Building A Home Library

Ages 8-11

The ALA-Children’s Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee, with cooperation from the ALSC’s Quicklists Consulting Committee, has created this bibliography to provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for their children at home.

We suggest the following sites for more book titles:
www.cbcbooks.org/reading-lists
www.ala.org/alsc

Questions?
American Library Association
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433 x2163

© 2014 American Library Association
Welcome to the world of books for your home!

Here are suggested classic and contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library, 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 about multiple formats for these books and for more suggestions to add to your growing collection.

*Angleberger, Tom. The Strange Case of Origami Yoda. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010. The weird kid at school makes a finger puppet Yoda that can tell the future, but can its advice be trusted?

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. The Unforgotten Coat. Candlewick Press, 2011. When Julie befriends the two new mysterious Mongolian students in her class, she has no idea what she's getting into.


*Cronin, Doreen. Illustrated by Kevin Cornell. The Trouble with Chickens: a J.J. Tully Mystery. Balzer and Bray / HarperCollins, 2011. Lina and Doon live in a world with no sun. Light comes from a generator which is starting to fail. Can they find a way out?


Frost, Helen. Salt: a Story of Friendship in a Time of War. Farrar Straus & Giroux / Macmillan, 2013. Two boys on opposite sides of the war of 1812 come to realize that their friendship may not survive the coming battles.


Hill, Laban Carrick. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2010. Illustrated in lush watercolors, this is a poetic tribute to a little-known man who worked as an accomplished potter while under slavery in South Carolina.

Holm, Jennifer L. Turtle in Paradise. Yearling / Random House, 2010. In 1935 Turtle moves to Key West, where she learns the trials of boy cousins and the wonders of sugar apple ice cream.


*Look, Lenore. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters. Schwartz & Wade / Random House, 2009. Alvin's worst fear has been realized - camping! Can his night-vision goggles, water-purifying tablets, and heavy-duty flashlight keep him safe from the great outdoors?


Ryan, Pam Munoz. Esperanza Rising. Scholastic Inc., 2002. Esperanza finds herself struggling with a new set of circumstances after being forced to flee to a camp for Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression.

Stead, Rebecca. When You Reach Me. Wendy Lamb Books / Random House, 2009. Twelve-year-old Miranda must unravel a puzzle involving increasingly strange notes with a mysterious warning that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

*Warner, Sally. Illustrated by Jamie Harper. ElRay Jakes is NOT a Chicken! Viking Children’s Books / Penguin, 2011. ElRay's dad offers to take him to Disneyland if he can stay out of trouble for one week—which makes this week the longest ever!

White, E. B. The Trumpet of the Swan. HarperCollins, 1970. A mute trumpeter swan is provided with a trumpet by his father in order to win the love of the beautiful Serena.

*Williams-Garcia, Rita. One Crazy Summer. HarperCollins, 2010. In 1968, three young sisters are sent to live with the poet mother who abandoned them years before and have trouble adjusting to her bohemian lifestyle and Black Panther involvement.

* Book is part of a series (including sequels and trilogies)