

## *LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO READ?*

This list contains books that appeal to elementary-aged children from PreKindergarten through the Second Grade. The first section contains authors of fiction and nonfiction Picture Books, many of which we read in library. Students really enjoyed their stories and the illustrations. The following sections contain titles of Beginning Chapter Books and are arranged from easier to more challenging reading levels.

We would like to point out the nonfiction titles and series. Nonfiction Beginning Chapter Books can be a wonderful way to get reluctant readers interested in reading.

Many of these titles also make enjoyable Read-Alouds for the entire family and are a great way to share family time on a rainy day or to pass the time on a car trip.

When you have read through this list, be sure to look for more librarian recommended titles at your favorite branch of the public library.

Have a Great Summer!

The MPH Librarians

## Picture Book Authors

### Fiction

Aliki	Mercer Mayer
Jan Brett	David McPhail
Joseph Bruchac	Barru Moser
Eve Bunting	Laura Numeroff
Janell Cannon	Margie Palatini
Eric Carle	Patricia Polacco
Lauren Child	Jack Prelutsky
Nina Crews	Chris Raschka
Doreen Cronin	Lynn Reiser
Ann Dewdney	Pam Munoz Ryan
Lois Ehlert	Allen Say
Ian Falconer	Dr. Seuss
Mem Fox	David Shannon
Kevin Henkes	Peter Sis
Amy Hest	Gary Soto
Keiko Kasza	Janet Stevens
Ezra Jack Keats	Mark Teague
Eric Kimmel	Ellen Stoll Walsh
Elise Kleven	Rosemary Wells
Helen Lester	Vera Williams
Leo Lionni	Mo Willems
James Marshall	

### Recommended Nonfiction Picture Books

Gail Gibbons  
Seymour Simon  
*National Geographic Kids* magazine  
*Ranger Rick* magazine  
*Your Big Backyard* magazine  
*ZooBooks* animal series or magazine

## Beginning Chapter Books

### ***Fly Guy***

Tedd Arnold

Is a fly a pest or can a fly be a pet? Buzz thinks that the fly he meets is not only a pet but the smartest pet in the whole world. Simple text and cartoon-like illustrations make this humorous series a good choice for very beginning readers.

### ***Poppleton***

Cynthia Rylant

Beautifully illustrated and written in a conversational style, this series features Poppleton, the pig, and his friends.

### ***Little Bill***

Bill Cosby

Set in an urban neighborhood, the stories in this series portray children resolving conflicts fairly and creatively.

### ***Mr. Putter and Tabby*** Cynthia Rylant

Mr. Putter and his cat, Tabby, are special, old friends who help each other solve problems in ways that are amusing and unpredictable. Another well-written series by Cynthia Rylant that will appeal to children who are gaining confidence in their independent reading.

### ***Yoko & Friends School Days*** Rosemary Wells

Yoko and her friends deal with themes familiar to lower elementary school children such as birthday parties, school plays, learning to read, and Valentine's Day.

### ***The Best.....in Second Grade*** Katherine Kenah

Delightful school stories featuring Second Graders. This series will appeal to reluctant readers who like school and family stories.

### ***Ricky Ricotta***

Dav Pilkey

Enter a galaxy of goofy fun and discover how Ricky befriends the Mighty Robot and battles sinister space monsters. This series would appeal to reluctant readers who like super-heroes and action figures.

### ***Henry and Mudge***

Cynthia Rylant

Henry and his 180-pound dog Mudge are best friends forever and have many adventures together. These interesting and well-written stories will appeal to all children, but especially dog-lovers.

### ***Pearl and Wagner***

Kate McMullan

Can an industrious rabbit and a daydreaming mouse get along? Learn how they resolve their differences and stay best friends. Winner of a Theodore Seuss Geiss Honor Award, series will appeal to new readers who love animals.

### ***Pinky and Rex***

James Howe

Follow the realistic and interesting adventures of two friends: Pinky, a boy who loves the color pink, and Rex, a girl who loves dinosaurs.

***First Graders From Mars***      Shana Corey

Horus, Tera, Pelly and Nergal are First Graders who live on Mars. Join them and their teacher, Ms. Vortex, in a variety of humorous situations! Good for new readers who like outer space adventures.

***Bones and Dinosaur Mystery***      David A. Adler

Do you like mysteries? Then try this new series featuring Jeffrey Bones and Curly, the wonder detective dog.

***The Dog That Stole Home***      Matt Christopher

This book and others in the series are fun-filled and humorous sports adventures featuring Mike and his dog, Harry, an Airedale with ESP.

### **Advanced Beginning Chapter Books**

***Soccer 'Cats***      Matt Christopher

This series about the members of a summer soccer league combines soccer fun with family life and friendships.

***Cork & Fuzz***      Dori Chaconas

Cork is a muskrat. Fuzz is a possum. Cork and Fuzz seem to have nothing in common. Or do they? Read the books in this series to find out.

***Moongobble and Me***      Bruce Coville

Edward was bored with life in his little town of Pigbone until Moongobble the Magician and his faithful toad, Urk, move in. Read about Edward's wacky experiences as Moongobble's assistant in this series.

***The Animal Rescue Club***      John Himmelman

Are you a nature lover? Then, read this series about the experiences of a group of children who are wildlife rescuers.

***Commander Toad***      Jane Yolen

For outer space adventures, choose books in this series and blast off with Commander Toad and the crew of the space ship, *Star Warts*.

***Ready Freddy***      Abby Klein

Meet Freddy Thresher and the other First Graders in his class in this engaging, popular series about issues important to elementary school children.

***Pony Pals***      Jeanne Betancourt

Do you love ponies? Then, try this mystery series about girls and their ponies.

***The Cobble Street Cousins***      Cynthia Rylant

Another well-written series by Rylant features three creative cousins. Good for girls who like writing, acting, or baking and, of course, reading!

***Julian, Gloria's Way, Huey*** Ann Cameron

Short stories told from the perspective of three imaginative children who have fun, get into mischief, and learn to work out problems. The author creates a feeling of an urban neighborhood and develops each character fully.

***My Weird School*** Dan Gutman

Second-grader A.J. hates school but he has to admit that something weird and intriguing is going on with the teachers at his school. Written from A.J.'s perspective, this humorous series will draw in most reluctant readers.

***Gooney Bird Greene*** Lois Lowery

Gooney Bird Greene arrives at Webster Elementary School in October. Join the students in her second grade class and learn about writing stories and different story genres through the amazing stories Gooney Bird tells.

***Ivy and Bean*** Annie Barrows

Meet Ivy and Bean -- two friends who never meant to like each other. This series will appeal to girls who like realistic stories about school and friendship and who want to challenge their reading level.

***The Zack Files*** Dan Greenberg

Read about the adventures of Zack, a boy who describes himself as a pretty normal kid who has wacky and weird things happening to him all the time.

***Dragon Slayers' Academy*** Kate McMullan

Searching for a book for a reluctant reader? How about this series that includes knock, knock jokes, Pig-Latin and a boarding school for dragon slayers.

***The Secrets of Droon*** Tony Abbott

A hidden door? A magical staircase? Discover the World of Droon with Eric Julie, and Neal in this fantasy series.

***Magic Treehouse*** Mary Pope Osborne

Jack's and Annie climb up into a mysterious treehouse and discover that it is magic and can transport them through time and place. This very popular series is a great way to get reluctant readers interested in books and reading.

***A to Z Mysteries*** Ron Roy

A great series for mystery lovers! Join Dink Duncan and two friends as they solve mysteries from *The Absent Author* to *The Zombie Zone*.

## Nonfiction Beginning Reader Series

### ***Electric Fish*** Elaine Landau

Are you interested in electric eels or electric stargazers and other electric fish? This book is filled with information and photographs that will satisfy your curiosity. The *True Books* series is written in conjunction with reading consultants and each book contains facts, photos, a glossary, as well as additional resources. Books in this series are available on such topics as alternative energy, ecosystems, animals, fish, pets, sports, continents, and countries.

### ***A Batboy's Day*** James Buckley, Jr.

Join Michael Martinez, a batboy for the Anaheim Angels baseball team to find out about all the jobs he does to help the Angels play their best and learn about one of sports' coolest jobs. The *DK Readers* and *Eyewitness Readers* series were created in conjunction with literacy educators and have books at different reading levels. Titles include, *Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!*, *Slinky*, *Scaly Snakes!*, *Horse Show*, and *The Little Ballerina*, etc.

### ***The Case of Vampire Vivian*** Michelle Knudsen

There is a new girl in Molly's class named Vivian. She wears a bat T-shirt and bat earrings. Some of the kids call her Vampire Vivian. Could she be a vampire? Join Molly and her friends as they learn about bats while trying to solve this science mystery. In the *Science Solves it!* series, the characters use the skills of observation, inference, prediction, experimentation, comparison and communication to solve real-life problems. Each story includes a science activity designed to challenge young scientists.

### ***The Magic School Bus Gets Cold Feet*** Joanna Cole

When Liz, the class lizard, and her habitat are missing, the class, led by their teacher, Ms. Frizzle, form a rescue party. But in order to find Liz, they need to learn what it means to be a reptile. Fasten your seatbelts as Ms. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus take the class and you, the reader, on a really 'cool' field trip and find out what it means to be cold-blooded. *The Magic School Bus* series is great for kids who are interested in the natural world. The books present scientific information in a fun, humorous format.

### ***Amazing Bats*** Seymour Simon

Do you know how many kinds of bats there are in the world? Do you know how many bugs a little brown bat can eat in an hour? This book is filled with facts that can answer these questions and many more. *SeeMore Readers* draw young readers in with facts, trivia, and photographs. Titles include *Wild Bears*, *Danger! Earthquakes*, *Emergency Vehicles*, *Incredible Sharks*.