

BOOK LISTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

20 BOOKS EVERY KID SHOULD READ BEFORE TURNING 13

Your young, independent reader will surely enjoy these classic and unforgettable titles.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/favorites-classics/13-books-kids-should-read-turning-13.html>

TOP 20 FEMALE CHARACTERS WHO SHOW GIRLS HOW TO BE FIERCE AND FEARLESS

This book list features strong female characters

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/top-20-female-characters-childrens-books.html>

BOOKS WITH BRAVE CHARACTERS

Is your independent reader looking for a great hero story? Look no further!

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/series-characters-authors/books-brave-characters.html>

PRITZ AWARD WINNERS

Exploring tough subjects, these award-winning, moving titles will show your child the power of a good book.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/award-winners/printz-award-winners.html>

CLASSIC COMING-OF-AGE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

These beloved, time-tested novels and often controversial classics have become reading rites of passage.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/favorites-classics/classic-coming-age-books-kids.html>

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNING CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE

The National Book Award recognises outstanding books by U.S authors. Check out this list of winning titles from the young people's literature category.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/award-winners/national-book-award-winning-childrens-books-young-peoples.html>

NEWBERY AWARD WINNERS FOR INDEPENDENT READERS

Honouring the "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children," Newbery winners are some of the best chapter books available.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/award-winners/newbery-award-winners-independent-readers.html>



GREAT BOOKS ABOUT SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY READERS

Delight in these charming and poignant tales about friendship and classroom antics.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/school/school-stories.html>

BOOKS ABOUT BULLYING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

From cruel teasing to physical threats, bullying can be a problem throughout childhood. These books show the dangers of this type of behaviour, as well as modelling appropriate responses.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/school/books-about-bullying-middle-schoolers.html>

BEST BOOKS TO HELP YOUNG READERS ESCAPE

Flee the ordinary, travel to captivating worlds, and live new adventures with one of these fantastic titles for independent readers.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/adventure-fantasy/books-when-you-want-to-escape.html>

NON-FICTION BOOKS

THE SECRET SOLDIER THE STORY OF DEBORAH SAMPSON BY ANN MCGOVERN

In the late 1700s, there aren't many choices for a young girl without a family. Fatherless Deborah Sampson has been sent away from home because her mother is too poor and sick to take care of her, and so for ten years Deborah works as a servant for Deacon Thomas and his family. She is too busy to go to school (not that schooling is considered very important for girls anyway), and she certainly cannot learn a trade — that sort of thing is also reserved for men only. At 18 years old, Deborah longs for a life of travel and adventure, and since this is forbidden most females, the ingenious Deborah gets the bright idea to enlist in the Continental army - disguised as a man!

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND BY WILLIAM KAMKWAMBA & BRYAN MEALER

When fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba's Malawi village was hit by a drought, everyone's crops began to fail. Without enough money for food, let alone school, William spent his days in the library...and figured out how to bring electricity to his village. Persevering against the odds, William built a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps, and thus became the local hero who harnessed the wind.

HIDDEN FIGURES BY MARGOT LEE SHETTERLY

New York Times bestselling author Margot Lee Shetterly's book is now available in a new edition perfect for young readers. This is the amazing true story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program.

THROUGH MY EYES BY RUBY BRIDGES

On November 14, 1960, a tiny six-year-old black child, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. From where she sat in the office, Ruby Bridges could see parents marching through the halls and taking their children out of classrooms. The next day, Ruby walked through the angry mob once again and into a school where she saw no other students. The white children did not go to school that day, and they wouldn't go to school for many days to come. Surrounded by racial turmoil, Ruby, the only student in a classroom with one wonderful teacher, learned to read and add.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BY NANCY OHLIN

This engaging nonfiction book, complete with black-and-white interior illustrations, will make readers feel like they've travelled back in time. It covers everything from how the war started to what life was like for the colonists, and more, including little-known facts such as how George Washington was a spymaster and how some women served as soldiers in the Continental Army!

TWO TICKETS TO FREEDOM BY FLORENCE B. FREEDMAN

Told with all the suspense of the best adventure fiction, this powerful book is the true story of Ellen and William Craft, a husband and wife who escaped from slavery in Georgia in 1848. After careful planning, light-skinned Ellen Craft disguised herself in men's clothing, posed as a white Southern planter, and bought "tickets for myself and my slave" at the Macon train station. Her "slave" was her husband, William, and from the moment they received the tickets that no slave could buy, they were on the road to freedom - or to being found out.

DISRUPTING THINKING WHY HOW WE READ MATTERS BY KYLENE BEERS & ROBERT E. PROBST

In their hit books *Notice and Note* and *Reading Nonfiction*, Kyleene Beers and Bob Probst showed teachers how to help students become close readers. Now, in *Disrupting Thinking* they take teachers a step further and discuss an on-going problem: lack of engagement with reading. They explain that all too often, no matter the strategy shared with students, too many students remain disengaged and reluctant readers. The problem, they suggest, is that we have misrepresented to students why we read and how we ought to approach any text - fiction or nonfiction.

A DROP OF WATER - A BOOK OF SCIENCE AND WONDER BY WALTER WICK

In *A Drop of Water*, Walker Wick embraces two disciplines, art and science, and stimulates the reader as aesthetic and scientific observer.

THIS SIDE OF WILE BY GARY PAULSON

Gary Paulsen, the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hatchet* and *Dogsong*, is an adventurer who competed in two Iditarods, survived the Minnesota wilderness, and climbed the Bighorns. But none of this would have been possible without his truest companions: his animals. Sled dogs rescued him in Alaska, a sickened poodle guarded his well-being, and a horse led him across a desert. Through his interactions with dogs, horses, birds, and more, Gary has been struck with the belief that animals know more than we may fathom.

CHILDREN OF THE DUST BOWL BY JERRY STANLEY

This book describes the plight of the migrant workers who travelled from the Dust Bowl to California during the Depression and were forced to live in a federal labour camp. Ostracized as "dumb Okies," the children of Dust Bowl migrant labourers went without school, until Superintendent Leo Hart and 50 Okie kids built their own school in a nearby field.

GET ON BOARD THE STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BY JIM HASKINS

Coretta Scott King Award-winning author Jim Haskins tells the story of the Underground Railroad. This colorful history weaves together personal stories, historical material, and letters of "conductors" and "stationmasters" who helped slaves to freedom.

ESCAPING THE HOLOCAUST BY JULIAN PADOWICZ

When the Nazis invade Poland in 1939, Yulian and his mother flee their home. They find refuge in the Russian-occupied sector of their country. But as a Jewish family, they know they won't be safe for long.

LEXILE LEVELS: WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Use this website, <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/book-selection-tips/lexile-levels-made-easy.html>, and the chart below to gain a better understanding of Lexile levels. This chart includes Common Core Standards Lexile recommendations and may also be used as a general levelling guide.

You may also use the fab.lexile website to find book recommendations according to your students Lexile <https://fab.lexile.com/>

	Scholastic Guided Reading Program Levels	Scholastic Guided Reading Lexile® Ranges	CCSS Lexile® Recommendations*	DRA Level
Kindergarten	A	n/a	n/a	A-1
	B			2
	C			3-4
	D			6
Grade 1	A	n/a	n/a	A-1
	B			2
	C			3-4
	D			6
	E			8
	F			10
	G			12
	H			14
Grade 2	I	100-1120	420-620	16
	E			8
	F			10
	G			12
	H			14
	I			16
	J-K			16-18
	L-M			20-24
Grade 3	N	100-1120	620-820	28-30
	J-K			16-18
	L-M			20-24
	O-P			34-38
	Q			40
Grade 4	M	180-1280	740-875	20-24
	N			28-30
	O-P			34-38
	Q-R			40
Grade 5	S-T	330-1280	875-1010	40-50
	Q-R			40
	S-V			40-50
Grade 6	W	300-1340	925-1010	60
	T-V			50
	W-Y			60
	Z			70