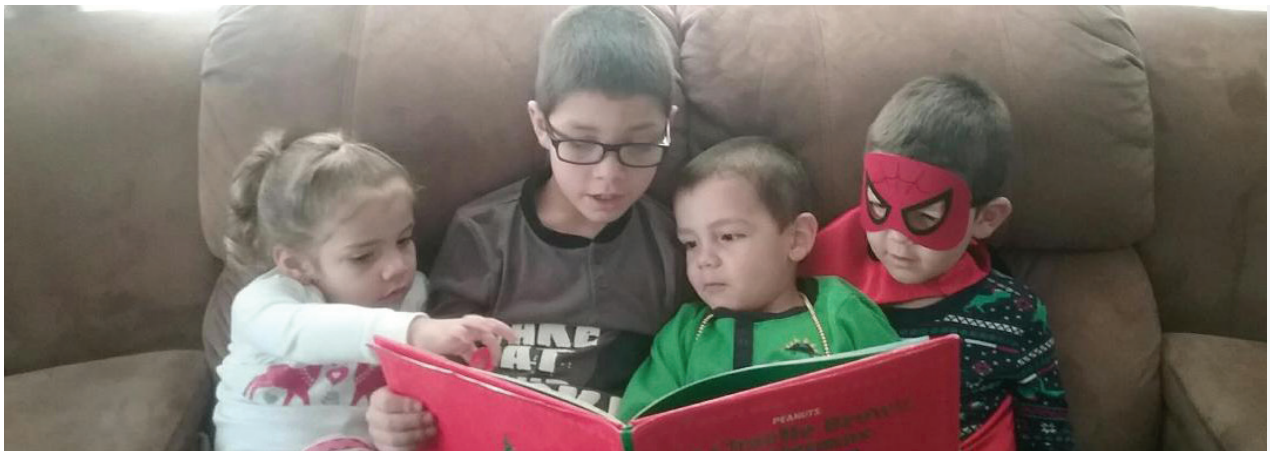
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Debbie Urso".

Debbie Urso, KSLA Families and Reading Chair



A special message to our families



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 (KSLA)- 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 van 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 incorporar 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Debbie Urso".

Debbie Urso, KSLA Families and Reading Chair





"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."

Debbie Urso
Keystone State Literacy Association
Families and Reading Chair

Reading Aloud to your Children

Reading aloud is a gift you can 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.

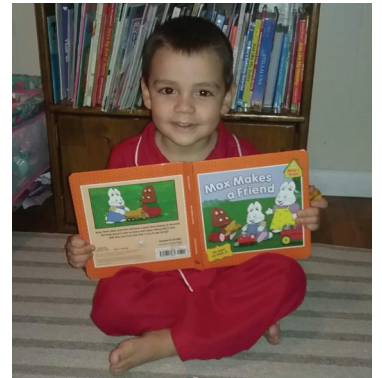


Fun Fact: A child whose day includes listening to lively stories is more likely to grow up loving books and wanting to read them.

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 aloud with your child. This could be taking 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.

- Kelly Cote, Chambersburg Area School District
- Heather Landis, Chambersburg Area School District
- April Ledebur, Chambersburg Area School District
- Marybeth Maloskey, Chambersburg Area School District
- Craig McFeely, Chambersburg Area School District
- Caitlyn McGee, Chambersburg Area School District
- Bethann McCain, Pennsylvania State University
- Katie Miller, Chambersburg Area School District
- Sara Moser, Chambersburg Area School District
- Stacy Musick, Chambersburg Area School District
- Tracy Panzer, Cumberland Valley School District
- Concetta Velasquez, Marana Unified School District, AZ
- Terri Vetock, Shippensburg Area School District
- Linda Werley, Chambersburg Area School District

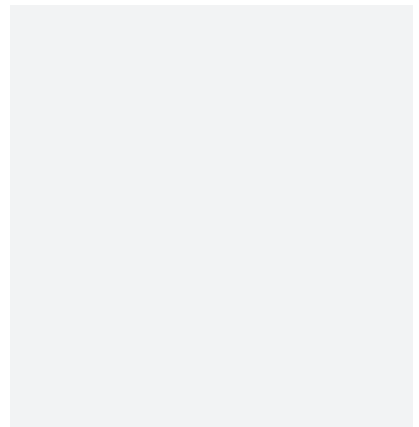
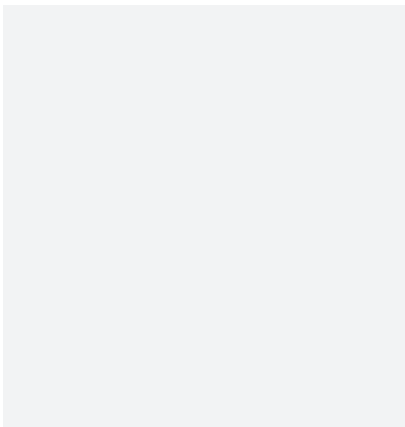
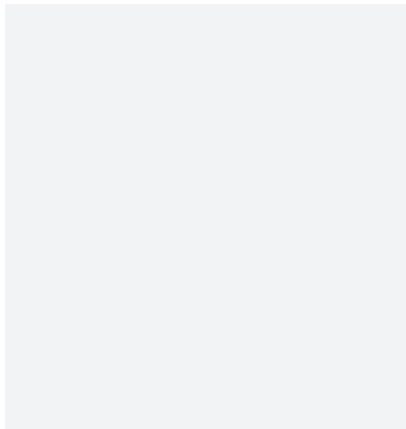
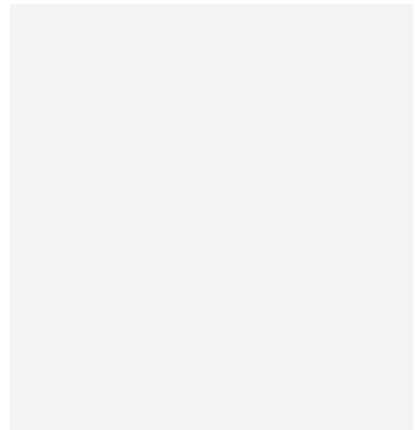
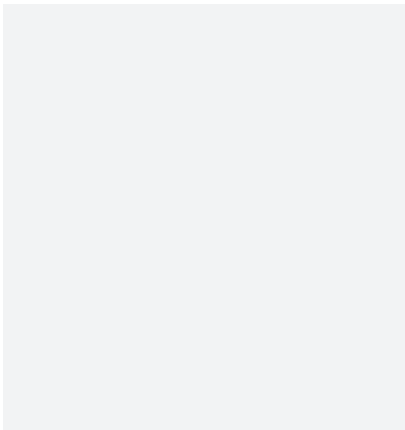
Also, thank you to all of the families who submitted photographs of themselves reading together. The response was overwhelming! It makes my heart smile to see so many adults inspiring life-long readers.

Happy reading!

Debbie Urso, KSLA Families and Reading Committee Chair

Fun Fact

Experts agree that reading aloud offers the easiest and most effective way to help children become lifelong readers.



Preschool reading list

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

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.
- Visit 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
- *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.
- *Let's Go ABC! Things That Go, from A to Z* by Rhonda Gowler Greene - Zoom through the alphabet with different vehicles.
- *Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page - Use clues to guess which animal will be revealed on the next page.
- *One Dark Bird* by Liz Garton Scanlon - One dark bird is perched up high with a view of the town. Count along as she's joined by two, then three, then four.
- *Fantastic Flowers* by Susan Stockdale - Stop and smell the roses with rhythm and rhyme while learning about different types of flowers and what they resemble.
- *Feathers and Hair: What Animals Wear* by Jennifer Ward - This book is a delightful exploration of animal outerwear. It also includes supplemental information about each of the animals.
- *Who Eats Orange?* by Dianne White - An exploration of colors and animals' favorite foods. It includes familiar, as well as exotic animals from around the world, with lots of additional information.
- *Thank You, Bees* by Toni Yuly - Nature's gifts are celebrated in this simply stated book.

Newer Picture Books:

- *Rumble Grumble...Hush* by Kate Banks - This rhyming book follows a child through the sounds of his day.
- *Just Because* by Mac Barnett - It's time for bed, but this little one is full of questions.
- *The Big Umbrella* by Amy and Juniper Bates - A simple book with a powerful message – there is room for everyone in our world.
- *Hedgehog Needs a Hug* by Jen Betton - Hedgehog needs a hug to make him feel better, but none of his animal friends are eager to wrap their arms around his prickles.
- *I Just Like You* by Suzanne Bloom - A sweet group of young animals shows readers that even though

others might look, talk, or walk differently, we can like each other just as we are.

- *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.
- *Pippa & Percival, Pancake & Poppy: Four Peppy Puppies* by Deborah Diesen - Four puppies meet and have a great time together until they get frightened and race back to their homes.
- *Good Dog* by Cori Doerrfeld - Puppy lands himself into all sorts of trouble. He gets lost. He's nearly run over. He gets chased out of a bakery for being a "bad dog." How can he redeem himself?
- *Bulldozer Helps Out* by Candace Fleming - Bulldozer wants to help at the construction site but the other trucks think he is too small. Finally, he gets the chance to prove how rough and tough he is.
- *If I Was the Sunshine* by Julie Fogliano - Snuggle up to enjoy a poetic book about the nature of relationships, love, and connection.
- *How Do You Dance?* by Thyra Heder - Jiggle, wiggle, stomp, and laugh your way through reading this book.
- *Hello, Door* by Alastair Heim - A thieving fox makes his way through an empty house, greeting the goodies he snatches along the way. Then he comes face-to-face with the homeowners.
- *The Good Egg* by Jory John - The Good Egg is very good, but sometimes it's hard to be good when everyone around you is rotten.
- *I Say Ooh, You Say Aah* by John Kane - Listen carefully, pay attention, and follow the directions.
- *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin - Little Star loves the delicious mooncake that she bakes with her mama, and she learns about phases of the moon, too.
- *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora - Everyone dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal until the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?
- *Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o - Sulwe just wants to look like everyone else until she discovers to love the skin she's in.
- *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold - Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps.
- *Truman* by Jean Reidy - Truman the turtle loves spending his days with Sarah. Then one day Sarah puts on her backpack and leaves. Truman waits and waits, wondering if Sarah will return.
- *Mighty, Mighty Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker - The construction vehicles team up for their biggest job yet.
- *Stretchy McHandsome* by Judy Schachner - As Stretchy prowls the neighborhood, he discovers a young girl who convinces him that he's missing something—a loving person's lap.

Preschool Reading List

- *Good Night, Little Blue Truck* by Alice Schertle - A storm is brewing and Little Blue Truck and his friends need to get home to bed.
- *A Perfect Day* by Lane Smith - It is a perfect day for the animals in Bert's backyard until Bear steps in. Then, it becomes his perfect day.
- *Fox the Tiger* by Corey Tabor - Fun-loving, mischievous Fox wishes he was a tiger. Tigers are big and fast and sneaky, so Fox decides to become one.
- *The Neighbors* by Einat Tsarfati - As a young girl climbs the steps to her seventh floor apartment, she imagines what her neighbors and their apartments are like. Her imagination runs wild.
- *Dreaming of You* by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater - Have you ever imagined what animals dream?
- *The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!* by Mo Willems - Pigeon already knows everything, so why must he go to school?
- Starfall - teaches sounds, letters, words, and sentences with interactive games
- Teach Your Monster to Read - match letters to sounds, blend, segment, and read

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

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)
- 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

Grades K-1 **reading list**

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

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



Grades K-1 Reading List

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 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
- *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg

Newer Informational Books:

- *The Curious Guide to Things that Aren't* by John and James Fixx - Read and solve riddles—one for each letter of the alphabet.
- *Terrific Tongues!* by Maria Gianferrari - Some animals use their tongues in unusual ways to find food, eat, and clean themselves.
- *The One and Only Wolfgang: From Pet Rescue to One Big Happy Family* by Steve Greig and Mary Rand Hess - A real-life family of dogs, chickens, rabbits, and a pig share favorite foods, cuddles, and love for each other no matter what.
- *The Wonders of Nature* by Ben Hoare - Discover the wonders of planet Earth and learn about some of the most amazing animals, plants, rocks, minerals, and microscopic life that live here.
- *Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page - Use clues to guess which animal will be revealed on the next page. 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.
- *Ninita's Big World: The True Story of a Deaf, Pygmy Marmoset* by Sarah Glenn Marsh - Ninita, a deaf, orphaned pygmy marmoset, found family, friendship, and a forever home.
- *Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home* by Sy Montgomery - Inky achieved worldwide fame after escaping from New Zealand's National Aquarium via a floor drain.
- *If You Were the Moon* by Laura Purdie Salas - Learn about all the things the moon does through lyrical text with lots of explanatory information provided.
- *Kitten Lady's Big Book of Little Kittens* by Hannah Shaw - Learn how the Kitten Lady from Youtube and Instagram helps orphan kittens grow up, get adopted, and become healthy, happy cats.
- *Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs* by Melissa Stewart - Some animal characteristics might seem like weaknesses, but they are critical for finding food and staying safe in an eat-or-be-eaten world.

Newer Picture Books:

- *Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty - Sofia's abuelo gets hurt at the local landfill, and Sofia wants to transform the dangerous landfill into a park. She's told she's too young, but she is determined to make a difference.
- *The Hippo at the End of the Hall* by Helen Cooper - When Ben receives a mysterious invitation to an odd museum, he's swept into a peculiar world of forgotten secrets and wild magic.
- *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings - Arfy, a homeless dog, writes letters to members of his community, hoping to be adopted.
- *Dandy* by Ame Dyckman - When Daddy spots a weed in his lawn, he's appalled. However, his daughter Sweetie has fallen in love with the beautiful flower, even going so far as to name it. What will happen to the beloved weed?
- *The Scarecrow by Beth Ferry* - Everyone knows not to mess with Scarecrow, but when a small crow falls from midair, Scarecrow does the strangest thing. He saves the tiny baby crow, and soon a bond grows between them.
- *Take Your Time: A Tale of Harriet, the Galapagos Tortoise* by Eva Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli - Harriet does things slowly, at her own pace. When her friends tell her she's missing out on a lot, she decides to journey to a neighboring island to see for herself.
- *Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself* by Matthew Gray Grubler - Rumple has crooked teeth, straggly hair, green skin, and his left foot is slightly bigger than his right. He is unusual, but he understands the importance of being unique and loving yourself.
- *Friends Stick Together* by Hannah Harrison - Rupert and Levi are unlikely friends, tolerating each other's unique qualities.
- *How Do You Dance?* by Thyra Heder - Jiggle, wiggle, stomp, and laugh your way through reading this book.
- *Hello, Door* by Alastair Heim - A thieving fox makes his way through an empty house, greeting the goodies he snatches along the way. Then he comes face-to-face with the homeowners.
- *We Don't Eat Our Classmates!* by Ryan Higgins - It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. They're just so delicious!
- *Elmore* by Hollie Hobby - Elmore is a porcupine desperate to make friends, but it is hard to seek closeness with others when you're covered with spikes that shoot off your back.
- *Be a Maker* by Katey Howes - Celebrate creativity through beautiful rhyming verse about the many things we can make, including making a difference in the world.
- *The Good Egg* by Jory John - The Good Egg is very good, but sometimes it's hard to be good when everyone around you is rotten.
- *Idea Jar* by Adam Lehrhaupt - The idea jar is where students keep their ideas. These ideas can be combined to make new exciting stories, but watch out when the ideas escape the jar. They might get a little rowdy!

Grades K-1 Reading List

- **Chapter Two is Missing** by Josh Lieb - A hopelessly lost narrator, an unqualified detective, and a very sneaky janitor are all surprised to discover that the second chapter of the very book of which they are a part is--gasp--missing!
- **A Big Mooncake for Little Star** by Grace Lin - Little Star loves the delicious mooncake that she bakes with her mama, and she learns about phases of the moon, too.
- **The Little Red Fort** by Brenda Maier - One day, Ruby decides to build a fort. She invites her brothers to help, but they just laugh and tell her she doesn't know how to build. Ruby builds her fort, but will she allow her brothers to play in it?
- **Philomena's New Glasses** by Brenna Maloney - Philomena needs new glasses. Her sister Audrey wants them, too. If Philomena and Audrey have them, shouldn't their sister Nora Jane also have them?
- **Alma and How She Got Her Name** by Juana Martinez-Neal - Alma has six names and her dad explains the story behind each of her namesakes.
- **Thank You, Omu!** by Oge Mora - Everyone dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal until the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?
- **A Boy Like You** by Frank Murphy - There's more to being a boy than sports, feats of daring, and keeping a stiff upper lip. Be unique and celebrate all the wonderful ways to be a boy.
- **Madeline Finn and the Library Dog** by Lisa Papp - Madeline Finn does not like to read. Fortunately, Madeline meets Bonnie, a library dog, who helps her overcome her fears of reading aloud.
- **Tallulah the Tooth Fairy CEO** by Tamara Pizzoli - Tallulah knows practically everything about being a tooth fairy. She knows how to collect teeth, dispense money, and even train other fairies.
- **Truman** by Jean Reidy - Truman the turtle loves spending his days with Sarah. Then, one day Sarah puts on her backpack and leaves. Truman waits and waits, wondering if Sarah will return.
- **Nerdy Birdy Tweets** by Aaron Reynolds - Nerdy Birdy joins Tweetster to make new friends, but how will his best friend Vulture feel about this?
- **Kate, Who Tamed the Wind** by Liz Garton Scanlon - A wild wind blows on the top of a steep hill, turning everything upside down for the man who lives there. Luckily, Kate comes up with a plan.
- **Mommy's Khimar** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow - A young girl plays dress up with her mother's headscarves, feeling her mother's love with every one she tries on.
- **The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!** by Mo Willems - Pigeon already knows everything, so why must he go to school?
- **Who Is the Mystery Reader?** by Mo Willems - Zoom Squirrel tries out a new superpower with help from a mysterious mystery reader, but even the squirrels have no idea who the mystery reader is.
- **The Day You Begin** by Jacqueline Woodson - A heartwarming book about finding the courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.

- **The Boring Book** by Shisuke Yoshitake - "I'm bored!" Every child says it and so does this book's main character. He soon realizes that boredom is a portal into exciting experiences.

Series Books:

- **Clifford, the Big Red Dog** by Norman Bridwell
- **Arthur** by Marc Brown
- **Narwhal and Jelly** by Ben Clanton
- **Pete the Cat** by James Dean
- **Pinkalicious** by Victoria Kann
- **I Wonder** series of nonfiction books by DK Publishing
- **Jada Jones** by Kelly Starling Lyons
- **What If You Had** by Sandra Markle
- **Ordinary People Change the World** by Brad Meltzer
- **The Adventures of Otto** by David Milgrim
- **Fancy Nancy** by Jane O'Connor
- **Who Would Win?** by Jerry Pallotta
- **Dog Man** by Dav Pilkey
- **Elephant & Piggie** by Mo Willems

Poetry Books:

- **How to Read a Book** by Kwame Alexander - Experience the joy of reading through a poem all about it.
- **I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups** by Chris Harris - Pour over the text and illustrations as you read these laugh-out-loud poems for the young and old.
- **Cricket in the Thicket** by Carol Murray - Playful poems about the world of insects. Facts about each insect appear on the pages along with additional information in the back matter.

Magazines:

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

Educational Apps:

- ABC Mouse - leveled learning of letters, words, and stories
- 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)

Grades K-1 Reading List

- 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
- 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
- Teach Your Monster to Read - match letters to sounds, blend, segment, and read
- The Word Monsters: Learn to Read - phonics-based books with activities based on the books
- Word Wizard - phonics and word building

Grades 2-3 **reading list**

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

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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.



Grades 2-3 Reading List

Classic Books:

- The Mitten by Jan Brett
- The BFG by Roald Dahl
- Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox
- Bunnica 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:

- *She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History* by Chelsea Clinton - Celebrate women in history who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard.
- *Bat Count: A Citizen Science Story* by Anna Forrester - A young girl and her family count the bats that appear in their yard. They send the numbers to scientists who study bats and look for ways to help the bat population.
- *The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng* by Sophia Gholz - Jadav was distressed by the destruction that deforestation was causing on his island home, so he began planting trees. It began as a small thicket of bamboo, but it turned into much more.
- *Terrific Tongues!* by Maria Gianferrari - Some animals use their tongues in unusual ways to find food, eat, and clean themselves.
- *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison - The legends in this book span centuries and continents, but what they have in common is that each one has blazed a trail for generations to come.
- *The Wonders of Nature* by Ben Hoare - Discover the wonders of planet Earth and learn about some of the most amazing animals, plants, rocks, minerals, and microscopic life that live here.
- *United Tastes of America: An Atlas of Food Facts and Recipes* from Every State by Gabrielle Langholtz - A full-spread introduction to each state features background about its culinary culture with illustrated food facts, maps, and an easy-to-follow recipe with a photograph of the finished dish.
- *Ninita's Big World: The True Story of a Deaf, Pygmy Marmoset* by Sarah Glenn Marsh - Ninita, a deaf, orphaned pygmy marmoset, found family, friendship, and a forever home.
- *Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home* by Sy Montgomery - Inky achieved worldwide fame after escaping from New Zealand's National Aquarium via a floor drain.
- *Little Libraries, Big Heroes* by Miranda Paul - Thanks to Todd Bol and thousands of volunteers, many of whom are kids, millions of books in Little Free Libraries have been enjoyed around the world.
- *The Secret Life of the Red Fox* by Laurence Pringle - Follow Vixen, a red fox, as she hunts for food, raises her young, and escapes from danger.
- *Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs* by Melissa Stewart - Some animal characteristics might seem like weaknesses, but they are critical for finding food and staying safe in an eat-or-be-eaten world.
- *Full Moon Lore* by Ellen Wahi - This book takes us

through the calendar as we learn about the name of each month's moon and the reason for that name.

- *If Sharks Disappeared* by Lily Williams - Even though sharks can be scary, we need them to keep the oceans healthy, and losing them would affect animals across the planet.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes - Celebrate the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of the barber shop with newly-cut hair.
- *The Ring Bearer* by Floyd Cooper - Jackson is to be the ring bearer in his mama's wedding, but he's worried that something may go wrong. When he helps his new stepsister avoid a fall, Jackson becomes a hero.
- *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech - Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures, but when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him.
- *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings - Arfy, a homeless dog, writes letters to members of his community to become adopted.
- *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.
- *All the Way to Havana* by Margarita Engle - A boy and his family drive to Havana, Cuba in the old family car. They experience many things along the way, making the book a celebration of the Cuban people and their innovative spirit.
- *Take Your Time: A Tale of Harriet, the Galapagos Tortoise* by Eva Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli - Harriet does things slowly at her own pace. When her friends tell her she's missing out on a lot, Harriet decides to journey to a neighboring island to see for herself.
- *Be a Maker* by Katey Howes - Celebrate creativity through beautiful rhyming verse about the many things we can make including making a difference in the world.
- *Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship* by Jessica Krensky - Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. Rescue can help Jessica find a way forward, one step at a time.
- *The King of Bees* by Lester Laminack - Henry can't wait until he can have a bee suit of his own so he can help his Aunt Lilla with the sister bees. Then, he finds himself alone when the bees are ready to swarm.
- *Idea Jar* by Adam Lehrhaupt - The idea jar is where students keep their ideas. These ideas can be combined to make new exciting stories, but watch out when the ideas escape the jar. They might get a little rowdy!
- *The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies - Evan and his dog do everything together, including caring for their garden. When Evan's dog dies, Evan destroys the garden and everything in it. But beauty grows in the darkest of places.
- *Rolling Thunder* by Kate Messner - Told in rhyme, this story honors the Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom where more than a million veterans and supporters gather in Washington, DC each Memorial Day to pay tribute to fallen heroes.
- *Chippy Chipmunk Feels Empathy* by Kathy Miller - When Chippy Chipmunk meets a unique chipmunk, he learns to feel empathy and show kindness. His friends help him understand that there is diversity in every species.

Grades 2-3 Reading List

- ***The Proudest Blue: The Story of Hijab and Family*** by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali - Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab.
- ***Blue Sky White Stars*** by Sarvinder Naberhaus - Wonderfully simple verses pair with rich paintings to celebrate the iconic imagery of our nation, beginning with the American flag.
- ***Madeline Finn and the Library Dog*** by Lisa Papp - Madeline Finn does not like to read. Fortunately, Madeline meets Bonnie, a library dog, who helps her overcome her fears of reading aloud.
- ***All Are Welcome*** by Alexandra Penfold - Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps.
- ***Nerdy Birdy Tweets*** by Aaron Reynolds - Nerdy Birdy joins Tweetster to make new friends, but how will his best friend Vulture feel about this?
- ***The Turtle Ship*** by Helena Ku Rhee - The king announced a contest to design a new battleship to defend Korea. Determined to win, young Sun-sin attempts to build an indestructible battleship inspired by his pet turtle.
- ***Dear Girl***, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal - This letter is written for the special girl in your life; a gentle reminder that she's powerful and strong, and she holds a valuable place in the world.
- ***Tricky*** by Kari Rust - The Duke and his dog, Tricky, spend their days making trouble, but one day, somebody new comes to town and gives Tricky a treat that melts his mischievous heart.
- ***Kate, Who Tamed the Wind*** by Liz Garton Scanlon - A wild wind blows on the top of a steep hill, turning everything upside down for the man who lives there. Luckily, Kate comes up with a plan.
- ***AstroNuts Mission One: The Plant Planets*** by Jon Scieszka - AstroWolf and LaserShark are some of the animals that have been hybridized to find other planets for humans to live on once we've ruined Earth.
- ***The Real McCoys: Wonder Undercover*** by Matthew Swanson - Moxie, fourth grade detective, goes undercover in the Wonder Scouts to see who is sabotaging the badge competition.
- ***Blacksmith's Song*** by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk - The son of an enslaved blacksmith learns that his father is using the rhythm of his hammering to communicate with travelers on the Underground Railroad. When Pa falls ill, who will help them?
- ***The Day You Begin*** by Jacqueline Woodson - A heartwarming book about finding the courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.
- ***The Boring Book*** by Shisuke Yoshitake - "I'm bored!" Every child says it, and so does this book's main character. He soon realizes that boredom is a portal into exciting experiences.

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*** series of nonfiction books by DK Publishing
- ***The Zack and Zoe Mysteries*** by Mike Lupica
- ***Jada Jones*** by Kelly Starling Lyons
- ***What If You Had*** by Sandra Markle
- ***The Baby-Sitters Club*** Graphic Novels by Ann Martin
- ***Ordinary People Change the World*** by Brad Meltzer
- ***The Magic Tree House*** by Mary Pope Osborne
- ***The Magic Tree House Fact Tracker*** 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

Poetry Books:

- ***I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups*** by Chris Harris - Pour over the text and illustrations as you read these laugh-out-loud poems for the young and old.
- ***Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies*** by J. Patrick Lewis - J. Patrick Lewis honors thirteen classic poems by a variety of poets by writing a parody of his own.
- ***Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up*** by Sally Walker - A combination of haiku and art encourages readers to think about the processes of our planet.

Magazines:

- 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

Grades 2-3 Reading List

- 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
- Novel Effect - bring your stories to life with music, sound effects, and character voices
- 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

Grades 4-5 **reading list**

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



Grades 4-5 Reading List

Classic Books:

- *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
- *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin
- *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Newer Informational Books:

- *The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander - This poetic book highlights contributions made by some of the world's greatest Black American heroes throughout history to more recent events.
- *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams* by Lesa Cline-Ransome - Venus and Serena Williams beat the odds to play in a white-dominated sport, but they did not let challenges stop them.
- *She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History* by Chelsea Clinton - Celebrate women in history who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard.
- *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.
- *The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng* by Sophia Gholz - Jadav was distressed by the destruction that deforestation was causing on his island home, so he began planting trees. It began as a small thicket of bamboo, but it turned into much more.
- *Overview, Young Explorer's Edition: A New Way of Seeing Earth* by Benjamin Grant and Sandra Markle - Discover Earth as you've never seen it before, in this stunning and unique collection of satellite images that offer an unexpected look at our planet.
- *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison - The legends in this book span centuries and continents, but what they have in common is that each one has blazed a trail for generations to come.
- *Leading the Way: Women in Power* by Janet and Theresa Howell - This collection of biographies highlights the actions, struggles, and accomplishments of more than fifty of the most influential leaders in American political history.
- *United Tastes of America: An Atlas of Food Facts and Recipes from Every State* by Gabrielle Langholtz - A full-spread introduction to each state features background about its culinary culture with illustrated food facts, maps, and an easy-to-follow recipe with a photograph of the finished dish.

- *Hidden Wonders: A Guide to the Planet's Wildest, Weirdest Places* by Lonely Planet Kids - Take a journey into the unknown and discover the planet's wildest and most wonderful sights that you never knew existed.
- *Lost in Outer Space: The Incredible Journey of Apollo 13* by Tod Olson - From "Houston, we've had a problem" to the final tense moments at Mission Control, go on the unbelievable journey of Apollo 13 and inside the minds of its famous and heroic astronauts.
- *Little Libraries, Big Heroes* by Miranda Paul - Thanks to Todd Bol and thousands of volunteers, many of whom are kids, millions of books in Little Free Libraries have been enjoyed around the world.
- *Americans* by Douglas Wood - Americans are different from one another in many ways. Despite these differences, Americans share certain ways of doing and being that hold us all together.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *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. Red's job becomes even more important when a new family moves to the area.
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft - Jordan loves drawing cartoons. Instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enrolled him in a private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color.
- *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech - Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures, but when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him.
- *Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo - When Louisiana's granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that they have to leave home immediately, Louisiana isn't overly worried. After all, Granny has many crazy ideas.
- *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen* by Candace Fleming - Strongheart, a German police dog, is brought to the U.S. and becomes a silent-movie screen star. Strongheart lives up to his name as he overcomes adversity with loyalty and grace.
- *Zap!* by Martha Freeman - Luis and Maura try to discover why their city has no power. They discover that there's more to the story and there's someone out there who wants to keep their city in the dark.
- *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart - For five years, Coyote and her dad, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash.
- *Best Friends* by Shannon Hale - Sixth grade is supposed to be perfect. Shannon's got a sure spot in the in-crowd, and her best friend is their leader and the most popular girl in school. The rules to be cool are always changing though.
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson - When Candice finds a letter in her attic, she isn't sure she should read it. Then, she discovers that fortune awaits the person who solves the puzzle described in the letter.

Grades 4-5 Reading List

- **Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship** by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes - Rescue gets the news that he's better suited to being a service dog than a Seeing Eye dog. Then, he meets Jessica, a girl whose life is turning out differently than the way she'd imagined it, too.
- **Restart** by Gordon Korman - Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again.
- **The King of Bees** by Lester Laminack - Henry can't wait until he can have a bee suit of his own so he can help his Aunt Lilla with the sister bees. Then, he finds himself alone when the bees are ready to swarm.
- **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.
- **Batting Order** by Mike Lupica - Matt and Ben couldn't be more different on and off the ballfield, but now they need to work together to help their team.
- **The Season of Styx Malone** by Kekla Magoon - Brothers Caleb and Bobby meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can achieve their wildest dreams, but there are secrets that could ruin everything.
- **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwama Mbalia - Trisitán is visited by a strange creature. An adventure ensues but it turns into a battle. Can Tristan save himself and the world with the help of some famous folk heroes and gods?
- **The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl** by Stacy McAnulty - Lucy's life was changed forever when she was struck by lightning. The zap gave her genius-level math skills, and she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass one more test - middle school!
- **Merci Suárez Changes Gears** by Meg Medina - Sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between.
- **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.
- **Look Both Ways** by Jason Reynolds - Told in a short story format, readers learn what happens after the dismissal bell rings. Then the stories are woven together into one wickedly funny look at the detours we face on the walk home and in life.
- **The Oddmire, Book 1: Changeling** by William Ritter - To renew the fading magic, goblins must perform a rare, ancient ritual involving one of their young, but something goes wrong. Now their young goblin looks like a human and is being raised by them.
- **Roll with It** by Jamie Sumner - Ellie isn't just the new kid at school. She's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town. As an aspiring baker, Ellie cooks up a plan to make her life better.
- **The Real McCoys: Wonder Undercover** by Matthew Swanson - Moxie, fourth grade detective, goes undercover in the Wonder Scouts to see who is sabotaging the badge competition.
- **Guts** by Raina Telgemeier - Raina wakes up one morning with a stomach ache. She thinks it's just a bug, but maybe it has to do with what she is worrying about at school.
- **Blacksmith's Song** by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk - The son of an enslaved blacksmith learns that his father is using the rhythm of his hammering to communicate with travelers on the Underground Railroad. When Pa falls ill, who will help them?

Series Books:

- **According to Humphrey** by Betty Birney
- **The Last Kids on Earth** by Max Brallier
- **A Dog's Purpose** by W. Bruce Cameron
- **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
- **The Baby-Sitters Club** Graphic Novels by Ann Martin
- **Lunar Chronicle** by Marissa Meyer
- **Next Time You See...** nonfiction series by Emily Morgan
- **39 Clues** by Rick Riordan
- **The (Fairly) True Tales** by Liesl Shurtliff
- **Bone Collection** by Jeff Smith
- **The Wings of Fire** by Tui Sutherland
- **I Survived...** by Lauren Tarshis
- **Predator Vs. Prey** by various authors
- **Who Was...?** by various authors
- **Ten True Tales** by Allan Zullo

Poetry:

- **I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups** by Chris Harris - Pour over the text and illustrations as you read these laugh-out-loud poems for the young and old.
- **Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies** by J. Patrick Lewis - Lewis honors thirteen classic poems by a variety of poets by writing a parody of his own.
- **Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up** by Sally M. Walker - A combination of haiku and art encourages readers to think about the processes of our planet.

Grades 4-5 Reading List

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
- 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)
- Jumpline 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
- Novel Effect - bring your stories to life with music, sound effects, and character voices
- OverDrive or Libby by OverDrive - borrow eBooks from your local library
- Sushi Scramble - make words from the given letter tiles
- That's Baloney - quiz-like game for all content areas

Grades 6-8 **reading list**

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



Grades 6-8 Reading List

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
- *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
- *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth Speare

Newer Informational Books:

- *Overview, Young Explorer's Edition: A New Way of Seeing Earth* by Benjamin Grant and Sandra Markle - Discover Earth as you've never seen it before in this stunning and unique collection of satellite images that offer an unexpected look at our planet.
- *Leading the Way: Women in Power* by Janet and Theresa Howell - This collection of biographies highlights the actions, struggles, and accomplishments of more than fifty of the most influential leaders in American political history.
- *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.
- *Mythologica: An Encyclopedia of Gods, Monsters, and Mortals from Ancient Greece* by Stephen Kershaw - Uncover the colorful lives of fifty powerful gods and goddesses, earth-dwelling mortals, and terrifying monsters from Greece.
- *Hidden Wonders: A Guide to the Planet's Wildest, Weirdest Places* by Lonely Planet Kids - Take a journey into the unknown and discover the planet's wildest and most wonderful sights that you never knew existed.
- *Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin* by James L. Swanson - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a mass movement for Civil Rights. As violent threats cast a dark shadow over Dr. King's life, Swanson hones in on James Earl Ray who ends King's life.

Newer Fiction Books:

- *This Was Our Pact* by Ryan Andrews - At the town festival, Ben and his classmates are determined to find out where those paper lanterns really go. They've made a pact with two simple rules: No one turns for home. No one looks back.
- *The War I Finally Won* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley - 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 World War II rages on around her as well.

- *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor - Mason's learning disabilities make him the target of bullies. If that's not bad enough, his best friend is found dead on his family's property and Mason is the prime suspect in the investigation.
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft - Jordan loves drawing cartoons. Instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enrolled him in a private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color.
- *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech - Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures, but when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him.
- *Beverly, Right Here* by Kate DiCamillo - Beverly has run away from home plenty of times, but that was when she was just a kid. At this point in her life, it's not running away. It's leaving. She's leaving behind her dog, best friend, and mother.
- *The Ambrose Deception* by Emily Ecton - Melissa is a nobody. Wilf is a slacker. Bondi is a show-off. At least that's what their middle school teachers think.
- *Zap!* by Martha Freeman - Luis and Maura try to discover why their city has no power. They discover that there's more to the story and there's someone out there who wants to keep their city in the dark.
- *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart - After the death of her two sisters and mother, Coyote and her dad leave home to embark on a road trip. When Coyote discovers that her childhood park is going to be torn up, she decides it's time to go home.
- *Allies* by Alan Gratz - Three young adults from different countries perform dangerous top-secret missions as the Allied nations come together to storm German-occupied France on D-Day.
- *Children of Jubilee* by Margaret Peterson Haddix - Since the Enforcers raided Refuge City, Rosi, Edwy, and the others are captured and forced to work as slave labor on an alien planet. None of them are certain they will make it out of this alive.
- *Best Friends* by Shannon Hale - Sixth grade is supposed to be perfect. Shannon's got a sure spot in the in-crowd, and her best friend is their leader and the most popular girl in school. The rules to be cool are always changing though.
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani - Nisha doesn't know where she belongs when India and Pakistan become two countries. Nisha searches for home, for her own identity, and for a hopeful future.
- *Lifeboat 12* by Susan Hood - Nazis are bombing London, so Ken must escape. He is lucky enough to get placed on a ship headed to safety in Canada, but it's not that safe when it is torpedoed in the middle of the night.
- *Deep Water* by Watt Key - After her father falls ill, twelve-year-old Julie must take over and lead two of his more reckless clients on a dive miles off the coast of Alabama, while her father stays behind in the boat.
- *A World Below* by Wesley King - Mr. Baker's eighth grade class thinks they are in for a normal field trip to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. But when an earthquake hits, their field trip takes a terrifying turn.
- *Restart* by Gordon Korman - Chase doesn't remember

falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember anything. He wakes up and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again.

- ***The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody*** by Matthew Landis - When the last assignment of seventh-grade history is a project on the Civil War, Oliver is over the moon until he's partnered with Ella Berry and they're assigned some no-name soldier.
- ***Code Word Courage*** by Kirby Larson - Billie has so many questions about missing her father and losing her best friend and then she also finds herself caring for an injured, stray dog.
- ***Five Feet Apart*** by Racheal Lippincott - Stella's been in the hospital most of her life, and Will is ready to forego hospital visits so he can see the world. As children with CF, they need to stay away from one another, but is five feet apart really that dangerous?
- ***Batting Order*** by Mike Lupica - Matt and Ben couldn't be more different on and off the ballfield, but now they need to work together for the sake of their baseball team.
- ***The Season of Styx Malone*** by Kekla Magoon - Brothers Caleb and Bobby meet their new neighbor Styx. He promises the brothers that together, the three of them can achieve their wildest dreams, but there are secrets that could ruin everything.
- ***Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*** by Kwama Mbalia - Trisitan is visited by a strange creature and an adventure ensues. It quickly turns into a battle. Can Tristan save himself and the world with the help of some famous folk heroes and gods?
- ***The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*** by Stacy McAnulty - Lucy's life was changed forever when she was struck by lightning. The zap gave her genius-level math skills, and she's technically ready for college. She just has to pass one more test - middle school!
- ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** by Meg Medina - Sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between.
- ***The Seventh Wish*** by Kate Messner - Charlie feels like she's always coming in last and unable to get her family's attention. She comes across a big surprise when a fish offers to grant her a wish in exchange for its freedom.
- ***The Book of Boy*** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock - A young outcast is swept up into a thrilling and perilous medieval treasure hunt.
- ***Dear Sweet Pea*** by Julie Murphy - Patricia wasn't sure what to expect when her parents divorced. She never imagined splitting her time between two houses and splitting up with her best friend at the same time.
- ***Free Lunch*** by Rex Ogle - Rex often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and was short of school supplies. If that's not enough, Rex has to announce his poverty everyday when he receives his free lunch at school.
- ***Look Both Ways*** by Jason Reynolds - Told in a short story format, readers learn what happens after the dismissal bell rings. Then the stories are woven together into one wickedly funny look at the detours we face on the walk home, and in life.
- ***Ghost Boys*** by Jewel Parker Rhodes - Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his

toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation in his family and community in the wake of his death.

- ***Amal Unbound*** by Aisha Saeed - Amal is forced into indentured servitude and puts her dreams of being a teacher on hold as she works to bring the message of hope and positive change that can come from struggle.
- ***Just Like Jackie*** by Lindsey Stoddard - For as long as Robbie can remember, it's just been her and Grandpa. But Grandpa's memory has been fading and Robbie is fading from it.
- ***Roll with It*** by Jamie Sumner - Ellie isn't just the new kid at school. She's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town. As an aspiring baker, Ellie cooks up a plan to make her life better.
- ***Guts*** by Raina Telgemeier - Raina wakes up one morning with a stomach ache. She thinks it's just a bug, but maybe it has to do with what she is worrying about at school.
- ***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang - Mia has many secrets. She lives in a motel, and her parents hide immigrants in the motel. What will happen if the motel owner finds out they've been letting them stay in the rooms for free?

Series:

- ***The Last Kids on Earth*** by Max Brallier
- ***A Dog's Purpose*** by W. Bruce Cameron
- ***Skeleton Creek*** by Patrick Carman
- ***The Land of Stories*** by Chris Colfer
- ***The Hunger Games*** by Suzanne Collins
- ***The Maze Runner*** by James Dashner
- ***Guinness World Record*** books by Guinness World Records
- ***The Shadow Children*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- ***The Warriors*** by Erin Hunter
- ***Amulet*** by Kazu Kibuishi
- ***Diary of a Wimpy Kid*** by Jeff Kinney
- ***Masterminds*** by Gordon Korman
- ***Vietnam*** by Chris Lynch
- ***Lost*** by Tod Olson
- ***Middle School*** by James Patterson
- ***Among the Hidden*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- ***Magnus Chase*** by Rick Riordan
- ***Percy Jackson & the Olympians*** by Rick Riordan
- ***Harry Potter*** by J. K. Rowling
- ***Bone Collection*** by Jeff Smith
- ***I Survived*** by Lauren Tarshis

Grades 6-8 Reading List

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 whiteboard 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



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