

Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences

Summer Reading Lists

For Students in Grades 3-4

We hope that all of our students will read a lot over the summer and we strongly suggest taking the time to check out some of these titles.

We hope these lists will provide you with some starting places. Please take these suggestions as a guide to explore other books by favorite or newly-discovered authors and illustrators. These titles are not required reading, but an invitation to enter--or, we hope, continue along--the richly rewarding road of sharing books with your child.

Many of these books can be found in public libraries or used bookstores and garage sales. Also, many excellent bookstores sell children's books- check out Borders, of course. If you want to purchase out of print or used books there are also internet sites to examine, such as Alibris (www.alibris.com), Bibliofind (www.bibliofind.com), Amazon (www.amazon.com) and Barnes and Noble (www.bn.com).

Have a great summer and remember to make reading a part of your summer life!

ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY

Adler, David Cam Jansen

A mystery series featuring a young detective who has photographic memory. A series.

Aiken, Joan The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Brave Bonny and gentle Sylvia must outwit a wicked governess and other assorted villains in this high-spirited adventure. Followed by Black Hearts in

Battersea, Nightbirds on Nantucket, The Cuckoo Tree and others. All can be read on their own, not necessarily in order.

Babbitt, Natalie Kneeknock Rise

Egan climbs Kneeknock Rise to discover the secret of the feared Megrimum who is terrifying the villagers.

Bellairs, John The House With a Clock in its Walls

A boy and his uncle, who is a wizard, search their old house for a clock hidden in the walls which is ticking off the moments until Doomsday. This book is followed by The Figure in the Shadows and The Letter, the Witch and the Ring.

Carus, Marianne That's Ghosts For You : 13 Scary Stories

Offers an international collection of spine-tingling stories, including "Bigger than Death," "The Airi," and "The Man Who Sang to Ghosts."

Clifford, Esther Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Library

During a blizzard, two girls spend an intriguing night trapped inside a public library.

Creech, Sharon Ruby Holler

Thirteen-year-old orphan twins are rescued by an eccentric couple and enter a magic place.

De Jong, Meindert The Wheel on the School

Children in a small Dutch village are determined to attract a stork to nest in their town.

George, Jean C. Julie of the Wolves

An Eskimo girl runs away in search of her father. Marooned in an arctic wasteland, she becomes totally dependent for her survival on a pack of wolves. Followed by Julie.

Hamilton, Virginia The House of Dies Drear

Tom's father rents a house that was once a stop on the Underground Railroad, in the Ohio town where the family has moved. The house holds secrets and danger. Followed by The Mystery of Drear House.

Howe, James Eat Your Poison, Dear

Young sleuth Sebastian and three friends probe the mystery of poisoning in their school.

Ibbotson, Eva Journey to the River Sea

Maia's life suddenly experiences twists and turns just like the Amazon River as she travels from her post-Victorian private school to meet her relatives in Brazil. Surprises, adventures and new friendships ensue as she realizes her dreams.

Jacques, Brian Redwall

Swashbuckling stories of villainous rats battling warrior mice in this exciting fantasy epic, developed in Mossflower, Mattimeo, Mariel of Redwall, and others.

Martin, Ann The Doll People

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

Nesbit, E. The Treasure Seekers

The Bastable children decide to recover the family's fortune simply by digging for treasure and gradually progress to more outrageous ideas. An old favorite.

Parish, Peggy Key to the Treasure

Three children vacationing at their grandparents solve an old mystery. A series.

Parish, Peggy Haunted House

Three children are uneasy when they learn their parents have bought a haunted house.

Pullman, Philip Spring-Heeled Jack

The adventures of three orphans in Victorian England. A high-spirited spoof with an abundance of comics-style illustrations.

Paulsen, Gary Hatchet

Thirteen year-old Brian, the only survivor of a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness, must find in himself the strength and skill to survive. Multiple sequels.

Raskin, Ellen The Westing Game

A complex puzzle mystery, like the Newbery Award winning author's The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon (I Mean Noel).

Snicket, Lemony The Bad Beginning

First in a series about the Baudelaire children and the series of unfortunate events that constantly beset them. Very tongue-in-cheek. A series.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley The Egypt Game

A group of children play an elaborate game based on their research about ancient Egypt. A murder in the neighborhood leads to the game's taking a dangerous turn.

Sobol, Donald Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective

The police chief's son solves several mysteries in this first of many similar books, in which the solutions appear at the end.

Stevenson, Robert Louis Treasure Island

This wonderful book is always a favorite, the tale of a boy who finds a treasure map and embarks with an unsavory group of characters to find the buried treasure.

Warner, Gertrude Chandler The Boxcar Children

This book begins a popular series in which children solve mysteries.

ANIMAL STORIES, REAL AND IMAGINARY

Avi Poppy

A brave young mouse discovers a tyrannical owl's secret. First in a series.

Banks, Lynne Reid I, Houdini

The exploits of a hamster who proudly recounts his triumphs as an escape artist.

Bond, Michael A Bear Called Paddington

A charming bear from Peru who tends to end up in all sorts of funny predicaments moves in with the Brown family in London. The first book in a series.

Brooks, Walter R. Freddy the Detective

Freddy the pig and the other animals who work for Mr. Bean decide to imitate Sherlock Holmes. First in a series.

Burnford, Sheila The Incredible Journey

Two dogs and a cat travel three hundred perilous miles, surviving bear attacks and other dangers of the Canadian wilderness, before being reunited with their human family.

Byars, Betsy The Midnight Fox

A boy feels unhappy about having to spend a summer on a farm, but suddenly changes his attitude when he spots a magnificent black fox--then is horrified to learn that the farmer wants to kill it. The author's Rama the Gypsy Cat tells the story of a cat that never wants to settle down.

Cleary, Beverly The Mouse and the Motorcycle

The author is well known for her stories about children like Ramona, Beezus, and Henry Huggins, but this story about Ralph, a mouse who wants to ride a toy motorcycle, begins an excellent series. She has also written Ribsby, about Henry Huggins' dog, and Socks, about a cat who grows jealous of his owners' new baby.

Dahl, Roald Fantastic Mr. Fox

The heroic fox of the title fights to protect his family and neighbors from the cruelty of three nasty farmers.

DeJong, Meindert Hurry Home, Candy

Candy is a little dog without a home who experiences one crisis after another, but is finally rescued by an old sea captain. The author's A Horse Came Running tells of a boy who loses his horse during a tornado.

DiCamillo, Kate The Tale of Despereaux

The Tale of Despereaux draws the reader into an enchanting account of a smaller-than-usual mouse in love with music, stories and a princess named Pea.

Farley, Walter *The Black Stallion*

Alec and a great black stallion are shipwrecked and land on an island. When they are finally rescued, Alec finds a trainer who will make the stallion a great champion. This book begins a series.

Gipson, Fred *Old Yeller*

A moving story about an ugly old dog and a boy who work together to protect their pioneer home during the boy's father's absence.

Grahame, Kenneth *The Wind in the Willows*

The touching and entertaining tale of Rat, Mole, Badger, and Toad, who adventure together through the English countryside. A good read-aloud, but children may also want to read this by themselves when they are old enough to appreciate the rich vocabulary and descriptions.

Henry, Marguerite

Misty is descended from ponies shipwrecked centuries ago on this wild island off the Maryland shore. This book begins a popular series. The author has written many other carefully-researched animal stories, such as *King of the Wind* and *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*.

Howe, Deborah & James *Bunnicula*

A pet dog and cat are unable to convince their human owners that the rabbit they've adopted is really a vampire who sucks the juice out of vegetables. An amusing series.

Howe, James *Howliday Inn*

While their family is away, Harold and Chester, a dog and a cat are boarded at Chateau Bow Wow where Chester becomes increasingly alarmed by the strange behavior of his fellow guests and the sudden disappearance of one of them.

Jacques, Brian *Redwall*

First in a series centering around the adventures and quests of the woodland creatures who live at Redwall Abbey.

Jarrell, Randall *The Bat Poet*

A bat so loves the beauty of daylight and sunshine that he is moved to write poetry about it.

King-Smith, Dick *Babe the Gallant Pig*

An intelligent, talented young pig wins the admiration of his animal and human friends in this amusing story.

King-Smith, Dick School Mouse

Flora is not like other mice. She can read because she lives in a country school house with her family. When an exterminator leaves poison around the school, her literacy saves her family's lives.

King-Smith, Dick The Terrible Trins

The three terrible trins are three mice who are turning things upside down at Orchard Farm.

King-Smith, Dick Lady Lollipop

Spoiled Princess Penelope meets her match in Johnny, a quick witted swineherd and his extraordinary pig, Lollipop.

Kipling, Rudyard The Jungle Book

The boy Mowgli is adopted by a wolf pack in the Indian jungle and taught the laws of the jungle by Bagheera the panther and Baloo the bear. Just So Stories explains why some animals are the way they are.

Kjelgaard, Jim Big Red

A champion Irish setter and a trapper's son roam the wilderness and track down a huge bear. This author has written many fine animal adventures.

Knight, Eric Lassie Come Home

A loyal prize collie escapes from her kennel in Scotland and endures many hardships to return to her first home.

Lawson, Robert Ben and Me

Amos Mouse lives in Benjamin Franklin's hat and takes full credit for the man's achievements and fame. A similarly amusing story is Mr. Revere And I, in which Paul Revere's horse boasts of his role in American history.

Lawson, Robert Rabbit Hill

The animals are hoping that the new people who've moved into the house on the hill will care about their needs. Followed by The Tough Winter.

Le Guin, Ursula Catwings

Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hearts.

Milne, A.A. Winnie the Pooh

This classic, for all ages, tells the story of a most endearing bear and his adventures with Christopher Robin, Owl, Piglet, Eeyore and their other animal friends. Followed by The House at Pooh Corner.

Morey, Walt Gentle Ben

A boy befriends a huge bear who has been chained to a shed since he was a cub. The author has written many excellent, moving animal stories, including Kavik the Wolf Dog, about a sled dog set on returning to his first owner, and The Year of the Black Pony, about a boy on an Oregon ranch who longs for a pony of his own.

Mowat, Farley Owls in the Family

The author, a Canadian naturalist, tells of his boyhood experience raising two owls. The Dog Who Wouldn't Be is the story of a dog who thought he was human.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds Shiloh

Marty finds a lost beagle and tries to protect it from its mean-spirited owner. Shiloh Season continues the story, set in West Virginia. In The Grand Escape, two cats run away to more adventure than they've expected .

North, Sterling Rascal

The story of a boyhood in a small Midwestern town at the end of World War I and a pet raccoon. Little Rascal is a shorter, easier to read account.

O'Brien, Robert C. Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

A widowed mouse is helped by a group of intelligent rats who've escaped from a scientific laboratory. The sequels, Racso and the Rats of NIMH, and RT, Margaret and the Rats of NIMH, are found under the name Jane Leslie Conly, O'Brien's daughter.

Pinkney, Robert Aesop's Fables

A collection of nearly sixty fables from Aesop, including such familiar ones as "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The North Wind and the Sun," "Androcles and the Lion," "The Troublesome Dog," and "The Fox and the Stork."

Seidler, Tor Mean Margaret

When an obnoxious two-year-old is "lost" by her siblings she is taken in by a pair of newlywed woodchucks. Also good are Wainscott Weasel and A Rat's Tale.

Steig, William Dominic

An amiable dog sets out on the road to adventure, and eludes an animal gang's attempt to waylay him. The Real Thief, another witty story by this author, tells of a faithful goose unjustly accused of a crime. Abel's Island describes a mouse's wilderness survival.

White, E.B. Charlotte's Web

Wilbur the pig has a wonderful friend in Charlotte, the spider who not only talks but writes as well. One of the great American classics. The author's other books for children are Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan.

Williams, Margery The Velveteen Rabbit

By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

FAMILY AND SCHOOL STORIES

Alcott, Louisa May An Old-Fashioned Girl

The story of Polly, who is sent to visit a rich family in the city. Some years later, when she returns to the city to teach music, she finds the family's circumstances dramatically changed. Other titles popular with younger readers include Eight Cousins and Rose in Bloom .

Alvarez, Julia How Tia Lola Came to Visit/Stay

A Dominican-American mother and her two children move from New York City to a Vermont farmhouse and are joined by their very ethnic aunt. Very warm and humorous.

Blume, Judy Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing

Pete considers himself "a fourth grade nothing" and blames his younger brother for the disasters that befall him. This begins a series.

Burnett, Frances H. A Little Princess

The classic tale of Sara Crewe, the richest boarder at her London boarding school until her father dies unexpectedly in India, and she's forced to serve as a maid.

Burnett, Frances H. The Secret Garden

Considered one of the truly great books for children, this is the story of Colin, who is rescued from the life of a spoiled invalid when introduced to the joys of the secret garden.

Calhoun, Mary Katie John

Katie and her family inherit an old house and intend to sell it, but, when they move into the house, discover they love it too much to move away. A series.

Cameron, Ann Stories Julian Tells

Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend.

Cleary, Beverly Ramona the Pest

Just one of many titles in a series about Ramona by this popular author. Famous for her humor and true-to-life situations.

Cleary, Beverly Muggie Maggie

Maggie decides she is not going to learn cursive writing, but her teacher has other ideas.

Cleary, Beverly Henry Huggins

When Henry adopts Ribsby, a dog of no particular breed, humorous adventures follow.

Cleary, Beverly Ribsby

Separated from his owner, Henry Huggins, in a shopping center parking lot, an ordinary city dog begins a series of bewildering adventures.

Clements, Andrew Jake Drake Teacher's Pet

Third grader Jake can't do anything wrong in his teacher's eyes, no matter how hard he tries.

Clements, Andrew The School Library

Natalie, a talented writer and budding novelist, submits her story under a pen name to her editor mother.

Cohen, Barbara Thank You, Jackie Robinson

A fatherless boy befriends an elderly black man who shares his love of baseball and, in particular, the Brooklyn Dodgers. When the old man becomes critically ill, the boy comes up with an idea for the perfect get-well gift.

Conford, Ellen Annabel the Actress

When she learns that a famous director is making a movie in her home town, ten year old Annabel is determined to get a part in it.

Cushman, Karen Catherine Called Birdy

Catherine, the daughter of an impoverished knight, is in her fourteenth year, when she begins a record of her life. Her diary of the year 1290 provides a revealing, amusing, and vivid picture of Catherine's thoughts and medieval life.

Cushman, Karen Rodzina

As a lonely, scared twelve-year-old travels west on an orphan train in 1881, she discovers her inner resources and strengths.

Dahl, Roald Danny, the Champion of the World

A young English boy describes his relationship with his father and the special adventure they share together.

Danziger, Paula You Can't Eat Your Chicken Pox, Amber Brown

Amber is looking forward to visiting London and Paris with her aunt, and seeing her father again, but a case of chicken pox intervenes. A series.

Edwards, Julie Mandy

A lonely ten-year-old girl living in an English orphanage discovers a tiny deserted cottage and turns it into a favorite hideaway.

Enright, Elizabeth The Saturdays

The four Melendy children pool their allowances so that each child can have a truly exciting Saturday adventure. This begins a series, and another popular series by the author starting with *Gone Away Lake*.

Estes, Eleanor The Hundred Dresses

Wanda is different from the other girls, and never wears pretty clothes. She says she has one hundred dresses at home, and her classmates start to tease her. After she moves away, however, the children discover that, in an unexpected way, she was telling them the truth.

Estes, Eleanor The Moffats

This story of a widowed mother and her four lively, happy children begins a series that's been a longtime favorite. Another popular series concerns the Pye family, whose adventures are told in *Ginger Pye* and *Pinky Pye*.

Fisher, Dorothy C. Understood Betsy

A spoiled girl goes to live on a farm in Vermont where she discovers the joys of independence.

Fitzgerald, John D. The Great Brain

This book begins an amusing series about John's brother, Tom, whose great brain can find a solution to every problem and can even invent a few problems of its own.

Fitzhugh, Louise Harriet the Spy

Harriet spies on her friends and neighbors, and writes down comments about what she observes. When one of her friends finds her notebook, Harriet is in trouble. Followed by *The Long Secret*.

Gates, Doris Blue Willow

Jenny wishes her father would not move the family so often in his search for migrant labor jobs. Her only link to the permanent home she wants so much is a prized blue willow plate.

Giff, Patricia Reilly Lily's Crossing

During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.

Giff, Patricia Reilly All The Way Home

In 1941 Brooklyn, Mariel, who bears scars of polio, and Brick, homesick for his farm, discover the fortitude and heart to face their lives.

Giff, Patricia Reilly Maggie's Door

Nory Ryan and her family face anguish and hardship on their long, difficult ocean crossing from Ireland to America in 1845.

Giff, Patricia Reilly Pictures of Hollis Woods

A twelve-year-old orphan yearns to belong to her adoptive family, but filled with self doubt, she runs away.

Greene, Bette Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe

A young black girl living in rural Arkansas wonders why she's always giving Philip Hall a chance to win a race or a spelling bee when she can easily beat him.

Henkes, Kevin Olive's Ocean

Twelve-year-old Martha receives a page from the journal of a classmate, Olive, who has died in an accident. Olive's entry about a desire to be Martha's friend, to see the ocean, and to become a writer propels Martha into a journey from childhood to the brink of adolescence. A 2004 Newbery Honor book.

Hesse, Karen Letters from Rifka

In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experience when she must be left in Belgium for awhile when the others emigrate to America.

Horvath, Polly Everything On A Waffle

An eleven-year-old is convinced that her parents, missing and presumed dead, survived a storm at sea. Spunky humor.

Horvath, Polly The Trolls

The Anderson family is turned upside down when outrageous Aunt Sally visits and enthalls them with amazing tales.

Hurwitz, Johanna Much Ado About Aldo

This book begins a popular series about Aldo Sossi and his family and friends, whose lives at home and school are pleasant and familiar to contemporary children. By the same author, The Hot and Cold Summer and The Cold and Hot Winter are funny stories about the unlikely friendship among two boys and a girl named Bolivia.

Hurwitz, Johanna The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein

Eight-year-old David is convinced that his life will be more adventurous when he changes his name to Ali Baba.

Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*
Two children run away from home and hide in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The author of this Newbery Award winner has written many other "winners," such as *Jennifer, Hecate, MacBeth, William McKinley and Me, Elizabeth and George*.

Kurz, Jane *Jakarta Missing*
Dakar's family moves back to the United States from their home in East Africa.

L'Engle, Madeleine *Meet the Austins*
A spoiled orphan comes to live with a doctor's warm, loving family, and the new addition causes some strain. Followed by *The Moon by Night*.

Little, Jean *Willow and Twig*
Abandoned by their mother, a physically impaired boy and his older sister find refuge, support and love with their grandmother and her extended family.

Lord, Bette Bao *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*
Shirley Temple Wong moves from China to live in Brooklyn and encounters some strange and wonderful aspects of American life.

Lovelace, Maud *Betsy-Tacy*
Betsy and Tacy are such good friends that they become known as Betsy-Tacy. This begins a long series which follows the girls from their early years at school through high school and marriage.

Lowry, Lois *All About Sam*
Read about the adventures of Sam, Anastasia Krupnik's younger brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous times as a toddler.

Lowry, Lois *Anastasia Absolutely*
Anastasia finds herself in another hilarious and embarrassing mess when she accidentally puts her dog's droppings into a mailbox. A series.

MacLachlan, Patricia *Sarah, Plain and Tall*
Two motherless children, living with their father on the frontier, hope that Sarah, a woman who has come from the east, will decide to stay with them and marry their father.

MacLachlan, Patricia *Seven Kisses in a Row*
Emma learns to accept "different strokes for different folks" when her aunt and uncle come to take care of her and her brother.

McDonald, Megan *Judy Moody Gets Famous!*
Jealous of a classmate's renown as spelling bee champion, Judy Moody devises a series of outlandish schemes to gain attention in this handsomely designed and accessible novel.

Martin, Ann M. *A Corner of the Universe*

Twelve-year-old Hattie's summer is changed by the appearance of her previously unknown Uncle Adam, ebullient, childlike and mentally disabled.

Miles, Betty *The Real Me*

A spunky eleven year-old girl becomes angry when she discovers that boys have a greater choice of sports at her school, and that she has to fight to take over her brother's paper route.

Montgomery, Lucy M. *Anne of Green Gables*

This old favorite series, still popular today, tells the story of a mischievous redhaired orphan who is sent by mistake to a lonely middle-aged brother and sister on Canada's Prince Edward Island. They wanted a boy to help with the work, but are enchanted by Anne and keep her. Later books are popular with older readers.

Myers, Walter Dean *Me, Mop and the Moondance Kid*

T.J., his younger brother, Moondance, and Mop grew up together in the same orphanage. Now T.J. and Moondance have been adopted and Mop has to find a family before the orphanage closes and "leftover" kids are sent away.

Namioka, Lensey Yang *the Youngest and His Terrible Ear*

Recently arrived in Seattle from China, a boy in a musical family prefers baseball to playing the violin. In *Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family*, his sister tries to hide a kitten from their parents. Both books are funny accounts of learning to live in the United States.

Peck, Robert Newton *Soup*

The funny adventures of the boys Soup and Robert growing up in a New England town.

Peck, Richard *Fair Weather*

Rosie and family members journey from their peaceful farm to bustling Chicago and the 1893 World's Fair.

Robertson, Keith Henry *Reed, Inc.*

The amusing story of Henry, a boy who enjoys the world of business and whose busy mind has no problem thinking up business enterprises. A series.

Sachs, Marilyn *JoJo and Winnie: Sister Stories*

JoJo suffers the trials of having a younger sister, the irrepressible Winnie.

Sawyer, Ruth *Roller Skates*

The author based this story about Lucinda on her own diary. Set in the 1890's, the book tells about the year Lucinda roamed New York City on her roller skates.

Sidney, Margaret Five Little Peppers & How They Grew

An old series which is regaining popularity, this is the story of Polly Pepper and her siblings who must help their poor mother.

Shalant, Phyllis When Pirates Came to Brooklyn

Jewish Lee and Catholic Polly share a love of fantasy and fun, despite their mothers' prejudices.

Sorenson, Virginia Plain Girl

When the law forces a Mennonite girl to attend public school, her father fears she'll be attracted by forbidden things. She does learn much about the world, but continues to honor her own family's values as well. The author's Miracles on Maple Hill tells of a city family who move to a Pennsylvania farm in maple sugar country.

Spyri, Johanna Heidi

Heidi goes to live with her grandfather in the Swiss Alps and loves her life on the mountains with her goats and her friend Peter. One of the oldest and most beloved classics.

Stauffacher, Sue Donuthead

Franklin is afraid of everything, then tough-as-nails Sarah enters the fifth grade. Hilarious story of unexpected friendship.

Streatfeild, Noel Ballet Shoes

Three little girls are adopted by a professor and attend ballet school in London. This begins a much beloved series of "Shoe" books.

Taylor, Sydney All-of-a-Kind Family

Five Jewish sisters grow up on New York's Lower East Side in a poor family full of warmth and affection. Three other books in the series describe their move uptown and their growing up years. The final book, Ella of All-of-a-Kind Family, tells of Ella's stage ambitions, appealing to older readers.

Weston, Carol The diary of Melanie Martin, or, How I survived Matt the Brat, Michelangelo, and the Leaning Tower of Pizza
Melanie Martin writes in her diary, describing her family's trip to Italy.

Wiles, Deborah Love, Ruby Lavender

Ruby's grandmother goes to Hawaii leaving Ruby to rescue chickens and deal with her grandfather's death. Quirky, humorous, heartfelt.

FANTASY, SCIENCE FICTION AND HUMOR

Alexander, Lloyd The Book of Three

Taran, the assistant pig-keeper, becomes involved in a hazardous attempt to save the kingdom of Prydain from evil. This begins a popular series.

Alexander, Lloyd *The Wizard in the Tree*

Mallory frees a wizard she finds trapped in a tree, and he works in his bumbling way to save her and the villagers from the villain. Other original and humorous books by this author include *The Cat Who Wished to be a Man* and *The First Two Lives of Lukas-Kasha*.

Alexander, Lloyd *The Rope Trick*

In Renaissance Italy, a magician, aided by loyal friends, seeks the ultimate trick.

Atwater, Richard *Mr. Popper's Penguins*

Mr. Popper, a house painter, passionately follows polar exploration. When an explorer he admires sends him an unexpected present, life for him and his family becomes delightfully different. An old favorite, always popular.

Babbitt, Natalie *The Search for Delicious*

Twelve-year-old Gaylen travels among the people to discover the definition of "delicious". *The Devil's Storybook* and *The Devil's Other Storybook* tell funny stories about the devil, who doesn't always triumph.

Banks, Lynne Reid *The Fairy Rebel*

A rebellious fairy named Tiki, already in trouble for breaking the rule against wearing jeans, risks the further wrath of the Fairy Queen by trying to fulfill a human's special request for help.

Baum, L. Frank *The Wizard of Oz*

A classic that begins a popular series about the marvelous land of Oz.

Billingsley, Franny *Well Wished*

In a time of dire need, eleven-year-old Nuria tries to outwit the magical wishing well in her mysterious mountain village. Also try *The Folk Keeper* by the same author.

Boston, Lucy *The Children of Green Knowe*

The first of five tales in an unusual fantasy involving Tolly, his great grandmother, her ancient house Green Knowe, and the ghosts who link the family's generations.

Brittain, Bill *The Wish Giver*

Three people are each given one wish guaranteed to come true, but the results are far from what anyone might have expected. The author has written other fine fantasies about the town of Coven Tree, such as *Dr. Dredd's Wagon of Wonders*.

Brock, Betty No Flying in the House

A small talking dog is in charge of a little girl who discovers a special secret about her parents.

Brown, Jeff Flat Stanley

In this amusing nonsense tale, Stanley's life changes for the better after a mishap leaves him flat.

Butterworth, Oliver The Enormous Egg

What happens when a baby dinosaur hatches from an egg in the family's hen house.

Carroll, Lewis Alice in Wonderland

The classic tale of Alice and her fantastic adventures down the rabbit hole. The sequel, Through the Looking Glass, should not be overlooked. Although many artists have illustrated these books, Tenniel still looks excellent.

Cooper, Susan Over Sea, Under Stone

The first of five compelling fantasies about English children who are chosen to combat the powers of evil by Uncle Merry, who sometimes seems to be Merlin. While the books can be read on their own, they are most effective when read in order.

Cox, Judy Weird stories from the Lonesome Cafe

Sam moves to Nevada with his uncle to run a cafe in the middle of nowhere, and although Uncle Clem insists that nothing ever happens there, his clientele consists of a number of strange characters.

Dahl, Roald Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Five children win a tour of Willie Wonka's candy factory, but only Charlie wins the prize. Followed by Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator. In James and the Giant Peach, a boy who's been living with two unpleasant aunts finds some strange companions in the gigantic peach that grows from a magic seed.

Dahl, Roald The Witches

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, together foil a witches' plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

Dahl, Roald The BFG

BFG kidnaps Sophie while she catches him blowing dreams into children while they sleep.

DuBois, William Pène Twenty-One Balloons

Professor Sherman ventures around the world in a balloon, but the explosion of a volcano forces him down over a most unusual island. Young readers sometimes

find the beginning chapters slow and could move right to the beginning of the balloon voyage.

Eager, Edward Half Magic

A family of children find a magic coin that makes their wishes come half true, producing some strange results. Other books by this author also deal with types of magic children can start but can't always control, such as Magic or Not?, Magic by the Lake, The Well Wishers and Knight's Castle.

Edwards, Julie The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles

The Whangdoodle was once the wisest, kindest creature in the world, but he decided to set up a peaceful kingdom inhabited by some very odd creatures. Professor Savant and the three Potter children have enough faith to seek them out.

Fleischman, Sid The Whipping Boy

Prince Brat runs away, and he takes along the unfortunate boy whose job is to endure his punishments--since no one may strike the prince. When the two are kidnapped, they decide to play a trick on their captors.

Fleischman, Sid The 13th Floor

When his older sister disappears, 12-year-old Buddy Stebbins follows her back in time and finds himself aboard a pirate ship.

Funke, Cornelia The Thief Lord

Two orphaned brothers come to Venice on the run from relatives who intend to separate them. A band of street kids, a mysterious Thief Lord, a nosy detective, and a magical carousel are all part of this enchanting story.

Grahame, Kenneth The Reluctant Dragon

A boy befriends a peace-loving dragon. When Saint George arrives and wants to fight, the boy arranges the combat to everyone's satisfaction.

Horvath, Polly The Trolls

Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history.

Ibbotson, Eva Island of the Aunts

As they get older, several sisters decide that they must kidnap children and bring them to their secluded island home to help with the work of caring for an assortment of unusual sea creatures.

Ibbotson, Eva Which Witch?

Deciding that he must sire a child to carry on his tradition of Loathing Light and Blighting the Beautiful, the Great Wizard Arriman announces a competition among the witches of Todcaster, one of whom will marry him.

Ibbotson, Eva The Secret of Platform 13

An unusual group set out from their secret world to rescue the prince, stranded in London.

Juster, Norton The Phantom Tollbooth

Bored and lazy Milo receives a tollbooth as a gift that admits him to the land of Dictionopolis where words are sold in the marketplace and vocabulary takes on a different meaning. He embarks on a unique adventure.

Kaye, M. M The Ordinary Princess

At her christening a princess is given the gift of "ordinariness" by a fairy, and the consequences of that eventually take her to a nearby palace where, having run away to become a fourteenth assistant kitchen maid, she meets the prince for her.

Kendall, Carol The Gammage Cup

The Minnipins are little people who want everyone in the village to be the same. But it is the few who dare to be different who save them from their enemies. Followed by The Whisper of Glocken .

Le Guin, Ursula K. A Wizard of Earthsea

The boy Sparrowhawk is learning to be a wizard. His training by the Master Wizard and his encounter with the evil shadows make absorbing reading for older children. A quartet.

Le Guin, Ursula K. Catwings

Four winged kittens escape from the city and find a new home in the country. First in a sweet and whimsical quartet.

L'Engle, Madeleine A Wrinkle in Time

Meg and her friends wander through space and time to save Meg's father, who has been captured by an evil force. A series.

Levine, Gail Carson Ella Enchanted

When her fairy godmother gives Ella the gift of obedience, her life begins a series of adventures. A humorous look at a well-known tale.

Lewis, C.S. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Four children find their way through the back of a magic wardrobe into the land of Narnia, where they help the great lion Aslan ward off the forces of evil. A wonderful series of seven books.

Lindgren, Astrid Pippi Longstocking

The hilarious adventures of a little girl who lives alone but involves two neighboring children in her impulsive actions. Totally original in her approach to everything, Pippi is very funny. A series.

McCaffrey, Anne Dragonsong

Menolly wants to enter Harper's Hall as a musician, but on the planet Pern, where huge dragons guard the inhabitants from danger, girls are not allowed to practice music. A series.

McKinley, Robin Beauty

This retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" adds many rich and original details to the shorter tale.

Merrill, Jean The Pushcart War

The story of the war that develops between the pushcart owners and the huge trucks that dominate the streets of New York City.

Nesbit, E. Five Children and It

Children digging in a sand quarry uncover a strange creature called the Psammead. Rather crankily he exerts his magic powers and sends them off on adventures. Followed by The Phoenix and the Carpet and The Story of the Amulet.

Nesbit, E. The Book of Dragons

A classic collection of stories reissued with the original illustrations.

Norton, Mary Bed-Knobs and Broomsticks

A spinster studying to be a witch gives three children special powers.

Norton, Mary The Borrowers

Hidden away in vast old houses is a vanishing race of tiny people who survive by "borrowing" the items that careless people forgetfully leave about. A series.

Oppel, Kenneth Silverwing

A young bat on a quest encounters danger and adventure. Followed by Sunwing.

Pinkwater, D. Manus Lizard Music

Watching television late one night, eleven year-old Victor finds to his amazement that all the programs feature lizards. After a series of odd incidents, he finds his way to Lizard Island.

Pinkwater, D. Manus Fat Guys From Space

A boy accompanies some guys from space on a visit to another planet, where they discover some incredibly amazing things such as talking rocks and root beer with ice cream.

Pullman, Philip *I Was a Rat*

A little boy turns life in London upside down when he appears at the house of a lonely old couple and insists he was a rat.

Raskin, Ellen *The Westing Game*

A thirteen year-old girl leads the chase in solving a mystery competition, the prize being the fortune of an eccentric multi-millionaire. This puzzle book is similar to the author's *The Mysterious Disappearance of Leon (I Mean Noel)* and *The Tattooed Potato and Other Clues*.

Rodgers, Mary *Freaky Friday*

One day thirteen year-old Annabel wakes up and finds she has to live in her mother's body. Somehow she survives a harrowing day. Followed by *A Billion for Boris*, about the same family, in which their television reports the news twenty four hours before it happens, and *Summer Switch*, about Boris and his father.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

At the age of eleven orphaned Harry discovers he is of wizard heritage and sets off to a very special boarding school. A wild and funny adventure. First in a projected series of seven books.

Schmidt, Gary D. *Straw into Gold*

What if Rumpelstiltskin kept the baby? An old story with new depth and pace.

Scieszka, Jon *Knights of the Kitchen Table*

The Time Warp Trio travel back in time and discover the real story of King Arthur.

Scieszka, Jon *See You Later Gladiator*

Joe, Fred, and Sam demonstrate some of their favorite professional wrestling moves, including the "Time Warp Trio Blind Ninja Smackdown," when they're transported to ancient Rome and forced to fight as gladiators in the Colosseum.

Selden, George *The Cricket in Times Square*

Chester, a cricket from Connecticut, accidentally travels to New York and ends up giving concerts in a subway station. This begins a series that includes such characters as Harry Cat and Tucker Mouse.

Snicket, Lemony *The Bad Beginning*

After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. A series.

Travers, Pamela L. Mary Poppins

Life changes wonderfully for the Banks family when Mary Poppins blows in to be their governess. This book begins a series that contains many adventures that children know from the film version.

Winterfield, Henry Castaways in Lilliput

Some children washed ashore on a strange island discover a modern miniature world.

Wrede, Patricia Dealing with Dragons

In this first book in a series, a princess runs away from the life she's expected to lead and dedicates herself to serving dragons.

BIOGRAPHY

INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES

Adler, David A. American's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle

The first woman to swim across the English Channel and staunch supporter of women's rights.

Anderson, William Laura Ingalls Wilder, Pioneer & Author

The "Little House" books were written by this author.

Anderson, Joan Rookie: Tamika Whitmore's First Year in the WNBA

A year in the basketball life of this young woman.

Byars, Betsy The Moon and I

A popular children's author talks about, among other things, her amusing adventures with a snake.

Christensen, Bonnie The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter

The fearless woman who became a world famous reporter.

Davidson, Margaret Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind

Ferris, Jeri Arctic Explorer: The Story of Matthew Henson

The African American who, with Robert Peary, first reached the North Pole in 1909.

Fleischman, Sid The Abracadabra Kid

The autobiography of the Newbery award-winning children's author who set out from childhood to be a magician.

Fradin, Dennis & Judy Ida B. Wells: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement

Born a slave, this amazing woman became a journalist who fought against lynching and for equality for all African Americans. Archival photographs.

Freedman, Russell Lincoln: A Photobiography
Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.

Fritz, Jean What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?
One of many biographies by this author about prominent men in United States history.

Gardner, Jeanne Lemonnier Mary Jemison, Indian Captive
A pioneer girl is captured by the Senecas.

Giblin, James Cross The Amazing Life of Benjamin Franklin
The statesman, ingenious inventor, early civil engineer. Beautiful illustrations.

Goodall, Jane The Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours
The renowned scientist recounts her groundbreaking discoveries about chimpanzees.

Grimes, Nikki Talkin' about Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman
The story of early African-American aviator is revealed in snapshots, free verse poetry, and watercolor that create a memorable family album by the people in and around her life.

Lasky, Kathryn Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker
Turn-of-the-century African-American businesswomen.

Lowry, Lois Looking Back: A Book of Memories
With photographs and text from her books, the author provides glimpses into her life.

Mays, Osceola Osceola : Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter
A sharecropper's daughter describes her childhood in Texas.

Meigs, Cornelia Invincible Louisa
The author of Little Women, Louisa May Alcott.

O'Connor, Barbara Katherine Dunham: Pioneer of Black Dance
A compelling portrait of the dancer, choreographer and anthropologist.

Patrick, Jean L. The Girl Who Struck out Babe Ruth
A retelling of the day Jackie Mitchell, a seventeen-year-old female professional baseball player, struck out the Yankee's best hitters, Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, in an exhibition game in 1931.

Peet, Bill Bill Peet: An Autobiography
The children's author and illustrator.

Rappaport, Doreen Freedom River: The Story of John Parker
Describes an incident in the life of John Parker, an ex-slave who became a successful businessman and who repeatedly risked his life to help other slaves escape to freedom.

Reich, Susanna Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso
Describes the life of the German pianist and composer who made her professional debut at age nine and who devoted her life to music and to her family.

Rockwell, Anne Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth
Presents a biography of the woman who was born a slave with no status and became one of the most powerful voices in the abolitionist movement.

Ryan, Pam Munoz When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of a Century
The life of famed African-American contralto Marian Anderson. Both text and illustration portray Anderson's passion for singing and her perseverance in overcoming the barriers to both train and perform because of her race.

St. George, Judith Dear Dr. Bell. . . Your Friend, Helen Keller
The story of the friendship between these two remarkable people.

Thomas, Jane Resh Behind the Mask: The Life of Queen Elizabeth I

Uchida, Yoshiko The Invisible Thread
The Japanese American children's writer.

Wheeler, Opal Mozart, the Wonder Boy
This author has written several other biographies of famous classical musicians.

Yates, Elizabeth Amos Fortune, Free Man
The acclaimed story of a slave who bought his freedom.

COLLECTIONS OF BIOGRAPHIES

Ferris, Jeri Chase Remember the Ladies: A Story of Abigail Adams

Harness, Cheryl Remember the Ladies: 100 Great American Women

Kaminsky, Marty Uncommon Champions: Fifteen Athletes Who Battled Back

Krull, Kathleen Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Krull, Kathleen Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels

Lester, Julius The Blues Singers: Ten Who Rocked the World

Pinkey, Andrea Davis Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Stories

Provensen, Alice The Buck Stops Here: The Presidents of the United States,

Provensen, Alice My Fellow Americans: A Family Album

Roehm, Michelle Girls Who Rocked the World 1 & 2

Rutledge, Rachel The Best of the Best in Basketball

Thimmesh, Catherine Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women