

Building A Home Library

Ages 8-11



Interested in more book titles? We suggest the following sites for great reading.

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Welcome to the world of books for your home!

Here are suggested contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library. A home library collection is an ever-present resource for children and adults. The American Library Association/Children's Book Council Joint Committee and the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee recommend these titles for children ages 8-11. Three other pamphlets recommend books for children ages 0-3, 4-7, and 12-14. Ask your librarian or bookseller for more suggestions.

Alexander, Lloyd.


The Chronicles of Prydain series.

Henry Holt.

An assistant pig-keeper tries to become a hero in this classic fantasy series which includes *The Book of Three* (1964), *The Black Cauldron* (1965) and *The High King* (1968). 


Curtis, Christopher Paul.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963.

Delacorte, 1995. The "Weird Watson" family takes an amusing and sometimes dangerous car journey from Michigan to Alabama during the heart of the Civil Rights movement. A Newbery Honor Book and a Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book. 

DiCamillo, Kate.

Because of Winn-Dixie.

Candlewick, 2000. A dog named Winn-Dixie changes India's life the summer that they meet in a small town in Florida. The characters in this book will stay with you for a long, long time. A Newbery Honor Book. 

Fleischman, Paul.

Seedfolks.

HarperCollins, 1997. As inner-city residents work together to change a trash-filled lot into a productive and beautiful garden they find themselves and their neighborhood transformed as well.


Freedman, Russell.

Lincoln: A Photobiography.

Clarion, 1987. An engaging text, pertinent quotes and informative photographs provide insight into the man who was president during a pivotal time in American history. A Newbery Medal winner.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles.

My Father's Dragon.

Illus. by Ruth Chrisman Gannett. Random, 1948. Humor and adventure abound in this early chapter book when a little boy, who would do anything to be able to fly, finds himself on a dangerous mission to rescue a dragon. A Newbery Honor Book. 

Hamilton, Virginia.

The People Could Fly. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. Alfred A. Knopf, 1985. Twenty-four tales tell of tricksters, slave experiences and the supernatural while shedding light on the wit, wisdom and pain of the human condition. A Coretta Scott King Author Award winner.

Kerrin, Jessica Scott.

Martin Bridge series.

Illus. by Joseph Kelly. Kids Can. There's humor, warmth and some good natured mischief in these beginning chapter books about a very likable third-grade boy. Titles include *Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff!* (2005), *Martin Bridge: Blazing Ahead!* (2006) and *Martin Bridge: Sound the Alarm!* (2007).

Lowry, Lois.

Number the Stars. Houghton, 1989. In this daring rescue story set during World War II, ten-year-old Annemarie discovers the true meaning of friendship and bravery as she helps rescue her Jewish friends from the Nazis in Denmark. A Newbery Medal winner. 

 Available in an audio edition from Listening Library

MacLachlan, Patricia.

Sarah, Plain and Tall.

HarperCollins, 1985. When the quiet father of two kids advertises for a wife, Sarah Wheaton arrives at their prairie home fresh from Maine. Will this tall, bold woman become the children's new mother or will her longing for the sea prove too strong? A Newbery Medal winner.

Malam, John, and John Woodward

Dinosaur Atlas.

DK, 2006. Striking illustrations, transparent overlays and a wealth of fascinating dinosaur facts bring the prehistoric world to life, continent by continent. An interactive CD is included.

McDonald, Megan.

Judy Moody.


Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2000. Third grader Judy Moody's school year gets off to a bad start with an assignment to create a collage about herself in this first book in the series. Judy's adventures continue in *Judy Moody Gets Famous* (2001), *Judy Moody Saves the World* (2002) and *Judy Moody Predicts the Future* (2003).

Montgomery, Sy.

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo. Photos by Nic Bishop. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. Follow a group of scientists into the cloud forest of Papua New Guinea and learn about the secretive life of the Matschie's tree kangaroo. It looks like a bear, has a belly pocket like a kangaroo, but lives in a tree! A Sibert Honor Book.

Park, Linda Sue.

A Single Shard.

Clarion, 2001. In medieval Korea, an outcast boy named Tree-ear wants to learn how to make beautiful pottery. With the help of his older friend, Crane-man, he sets out on a dangerous journey to present a precious work of art to the emperor. A Newbery Medal winner. 

Prelutsky, Jack.

The New Kid on the Block.

Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 1984. Word play, humor, rhythm and rhyme combine in these poems that offer rollicking fun for reading independently or out loud.


Raczka, Bob.

Bob Raczka's Art Adventure series.

Millbrook. Classic works of art are introduced in inventive new ways in this series, which includes *Unlikely Pairs* (2006), *Here's Looking at Me* (2004) and *Art Is...* (2003).

Ryan, Pam Muñoz.

Esperanza Rising.

Scholastic, 2000. Esperanza's pampered childhood abruptly ends when she and her mother flee from Mexico to the United States and become migrant workers in the 1930's. Expressive language and strong symbolism enrich this powerful story of family, friends and hope. Also available in Spanish. A Belpré Award for Narrative winner. 

Selznick, Brian.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret.

Scholastic, 2007. This visually innovative tale uses hundreds of dramatic black and white drawings along with words to tell the story of a mysterious filmmaker, two curious kids, and an automated man.

Van Allsburg, Chris.

Jumanji.

Houghton Mifflin, 1981. Left on their own for an afternoon, two bored and restless children find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious jungle adventure board game. A Caldecott Medal winner.

White, E. B.

Charlotte's Web.

HarperCollins, 1952. White's beloved classic relates the story of Wilbur the pig who is raised by Fern, the farmer's daughter and finds a friend and wise mentor in a spider named Charlotte. A Newbery Honor Book. 