

The 2012-2013

BUILDING READERS®

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***The Little Red Pen*** by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel (Harcourt). The Little Red Pen is ready to grade papers, but everyone refuses to help her! She tries to grade all the papers and keep the world from ending, but she can't do it alone. See what happens when the rest of the supplies, from Stapler to Señorita Chincheta the Pushpin, learn the importance of teamwork and creative problem solving as they work together to rescue their friends and keep their work going.

***My Mom Has X-Ray Vision*** by Angela McAlister (Tiger Tales). Matthew's mom always knows what he's doing, even when she's not around. The only explanation is that she has x-ray vision, just like a superhero! She always knows when he's jumping on the bed or wrestling with sea monsters in the bathtub. See what happens when Matthew puts his theory to the test.

***Ackamarackus: Julius Lester's Sumptuously Silly Fantastically Funny Fables*** by Julius Lester (Scholastic Press). This collection of off-the-wall fables features flies that travel on airplanes (or, as they believe, on giant flies) and the laziest lion in the world. With wacky illustrations and clever wit, this book revisits fables in a fun way while still teaching readers important lessons.

***An Undone Fairy Tale*** by Ian Lender (Simon & Schuster). A beautiful princess is trapped in a tower, and her stepfather, the king, gives incredible challenges to any knight who comes to rescue her. But wait! The reader is moving too quickly through the book for Ned, the man making the pictures for the story, to keep up!

***How to Babysit a Grandpa*** by Jean Reagan (Knopf). Babysitting a grandpa can be a big task, but it's easy if you know what to do. This how-to book teaches kids how to babysit a grandpa, including what kinds of food to give him for a snack (ice cream topped with cookies or cookies topped with ice cream are your best bets) and what kinds of games to play. Your child will love reading this with his grandpa!

***The Disappearing Island*** by Corinne Demas (Simon & Schuster). When Carrie turns nine, her grandmother promises to take her to Billingsgate Island, a disappearing island that is only visible during low tide. When there, Carrie imagines what it would be like to come and visit when the fishing village is full of activity.

***The Quiltmaker's Gift*** by Jeff Brumbeau (Orchard Books). On the highest mountain lives an old woman who sews beautiful quilts. She only gives her quilts to the poor and homeless. When the greedy king finds out about the quilts, he insists that the quiltmaker sew one for him. They make a deal about what the king needs to do in order to someday get a quilt.

***The Race of the Century*** by Barry Downard (Simon & Schuster). In this modern retelling of the classic fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare," Tom Tortoise and Harry Hare set off in what the residents of Critterville are calling "the race of the century." Accompanied by humorous photo collages and told in a quirky, fun way, Tom Tortoise still proves that slow and steady wins the race.



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***The Invisible Moose*** by Dennis Haseley (Dial). As soon as a shy boy-moose gets the courage to talk to the most beautiful girl-moose in the woods, she is captured by an evil wild-animal trapper! The boy-moose is determined to find her, and he cleverly comes up with a way to get to New York City from Canada without being seen.

***Humble Pie*** by Jennifer Donnelly (Atheneum). Theo is a spoiled boy who gets whatever he wants. His grandmother decides that he needs to adjust his attitude. She begins to make a giant pie that is extremely tempting to Theo, and he suddenly realizes that he has reached in just a little bit too far.

***Theo and the Blue Note*** by Peter Kuper (Viking). Theo wants to play the saxophone, but no matter how much he practices, he can only play one blue note. One night, he looks out in his yard and sees a rocket ship! When he climbs aboard, he finds a jukebox, a theater, and a band of famous musicians. See how Theo and his blue note fit in perfectly with the group.

***Pickle and Penguin*** by Lawrence David (Dutton). Pickle is the only talking pickle in the entire world. He has his own TV talk show, but he's lonely. On a trip to Antarctica, he meets Penguin, who is tired of the cold and ice. Pickle brings Penguin to his home in New York City, but the two friends lose each other! Will Pickle and Penguin be able to find each other in the big city?

***Our Only May Amelia*** by Jennifer L. Holm (HarperCollins). It is 1899 in the state of Washington. May Amelia Jackson is the only girl in a Finnish-American family with seven brothers. This historical fiction novel is based off of the actual diary of Alice Amelia Holm, the author's great aunt.

***Hey, New Kid!*** by Betsy Duffey (Viking). Cody isn't looking forward to starting at his new school. He decides that instead of just being the new kid, he's going to introduce himself as "Super Cody," who used to live in an igloo and is a genius. But when Cody's new classmates ask to see his pet emu, he realizes that becoming Super Cody may not have been the best idea.

***Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie*** by Julie Sternberg (Amulet). Eleanor is not happy after her babysitter Bibi moves away. Everything reminds her of Bibi, and she's having the worst summer ever. How will Eleanor ever be able to face third grade?

***The Year of the Dog*** by Grace Lin (Little, Brown and Company). It's the Chinese Year of the Dog, which Pacy's mom tells her is good for friends, family and finding herself. Pacy wonders what that means for herself—what should she be when she grows up? What are her special talents? What else is to come in the Year of the Dog?

***Raymond and Graham Rule the School*** by Mike Knudson and Steve Wilkinson (Puffin). Raymond and Graham are best friends who are entering fourth grade, which means they're going to be the coolest kids in the entire school. The only thing in the way of their best year ever is that their teacher is Mrs. Gibson, the oldest, meanest teacher in the school. Will they still be able to rule the school, just as they had planned?

***Bink and Gollie*** by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee (Candlewick). Bink and Gollie spend most of their time in a fancy tree house. Join them as they set out on exciting adventures that include a trip to the Andes mountains, roller-skating and buying bright socks, and gaining an unlikely new companion named Fred, all while learning about compromise and the importance of friendship.

