

The 2006-2007  
Building Readers®

# BOOK LIST

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

## Ages 5-8

***Leon and Bob* by Simon James (Candlewick).** Leon never gets lonely when his friend Bob is around. So who cares if no one else can see Bob? Leon knows he's there. But when Leon decides to meet his new neighbor by himself, will he be brave enough to ring the doorbell without Bob?

***Can You Hear the Sea?* by Judy Cumberbatch (Bloomsbury).** Grandpa promised Sarah she'd hear the ocean inside the shell he gave her. But all the girl hears are the day-to-day noises in her West African village home. Was Grandpa wrong about the shell? Or is Sarah not listening hard enough?

***Inventor McGregor* by Kathleen T. Pelley (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** "Hector McGregor lived in a higgledy-piggledy house with a cheery wife, five children and a hen called Hattie." He can invent anything, too! But when he's sent to work in a boring office, will his happy-go-lucky spirit dry up?

***Teacher's Pets* by Dayle Ann Dodds (Candlewick).** Of course the students can bring their pets to school—as long as they take them home. And they will take them home, right? Uh-oh! Miss Fry's classroom seems to be filling up with monkeys and frogs and iguanas and boa constrictors and ...

***No Room for Napoleon* by Adria Meserve (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** Napoleon the dog thinks the island is lovely—and the ideal place to build the best house ever! But soon he's bossing his new friends around and destroying their island paradise! Will he stop before it's too late?

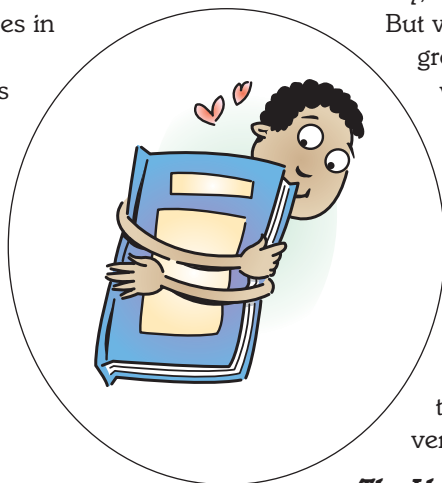
***Pablo the Artist* by Satoshi Kitamura (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** The Hoof Lane Art Club is putting on a show! But poor Pablo the elephant—he can't figure out what to paint for the exhibit. Nothing he tries seems good enough. But maybe, just maybe, he'll "dream up" a winning idea.

***Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen* by Cari Best (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** "I can pop a wheelie, I can touch the sky, I can pedal backwards, I can really fly!" But what will Sally Jean ride when she outgrows her super-cool bike, Flash? Don't worry—the clever girl has an idea up her sleeve!

***Once Around the Sun* by Bobbi Katz (Harcourt).** "July is when my friends and I bottle slices of the sky—barefoot, holding Mason jars, trapping tiny flickering stars." Take a trip through the calendar with this collection of poems. The bold illustrations are as lush and delightful as the verses.

***The Llama Who Had No Pajama: 100 Favorite Poems* by Mary Ann Hoberman (Harcourt).** "Ducks are lucky, don't you think? When they want to take a drink, all they do is duck their bill. Doesn't matter if they spill." Read on for other rollicking rhymes in this kid-friendly poetry collection.

***Quínito's Neighborhood/El Vecindario de Quínito* by Ina Cumpiano.** Quínito's world is rich with people doing fascinating things. His mami is a carpenter and his papi is a nurse. And his abuela? She drives a truck! Meet the rest of Quínito's family as the boy introduces them in both English and Spanish.



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***The Wishing Ball* by Elisa Kleven (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** All Nellie the cat wants is a friend, a home and something to eat. So the sneaky crow tells her to make her wishes on a special “star” and they’ll come true. But the star is really just a rubber ball! Will Nellie’s dreams come true anyway?

***Sea Horse, the Shyest Fish in the Sea* by Chris Butterworth (Candlewick).** Did you know that the sea horse swims upright? Or that his spiny back helps him avoid being eaten? Or that sea horse dads—not moms—carry the babies? What else can you learn about this fascinating undersea marvel?

***Marvelous Mattie* by Emily Arnold McCully (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** Margaret Knight wasn’t like other little girls in the 1800s. She was happiest with her notebook, tools and pencils. Why? Because Mattie was an inventor, and this true tale describes how her most famous creation—a paper-bag-making machine—came to be.

***Houndsley and Catina* by James Howe (Candlewick).** Maybe Houndsley truly is the planet’s best cook. And maybe Catina will be a world-famous writer someday. But is life really about being the “best” this and the “most famous” that? No! Life is about giving your friends a shoulder to lean on.

**Ages 9-12**

***The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick).** Can something that’s broken ever be fixed? What if the thing that’s broken is a heart? Find out just how much love can do in this tale of a china rabbit that gets separated from the one person who cares for him most.

***Cal and the Amazing Anti-Gravity Machine* by Richard Hamilton (Bloomsbury).** Ten-year-old Cal is quiet, but he’s curious, too. So when he hears bizarre noises coming from weird Mr. Frou’s yard, the boy has to check it out. Guess what goofy things Cal and his talking dog, Frankie, discover?

***Landed by Milly Lee* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** Twelve-year-old Sun is journeying to America with his father. But if he doesn’t answer the officials’ questions correctly, he’ll be sent back to China. Learn what happens to the courageous boy in this beautifully illustrated, based-in-fact tale.

***Rosy Cole’s Memoir Explosion* by Sheila Greenwald (Farrar, Straus & Giroux).** Write about the most interesting person in her family, huh? That means Rosy has to write about herself! But what if she ends up making everybody she loves really, really mad? What’s a budding memoirist to do?

***Akimbo and the Crocodile Man* by Alexander McCall Smith (Bloomsbury).** “It was a shout, a yell, and it came from the other end of the island ... then there was another cry, and this time Akimbo knew.” Will the young boy survive crocodile-infested waters as he tries to help his friend?

***Digory the Dragon Slayer* by Angela McAllister (Bloomsbury).** Digory slew the ferocious dragon! He’s a hero! Well, not exactly. Everyone thinks the boy killed the dragon, but all he did was find its tooth. So when he’s sent off to slay another beast, what will Digory do?

**All ages: Introduce your child to the magic of Shel Silverstein**

***The Missing Piece* by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).** Has it really been 30 years since the poor little shape first set off to find its missing piece? Yes! But the tale of perseverance and contentment is timeless. In fact, it’s as charming now as it was three decades ago!

***The Missing Piece Meets the Big O* by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).** The sharp wedge can’t keep up with the smooth O, and it certainly can’t roll! But what if it tries anyway? See what happens when the pointy shape wears down its edges in this classic tale now in its 25th year.

***A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).** “There’s an eyeball in the gumball machine, right there between the red and the green, lookin’ at me as if to say, ‘You don’t need any more gum today.’” This is just one of the many wacky poems in the beloved collection that’s celebrating its 25th anniversary.

***Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein (HarperCollins).** Happy 10th birthday to this assortment of kid-friendly poems and simple line drawings that captures Shel Silverstein’s poetic genius! Filled with fun-to-read verses, it’s ideal for introducing youngsters to the world of poetry.

