Building A Home Library

Ages 8-11

The ALA-Children’s Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee, with cooperation from the ALSC’s Quicklists Consulting Committee, has created this bibliography to provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for their children at home.

We suggest the following sites for more book titles:
www.cbcbooks.org/reading-lists
www.ala.org/alsc

Questions?
American Library Association
50 East Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433 x2163

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Here are suggested classic and contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library, an ever-present resource for children and adults. The American Library Association - Children’s Book Council Joint Committee and the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee recommend these titles for children ages 8-11.

Three other pamphlets recommend books for children ages 0-3, 4-7, and 12-14. Ask your librarian or bookseller about multiple formats for these books and for more suggestions to add to your growing collection.

*Angleberger, Tom. 
The weird kid at school makes a finger puppet Yoda that can tell the future, but can its advice be trusted?

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. 
When Julie befriends the two new mysterious Mongolian students in her class, she has no idea what's she's getting into. 

Butterworth, Chris. Illustrated by Lucia Gaggioti. 
Find out where your lunch came from and what it does for you.

*Cronin, Doreen. Illustrated by Kevin Cornell. 
Lina and Doon live in a world with no sun. Light comes from a generator which is starting to fail. Can they find a way out? 

Dahl, Roald. 
A tiny genius girl discovers unexpected powers when she goes to a school run by the dreaded Miss Trunchbull. 

DiCamillo, Kate. Illustrated by K.G. Campbell. 
A girl obsessed with superheroes saves a squirrel that develops magical powers.

Fitzhugh, Louise. 
An aspiring eleven-year-old writer discovers what happens when her private notebook, filled with brutally honest observations, gets into the hands of her friends.

Floca, Brian. 
Hop on board and experience a locomotive journey across the country in 1869.

Frost, Helen. 
Two boys on opposite sides of the war of 1812 come to realize that their friendship may not survive the coming battles.

Grabenstein, Chris. 
Kyle, lover of games, finds himself in the game of his life when he enters Mr. Lemoncello’s fabulous library.

Hill, Laban Carrick. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. 
Illustrated in lush watercolors, this is a poetic tribute to a little-known man who worked as an accomplished potter while under slavery in South Carolina.

Holm, Jennifer L. 
In 1935 Turtle moves to Key West, where she learns the trials of boy cousins and the wonders of sugar apple ice cream.

Jenkins, Steve. 
This book offers something new and amazing about animals at each reading.

*Look, Lenore. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. 
Alvin's worst fear has been realized - camping! Can his night-vision goggles, water-purifying tablets, and heavy-duty flashlight keep him safe from the great outdoors?

Palacio, R. J. 
A boy with facial abnormalities goes from being homeschooled to 5th grade public school.

Paterson, Katherine. 
In the woods by their homes, two lonely children create a magical kingdom and declare themselves king and queen.

*Pennypacker, Sara. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. 
Third-grader Clementine gains several unique hairstyles, confronts friendship issues, and helps banish pesky pigeons from the front of her apartment building.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. 
Esperanza finds herself struggling with a new set of circumstances after being forced to flee to a camp for Mexican farm workers during the Great Depression.

Siesczka, Jon. 
Growing up with five brothers, piles of comic books, and lots of free time gave Jon Siesczka plenty of accidents, jokes, and misadventures to write about.

Szelznick, Brian. 
Beautiful drawings help to tell the story of an orphan secretly living inside the walls of a Paris train station.

Silverstein, Shel. 
This poetry collection includes more than 130 never-before-seen poems and drawings.

Stead, Rebecca. 
Twelve-year-old Miranda must unravel a puzzle involving increasingly strange notes with a mysterious warning that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

*Warner, Sally. Illustrated by Jamie Harper. 
EllRay Jakes is NOT a Chicken! Viking Children's Books / Penguin, 2011. 
EllRay's dad offers to take him to Disneyland if he can stay out of trouble for one week—which makes this week the longest ever!

White, E. B. 
a mute trumpeter swan is provided with a trumpet by his father in order to win the love of the beautiful Serena.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. 
In 1968, three young sisters are sent to live with the poet mother who abandoned them years before and have trouble adjusting to her bohemian lifestyle and Black Panther involvement.

* Book is part of a series (including sequels and trilogies)