

South Orange Maplewood School District  
2015 Summer Reading List for Intermediate Grades



South Orange Maplewood School District  
**2015 Summer Reading List**  
**Intermediate Grades: 3 – 5**

This list was compiled by librarians from the South Orange and Maplewood elementary schools and public libraries, and is available online through the SOMSD website and the public library sites. The list contains our suggestions for great books to read over the summer. Reading is one of the best activities for academic success. Enjoy the summer and keep reading!

You can find these and other books at your public library:

South Orange Public Library  
[www.sopl.org](http://www.sopl.org)  
65 Scotland Road  
South Orange, NJ 07079  
973.762.0230

Maplewood Memorial Library  
[www.maplewoodlibrary.org](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org)  
51 Baker Street  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973.762.1622 ext 5005

Maplewood Library Hilton Branch  
[www.maplewoodlibrary.org](http://www.maplewoodlibrary.org)  
1688 Springfield Ave.  
Maplewood, NJ 07040  
973.762.1688

## BIOGRAPHY

- ***Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshall* by VAUNDA NELSON**

An illustrated biography of Bass Reeves, a former slave who was recruited as a deputy United States marshal, based on his ability to communicate with the Native Americans in the area that was to become Oklahoma.

- ***Boys Who Rocked the World* by MICHELLE McCANN**

Read about boys who did something wonderful while still in their teens.

- ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by JACQUELINE WOODSON**

In this National Book Award winning novel, Jacqueline Woodson writes of her childhood in the North and the South in free verse. Her poems reflect the challenges of growing up during the Civil Rights Movement and how she found her voice through writing.

The author talks about the story: <https://youtu.be/-2YJPGea94E>

- ***Girls Who Rocked the World* by MICHELLE McCANN**

This time it's girls who shine.....stories of girls who made an impact on the world. A fascinating collection of different kinds of heroines.

- ***I Am Albert Einstein* by BRAD MELTZER**

Similar to the *Who was...* series, this biography tells the life story of the brilliant scientist, Albert Einstein.

Also read: other books in the *I Am* series

- ***I am Jazz* by JESSICA HERTHEL**

The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings.

- ***Malala Yousafzai: Education Activist* by REBECCA ROWELL**

A biography of Malala Yousafzai, a Muslim teenage girl from Pakistan, who advocates for education of women and children.

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● ***Nelson Mandela*** by KADIR NELSON

Text and illustrations presents a biography of the former South African president best known for his political activism and fight to end apartheid.

● ***Raising the Bar*** by GABRIELLE DOUGLAS

Looks at the life of Gabrielle Douglas United States gymnast all-around gold medal winner at the 2012 London Olympics.

Watch an interview with Gabby Douglas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfmJ-sO1xPo>

● ***Who is Bill Gates?***

A biography of Bill Gates, an American business magnate, investor, philanthropist, and author. Through the success of his world-famous software company, Microsoft, Bill Gates became one of the wealthiest philanthropists in history.

Watch a video about his life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNdH6uV-UY4>

Also read: other books in the *Who Is?* Series

● ***Who Was Bruce Lee?***

A biography of martial artist and movie star Bruce Lee.

Also read: other books in the *Who Was?* series

## FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

● ***Blood of Olympus*** by RICK RIORDAN

The Greek and Roman demigods must simultaneously prevent the earth mother, Gaea, from waking and stop war from breaking out at Camp Half-Blood. Also read other books in the series.

● ***Cold As Ice*** by SARAH MLYNOWSKI

Abby and Jonah find themselves in the story of the Snow Queen, a troubled character who chose power over family and friendship, and Abby to has free the children the Queen has under her spell--with the help of her new friend, a talking reindeer called Ralph, and a strange girl named Sharon. Also read other books in the *Whatever After* series.

Watch the trailer for first book in the series: [https://youtu.be/JEIVRbtI\\_nE](https://youtu.be/JEIVRbtI_nE)

● ***Copernicus Legacy: The Forbidden Stone*** by TONY ABBOT

Wade, Lily, Darrell, and Becca fly to Germany for the funeral of an old family friend. But, instead of just paying their respects, they wind up on a dangerous, mind-blowing quest to unlock an ancient, guarded secret that could destroy the fate of the world.

Author Tony Abbott talks about the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho9UvbB0Rtc>

● ***Floors*** by PATRICK CARMAN

Ten-year-old Leo's future and the fate of the extraordinary Whippet Hotel, where his father is the maintenance man, are at stake when a series of cryptic boxes leads Leo to hidden floors, strange puzzles, and unexpected alliances.

● ***Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures*** by KATE DiCAMILLO

A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.

Book Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6cdkKJvgaA>

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● ***Fortunately, the Milk* by NEIL GAIMAN**

While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space. Book Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMEC87U1gT0>

● ***Get Lost, Odysseus* by KATE MCMULLAN**

Hades, ruler of the Underworld, tells the "true" story of Odysseus and his journey home from Troy. Of course, the story is told from Hades point of view and not that of his big brother Zeus. Also read other books in the *Mythomania* series.

● ***Gobble by Ghorks* by ROBERT PAUL WESTON**

When Jean-Remy receives a singing telegram from his long-lost sister, Eloise Yvette, the Creature Department is once again thrown into an invention frenzy. Rumor has it that the Ghorks have taken Heppleworth's Food Factory hostage. And worse, they are threatening to make tasty treats of the creatures inside. Also read other books in the *Creature Department* series.

Watch the book trailer: <https://youtu.be/mBlf02y8Je4>

● ***The Grimm Conclusion* by ADAM GIDWITZ**

This is a re-telling of the fairytales of the Brothers Grimm, but with a grim twist. Not for the faint of heart, but for those who love the fairytales and appreciate the author's twisted takes. Book trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2iJBXxhzDI>

Also read: *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and *In a Glass Grimly*

● ***The Hero's Guide to Being an Outlaw* by CHRISTOPHER HEALY**

The League of Princes returns in the hilariously epic conclusion to local author Christopher Healy's twisted fairy tale trilogy. Lots of laughs. Book trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV3gKeE21xk>

Also read: *The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*, and *The Hero's Guide to Storming the Castle*

● ***House of Secrets* by CHRIS COLUMBUS**

Cordelia, Brendan, and Eleanor Walker, ages fifteen to eight, must rely on a mysterious book to face the Wind Witch and her father, the Storm King, who have kidnapped Dr. and Mrs. Walker and brought them to a strange world of magic.

Chris Columbus and Ned Vizzini talk about the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7hUqLZAd7k>

● ***Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* by CHRIS COLFER**

Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, twins Alex and Conner leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.

Also read: other books in the series Chris Colfer introduces the *Land of Stories*: <https://youtu.be/2NT-FQ9mM6U>

● ***New Lands* by GEOFF RODKEY**

Thirteen-year-old Eggbert and his friends face old and new enemies when they travel to the New Lands in search of the lost Okalu tribe and its mysterious ancient treasures. Book trailer: <https://youtu.be/LcQa2z1jgic>

Also read other titles in the *Chronicles of Egg* series

● ***Rump* by LIESL SHURTLIFF**

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

Book Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWGpDLVF8xg>

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● ***Wild Born* by BRANDON MULL**

As a dark force engulfs the land, the fate of Erdas has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers who each have forged a rare bond with their spirit beasts—a bond that gives great powers to all of them.

Also read other books in the *Spirit Animals* series

● ***The Zero Degree Zombie Zone* by PATRIK HENRY BASS**

Fourth-grader Bakari Katari Johnson is having a really bad day--class bullies Tariq and Keisha are mad at him, his best friend Wardell has nominated him for hall monitor, a pack of ice zombies from a frozen world are demanding he return the magic ring that Keisha has, and somehow he has to find a way to save the school.

## FICTION

● ***Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, The Forbidden Palace, and Other Tourist Attractions* by LENORE LOOK**

Alvin, second grader, is afraid of *everything*—elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. Also read other Alvin Ho books.

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQtq17HiYJk>

● ***Amelia's School Survival Guide* by MARISSA MOSS**

School can be hazardous to your health, but not when you have Amelia's tips for surviving homework, teachers, and even cafeteria food! Book Synopsis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1O38gg3YZY>

● ***The Apothecary* by MAILE MELOY**

Fourteen-year-old Janie meets a mysterious apothecary and his son, Benjamin Burrows. When Benjamin's father is kidnapped, Janie and Benjamin must uncover the secrets of the apothecary's book, the Pharmacopoeia, in order to find him.

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EH-BGOQMCIk>

● ***Battle Bunny* by JON SCIESZKA**

Alex, whose birthday it is, hijacks a story about Birthday Bunny on his special day and turns it into a battle between a supervillain and his enemies in the forest – who, in the original story, are simply planning a surprise party.

Book Trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWbWFlfM9g>

● ***The Boy on the Porch* by SHARON CREECH**

When a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch, their lives take a surprising turn. Unable to speak, the boy Jacob can't explain his history. The three of them blossom into an unlikely family and begin to see the world in brand-new ways.

Sharon Creech reads the first page of the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5RIDCwJspo>

● ***Bully* by PATRICIA POLACCO**

Online cruelty and cyberbullying causes problems for a new girl in school.

● ***Captain Awesome Takes a Dive* by STAN KIRBY**

It's summertime in Sunnyview and Captain Awesome is headed to the pool in this all-new Captain Awesome adventure!

Also read other books in the *Captain Awesome* series

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● ***Dory Fantasmagory* by ABBY HANLON**

As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she's too much of a baby for them, so she's left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy, but eventually when they really need her, daring Dory will prove her bravery, and finally get exactly what she has been looking for.

● ***EllRay Jakes the Recess King!* by SALLY WARNER**

Eight-year-old EllRay is down to one-and-a-half best friends, and his little sister points out the obvious: he needs more! So EllRay decides to audition other boys for the part, but EllRay has to come up with fun things to do at recess, because when he's the Recess King, everyone will want to be his friend! Also read other books in the series.

Book Trailers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7CPE690KIA> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nr-HGrI3feQ>

● ***Emperor Pickletine Rides the Bus* by TOM ANGLEBERGER**

Will our heroes be able to defeat carsickness and sugar rushes on this field trip to DC? Middle-grade humor at its best!

Also read: other books in the *Origami Yoda* series

● ***Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* by CHRIS GRABENSTEIN**

In this cross between *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *A Night in the Museum*, Kyle and his friends must solve every puzzle to escape their night in the library. Also read: *The Island of Doctor Libris*

● ***The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict* by TRENTON LEE STEWART**

Nine-year-old, Nicholas Benedict, a boy without parents and afflicted with an unfortunate nose and narcolepsy, is sent to a new orphanage where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances, and a mystery that could change his life forever. Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oyv-J98ashI>

● ***Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor* by JON SCIESZKA**

In his Grandpa Al's garage workshop, child genius Frank Einstein tries to invent a robot that can learn on its own, and after an accident brings wisecracking Klink and overly expressive Klank to life, they set about helping Frank perfect his Anti-matter Motor until his archnemesis, T. Edison, steals the robots for his doomsday plan.

Jon Scieszka talks about Frank Einstein: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQpH9Zlmc0w>

● ***I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871* by LAUREN TARSHIS**

This series brings to life some of history's most exciting and terrifying moments. Discover how these kids survived these scary events. Also read: other books in the *I Survived* series

● ***I Totally Funniest* by JAMES PATTERSON**

As the Planet's *Funniest* Kid Comic finals near, Jamie faces a whirlwind of attention at school and in the media and the fame starts to go to his head, but in Hollywood with Uncle Frankie, some of his fellow comedians quickly show him what competition and pressure are all about. The author of *I Funny* does it again. Also read: *I Funny*.

● ***Jelly Bean* by CYNTHIA LORD**

Suzannah's always wanted a pet of her own, but she lives in an apartment where there are absolutely no pets allowed. So she volunteers at a local pet shelter where a girl brings a guinea pig named Jelly Bean to the shelter. Suzannah promises that she'll find the little creature the perfect home. Also read other books in the *Shelter Pet Squad* series.

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● ***Justin Case: Rules, Tools, and Maybe a Bully* by RACHEL VAIL**

Justin Case has made it to fourth grade, but now he has new things to worry about....friends, bullies and more bullies. Also read: other books in the *Justin Case* series

● ***Kinda like Brothers* by COE BOOTH**

When his mother takes in a twelve-year-old foster boy, Jarrett is forced to share his room and his friends with the new boy.

● ***Life of Ty: Non-random Act of Kindness* by LAUREN MYRACLE**

When Ty's second-grade teacher turns a bumper sticker's admonition into a homework assignment, he wonders how he can possibly perform an act of kindness and prepare a recitation about it by Friday. Also read: *Life of Ty: Penguin Problems*

● ***Lulu Walks the Dogs* by JUDITH VIORST**

Lulu desperately needs money to buy a "mysterious something", but dog walking turns out to be more than she can handle. Also read: other books in the *Lulu* series

● ***The Madman of Piney Woods* by CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS**

Even though it is now 1901, the people of Buxton, Canada, originally a settlement of runaway slaves, and Chatham, Canada, are still haunted by two events of half a century before--the American Civil War and the Irish potato famine--and the lasting damage those events caused to the survivors.

● ***My Life as a Cartoonist* by JANET TASHJIAN**

Derek is back and he seems to have met his match in Umberto, a new student who is in a wheelchair. Derek's cartoon strip may be his only way to keep from becoming the laughingstock of the school! Also read: *My Life as a Stuntboy*

● ***Nest* by ESTHER ERLICH**

On Cape Cod in 1972, eleven-year-old Naomi, known as Chirp for her love of birds, gets help from neighbor Joey as she struggles to cope with her mother's multiple sclerosis and its effect on her father and sister.

● ***The Odd Squad: King Karl* by MICHAEL FRY**

Nick, Molly, and Karl have nowhere to turn but to each other in the latest Odd Squad adventure, and they'll need every ounce of wit, resourcefulness, and help they can get in order to rise above their biggest challenge yet.

Also read other books in the series. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZqT8ID\\_RI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZqT8ID_RI4)

● ***Pi in the Sky* by WENDY MASS**

Joss's job is to deliver pies (yes, pies!) for the Supreme Overlord of the Universe and then things go terribly wrong and the Earth disappears! Joss must fix things, but can he do it in time? Also read: other books by the author

● ***The Red Bicycle* by JUDE ISABELLA**

When Leo outgrows his red bicycle, he sends it to Burkina Faso, where it starts a journey through many hands and has many uses.

● ***Rain Reign* by ANN M. MARTIN**

Struggling with Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels, even if it means leaving her routines in order to search for her pet.

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- ***Somebody on this Bus is going to be Famous* by J. B. CHEANEY**

During a torrential rainstorm, a school bus goes off the road and, with the driver unconscious, it is up to her passengers to try to rescue each other and go for help.

- ***Space Pup* by R. A. MONTGOMERY**

Your best friend is Homer the dog, the smartest being on Earth. Homer has been taking long trips to the junkyard lately while you're at school, and returning with gifts for you that are weirder and weirder. When Homer brings you a glowing blue Frisbee that translates every language, you know this is no junkyard scrap metal find. Has Homer found a spaceship? Was anyone aboard?

- ***Timmy Failure: Now Look What You've Done* by STEPHEN PASTIS**

Timmy Failure is the funny and clueless 11-year old CEO of the best detective agency in town. And meet his lazy partner, a polar bear, named Total as they adventure through the story. As funny as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

Book trailer for the 1<sup>st</sup> book: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch6eXUoe-RY>

Also read: *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* and *We Meet Again*

- ***World According to Humphrey* by BETTY BIRNEY**

The hamster is everybody's favorite classroom pet. His life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn't out to get him! Also read: other books in the *Humphrey* series

- ***Year of Billy Miller* by KEVIN HENKES**

Second grader Billy Miller deals with a homework disaster and an annoying sister and worries about second grade. This is a good choice for a longer chapter book. Also read: other books by the author

## GRAPHIC NOVELS

- ***Amulet* by KAZU KIBUISHI**

- ***Astronaut Academy* by DAVE ROMAN**

- ***Babysitters Club Graphic Novels***

- ***Bad Kitty Meets the Baby* by NICK BRUEL** Also read: other books in the *Bad Kitty* series

- ***Bone* by JEFF SMITH**

- ***El Deafo* by CECE BELL**

- ***Fairy Tale Comics***

- ***The Gumazing Gum Girl Chews your own destiny* by RHODE MONTIJO**

- ***Happy Birthday, Babymouse* by JENNIFER L. HOLM**

Also read: other books in the *Babymouse* series

- ***Korgi* by CHRISTIAN SLADE**

- ***Kung Pow ChickenLet's get cracking* by CYNDI MARKO** Also read: other books in the series

- ***Misadventures of Salem Hyde Spelling Trouble* by FRANK CAMMUSO** Also read: other books in the series



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- ***Nancy Drew Graphic Novels***
- ***Odd Duck* by CECIL CASTELLUCCI**
- ***Phantom Bully* by JEFFREY BROWN** Also read other books in the Star Wars Jedi Academy series
- ***The Secret Science Alliance and the Copycat Crook* by ELEANOR DAVIS**
- ***Sisters* by RAINA TELGEMEIER** Also read *Smile*
- ***The Tale of Despereaux: The Graphic Novel***
- ***Twisted Journeys* by JUSTINE & RON FONTES**
- ***A Wrinkle in Time Graphic Novel***
- ***Zita the Spacegirl* by BEN HATKE**

## MYSTERY

- ***Case of the Buried Bones* by LEWIS B MONTGOMERY**  
A puzzling note and a skeleton are found in place of the town's time capsule, sleuths-in-training Milo and Jazz race with Gordy Fletcher to solve a seventy-five-year-old mystery. Also read other books in the *Milo and Jazz Mysteries* series
- ***The Dinosaur that Disappeared* by STEVEN BREZENOFF** James "Gum" Shoo and his friends are on a trip to the River City Natural History Museum, where they discover that a small dinosaur model and some chickens have both gone missing--and the four sixth-grade detectives promptly set out to discover who is behind the theft. Read other books in the *Field Trip Mysteries* series.
- ***The Great Cake Mystery* by ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH**  
Someone has been stealing treats from her friends at school, and suspicion swirls around a chubby boy named Poloko. Encouraged by her father, who has noted Precious' powers of deduction, the sleuth decides to follow her instincts and prove Poloko innocent.
- ***The Hardy Boys* series by FRANKLIN DIXON**  
The Hardy boys embark on another puzzling mystery.
- ***Legend of Diamond Lil* by DOREEN CRONIN**  
Are there dark forces at work—or is J.J. not smelling the evidence that's right in front of him?  
Also read: *The Trouble with Chickens*, and *The Chicken Squad*
- ***Nancy Drew* by CAROLYN KEENE**  
Read about a fearless girl detective.
- ***The Tell-Tale Start* by GORDON McALPINE**  
Meet Edgar and Allan Poe -- twelve-year-old identical twins. When their beloved cat is kidnapped, a mystery ensues!  
Also read: other books in the *Misadventures of Edgar Allen Poe* series
- ***Platypus Police Squad: The Frog Who Croaked* by JARRETT J. KROSOSCKA**  
Zany, action-packed middle-grade mysteries featuring platypus police detectives Rick Zengo and Corey O'Malley.  
Also read: *The Ostrich Conspiracy*





## NONFICTION

- **National Geographic Angry Birds: Space**

Angry Birds team up with National Geographic to learn all they can about the mysteries of the universe.

Book trailer for *Angry Birds: Birds*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXeR6FV-tM0>

Also read: other books in the *Angry Birds* series

- **The Animal Book by STEVE JENKINS**

Jenkins' award winning cut-paper collages of more than three hundred animals that hop, skip and waddle.

Watch the author bring his drawings to life <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhJ1wtHSPc4>

- **Animal Jam by KATHERINE NOLL**

The official guide to the amazing virtual world of the National Geographic Animal Jam game.

- **A Child's Introduction to Art by HEATHER ALEXANDER**

Explores periods of art and artists throughout history, and discusses thirty-five well-known painters and sculptors including Rembrandt, Claude Monet, Michelangelo, and Pablo Picasso.

- **Children's Book of the Movies: Explore the Magical, Behind-the-Scenes World of the Movies**

Everything you want to know about movies, special effects, stunts, actors, directors, and more.

- **Curious Critters Volume 2 by DAVID FITZSIMMONS**

Big photos make you feel like you are face-to-face with some amazing critters. Also read: *Curious Critters Volume 1*

- **Everything Volcanoes and Earthquakes by KATHY FURGANG**

Shake, rattle, and roll along with the biggest quakes and eruptions in history. Lots of interesting facts and impressive photos.

Also read other books in the *National Geographic Everything* series

- **Get Outside Guide: All Things Adventure, Exploration and Fun by NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

Filled with facts and fun info. It might even inspire you to go outside.

- **Griffin and the Dinosaur: How Adrienne Mayor Discovered a Fascinating Link Between Myth and Science by MARC ARONSON**

Were griffins real? Find out in this exciting book that combines mythology, history, archaeology, and detective work.

Also read: *The Skull in the Rock*

- **If ... A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers by DAVID J. SMITH**

Imagine if you could condense 3.5 billion years of life on Earth into just one hour... the dinosaurs would be gone in 3 minutes!

Imagine if the Sun were the size of a grapefruit, then Earth would be a grain of salt!

- **Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla by KATHERINE APPLGATE**

The true story of the gorilla who was captured by poachers and caged in a Washington State mall for 27 years as a tourist attraction.

- **Universe: Journey into Deep Space by MIKE GOLDSMITH**

A travel guide to planets, moons, distant worlds, and stars.

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● ***Just Joking* by NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS**

What do you call a polar bear wearing earmuffs? Anything you want, because he can't hear you! Plus many more hilarious jokes, tricky tongue twisters, and ridiculous riddles. Also read other titles in the *Just Joking* series

● ***Ken Jennings's Junior Genius Guide:s Maps and Geography* by KEN JENNINGS**

Become an expert on geography, Greek mythology, and U.S. presidents with the first three books in Ken Jennings' popular children's series! Wow your friends and teachers with all sorts of clever facts. Read all the *Ken Jennings's Junior Genius Guides*.

● ***Little Kids First Big Book of Bugs* by CATHERINE HUGHES**

Bazillions of bugs – big ones, small ones, creepy ones, jumping ones. Also read other titles in the *First Big Book* series.

● ***Seeds of Freedom* by HESTER BASS**

Read about the creativity, courage, and cooperation that the people of Huntsville Alabama showed as they worked to integrate their schools and community. Beautifully illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

● ***The Story of Buildings* by PATRICK DILLON**

If you like architecture, you'll like these visual cross-sections of famous buildings.

● ***That's a Possibility! A Book About What Might Happen* by BRUCE GOLDSTONE**

Do you ever ask "What if...?" This book will make you wonder about gumballs, teddybears, and lots more.

● ***Trout Are Made of Trees* by APRIL SAYRE**

How can a leaf become a fish? Or a bear? It's easy to figure out!

Watch a shadow puppet movie of the book: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkPTeDaJJVo>

● ***Weird But True 6: 300 Outrageous Facts* by NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

An awesome reference book full of all kinds of strange and amazing facts you can use to impress your friends and amaze your parents. Also read: other books in the *Weird But True* series

● ***The Whale who won Hearts* by BRIAN SKERRY**

This book tells the story of underwater photographer Brian Skerry, and of three incredible animals he encounters as part of his work: a harp seal and her pups, a beluga whale, and a leatherback turtle.

● ***What was D-Day?* By PATRICIA DEMUTH**

A very readable series of books on historical events. Also read: other books in the *What Was?* and *What Is?* series

● ***Ye Castle Stinketh* by CHANA STIEFEL**

Go back in time with this book to find out what it was *really* like to live in the Middle-Ages.

● ***You Can't Taste a Pickle with your Ear!* by HARRIET ZIEFERT**

Discover how your five senses really work, and how they help you understand the world around you.



## POETRY

- ***Hi, Koo!* By JON MUTH**

Have some fun adventures with Koo, the panda, and enjoy some haiku along the way.

- ***I, Too, Am America* by LANGSTON HUGHES**

This visual story-poem illustrated by Bryan Collier describes the courage and dignity of the Pullman porters as they worked day in and day out on trains across America.

- ***I've Lost My Hippopotamus* by JACK PRELUTSKY**

Funny poems about some real and not-so-real creatures. Video of a poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuPIUQvViX8>

- ***Lemonade and Other Poems Squeezed From a Single Word* by BOB RACZKA**

Sometimes sweet and sometimes funny, but always clever, these poems are fun to read and even more fun for kids to write.

A student reviews the book: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpB6MCulfxs>

- ***Mirror Mirror: a Book of Reversible Verse* by MARILYN SINGER**

A collection of short poems which, when reversed, turn into fairy tales. Fun and magical!

- ***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry* by J. PATRICK LEWIS**

200 poems that squeak, soar, and roar, by various authors. With breathtaking photos for all the animal lovers in your family.

Listen to one of the poems: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4lEQCwzJc>

- ***Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles* by DOUGLAS FLORIAN**

Funny poems for everyone! The author reads a poem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHo6xiXUC6g>

## SPORTS

- ***Bad-Luck Basketball* by JAKE MADDOX**

Brandon's basketball team has been on a losing streak. Can he turn the team around and prove that he is not some kind of bad luck charm before it is too late?

- ***Just as Good: How Larry Doby Changed America's Game* by CHRIS CROWE**

Listen along on your new radio to the first game of the 1948 World Series, in which Larry Doby won the game for the Cleveland Indians. Larry Doby Biography: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TOa9f3Z\\_5A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TOa9f3Z_5A)

- ***Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse* by DAVID KELLY**

The true story behind the "Curse of the Bambino," inflicted on the Boston Red Sox after they traded Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1918.

- ***The Home-Run King* by PAT MCKISSACK**

Two brothers love watching the superstars of Negro League baseball play ball.

Also read: other titles in the *Scraps of Time* series

- ***New York Knicks* by PETE BIRLE**

Step on the hardwood with the New York Knicks, in this officially licensed NBA team book.

Read about other teams in the *On the Hardwood* series

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● ***Sports Illustrated Kids Stats!: The Greatest Numbers in Sports*** by JUSTIN TEJADA

Learn all the numbers you need to know about your favorite sports teams and players. From record breakers to amazing feats, this book will give you the stats.

● ***The Top 10 of Everything in Sports*** by GARY GRAMLING

Everything you will need to become an expert in sports, from the greatest athletes to the biggest underdogs, find the top 10 of everything in sports here. Also read: other titles in the *Sports Illustrated Kids* series

● ***You Never Heard of Willie Mays?*** by JONAH WINTER

A visual profile of baseball star Willie Mays, tracing his childhood, achievements, and fame as a center fielder for the Giants.

See Willie Mays' famous catch: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gUK9IG-7HTc>

## DON'T MISS THESE GREAT BOOKS IN A SERIES!

***Adventures of Ook and Gluk*** series by DAV PILKEY

***Alien in my Pocket*** series by NATE BALL

***Al's World*** series by Elise Leonard

***Alvin Ho*** series by Lenore Look

***Anna Hibiscus*** series by Atinuke

Also read: ***No. 1 Car Spotter*** series by Atinuke

***Babymouse*** series by Jennifer Holm

Also read: ***Squish*** series

***Beast Quest: The Dark Realm*** series by Adam Blade

***Big Nate*** series by Lincoln Pierce

***Blast to the Past*** series by Stacia Deutsch

***Bone*** series by Jeff Smith

***Calendar Mysteries*** series by Ron Roy

Also read: ***Capital Mysteries*** series

***Calvin and Hobbes*** series by Bill Watterson

***Cam Jansen mystery series*** by David Adler

***Chet Gecko*** series by Bruce Hale

***Choose Your Own Adventure*** series

***Clementine*** series by Sara Pennypacker

***Complicated Life of Claudia Cristina Cortez*** series by Diana Gallagher

***The Critter Club*** series by Callie Barkley

***Cupcake Club*** series by Sheryl Berk

***David Mortimore Baxter*** series by Karen Tayleur

***Dessert First*** series by Hallie Durand

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid*** series by Jeff Kinney

***Doodles of Sam Dibble*** series by Judy Press

***Dragon Slayer's Academy*** series by Kate McMullan

Also read: ***Myth O Mania*** series

***Dragonbreath*** series by Ursula Vernon

***Dyamonde Daniel*** series by NIKKI GRIMES

***Easy-to-read Spooky Tales*** series by Veronika Charles

***Ellray Jakes*** series by Sally Warner

***Field Trip Mysteries*** series by Steven Brezenoff

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- Franny K. Stein** series by **Jim Benton**  
**Geronimo Stilton** series  
Also read: **Thea Stilton** series
- Goddess Girls** series by **JOAN HOLUB**  
**Gooney Bird Green.** **LOWRY, LOIS**  
**Hank Zipzer** series by **HENRY WINKLER**  
**Hazardous tales** series by **NATHAN HALE**  
**Heroes in Training** series by **JOAN HOLUB**  
**Heidi Heckelbeck** series by **WANDA COVEN**  
**Ivy and Bean** series by **ANNIE BARROS**  
**Jake Drake** series by **Andrew Clements**  
**Jasper John Dooley** by **Caroline Anderson**  
**Judy Moody** series by **Megan McDonald**  
Also read: **Stink** series Also read: **Sisters Club: Rule of Three** series
- Keena Ford** series by **Melissa Thomson**  
**Knights of the Lunch Table** by **FRANK CAMMUSO**  
**Liberty Porter, First Daughter** by **Julia DeVillers**  
**Lunch Lady** series by **Jarrett Krosoczka**  
**Magic Bone** by **NANCY KRULIK**  
**Magic Thief** series by **SARAH PRINEAS**  
**Max Disaster** series by **Marissa Moss**  
**Max Finder Mystery** series by **Liam O'Donnell**  
**Merlin's Dragon** series by **T.A. Barron**  
**Mermaid** series by **DEBRA DADEY**  
**Minecraft** series
- My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish** by **MO O'HARA**  
**My Weird School** series by **Dan Gutman**  
Also read: **My Weird School Daze** series; and **My Weirder School**
- Nancy Drew** mystery series by **Carolyn Keene**  
**Nate** series by **Tim Federle**  
**Nathaniel Fludd: Beastologist** series by **R. L. LaFEVERS**  
**National Geographic Kids Everything** series  
**NERDS** series by **Michael Buckley**  
Also read: **Sisters Grimm** series
- Nikki & Deja** series by **KAREN ENGLISH**  
**Oggie Cooder** series by **Sarah Weeks**  
**Pandora** series by **Carolyn Hennesy**  
**Percy Jackson and the Olympians** series by **Rick Riordan**  
Also read: **Heroes of Olympus** series and **The Kane Chronicles** series
- Peter and the Starcatchers** series by **Dave Barry**  
**Princess Academy** series by **Shannon Hale**  
**Ready Freddy** series by **Abby Klein**  
**Ready, Set, Dogs** by **Stephanie Calmenson**  
**Scientists in the Field** series  
**Secret** series by **Pseudonymous Bosch**

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**Secrets of the Manor** series by Adele Whitby

**Sister Magic** series by Anne Mazer

**Sisters 8** series by Lauren Baratz-Logsted

**Space Taxi** by Wendy Mass

**Spirit Animals** series by Eliot Schrefer

**STAT (Standing Tall and Talented)** series by Amar'e Stoudemire

**Survivors** series by Erin Hunter

**Theodore Boone** series by John Grisham

**Third-Grade Detectives** series by George Edward Stanley

**Twisted Journeys** by Justine Fontes

**Warriors** series by Erin Hunter

Also read: **The Seekers** series and **The Warriors Graphic Novel** series

**Weird But True** series by NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**Whatever After** series by SARAH MLYNOWSKI

**Willimina** series by Valerie Wesley

**The World according to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney

**You Wouldn't Want to Be...** series

**Zack Files** series by Dan Greenburg

Also read: **Weird Planet** series

**Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs** series by Sharon Draper

Also read: **Sassy** series