

The 2023-2024

BUILDING READERS®

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

Fish and Wave by Sergio Ruzzier (HarperAlley). What does a fish do when a tiny wave keeps growing bigger and bigger? Find out in this award-winning, action-packed early reader that shows kids what it means to “go with the flow.” (fiction, lower elementary)

Marshmallow Clouds: Two Poets at Play among Figures of Speech by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek (Candlewick). This illustrated collection of 27 poems helps readers think about ordinary things in new ways. The imagery, wordplay and wit will make imaginations soar. (poetry, upper elementary)

Magic: Once Upon a Faraway Land by Mirelle Ortega (Harry N. Abrams). Learn about life on a pineapple farm in this award-winning picture book about the magic of growing up in a small agricultural village in Mexico. (fiction, lower elementary)

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (Dial Books). This award-winning graphic novel follows two brothers who have spent most of their lives in a Kenyan refugee camp. It’s a moving story about perseverance and the bonds of brotherhood. (fiction, upper elementary)

Hello, Puddle! by Anita Sanchez (Clarion Books). Did you know that a variety of plants and animals rely on puddles for food and shelter? Budding scientists will enjoy following a puddle through the seasons in this richly-illustrated picture book. (nonfiction, lower elementary)

Counting in Dog Years and Other Sassy Math Poems by Betsy Franco (Candlewick). Explore a range of math topics and have some fun in this illustrated poetry collection that relates math to kids’ everyday lives. (poetry, upper elementary)

Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion by Shannon Stocker (Dial Books). When Evelyn loses her hearing, she wonders if she will ever play music again. This picture book biography inspires readers to never give up on their dreams. (biography, lower elementary)

Who Was Nikola Tesla? by Jim Gigliotti (Penguin Workshop). Meet one of Thomas Edison’s fiercest competitors, Nikola Tesla. Tesla’s experiments with radio communications, remote controls, electricity and more affected the development of modern technology. (biography, upper elementary)

Hot Dog by Doug Salati (Knopf Books for Young Readers). When a dog has enough of summer in the city, his owner takes him to the beach.

Named one of the best books of the year, its simple text is set off with detailed illustrations. (fiction, lower elementary)

The Book That No One Wanted to Read by Richard Ayoade (Walker Books US). Learn about the nature of books and storytelling in this laugh-out-loud story about a book that has written itself. The silly illustrations and witty dialogue will entertain readers of all ages. (fiction, upper elementary)



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Honeybee Rescue: A Backyard Drama by Loree Burns (Charlesbridge). A honeybee colony moves into Mr. Connery's barn so he enlists the help of a honeybee rescuer to relocate the colony. Filled with photography, this book gives readers a front row seat to the rescue process. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

Gabe in the After by Shannon Doleski (Harry N. Abrams). This post-apocalyptic adventure takes place two years after a global pandemic. Join fourteen-year-old Gabe and his fellow survivors as they adapt to their new reality and search for other survivors. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Kitty by Rebecca Jordan-Glum (Roaring Brook Press). What happens when Granny accidentally lets the family cat out of the house and a raccoon in? Find out in this hilarious story filled with rich, detailed illustrations. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Slow Down and Be Here Now: More Nature Stories to Make You Stop, Look, and Be Amazed by the Tiniest Things by Laura Brand (Harry N. Abrams). Packed with interesting facts about nature, this informative picture book encourages readers to take time to notice and celebrate all of the tiny things around them. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

I Did It! by Michael Emberley (Holiday House). Emerging readers will love the simple text and comic format of this award-winning story about a critter who learns to ride a bike. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga (Balzer + Bray). Resilience (Res for short) is a rover who was built by NASA scientists to explore Mars. When he begins to develop humanlike feelings, Res must focus on his mission and find the determination, courage and resilience he needs to succeed.

(*fiction, upper elementary*)

When I'm With You by Pat Zietlow Miller (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). This sweet story celebrates the delights of friendship and childhood adventures. Rhyming text and colorful illustrations will delight readers of all ages. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick). Twelve-year-old Sai is an assistant to a famous mapmaker. Follow along as she joins an expedition to chart the southern seas. Readers will enjoy this suspenseful

and thought-provoking fantasy adventure book. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

João by a Thread by Roger Mello (Elsewhere Editions). As João falls asleep, he tugs at his homemade blanket and his imagination soars. Accompany him on a dreamy journey in this award-winning tale filled with thready line-art illustrations. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Concrete: From the Ground Up by Larissa Theule (Candlewick). Learn about the long history of concrete and its many uses—from ancient times to today—and discover the mighty role it has played in the creation of the human-made world. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

