



❖ 2nd & 3rd Grade ❖

Best Books of 2023



We aim to provide high quality lists featuring books of different genres, interests, maturity levels, and content for children & teens. You and your parents/guardians are the best judge of what's appropriate for you.

Best Books lists from previous years may be obtained by request at the Youth Services desk.

**Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from Libby.*

Anderson, M. T. – *Elf Dog & Owl Head*

+Anderson, Fiction*

Quarantined with his family as a global plague ravages the world, Clay retreats to the woods where he meets a special little dog who leads him on adventures where choosing the wrong path could cause them both to lose their way forever.

Applegate, Katherine – *Dogtown (Series)*

+Applegate, Fiction*

In Dogtown, a shelter for unwanted canine and robot dogs, an extraordinary bond develops between Chance, a longing three-legged dog, Metalhead, an empathetic robot, and Mouse, their friendly ally, as they strive to find forever homes.

Barnes, Derrick – *Like Lava in My Veins*

++Barnes, Picture Books

Bobby has the power to make his hands and feet turn into flaming hot lava. But when he gets frustrated, he can't control himself. He doesn't want to get kicked out of his school for kids with superpowers, so he'll need to learn self-control.

Becker, Aaron – *The Tree and the River*

++Becker, Picture Books

An epic time-lapse reimagining of human civilization from a master of the wordless form, and a thought-provoking meditation on the relationship between two mighty forces: nature and humankind.

Burton, Robert – *The Egg Book: See How Baby Animals Hatch, Step by Step!*

+591.4 Bur, Non-Fiction

Many animals start life inside eggs and this book explores these magical capsules in detail, with stunning photographs of the moment the creatures emerge.

Carr, Jan – *Buddy and Bea: Not Real Buddies (Series)*

++Carr, Early Readers

It is the first day of second grade and already Buddy is disappointed because his class has a new teacher, not the one he wanted, and there is a new student, Bea, who is boisterous and much too pushy for the reserved Buddy.

Cordell, Matthew – *Evergreen*

++Cordell, Picture Books

To deliver her mother's delicious soup to her sick Granny Oak, Evergreen the squirrel must face her fears and make the journey, during which she meets other forest dwellers, including some who want to get their hands on her soup!

Dimopoulos, Elaine – *The Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow*

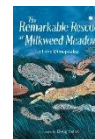
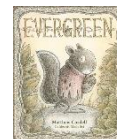
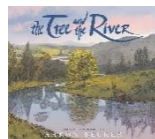
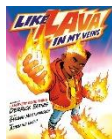
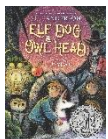
+Dimopoulos, Fiction

Butternut is a young, anxious rabbit and master storyteller who makes friends outside her burrow—even though she was cautioned not to—and now must decide whether she will remain loyal to her family or help other animals in need.

Doerrfeld, Cori – *Beneath*

++Doerrfeld, Picture Books

Finn is in a bad mood, so his grandfather takes him on a walk in the forest, and tells him about all the things that are beneath the surface of plants, animals, and people.



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Donovan, Gail – *Sparrow Being Sparrow*

+Donovan, Fiction

Sparrow blames herself for her elderly neighbor's accident, so she promises to take care of Mrs. LaRose's seven cats, all while trying to adjust to a new school. Things become complicated when she has to find new homes for all of the cats

Drimmer, Stephanie Warren – *How to Survive in the Age of Dinosaurs*

+567.9 Dri, Non-Fiction

Packed with tips, tricks, and helpful maps, this is the ultimate handbook for dinosaur fans who want to know what life on Earth was really like when dinos ruled.

Dyckman, Ame – *How Dinosaurs Went Extinct*

++Dyckman, Picture Books

When a child in a museum asks how dinosaurs became extinct, Dad comes up with a list of silly answers.

Engle, Margarita – *Destiny Finds Her Way*

+599.3 Eng, Non-Fiction

This is the true story of Destiny, a brave little sloth who did not let an injured eye keep her from learning how to be free in the Costa Rican rainforest.

Faruqi, Saadia – *Ali the Great (Series)*

++Faruqi, Early Readers

Ali's big ideas sometimes land him in a little trouble—but his even bigger heart always comes through stronger in the end. Join in on his many adventures and discover how you can always count on curious, clever Ali.

Gerry, Lisa – *Big Words for Little Paleontologists*

+560 Ger, Non-Fiction

Every budding paleontologist has to know all of the big, complicated dinosaur names and terms and will love showing off their advanced vocabulary skills with this National Geographic book.

Greanias, Margaret Chiu – *How This Book Got Red*

++Greanias, Picture Books

When Red, a young panda, finds a book about pandas completely omits red pandas, she decides to write her own book.

Hale, Nathan – *The Mighty Bite*

+Hale, Graphic Novels

Determined to become Internet stars, two prehistoric creatures—Trilobite and Amber, a walking whale—face off against a host of creatures vying for fame and fortune, using their newfound skills to take the online world by storm.

Hatke, Ben – *Things in the Basement*

+Hatke, Graphic Novels

A boy's search for a sock leads him to discover a portal to a secret world in his basement. A journey of loss both intimate and fantastical, swept along by flowing, emotive illustrations.

LaCour, Nina – *Apartment House on Poppy Hill (Series)*

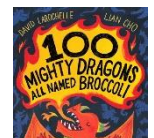
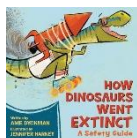
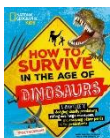
+LaCour, Fiction

Ella considers herself the official greeter and tour guide of her building, but the elusive Robinsons who live on the top floor are a mystery, one which Ella is determined to solve.

LaRochelle, David – *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli*

++LaRochelle, Picture Books

This wacky counting adventure is a hilarious ode to dragons and math, with pitch-perfect art.





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Larson, Kirby – *Shermy and Shake, the Not-So-Nice Neighbor*

++Larson, Early Readers

When Shake comes to stay with his grandmother for the summer, it's an earthquake in the quiet life of bookish Shermy, who likes everything just so. Somehow, as the days tick by, the experiences add up to an opposites-attract friendship.

Lepp, Royden – *Jurassic Jeff: Space Invader (Series)*

+Lepp, Graphic Novels

Alien Jeff's mission to take over Earth is in jeopardy when he crash-lands one hundred million years too early, and the surprises keep coming when dinosaur friends Carl, Hungry, and Spike help Jeff find their leader.

Lubner, Susan – *Drag and Rex: Forever Friends (Series)*

++Lubner, Early Readers

Best friends Drag and Rex could not be more different, but together they find joy and adventure in the simplest places.

Mara, Maddy – *Dragon Games: The Thunder Egg (Series)*

+Mara, Fiction*

One fateful afternoon, classmates stumble upon a strange-looking rock called a geode in one of the rooms at school. To their surprise, a touch of this geode transports them to a magical land. The geode is actually a dragon egg!

McDunn, Gillian – *When Sea Becomes Sky*

+McDunn, Fiction

As Pelican Island's history-making drought wears on, the water level on Bex and Davey's beloved marsh reveals the hand of a statue that has been underneath the water for a very long time, and the siblings are determined to find out more.

Odenkirk, Bob – *Zilot and Other Important Rhymes*

+811 Ode, Non-Fiction

A collection of humorous and heartfelt poetry for children and adults.

Pennypacker, Sara – *Leeva at Last*

++Pennypacker, Picture Books*

What are people for? With the help of an orphaned badger, a risk-averse boy in a hazmat suit, and the town's librarians, Leeva sets off to discover her own answer—setting off a chain of events that will change Nutsmore forever.

Pumphrey, Jarrett – *Link & Hud: Heroes by a Hair (Series)*

+Pumphrey, Fiction

Brothers Lincoln and Hudson Dupré go on imaginary adventures that often wreak havoc in the real world and conspire to undermine their newest babysitter.

Rex, Adam – *Oh No, the Aunts Are Here*

++Rex, Picture Books*

A girl experiences a tumultuous and overwhelming visit from her aunts, but when they finally say good-bye she discovers that the uncles are on their way to visit.

Rex, Adam – *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard (Series)*

+Rex, Fiction

Gumluck, a young, naïve wizard, does his best to help the local townspeople (and a small friendly ghost) with his sometimes critical raven sidekick, Helvetica.

Reynolds, Jason – *There Was a Party for Langston*

++Reynolds, Picture Books*

A celebration of Langston Hughes and African American authors he inspired, told through the lens of the party held at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in 1991.



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Rylant, Cynthia – *Hornbeam All In*

++Rylant, Picture Books

Hornbeam the moose goes on a picnic with his best friend Eureka, sleeps over his friend Cuddy's house, and learns how to swim with Adorabelle.

Selznick, Brian – *Big Tree*

+Selznick, Fiction

Sycamore seed siblings must use their wits and imaginations to navigate a mysterious and often dangerous world, filled with monsters, meteors, and the fear of never finding the right conditions to set down roots and become big trees.

Soontornvat, Christina – *Legends of Lotus Island: The Guardian Test (Series)*

+Soontornvat, Fiction*

Young Plum is shocked to discover that she's been accepted to the Guardian Academy, an elite school where kids learn how to transform into Guardians, magical creatures who are sworn to protect the natural world.

Stone, Rex – *Dinosaur Club: The T. Rex Attack (Series)*

+Stone, Fiction

When Jamie and Tess discover a secret cave that lets them travel back to the time of the dinosaurs, a whole world of adventure awaits them. It's amazing, but dangerous, too! They'll need help from their friends in the Dinosaur Club.

Suárez, Laura – *Monster Support Group: The Werewolf's Tale (Series)*

+Suárez, Graphic Novels

In this hilarious, fast-paced romp through the mind of a teenager with a monstrous secret, we learn that it's ok to be exactly who we are.

Teckentrup, Britta – *The Swing*

++Teckentrup, Picture Books

A swing on a hill overlooking the water is at the center of this lovely meditation on childhood, growing up, and loss.

Whaley, Kayla – *Ron Roy's A to Z Animal Mysteries: The Absent Alpacas (Series)*

+Roy, Fiction*

Abbi is excited to see the alpacas at the Maine State Fair. But there's only one alpaca left! What sent the alpacas packing? Abbi; her dog, Barkley; and her friends Lydia and Daniel are ready to sniff out this mystery!

Zommer, Yuval – *The Big Book of Nature Art*

+785.5 Zom, Non-Fiction

Featuring easy craft projects using natural and recycled materials, this is a fun and eco-friendly way for young children to connect creatively with nature.

