



for Children in Grades 2-3 reading at a 5th Grade level

25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children's Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.



2020-2021

Amelia Lost : The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart

by Candace Fleming

Random House Children's Books / Yearling, 2019

A riveting look at the life, disappearance, and search for legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.

Echo

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Scholastic, 2015

In a story that blends folktale and realism, a harmonica connects three musically-talented children from different periods in history.

Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions of All Time

by Deborah Kespert

Thames and Hudson, 2015

Young readers are introduced to the stories of the thinkers and inventors that helped shape our modern world, such as Archimedes, da Vinci, Gutenberg, James Watt, the Wright brothers, and Tim Berners-Lee.

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science

by Joyce Sidman

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018

A biography of Maria Sibylla Merian, a pioneering 17th-century scientist and artist who documented the metamorphosis of butterflies.

Go for the Moon: A Rocket, a Boy, and the First Moon Landing

by Chris Gall

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2019

A boy creates his own adventures to accompany the Apollo 11 astronauts in this picture book filled with scientific details and fun facts.

Her Own Two Feet: A Rwandan Girl's Brave Fight to Walk

by Meredith Davis & Rebeka Uwitonze

Scholastic / Focus, 2019

A Rwandan girl born with clubfeet moves to America and endures numerous surgeries in this story of faith and perseverance.

Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders

by ICPBS (various authors). Illus. by various

Candlewick Studio, 2019

Postcard images of birds (and words) by 50+ creators from all over the world send messages of hope for human migration.

Mountain Dog

by Margarita Engle. Illus. by Aleksey and Olga Ivanov

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Henry Holt and Co, 2013

A novel in verse told from two points of view: Tony, whose mother is incarcerated, and Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog who helps Tony learn about life in the wilderness.

The One and Only Ivan

by Katherine Applegate. Illus. by Patricia Castelao

HarperCollins Children's Books, 2012

Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla who spent 27 years in an enclosure in a shopping mall.

The Parker Inheritance

by Varian Johnson

Scholastic, 2018

A multigenerational family story set in South Carolina explores the history of racism in a mystery with elements of *The Westing Game*.

A Place to Belong

by Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Atheneum, 2019

Story illuminating the history of post-WWII Japan, told through a Japanese-American girl whose family was expatriated and had to join her grandparents on a farm outside Hiroshima.

The Poetry of Us

by J. Patrick Lewis

National Geographic Kids, 2018

A wide variety of old and new poets, poetic techniques, forms, and topics covering life in the United States, from large cities to rural areas.

Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse

by Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Mike Lowery

Peachtree Publishing Company, 2015

Anatomy riddles with high-level vocabulary and a Shakespeare theme.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus

by Jen Bryant. Illus. by Melissa Sweet

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014

Roget is more than the creator of the thesaurus, this extensive biography shows many aspects of his life, from his list-loving childhood to his inventions. ▲ *Spanish*.

***Science Comics: Trees: Kings of the Forest**

by Andy Hirsch

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / First Second, 2018

A personified acorn (and its woodland friends) teach us about phototropism, the mycorrhizal network, and other science details behind the growth of a tree.

***Secret Coders**

by Gene Luen Yang. Illus. by Mike Holmes

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / First Second, 2015

In this graphic novel, Hopper is a new student at a school filled with secrets. She and friend Eni use the magic of coding to figure out what's been hidden, but will they be discovered?

***The Serpent's Secret**

by Sayantani DasGupta

Scholastic Press, 2018

A New Jersey sixth grader discovers that she might be an Indian princess who must solve riddles and battle demons to save the world.

Smile

by Raina Telgemeier

Scholastic / Graphix, 2010

Based on the author's own experiences, this graphic memoir addresses the pain and embarrassment of years of orthodontia following an accident. ▲ *Spanish*.

The Way Things Work Now

by David Macaulay

HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016

Clever illustrations and text explain how the technological wonders of the past and present work.

What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?

by Chris Barton. Illus. by Ekua Holmes

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing / Beach Lane Books, 2018

This celebration of Congresswoman and African-American pioneer Barbara Jordan contains rich back matter that asks readers to think about how to use their own gifts toward a greater good.

What Elephants Know

by Eric Dinerstein

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

A renowned scientist depicts the complexities of life in the Nepalese Borderlands during the 1970s and the delicate relationship between man and nature.

When the Sea Turned to Silver

by Grace Lin

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

In a fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore, a girl goes on a quest to save her grandmother's life.

***The Wild Robot**

by Peter Brown

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

Robot Roz is marooned on a desert island and becomes part of the wildlife family, but her new life is threatened when her creator discovers her new home.

***Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel**

by Tui Sutherland. Illus. by Mike Holmes

Scholastic / Graphix, 2013

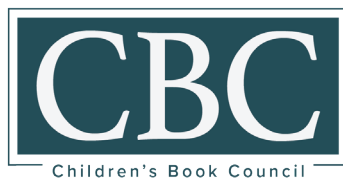
Graphic novel adaptation of the popular fantasy series shows the world of warring dragons in full color.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World

by Rachel Ignotofsky

Ten Speed Press, 2016

Profiles of 50 women leaders in STEM, as well as an illustrated scientific glossary and supplemental information.



We suggest the following sites for more book titles:

www.cbcbooks.org

www.ala.org/alsc

Questions?

American Library Association
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The Children's Book Council
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