

## Recommended Books for New Kindergarteners

**The Farmer and the Clown** by Marla Frazee, Beach Lane Books, 2014

Interest Level: PK-3, Reading Level: none, Text Level: none

In this wordless picture book, a baby clown falls off a circus train and is rescued by a farmer who cares for him until his family returns.

**Glasswings: a Butterfly's Story** by Elisa Kleven, Dial Books, 2013,

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.0, F&P Text Level: N to P

After the wind blows Claire, a glasswing butterfly, from her home in the country to a big city, she needs the help of some new friends to help her find a garden with the nectar she eats. Together they pollinate the garden and make it even more beautiful.

**How Big Were Dinosaurs?** by Lita Judge, Roaring Brook Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.7, F&P Text Level: N to P

Everyone knows that dinosaurs were big, but how big were they when compared to humans, cars or other every day modern objects? For example, did you know that the Argentinosaurus was as long as four school buses?

**The King of Little Things** by Bil Lep, Peachtree Publishers, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.4, F&P Text Level: N to P

The King of Little Things is happy in his kingdom until King Normous, who has conquered the rest of the world, decides that he needs to rule the little things as well. The little things revolt!

**Paul Meets Bernadette** by Rosy Lamb, Candlewick Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.0, F&P Text Level: K to M

Paul is a lonely goldfish swimming in circles around his bowl until Bernadette drops in and shows him the world outside the fishbowl is a fascinating place when you look at it from the right perspective.

**Stripes of All Types** by Susan Stockdale, Peachtree Publishers, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.8, F&P Text Level: K to M

This nonfiction picture book features a wide variety of the striped creatures of the animal world.

**Train** by Elisha Cooper, Orchard Books/Scholastic, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.0, F&P Text Level: N to P

Investigate what it is like to travel on five different types of trains as they make their way across the country from New York City to San Francisco.

**Viva Frida** by Yuyi Morales

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 0.7, F&P Text Level: A to D

Author and illustrator Yuyi Morales illuminates the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. This was a 2015 Caldecott Honor Book.

**Warning: Do Not Open This Book** by Adam Lehrhaupt, Simon & Schuster, 2013

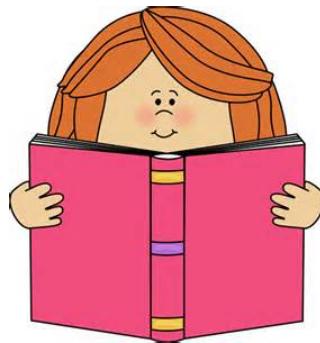
Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 1.7, F&P Text Level: H to J

You DO NOT want to let those monkeys out! We are warning you, they will cause way too much trouble!

**Wolf Won't Bite** by Emily Gravett, Simon & Schuster, 2011

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 0.9, F&P Text Level: A to D

Three little pigs capture a wild wolf and force him to do tricks for their circus audience—but you can only push a wolf so far before he has had enough!



## Recommended Books for New First Graders

**The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot** by Scott Magoon, Simon & Schuster, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.0, FP Text Level: K to M

Ben insists that he has seen a Bigfoot, but when the monster fails to appear his family and friends are annoyed with him. What happens when Bigfoot takes the opportunity to steal his bike?

**Building Our House** by Jonathan Bean, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.9, FP Text Level: K to M

A family of four builds a new home in the country from the ground up. Illustrations illuminate the process from laying the foundation to finishing the interior.

**The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse** by Patricia MacLachlan, illus. by Hadley Hooper, Roaring Brook Press, 2014

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.4, FP Text Level: Q to S

Future artist Henry Matisse lives in a dreary northern French town, but his mother helps fill his world with color and light.

**Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same** by Grace Lin; Little, Brown & Co, 2010

**Ling and Ting Share a Birthday** by Grace Lin; Little, Brown & Co., 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 1.4, FP Text Level: E to G

These early chapter books feature Ling and Ting, twin sisters who may look exactly alike on the outside but who each have their own distinctive personalities.

**Locomotive** by Brian Floca, Atheneum Books, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.5, FP Text Level: Q to S

The Caldecott Medal winner for 2014 depicts the journey of a family as they travel west across the country on the brand new transcontinental railway in 1869.

**Mr. Tiger Goes Wild** by Peter Brown; Little Brown & Co., 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 1.9, FP Text Level: H to J

Mr. Tiger is tired of living such a proper life in town, so he sheds his clothes and retires to the jungle. Life is enjoyable, but he does miss the company of his friends.

**Niño Wrestles the World** by Yuyi Morales, Roaring Brook Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.3, FP Text Level: K to M

Niño is a wrestling champion who has defeated the Guanajuato mummy, Olmec Head and the Weeping Woman. But he must now face his most challenging opponents yet, Las Hermanitas, the little sisters!

**Penny and Her Doll** by Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow Books, 2012

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 1.9, FP Text Level: H to J

This entry from Kevin Henkes' new series of early chapter books follows Penny as she tries to think of a name for the new doll she has received from her grandmother.

**Poppy the Pirate Dog** by Liz Kessler, Candlewick Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.8, FP Text Level: K to M

A beginning chapter book featuring, Poppy, a dalmatian vacationing with her human family at the seaside, who want to be a pirate. She needs to find a ship that doesn't make her feel seasick, though.

**Three Bears in a Boat** by David Soman, Dial Books, 2014

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.4, FP Text Level: N to P

When three little bears break their mother's favorite blue seashell, they sail away to find a replacement shell before she finds out.



## Recommended Books for New Second Graders

**Bink and Gollie** series by Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick Press, 2010–2014

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.4, FP Text Level: K to M

Tiny, excitable Bink and tall, poised Golly are best friends in spite of the fact that they are completely different in so many ways.

**The Greatest Dinosaur Ever** by Brenda Z. Guiberson, Henry Holt & Co, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.3, FP Text Level: N to P

Which dinosaur was the tallest or strongest or longest or fastest dinosaur of them all? In the end, you decide which one of the twelve dinosaurs featured here was the greatest.

**Mrs. Harkness and the Panda** by Alicia Potter, Alfred A. Knopf, 2012

Interest Level: 3–6, Reading Level: 3.5, FP Text Level: N to P

The true story of Ruth Harkness, the American woman who traveled to China in the 1930s to find and bring back the first panda most people in the world had ever seen.

**My Grandfather's Coat** by Jim Aylesworth, illus. by Barbara McClintock, Scholastic, 2014

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.4, Text Level: K to M

In this story based on a Yiddish folk song, an immigrant grandfather recycles his coat when it gets worn into smaller and smaller items of clothing until at last it becomes a toy for his grandchild.

**My Happy Life** by Rose Lagercrantz, Gecko Press, 2012

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.1, FP Text Level: K to M

This beginning chapter book tells the story of Dani, who is worried that she won't like school. All is well when she makes a best friend, Ella, but will her happiness last when Ella has to move away?

**Puss in Boots**, adapted by Jerry Pinkney, Dial Books, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 2.6, FP Text Level: K to M

The classic French fairy tale retold and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney features the clever cat who wins riches and a king's daughter for his master.

**Rifka Takes A Bow** by Betty Rosenberg Perlov, Kar-Ben Publishing, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.0, FP Text Level: N to P

Rifka loves watching her actor parents perform in the Yiddish theater where they work. She also loves to play backstage and one memorable day takes a wrong turn and ends up in the spotlight.

**This is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration** by Jacqueline Woodson, Nancy Paulsen Books, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.0, FP Text Level: Q to S

A little girl rowing up in South Carolina finds a piece of rope and uses it to play jump rope. She will grow up to use that same rope over and over again as she migrates north to Brooklyn with her family, passing it down to the next generations to use as well.

**Waiting for Ice** by Sandra Markle, Charlesbridge, 2012

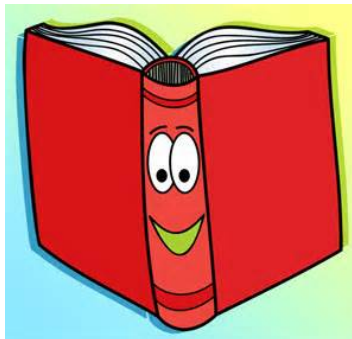
Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.4, FP Text Level: N to P

A non-fiction picture book about an abandoned polar bear cub who struggles to survive on Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean until the ice returns and she can make her escape.

**The Year of Billy Miller** by Kevin Henkes, Greenwillow Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.6, FP Text Level: Q to S

Second grader Billy Miller deals with a new school year at Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary.



## Recommended Books for New Third Graders

**EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken!** by Sally Warner, Viking, 2011

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.8, FP Text Level: Q to S

EllRay Jakes, the smallest kid in his third grade class, will earn a trip to Disneyland if he can stay out of trouble for a week. Unfortunately, he is being bullied by Jared, one of his classmates. Will standing up Jared cost him his trip? The first in a series.

**Flora and Ulysses** by Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick Press, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.3, FP Text Level: Q to S

After Flora saves a squirrel from a near death experience with her next door neighbor's super strength vacuum cleaner, they discover that the squirrel has developed both super-powers and a taste for poetry.

**Fortunately, the Milk** by Neil Gaiman, Harper Collins, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.3, FP Text Level: Q to S

A father's trip to the store for milk for his children's cereal goes awry when he is abducted by aliens, fights off pirates and travels with a stegosaurus. He manages to hang on to the milk through the entire adventure.

**Leroy Ninker Saddles Up** by Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick Press, 2014

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.2, FP Text Level: Q to S

This is the first in an early chapter book series that features characters from DiCamillo's popular Mercy Watson series. Leroy wants to be a cowboy and when he meets Maybelline, a spaghetti loving horse, it seems that his wish will come true.

**Mrs. Noodlekugel** by Daniel Pinkwater, Candlewick Press, 2012

**Mrs. Noodlekugel and the Four Blind Mice** by Daniel Pinkwater, Candlewick Press, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.3/3.5, FP Text Level: N to P

In this early chapter book series Nick and Maxine are told to never bother the old lady who lives in the cute little house behind their high-rise apartment building. Of course, it's the first thing they do when they get the chance.

**No Monkeys, No Chocolate** by Melissa Stewart, Charlesbridge, 2013

Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 4.5, FP Text Level: Q to S

This non-fiction picture book explains where chocolate comes from and, yes, monkeys do play a part.

**Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America** by Helen Foster James, Sleeping Bear Press, 2013  
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.8, FP Text Level: Q to S

In this picture book for older readers, in order to honor his parents' last wishes twelve year old Lee must leave his grandparents in China to travel to America where he pretends to be the son of another man in order to get admitted to the country.

**Star of the Week** (Jasper John Dooley series) by Caroline Adderson, Kids Can Press, 2012  
Interest Level: K-3, Reading Level: 3.6, FP Text Level: N to P

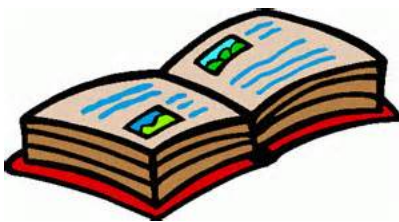
The first in a series of early chapter books about Jasper John Dooley, an elementary school student with a very large lint collection. It is finally Jasper John's turn to be star of the week, but he is upstaged by his best friend Ori's new baby sister.

**Those Rebels, Tom and John** by Barbara Kerley, Scholastic, 2012  
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.8, FP Text Level: Q to S

A dual biography of two of our founding fathers, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, good friends who were very different from one another. This book tells the story of how they got together to help create the United States of America.

**The Year of the Baby** by Andrea Cheng, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013  
Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.9, FP Text Level: N to P

Anna Yang tries hard to be a good big sister to Kaylee, her new baby sister recently adopted from China. When Kaylee won't eat, Anna and her friends come up with a plan to help.





## Recommended Books for New Fourth Graders

**Beholding Bee** by Kimberly Newton Fusco, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6, FP Text Level: Q to S

Since Bee's parents died, she has lived with a traveling carnival with only an older girl, Pauline, to care for her. When Pauline is sent away to work at a different carnival, Bee decides it is time to head out and find a home of her own.

**El Deafo** by Cece Bell, Amulet Books, 2014

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 3.3, FP Text Level: N to P

Cece Bell's graphic novel memoir about growing up deaf and coping with a hearing aid, school and the challenges of making friends. When Cece wears her powerful Phonic Ear hearing aid to school she discovers she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom but wherever she is in the building.

**Glory Be** by Augusta Scattergood, Scholastic, 2012

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.3, FP Text Level: Q to S

Glory, growing up in Hanging Moss, Mississippi, during the "Freedom Summer" of 1964 struggles to understand the changes taking place in her small town.

**How to Catch a Bogle** by Catherine Jinks, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.9, FP Text Level: Q to S

Orphaned Birdie Adams is employed by Alfred, a bogle catcher, to lure the monsters out of hiding with her sweet singing voice. When other orphans start to disappear from the streets of Victorian London, Alfred and Birdie suspect that something even more sinister than the bogles is stalking them.

**One Came Home** by Amy Timberlake, Alfred A. Knopf, 2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.8, FP Text Level: Q to S

In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen year old Georgie Burkhardt refuses to believe it when her sister Agatha is found dead after she runs away with a group of pigeoners, bird hunters following the passenger pigeon migration. So, she takes her trusty Springfield rifle and runs away herself to find the truth.

**Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy** by Karen Foxlee, Alfred A. Knopf, 2014

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.8, FP Text Level: Q to S

While exploring the museum in a foreign city where her father has taken a job, Ophelia discovers a mysterious boy imprisoned in a secret room.

**Puffling Patrol** by Ted and Betsy Lewin, Lee and Low Books, 2012

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.9, FP Text Level: T to V

This nonfiction picture book is about the annual baby puffin animal rescue effort that takes place near their nesting grounds in the Westman Islands off the coast of Iceland. Twins Dani and Erna patrol their small town looking for pufflings who have gone astray.

**True Blue Scouts of Sugarman Swamp** by Kathy Appelt, Atheneum Books, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 5.0, FP Text Level: T to V

A National Book Award finalist in Young People's Literature for 2013. Raccoon brothers and swamp scouts Bingo and J'miah don't have much in common with Chip Brayburn, a twelve year old boy living on the edge of Sugar Man Swamp with his mother, but they all want to save the swamp from the ravaging wild pigs Buzzie and Clydine and the greedy real estate developer Sunny Boy Beaucoup.

**When You Reach Me** by Rebecca Stead, Wendy Lamb Books, 2009

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.5, FP Text Level: Q to S

The 2010 Newbery Medal winner takes place in 1979 on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Miranda begins receiving mysterious notes that seem to foretell her future while also having to deal with the sudden unfriendliness of her best friend Sal and her mother's upcoming appearance on the \$20,000 Pyramid game show.

**When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc & the Creation of Hip Hop** by Laban Carrick Hill

Roaring Brook Press, 2013

Interest Level: 3-6, Reading Level: 4.6, FP Text Level: Q to S

This picture book biography of influential DJ Clive Campbell, aka as Kool herd, explains the origins of hip-hop in the Bronx in the late summer of 1973.



## Recommended Books for New Fifth Graders

**Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms** by Katherine Rundell, Simon & Schuster, 2013  
Interest Level: 3–6, Reading Level: 4.5, FP Text Level: Q to S

Will lives a wild and free life on a farm in Zimbabwe, but when her father dies she is sent to a boarding school in England where she has to learn to adjust to a stricter style of living.

**The Giant and How He Humbugged America** by Jim Murphy, Scholastic, 2012  
Interest Level: 3–6, Reading Level: 8.5, FP Text Level: Z

In 1869 a ten foot tall petrified man was unearthed by well diggers on a farm in upstate New York. People from all over America were intrigued and many paid good money to view the giant. Was he a real specimen or was it a hoax?

**Hold Fast** by Blue Balliett, Scholastic, 2013  
Interest Level: 3–6, Reading Level: 5.5, FP Text Level: T to V

When Early Pearl's father disappears mysteriously during a Chicago snowstorm, Early, her mother, and little brother Jubie are forced to leave their home and take refuge at the Helping Hand Shelter. The family's most prized possession, **The First Book of Rhythm** by Langston Hughes, might hold the clues to her father's disappearance.

**Kepler's Dream** by Juliet Bell, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2012  
Interest Level: 5–8, Reading Level: 5.5, FP Text Level: T to V

Eleven year old Ella is sent to Albuquerque to spend the summer with the grandmother she has never met while her mother is being treated for cancer. Ella finds it difficult to live with her stern and precise grandmother, but when a valuable book is stolen from her grandmother's library Ella teams up with her new friend Rosie to try and recover it.

**Mister Orange** by Truus Matti, Enchanted Lion Books, 2012  
Interest Level: 6–9, Reading Level: 4.6, FP Text Level: Q to S

When Linus's older brother, Albie, enlists in the army during World War II, Linus has to take over his job delivering groceries for the family store in New York City. He develops a friendship with one of the regular customers, a philosophical artist he calls Mr. Orange after the crates of oranges he orders from the store.

**The Night Gardener** by Jonathan Auxier, Amulet Books, 2014  
Interest Level: 5–8, Reading Level: 5.4, FP Text Level: T to V

A ghost story featuring two Irish orphans who travel to England to work as servants in the home of the unhappy Windsor family whose crumbling mansion is built around a mysterious and creepy tree.

**One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia, Amistad, 2010

**P.S. Be Eleven** by Rita Williams-Garcia, Amistad, 2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.6, FP Text Level: Q to S

In the summer of 1968, the three Gaither sisters from Brooklyn are sent by their father to Oakland, CA, to meet the poet/activist mother who had left them behind years before. The story of the Gaither sisters continues back in Bed-Stuy in **P.S. Be Eleven**.

**Seeing Red** by Kathryn Erskine, Scholastic, 2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.7, FP Text Level: Q to S

Twelve year old Red Porter's father has died and his mother wants to sell the family garage in Stony Gap, Virginia, and move back to her childhood home in Ohio. Red is determined to save his home and also right some of the racial injustices he observes.

**The Thing About Luck** by Cynthia Kadohota, Atheneum Books, 2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 4.7, FP Text Level: Q to S

The winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. When Summer's parents are called to Japan to deal with a family emergency she and her younger brother are left in the care of their grandparents who take them along as they work as itinerant wheat harvesters for the summer in the rural Midwest.

**Wild Boy: The Real Life of the Savage of Aveyron** by Mary Losure, Candlewick Press, 2013

Interest Level: 5-8, Reading Level: 5.2, FP Text Level: T to V

The true story of a feral boy who was found living wild in the south of France in 1798. The boy, who could not speak and who ran on all fours, ended up in Paris and was gradually introduced to civilization but never became fully at home there.



