

The 2015–2016

BUILDING READERS®

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Monster Chefs*** by Brian and Liam Anderson (Roaring Brook Press). When a monster king roars for his monster chefs to make him something other than eyeballs and ketchup, the four chefs search high and low for new recipes to please the king. What will be the dish that finally catches the king's fancy? (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Grumpy Grandpa*** by Heather Henson (Atheneum Books for Young Readers). Jack does not understand why his grandpa is always so grumpy. He yells at the newspaper and the TV, he snores loudly and he certainly doesn't laugh. But one day, Jack and Grumpy Grandpa go on an adventure together, and the boy's perception begins to change. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*** by Robert Andrew Parker (Schwartz & Wade). From early in his childhood, Art Tatum loves to play the piano. Soon, his talents as a jazz pianist are well-known around the country and his concerts are in high demand. (*lower elementary; nonfiction*)

***Little Red Writing*** by Joan Holub (Chronicle Books). Ms. 2, a teacher at a pencil school, tells her class of pencils they'll be writing stories. Little Red begins writing about a brave pencil. As Little Red gets caught up in her story, it begins to take over real life. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Under the Sea with Me*** by Ted Irvine (CreateSpace Independent Publishing). Enjoy riddles about animals and plants, from an octopus to algae, that live under the sea. (*lower elementary; nonfiction*)

***Caring for Cheetahs: My African Adventure*** by Rosanna Hansen (Boyd's Mills Press). Team members at the Cheetah Conservation Fund's nature reserve in Namibia are dedicated to saving these endangered animals and preserving their habitats. See what taking care of these speedy, powerful animals involves, and learn fascinating facts about them. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems)*** by Linda Sue Park (Clarion Books). Learn about *sijo*, a type of poetry from Korea, with a specific number of stressed syllables. The fun part of *sijo* is that they contain a twist at the end! (*lower elementary; poetry*)

***Silas' Seven Grandparents*** by Anita Horrocks (Orca Book Publishers). Silas has seven grandparents, which can be overwhelming! On his birthday, he gets seven cakes—one from each grandparent! But he loves all seven, just the same.

(*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Dream Big: Michael Jordan and the Pursuit of Olympic Gold*** by Deloris Jordan (Paula Wiseman Books). When Michael Jordan was a boy, all he wanted to do was play basketball. While watching the Olympics in 1972, he dreamed of playing on the U.S. Olympic team. This biography shows how the basketball star's determination led to his great success. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***Lemonade and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word*** by Bob Raczka (Roaring Brook Press). Enjoy poems that take interesting shapes. Raczka uses only the letters from a single word to create each clever, puzzling poem. (*upper elementary; poetry*)



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***The Book with No Pictures*** by B.J. Novak (Dial Books for Young Readers). A book without any pictures might seem extremely boring to a child, but this one has a catch: The reader has to read every word aloud—no matter how ridiculously silly it is! (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***The Lion and the Mouse*** by Jerry Pinkney (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Pinkney presents this classic fable without words, using beautiful watercolors to tell the story of a lion who gets stuck in a net. The fierce lion soon discovers that the small mouse is the best animal to help him. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***School Lunch*** by True Kelley (Holiday House). It's exhausting for Harriet, Lincoln School's cook, to keep track of everyone's food preferences, so she goes on vacation. After the principal hires several zany replacements, the students of Lincoln School realize just how much they miss Harriet! (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite*** by Anna Harwell Celenza (Charlesbridge). Night after night in 1960, the talked-about act in town is Duke Ellington and his band. See what happens when Duke decides to put his own spin on Tchaikovsky's classic composition, *The Nutcracker*. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***Abe Lincoln's Dream*** by Lane Smith (Roaring Brook Press). A girl on a tour of the White House goes exploring and sees Abraham Lincoln's ghost. As she walks with him, they discuss his dreams for a united country, equality and more. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***The Kissing Hand*** by Audrey Penn (Tanglewood Press). A young raccoon is afraid to leave home and go to school. His mother tells him a secret to help him feel connected, even when they're far apart. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***The Dancing Pancake*** by Eileen Spinelli (Alfred A. Knopf). Bindi is experiencing many changes, from making new friends to beginning to work at her family's diner. Through all these transitions, she does her best to maintain a positive outlook. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Sourpuss and Sweetie Pie*** by Norton Juster (Michael Di Capua Books). A little girl has two sides to her personality, Sourpuss and Sweetie Pie, especially when she's with her Nanna and Poppy. She can't help being a bit of a sourpuss at times, even though she always strives to be her Nanna and Poppy's Sweetie Pie. (*lower elementary; fiction*)



***How the Dinosaur Got to the Museum*** by Jessie Hartland (Blue Apple Books). From the paleontologist and the excavators to the exhibits team and director of the museum, it takes a large, dedicated group of people to get dinosaur fossils and bones into museums. Each role is integral to the process! See how one team worked together to get a Diplodocus skeleton to the Smithsonian Institution. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***Memoirs of a Goldfish*** by Devin Scillian (Sleeping Bear Press). Enjoy the daily diary of a goldfish who enjoys swimming in circles around his bowl. That is, until new plants and fish are put into his home, and his entire world is disrupted! (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Hooray for Inventors!*** by Marcia Williams (Candlewick Press). Throughout history, people have come up with clever inventions that are now integral parts of our lives. Learn about successful inventors like Johannes Gutenberg, Alexander Graham Bell and Guglielmo Marconi, all of whom made remarkable inventions that made lasting impacts on society. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)