

Great Early Elementary Reads

The ALSC 2007-2008 School-Age Programs and Services Committee recommends these titles for children who are just learning to read and beginning to read on their own. The books included were published between 2005 and 2008. However, many are part of a larger series that young readers will also enjoy.



STARTING TO READ

Arnold, Caroline. *Wiggle and Waggle.* Illus. by Mary Peterson. Charlesbridge, 2007. 48p.

Worm friends Wiggle and Waggle enjoy their muddy home by singing, digging, and swimming together. Fun facts about worms and how they help plants to grow are included.

Arnold, Tedd. *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy.* Illustrated by the author. Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, 2007. 30p.

Buzz's grandma has accidentally swallowed Fly Guy!

Baker, Keith. *On the Go with Mr. and Mrs. Green.* Illustrated by the author. Harcourt, 2006. 72p.

The latest adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Green involve snacking on cookies, learning magic, and creating off the wall inventions.

Caple, Kathy. *Duck & Company.* Illustrated by the author. Holiday, 2007. 31p.

Each of the five short chapters gives insight into the humorous customer interactions of Rat and Duck as they run their bookstore, "Duck & Company."

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. *Biscuit and the Little Pup.* Illus. by Pat Schories. HarperCollins, 2008. 29p.

Simple words and apt illustrations relate the adventures of Biscuit and a new puppy friend.

Cazet, Denys. *Minnie and Moo and the Haunted Sweater.* Illustrated by the author. HarperCollins, 2007. 45p.

As cow pals Minnie and Moo think of gifts for the farmer's birthday, Elvis the Rooster disappears and Moo's freshly knitted sweater appears to be haunted.

Delacre, Lulu. *Rafi and Rosi: Carnival!* Illustrated by the author. Rayo, 2006. 63p.

Against all odds, a resourceful Puerto Rican tree frog manages to put a costume together for Carnival.

Dotlich, Rebecca Kai. *Peanut and Pearl's Picnic Adventure.* Illus. by R. W. Alley. HarperCollins, 2007. 32p.

Two furry friends plan a picnic; however, each seems to have a different idea of where it's supposed to be.

Eastman, Peter. *Fred and Ted Like to Fly.* Illustrated by the author. Random/Beginner Books, 2007. 48p.

Best friends, Fred and Ted, enjoy many of the same things, however opposite they may be.

Gregorich, Barbara. *Waltur Paints Himself into a Corner and Other Stories.* Illus. by Kristin Sorra. Houghton, 2007. 48p.

Waltur learns some famous English idioms, such as: "Let sleeping dogs lie," "Don't put the cart before the horse," and most importantly, "Don't paint yourself into a corner."

Guest, Elissa Haden. *Iris and Walter and the Birthday Party.* Illus. by Christine Davenier. Harcourt, 2006. 43p.

Walter has big plans for his birthday party, but a "surprise" changes the plans.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Scary Tales to Read Together.* Illus. by Michael Emberley. Little, Brown, 2007. 32p.

Share these fun, and not too scary, read-aloud stories.

Howe, James. *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise.* Illus. by Marie-Louise Gay. Candlewick, 2006. 42p.

Best friends Houndsley & Catina secretly plan a birthday surprise for one another.



Kenah, Katharine. *The Best Chef in Second Grade.* Illus. by Abby Carter. HarperCollins, 2007. 44p.

When Ollie hears that his favorite chef will be visiting his class, he is determined to find the perfect dish to bring.

Klein, Adria. *Max Goes to the Zoo.* Illus. by Mernie Gallagher-Cole. Picture Window, 2008. 24p.

Join Max and his diverse group of friends as they explore the zoo and have other adventures, in this installment from The Life of Max series.

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. *Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways.* Illustrated by the author. Candlewick, 2006. 42p.

Fox sisters Zelda and Ivy run away, make a time capsule, and find a use for a secret potion in these humorously sweet stories that celebrate sisterhood, creativity, and friendship.

Lakin, Patricia. *Max & Mo Make a Snowman.* Illus. by Brian Floca. Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, paper, 2007. 28p.

Two classroom hamsters get creative after watching the children play in the snow.

McNamara, Margaret. *Martin Luther King Jr. Day.* Illus. by Mike Gordon. Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, paper, 2007. 32p.

The first graders of Robin Hill School learn about Martin Luther King Jr. and share their dreams for themselves and the world. Part of the Robin Hill School series.

Nolan, Lucy A. *Down Girl and Sit: On the Road.* Illus. by Mike Reed. Cavendish, 2005. 54p.

Down Girl and Sit, two canine friends, have a series of hilarious adventures.

O'Connor, Jane. *Fancy Nancy at the Museum.* Illus. by Robin Preiss Glasser and Ted Enik. HarperCollins, 2008. 32p.

Fancy Nancy won't let a bumpy bus ride spoil her class trip.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Annie and Snowball and the Prettiest House.* Illus. by Suçie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster, 2007. 40p.

Annie and her pet bunny, Snowball, decorate her plain house with help from cousin Henry and his dog, Mudge.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge and the Big Sleepover.* Illus. by Suçie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster, 2006. 40p.

Henry and Mudge join five other boys and their dogs for a sleepover with games, monster movies, pizza, and a popcorn-catching contest.



Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter & Tabby Run the Race.* Illus. by Arthur Howard. Harcourt, 2008. 44p.

Mr. Putter is persuaded to run the seniors' marathon by his good friend, Mrs. Teaberry, even though he "hasn't run anywhere" in 30 years.

Silverman, Erica. *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Rain or Shine.* Illus. by Betsy Lewin. Harcourt, 2008. 44p.

Even in the rain Cowgirl Kate and her "partner" Cocoa can enjoy working and playing together.

Simon, Seymour. *Amazing Bats.* Illus./Photos. Chronicle/SeaStar, 2005. 40p.

Amazing photographs and thorough information make this an exciting addition to the See More Readers series.

Spengler, Kenneth. *Little Red Hen Gets Help.* Illus. by Margaret Spengler. Harcourt, 2007. 24p.

Little Red Hen wants to make tacos, but she needs to find someone to help her. Who will it be?



Thomson, Sarah L. *Amazing Snakes!* Photos by the Wildlife Conservation Society. HarperCollins, 2006. 32p.

Get close-up views of snakes in this unforgettable addition to the Wildlife Conservation Society's "Amazing Animals" series.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Amanda Pig, First Grader.* Illus. by Ann Schweninger. Dial, 2007. 40p.

In this gentle school story, Amanda Pig discovers her independence as she starts first grade, gets lost on the way to the office, stands up to the big kids, and finally learns to read. Part of the Oliver and Amanda series.

Weeks, Sarah. *Pip Squeak.* Illus. by Jane K. Manning. HarperCollins/Laura Geringer, 2007. 28p.

The star of *Drip, Drop* is back and busy preparing for his friend Max's visit.

Willems, Mo. *Today I Will Fly!* Illustrated by the author. Hyperion, 2007. 57p.

Piggie decides that today is the day pigs will fly, but her friend, Gerald, just thinks Piggie needs help, in this installment of the Elephant & Piggie series.

Williams, Jacklyn. *Welcome to Third Grade, Gus!* Illus. by Doug Cushman. Picture Window, 2007. 32p.

Gus quickly finds that "third grade isn't a hard, scary, no-fun place." Part of the Gus the Hedgehog series.

Bauer, Marion Dane. *The Secret of the Painted House.* Illus. by Leonid Gore. Random, 2007. 96p.

Emily is drawn into the strange playhouse she finds after moving to rural Illinois from Chicago.

Benton, Jim. *The Fran with Four Brains.* Illustrated by the author. Simon & Schuster, 2006. 104p.

Overwhelmed by homework, afterschool activities, and mad scientist work, Franny decides that the only way to get a break is by creating "Franbots" – steel-planted versions of herself. Part of the Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist series.

Child, Lauren. *Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now.* Illustrated by the author. Candlewick, 2007. 252p.

Expert worrier and faithful friend Clarice Bean uses the *Ruby Redford Spy Guide* to steer her in the right direction as she deals with the departure of her best buddy, disagreements at home, and the mystery of her friend Karl's strange behavior.



Cooper, Susan. *The Magician's Boy.* Illus. by Serena Riglietti. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry, 2005. 100p.

In this charming and imaginative parable, the "Boy" encounters characters from familiar nursery rhymes and fairy tales as he searches the Land of Story for dragon slayer Saint George.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson: Princess in Disguise.* Illus. by Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick, 2007. 70p.

Halloween with Mr. and Mrs. Watson's pig Mercy means a princess costume, a chase, firefighters, and yes, even buttered toast.

Fine, Anne. *Jennifer's Diary.* Illus. by Kate Aldous. Farrar, 2007. 58p.

Jennifer's beautiful diary can't inspire her to write while Lola is just bursting with exciting ideas to fill its pages and thinks the diary should be hers.

Freeman, Martha. *The Trouble with Twins.* Illus. by Cat Bowman Smith. Holiday, 2007. 85p.

Jeremy and Dylan's older sister, Holly, volunteers to throw the very active identical twins a birthday party where events become complete, if not hilarious, chaos.

Friedman, Laurie. *Honestly, Mallory!* Illus. by Barbara Pollak. Carolrhoda, 2007. 159p.

Mallory feels like she is not good at anything when she cannot decide what to be on Career Day and ends up telling a lie that quickly gets out of control.

Gifford, Peggy. *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little.* Photos by Valorie Fisher. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. 91p.

Moxy Maxwell spends the summer between third and fourth grade finding ways to avoid reading *Stuart Little*.

Griffiths, Andy. *The Cat on the Mat Is Flat.* Illus. by Terry Denton. Feiwel & Friends, 2007. 166p.

With Dr. Seuss-like rhythm, rhyme, and mayhem, Andy Griffiths will entice readers with this collection of nine wild tales.

READING ON MY OWN

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean Break the Fossil Record.* Illus. by Sophie Blackall. Chronicle, 2007. 114p.

When Bean's attempts to break a world record fall short, Ivy convinces her that discovering a dinosaur skeleton may be the answer.

Harper, Charise Mericle. *Just Grace*. Illustrated by the author. Houghton, 2007. 138p.

When Grace tries to solve a mystery of a missing cat, her well-intentioned plan backfires, and she finds herself in a bit of trouble.

Hest, Amy. *Remembering Mrs. Rossi*. Illus. by Heather Maione. Candlewick, 2007. 143p.

Annie, age 8, and her father, Professor Rossi, try new ways to find happiness in the year that follows the sudden death of her mother.

Holm, Jennifer L. *Babymouse: Puppy Love*. Illus. by Matthew Holm. Random, 2007. 91p.

The hilarious adventures of Babymouse continue as she tries to find the perfect pet.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *Mostly Monty*. Illus. by Anik McGrory. Candlewick, 2007. 86p.

Monty learns that his asthma won't stop him from experiencing all that first grade has to offer.

Israel, Elaine, and Time for Kids editors. *Jesse Owens: Running into History*. Illus./Photos. HarperCollins/Collins, 2008. 43p.

Make a connection with the famous track star in the latest edition to the Time for Kids Biographies series.

Jenkins, Emily. *Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic*. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Schwartz & Wade, 2006. 116p.

Three toy friends, each with a distinctive personality, go on adventures with the little girl who loves them.

King-Smith, Dick. *Hairy Hezekiah*. Illus. by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook, 2007. 89p.

Hezekiah the camel is lonely until he escapes from the zoo and finds a new home and friends at a safari park.

Look, Lenore. *Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything*. Illus. by Anne Wilsdorf. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2006. 164p.

Spunky heroine Ruby Lu adjusts to the changes in her life when her deaf cousin, Flying Duck, and her family emigrate from China and move in with the Lu family.

Lowry, Lois. *Gooney the Fabulous*. Illus. by Middy Thomas. Houghton/Walter Lorraine, 2007. 94p.

Precocious Gooney takes charge as her second grade class learns about fables.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Edward's Eyes*. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2007. 116p.

After his death, a young boy is remembered for his sense of humor, kindness, and wicked knuckleball.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody & Stink: The Holly Joliday*. Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2007. 96p.

Judy is writing her Christmas wish list, but the only thing Stink wants is snow.

McDonald, Megan. *Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express*. Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2008. 118p.

Stink and his friends, Sophie and Webster, help a local pet store find homes for 101 guinea pigs – could one of them be Stink's?

Mills, Claudia. *Being Teddy Roosevelt*. Illus. by R. W. Alley. Farrar, 2007. 89p.

Fourth grader Riley O'Rourke's biography project on Teddy Roosevelt inspires him to finally get the saxophone he needs to play in the school band.

Nagda, Ann Whitehead. *Tarantula Power!* Illus. by Stephanie Roth. Holiday, 2007. 93p.

Richard knows he will have to do all the work when he is teamed with class bully Kevin for a science project, but with the help of friends, their teacher, and the class pet tarantula, he actually changes Kevin's bullying behavior.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Roxie and the Hooligans*. Illus. by Alexandra Boiger. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2006. 115p.

Roxie may not be brave like her explorer Uncle Dangerfoot, but she has read *Lord Thistlebottom's Book of Pitfalls and How to Survive Them*, which helps her save herself and the Hooligans when they are trapped on an island with bank robbers!

Orr, Wendy. *Mokie & Bik*. Illus. by Jonathan Bean. Holt, 2007. 72p.

Wild twins Mokie and Bik have a great time living on a boat with their mother and nanny.

Pennypacker, Sara. *The Talented Clementine*. Illus. by Marla Frazee. Hyperion, 2007. 137p.

"Talent-Palooza, Night of the Stars!" is coming and Clementine can't find a talent. Of course, her best friend Margaret has many talents, even sitting down with style. Will Clementine find her hidden talent before the big night?

Scieszka, Jon. *Time Warp Trio: Wushu Were Here*. HarperTrophy, paper, 2007. 73p.

Being warped back to ancient China is no easy task for Joe, Fred, and Anna. They must rescue General Li Shimin from prison and free Sam from "the Book."

Trine, Greg. *The Fake Cape Caper*. Illus. by Rhode Montijo. Holt, 2007. 137p.

Candace is left in charge when Melvin goes to Las Vegas for the Superhero's Convention. Will she be able to deal with the bullies at school and the sinister Spaz brothers? Part of the Melvin Beederman Superhero series.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman: Enemy Spy*. Illus. by Brian Biggs. Knopf, 2005. 182p.

Cybersuperhero Nolan must make a decision whether to reveal his secret identity or not when his archenemy discovers who he really is and his parents and favorite teacher are kidnapped.



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