

The 2011–2012

BUILDING  READERS

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

A Pig Parade Is a Terrible Idea by Michael Ian Black (Simon & Schuster). Have you ever seen a pig parade? No? Well, perhaps that’s because it’s a terrible idea. Find out why in this goofy story about pigs’ likes (country music, mud puddles) and dislikes (uniforms, marching band music).

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Christian Stead (Roaring Brook Press). Zookeeper Amos McGee always makes time for his five favorite animals. But when Amos doesn’t make it to work, the animals decide to visit him. Charming illustrations make it easy to see why this book received the Caldecott Medal.

Animal House by Candace Ryan (Walker Books). Jeremy’s family lives in a “gorvilla”—a gorilla house—with a “snailbox” (snail mailbox) out front. Kids hungry for humor will enjoy the word-play—and perhaps long for their own “vulchairs” to eat their homework!

Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan (Viking). Rubina has been invited to her first American birthday party! And her mother is making her bring her baby sister, Sana. Rubina is utterly embarrassed as Sana acts up. But when Sana gets her own party invitation, what will Rubina do?

Here Comes the Garbage Barge! by Jonah Winter (Schwartz & Wade Books). Cap’m Duffy has a barge filled with 3,168 tons of trash—and nowhere to take it. After Islip, NY, refuses delivery, the barge sails up and down the Atlantic

trying to find a harbor. A humorous take on a true story that helped usher in the recycling era.

Guinea Pigs Add Up by Margery Cuyler (Walker & Company). Mr. Gilbert’s students think the class pet looks lonely and needs a friend. What *were* two guinea pigs are now five and then ... guinea pigs are taking over the classroom! What will Mr. Gilbert do to get his classroom back? This is a cute story that incorporates math into storytime.

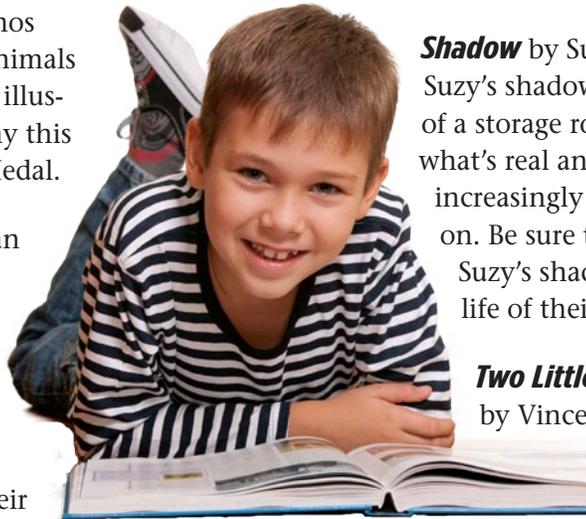
Shadow by Suzy Lee (Chronicle Books). Suzy’s shadows come to life in the light of a storage room. The line between what’s real and imagined becomes increasingly blurred as the story goes on. Be sure to explore the images of Suzy’s shadows carefully—they have a life of their own!

Two Little Boys from Toolittle Toys by Vincent X. Kirsch (Bloomsbury). Fans of *Natalie and Naughtily* will remember Rudy and Ridley

Toolittle. Rudy and Ridley

spend their weekends playing with every toy at the Toolittle Toy Company. But what happens when Rudy decides he’s “too old” to play? Watercolor illustrations bring the story to life. And don’t miss the “catalog” at the back of the book!

When I Grow Up by Al Yankovic (HarperCollins). Today’s show-and-tell theme is “What I want to be when I grow up”—and eight-year-old Billy has given a lot of thought to what he wants to be! A chef, a gorilla masseur, a pickle inspector ... Billy goes on and on while his teacher tries to call “time.” What will his final selection be?



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A Good Horse by Jane Smiley (Random House Children's Books). Almost-thirteen-year-old Abby loves her life on her family's horse ranch. Even chores aren't that bad when you get to work with two great horses: young Jack and the jumper Black George. But what will Abby do when Black George begins to turn buyers' heads and her family is accused of stealing Jack?

Another Whole Nother Story by Dr. Cuthbert Soup (Bloomsbury Books for Young Readers). The Cheeseman family is back for another rollicking adventure. Now that their super-secret time machine is in working order, time travel should be smooth sailing ... right? Not when you forget to consider Murphy's Law: Everything that can go wrong will!

Guinea Dog by Patrick Jennings (EgmontUSA). All fifth-grader Rufus wants is a dog. But his dad says no, and Rufus has to settle for a guinea pig. To his surprise, the guinea pig (now named Fido) fetches, obeys commands and even chews on his dad's shoes. All Rufus knows is that he can't return Fido, as the pet store has vanished!

Kid vs. Squid by Greg van Eekhout (Bloomsbury). Summer vacation: awesome, right? Not if you're eleven-year-old Thatcher, who has to spend his summer working at his weird great-uncle's even stranger museum. But things take a turn for the interesting when a mysterious girl shows up to "borrow" one of the exhibits.

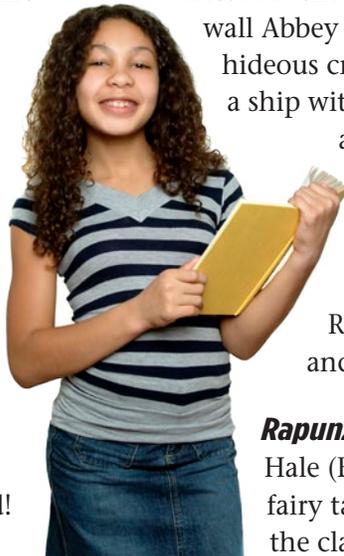
Molly Moon & the Morphing Mystery by Georgia Byng (HarperCollins). Molly Moon is back for another adventure—and this time, she's added morphing to her impressive list of extraordinary talents. She can change from a human being to an animal and back again ... well, usually. Currently she's stuck. Now she needs to find a special book in order to return to her own body *and* save the world in the meantime.

The Luck of the Buttons by Anne Ylvisaker (Candlewick). Twelve-year-old Tugs Esther Buttons had the bad luck to be born into a luckless family. None of the Buttons have ever been well-known or famous—unless you count the time Great-Granddaddy Ike was in the town newspaper for accidentally setting the Town Hall on fire. But when Tugs wins a camera in a raffle and finds herself in the middle of a mystery, she just might realize that luck is what you make of it.

The Rogue Crew by Brian Jacques (Philomel). The latest adventure in this beloved series finds Redwall Abbey under attack from the most evil and hideous creature yet: Razzid Wearat, captain of a ship with wheels that can travel both land and sea. He's mowing down everything (and everyone) in his path on his way to Redwall. Will the creatures of Redwall, the hares of the Long Patrol and the otters of the Rogue Crew be able to stop Wearat and save Mossflower Country?

Rapunzel's Revenge by Shannon and Dean Hale (Bloomsbury). Rapunzel's life is no fairy tale in this graphic novel version of the classic. The woman she thought was her mother, the evil queen, has trapped her in a tower. She manages to escape and vows to bring an end to the queen's cruel rule, while looking for her birth mother. Another fairy-tale favorite—Jack (yes, from that beanstalk)—is also along for the ride.

Umbrella Summer by Lisa Graff (HarperCollins). Annie is a worrier, and with good reason. After all, if you're not careful, you could end up in a bicycle accident, or with food poisoning, or be run down by escaped zoo animals—Annie's list goes on and on. She used to be carefree, but after her older brother died unexpectedly, Annie thought it made more sense to be cautious. With the help of a new neighbor, Annie may remember how to enjoy life without worrying.



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