

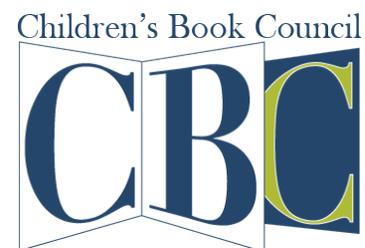
# Building a Home Library

## for Children Ages 8-11

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



# 2018



**We suggest the following sites for more book titles:**

[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

**Questions?**

American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
[alsc@ala.org](mailto:alsc@ala.org)

The Children's Book Council  
54 W 39th St., 14 Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
[cbc.info@cbcbooks.org](mailto:cbc.info@cbcbooks.org)

### **Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets**

**by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley & Marjory Wentworth.**

**Illus by Ekua Holmes**  
Candlewick Press, 2017  
Original poems and mixed media illustrations in celebration of poets who described their times and whose work still resonates today; a great introduction to poetry for young folks. *Audio.*

**\*A Boy Called Bat**  
**by Elana K. Arnold. Illus by Charles Santoso**  
Walden Pond Press / HarperCollins Children's Books, 2017

Bat may be autistic, but he could not resist proving he could have a skunk as a pet. *Ebook.*

**\*The Wild Robot**  
**by Peter Brown**  
Little, Brown and Company BFYR, 2016

A robot is stranded on a remote island. In order to survive, she must learn from and befriend the wild animals living on the island. *Ebook.*

**Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen**

**by Candace Fleming. Illus by Eric Rohmann**  
Schwartz & Wade / Random House Children's Books, 2018  
Hollywood's first movie star dog and the humans who brought him to the silver screen are the focus of this chapter book, based on a true story. *Ebook.*

**Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11**  
**by Brian Floca**

Atheneum / Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2009  
Experience the complexity and thrill of the first flight

and landing of man on the moon. *Ebook.*

**Refugee**  
**by Alan Gratz**  
Scholastic Inc., 2017

Three different immigrant stories, spanning more than 75 years and three countries, tell a gripping tale of the universal human need for a safe place to call home. *Ebook.*

**I'm Just No Good At Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups**  
**by Chris Harris. Illus by Lane Smith**

Little, Brown and Company BFYR, 2017  
Chris Harris's hilarious poetry collection, made even more hysterical by Lane Smith's wacky illustrations, is perfect for fans of Shel Silverstein! *Ebook.*

**Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History**

**by Vashti Harrison**  
Little, Brown and Company BFYR, 2017  
Short, easy-to-read biographies of 40 phenomenal black women who played important roles in American history. *Ebook.*

**Fish in a Tree**  
**by Lynda Mullaly Hunt**  
Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin Young Readers Group, 2015

Underneath the "troublemaker" label, Ally is a bright, creative kid who finally realizes her inability to read is due to dyslexia. *Spanish, Ebook.*

### **\*The Great Greene Heist**

**by Varian Johnson**  
Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic Inc., 2014  
Jackson Greene, lead prankster and big man on campus, is trying to straighten up his act. But to help a friend win the student election, he'll get his team back together in this Ocean's Eleven meets middle school caper. *Ebook.*

**Amina's Voice**  
**by Hena Khan**  
Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2017

After tragedy strikes Amina's community, she must figure out how to juggle fitting in at her American middle school while also being true to her family's Pakistani traditions. *Ebook.*

**Flying Lessons & Other Stories**

**Ed. by Ellen Oh**  
Crown BFYR / Random House Children's Books, 2017  
Well-known authors fill this short story collection with tales of crushes, family drama, and more. *Audio, Ebook.*

**The Seventh Most Important Thing**  
**by Shelley Pearsall**

Knopf BFYR / Random House Children's Books, 2015  
Grieving his father's death, Arthur lashes out at the local "junk man." His sentence is to work for his victim, Mr. Hampton, collecting the seven most important kinds of trash, which he uses to create an artistic masterpiece. *Audio, Ebook.*

**The Red Pencil**  
**by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus by Shane W. Evans**  
Little, Brown and Company BFYR, 2015

Amira, a Sudanese girl emotes feelings of despair, hope and a future of possibilities from the simple gift of a red pencil. Told in verse. *Audio, Ebook.*

**Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems**

**by Bob Raczka**  
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2016  
A fun, inventive collection of concrete or shape poems. *Ebook.*

**Ghost Boys**  
**by Jewell Parker Rhodes**  
Little, Brown and Company BFYR, 2018

After being shot and killed by a police officer, ghostly narrator Jerome learns about the tragic effects of his death and how his story fits into a pattern of racial injustice in the U.S. *Audio, Ebook.*

**\*Two Naomis**  
**by Olughemisola Rhuday-Perkovich & Audrey Vernick**

Balzer + Bray / HarperCollins Children's Books, 2016  
Two very different girls, both named Naomi, are thrown together when their parents start dating, requiring each Naomi to figure out where she fits in and how to manage a blended family. *Ebook.*

**Cry, Heart, But Never Break**

**by Glenn Ringtved. Illus by Charlotte Pardi. Tr. by Robert Moulthrop**  
Enchanted Lion Books, 2016  
The figure of Death gently eases the pain

of four siblings as they accept the loss of their grandmother. *Spanish.*

**How to Be an Elephant**

**by Katherine Roy**  
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2017  
Told through the eyes of a baby elephant, this book teaches that survival on the savanna requires the help of the whole herd. A great choice for the budding naturalist in your life. *Ebook.*

**Amal Unbound**  
**by Aisha Saeed**  
Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin Young Readers Group, 2018

Amal wants to be a teacher, but after being pulled from her school by her family and drafted into the service of a corrupt landlord, she is going to have to find a way to create change and achieve her dreams. *Audio, Ebook.*

**Lincoln's Grave Robbers**

**by Steve Sheinkin**  
Scholastic Press / Scholastic Inc., 2013  
A true-crime thriller, this teen narrative nonfiction tells the nearly unknown tale of the brazen attempt to steal Abraham Lincoln's body in 1875, and the very first Secret Service agents who were hot on the trail. *Audio, Ebook.*

**\*Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible**

**by Ursula Vernon**  
Dial Books / Penguin Young Readers Group, 2015  
Princess Harriet is not your average princess. First, she's a hamster and second, she'd much

rather go on quests than hang around the castle waiting for her prince to come. *Audio, Ebook.*

**Save Me a Seat**  
**by Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan**

Scholastic Press / Scholastic Inc., 2016  
Joe and Ravi—one born in America, one born in India—might seem very different, but they have a common enemy (the middle school's biggest bully) and a common mission: to take control of their lives. *Audio, Ebook.*

**Clayton Byrd Goes Underground**

**by Rita Williams-Garcia**  
Amistad / HarperCollins Children's Books, 2017  
Clayton and his grandfather, Cool Papa, are blues-playing soulmates. But when Clayton's mother forbids him to continue playing after Cool Papa's sudden passing, the boy sets out on a musical and personal journey of self-discovery. *Audio, Ebook.*

**Front Desk**  
**by Kelly Yang**

Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic Inc., 2018  
Ten-year-old Mia Tang helps her parents with the business of running a motel, but her dreams of being a writer and fighting injustice come together when she tries to win a contest, where the grand prize will be a hotel of her own. *Audio, Ebook.*