

Fiction

Alston, Bria. "Claudie Finds Her Talent" 2024

Travel back to the Roaring '20s with American Girl Claudie, as she explores the Harlem Renaissance looking for her talent. As usual, the American Girl series presents history in an easily digestible and fun way that children enjoy; a balanced blend of education and entertainment.

READER ALSTON

Álvarez, David. "Ancient Night" 2023

At the start of things, the elders say, the universe was hushed and still. The moon alone shone bright and round in the star-speckled dark of the sky. Thus, begins this beautifully illustrated twist on two Nahuatl traditions.

E ÁLVAREZ

Bauer, Marion Dane. "We, the Curious Ones" 2023

Marion Dane Bauer's glowing poetry combines with Hari and Deepti's intricate cut-paper illustrations, dazzling with light and shadow, to celebrate an active, vital, changing, and growing universe. They also show how we humans — the curious ones, the storytellers — are active, vital, changing, and growing, too.

E BAUER

Berger, Carin. "In the Night Garden" 2023

A gentle, collage-illustrated bedtime read about the often mysterious and always beautiful experiences to be found in nighttime spaces.

E BERGER

Cecil, Randy. "The Spaceman" 2024

A tiny spaceman arrives on a new planet, ready to perform his monotonous tasks — collecting samples, labeling and filing them, and moving on. But when a large bird makes off with his ship, he's forced to venture out into this new world — planet Earth — on foot. With surprises on each lively spread, this delightfully droll story reminds us to look up from our mundane lives and embrace discovery.

E CECIL

DiCamillo, Kate. "The Puppets of Spelhorst" 2023

Five puppets pass through the lives of one adult after another, hoping to find their story — which comes when a child writes a play for them to star in. An early chapter book exploring the wonders of the world, the importance of following a dreams, and the power of storytelling.

J FIC DICAMILLO

DiCamillo, Kate. "Orris and Timble: The Beginning" 2024

This heavily illustrated novel about friendship is full of humor and heart. A great book for those transitioning into chapter books.

J FIC DICAMILLO

Doerrfeld, Cori. "Beneath" 2023

A deep and thoughtful exploration of what is going on "beneath" the surface. Beautiful cross-section illustrations pair perfectly with the thoughtful philosophical message.

E DOERRFELD

Engelthaler, Lesa. "Joan of Art" 2024

A colorful and charming story of self-esteem, bravery, and creativity for young aspiring artists.

E ENGELTHALER

Fenske, Jonathan. "A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark Walk into a Book" 2023

What's a narrator of the BEST BOOK EVER to do when the titular characters of their meta picture book get a little belligerent? Self-insert themselves into the story ... and hope they don't get eaten? Told exclusively through word balloons, this vibrant and frenetic story is sure to please.

E FENSKE

Freedman, Deborah. "Partly Cloudy" 2024

A story of two adorable bunnies that combines the educational with the whimsical as it teaches children about the different kinds of clouds, and the water cycle.

E FREEDMAN

Hopkinson, Deborah. "Trim Sets Sail" 2023

The first installation of this delightful early reader series introduces the scrappy, mischievous Trim, a kitten who finds himself aboard a ship about to set sail. Based on the true story of Trim, often called the most famous ship's cat in history, "Trim Sets Sail" is perfect for readers who love cats, history, or an adventure at sea.

J FIC HOPKINSON

Harmon, Miranda. "Market Day" 2024

Reminiscent of Bluey's "Markets" episode, this book features anthropomorphic animals at a farmers' market, and three little kittens on a quest to buy their mother a gift. Part of the "I Like to Read Comics" series, this graphic novel is great for intermediate readers who are unafraid of new vocabulary words like "delicate" and "enchanted."

J GN HARMON

Hartman, Brooke. "All Aboard the Alaska Train" 2024

This book is sure to delight budding train enthusiasts, animal lovers, and nature buffs. Colorful illustrations introduce readers to the wild and wonderful animals of Alaska and the landscapes they inhabit. With moose, grizzlies, and caribou set against steep cliffs, fir groves, and mountains so big they can barely be contained on the page, this ode to the last frontier will engage and delight.

**Side effects of reading this may include a newfound desire to travel to Alaska.*

E HARTMAN

Jarvis. "Bird and Bear: The Stars and Other Stories" 2023

Four stories invite readers into the cozy world of "bestest" buddies Bear and Bird as they bicker and bond through their adventures in the woods. Charming, imaginative and funny, these tales of friendship set against a background of soft, whimsical illustrations are sure to engage and entertain.

READER JARVIS

Kim, Dan-ah. "The Train Home" 2023

Nari dreams of traveling away from her small, crowded apartment – and a passing train provides the inspiration for a sweeping journey through her imagination. Paired with gorgeous, sweeping illustrations, this book takes the reader to fantastical new worlds, and reassures us that we can always come home.

E KIM

Klassen, Jon. "The Skull" 2023

Jon Klassen's distinct illustration style and humor lend themselves perfectly to this haunting folktale.

J FIC KLASSEN

Knudsen, Michelle. "Luigi, the Spider Who Wanted to Be a Kitten" 2024

Do you like kittens? How about spiders? If you answered "Yes" to the first question but "No" to the second, Luigi may just change your mind. Funny, fuzzy, and adorable, our eight-legged friend finds himself trying to keep up a facade to convince his new owner that he is a kitten. This sweet, silly story balances humor and cuteness with a message of unconditional acceptance.

E KNUDSEN

LaRochelle, David. "See the Ghost: Three Stories About Things You Cannot See" 2023

What do a ghost, the wind, and a fairy all have in common? All of them have funny stories in this book. Told with a clever and witty combination of traditional text and graphic novel style word balloons, these silly stories are perfect for reluctant readers ready to giggle.

READER LAROCHEL

McDonald, Megan. "Bunny and Clyde" 2024

Lightly illustrated with large print, this early level chapter book is a playful rump of mischief and mayhem. Great for readers who like "Despicable Me" but aren't quite ready to read "The Bad Guys" yet.

J FIC MCDONALD

Otheguy, Emma. "Reina Ramos: Tour Guide" 2024

School Library Journal called this book an easy reader with a simple plot, packed with all things adorable. Reina Ramos fills a need for representation and brings a metaphorical sliding glass door. This story comes with a glossary translating Spanish terms into English

READER OTHEGUY

Penfold, Alexandra. "All Are Welcome: Welcome Back" 2023

Filled with the same messages of inclusion and iconic artwork of the original, "Welcome Back" presents the same characters as they return from summer vacation, with a mix of simple sentence structure, but slightly challenging words perfect for readers transitioning out of those earliest reader books.

READER PENFOLD

Rex Adam. "Oh No, the Aunts Are Here" 2023

They've traveled on planes, in taxis, and across state lines. And now they're here at the doorstep, a cheesy gift in one hand, the other poised for a pinch on the cheek. One girl's all-too-recognizable Experience — a visit from a troupe of overwhelming and overly enthusiastic relations — escalates to new heights of chaos, absurdity, and delight in a laugh-out-loud take on family reunions.

E REX

Rylant, Cynthia. "Hornbeam All In" 2023

Meet Hornbeam, a charismatic moose who loves puzzles, potato salad, and his friends. An early reader with a big heart, this series opener follows our antlered hero through three funny and relatable adventures that show we can all get by with a little help from our friends.

E RYLANT

Venable, Colleen A. F. & Colleen, Marcie. "Kitten Ninja." 2024

In this spin-off prequel to the enormously popular Epic Original Cat Ninja series, our feline hero takes on everything a kitten-size ninja must battle on the way to his heroic destiny: a sun spot that won't stay put, an irresistible ball of yarn, and every cat's archenemy — snow!

J GN VENABLE

Yolen, Jane. "Interrupting Cow Meets the Wise Quacker"

Interrupting Cow meets a new friend who knows more jokes than anyone on the farm. Interrupting, Cow can't believe her luck to have met a duck who loves to laugh as much as she does. But will he like her favorite joke?

READER YOLEN

Nonfiction

Betts, Bruce. "Casting Shadows: Solar and Lunar Eclipses with The Planetary Society" 2024

Solar and lunar eclipses are sights to behold. But you don't see them every day. Learn about the different kinds of eclipses. Then discover when they happen, how to watch them, and the cool things that can happen during an eclipse.

J 523.99 BETTS

Bjazevich, Wendy. "Sleep: A Kid's Guide to the Science of Slumber" 2024

Sleep science is presented in a colorful, busy, lineless infographic style. Everything a child could want to know about sleep succinctly consolidated into 32 pages.

J 612.821 BJAZEVICH

Flouw, Benjamin. "Incredible: Stars of the Plant World" 2024

This oversized book is busting with facts about some of the biggest specimens in the plant kingdom. Replete with scale artwork and fun facts for "budding" botanists.

J 580 FLOUW

Forster, Miriam. "Bugs: A Skittery, Jittery History" 2024

An infographic heavy guide is "crawling" with information about classification, historical timelines, "Did You Know?" facts, and a Bug Hall of Fame. This epic survey follows bugs and their cousins from their earliest appearance in the Paleozoic era up through today.

J 595.7 FORSTER

Gargulakova, Magda. "Numbers, Numbers Everywhere" 2023

This book is a great response to a child's question "Why do I need to learn this?" It uses basic, straightforward, and practical examples to introduce how numbers are used in our daily lives.

J 513 GARGULAKOVA

Gianferrari, Maria. "Fungi Grow" 2023

You may know about plants and animals, but how much do you know about fungi? From Mycelium, to spores, to fruiting bodies, this book has all the information to introduce fungi to interested young naturalists.

J 579.5 GIANFERRARI

Jenkins, Steve. "Why Do Elephants Have Big Ears?: Questions — and Surprising Answers — About Animals" 2023

Do you have questions about animals? This book is full of answers, and breathtaking watercolor-collage art. In addition to answering queries, the book has a section with additional information about these curious animals. Did you know the aye-aye is found only on the island of Madagascar?

J 590 JENKINS

Katz, Susan. "Push and Pull: A Sesame Street Science Book" 2023

Part of the "Sesame Street World of Science" series, this book teaches basic physics concepts of force accompanied by pictures of kids demonstrating practical examples, then reinforces them with repetition from the colorful cast of characters they love.

J 531.6 KATZ

Kerley, Barbara. "Footsteps on the Map" 2023

"Perfect for preschoolers and early elementary kids just learning about maps, the book also includes basic information needed to read maps, such as symbols and a map key. Filled with beautifully illustrated, child-centered maps, "Footsteps on the Map" will inspire junior cartographers to map their own world and tell their own stories."

J 526 KERLEY

Kurtz, Jane. "The Bone Wars: The True Story of an Epic Battle to Find Dinosaur Fossils" 2023

Best experienced as a picture book read to children by adults, this story will draw children in with the tale of two paleontologist who went from best friends to bitter rivals as they competed to name as many new species of dinosaurs as they can.

J 560.9227 KURTZ

Lavelle, Kari. "Butt or Face? Volume 2: Revenge of the Butts" 2024

What better way to learn about animals than through butt-based humor. Explore the animal kingdom with one-two punches of close-up photography and fascinating information presented as either "beyond the backside" or "face the facts." Volume 1 is also available.

J 571.31 LAVELLE

Montgomery, Heather L. "Sick! The Twists and Turns Behind Animal Germs" 2024

Described as neither textbook nor encyclopedia, but "science in action," this book describes how we get sick, and some of the ways animals have adapted to avoid or get over illnesses faster. Full of gross information for inquisitive minds and aspiring young scientists.

J 591.5 MON

Neri, Greg. "My Antarctica: True Adventures in the Land of Mummified Seals, Space Robots, and So Much More" 2024

This adventure into the fantastical, foreboding, frozen desert of Antarctica is sure to engage aspiring travelers with its scrapbook-like collage of photos, illustrations and dialog bubbles. Sure to cool readers down on a hot day.

J 919.89 NERI

Pang, Hannah. "Habitats: A Journey in Nature" 2024

Nature is like a magical journey that transforms with every step. Peel back the pages to discover a world of ever-changing animal habitats. Interactive split pages create an immersive experience as readers take a visual journey through each unique home and meet the incredible animals that live there. With simple facts and stunning, collaged artwork, this is the perfect book for nature lovers of all ages.

J 577 PANG