“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

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

Questions? cbc.info@cbcbooks.org

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.
Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine
by Laurie Wallmark
Illustrated by David Roberts Abrams, 2016
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, 2015
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 Gisèle Spee Gekko, 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 José 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 plague 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.

Mathematicles!
by Betsy Franco
Illustrated by Steven Salerno
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 Starwysper 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 mishaps, 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 True 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.

Tricky Vic
by Greg Pizzoli
Viking Books for Young Readers / Penguin, 2015
A New York Times Book Review Best Illustrated Children’s Book of 2015, this is the true story of the greatest conman of the early 20th century.

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 Raczk
Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2016
Raczk’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.