

Book Recommendations K-2

When Andy Met Sandy by Tomie dePaola

Perfect for emerging readers. Just out in paperback, this new series about friendship introduces us to Andy who is small and quiet and Sandy who is tall and loud.

Louise Loves Bake Sales by Kelly Light

A lovely read for early readers. Louise loves all kinds of art, but can she and her brother make messy cupcakes into art in time for the bake sale?

The Moonlight Meeting and **The Slithery Shakedown (The Nocturnals series)** by Tracy Hecht Adventure-filled early readers with lots of fun facts at the end. Discover the Nocturnals, a marsupial, pangolin and fox, who become friends.

The Not-So-Itty-Bitty Spider (Olive & Beatrix #1) by Amy Stadelmann

The first in a new series about siblings, friends and working together. Olive and Beatrix are twins. Olive loves science and Beatrix loves magic and they accidentally create giant spiders!

Zig and Wikki in Something Ate My Homework! by Nadja Spiegelman and Trade Loeffler

Bright and breezy graphic tale of two aliens looking for a pet on earth. Science facts cleverly woven into the fun.

The Haunted House Next Door (Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol #1) by Andres Miedoso

Spooky fun in which two very different eight-year-olds catch ghosts. Desmond Cole is fearlessly always looking for ghosts and monsters, while his new best friend is afraid of everything.

A New Arrival (Sprout Street Neighbors #2) by Anna Alter

A warm lovely read. Mili has just moved into an apartment on Sprout Street and soon becomes friends with, and a part of, the Sprout Street family.

The New Kid (The Alien Next Door #1) by A.I. Newton

An entertaining read. Zeke's friend Harris is the only one who suspects that new-kid Zeke might be from another planet.

Daisy Dreamer and the Totally New Imaginary Friend #1 by Holly Anna

Ideal for imaginative early readers. Daisy Dreamer has her head in the clouds! When one of her drawings moves, she discovers an imaginary friend, Posey, and writes his story.

Science No Fair! (Project Droid #1) by Nancy Krulik & Amanda Burwasser

Amusing read. When Logan's inventor mom builds him a robot cousin, he is very excited. Java is smart but doesn't seem to understand *anything*.

Me...Jane by Patrick McDonnell

A biography about Jane Goodall for the very young. Jane dreams of "a life living with and helping all animals". Then, one day, her dream comes true!

Who Says Women Can't be Doctors? by Tanya Lee Stone

Inspire your young scientist with this wonderful picture book about Elizabeth Blackwell, the first female doctor.

Baby Monkey, Private Eye by Brian Selznick & David Serlin

This is a great introduction to the work of Brian Selznick. Baby Monkey's adventures come to life in an exciting blend of picture book, beginning reader and graphic novel.

Princess Cora and the Crocodile by Laura Amy Schlitz

A great read aloud and all around fun book from a Newbery-winning author. Princess Cora's parents are so intent in preparing her to rule the kingdom that she has no time to play.

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Ugly Cat and Pablo by Isabel Quintero

The first of a series, this story is sprinkled with Spanish phrases and good humor. Pablo, an adventurous mouse, and his best friend, Ugly Cat, love excitement and FOOD!!

Princess Pulverizer by Nancy Krulik

Quirky, with good life lessons. Princess Serena wants to be a knight because they have all the fun! But she can't go to Knight School unless she proves she can behave like one.

Like Bug Juice on a Burger by Julie Sternberg

Realistic fiction about learning to cope with new experiences. Eleanor is following a beloved family tradition and heading off to summer camp, but she hates it. How will she survive?

Animal Inn: A Furry Fiasco by Paul D. Jacobs & Jennifer Swender

First in a rollicking new series! The Animal Inn, a pet resort/hotel/center/spa that already houses dogs, cats, birds, an otter, a llama and more, learns that a dragon is coming to stay!

Rookie of the Year by Phil Bildner

Memorable characters and fast-moving antics. Fifth graders and best friends, Rip and Red, live for basketball. When a new girl arrives, they're startled by her wit and basketball game!

Ada Lace on the Case by Emily Calandrelli

Good mystery with a science bent. Bedridden Ada keeps a scientific field guide of notes and drawings about her new neighborhood and Nina is the partner she needs to investigate!

Louie Lets Loose by Rachel Hamilton

Louie, the star-struck unicorn is endearing with his kind, optimistic and caring personality! He moves to New York to get into the School of Performing Arts and makes friends--and an enemy.

Dotty Detective by Clara Vulliamy

A clever feisty protagonist shines in this diary form novel with low density text. Dot loves running, working out puzzles and solving mysteries, like the sabotage of the school show.

Chicken Squad series: Dark Shadows by Doreen Cronin

Clever and funny series featuring four chickens solving "crimes" that only get worse when they get involved. This is their darkest mystery: how to tackle mysterious shadows.

Hazy Bloom and Tomorrow Power by Jennifer Hamburg

Funny magical realism. Hazy Bloom is a third grader who gets visual images that predict something that will take place by the next day. The images don't always help!

Slug Days by Sara Leach

Highly recommended. An inviting and effective story about fitting in. Lauren's Autism Spectrum Disorder means she can misread social signals and doesn't always react as people expect.

Dragon Masters: Rise of the Earth Dragon by Tracey West

Great fantasy series with easy-to-read text and fast-moving plots for newly independent readers. Drake is chosen by the King to be a dragon master. But his dragon "Worm" lacks talent!

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

Short chapters filled with humor, sensitivity and realistic family dynamics. Bat is a clever kid on the autism spectrum who wants to keep a rescued skunk kit as a pet

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar (more advanced)

A sweet, moving story in which Carol learns the secrets of her family, the richness of her culture and the connection she has to the grandmother she never knew.

Ben Franklin's in my Bathroom (History Pals) by Candace Fleming

Told with humor and lots of historical information, this is the quirky tale of Ben Franklin time-traveling to the 21st century and discovering amazing advancements in American culture.

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

The award winning author takes on immigration with humor and empathy. When a Muslim family moves into town, someone scratches: LEAVE into their oak tree. Told by the tree!

Why, Fly Guy? By Todd Arnold

Terrific fun read as Buzz and Fly guy ask questions that matter, like, why do my feet smell?

Road to Ever After by Moira Young

Beautifully written; a future classic. Miss Flint (suspected to be a witch) and young Davy couldn't be more different, but through a series of amusing and fantastic episodes they become friends.

Just like Jackie by Lindsey Stoddard (more advanced)

This book brings to light what family really means. Robbie lives with her grandfather, her only relative, and when his memory starts to fail she worries they will be separated.

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As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds

What does being brave really mean? When Genie spends the summer in the country with his grandparents, he learns a secret about his grandfather and what it means to be brave.

All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

Heartwarming graphic novel about fitting in. Impy loves her family and Renaissance Faires but when she starts middle school, she discovers that not everyone thinks this is cool.

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

Spies, soldiers and scientists. The exciting history behind the race to make the atomic bomb.

The Courage Test by James Preller

A great combination of American history, thrilling action, and personal discovery. A father and son journey along the Lewis and Clark Trail, braving cliffs, rapids and bears.

Greenglass House by Kate Milford

Mysteries abound at Greenglass House, a smuggler's inn, and Milo, the innkeeper's adopted son, and Meddy, the cook's daughter, set out to solve them.

When Lunch Fights Back by Rebecca L. Johnson

Gross and engrossing. Fascinating fun about amazing animal self-defence mechanisms.

The Inquisitor's Tale by Alan Gidwitz

Exciting and fantastical story of three children and a loyal dog, recently raised from the dead, who join forces on a chase through medieval France to escape persecution.

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary School by Laura Shoven

A story told in verse about finding your voice and being heard. The graduating fifth grade class of Emerson Elementary wants to save their school from being torn down.

A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Gerta and her family have been split up in the division of Berlin, into Western and Communist sides. Gerta wants to reunite her family, but to change sides could mean death.

Lost Property Office by James R. Hannibal

Thrilling adventure, with mysteries, secret codes, and a touch of magic. Jack learns that his missing father is a clandestine government detective and that he is destined to be one too.

Restart by Gordon Korman

Full of humor and heart. When Chase loses his memory, he learns who he was through the reactions of the other kids in school-- and he doesn't like it. Can he restart his life?

Save Me a Seat by Sarah Weeks

Authentic novel about unlikely friendships and taking control. Super smart Ravi and struggling Joe are brought together by a common enemy, the class bully.

See You in the Cosmos by Jack Cheng

Funny and moving. Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski and his over-sensitive dog, Carl Sagan, set out on a road trip, recording it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.

Timeless by Armand Baltazar

Fantasy adventure with stunning artwork. In a world where past, present, and future have collided, Diego must rescue his father from evil renegades who threaten their existence.

Well, That Was Awkward by Rachel Vail

Captures the social awkwardness of middle school. Gracie and Emmett try to help their shy friends, Sienna and A. J. by writing texts on their behalf.

Guts & Glory series by Ben Thompson

Kid-recommended non-fiction reads for history buffs! Vikings, World War II, Civil War and more!

The Wild Robot Escapes by Peter Brown

Nature and technology collide! Sequel to Wild Robot, which is now in paperback. Can Roz survive the challenges of the civilized world and find her way home to the island?

Hello Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

The Newbery Medal 2018 winner is a thoughtful tale about sensitive kids. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands one of them at the bottom of a well.

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

This summer's *One Book One Denver* is the funny and inspiring story of a girl with no arms and a boy who can't control his speech who join to solve a mystery at a Wild West theme park.

Refugee by Alan Gratz

Timely, action-packed book about survival, and finding home. The interconnecting stories of three refugees, one from 1930s Nazi Germany; one from 1994 Cuba; and one from Syria in 2015.

Beyond the Bright Sea by Lauren Wolk

Moving and sensitive story about the meaning of family. A twelve-year-old orphan, who was set adrift on the ocean as a newborn, embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.

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Insignia and its sequels, **Catalyst and Vortex** by S. J. Kincaid

Perfect reads for those who enjoyed Ender's Game but want something a little more grown-up. The planet's natural resources are almost gone and it's losing the war to control the assets of the solar system. But fourteen-year-old Tom Raines has a unique skill that could win the war.

Airborn and sequel, **Skybreaker** by Kenneth Oppel

A Printz award winner from 2005, this is not a new book, but it's one that should be more widely read. Matt is a cabin boy on a huge airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean, ferrying wealthy passengers from city to city. One night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies. It is only after Matt meets the balloonist's granddaughter that he realizes that the man's ravings may have been true.

The Alex Crow by Andrew Smith

Fascinating tale, centring around Ariel, a young refugee, sole survivor of the destruction of his Middle Eastern village, who now lives in the US with an adoptive family. Ariel's experience at summer camp is blended with the stories of other narrators from different places and times.

The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean

Young reader version of the best-selling book about the creation of the periodic table of elements. Adventure, greed, betrayal, obsession, mad scientists--and weird facts!

The Dire King by William Ritter

Fourth in the Jackaby series about a 19th century detective who solves mysteries both in our world and a fantasy one. An evil king is turning ancient tensions into modern strife, using a blend of magic and technology to push the earth and the otherworld into a mortal competition.

The Forgetting by Sharon Cameron

Fascinating fantasy about a world where, every 12 years, everyone forgets everything in a day of bloody chaos--and then has to start life anew. Other than one girl, who remembers everything. The sequel, **The Knowing**, is out in hardcover.

Ball Don't Lie by Matt de la Pena

An oldie but goodie about pro basketball wannabes. Sticky, a troubled and prickly foster kid, thinks basketball might be his escape. He's good, but is he good enough?

Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt

Streetwise Nicki is planted in a family in Witness Protection in an attempt to mislead the criminals who are hunting them. Nicki has to balance hitmen and school grades, but as she grows to like her family, she learns that her own secrets could expose them all.

Landscape With Invisible Hand by M. T. Anderson

In a futuristic setting, aliens who at first seemed helpful, have conquered and streamlined life so much that no one has a job or food. One lone artist tries to portray the truth- will he succeed?

Hardscrabble by Sandra Dallas

Excellent historical fiction about a struggling family homesteading in Mingo, Colorado in 1910.