For Children in Grades K-1 reading at a 3rd Grade level

Here are 25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children’s Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.

New for 2017-2018
Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine
by Laurie Wallmark
Illustrated by April Chu
Creston Books, 2015
This biography introduces young readers to the amazing Ada Byron Lovelace, creator of the world's first computer program.

Ada Twist, Scientist
by Andrea Beaty
Illustrated by David Roberts
Abrams, 2016
The story of Ada, a young scientist whose family embraces her passion for science despite some messy experiments.

*Anna Hibiscus
by Atinuke
Illustrated by Lauren Tobia
Kane Miller, 2007
This charming book joyfully details Anna's life in contemporary Africa, while gently exploring social justice issues in a way sure to captivate young readers.

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos
by Deborah Heiligman
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2013
A joyous biography of famed mathematician Paul Erdos.

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings
by Douglas Florian
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2007
Blast off into space with these poems about stars and planets!

*Detective Gordon: The First Case
by Ulf Nilsson
Illustrated by Gitte Spee
Gecko, 2015
A chapter book mystery starring Detective Gordon, a toad searching for the thieves behind a stolen stash of nuts in a woodland setting.

Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths
by Marilyn Singer
Illustrated by Josée Masse
Dial Books for Young Readers / Penguin, 2016
Mirror poems meant to be read backwards and forwards present two sides of classic Greek myths.

*Eyewitness Explorer: Bug Hunter
by DK
DK, 2015
Interesting bug facts combined with up-close photographs and fun activities will pique young scientists' interests.

Frank and Lucky Get Schooled
by Lynne Rae Perkins
Frank and his rescue dog Lucky experience learning in the "school" that is their neighborhood.

How We Are Smart
by W. Nikola-Lisa
Illustrated by Sean Qualls
Lee and Low Books, 2009
Poetry, biography, and art combine to share the stories that highlight the different ways twelve individuals learn.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark
by Debbie Levy
Illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
Simon & Schuster, 2016
The first Jewish woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court, Ginsburg's life story and fight for equal rights for all is the subject of this biographical picture book.

*Juana & Lucas
by Juana Medina
Candlewick Press, 2016
The series debut of Juana, a girl living in Colombia, and her dog Lucas. Ideal for fans of Judy Moody and Clarice Bean.

Mathematickles!
by Betsy Franco
Illustrated by Steven Salerno
Simon & Schuster, 2003
A collection of seasonal poems that creatively incorporate mathematical language and concepts.

*Mighty Jack
by Ben Hatke
First Second / Macmillan, 2016
What starts as a normal garden behind the house quickly grows up into a magical jungle with tiny onion babies, pumpkins that bite, and a dragon.

*A New Class (Star Wars Jedi Academy #4)
by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Scholastic, 2016
Victor Starspeeder is psyched to be starting school at the Jedi Academy, but his sister, Christina, is horrified that her baby brother will be there to cramp her style.
Pugs of the Frozen North
by Philip Reeve
Illustrated by Sarah McIntyre
Random House Books for Young Readers, 2016
A step up from early chapter books, Not-So-Impossible Tales are packed with big adventures, quirky misfits, and lively art.

Tiger Boy
by Mitali Perkins
Illustrated by Jamie Hogan
Charlesbridge, 2015
Acclaimed author Mitali Perkins crafts an adventure story about a young Bengali boy in search of an escaped tiger cub.

Toys Go Out
by Emily Jenkins
Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky
Yearling Books / Random House, 2008
A chapter book about the secret lives of stuffed animals.

The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk
by Jan Thornhill
Groundwood Books, 2016
This compelling book tells the true story behind the disappearance of the Auk, a coldwater penguin-like bird that no longer exists.

Trombone Shorty
by Troy Andrews
Illustrated by Bryan Collier
Abrams, 2015
The true story of a musician who bucked the odds to achieve his dreams.

Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank
by Paula Yoo
Illustrated by Jamel Akib
Lee and Low Books, 2014
The story of a Nobel Peace Prize winner who changed the lives of people in poverty through founding a micro-loans bank, making small but significant changes in the lives of millions of people.

Weekends with Max and His Dad
by Linda Urban
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015
Third-grader Max pursues neighborhood adventures with his dad as they both adjust to recent changes in their family.

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems
by Bob Raczka
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2016
Raczka’s quirky poems are fun and inspiring. They’re sure to hook many young poets-who-just-don’t-know-it!

When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop
by Laban Carrick Hill
Illustrated by Theodore Taylor III
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2013
The exciting story of DJ Kool Herc, who is credited with creating hip-hop music in New York City in the 1970s, told through rhythmic text and engaging illustrations.

* asterisks denote one book of a series.
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New for 2017-2018
for Children in Grades 2-3
reading at a 5th Grade level
Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart
by Candace Fleming
Schwartz & Wade / Random House, 2011
A riveting look at the life, disappearance, and search for legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

A Black Hole Is Not a Hole
by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano
Illustrated by Michael Carroll
Charlesbridge, 2012
What is a black hole? Where are they? How do you find one? A complicated concept is broken down for young readers.

Cars on Mars: Roving the Red Planet
by Alexandra Siy
Charlesbridge, 2009
Readers follow the course of NASA’s Mars Exploration Rover mission as twin rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, explore the Red Planet.

Dash
by Kirby Larson
Scholastic, 2014
Dash tells the moving story of a Japanese-American girl who is separated from her dog upon being sent to an incarceration camp during WWII.

The Dreamer
by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Illustrated by Peter Sís
Scholastic, 2010
A fictional biography of young poet Pablo Neruda, by Newbery Honor winner Pam Muñoz Ryan, and featuring illustrations by three-time Caldecott Honoree, Peter Sís.

*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library
by Chris Grabenstein
Yearling Books / Random House, 2014
Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library designed by famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello. However, he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Flashback Four #1: The Lincoln Project
by Dan Gutman
HarperCollins, 2016
Mysterious Miss Z sends four recruits back in time on a mission to capture, for the first time, one of the most important moments in American history — Abraham Lincoln giving his famous Gettysburg address.

Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions of All Time
by Deborah Kespert
Thames and Hudson, 2015
Genius! tells the stories behind the amazing inventions that helped shape our modern world.

The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend
by Sharon Robinson
Scholastic, 2016
Based on the true story of a young Jewish boy in Brooklyn whose hero, Jackie Robinson, moves in next door and becomes friends with him and his family despite their differences.

Mountain Dog
by Margarita Engle
Illustrated by Aleksey and Olga Ivanov
Henry Holt Books for Young Readers / Macmillan, 2013
A novel in verse is told from two points of view: troubled Tony and Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog who helps Tony learn about life in the wilderness.

by J. Patrick Lewis
Photographs by National Geographic
National Geographic Society, 2015
Poems based on a wide variety of nature topics, usually with a social studies or science connection.

Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy
by Karen Foxlee
Random House Children’s Books, 2014
A modern-day fairy tale set in a mysterious museum that is perfect for readers of Roald Dahl and Blue Balliett.
**The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy**
by Jeanne Birdsall
Knopf Books for Young Readers / Random House, 2005
This first novel by Jeanne Birdsall tells the story of four very modern sisters —spunky heroines— and their summer holiday misadventures.

**Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse**
by Leslie Bulion
Illustrated by Mike Lowery
Peachtree, 2015
Anatomy riddles with high-level vocabulary and a Shakespeare theme.

**Raymie Nightingale**
by Kate DiCamillo
Candlewick Press, 2016
Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo returns to her roots with a moving, masterful story of an unforgettable summer friendship.

**The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**
by Jen Bryant
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet
Eerdmans, 2014
The award-winning, illustrated story of Peter Roget, creator of the Thesaurus and lover of words and lists.

**Save Me a Seat**
by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan
Scholastic, 2016
Two boys, one white, one Indian, gain strength from each other from afar as they struggle to navigate middle school, family, and friendships.

**Secret Coders by Gene Luen Yang**
Illustrated by Mike Holmes
First Second / Macmillan, 2015
In this graphic novel, Hopper is a new student at the secretive Stately Academy. She and new friend Eni use the magic of coding to figure out what’s been hidden and why.

**Sisters Grimm by Michael Buckley**
Illustrated by Peter Ferguson
Abrams, 2007
Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they had always believed to be dead.

**A Snicker of Magic**
by Natalie Lloyd
Scholastic, 2014
To stay in Midnight Gulch, Felicity must figure out how to bring back the magic, breaking the spell that’s been cast over the town and her mother’s broken heart.

**Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White**
by Melissa Sweet
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
This fascinating biography explores the life and world of the writer of Charlotte’s Web, mixing pieces of his manuscripts with new illustrations.

**The Way Things Work Now**
by David Macaulay
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
Clever illustrations and text explain how the technological wonders of the past and present work.

**What Elephants Know**
by Eric Dinerstein
Disney-Hyperion, 2016
Author and renowned scientist Dr. Eric Dinerstein crafts an immersive, realistic world depicting the complexities of life in the Nepalese Borderlands during the 1970s and the delicate relationship between man and nature.

**The Wild Robot**
by Peter Brown
Robot Roz is marooned on a desert island and becomes part of the wildlife family, but her new life is threatened when her creator discovers her new home.

**Wonderstruck**
by Brian Selznick
Scholastic, 2011
Set fifty years apart in the 20s and 70s, two independent stories—Ben's told in words, Rose's in pictures—weave back and forth with mesmerizing symmetry. How they unfold and ultimately intertwine will surprise you, challenge you, and leave you breathless with wonder.

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New for 2017-2018
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
Dial Books for Young Readers / Random House, 2016
The memoir of William Kamkwamba, who created a windmill to bring lighting to his family home in Malawi. A true story about ingenuity from a pioneering spirit.

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time
by Tanya Lee Stone
A compelling collection of stories of girls around the world who pursue their education, despite efforts to keep them from attending school.

Legends, Icons & Rebels: Music that Changed the World
by Robbie Robertson, et al.
Tundra Books, 2013
The lives of twenty-seven musicians are showcased in thoughtful biographies, gorgeous artwork, and CDs of their music.

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift’s “Chocolate Pilot”
by Michael O. Tunnell
Charlesbridge, 2010
A US Air Force pilot drops candy to the children of blockaded West Berlin at the end of the European conflict during World War II.

Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky
Disney-Hyperion, 2014
Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender’s body, but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. Grayson’s journey to self-discovery will move and inspire readers.

The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau
Scholastic, 2015
Inspired by true stories derived from rural Mexico, The Lightning Queen offers a glimpse of the encounter between the Rom and the Mixtec Indians, while telling the heart-warming story of an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

Earthrise: My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut
by Edgar Mitchell and Ellen Mahoney
Chicago Review Press, 2014
Recollections from the sixth man to ever walk on the Moon for young adult readers.

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar
Candlewick Press, 2016
What does it mean to be fully alive? Magic blends with reality in a stunning coming-of-age novel about a girl, a grandfather, wanderlust, and reclaiming your roots.

Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender’s body, but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. Grayson’s journey to self-discovery will move and inspire readers.

The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog
by Adam Gidwitz
Illustrated by Hatem Aly
A medieval tale, told from multiple points of view, about three children with extraordinary gifts on an incredible journey.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95
by Phillip Hoose
FSG Books for Young Readers / Macmillan, 2012
National Book Award–winning author Phillip Hoose takes us around the hemisphere with the world’s most celebrated shorebird.
One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance by Nikki Grimes
Bloomsbury USA, 2017
Using the Golden Shovel poetic form, Nikki Grimes shares classic poetry and her own poems to bring the Harlem Renaissance to life for young readers.

Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls by Tonya Bolden
Abrams, 2017
A collection of sixteen mini-biographies of African-American trailblazers, brought to life with detailed histories and illustrations.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-li Jiang
HarperCollins, 1997
This accessible autobiography is the true story of one girl’s determination to hold her family together during a terrifying era in Chinese history.

*Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story by Caren Stelson
Lerner / Carolrhoda, 2016
In the aftermath of the bombing of her hometown of Nagasaki, survivor Sachiko Yasui seeks self-healing.

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshibune
by Pamela S. Turner
Illustrated by Gareth Hinds
Charlesbridge, 2016
This stylish graphic adaptation of the Bard’s romantic tragedy offers modern touches and a diverse cast that underscores the story’s universality.

Splendors and Glooms by Laura Amy Schlitz
Candlewick Press, 2012
Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz brings her sorcery to a Victorian gothic thriller—an enthralling, darkly comic tale that would do Dickens proud.

A Time to Dance by Padma Venkatraman
Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin, 2014
Veda lives and breathes dance, until an accident shatters her dreams. This inspiring story, told through verse, recounts her struggle to regain her passion and find peace.

The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic by Allan Wolf
Candlewick Press, 2013
The Titanic story told in verse through twenty-four distinct voices and extensive back matter, including coded messages to decipher and historical documents.

This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World
Edited by Naomi Shihab Nye
Simon & Schuster, 1992
Poems by poets from sixty-eight countries, reflecting a wide variety of experiences.

Unidentified Suburban Object by Mike Jung
Scholastic, 2016
A satirical but honest look at being both a bright, sensitive middle schooler, and a so-called “model-minority” in a decidedly not-diverse town… with a surprise twist!

We Will Not Be Silent by Russell Freedman
Clarion / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
The true story of the White Rose student resistance movement that defied Nazi Germany.
“The READING BEYOND list celebrates the power of books to lift and expand children’s minds, providing reading experiences beyond levels and limits.”

- Susan Polos and Janet Wong, co-chairs of the ALA-CBC Joint Committee

These books were chosen from over 600 submitted for evaluation by the ALA member librarians of the committee and were chosen for their content, quality, and variety of genre and format.

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

Questions? cbc.info@cbcbooks.org

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