

Hello Summer



Best & Brightest Summer Reads

Teacher-Librarian Picks

Summer 2026



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Welcome to Summer Reading!

As Teacher-Librarians, we often get parents asking us, “What do kids in grade __ like?” or “My kid has read all of the Dog Man books, what can they read next??”

Our summer reading list aims to answer those very questions! It was so fun to create our summer reading list together again for the Alberta Consortium! Our 2026 list includes what our students are currently loving in our libraries, read-alike ideas for popular picks and some of our favourite new releases!

We hope that this list will inspire more visits to the public library, to encourage kids to try something they noticed their friends reading this year, maybe something that has been on their TBR, or even pick up something new if they are already a voracious reader!

Wishing you a summer full of great stories!
Ms. Chapman & Ms. Harte



Ms. Chapman

Ms. Morgan Chapman is the Elementary Teacher-Librarian at Strathcona Tweedsmuir School. She loves reading, hammocks and nature - which is why she loves summer! She is a big Katherine Applegate fan and can't wait to read Wombat Waiting this summer. She shares books and library activities @kidlitbookaday



Ms. Harte

Ms. Shannon Harte is a Teacher-Librarian at Rundie Academy, College & Studio. Recently, she has been reading mostly middle-grade realistic fiction and trying to improve her manga reading skills. Although there hasn't been much activity on her Instagram lately, you can find her online at @hartelovesbooks, where she intermittently posts her current reads and favourite library activities!

For even more picks, you can also check out our collaborative lists from previous years:

[Best and Brightest Summer Reads 2024](#)

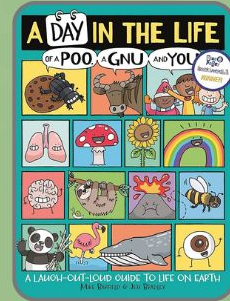
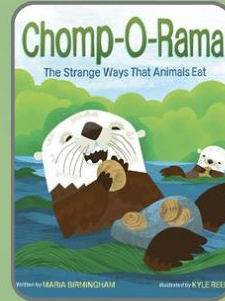
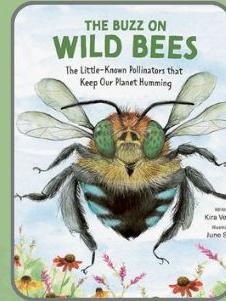
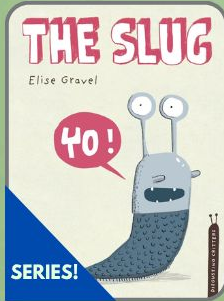
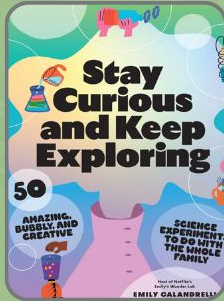
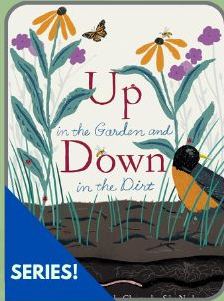
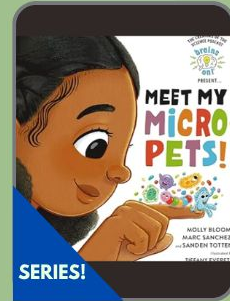
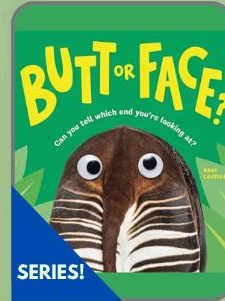
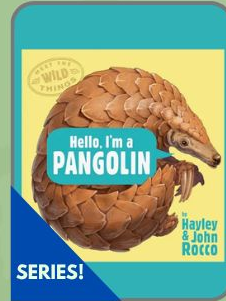
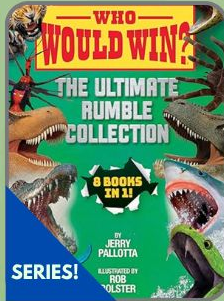
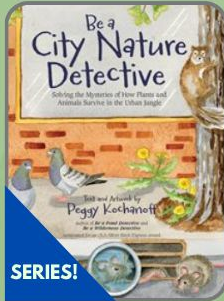
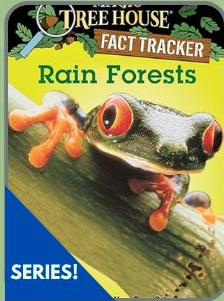
[Best and Brightest Summer Reads 2023](#)

[Best and Brightest Summer Reads 2022](#)

[Best and Brightest Summer Reads 2021](#)

K-3 Non-Fiction

Get Curious!



Tried & True
Books that make learning irresistible...

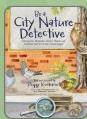
New!
Fun facts abound in these fresh new titles

K-3 Non-Fiction

Tried & True



Magic Tree House Fact Trackers by Mary Pope Osborne Filled with up-to-date information, photos, illustrations, and fun tidbits from Jack and Annie, the Magic Tree House Fact Trackers are the perfect way for kids to find out more about the topics they discovered in their favourite Magic Tree House adventures. Read the Fact Trackers alongside their Magic Tree House fiction companions!



Be a Nature Detective Series by Peggy Kochanoff How do bedbugs get into your home? Why are some grey squirrels black? Does goldenrod cause hay fever? Naturalist and artist Peggy Kochanoff answers these questions and more in this illustrated guide to solving nature mysteries in the city. These adventures are full of fascinating facts and original watercolours. From scuttling cockroaches to waves of starlings to burdock heads on your clothes, Kochanoff takes the reader through city streets to show them the amazing nature growing there.



Who Would Win series by Jerry Pallotta Which dangerous animals would win in a fight? Young readers and nonfiction fans will enjoy diving into the animal kingdom to discover which creature reigns supreme in author Jerry Pallotta's Who Would Win? book series. The collection features reptiles, mammals, sea creatures, dinosaurs, insects, and more as they go head-to-head in battle. Readers can learn fascinating facts about animals' behaviour patterns and anatomy.



Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt by Kate Messner In this exuberant and lyrical follow-up readers discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves . . . and down in the dirt. Explore the hidden world and many lives of a garden through the course of a year! Up in the garden, the world is full of green—leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt exists a busy world—earthworms dig, snakes hunt, skunks burrow—populated by all the animals that make a garden their home.



Stay Curious and Keep Exploring by Emily Calandrelli Grab your goggles and a family member to get started on a journey to spark curiosity, critical thinking, and fun family times! SUPER FUN SCIENCE EXPERIMENT BOOK: With chapters like Magic Tricks, Kitchen Science, and Fun with Physics, this book is packed with experiments that will delight little scientists and their lab assistants.



The Slug by Elise Gravel One in a series of humorous books about disgusting creatures, The Slug is a look at the land slug. It covers such topics as the slug's two pairs of tentacles, one pair for seeing, one pair for smelling (it can see you're a kid and smell like broccoli!), its breathing hole (on the side of its head!), and its pretty gross mucous covering (in order to find a partner, the slug can follow another slug's mucous trail. True love!). Although silly and off-the-wall, The Slug contains factual information that will both amuse and teach at the same time.

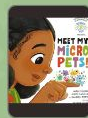
New!



Hello, I'm a Pangolin (Meet the Wild Things series) by Hayley Rocco Did you know pangolins are the only mammals with scales? Not even the teeth of a lion can break through their tough armor. And did you know pangolins have a super-sticky tongue as long as their entire body? (The better to eat 20,000 bugs a day with!) This series introduces young readers to endangered animals from around the globe, told from the points of view of the animals themselves.



Butt or Face? by Kari Lavalle Can YOU tell a butt from a face? Discover fascinating facts about animals with this hilarious guessing game picture book! Butt or Face offers kids a delightfully cheeky challenge: examine a close-up photo of an animal, and then guess whether you're looking at the top or the...um...bottom. The answer is revealed on the next page with a complete photo of the animal! Also included are factual animal details along with how these animals use camouflage or other trickery to engage with their home.



Meet My Micro-Pets by Molly Bloom The creators of Brains On!, the award-winning science podcast for kids, introduce readers to a fact-filled and humorous look at the weird and wonderful world of microbes! It's show-and-tell day, and Dominique can't wait to introduce her awesome pets to the class. They're more helpful than dogs, cuddlier than gerbils, and way smarter than lizards. They're her...MICRO-PETS! As Dominique takes her classmates on a tour through her microbiome, they'll meet some face mites, hang with feet fungi, and visit the fart factory—powered by bacteria in her intestines!



The Buzz on Wild Bees by Kira Vermond Say the word "bee," and most kids think of honeybees or bumblebees. But there are around 20,000 discovered species of bees—and most of these are wild, solitary bees that don't live in hives. Using clear, concise language and plenty of fun word play, this introduction to wild bees describes their life cycles, habitats, and behaviours... some of which are weirder than others! It also explains the importance of wild solitary bees to many ecosystems, the challenges these bees face, and the things we can do to be part of the solution.



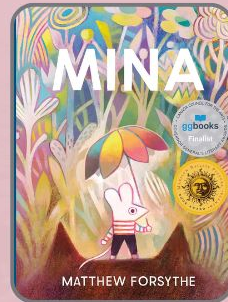
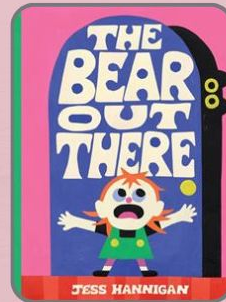
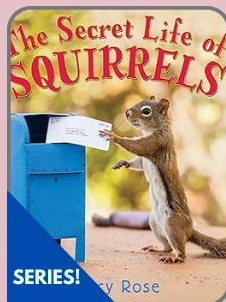
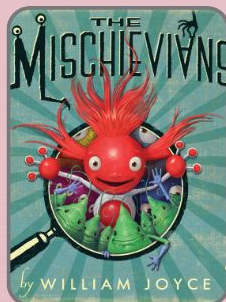
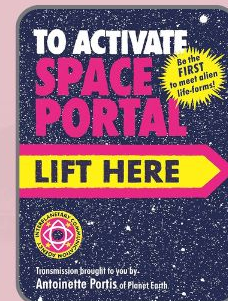
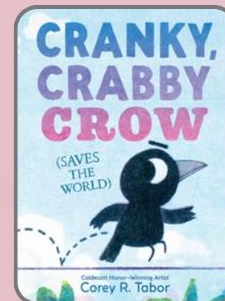
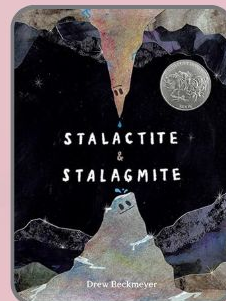
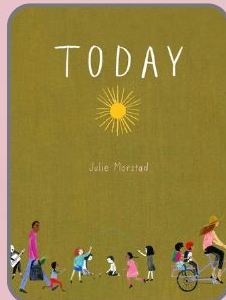
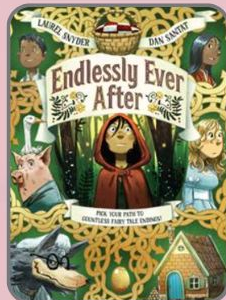
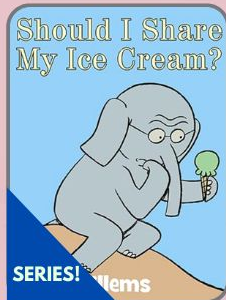
Chomp-O-Rama: The Strange Ways That Animals Eat by Maria Birmingham A fun, fact-filled look at both the relatable and the surprising ways animals gobble up grub. Crunch... munch... slurp... CHOMP! The animals of Chomp-O-Rama are hungry, and each creature has its own way of eating. Some dine in ways similar to humans. And others definitely do not. This playful nonfiction book offers creative comparisons between the way humans eat and the mealtime habits of a dozen other creatures.



Day in the Life of a Poo, a Gnu, and You by Mike Barfield Join the hilarious exploration of "a day in the life" of nearly 100 things on Earth. Find out what exactly your tongue does all day long, how a Japanese knotweed destroys everything in its path, and why no two snowflakes are ever the same. From the gross and smelly to the beautiful and fascinating, this book is a treasure trove of entertaining information.

Picture Books

That can be read again and again!



Tried & True

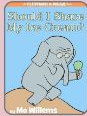
Books that invite imagination, participation and creativity

New!

Books that your child won't be able to stop talking about (or reading!)

Picture Books

Tried & True



Should I Share My Ice Cream by **Mo Willems** Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. In *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* Gerald has a big decision to make. But will he make it in time?



Endlessly Ever After by **Lauren Snyder and Dan Santat** This funny, original, choose-your-path picture book of fractured fairy tales will charm any young fan of the genre, putting the power of storytelling right in the reader's hands!

Grab your basket and your coat. Put on some walking shoes. Turn the page and begin: Which story will you choose?



Today by **Julie Morstad** An exquisite, modern take on classic 'everything' books. In *Today*, the simplest moment has the potential to become extraordinary, from getting dressed, to having breakfast, to choosing ways to go. Every day is full of endless possibilities—especially today!



Are You A Cheeseburger? by **Monica Arnold** Grub is a lonely raccoon. Rumbling in the trash. Looking for food. Seed is, well, a seed! Patiently waiting in the trash. Hoping someone will plant it. When the two finally meet, they realize they might be able to help each other! Grub has just one big question first: What will Seed grow? Could Seed grow Grub's favourite food, mouthwatering cheeseburgers? Seed isn't sure what a cheeseburger is exactly, but . . . maybe! And so begins a hilarious friendship following two unlikely strangers learning more about the other and discovering the pressure that comes with fulfilling expectations.



The Mischevians by **William Joyce** Strange smells. Disappearing remotes. That itch you just can't reach. It's not your fault! It's the Mischevians, an ancient race of global mischief-makers who do all the things that embarrass you. All the things that bug you. All the things that YOU get blamed for! This book is a hit every year in the library - students can't help but create their own Mischevians after reading! A great book to spark laughter and creativity.

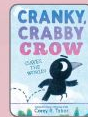


The Secret Life of Squirrels by **Nancy Rose** Mr Peanuts is an unusual squirrel. He likes to grill hot dogs on his tiny grill. He plays the piano beautifully. He likes to read (his favourite books are *Tail of Two Cities* and *Good Night, Nut*). But once in a while he feels lonely. One day, he writes a letter to Cousin Squirrel to invite him to visit, and to his great joy, Cousin Squirrel agrees! They play chess and ride a wagon. Turns out Cousin Squirrel is an unusual squirrel, too, and Mr Peanuts realizes that having a friend makes everything twice as fun.

New!



Stalactite and Stalagmite: A Big Tale from a Little Cave by **Drew Beckmeyer** A hilarious and thought-provoking picture book about two little cave rock formations who witness the entire history of the world, perfect for fans of Oliver Jeffers, Jon Klassen, and Mac Barnett. DRIP. DRIP. DRIP. Time flies for two charming little cave nubs, Stalactite and Stalagmite. Over millions of years, creatures and things pass in and out of their cave, everything from a trilobite, an ichthyostega, and a triceratops, to a ground sloth and a bat.



Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World) by **Corey R. Tabor** Everything is on the line for crabby, cranky Crow. But why, exactly, is Crow so moody? Cranky, crabby Crow does not want to play with Squirrel or do loop-de-loops with Hummingbird. He doesn't have time for Rat or Bat. From high atop a telephone pole, Cat warns Crow that he will soon be all alone if he turns his friends away with his very cranky "kaw!" one more time. But, unbeknownst to all, Crow has bigger, world-saving fish to fry—he must protect planet Earth from an asteroid headed our way!



To Activate Space Portal, Lift Here by **Antionette Portis** This book is an interstellar portal, and the aliens inside want to get to know you! Before you lift the cover, be sure you're ready to meet Zrk and Blrg. They're not so different from you—but to them, you're the alien! After their initial shock at seeing you through the portal, they're eager to see what kind of teeth you have, compare home planets, and maybe team up for a prank. You met as aliens, but by the time the portal closes, maybe you'll be friends.



The Bear Out There by **Jess Hannigan** DON'T SCREAM! There's something scary out in the forest, but you're in good hands in this story. Just make sure you keep a cool head, and watch out for any intruders... The signs are clear—there's a BEAR OUT THERE! You're lucky to be safe in this cabin in the woods, with a host who is levelheaded, trustworthy, and smart about bear safety. There's certainly no need to worry about any dark shadows or sneaky schemes in this book... RIGHT? This tale is not too silly, not too scary, but just right.

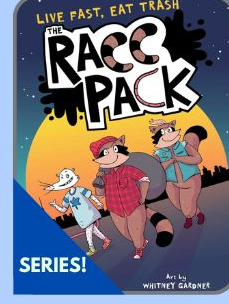
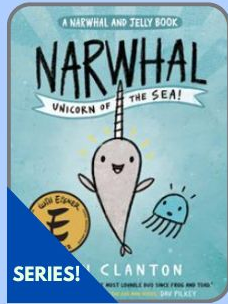
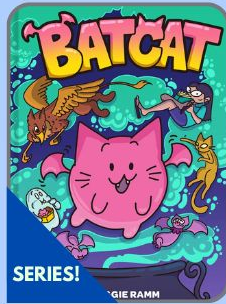
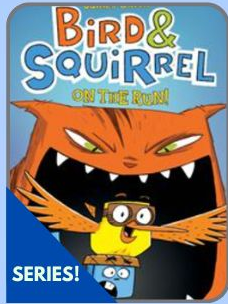
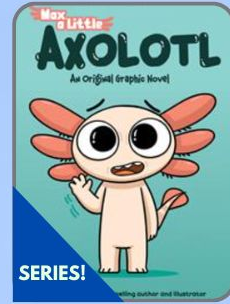
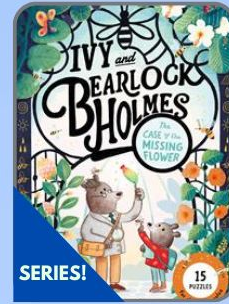
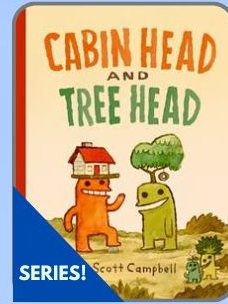
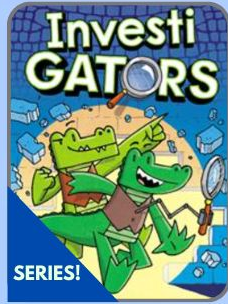
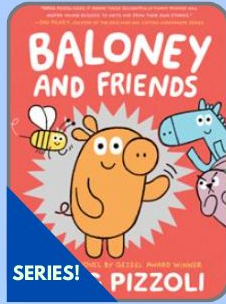
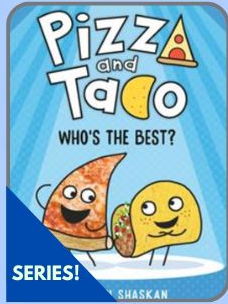


The Future Book by **Mac Barnett** Every other book was written in the past. But this book? This book was written in the future Do you want to know what the future is like? Turn the pages to get a glimpse at the world of tomorrow and its unexpected words, strange social customs, and mind-blowing colors!



Mina by **Matthew Forsythe** Mina and her father live in a hollowed-out tree stump on the edge of a pond on the edge of a forest. Nothing ever bothers Mina, until one day, her father brings home a suspicious surprise from the woods. Should Mina trust her father—or listen to her own instincts?

K-3 Graphic Novels



Tried & True

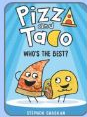
Graphic Novels for beginning readers are engaging and fun, and absolutely count as reading!

New!

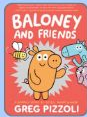
Graphic Novels to delight new readers and help them explore different genres as they develop their reading identity!

Graphic Novels

Tried & True



Who's the Best? (Pizza and Taco 1) by Stephen Shaskan Best friends are the BEST! But WHO is the BEST? Is it Pizza or Taco? The question is debatable! They both love water slides. They both are friends with Hot Dog and Hamburger. In fact, maybe they should have a debate and get their friends to VOTE for who's the best! Can their friendship survive the race for top spot on the popularity food chain? Cast your VOTE!



Baloney and Friends by Greg Pizzoli Meet Baloney! He's the star of this book, along with his best buddies: empathetic Peanut the horse, sensible Bizz the bumblebee, and grumpy Krabbit—he'd rather not be here, but what can you do? Giggle with Baloney as he performs some questionable magic, give him a boost when a case of the blues gets him down, cheer him on as he braves the swimming pool, and at the end, learn to draw all the characters with clear step-by-step instructions!



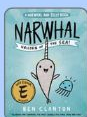
InvestiGators! by John Patrick Green With their Very Exciting Spy Technology and their tried-and-true, toilet-based travel techniques, the InvestiGators are undercover and on the case! And on their first mission together, they have not one but two mysteries to solve! Can Mango and Brash uncover the clues, crack their cases, and corral the crooks? or will the criminals wriggle out of their grasp?



Bird and Squirrel On the Run! by James Burke This is Squirrel. He's afraid of his own shadow. This is Bird. He doesn't have a care in the world. And this is Cat. He wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. But he'll have to catch them first, and that's not going to be easy. Join this hilarious trio as they head south for the winter. But watch out! Cat is waiting around every bend, and he's one pesky feline!



Batcat by Meggie Ramm Batcat loves being all alone in their home on Spooky Island. Up in their tree house, they pass the time playing video games and watching TV. But when Batcat suddenly finds themselves haunted by an annoying, ice cream-stealing ghost, they visit the local Island Witch for a spell to remove their ghastly guest permanently!



Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do both love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together. Jelly learns that Narwhal is a really good friend. Then Narwhal and Jelly form their own pod of awesomeness with their ocean friends. And finally, Narwhal and Jelly read the best book ever—even though it doesn't have any words . . . or pictures!

New!



Cabin Head and Tree Head by Scott Campbell Whether drawing or hiding or just saying HELLO or BYE-BYE, Cabin Head and Tree Head are irresistible buddies who have fun together, support one another's ideas (digging for treasure without a map) and help one another overcome challenges (bad leafcuts!). These are lighthearted tales of two pals who think differently—and entirely embrace it. Let's go hang out with all the Heads!



Ivy and Bearlock Holmes by Kristyna Litten Meet Ivy and her grandpa Bearlock Holmes—two super-sleuths with a knack for solving the trickiest cases. When a prize-winning flower mysteriously disappears from Bearona's famous botanical gardens, Ivy and Bearlock are called in to investigate. As clues begin to emerge, readers are invited to join the detectives in unraveling the mystery through 15 interactive puzzles woven into the story. From spotting patterns and following trails to testing theories, each challenge helps move the case forward while keeping young readers fully engaged.



Max, a Little Axolotl by Joey Spiotto. It's Max's first day at Coral Elementary School. The school is filled with marine animals, like dolphins, crabs, and octopus. But none of the other students have ever seen an axolotl before... and they have SO MANY QUESTIONS. Where did Max live before? Is it true he can regrow any of his limbs? What happened to his old friends? This is too much attention for Max! Hiccup! Uh-oh... Max gets the hiccups when he's nervous. Can this little axolotl adjust to his new underwater school, or will the pressure just be too much?



Once Upon a Tail by Audrey Perrot Wallace is a knightly horse who loves rules. Poppy is a free-spirit dragon who loves adventure. These two unlikely pals disagree on most everything—but still manage to have a lot of fun-filled shenanigans together in the Land of La-Dee-Dah. This young graphic novel follows the everyday adventures of two best buds as they step out of their comfort zones, discover hidden powers, and eat a LOT of banana pudding.



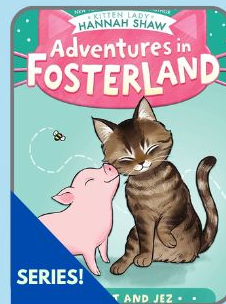
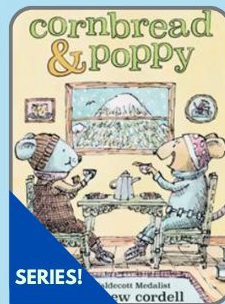
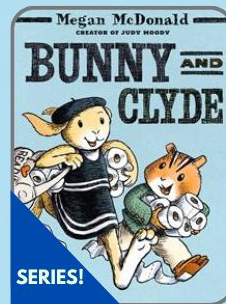
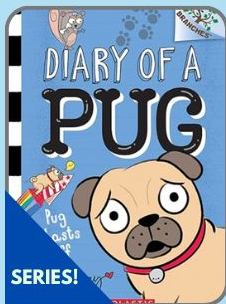
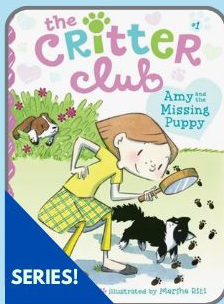
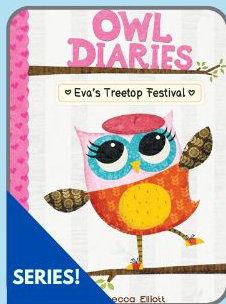
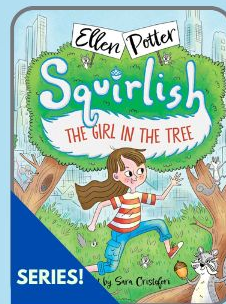
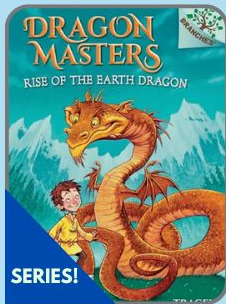
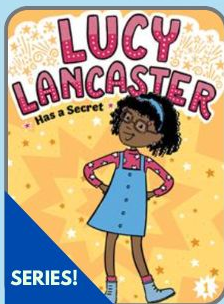
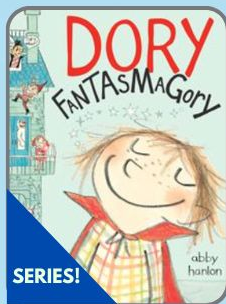
Racc Pack by Stephanie Cooke Meet the Bins family, a trio of raccoons in the risky business of dumpster diving for all their needs. With Dusty's brains, ReRe's muscle, and Scraps's gadgets, the Binses are determined to leave no garbage bin unturned in their pursuit of the tastiest, most delicious trash they can find. When the family discovers a new upscale grocery store that's throwing away their perfectly good food at the end of each day, the Binses hatch a heist so daring it'll have them rolling in garbage all winter long. Can they pull it off?



The Great Puptective by Alina Tysøe Truffles the cat is the only pet in the house and reigns in peace and quiet, only exerting himself to find the best place to take a nice, long nap—preferably in a spot of warm sunshine. Then, Poppy, the puppy, bursts onto the scene. Poppy is loud, enthusiastic, excitable, and—worst of all—a puptective! She's got an eye for crime and a nose to solve all mysteries that come her way...But could this irrepressible new companion be just what this grumpy cat needs?

Early Chapter Books

To keep you reading all summer!



Tried & True

Early chapter book series stars that we can't keep on the shelf in the library!

New!

Early chapter book series that are recent publications that our students are loving this year!

Early Chapter Books

Tried & True



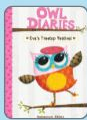
Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything, she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she's too much of a baby for them, so she's left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy. Her siblings may roll their eyes at her childish games, but Dory has lots of things to do, including outsmarting the monsters all over the house, moving into the closet, and exacting revenge on her sister's favourite doll. And when they really need her, daring Dory will prove her bravery and finally get exactly what she has been looking for!



Lucy Lancaster Has A Secret by Willow Coven. Lucy is good at being a lot of things. She's a best friend, a stellar student, and a budding Super Flag Tag athlete. But there is one thing she hadn't planned on being: magic! One day, mayhem breaks out after Lucy develops a mysterious case of the hiccupps that have the magical power to make her dreams and nightmares come true. Luckily, a fellow witch lends a hand, and Lucy learns how to cast her very first spell and get things back under control!



Rise of the Earth Dragon (Dragon Masters #1) by Tracey West. 8-year old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldiers and taken to the castle. He is to be trained as a Dragon Master. At the castle, he is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. The Dragon Masters must learn how to connect with and train their dragons--and they must also uncover their dragons' special powers. Does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master? What is his dragon's special power?



Eva's Treetop Festival (Owl Diaries #1) by Rebecca Elliott. Eva Wingdale gets in over her head when she offers to organize a spring festival at school. Even with her best friend Lucy's help, there is NO way she will get everything done in time. Will Eva have to ask Sue (a.k.a. Meanie McMeanerson) for help? Or will the festival have to be cancelled?



Amy and the Missing Puppy (Critter Club #1) by Callie Barkley. It's Spring Break in Santa Vista, and everyone has big plans...everyone except for Amy, that is! As her best friends head out of town on exciting adventures, Amy resigns herself to helping out at her mom's vet clinic. At least she'll be around cute animals! But when Santa Vista's cold and elusive millionaire, Marge Sullivan, brings her puppy Rufus for a check-up, Amy encounters an unexpected mystery. After her friends return home, the girls get to the bottom of what happened to Rufus—and discover a way to help other lost and lonely animals in their town



Pug Blasts Off (Diary of a Pug #1) by Kyla May Baron von Bubbles, a.k.a "Bub", is the self-proclaimed cutest pug on the planet! Things he loves: fashion, peanut butter, and his human, Bella. Things he does NOT love: Nutz the squirrel, baths, and the rain. When Bella enters the Inventor Challenge, Bub helps her craft the best project ever. But what happens when Nutz gets on Bub's nerves and makes him ruin Bella's project? If Bub wants to make it up to Bella, he'll have to stand up to Nutz -- and the rain -- once and for all.

New!



Home Is Where the Heart Is (Good Dog #1) by Cam Higgins Springtime has arrived at the Davis Family Farm! Spring showers lead to muddy hijinks for a young pup named Bo. But when Bo loses his dog tag, he gets serious and enlists all of his barnyard pals to help him find it. From horse stalls to chicken coops to grazing fields and beyond, Bo's adventure takes him all over the farm, introducing a cast of friends and frenemies.



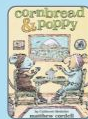
The Beginning (Orris and Timble #1) by Kate DiCamillo Orris the rat lives alone in an old barn surrounded by his treasures, until the day his solitude is disrupted by a sudden flutter of wings and a loud screech. A small owl has gotten caught in a trap in the barn. Can Orris "make the good and noble choice" (as the king on his prized sardine can might recommend) and rescue the owl, despite the fact that owls and rats are natural enemies? And if he does, will he be ready for the consequences?



The Girl in the Tree (Squirrelish #1) by Ellen Potter Cordelia is a girl who lives in a tree in Central Park. Found as a baby and raised by an adoring squirrel named Shakespeare, Cordelia acts just like any other young squirrel, leaping across treetops, chasing her squirrel friends, and sleeping in her treehouse. Still, she wonders what it would be like to have a human friend, and when she stumbles into a gymnastics class, it seems like she might have her chance.



Bunny and Clyde by Megan McDonald These by-the-rules buddies, a rabbit and a chipmunk, are sick and tired of being good. For once, they want to know what it's like to be baddies—rotten to the core! They want thrills and excitement! But to get really good at being bad, they're going to need some experience. What if the dastardly duo started returning library books late on purpose? Or borrowing markers without asking? Everyone knows it's a swift downhill slide from there—as long as there's an unprotected piggy bank in town! Unless, of course, their best attempts at mastering bad deeds are strangely misconstrued



Cornbread & Poppy by Matthew Cordell Cornbread LOVES planning. Poppy does not. Cornbread ADORES preparing. Poppy does not. Cornbread IS ready for winter. Poppy...is not. But Cornbread and Poppy are the best of friends, so when Poppy is left without any food for the long winter, Cornbread volunteers to help her out. Their search leads them up, up, up Holler Mountain, where these mice might find a new friend...and an old one

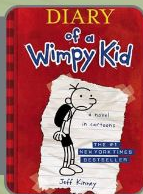


Adventures in Fosterland by Hannah Shaw This sweet series is based on real stories from animals in foster care, and has been a big hit in the library this year! Book 1 is about a tiny piglet named Emmett who bounces off the truck carrying his mother and siblings. He's lost, hungry, and stuck on the side of the road. Then a giant scoops Emmett up and takes him to a wonderful, magical place called Fosterland, where he meets a kitten named Jez. As the two friends grow older and face the possibility of different forever homes, Emmett must confront his biggest fear: is there a Foreverland out there for him?

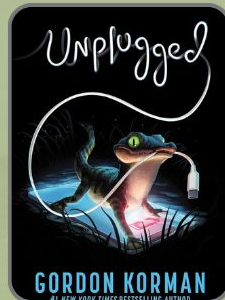
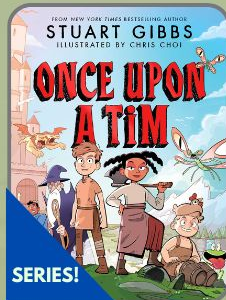
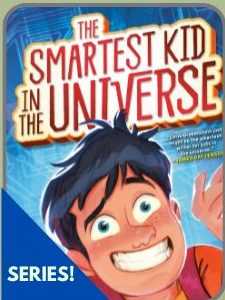
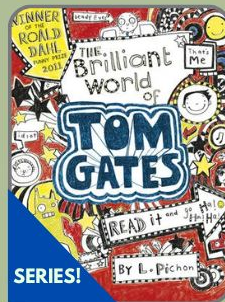
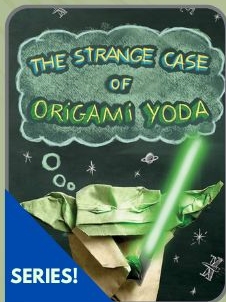
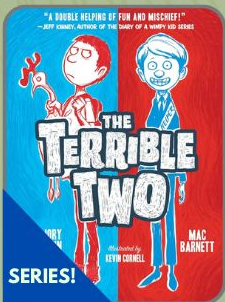
Chapters & Graphics

Grades 4-6

If you like...



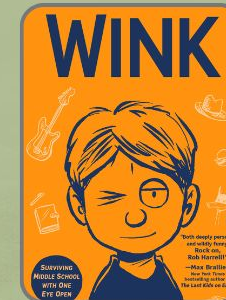
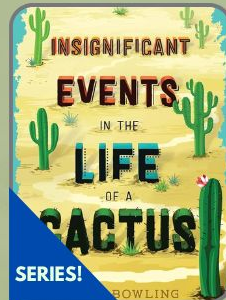
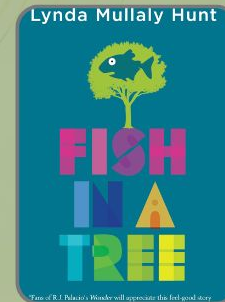
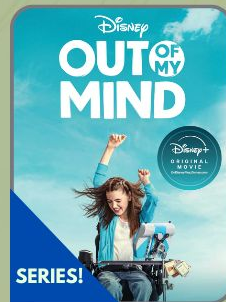
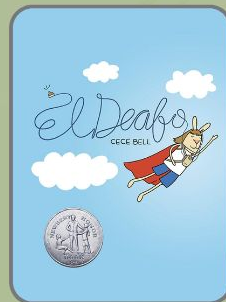
...try these!



If you like...



...try these!



Chapters & Graphics

If you like...



...try these!



The Terrible Two by **Mac Barnett & Jory John**. Miles Murphy is known for one thing and one thing only: pranking. He's the best prankster his school has ever seen. So when he's forced to move to boring, cow-filled Yawnee Valley, he assumes he'll be the best prankster at his new school, too. There's one problem. The school already has a prankster—Niles! He's good, really good. Let the prank war begin! Will Miles and his rival, Niles Sparks, become friends or foes?



The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by **Tom Angleberger**. It takes the wisdom of Yoda to survive sixth grade. Meet Dwight, a sixth-grade oddball. Dwight does a lot of weird things, like wearing the same T-shirt for a month or telling people to call him "Captain Dwight." But Dwight does one cool thing: He makes origami. One day he makes an origami finger puppet of Yoda. And that's when things get mysterious. Origami Yoda can predict the future and suggest the best way to deal with a tricky situation. His advice actually works, and soon most of the sixth grade is lining up with questions. Is Yoda tapping into the Force?



The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by **Liz Pichon**. Meet Tom Gates. When his teachers don't have their beady eyes on him, he likes to draw pictures and write about stuff, like last summer's worst camping vacation ever, or how much he hates sitting next to nosy Marcus Meldrew, the most annoying boy at school. All Tom really wants is to score tickets to see the best band ever, Dude3, when they come to town. Master of excuses, creative storyteller, and middle-school comedian extraordinaire, Tom Gates is guaranteed to get kids turning the pages — and keep them laughing.



The Smartest Kid in the Universe by **Chris Grabenstein**. Twelve-year-old Jake's middle school is about to be shut down. Jake and his friends know their school's worth saving—if they could only figure out how! When Jake spies a bowl of jellybeans at the hotel where his mom works, he eats them. But uh-oh—those weren't just jellybeans, one of the scientists at his mom's conference is in the process of developing the first ingestible information pills. And THAT'S what Jake ate. Can Jake navigate all the ins and outs of his newfound geniusdom?



Once Upon a Tim by **Stuart Gibbs**. Tim is just a peasant, but he dreams big. He wants more out of life than to grow up to be a woodsman like his father. Unfortunately, the only route to success in the kingdom of Wyld is to be born a prince. Still, Tim is determined. He is brave and clever and always tries to do the right thing—even though he rarely gets the credit for it. Then news spreads that Princess Grace of the neighboring kingdom has been abducted! Tim finally has the lucky break he's been waiting for, the opportunity to change his station in life.



Unplugged by **Gordon Korman**. Jett Baranov is Silicon Valley's number one spoiled brat. The son of a billionaire tech genius, he has everything money can buy, which means he's in the habit of getting into a lot of trouble. When one of his stunts brings in the US Air Force, Jett's father sends him off to Oasis Mind and Body Wellness Center, where he'll be unplugged and disconnected from the outside world. Of course, Jett hates it instantly and does his best to get himself kicked out. But it's not as easy as he thinks. Then, something dangerous threatens the future of all the guests at Oasis. And Jett is the only one who can put a stop to it.

If you like...



...try these!



El Deafo by **Cece Bell**. Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here, she's different. She's sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends. Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear, she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in the school—in the hallway . . . in the teacher's lounge . . . in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even a superpower! Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, Listener for All. But can it help with hat her make a friend?



Out of My Mind by **Sharon Draper**. Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.



Fish in a Tree by **Lynda Mullaly Hunt**. Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of.



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by **Dusti Bowling**. Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire, but the truth is she was born without them. When her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, Aven moves with them across the country, knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. She bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a secret! It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.



Wink by **Rob Harrell**. A hilarious and heartwrenching story about surviving middle school—and an unthinkable diagnosis—while embracing life's weirdness. Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table. Based on author Rob Harrell's real-life experience.

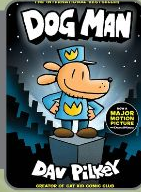


A Kind of Spark by **Elle McNicoll**. Ever since Ms. Murphy told us about the witch trials that happened centuries ago right here in Juniper, I can't stop thinking about them. Those people weren't magic. They were like me. Different like me. I'm autistic. I see things that others do not. I hear sounds that they can ignore. And sometimes I feel things all at once. I think about the witches, with no one to speak for them. Not everyone in our small town understands. But if I keep trying, maybe someone will. I won't let the witches be forgotten. Because there is more to their story. Just like there is more to mine

Chapters & Graphics

Gr 4-6

If you like...

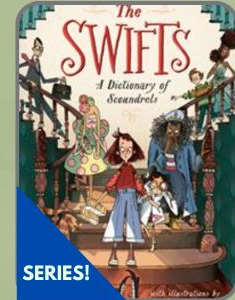
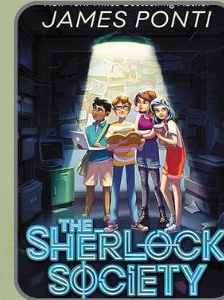
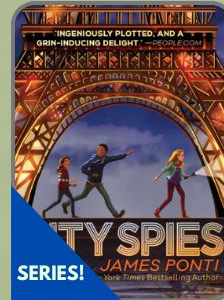
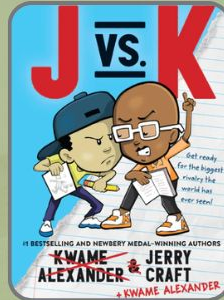
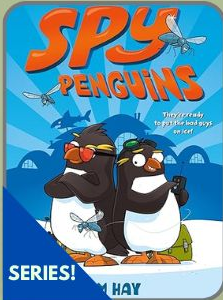
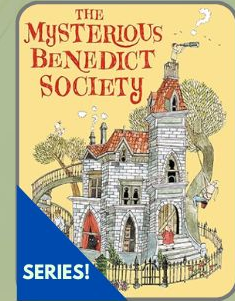
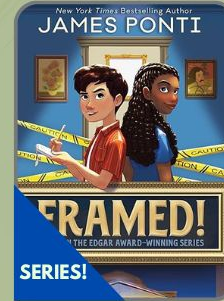
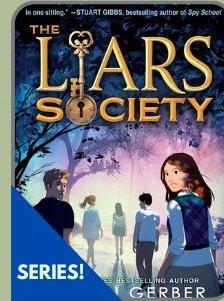
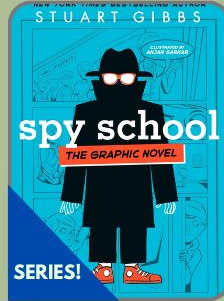
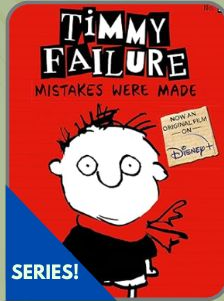
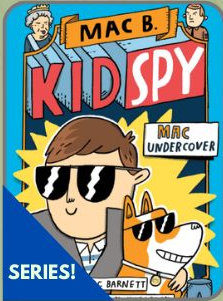


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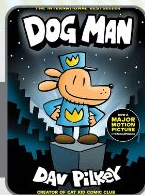


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Chapters & Graphics

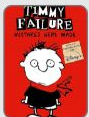
If you like...



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Mac B Kid Spy by Mac Barnett. James Bond meets Diary of a Wimpy Kid with this fully-illustrated chapter book series, Mac B, Kid Spy. The precious Crown Jewels have been stolen, and there's only one person who can help the Queen of England: her newest secret agent, Mac B. Mac travels around the globe in search of the stolen treasure...but will he find it in time? From secret identities to Karate hijinks, this fast-paced, witty and historically inspired chapter book will keep readers guessing until the very last page



Timmy Failure by Stephan Pastis. "My name is Failure. Timmy Failure. I am the founder, President and CEO of the best detective agency in town, probably in the world. Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made is a historical record of my life as a detective. It has been rigorously fact-checked. All the drawings in here are by me. I tried to get my business partner to do the illustrations, but they were not good" Timmy Failure is the clueless, comically self-confident CEO of a budding investigative empire. This series has been a hit in our library!



Spy School The Graphic Novel by Stuart Gibbs. Ben Ripley is shocked to discover that the school is actually a front for a junior CIA academy. Could the CIA really want him? Actually, no. There's been a case of mistaken identity—but that doesn't stop Ben from trying to morph into a supercool undercover agent, the kind that always gets the girl. And through a series of hilarious misadventures, Ben realizes he might actually be a halfway decent spy...if he can survive all the attempts being made on his life!



Spy Penguins by Sam Hay. Adventure-loving penguin Jackson dreams of being a secret agent like his Uncle Bryn, who works for the Frosty Bureau of Investigation. When one of Q's inventions goes dangerously wrong, Jackson suddenly finds himself dropped right in the middle off an FBI stakeout. There's fishy business afoot at the city's aquarium; rare fish are vanishing and not even the FBI can work out what's going on. It's up to Jackson and Quigley to solve the crime!



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library by Chris Grabenstein (Graphic Novel Adaptation) When Kyle learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on an opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting into the library—it's getting out. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!

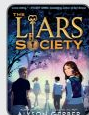


J vs K by Kwame Alexander and Jerry Craft J and K are the most creative fifth graders at Dean Ashley Public School (DAPS). J loves to draw and his wordless stories are J-ENUIU! K loves to write and his stories are K-LASSIC!! Both J and K are determined to win the DAPS annual creative storytelling contest or at least get in the top five. And when they find out that they are both entering The Contest, it's the beginning of one of the most intense rivalries the world has ever seen.

If you like...



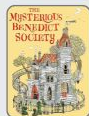
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Liar's Society by Alyson Gerber. Weatherby just scored a scholarship to the most elite school in Boston — and maybe a chance to finally meet the dad she's never known. Jack has gone to the school his whole life, but somehow he's still the family disappointment. Both of them are hiding secrets that could blow up everything. When the money for a trip to a private island goes missing, Weatherby and Jack are pulled into a high-stakes game to solve the mystery. If they win, they'll be selected to join the oldest, most powerful secret society in the world—and they'll be Boston royalty forever. If they lose... well, they better not lose.



Framed by James Ponti. Middle school is hard. Solving cases for the FBI is even harder. Doing both at the same time—well that's just absurd. But that doesn't stop Florian and Margaret! Get to know the only kids on the FBI Director's speed dial—and several international criminals' most wanted lists—in this adventurous series that School Library Journal says combines "elements of Alex Rider, James Bond, and Sherlock Holmes."



Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. "Are you a gifted child looking for special opportunities?" When this peculiar ad appears in the newspaper, dozens of children enroll to take a series of mysterious, mind-bending tests. (And you, dear reader, can test your wits right alongside them.) But in the end just four very special children will succeed and go on a secret mission at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.



City Spies by James Ponti. Sara Martinez is a hacker facing years in juvenile detention, until she meets Mother, a spy who gets her out of jail and into M16, British Secret Intelligence. The City Spies are five kids from around the world. When they're not at the local boarding school, they're mastering spy skills like sleight of hand, breaking and entering, covert observation, and explosives. Sara's off to Paris for a youth summit, hacking into a rival school's computer to prevent them from winning a million euros, dangling thirty feet off the side of a building, and trying to stop a villain...all while navigating the complex dynamics of her new team.



Sherlock Society by James Ponti. Siblings Alex and Zoe Sherlock take their last name as inspiration when choosing a summer job. After all, starting a detective agency has to be better than babysitting (boring), lawn mowing (sweaty), or cleaning out the attic (boring and sweaty). The group's first target is the long-lost treasure supposedly hidden near their hometown Miami. Their investigation into the local doings of famed gangster Al Capone leads them to a remote island in the middle of the Everglades....



The Swifts by Beth Lincoln. On the day they are born, every Swift child is brought before the sacred Family Dictionary. They are given a name, and a definition. A definition it is assumed they will grow up to match. Meet Shenanigan Swift: Little sister. Risk-taker. Mischief-maker. Shenanigan is getting ready for the big Swift Family Reunion and plotting her next great scheme: hunting for Grand-Uncle Vile's long-lost treasure. She's excited to finally meet her arriving relatives—until one of them gives Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude a deadly shove down the stairs.

Chapters & Graphics

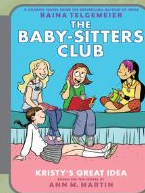
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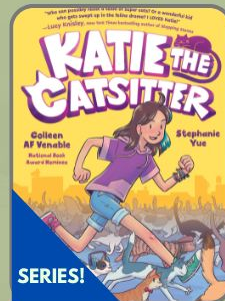
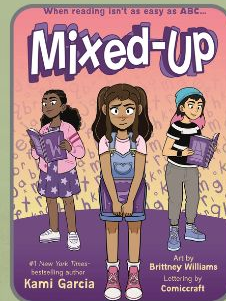
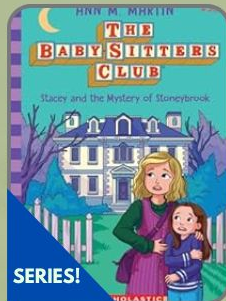
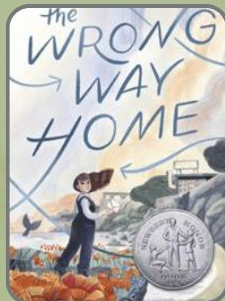
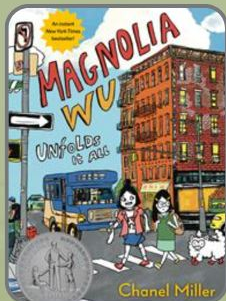
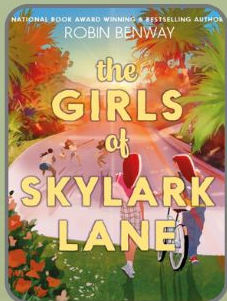
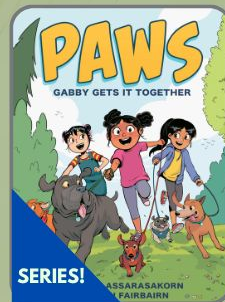
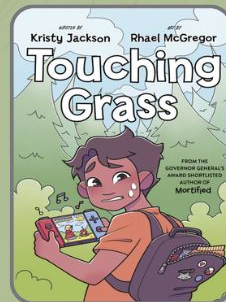
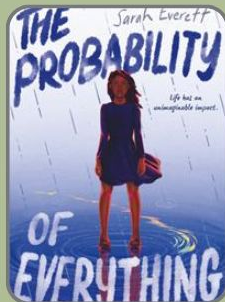


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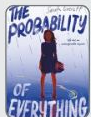
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Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers by Celia Perez When three very different girls find a mysterious invitation to a lavish mansion, the promise of adventure is too intriguing to pass up. Ofelia (a budding journalist), Aster (a bookish foodie), and Cat (a rule-abiding birdwatcher) meet the kid behind the invite, Lane DiSanti, and it isn't love at first sight. They soon bond over a shared mission to get the Floras, their local Scouts, to ditch an outdated tradition. In their quest for justice, the girls form their own troop and find something they didn't know they needed: sisterhood.



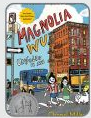
To Night Owl From Dog Fish by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve, and are both being raised by single, gay dads. When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Can they figure out a way to be a family?



The Probability of Everything by Sarah Everett. Eleven-year-old Kemi Carter understands the world through probability. Everything changes when asteroid Amplus-68 appears, with an 84.7% chance of colliding with Earth in four days. Facts stop feeling true. Her new town isn't welcoming, and everyone else acts like nothing has changed. Is Kemi the only one who feels like the world is ending? With time running out, she builds a time capsule to capture her family's truth, her mother's creativity, her sister's curiosity, and her father at the center of everything. But no capsule can change what she must face: saying goodbye.



The Girls of Skylark Lane by Robin Benway. Aggie and Jac are twin sisters who suddenly don't agree on anything. Jac is excited to move to Los Angeles and reinvent herself, while Aggie worries about her new school, losing friends back home, and being left behind. An invitation to join a neighbourhood softball team gives Aggie a chance to make new friends, even as Jac's interest centers on the captain's older brother. As the twins grow in different directions, they must figure out if their bond can stay strong through the biggest curveball of all: growing up.



Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller. Magnolia spends her days in her parents' New York City laundromat, pinning every lost sock to a bulletin board and hoping someone will finally notice—her or the socks. No one ever does. Then Iris, a new friend from California, arrives, and the two set off across the city to solve the mystery of each missing sock. From subways to delis to plant shops and pizzerias, they meet new people and uncover the unexpected. With every adventure, Magnolia discovers that when you're brave enough to step into the unknown, things start to fall into place.



The Wrong Way Home by Kate O'Shaughnessy Fern has lived at the Ranch, an off-the-grid, sustainable community, since she was six. She admires its leader, Dr. Ben, so when her mother sneaks them away at night and insists he's dangerous, Fern doesn't believe her and longs to go back. Thrown into the "toxic" outside world, Fern can only think about how to return and secretly make a plan. As time passes, she starts to appreciate pieces of her new life—the library, a school friend, the ocean—and realizes some things she learned at the Ranch aren't true. Fern must decide how much she's willing to give up to return, whether to trust Dr. Ben's vision for her future, or follow the growing sense that she can live by her own rules.

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The New Girl by Cassandra Calin. Lia and her family are waiting to board a flight across the Atlantic, leaving behind family, friends, and Romania -- the only home Lia has ever known. But Lia's heartache is overshadowed by the discomfort of her first period. As if things weren't difficult enough! Now Lia is thrust into a world where everything is different: her home, her language, and even her body. Will she ever feel like herself again?



Touching Grass by Kristy Jackson Tristen would do anything to avoid going outside. The bugs sting, the snakes are poisonous, the heat will kill you if the cold doesn't, and bodies of water? Forget it. Tristen likes it best indoors, deep in his online world where it's safe, with his online friends. Something he has a hard time with IRL. But Tristen is in trouble at school again, and the principal is threatening to kick him out of this third school in two years. His mom believes the answer is to get Tristen off the games and in touch with nature and his Dene roots. This means Tristen has to spend a week to a culture camp in the wilderness. It's his worst nightmare!



Paws by Nathan Fairbairn. Gabby, Priya, and Mindy have one big thing in common: they love animals but none of them can have pets. So they launch PAWS, a neighborhood dog-walking business. But with three very different co-owners, arguments are inevitable—and when things go wrong, they'll have to work together to save both their business and their friendship.



Babysitters Club Original Series by Ann M. Martin. There are 131 novels in the original Ann M. Martin Babysitters Club series, so if your child LOVES the graphic novels, they may enjoy digging into some of the books that have not been adapted into a graphic novel yet. A great treasure to hunt for at garage sales this summer, or find the new editions at your local library or bookstore.



Mixed Up by Kami Garcia. Stella knows fifth grade will be the best year ever. Her closest friends, Emiko and Latasha, are in her class and they all got the teacher they wanted. Then their favorite television show, Witchlins, announces a new guidebook and an online game! But when the classwork starts piling up, Stella struggles to stay on top. When she can't deal with the text-heavy Witchlins guidebook, she can't keep up with her friends in the game. Stella has a learning difference, and after a dyslexia diagnosis she gets the support and tools she needs to succeed.

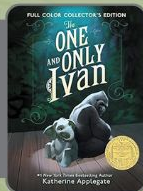


Katie the Catsitter by Stephanie Yue. Katie needs money for summer camp, so she takes a cat sitting job for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, Madeline—who happens to own 217 very strange cats. But something doesn't add up: Madeline is always out exactly when the city's villain strikes. Between wrangling wayward cats, cracking a mystery, and saving her best friendship, Katie's got a lot on her plate. Some heroes have capes... Katie has cats!

Chapters & Graphics

Grades 4-6

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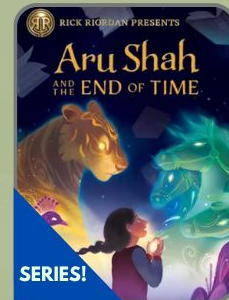
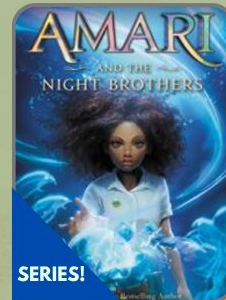
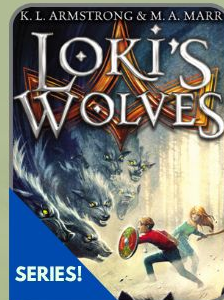
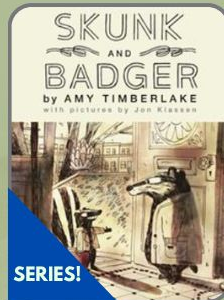
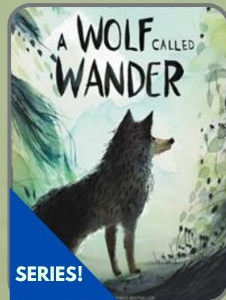
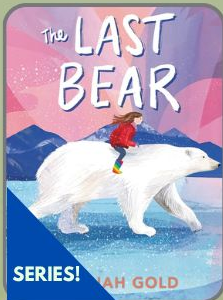
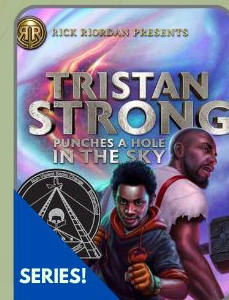
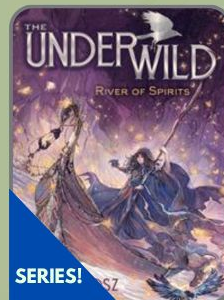
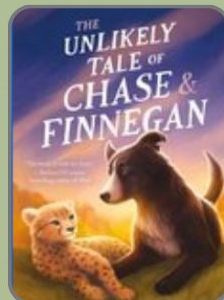
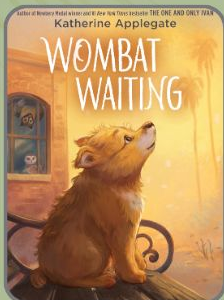
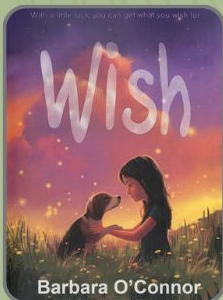


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Wish by **Barbara O'Connor** Eleven-year-old Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish every day since fourth grade, using every method she can find, even wishing on the last bite of pie. When she's sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with relatives she barely knows, her wish feels further away than ever. Then she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog, and Howard, a neighbour boy who turns out to be full of surprises. As Charlie grows closer to them, she's in real danger of discovering that what she thought she wanted most might not be what she truly needs at all.



Wombat Waiting by **Katherine Applegate**. Wombat isn't actually a wombat but a homeless dog, found singed and ash-covered after a devastating fire destroys a community. Nicknamed Wombat, she believes she's a "destiny dog" guided by an inner "Voice" that insists there's a special person out there meant just for her. Refusing to leave a bench near the makeshift community center, now also a temporary wildlife rehab space, Wombat ignores every attempt to move her. Clearly, she's waiting for someone. But who could it be? And what are the chances they survived the fire?



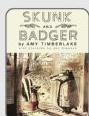
Unlikely Tale of Chase and Finnegan by **Jasmine Warga**. Finnegan is a rescue dog with a broken heart. Chase is an anxious cheetah cub, newly orphaned. The two animals couldn't be more different. But one day, they are brought together for the unlikeliest of reasons: Finnegan must help Chase gain the confidence she needs to perform as part of an educational program for children at a zoo. Finnegan and Chase have each suffered losses and have trouble trusting. Yet somehow, they are just what the other needs. But if Finnegan isn't able to help Chase overcome her fears, he won't just be letting Chase down—he could be risking his new home as well.



The Last Bear by **Hannah Gold**. There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to a faraway Arctic outpost. But one night, April catches a glimpse of something distinctly bear-shaped loping across the horizon. A polar bear who shouldn't be there—who is hungry, lonely and a long way from home. This fierce celebration of friendship features black-and-white illustrations throughout, along with information about the real Bear Island and the plight of polar bears.



A Wolf Called Wander by **Rosanne Parry** Swift, a young wolf cub, lives with his pack in the mountains learning to hunt, competing with his brothers and sisters for hierarchy, and watching over a new litter of cubs. Then a rival pack attacks, and Swift and his family scatter. Alone and scared, Swift must flee and find a new home. His journey takes him a remarkable one thousand miles across the Pacific Northwest. The trip is full of peril, and Swift encounters forest fires, hunters, highways, and hunger before he finds his new home.



Skunk and Badger by **Amy Timberlake** Analytical and set in his ways, Badger is taken aback when jolly, easygoing Skunk rings the doorbell to announce he's Badger's new roommate. (Badger may have been ignoring his landlord Aunt Lula's letters . . .) But as Badger begrudgingly opens up his home—and heart—to Skunk and his unconventional ways, the two characters become irrevocably changed by each other, establishing an odd-couple friendship that is timeless and real.

If you like...



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River of Spirits (Underwild #1) by **Shana Targosz** The story follows Senka, the ward of Charon, as she assists in ferrying souls to the afterlife. When a living mortal girl enters the realm seeking her dead brother, a dangerous rescue mission sweeps them both into the uncharted and wild depths of the Underworld.



Pearl Hunter by **Miya T. Beck** Set in a world inspired by pre-Shogun era Japan, a young pearl diver goes to the ends of the earth to rescue her twin sister, who has been stolen by a ghost whale. Kai and Kishi share the same futon, the same face, and the same talent for pearl diving. But Kishi is the obedient daughter, while Kai tries to push the rules, and sometimes they fight. Still, when Kishi is stolen and killed by the legendary Ghost Whale, nothing will stop Kai from searching for her, deep in the ocean, hoping for a way to bring her back to life.



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by **Kwame Mbalia**. Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom. Tristan chases after it and accidentally rips open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters that are hunting the inhabitants of this world.



Loki's Wolves by **K.L. Armstrong & M.A. Marr** While thirteen-year-old Matt Thorsen has always known he's a modern-day descendant of Thor, he's been living a normal kid's life. In fact, most people in his small town are direct descendants of either Thor or Loki, including Matt's classmates Fen and Laurie Brekke. But now Ragnarok is coming, and it's up to the champions to fight in the place of the long-dead gods. Matt, Laurie, and Fen's lives will never be the same as they race to put together an unstoppable team, find Thor's hammer and shield, and prevent the end of the world.



Amari and the Night Brothers by **B.B. Alston** Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. Not even when the police told her otherwise, or when she got in trouble for standing up to bullies who said he was gone for good. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secretive organization holds the key to locating Quinton—if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.



Aru Shah and the End of Time by **Roshani Chokshi**. Aru tends to stretch the truth to fit in at school. While her classmates are jetting off to family vacations, she'll be spending her autumn break at home. One day, three schoolmates show up at Aru's doorstep to catch her in a lie. They don't believe her claim that the museum's Lamp of Bharata is cursed, and they dare Aru to prove it. But lighting the lamp has dire consequences. She unwittingly frees the Sleeper, an ancient demon. Her classmates and beloved mother are frozen in time, and it's up to Aru to save them.

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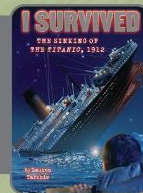
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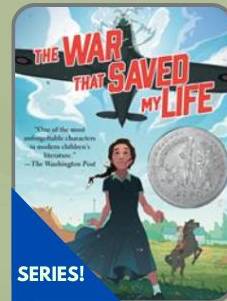
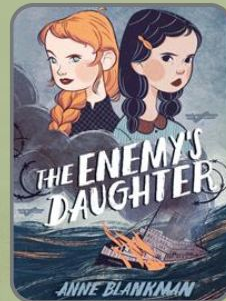
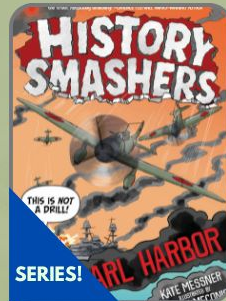
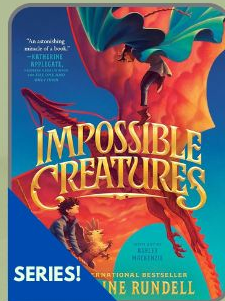
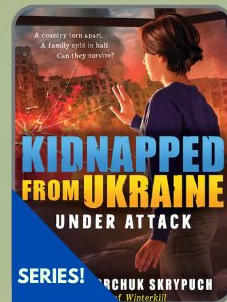
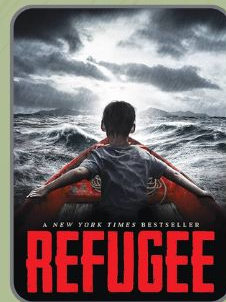
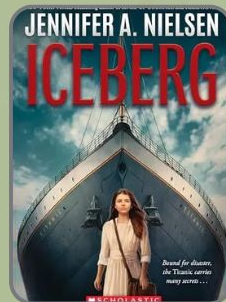
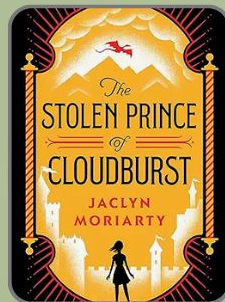
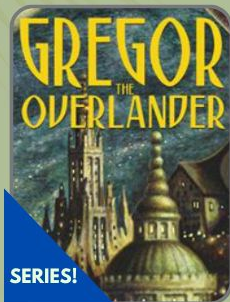
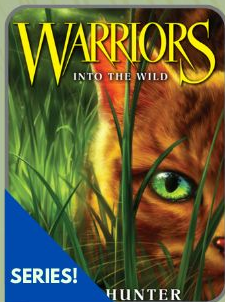


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Into the Wild (Warriors #1) by Erin Hunter For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But the warrior code has been threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying—and some deaths are more mysterious than others. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary housecat named Rusty . . . who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all



Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. This world is on the brink of war, and Gregor's arrival is no accident. A prophecy foretells that Gregor has a role to play in the Underland's uncertain future. Gregor wants no part of it -- until he realizes it's the only way to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance. Reluctantly, Gregor embarks on a dangerous adventure that will change both him and the Underland forever.



The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst by Jaclyn Moriarty Twelve-year-old Esther loves reading and writing but battles low self-esteem and bad dreams. When she returns to boarding school, her two best friends are missing, her new teacher might be an ogre, and the nearby mountains crawl with Shadow Mages. As danger grows, Esther must uncover why her teacher is acting strangely, who among her classmates is the Spellbinder meant to protect the school, and how the Stolen Prince of Cloudburst fits in. Somehow, "just Esther" has to find the courage to save her family, her school, and maybe her whole world.



Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A. F. Steadman Skandar has always yearned to leave the Mainland and escape to the secretive island, where wild unicorns roam free. He's spent years studying for his Hatchery exam, the annual test that selects a handful of Mainlander thirteen-year-olds to train to become unicorn riders. But on the day of Skandar's exam, things go horribly wrong, and his hopes are shattered...until a mysterious figure knocks on his door at midnight, bearing a message: the Island is in peril and Skandar must answer its call.



The Second Life of Snap by Erin Entrada Kelly Twelve-year-old Zuzu Santos and her friends, the "Valleycats," love exploring their dusty, struggling home, Bright Valley Subsidized Camp #5, on their own. They definitely don't want a robot—until Zuzu's dad loses his job with Lockwood, the corporation that controls everything, and is given an outdated robot as severance instead of money, food, or water. Zuzu names the robot Snap, and despite his limited battery and lack of a working charger, he quickly becomes part of their makeshift family. As Snap's power dwindles, he calmly accepts his fate, but Zuzu can't. She'll do anything to keep him alive, while Snap, in turn, would sacrifice anything for Zuzu and her friends.



Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell. The day that Christopher saved a drowning baby griffin from a hidden lake would change his life forever. It's the day he learned about a cluster of unmapped islands where magical creatures of every kind have thrived for thousands of years, until now. And it's the day he met Mal—a girl on the run, in desperate need of his help. Mal and Christopher embark on a wild adventure, racing from island to island, searching for someone who can explain why the magic is fading and why magical creatures are suddenly dying.

If you like...



...try these!



Iceberg by Jennifer A. Nielsen Hazel Rothbury is traveling all alone from her home in England aboard the celebrated ship Titanic. Following the untimely death of her father, Hazel's mother is sending her to the US to work in a factory, so that she might send money back home to help her family make ends meet. But Hazel harbors a secret dream: She wants to be a journalist, and she just knows that if she can write and sell a story about the Titanic's maiden voyage, she could earn enough money to support her family. When Hazel discovers that mother didn't send her with enough money for a ticket, she decides she must stow away onboard the storied ship.



Refugee by Alan Gratz Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge.



Kidnapped from Ukraine: Under Attack by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch Twins Rada and Daria Popkova are opposites. Rada is quiet and artistic, Daria is outgoing and chatty, but they share a deep love for each other and their home in Mariupol, Ukraine. When Russia attacks the city on February 24, 2022, their family is torn apart: Rada ends up with their father, while Daria is with their mother. Russian officials later separate Daria from her mom and send her to live with a Russian family. As war rages and the girls face unimaginable hardships, the sisters and their family fight to survive—and discover just how powerful hope can be in the midst of disaster.



History Smashers: Pearl Harbor by Kate Messner. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a completely unpredictable attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Right? Well, that's not quite the real deal. Some military experts had suggested that Pearl Harbor was a likely target. There were other warning signs, too, but nobody paid much attention. From the first wave of the Japanese bombers to the United States' internment of thousands of Japanese Americans, readers explore the little-known truths behind the story of Pearl Harbor and its aftermath.



The Enemy's Daughter by Anne Blankman. Marta and her father are secretly travelling home to Germany aboard the Lusitania in 1915, hiding their identities to avoid being seen as enemy spies. When a German submarine attacks the ship, they barely escape. Her father is discovered and detained, leaving Marta alone in enemy territory. Taken in by Clare, a talkative Irish girl, and her warm family, Marta pretends to be a Dutch refugee, knowing she can't reveal she's German. As she struggles to stay safe and find her way home, Marta begins to question the prejudice and hatred of wartime and discovers that friendship and kindness can cross even the deepest divides.

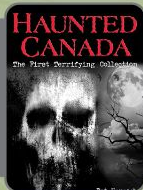


The War That Saved My Life by Kimberley Brubaker Bradley Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment because her mother is ashamed of her twisted foot. When her little brother Jamie is sent out of London to escape the war, Ada sneaks out to join him. Taken in by Susan Smith in the countryside, Ada learns to ride a pony, read, and spot German spies. As she slowly begins to trust Susan, Susan starts to love Ada and Jamie in return. But as the war rages and their mother looms in the background, Ada must face whether this new bond can truly keep them together—or if she and Jamie will be dragged back into their mother's cruel control.

Chapters & Graphics

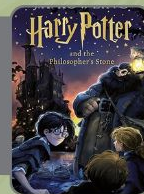
Grades 4-6

If you like...

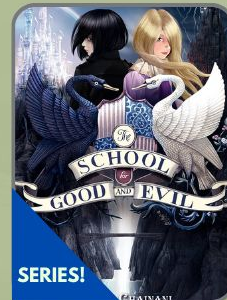
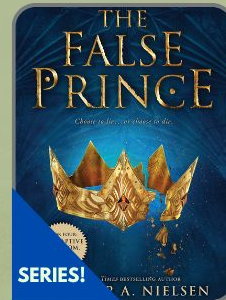
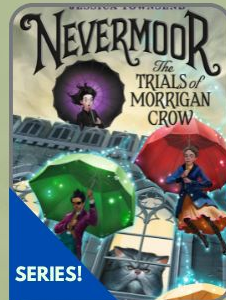
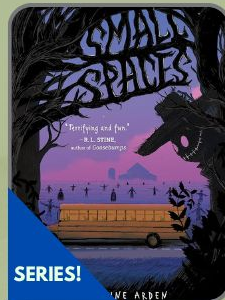
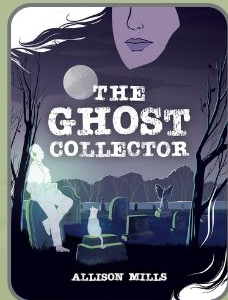
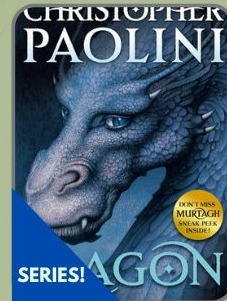
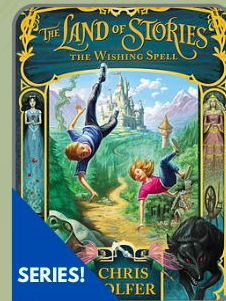
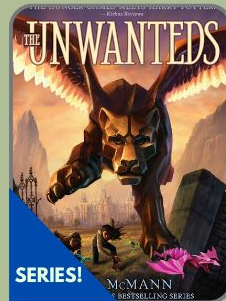
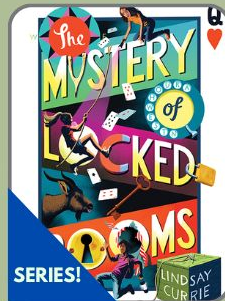
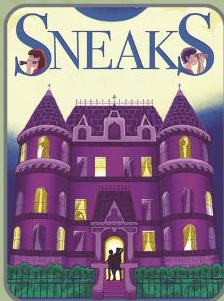
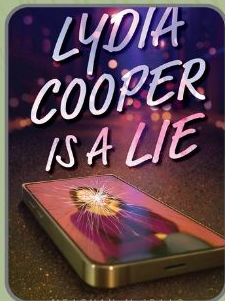


...try these!

If you like...



...try these!



Chapters & Graphics

If you
like...



...try
these!



Lydia Cooper is a Lie by Meaghan McIsaac. For as long as Lydia can remember, it's been her and her overprotective dad against the world. Well-versed in the dangers of the internet from his job in cybersecurity, he refuses to let Lydia be online. Lydia gets fed up with her dad's rules and makes a social media account. Then an armed intruder shows up at her home. Clearly, there's more to her family's past than she knows. On the run and separated from her dad, Lydia will need to uncover the secrets her dad has been keeping if she wants to reunite with him. But how can Lydia know who to trust along the way when she doesn't even know who she is?



Sneaks by Amy Tern. Valory is a reformed thief. Rook is a good kid who spies on his neighbors. When the two twelve-year-olds spot suspicious activity in a supposedly empty apartment, they team up—and their opposite skills turn out to be the perfect combo. But their amateur sleuthing takes a dark turn when the case connects to a kidnapping, and they realize someone is watching them. Like *Only Murders in the Building* for tweens, this new release (early July) looks like a page-turner!



The Mystery of the Locked Rooms by Lindsay Currie. Twelve-year-old Sarah loves escape rooms, but when a foreclosure notice threatens her family's home, she needs more than a fun challenge—she needs a miracle. That miracle might be the legendary treasure hidden inside an abandoned funhouse built by three orphaned brothers. But once Sarah and her friends are inside, the riddles and secret passages feel strangely personal, as if the funhouse knew they were coming. With everything on the line, she has to keep going.



The Curse of Eelgrass Bog by Mary Averling. Kess Pedrock's life is already strange—she lives in an Unnatural History Museum and her best friend is a talking demon's head in a jar. But things get stranger when new girl Lilou asks for help breaking a mysterious curse, and the only clue leads straight into a bog full of witches and demons. The deeper they dig, the more Kess suspects the curse hits closer to home than she ever imagined.



The Ghost Collector by Allison Mills. Shelly and her grandmother catch ghosts. In their hair. Just like all the women in their family, they can see souls who haven't transitioned yet; it's their job to help the ghosts along their journey. When Shelly's mom dies suddenly, Shelly's relationship to ghosts—and death—changes. Instead of helping spirits move on, Shelly starts hoarding them. But no matter how many ghost cats, dogs, or people she hides in her room, Shelly can't ignore the one ghost that's missing. Why hasn't her mom's ghost come home yet?



Small Spaces by Katherine Arden. Ollie steals a mysterious book from a stranger and discovers a chilling tale about the Smiling Man—a specter who grants wishes for the ultimate price. The next day, her school trip leads her straight to the graves of the book's characters. When the bus breaks down and a strange driver warns the kids to flee before nightfall, Ollie's broken watch suddenly counts down with one message: RUN. With scarecrows watching from the fields and darkness closing in, Ollie and two classmates head into the woods—and a deliciously creepy adventure begins.

If you
like...



...try
these!



Unwanted by Lisa McMann Every year in Quill, thirteen-year-olds are sorted into categories: the strong, intelligent Wanteds who go to university, hardy Necessaries who take on menial tasks, and the artistic Unwanted who are sent to their deaths. Twins Alex and Aaron are separated. When Alex reaches the "death farm" he learn it iss actually a secret world called Artimé, where children wield magic through paintbrushes and music. But a looming threat may soon force the brothers to face each other as enemies.



Land of Stories by Chris Colfer When the twins' grandmother gives them a treasured fairy-tale book, they have no idea they're about to enter a land beyond all imagining: the Land of Stories, where fairy tales are real. But as Alex and Conner soon discover, the stories they know so well haven't ended in this magical land—Goldilocks is now a wanted fugitive, Red Riding Hood has her own kingdom, and Queen Cinderella is about to become a mother! The twins know they must get back home but with the Evil Queen hot on their trail, will they ever find the way?



Eragon by Christopher Paolini. Fifteen-year-old Eragon believes that he is merely a poor farm boy—until his destiny as a Dragon Rider is revealed. Gifted with only an ancient sword, a loyal dragon, and sage advice from an old storyteller, Eragon is soon swept into a dangerous tapestry of magic, glory, and power. Now his choices could save—or destroy—the Empire.



Nevermoor - The Trials of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend. Morrigan Crow has been cursed since birth and is doomed to die on her eleventh birthday—until a mysterious man named Jupiter North sweeps her away to Nevermoor, a secret magical city. To earn her place there permanently, Morrigan must survive four dangerous trials against hundreds of gifted children. The problem? Everyone else has an extraordinary talent. Morrigan is certain she doesn't have one.



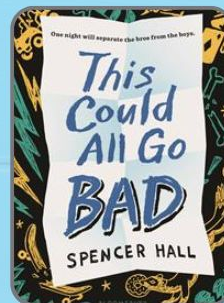
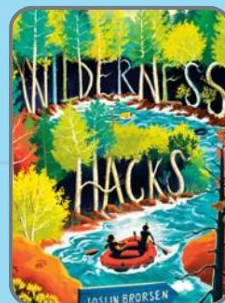
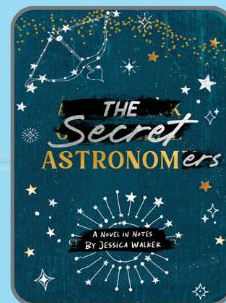
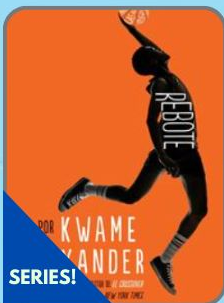
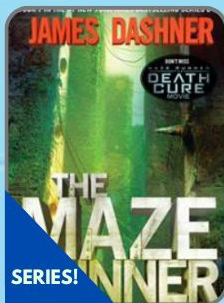
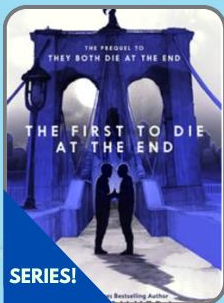
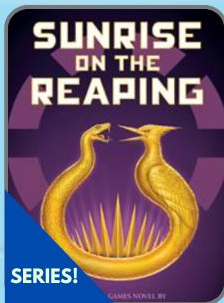
The False Prince by Jennifer Nielsen In a discontented kingdom, civil war is brewing. To unify the divided people, Conner, a nobleman of the court, devises a plan to find an impersonator of the king's long-lost son and install him as a puppet prince. Four orphans are recruited to compete for the role, including a defiant boy named Sage. As Sage moves from a rundown orphanage to Conner's sumptuous palace, layer upon layer of treachery and deceit unfold, until finally, a truth is revealed that, in the end, may very well prove more dangerous than all of the lies taken together.



School for Good & Evil by Soman Chainani. Journey into a dazzling new world when two best friends enter the School for Good and Evil, where ordinary boys and girls are trained to be fairy-tale heroes and villains. One will train for Good, one will become Evil's new hope. Each thinks they know where they belong. But when the two friends are swept into the Endless Woods, they find their fortunes are reversed. . . The aftermath leads to unexpected paths, new alliances, and forces that divide them in an exhilarating quest to find their true Ever After.

Grades 7-9 Books

What's Trending, What's New?



Trending

Books that were the most popular and kept getting checkouts all year!

New!

Recent publications that have great reviews!

Grade 7-9

Trending



Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins. Haymitch Abernathy wakes on the morning of the 50th Hunger Games to find Panem gripped by fear: for this Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be reaped. In District 12, he's only trying to survive the day and stay close to the girl he loves. When his name is called, Haymitch's future shatters. Torn from his family and sent to the Capitol with three other District 12 tributes, a near-sister, an obsessive oddsmaker, and the snobbiest girl in town, he quickly realizes the Games are rigged against him. But something in him refuses to give up, and his fight inside the arena may echo far beyond it.



Borrow My Heart by Kasie West. Wren is used to being called a control freak. She doesn't care; sticking to the list of rules she created for herself helps her navigate life. But when a cute guy named Asher walks through the door of her neighborhood coffee shop, the rulebook goes out the window. Asher is cute, charming . . . and being catfished by his online crush. So Wren makes an uncharacteristically impulsive decision—she pretends to be the girl he's waiting for to save him from embarrassment. Suddenly she's fake-dating a boy she knows nothing about. And it's . . . amazing.



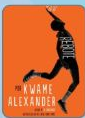
They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera On September 5, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: They're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: There's an app for that. It's called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure—to live a lifetime in a single day.



Someone is Always Watching by Kelley Armstrong. Blythe and her friends—Gabrielle and siblings Tucker and Tanya—have always been close, sharing a local high school and tangled crushes. But after an act of violence drives a wedge between Blythe and Tucker, all four start having frightening bursts of aggression and disturbing nightmares. Things explode when Gabrielle is found covered in blood beside their dead principal, with no memory of what happened. As their trust in one another and in their own minds unravels, buried secrets threaten to change their lives forever.



The Maze Runner by James Dashner. When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his name. He's surrounded by strangers—boys whose memories are also gone. Outside the towering stone walls that surround them is a limitless, ever-changing maze. It's the only way out—and no one's ever made it through alive. Then a girl arrives. The first girl ever. And the message she delivers is terrifying: Remember. Survive. Run.



Rebound by Kwame Alexander. Before Josh and Jordan Bell were streaking up and down the court, their father was learning his own moves. Chuck Bell takes center stage as readers get a glimpse of his childhood and how he became the jazz music-worshipping, basketball-star his sons look up to. A novel in verse with all the impact and rhythm readers have come to expect from Kwame Alexander, Rebound goes back in time to visit the childhood of Chuck "Da Man" Bell during one pivotal moment when young Charlie is sent to stay with his grandparents, where he discovers basketball and learns more about his family's past.

New!



The Trouble with Heroes by Kate Messner One summer. 46 mountain peaks. A second chance to make things right. Finn Connelly is nothing like his dad, a star athlete and firefighter hero who always ran toward danger until he died two years ago. Finn is about to fail seventh grade and has never made headlines, until now. Caught on camera vandalizing a cemetery, he's in big trouble for knocking down some dead old lady's headstone. Turns out that the grave belongs to a legendary local mountain climber, and her daughter makes Finn an unusual offer: she'll drop all the charges if he agrees to climb all forty-six Adirondack High Peaks in a single summer.



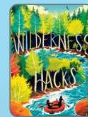
The Moon Without Stars by Chanel Miller At the beginning of seventh grade, Luna knows who she is: an observant, quiet girl who loves writing and making zines with her best friend, Scott. But when one of their zines takes off, Luna is somehow swept up into the popular group and learns just how much of herself she's going to have to compromise to stay there. Will she give up her writing? Her best friend? What about her own beliefs about who she is and what she stands for?



The Isle of Ever by Jen Calonita Benny and her mom are usually broke, so everything changes when Benny learns she's the sole heir to a vast fortune from a mysterious 1800s ancestor, Evelyn Terry. The catch: she must solve a game first. Following century-old clues from Evelyn's diary, Benny has to track down the lost island off Evelyn's hometown, an island that hasn't appeared on any map for hundreds of years. If she succeeds, she'll inherit the fortune. But the deeper she goes, the more it seems there's more at stake than money. Benny may have to break an ancient curse to truly win.



The Secret Astronomer by Jessica Walker A recent transfer student begins using the oldest textbook in the school library as her diary, never expecting someone to write back. But a mysterious responder does, sparking an unexpected friendship between two secret pen pals. Copernicus is grieving her mother and feeling lost after leaving cosmopolitan San Francisco, while Kepler is a small-town overachiever determined to be the first in her family to go to college. Though their lives are very different, the two girls are drawn together as they work to unravel a decades-old mystery in Green Bank, navigating family pressures, crop circles, secret crushes, and life in Appalachia—all while discovering new ways to connect across the divides between them.

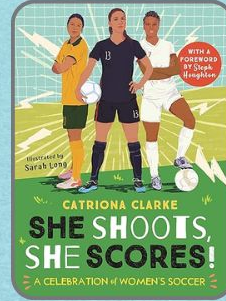
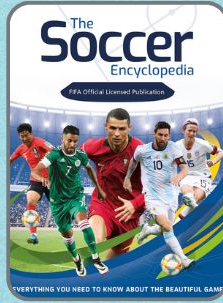
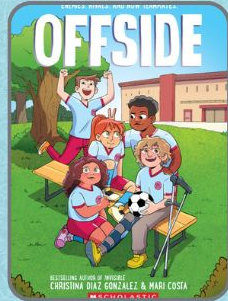
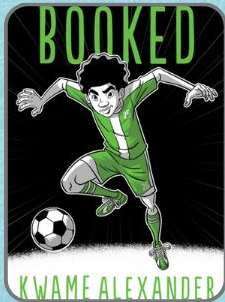
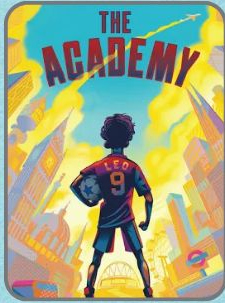


Wilderness Hacks by Jessica Walker Sadie Hahn didn't plan to eat grubs on camera to win a contest. And she definitely didn't plan to win first prize—a guest appearance on a Youtube show hosted by America's favorite teen survivalist Radley Shaw. But she'll do anything to cheer up her little brother Silas, who's too young to qualify. Rad has millions of followers and exactly zero real-life friends, so the contest is a great chance for him to hang out with kids his own age. But it's hate-at-first-sight when Silas throws a wrench in his plan and Sadie decides Rad is just a clueless poser who doesn't know the first thing about survival.



This Could All Go Bad by Spencer Hall It's no secret that Jensen Chapman is a coward (though he prefers the term "risk averse"). He's scared of dodgeball day in gym class, intimidated by his older sister (she's weirdly strong, alright?), nervous around his crush Leslie Chen, and freaked out about starting high school. But on the night before his eighth-grade graduation, that's all about to change. Jensen knows it's now or never: face his fears once and for all, or face a life of spinelessness forever. The boys set out on an epic race against the clock that includes faulty skateboards, internet-famous ferrets, and a stolen golf cart.

World Cup



The Public Library is a great place to explore whatever you are interested in, and we know many kids are interested in reading more about Soccer and the World Cup! We hope you look for some of these great soccer picks at your library!



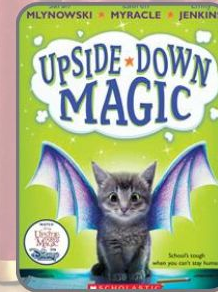
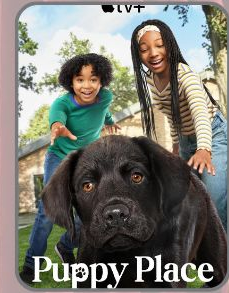
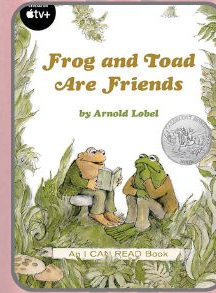
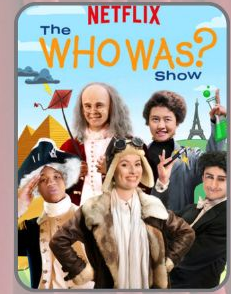
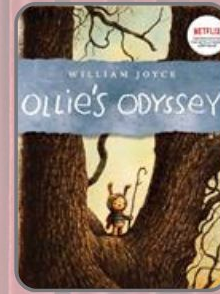
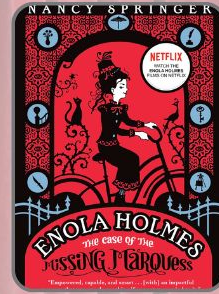
Reluctant Reader?

Start with the Movie or Show!

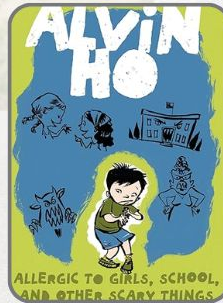
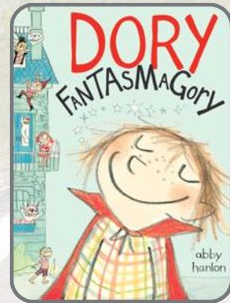
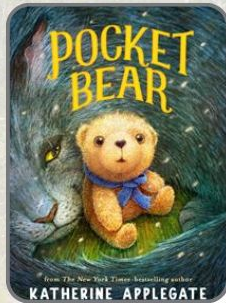
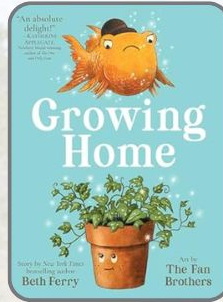
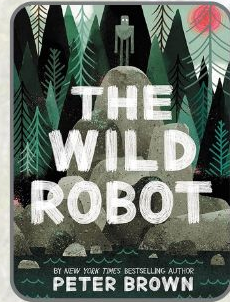
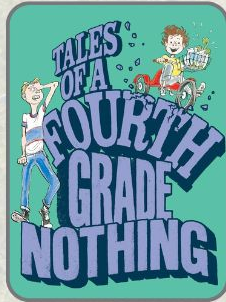
Surprised to hear a librarian say you are allowed to watch the movie or TV show first? Meeting reluctant readers where they are is paramount to enticing them to become readers. We can learn a lot about the stories we enjoy from what we like to watch. Starting with the movie or TV show lets some of the world-building happen and makes moving on to the next books in a series feel more seamless! Plus, kids LOVE to talk about the key differences between the book and the movie - it's a great opportunity to have a rich conversation with your child about a story!

We also love starting with graphic novel adaptations, audiobooks or read-alouds with reluctant readers!

Research from the National Literacy Trust in the UK, suggests fewer children are choosing to read physical books in their free time, while engagement with TV shows and movies continues to grow. In 2025, the NLT reported that 2 in 5 (38.1%) children and young people were motivated to read because of a related film or TV series.



These audiobooks are great for the whole family! They have been tried-and-true favourites in the Harte & Chapman vehicles over the years!



Brains On! — weekly science podcast with kid co-hosts featuring fascinating listener questions and expert answers. Ms. Chapman especially loves the Mystery Sound!

Smash Boom Best — A fun debate show where two interesting things go head-to-head like Spaghetti vs Ravioli or Camping vs Hotels. Kids also learn how to build strong arguments.

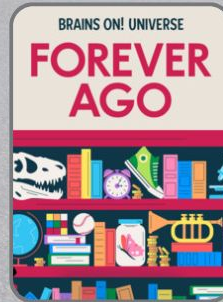
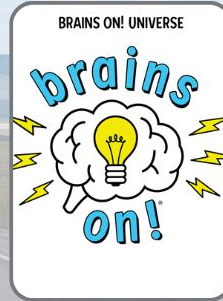
Wow in the World — a "cartoon for the ear" journey through amazing stories in science, technology, and new discoveries.

Forever Ago — A history podcast that uncovers the surprising origins of everyday things — like ice cream, video games, and toys

Story Pirates — An award-winning podcast where professional comedians and celebrity guests bring stories written by real kids to life through hilarious sketches and original songs.

Trivia for Kids — A family-friendly quiz show featuring five fun categories each episode, where kids compete to become the "Trivia Champion.

Podcasts for the whole family to enjoy on long roadtrips or just a trip around town!



TECH TALK



E-reader tips

Kobo or Kindle?

Thinking of buying an e-reader to carry many books with you on a trip? Librarians agree....Go with a **Kobo!** With a Kobo, you can borrow books for free from your public library using the Libby App. With a Kindle, you must pay for each book or subscribe to an “unlimited” membership, which we do not recommend for young readers due to the wide variety of self-published books that could be inappropriate for younger readers.



[The Kid Should See This](#) is an incredible website featuring the best videos from all around the internet.

Brilliantly curated, by a human, not an algorithm, this website is a treasure trove of the most interesting videos you will ever see. From science & technology, history, art, nature, and big ideas about our world, every video is chosen to inspire curiosity and wonder. My kids were especially inspired into summer creativity by the Lego stop motion videos and Rube Goldberg machines. This site highlights the work of educators, experts, museums, and creators who make learning engaging and fun. Best of all, many videos are perfect for watching together, giving families new things to discover, discuss, and enjoy.