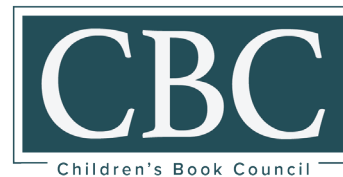




## for Children in Grades K-1 reading at a 3rd Grade level

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.



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

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### Questions?

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

The Children's Book Council  
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New York, NY 10018  
[cbc.info@cbcbooks.org](mailto:cbc.info@cbcbooks.org)



**2020-2021**

**\*Ada Twist, Scientist**

by Andrea Beaty. Illus by David Roberts

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2016

A wonderful story told in rhyme, Ada asks questions and performs experiments to understand the world around her. Just like a scientist! ▲ *Spanish*.

**\*Anna Hibiscus**

by Atinuke. Illus by Lauren Tobia

Kane Miller Books, 2010

The charming, fascinating stories about the spunky Anna detailing her urban, middle-class life in contemporary Africa, joyfully celebrate family and everyday life while gently exploring social justice issues in such a way as to captivate young readers.

**Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix**

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee. Illus by Man One

Readers to Eaters, 2017

A successful food truck cook's life story and how he decided what he wanted to do with his life.

**The Day the Universe Exploded My Head: Poems to Take You into Space and Back Again**

by Allan Wolf. Illus. by Anna Raff

Candlewick Press, 2019

Blast off into space with a wide variety of space poems, from silly pun-filled verses to serious poems; notes on the poems and a glossary of space terms are included.

**\*Detective Gordon: The First Case**

by Ulf Nilsson. Illus. by Gitte Spee

Gecko Press, 2016

A chapter book mystery starring Detective Gordon, a toad searching for the thieves behind a stolen stash of nuts in a woodland setting. ▲ *Spanish*.

**Do Not Lick This Book**

by Idan Ben-Barak. Illus. by Julian Frost

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2018

Told from the point of view of Min the microbe, this is a perfect introduction to the microscopic world around us.

**Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths**

by Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Josée Masse

Random House Children's Books / Dial, 2016

Mirror poems that are meant to be read backwards and forwards present two sides of classic Greek Myths.

**Firebird**

by Misty Copeland. Illus. by Christopher Myers

Penguin Young Readers / G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2014

Written by the American Ballet Theater dancer Misty Copeland, this beautifully illustrated story encourages a young ballet dancer to not let her low self-image and lack of confidence get in her way.

**Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures**

by Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by K. G. Campbell

Candlewick Press, 2013

Flora rescues Ulysses from a vacuum cleaner and discovers he has incredible magical powers. He's also a squirrel.

**I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark**

by Debbie Levy. Illus. by Elizabeth Baddeley

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 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.

**Insect Superpowers**

by Kate Messner. Illus. by Jillian Nickell

Chronicle Books, 2019

Using a comic-book style, this book cleverly introduces 18 various insects and their "superpowers" in action.

**\*Mr. Wolf's Class**

by Aron Steinke

Scholastic / Graphix, 2018

A 4th grade first time teacher is anxious to have the first day of school go smoothly in this graphic novel.

**National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry**

by J. Patrick Lewis

National Geographic Kids, 2015

A broad variety of nature poetry paired with breathtaking photographs that celebrate how inspiring nature can be.

**One Proud Penny**

by Randy Siegel. Illus. by Serge Bloch

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2017

An interesting anthropomorphic penny travels from his birthplace in Philadelphia around the country, recounting his adventures.

**\*The Princess in Black**

by Shannon and Dean Hale. Illus. by LeUyen Pham

Candlewick Press, 2014

The prim and perfect princess has an alter ego who dresses all in black and saves the kingdom from various threats. ▲ *Spanish*.

**\*Pugs of the Frozen North**

by Philip Reeve. Illus. by Sarah McIntyre

Random House Children's Books / Yearling, 2016

A lively step up from early chapter books, Not-So-Impossible Tales are packed with big adventure, quirky misfits, and two-color art on almost every page.

**The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop**

by Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Frank Morrison

Little Bee Books, 2019

The history of hip-hop, including its roots in folktales, spirituals and poetry, and the art and dance that co-evolved with it.

**\*Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts**

by Katie Tsang and Kevin Tsang. Illus. by Nathan Reed

Sterling Children's Books, 2018

A zany boy has one problem after another trying to convince his classmates that he isn't a scaredy-cat.

**Snowman - Cold = Puddle**

by Laura Purdie Salas. Illus by Micha Archer

Charlesbridge, 2019

A collection of seasonal poems that creatively incorporate math language and concepts.

**The Stuff of Stars**

by Marion Dane Bauer. Illus. by Ekua Holmes

Candlewick Press, 2018

Gorgeously illustrated, this book explores nothing less than the formation of the universe.

**The Thing about Bees**

by Shabazz Larkin

Readers to Eaters, 2019

A love letter to the author/illustrator's two sons that describes how important bees are.

**Trombone Shorty**

by Troy Andrews. Illus. by Bryan Collier

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015

The true story of a musician who bucked the odds to achieve his dreams.

**\*Weekends with Max and His Dad**

by Linda Urban. Illus. by Katie Kath

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018

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. Illus. by Theodore Taylor III

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2016

Concrete poetry is always popular because it is so visually pleasing. This book won't disappoint.

**Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions**

by Chris Barton. Illus. by Don Tate

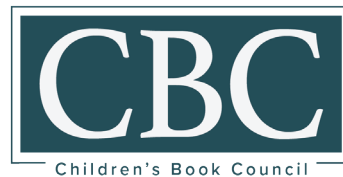
Charlesbridge, 2016

This biography of the NASA engineer who accidentally invented one of the best toys of all time is inspiring and engaging. ▲ *Spanish*.



## for Children in Grades 2-3 reading at a 5th Grade level

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.



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# 2020-2021

### **Amelia Lost : The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart**

by Candace Fleming

Random House Children's Books / Yearling, 2019

A riveting look at the life, disappearance, and search for legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

### **Echo**

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Scholastic, 2015

In a story that blends folktale and realism, a harmonica connects three musically-talented children from different periods in history.

### **Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions of All Time**

by Deborah Kespert

Thames and Hudson, 2015

Young readers are introduced to the stories of the thinkers and inventors that helped shape our modern world, such as Archimedes, da Vinci, Gutenberg, James Watt, the Wright brothers, and Tim Berners-Lee.

### **The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science**

by Joyce Sidman

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018

A biography of Maria Sibylla Merian, a pioneering 17th-century scientist and artist who documented the metamorphosis of butterflies.

### **Go for the Moon: A Rocket, a Boy, and the First Moon Landing**

by Chris Gall

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2019

A boy creates his own adventures to accompany the Apollo 11 astronauts in this picture book filled with scientific details and fun facts.

### **Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl's Brave Fight to Walk**

by Meredith Davis & Rebeka Uwitonze

Scholastic / Focus, 2019

A Rwandan girl born with clubfeet moves to America and endures numerous surgeries in this story of faith and perseverance.

### **Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders**

by ICPBS (various authors). Illus. by various

Candlewick Studio, 2019  
Postcard images of birds (and words) by 50+ creators from all over the world send messages of hope for human migration.

### **Mountain Dog**

by Margarita Engle. Illus. by Aleksey and Olga Ivanov

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Henry Holt and Co, 2013

A novel in verse told from two points of view: Tony, whose mother is incarcerated, and Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog who helps Tony learn about life in the wilderness.

### **The One and Only Ivan**

by Katherine Applegate. Illus. by Patricia Castelao

HarperCollins Children's Books, 2012

Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla who spent 27 years in an enclosure in a shopping mall.

### **The Parker Inheritance**

by Varian Johnson

Scholastic, 2018

A multigenerational family story set in South Carolina explores the history of racism in a mystery with elements of *The Westing Game*.

### **A Place to Belong**

by Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Atheneum, 2019

Story illuminating the history of post-WWII Japan, told through a Japanese-American girl whose family was expatriated and had to join her grandparents on a farm outside Hiroshima.

### **The Poetry of Us**

by J. Patrick Lewis

National Geographic Kids, 2018

A wide variety of old and new poets, poetic techniques, forms, and topics covering life in the United States, from large cities to rural areas.

### **Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse**

by Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Mike Lowery

Peachtree Publishing Company, 2015

Anatomy riddles with high-level vocabulary and a Shakespeare theme.

### **The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**

by Jen Bryant. Illus. by Melissa Sweet

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014

Roget is more than the creator of the thesaurus, this extensive biography shows many aspects of his life, from his list-loving childhood to his inventions. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **\*Science Comics: Trees: Kings of the Forest**

by Andy Hirsch

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / First Second, 2018

A personified acorn (and its woodland friends) teach us about phototropism, the mycorrhizal network, and other science details behind the growth of a tree.

### **\*Secret Coders**

by Gene Luen Yang. Illus. by Mike Holmes

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / First Second, 2015

In this graphic novel, Hopper is a new student at a school filled with secrets. She and friend Eni use the magic of coding to figure out what's been hidden, but will they be discovered?

### **\*The Serpent's Secret**

by Sayantani DasGupta

Scholastic Press, 2018

A New Jersey sixth grader discovers that she might be an Indian princess who must solve riddles and battle demons to save the world.

### **Smile**

by Raina Telgemeier

Scholastic / Graphix, 2010

Based on the author's own experiences, this graphic memoir addresses the pain and embarrassment of years of orthodontia following an accident. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **The Way Things Work Now**

by David Macaulay

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016

Clever illustrations and text explain how the technological wonders of the past and present work.

### **What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?**

by Chris Barton. Illus. by Ekua Holmes

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Beach Lane Books, 2018

This celebration of Congresswoman and African-American pioneer Barbara Jordan contains rich back matter that asks readers to think about how to use their own gifts toward a greater good.

### **What Elephants Know**

by Eric Dinerstein

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

A renowned scientist depicts the complexities of life in the Nepalese Borderlands during the 1970s and the delicate relationship between man and nature.

### **When the Sea Turned to Silver**

by Grace Lin

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

In a fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore, a girl goes on a quest to save her grandmother's life.

### **\*The Wild Robot**

by Peter Brown

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

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.

### **\*Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel**

by Tui Sutherland. Illus. by Mike Holmes

Scholastic / Graphix, 2013  
Graphic novel adaptation of the popular fantasy series shows the world of warring dragons in full color.

### **Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World**

by Rachel Ignotofsky

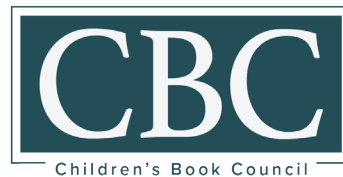
Ten Speed Press, 2016

Profiles of 50 women leaders in STEM, as well as an illustrated scientific glossary and supplemental information.



## for Children in Grades 4-5 reading at a 7th Grade level

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.



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# 2020-2021

### **The Best at It**

**by Maulik Pancholy**

HarperCollins Children's Books / Balzer+Bray, 2019  
An Indian American boy in Indiana, nervous about entering middle school, tries to follow his grandfather's advice and become the best.

### **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Reader's Edition**

**by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer**

Penguin Young Readers / Puffin Books, 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. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **The Bridge Home**

**by Padma Venkatraman**

Penguin Young Readers / Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019  
Four homeless children in India form a chosen family and support each other through difficult times in this debut novel.

### **\*Front Desk**

**by Kelly Yang**

Scholastic / Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018

A resourceful Chinese immigrant girl makes friends and solves mysteries while working at the front desk of the motel that her parents manage for an exploitive owner.

### **Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time**

**by Tanya Lee Stone**

Random House Children's Books / Wendy Lamb, 2017

A compelling collection of stories of girls around the world who managed to get an education despite efforts to keep them from attending school.

### **Gracefully Grayson**

**by Ami Polonsky**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2014

Sixth-grader Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender's body but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. An emotional and courageous journey of self-discovery to be one's true self. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **Harbor Me**

**by Jacqueline Woodson**

Penguin Young Readers / Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018

Six sixth graders meet weekly to talk about personal and global issues, providing safe harbors for each other.

### **Hurricane Child**

**by Kacen Callender**

Scholastic Press, 2018

Set in the Caribbean (the U.S. Virgin Islands), this coming-of-age novel explores topics of loneliness, abandonment, friendship, and love.

### **Illegal**

**by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Illus. by Giovanni Rigano**

Sourcebooks, 2018

A graphic novel exploring the plight of undocumented immigrants in which a Ghanaian refugee child

journeys to Europe to reunite with his siblings. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog**

**by Adam Gidwitz. Illus. by Hatem Aly**

Penguin Young Readers / Dutton, 2016

A medieval tale, told from multiple points of view, about three children with extraordinary gifts on an incredible journey.

### **Internment**

**by Samira Ahmed**

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019

This cautionary tale takes place in an internment camp in California for Muslim Americans, with a teen leading a revolution against the camp's director and guards. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **The Journey of Little Charlie**

**by Christopher Paul Curtis**

Scholastic Press, 2018

Set in 1858, a boy from South Carolina tries to settle a debt for his sharecropper family by accompanying a plantation owner on a journey to Canada to capture a fugitive slave. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **Legends, Icons & Rebels: Music that Changed the World**

**by Robbie Robertson et al.**

Tundra Books, 2013

The lives of 27 musicians are showcased in thoughtful biographies, gorgeous artwork, and CDs of their music.

### **The Lightning Queen**

**by Laura Resau**

Scholastic Press, 2016

A glimpse of the encounter between two fascinating but marginalized Mexican cultures—the Rom and the Mixtec Indians—while sharing an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

### **Lincoln's Grave Robbers**

**by Steve Sheinkin**

Scholastic Press, 2013

A counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader. Then the Secret Service conducted a daring election night sting operation.

### **Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95**

**by Phillip Hoose**

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

This book shows the obstacles that shorebirds called rufa red knots face as a worldwide team of scientists and conservationists try to save them before it's too late.

### **The Night Diary**

**by Veera Hiranandani**

Penguin Young Readers / Kokila, 2018

In 1947, as India was divided into two countries—India (for Hindus) and Pakistan (for Muslims)—a half-Muslim, half-Hindu girl wonders where she will be safe.

### **One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance**

**by Nikki Grimes**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 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 Books for Young Readers, 2017

A collection of sixteen mini-biographies of African-American trailblazers, brought to life with detailed histories and illustrations.

### **Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality**

**by Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019

In 1956, Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee.

### **Refugee**

**by Alan Gratz**

Scholastic Press, 2017

A hopeful novel tying together the stories of three refugee children: a boy in 1930s Nazi Germany, a girl in Castro's Cuba in 1994, and a boy in Syria in 2015. ▲ *Spanish*.

### **Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story**

**by Caren Stelson**

Lerner / Carolrhoda Books, 2016

After surviving the bombing of her hometown of Nagasaki, Sachiko Yasui's story of the aftermath and her journey of healing is captured by biographer Caren Stelson.

### **Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune**

**by Pamela S. Turner. Illus. by Gareth Hinds**

Charlesbridge, 2016

Gareth Hinds's stylish graphic adaptation of the Bard's romantic tragedy offers modern touches—including a diverse cast that underscores the story's universality.

### **The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic**

**by Allan Wolf**

Candlewick Press, 2013

The Titanic story, told in verse (24 voices), with extensive back matter, including coded messages to decipher and historical documents.

### **We Will Not Be Silent**

**by Russell Freedman**

HMH Books for Young Readers / Clarion Books, 2016

The true story of the White Rose student resistance movement that defied Nazi Germany.