

❖ Preschool - 1st 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.*

Arena, Jen – *Give*

++Arena, Picture Books

A group of kids learn about the act of giving all kinds of things, from scarves to a hug.

Barnett, Mac – *Twenty Questions*

++Barnett, Picture Books*

In this spare yet expansive narrative, twenty questions is both playful and profound. Some make us giggle. Others challenge our assumptions. The result is a quirky, wandering exploration of where the best questions lead—to stories.

Bates, Amy June – *The Welcome Home*

++Bates, Picture Books

When Mr. and Mrs. Gargelson-Bittle decide life is too quiet, they go in search of the perfect pet, but after welcoming a menagerie into their home, they still felt like something is missing, until a puppy shows up at their doorstep.

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.

Bolling, Valerie – *Rainbow Days: The Gray Day (Series)*

++Bolling, Early Readers

Zoya and her puppy Coco love creating art together. Share in their adventures in this fun new series.

Boss, Shira – *The City Tree*

++Boss, Picture Books

A newly planted sidewalk tree in the city transforms the neighborhood as residents nurture it through the seasons.

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 Really 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.

Colagiovanni, Marc – *When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left*

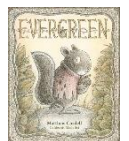
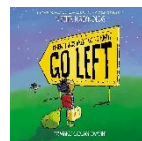
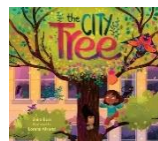
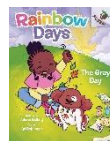
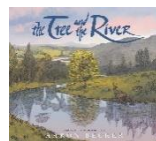
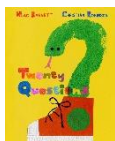
++Colagiovanni, Picture Books

Told through creative language play, and with depth and whimsy, this picture book reminds readers of their own agency and the power they have to direct their own path.

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!



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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.

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.

Fang, Vicky – *Best Buddies: A Pie for Us! (Series)*

++Fang, Early Readers

A new series about two best friends, a dog named Sniff and a cat named Scratch, and their silly adventures at home.

Fang, X. – *Dim Sum Palace*

++Fang, Picture Books

A little girl's love of dim sum spills over into her dreams, taking her on a fantastical food-filled adventure.

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.

Fleming, Candace – *Mine!*

++Fleming, Picture Books

This rhythmic read-aloud about sharing follows a group of forest animals as they vie for the same delicious red apple that is just about to drop.

Fleming, Candace – *Penny & Pip*

++Fleming, Picture Books

A little girl finds a lost dinosaur baby roaming the halls of a museum and is determined to give it a home.

Franceschelli, Christopher – *Bugblock*

++Franceschelli, Board Books

Readers will learn about things that make bugs incredible, from spider crickets that can jump 60 times their own length to Chinese stick insects that can grow to be over two feet long to caterpillars that transform into stunning butterflies.

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.

Giménez de Ory, Beatriz – *Sneak!*

++Giménez de Ory, Board Books

Based on a series of clues, guess which animal is hiding in each of seven camouflage slide-and-see spreads, then turn the page to discover if you are right. Additional camouflage facts included.

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.



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Harrison, Vashti – *Big*

++Harrison, Picture Books*

Praised for acting like a big girl when she is small, as a young girl grows, "big" becomes a word of criticism, until the girl realizes that she is perfect just the way she is.

Hest, Amy – *Sometimes It's Nice to Be Alone*

++Hest, Picture Books

A celebration of the joy and comfort to be found in alone time and the joy and comfort that a friend can bring.

Higgins, Ryan T. – *We Don't Lose Our Class Goldfish*

++Higgins, Picture Books

When Penelope Rex brings home Walter, the class goldfish, for the weekend, she is not sure how to feel, but when Walter goes missing, Penelope searches high and low for her fishy classmate.

Holub, Joan – *Big Stuff: Dozer, Excavator, Mixer & More!*

++Holub, Board Books

This engaging board book connects the dots between people and the technology they create and gives age-appropriate explanations of scientific concepts like homogenous mixtures and power hydraulics!

John, Jory – *Nothing's Wrong: A Hare, a Bear, and Some Pie to Share*

++John, Picture Books

When Anders the hare insists that nothing is wrong, Jeff the bear gets his friend to share what is bothering him by giving him space while still being supportive.

Kerascoët – *Bear with Me*

++Kerascoët, Picture Books

A child's favorite stuffed animal is a member of the family. So when the first day of school arrives and Bear can't come along, the little girl is worried. This reassuring story is an accessible and kid-friendly way to discuss separation anxiety.

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.

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.

Madison, Megan – *Every Body*

++Madison, Board Books; +306.4 Mad, Parent's Shelf

Developed by experts in the fields of early childhood and activism against injustice, this topic-driven book offers clear, concrete language and imagery to introduce the concept of body positivity. Motivational action points included.

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

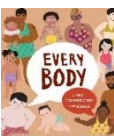
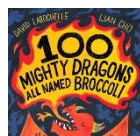
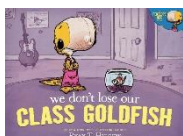
++Rex, Picture Books*

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.



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Romero, Libby – *5-Minute Baby Animal Stories*

+591.3 Nat, Non-Fiction

You'll love these heartwarming true stories about some of the most adorable little critters on the planet. Read inspiring baby animal rescue stories, including the tale of how National Geographic Explorer Jamal Galves saved a manatee.

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.

Saeed, Aisha – *The Together Tree*

++Saeed, Picture Books

Rumi's family has moved to a new town and he is feeling lonely and left out at school because one of the other kids, Asher, is a bully—until Sebastian joins him, drawing in the dirt under the old willow tree.

Salmon, Caspar – *How to Count to One*

++Salmon, Picture Books

A wholly original counting book that will have little ones gleefully defying the narrator's instructions. Delightful, deceptively simple, collagelike illustrations show mastery of color and clever composition.

Sidman, Joyce – *We Are Branches*

++Sidman, Picture Books

Whether as electricity moving across the sky or rivers flowing to the sea, branches are nature's most efficient way to spread and to connect. They are even found inside our own bodies, helping us reach and grow with each heartbeat.

Sima, Jessie – *Weather Together*

++Sima, Picture Books

Nimbus the pegasus wonders why she cannot be sunny all the time like everyone else, but when she introduces her friend Kelp to her cloud, she finds the unicorn is a very good listener.

Subisak, Tracy – *Sorry, Snail*

++Subisak, Picture Books

A girl takes out her anger on an innocent snail, who, in turn, seeks a sincere apology.

Tabor, Corey R. – *Simon and the Better Bone*

++Tabor, Picture Books

One day, down by the pond, Simon meets another dog just like him. And that dog has a bone just like his, only better! How will Simon ever get him to trade, when the other pup knows all the same tricks? A clever tale of generosity.

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.

Wechterowicz, Przemyslaw – *When Little Owl Met Little Rabbit*

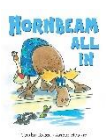
++Wechterowicz, Picture Books

Little Owl and Little Rabbit live in the same oak tree, but they've never met. How can the two animals become friends when Little Owl wakes up just as Little Rabbit goes to sleep? A heart-warming story about celebrating differences.

Yolen, Jane – *What to Do with a Stick*

++Yolen, Picture Books

Illustrations and rhyming text celebrate the remarkable joys of a stick that can anchor a daydream, fend off monsters, and even make music.



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