



The Keystone State Literacy Association has proclaimed April as

# Families and Reading Month





"Children develop a love of stories and poems when they read or are read to on a regular basis. These experiences enrich and expand their world and encourage imagination."

Debbie Urso  
Keystone State Literacy Association  
Families and Reading Chair

# A special message to our families



March 2021

Dear Families,

*Let's read!*

Children develop a love of stories and poems when they read or are read to on a regular basis. These experiences enrich and expand their world and encourage imagination. At the same time, you will be building family memories to last a lifetime.

With this in mind, the Keystone State Literacy Association (KSLA) – which is committed to developing a love of reading in all children across Pennsylvania, – is proclaiming the month of April as Families and Reading Month. Throughout the month, families all across the state will be sharing the joys of reading at home. We hope you will join in the fun by reading with your child each day in April.

Throughout Families and Reading Month, we encourage families to engage in reading or reading activities for 15 minutes each day during the month of April. Attached you will find a calendar of ideas and activities to promote reading. The activities are suggestions that can also be incorporated into a reading schedule throughout the year.

As a thank-you for your support and encouragement, we ask, at the end of April, that you sign the attached calendar and return it to your child's teacher. In return, you and your child will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

We hope you will take time to create some special memories during April. Now, *let's read!*  
Sincerely,

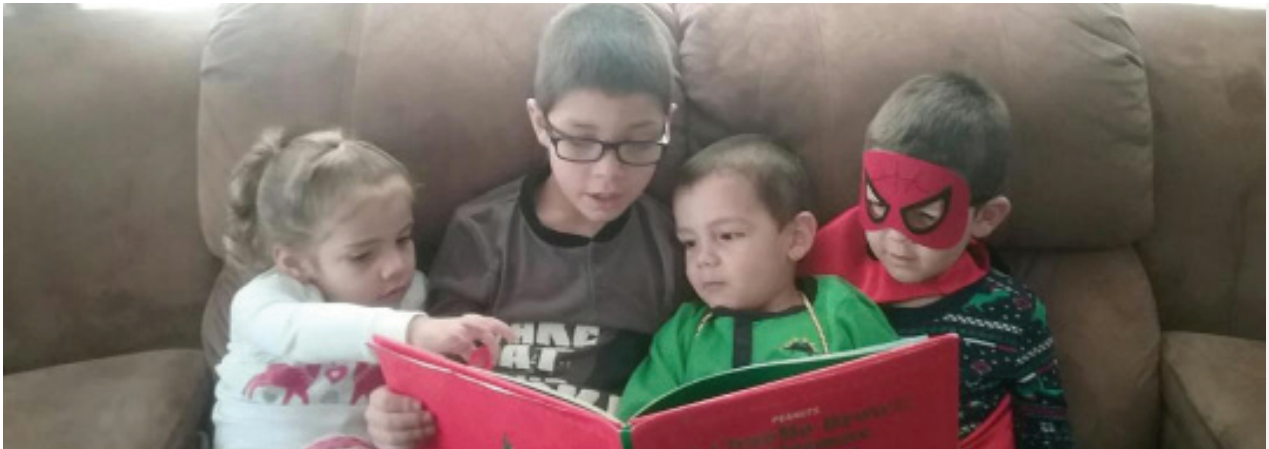
*Debbie Urso*

Debbie Urso  
KSLA Families and Reading Committee Chair



# A special message to our families

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Marzo 2021

Queridas Familias,

*¡Vamos a leer!*

Los niños desarrollan un amor a los cuentos y poemas cuando leen o les leen regularmente. Estas experiencias enriquecen y amplía su mundo y fomentan la imaginación. Al mismo tiempo, se le construyen recuerdos familiares que durarán toda la vida.

Con esto en mente, La Asociación Estatal de Lectura Keystone de Pensilvania (KSLA)- que se compromete a desarrollar un amor por la lectura en los niños a través de Pensilvania - proclama el mes de abril como el Mes de las Familias y la Lectura. Durante todo el mes, las familias en todo el estado va a compartir las alegrías de la lectura en casa. Esperamos que se unan a la diversión de la lectura con su hijo(a) todos los días en abril.

Por medio de las familias y Mes de Lectura, animamos a las familias a participar en la lectura o las actividades de lectura por 15 minutos cada día durante el mes de abril. Adjunto encontrará un calendario de ideas y actividades para promover la lectura. Las actividades son sugerencias de que también se pueden incorporarse en un horario de lectura durante todo el año.

Como agradecimiento por su apoyo y ánimo, nos le pedimos que a finales de abril firme el calendario adjunto y devolverlo al profesor(a) de su hijo(a). A cambio, usted y su hijo(a) recibirán un Certificado de Aprovechamiento.

Nosotros esperamos que usted crea memorias especiales durante el mes de abril. *¡Ahora vamos a leer!*

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Debbie Urso".

Debbie Urso  
KSLA Families and Reading Committee Chair



# Reading Aloud to your Children

Reading aloud is a gift you can give to your children from the day they are born until the time they leave the nest. Children's reading experts agree that reading aloud offers the easiest and most effective way to help children become lifelong readers. It will be as much fun for you as it is for your children.

A child whose day includes listening to lively stories is more likely to grow up loving books and wanting to read them. To spark this desire in your children, you may want to try some of these suggestions offered by Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a national nonprofit organization that inspires youngsters to read.

- Set aside a special time each day to read aloud to your children. Fifteen minutes a day is an ideal time.
- Vary your selections. For very young children, look for picture books with illustrations or photographs and print that is simple and clear. Once your child enters elementary school, consider picture books, magazines, and even chapter books.
- Read slowly and with expression. The more you ham it up, the more your children will love it. Try substituting your child's name for a character in the story.
- Have your children sit where they can see the book clearly, especially if it is a picture book or magazine.
- Allow time for your children to settle into the story, as well as time afterwards to talk about it.
- As you read aloud, encourage your children to get in on the act. Invite them to describe pictures, read bits of text, or predict what will happen next. It is even fun to dramatize the roles in the story or read lines of dialogue.
- Children like a sense of completion, so finish what you begin. If the book is too lengthy to finish in one sitting find an appropriate stopping point, such as the end of a chapter, and visit it later in the day or the next day.
- Continue to read aloud to your children even after they begin school and are independent readers. There is no age limit to reading to your children.
- Older children may enjoy reading aloud to a younger sibling. They often like to revisit some of their old favorites.



*Fun Fact: A child whose day includes listening to lively stories is more likely to grow up loving books and wanting to read them.*

# Leyendo en Voz Alta a sus Niños

Leer en voz alta es un regalo que le puede dar a sus hijos desde el día que nacen hasta que dejan el nido. Los expertos en la lectura de los niños están de acuerdo que leer en voz alta ofrece la manera más fácil y efectiva de ayudar a los niños a convertirse en lectores de por vida. Será tan divertido para usted, así como para sus niños.

Un niño cuyo día incluye escuchar historias animadas es más probable que crezca amando los libros y queriendo leerlos. Para despertar este deseo en sus hijos, es posible que desee probar algunas de estas sugerencias que ofrece Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) (Leer Es Fundamental), una organización sin fines de lucro que inspira a los jóvenes a leer.

- Reserve un tiempo especial cada día para leer en voz alta a sus hijos. Quince minutos al día es un tiempo ideal.
- Varíe sus selecciones. Para los niños muy pequeños, busque libros con ilustraciones o fotografías, y que la letra sea simple y clara. Una vez que su niño ingrese a la escuela elemental, considere libros con dibujos, revistas, y hasta libros de capítulos.
- Lea lentamente y con expresión. Mientras más lo exagere, más les gustará a sus niños. Trate de sustituir el nombre de su hijo por el de un personaje de la historia.
- Haga que sus niños se sienten en un lugar donde puedan ver el libro claramente, especialmente si es un libro con dibujos o revistas.
- Dele tiempo a sus niños para que se adapten a la historia, así como tiempo después de la historia para hablar de ella.
- Mientras lee en voz alta, anime a sus niños a participar. Invítelos a describir las imágenes, leer fragmentos del texto, o predecir lo que pasará después. Es hasta divertido dramatizar los roles en la historia o leer líneas del diálogo.
- A los niños les gusta un sentido de finalización, entonces termine lo que empezó. Si el libro es demasiado largo para terminarlo en una sola vez, busque un punto apropiado para parar, así como el final de un capítulo, y visítelo más tarde en el día, o al día siguiente.
- Continúe leyendo en voz alta a sus niños incluso hasta después de empezar la escuela y sean lectores independientes. No hay límite de edad para leer a sus niños.
- Los niños mayores pueden disfrutar de leer en voz alta a su hermano menor. A menudo les gusta revisar sus libros viejos favoritos.



*Dato curioso: es más probable que un niño cuyo día incluya escuchar historias animadas crezca amando los libros y queriendo leerlos.*

# Tips for Selecting & Using Literature With Children



With so many books to choose from, how do you select the right ones for your child? How do you know if your child is enjoying or understanding what you're reading together? May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family!

- Select books that appeal to your child's interest.
- Take your child to the local public library. If he/she doesn't already have a library card, get him/her one. Browse the bookshelves and borrow some new titles that you can read together.
- Talk to your child about what you are reading together.
  - Ask questions about what is happening and why.
  - Encourage him to ask questions to clarify what is happening or wonder about something that isn't clear.
  - Ask questions that begin with why or how to promote deep thinking.
- Use the Internet to research answers to unanswered questions or to extend learning about a certain topic from a book.
- Help your child summarize a story using these questions:
  - Who or what is the story about?
  - When or where does the story take place?
  - What happens first?
  - What happens next?
  - How does the story end?
  - What lesson did the character learn?
- Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. No matter your child's age, reading aloud to him/her is a great bonding experience.
- Use the five-finger rule to help your child select books appropriate for his/her independent reading level. Encourage your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page, and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is too difficult for independent reading. Save the book for him/her to read at a later time or read it to your child.
- Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child. This could be taking turns reading a page or a paragraph.
- Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling, friend, or even a family pet.
- Record your child reading a favorite book or part of a book. Email the video to a relative or friend.
- Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a book. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about the scene or character. Ask your child to read it to you.
- Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book or create a skit about it.
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# Consejos para Seleccionar y Usar Literatura con Niños



Con tantos libros que se puede elegir, ¿cómo seleccionas los adecuados para tu niño? ¿Cómo sabes si tu niño está disfrutando o entendiendo lo que están leyendo juntos? ¡Ojalá encuentre útiles estas sugerencias a medida que descubre el maravilloso mundo de los libros con su familia!

- Seleccione libros que atraigan el interés de su niño.
- Lleve a su niño a la biblioteca pública local. Si él o ella no tiene todavía una tarjeta de la biblioteca, consíganle una. Busque en las estanterías y pida prestados algunos títulos nuevos que puedan leer juntos.
- Hable con su niño acerca de lo que están leyendo juntos.
- Haga preguntas acerca de lo que está pasando y por qué.
- MotíVELO a que haga preguntas para clarificar lo que está pasando o cuestione algo que no está claro.
- Haga preguntas que empiecen con por qué o cómo para promover el pensamiento profundo.
- Utilice el internet para buscar respuestas a preguntas sin respuesta o para ampliar el aprendizaje acerca de un tema determinado de un libro.
- Ayude a su niño a resumir la historia utilizando las siguientes preguntas:
  - ¿De quién o de qué se trata la historia?
  - ¿Cuándo o dónde se desarrolla la historia ?
  - ¿Qué pasa primero?
  - ¿Qué pasa después?
  - ¿Cómo termina la historia?
  - ¿Qué lección aprendió el personaje?
- Lea libros en voz alta regularmente. No importa la edad de su niño, leer libros en voz alta es una gran experiencia de unión.
- Utilice la regla de los cinco-dedos para ayudar a su niño a seleccionar libros para su nivel de lectura independiente. Motive a su niño a elegir un libro que se vea interesante, ábralo en cualquier página y léalo. Cada vez que su niño se encuentre con una palabra desconocida, se levanta un dedo. Cinco palabras desconocidas en una página indica que el libro es muy difícil para la lectura independiente. Guarde el libro para que él o ella lo lea después, o para que usted se lo lea.
- Brinde oportunidades para la lectura compartida. En la lectura compartida, se turnan con su niño para leer en voz alta. Esto podría ser turnarse leyendo una página o un párrafo.
- Invite a su niño a leer su libro favorito a un hermano menor, amigo, o incluso a la mascota de la familia.
- Grave a su niño leyendo su libro favorito o parte de un libro. Mande por correo el video a un familiar o amigo.
- Invite a su niño a dibujar ilustrando su escena o personaje favorito de un libro.
- Anime a su niño a escribir un párrafo describiendo la escena o personaje. Pídale a su niño que se lo lea a usted.
- Anime a su niño a crear un anuncio o una parodia de su libro favorito.

# Families and Reading Month

Primary Grades

April 2021



*\*Ensure your child completes the suggested activity or reads for 15 minutes each day. Initial the box for that day. If you skip a day, read for 30 minutes the following day and initial 2 days. At the end of the month, sign this calendar and return it to your child's teacher. Activities listed are not required for the Certificate of Achievement.*



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
Child's Name & Grade		Family Member Signature		Visit a library. Get a card for your child. Check out some books.	Watch a nature program on TV. Talk about what you see.	Go outside and write words with your child using sidewalk chalk on the blacktop or a stick in the mud.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cut a comic strip apart. Have your child put it together in the right order.	Page through a family photo album and talk about the memories the photos have captured.	Cut words out of the newspaper. Glue them on paper to make a new sentence.	Have your child practice his address and important phone numbers.	Read a new book or an old favorite to your child.	Start reading a story and stop before the end. Ask your child to predict the ending.	Have a treasure hunt. Leave picture or word clues to follow to reach the treasure.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Help your child create a map of your home.	Have your child describe a family member or friend. Guess who it is.	Take a walk. Close your eyes and listen for the sounds of spring. Make a list of the sounds.	Help your child plant flower or vegetable seeds. Make a graph to chart their growth.	Have your child write a note or an email to a friend or relative.	Start telling a familiar story. Have your child write a new ending.	Sing favorite songs or compose a new one together.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Help your child write and illustrate a story about a favorite animal.	Have your child plan a fun family activity.	Have fun reading and writing with your child.	Read a story. Make puppets out of small paper bags or socks and act out the story.	Read a poem. Let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.	Go on a letter, number, or color hunt with your child.	Go on a walk with your child and play Follow the Leader.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Say a word to your child and ask him for a word that rhymes or create tongue twisters together.	Choose a new recipe. Read it together and have fun making it.	Play a board game after reading the directions together.	Find a cozy place to read a favorite story. Have your child retell the story.	When driving with your child, turn off the music and talk about the day's events.	Read directions for a project. Work together to create the project.	

Prepared by the Families and Reading Committee of the Keystone State Literacy Association

# MES DE FAMILIAS Y LECTURA

Grados Primarios

Abril 2021



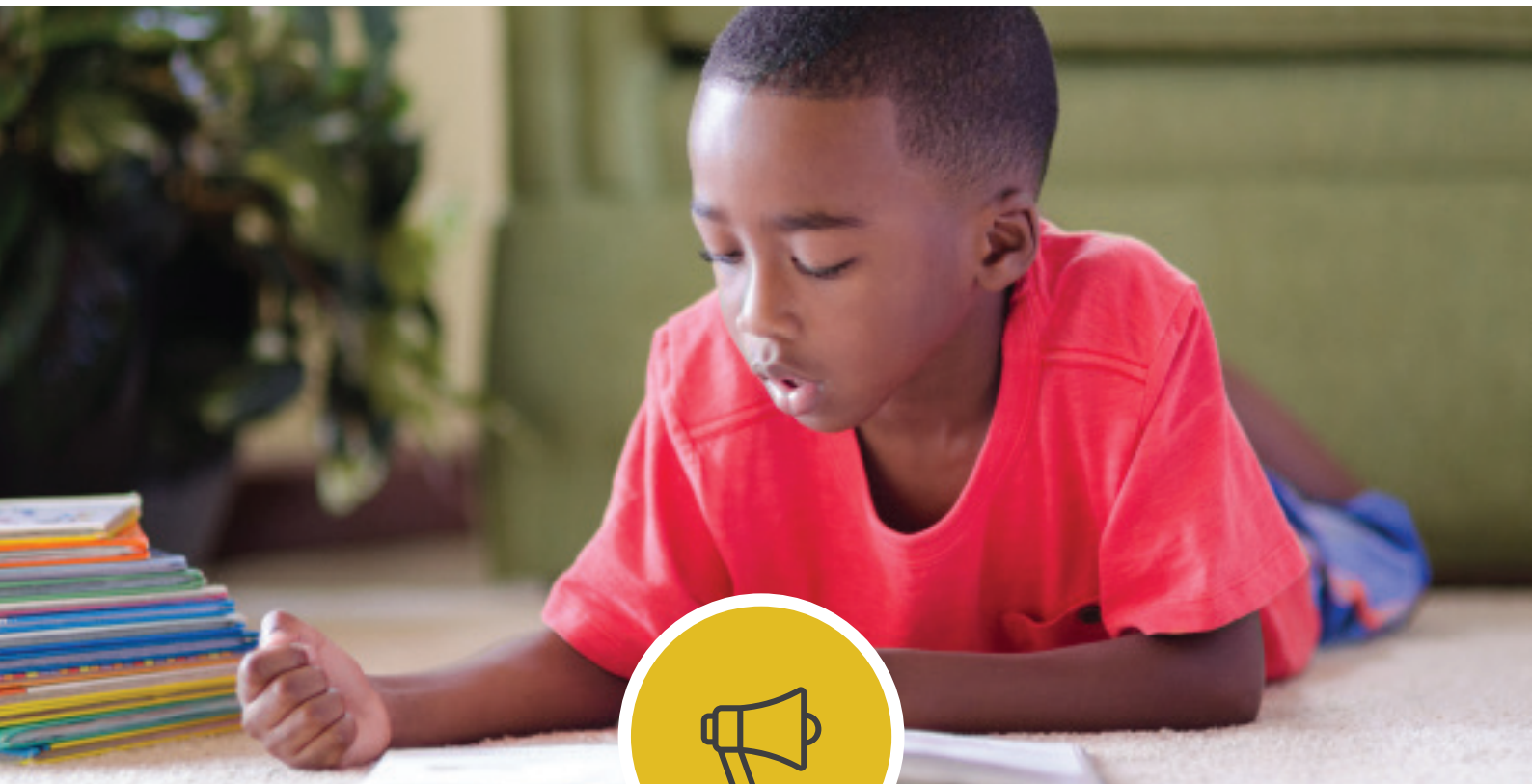
\* Asegúrese de que su hijo termine la actividad sugerida o lee durante 15 minutos cada día. Inicial de la caja para ese día. Si se olvida de un día, leer durante 30 minutos al día siguiente y sus iniciales en ambos cuadros. Al final del mes, el calendario firma y regresar a la maestra de su hijo. Actividades enumeradas no son necesarios para el Certificado de Logro.



domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sabado
				1	2	3
<b>Nombre del Estudiante &amp; Grado</b>		<b>Nombre del Padre</b>		Visitar una biblioteca. Obtener una tarjeta para su hijo. Echale un vistazo a unos libros.	Ver un programa de la naturaleza en la televisión. Hablar de lo que ves.	Salga afuera a escribir palabras con su hijo o hija usando tiza sobre el asfalto o con un palo en el barro.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Cortan una tira cómica. Haga que su hijo o hija lo coloquen en el orden correcto.	Página a través de un álbum de fotos familiar y hablar de los recuerdos las fotos han capturado.	Corte palabras del periódico. Pegarlos en papel para hacer una nueva frase.	Haga que su hijo practique su dirección y números de teléfono importantes.	Leer un nuevo libro o un favorito a su hijo o hija.	Empezar a leer un cuento y pare antes del final. Pídale a su hijo o hija para predecir el final.	Tengan una caza de tesoro. Dejar imagen o palabra pistas a seguir para alcanzar el tesoro.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ayude a su hijo a crear un mapa de su casa.	Pida a su hijo o hija que describa a un familiar o amigo. Adivina quién es.	Dar un paseo. Cierra los ojos y escuche los sonidos de la primavera. Haga una lista de los sonidos.	Ayude a su hijo o hija a plantar una flor o semillas de hortalizas. Hacer una gráfica para trazar su crecimiento.	Pregunte a su hijo o hija de escribir una nota o correo electrónico a un amigo o pariente.	Empezar a contar una historia familiar. Haga que su hijo escriba un nuevo final.	Cantar canciones favoritas o componer juntos una nueva.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Ayude a su hijo escribir e ilustrar una historia sobre un animal favorito.	Haga que su hijo o hija plane una actividad divertida para la familia.	Trate de diviértirse leyendo y escribiendo con su hijo o hija.	Leer un cuento. Hacer títeres de bolsas de papel pequeñas o medias y actuar fuera de la historia.	Leya un poema. Deje que su hijo o hija adivine cuál será la próxima palabra rima.	Ir en una caza de letras números o colores con su hijo o hija.	Vay a un paseo con su hijo o hija y juegen de seguir al líder.
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Decirle a su hijo o hija de pedir una palabra que rima o crea trabalenguas juntos.	Elija una nueva receta. Léanlo juntos y diviértirse haciéndolo.	Jugar un juego de mesa después de leer las indicaciones juntos.	Encontrar un lugar acogedor para leer un cuento favorito. Haga que su niño contar la historia.	Cuando esten manejando un carro y su hijo o hija este con usted, apagar la música y hablar de los acontecimientos del día.	Lea las instrucciones para un proyecto. Trabajar juntos para crear el proyecto.	

Preparado por las Familias y el Comité de Lectura de la Asociación de Keystone State Literacy

# Special **thanks**



Many people have contributed to the Families & Reading resources. Their book recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the materials were invaluable.

- Susan Berrier, Chambersburg Area School District
- Kelly Cote, Chambersburg, PA
- April Ledebur, Chambersburg Area School District
- Marybeth Maloskey, Chambersburg Area School District
- Craig McFeely, Chambersburg Area School District
- Caitlyn McGee, Chambersburg Area School District
- Bethann McCain, Pennsylvania State University
- Katie Miller, Chambersburg Area School District
- Sara Moser, Chambersburg Area School District
- Stacy Musick, Chambersburg Area School District
- Tracy Panzer, Cumberland Valley School District
- Concetta Velasquez, Marana Unified School District, AZ
- Terri Vetock, Shippensburg Area School District
- Linda Werley, Chambersburg Area School District

Also, thank you to all of the families who submitted photographs of themselves reading together. The response was overwhelming! It makes my heart smile to see so many adults inspiring life-long readers.

Happy reading!

Debbie Urso, KSLA Families and Reading Committee Chair

# Grades 2-3 reading list

*The Families and Reading resources are created to give families suggestions of new books, magazines, and apps to share. The information presented in these books and magazines represents the thoughts and opinions of the authors and does not necessarily represent the viewpoints of the Keystone State Literacy Association.*

For more resources, visit your local library or one of the following sites:

- Power Library ([www.powerlibrary.org](http://www.powerlibrary.org)) - A PA library collaboration of shared materials and resources. Click on the links at the top of the homepage to view recommendations or to visit Power Kids.
- Visit Scholastic ([www.scholastic.com/parents](http://www.scholastic.com/parents)) and Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)) for more book options.



### Classic Books:

- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *The BFG* by Roald Dahl
- *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox
- *Bunnicula* by James Howe
- *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco
- *Chocolate Fever* by Robert Kimmel Smith
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
- *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams

### Newer Informational Books:

- *She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History* by Chelsea Clinton - Celebrate women in history who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard.
- *Birds of Every Color* by Sneed B. Collard III - For birds, colors serve important purposes. They send messages, attract mates, answer questions, and much more.
- *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln* by Margarita Engle - After moving from Venezuela to America, Teresa practiced and continued to play the piano until she became famous. She became so famous that President Lincoln invited her to play at the White House.
- *Bat Count: A Citizen Science Story* by Anna Forrester - A young girl and her family count the bats that appear in their yard. They send the numbers to scientists who study bats and look for ways to help the bat population.
- *The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng* by Sophia Gholz - Jadav was distressed by the destruction of deforestation on his island home, so he began planting trees. What began as a small thicket of bamboo turned into much more.
- *Terrific Tongues!* by Maria Gianferrari - Some animals use their tongues in unusual ways to find food, eat, and clean themselves.
- *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison - The legends in this book span centuries and continents, but what they have in common is that each one has blazed a trail for generations to come.
- *The Wonders of Nature* by Ben Hoare - Discover the wonders of planet Earth and

learn about some of the most amazing animals, plants, rocks, minerals, and microscopic life that live here.

- *United Tastes of America: An Atlas of Food Facts and Recipes from Every State* by Gabrielle Langholtz - A full-spread introduction to each state features background about its culinary culture with illustrated food facts, maps, and an easy-to-follow recipe with a photograph of the finished dish.
- *Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home* by Sy Montgomery - Inky achieved worldwide fame after escaping from New Zealand's National Aquarium via a floor drain.
- *Little Libraries, Big Heroes* by Miranda Paul - Thanks to Todd Bol and thousands of volunteers, many of whom are kids, millions of books in Little Free Libraries have been enjoyed around the world.
- *Seashells: More Than a Home* by Melissa Stewart - Learn about characteristics specific to each shell and how seashells provide more than a protective home.
- *Skulls!* by Blair Thornburgh - This story dispels any fears kids might have about their skeletons, flipping our view of skulls from a spooky symbol to a fascinating and crucial part of our bodies.
- *You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks* by Evan Turk - The beauty and importance of the National Parks is showcased in this book that takes readers on an amazing tour across the United States.
- *Full Moon Lore* by Ellen Wahi - This book takes us through the calendar as we learn about the name of each month's moon and the reason for that name.

### Newer Fiction Books:

- *Badger's Perfect Garden* by Marsha Diane Arnold - Badger and his friends plant rows of perfect flowers and vegetables, but then a rainstorm comes and washes away the beautiful seeds. Badger thinks his perfect garden is ruined. But is it?
- *Lion and Mouse* by Jairo Buitrago - In this updated fable, the mouse marches into the lion's den without an invitation. Before the lion can eat him for breakfast, the mouse begs for mercy.
- *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick

## Grades 2-3 Reading List

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- Barnes - Celebrate the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of the barber shop with newly-cut hair.
- *SumoKitty* by David Biedrzycki - A stray kitty gets a job in a sumo stable, chasing mice in exchange for food. But when eating like a sumo wrestler slows the feline hero down, he realizes he must train like a wrestler, too.
  - *The Ring Bearer* by Floyd Cooper - Jackson is to be the ring bearer in his mama's wedding, but he's worried that something may go wrong. When he helps his new stepsister avoid a fall, Jackson becomes a hero.
  - *Saving Winslow* by Sharon Creech - Louie doesn't have the best luck when it comes to nurturing small creatures, but when his father brings home a sickly newborn mini donkey, he's determined to save him.
  - *Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings - Arfy, a homeless dog, writes letters to members of his community to become adopted.
  - *All the Way to Havana* by Margarita Engle - A boy and his family drive to Havana, Cuba in their old family car. They experience many things along the way, making the book a celebration of the Cuban people and their innovative spirit.
  - *Common Threads: Adam's Day at the Market* by Huda Essa - When Adam gets separated from his Mom and Dad at the Eastern Market, he mistakes a friendly, diverse cast of characters in their traditional Muslim clothing for his parents. The story shows that we all have more in common than you might think.
  - *Nobody Hugs a Cactus* by Carter Goodrich - Hank is a cactus who is prickly inside and out. When he starts feeling lonely, he decides a hug might be good, but no one wants to give him one. No one, that is, until Rosie tumbles by.
  - *Be a Maker* by Katey Howes - Celebrate creativity through beautiful rhyming verse about the many things we can make, including making a difference in the world.
  - *Puma Dreams* by Tony Johnston - A girl visiting her grandmother longs for a glimpse of the rarely seen puma. Finally, she sees the animal and knows it is everyone's responsibility to protect these increasingly threatened animals.
  - *Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship* by Jessica Krensky - Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. Rescue can help Jessica find a way forward, one step at a time.
  - *The King of Bees* by Lester Laminack - Henry can't wait until he can have a bee suit of his own so he can help his Aunt Lilla with the sister bees. Then, he finds himself alone when the bees are ready to swarm.
  - *The Rough Patch* by Brian Lies - Evan and his dog do everything together, including caring for their garden. When Evan's dog dies, Evan destroys the garden and everything in it. But beauty grows in the darkest of places.
  - *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom - When a metaphorical black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.
  - *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard - Told in verse, learn what fry bread means to modern Native American families.
  - *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* by Meg Medina - Evelyn and Daniela are more than neighbors. They are best friends. But now, Evelyn is moving away. As moving day looms nearer, the girls make a plan to keep in touch because friends are special.
  - *Rolling Thunder* by Kate Messner - Told in rhyme, this story honors the Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom where more than a million veterans and supporters gather in Washington, DC each Memorial Day to pay tribute to fallen heroes.
  - *Chippy Chipmunk Feels Empathy* by Kathy Miller - When Chippy Chipmunk meets a unique chipmunk, he learns to feel empathy and show kindness. His friends help him understand that there is diversity in every species.
  - *The Proudest Blue: The Story of Hijab and Family* by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali - Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab.
  - *Blue Sky White Stars* by Sarvinder Naberhaus - Wonderfully simple verses pair with rich paintings to celebrate the iconic imagery of our nation, beginning with the

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## Grades 2-3 Reading List

- American flag.
  - *A Fist for Joe Louis and Me* by Trinka Hakes Noble - Gordy's father teaches him how to box, and Gordy becomes friends with a boy who shares a love of boxing. During the 1938 Fight of the Century, Gordy learns what it means to make a stand for a friend.
  - *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold - Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps.
  - *Cat Kid Comic Club* by Dav Pilkey - With lots of persistence, the Cat Kid Comic Club creates a comic book.
  - *Truman* by Jean Reidy - After his best friend Sarah leaves for her first day of school, a tortoise named Truman goes on an adventure across the living room and learns to be brave.
  - *Nerdy Birdy Tweets* by Aaron Reynolds - Nerdy Birdy joins Tweetster to make new friends, but how will his best friend Vulture feel about this?
  - *The Turtle Ship* by Helena Ku Rhee - The king announced a contest to design a new battleship to defend Korea. Determined to win, young Sun-sin attempts to build an indestructible battleship inspired by his pet turtle.
  - *Dear Girl*, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal - This letter is written for the special girl in your life; a gentle reminder that she's powerful and strong, and she holds a valuable place in the world.
  - *Tricky* by Kari Rust - The Duke and his dog, Tricky, spend their days making trouble, but one day, somebody new comes to town and gives Tricky a treat that melts his mischievous heart.
  - *Snowman - Cold = Puddle: Spring Equations* by Laura Purdie Salas - Each clever equation is a tiny poem that prompts readers to look at the ordinary and see the miraculous. Information in the sidebars reveals the science behind the signs of spring.
  - *Kate, Who Tamed the Wind* by Liz Garton Scanlon - A wild wind blows on the top of a steep hill, turning everything upside down for the man who lives there. Luckily, Kate comes up with a plan.
  - *AstroNuts Mission One: The Plant*
  - *Planets* by Jon Scieszka - AstroWolf and LaserShark are some of the animals that have been hybridized to find other planets for humans to live on once we've ruined Earth.
  - *The Real McCoys: Wonder Undercover* by Matthew Swanson - Moxie, fourth grade detective, goes undercover in the Wonder Scouts to see who is sabotaging the badge competition.
  - *Blacksmith's Song* by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk - The son of an enslaved blacksmith learns that his father is using the rhythm of his hammering to communicate with travelers on the Underground Railroad. When Pa falls ill, who will help them?
  - *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson - A heartwarming book about finding the courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.
  - *A Kite for Moon* by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple - A little boy flying his kite notices a sad moon. He sends up kites to her, writing notes promising he will come see her someday. Will he keep his promise?
  - *The Boring Book* by Shisuke Yoshitake - "I'm bored!" Every child says it, and so does this book's main character. He soon realizes that boredom is a portal into exciting experiences.
- Series books:**
- *The Bailey School Kids* by Debbie Dadey
  - *Owl Diaries* by Rebecca Elliott
  - *The Treehouse Books* by Andy Griffiths
  - *Extreme Animals* by Steve Jenkins
  - *Ballpark Mysteries* by David Kelly
  - *I Wonder series of nonfiction books* by DK Publishing
  - *Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi
  - *The Zack and Zoe Mysteries* by Mike Lupica
  - *Jada Jones* by Kelly Starling Lyons
  - *What If You Had* by Sandra Markle
  - *The Baby-Sitters Club Graphic Novels* by Ann Martin
  - *Ordinary People Change the World* by Brad Meltzer
  - *The Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope Osborne
  - *The Magic Tree House Fact Tracker* by Mary Pope Osborne
  - *Weird But True* by National Geographic



## Grades 2-3 Reading List

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### Kids

- *Junie B. Jones* by Barbara Park
- *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker
- *Who Would Win?* by Jerry Pallotta
- *Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey
- *HiLo* by Judd Winick

### Poetry Books:

- *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming: And Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* by Chris Harris - Pour over the text and illustrations as you read these laugh-out-loud poems for the young and old.
- *Boom! Bellow! Bleat! Animal Poems for Two or More Voices* by Georgia Heard - A collection of poems based on research about animal sounds. Includes additional nonfiction information in the back matter.
- *Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies* by J. Patrick Lewis - J. Patrick Lewis honors thirteen classic poems by a variety of poets by writing a parody of his own.
- *Earth Verse: Haiku from the Ground Up* by Sally Walker - A combination of haiku and art encourages readers to think about the processes of our planet.

### Magazines:

- Highlights for Children
- Kids Discover
- National Geographic for Kids
- Nickelodeon
- Ranger Rick
- Sports Illustrated for Kids
- Stone Soup: The Magazine by Young Writers and Artists
- Zoobooks

### Educational Apps:

- Adobe Spark - create graphics, web pages, and video stories
- Adventure Academy - learning games and books for reading, math, and science
- Chicktionary - create as many possible words from seven letters
- Curious World (iOS) - features games, books, and videos for reading, math, and science
- Epic – build an unlimited library of children's books
- Jumblin 2 – word games
- Kodable (iOS) - a fuzzy character follows sequenced directions that you write to complete mazes
- Little Bird Tales (iOS) - take photos and record audio and use them to create a story
- Mad Libs - like the paper-pencil version, create stories using various parts of speech
- My Story (iOS) - create a book with visuals and text
- Novel Effect - bring your stories to life with music, sound effects, and character voices
- Sushi Scramble - make words from the given letter tiles
- That's Baloney - quiz-like game for all content areas
- Word Wizard - phonics and word building
- ZooBurst (iOS) - create 3D pop-up books



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