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**Suggested Books for Talented Readers**

This list was compiled by teachers in the Talent Development Department. I have added the “classics”. Classics are great because they have high reading levels, but the content is usually appropriate for many age groups. The popular literature is arranged by grade level based on interest and book level. Be careful, a lower book level does not always mean the content is appropriate for younger students. Every child is different, and I have not read every book on this list. To decide if a book is right for your child, consider reading it first. Happy reading and have a great summer! ~ Mrs. Kollar

\*- Denotes mature content.

☺- One of Mrs. Kollar’s favorites.

**Classics**

* *Charlotte’s Web*  ☺ by E.B. White. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 680. A yound girl attempts to save the life of Wilbur, the pig on farm. An unlikely friendship forms between Wilbur and a spider named Charlotte. A heart-warming classic.
* *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner. AR: 3.9, Lexile: 490. Series. Four resourceful, independent orphans find inventive ways to stick together through all kinds of exciting mysteries and adventures, including living in a boxcar!
* *Wind in the Willows (Unabridged)* by Kenneth Grahame. AR: 6.1, Lexile: 1140. Four friends — Toad, Mole, Rat, and Badger — are always having exciting adventures. While each has their own distinctive personality — Mole is cautious, Rat is sweet, Toad is a braggart, and Badger can't stand society — their friendship is only enhanced by their differences.
* *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. AR: 4.9, Lexile: 940. This is the first installment of C.S. Lewis' renowned series, "The Chronicles of Narnia." *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, firstpublished in 1950, has been enchanting the hearts and imaginations of millions for generations, with its story of four siblings who, with the help of a Lion named Aslan, must overcome their own failings to become heroes of a better world.
* *The Devil’s Arithmetic\** by Jane Yolen. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 730. Hannah is tired of hearing about the Nazis during the Holocaust, but when she opens the door for Elijah at the Passover Seder, she is transported in time to 1940s Poland, where she is captured and put in a death camp. A girl named Rivka befriends her, teaching her how to fight the dehumanization of the camp and hold onto her identity.
* *The Hobbit (Unabridged)* by J.R.R. Tolkien. AR: 6.6, Lexile: 1000. Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure.
* *Anne of Green Gables* ☺ by L.M. Montgomery. AR: 5.9, Lexile: 990. Series. In the first volume of L.M. Montgomery's classic series, a skinny, precocious, red-headed orphan named Anne Shirley arrives on Prince Edward Island in Canada where she is to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert on their farm, Green Gables.
* *The Phantom Tollbooth* ☺ by Norton Juster. AR: 6.7, Lexile: 1000. This quirky fantasy story reveals how a restless and precocious ten-year-old boy learns to appreciate the ordinary things in life after he embarks on a wondrous journey.
* *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pene DuBois. AR: 6.8, Lexile: 1070. When Professor Sherman sets sail in a giant balloon, determined to circumnavigate the globe, his adventure takes a wild turn in a crash-landing on a notorious, volcanic island!
* *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*  ☺ by E.L. Konigsburg. AR: 4.7, Lexile: 700. Bored with her life, twelve-year-old Claudia Kincaid is ready for a big change. In fact, she wants to run away from home. Instead of running from somewhere, she decides to run *to* somewhere — some place comfortable, and preferably beautiful. Where else, but the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City? But she and Jamie's vacation from their "real" life turns into an adventure when Angel, a sculpture rumored to have been carved by Michelangelo, arrives. Will they solve a mystery that even the experts can't solve?
* *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. AR: 8.3, Lexile: 1100. Billy Bones' old map shows a small island with a red cross marking a dead pirate's buried treasure. Young Jim Hawkins knows that a fortune in gold lies waiting for him. Aboard the *Hispaniola* with his friends Dr. Livesey and Squire Trelawney, Jim sails toward Treasure Island.
* *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. AR: 6.5, Lexile: 1080. Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic — a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit.
* *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. AR: 8.0, Lexile: 1120. Buck, a dog that has been forced into the harsh life of a sled dog, befriends a man seeking his fortune in the Klondike gold fields, and must ultimately decide whether to stay with his master or obey his instinct to join the wolves
* *Little Women (Unabridged)* ☺ by Louisa May Alcott. AR: 7.9, Lexile: 1300. Growing up in New England during the Civil War, the March sisters share everything — their joys and troubles, their loves and secrets. But the four girls couldn't be more different. Meg, the oldest, is the well-mannered beauty. Jo is a tomboy and a writer. Beth is the shy, dreamy one, and Amy is pretty and artistic.

**5th graders**

* *Bartimaeus : Amulet of Samarkand* by Jonathan Stroud. AR: 5.9, Lexile: 800. Series. A rising young magician becomes caught in a web of magical espionage, murder and rebellion with the help of a dginni named Bartimaeus.
* *Boy in the Striped Pajamas\** by John Boyne. AR: 5.8, Lexile: 1080. This book portrays Nazi Germany from the point of view of two small boys, one a prisoner, the other the son of the commandant of the prisoner camp. Suggested for more mature students who have a prior knowledge of the Holocaust.
* *The Boy on the Porch* by Sharon Creech. AR: N/A, Lexile: N/A. When a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch, their lives take a surprising turn. Unable to speak, the boy Jacob can't explain his history. All John and Marta know is that they have been chosen to care for him. And, as their connection and friendship with Jacob grow, they embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. The three of them blossom into an unlikely family and begin to see the world in brand-new ways.
* *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 800. Series. A wonderful documentary novel filled with photographs and memorabilia from the mid-60’s. This is a powerful picture of the two weeks known as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the nuclear fear that existed during the Cold War during the 1960’s. Students in this grade may have better background knowledge of the history to comprehend this novel.
* *The Shadow Project* by Herbie Brennan. AR: 5.2, Lexile: 730. Series. Danny Lipman is a young thief who stumbles upon an operation he doesn’t immediately understand. He soon learns the project is a joint MI6/CIA venture that makes use of teen operatives as spies. Danny is brought in to rescue Opal, the director’s daughter. Full of action and suspense.
* *Evil Genius* by Catherine Jinks. AR: 4.9, Lexile: 720. Series. A child prodigy who is being trained to be a master criminal. This is an entertaining and nature series that has several themes represented that make it a read for fifth grade and up. Similar to the Artemis Fowl series.
* *Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly. AR: 5.3, Lexile: 830. Newbery Honor book 2009. A wonderful book with a very bright girl who learns about love from her brothers and sisters and the natural world from her reclusive grandfather. There is a realistic portrayal of scientific observation of nature leading to an important discovery.
* *Hunger Games\** by Suzanne Collins. AR: 5.3, Lexile: 810. Series. In a not-too-distant future, the USA has collapsed to be replaced by Panem, a country divided into the Capitol and 12 districts. Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. **Due to strong themes and mature content, I recommend parents read the series first to determine appropriateness for your child.**
* *Divergent\** by Veronica Roth. AR: 4.8, Lexile: HL700L. Series. In a future Chicago, 16-year-old Beatrice must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group. **Due to strong themes and mature content, I recommend parents read the series first to determine appropriateness for your child.**
* *Delirium\** by Lauren Oliver. AR: 6.1 , Lexile: 920L. Series. Lena looks forward to receiving the government-mandated cure that prevents the delirium of love and leads to a safe, happy life, until she falls in love days before her 18th birthday and her treatment. **The plot contains violence. Due to strong themes and mature content, I recommend parents read the series first to determine appropriateness for your child.**
* *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment* by James Patterson. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 700. Series. Book one in the Maximum Ride series. It’s a strong fantasy series with lots of action.
* *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee. AR: 5.8, Lexile: 800. Using a journal format, 11-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother’s departure and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.
* *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine. AR: 3.6, Lexile: 630. National Book Award YPL winner 2010. 10-year-old Caitlin has Asperger’s Syndrome. She is struggling to understand and reach closure after a tragedy affects both her family and the whole community. (Despite the low AR rating, I didn’t feel the topics introduced here were appropriate for younger readers – autism, school shooting.)
* *Real Thief* by William Steig. AR: 6.1, Lexile: 960. When Gawain the goose is deserted by his friends after being unjustly convicted of stealing from the Royal Treasury of his beloved king, the real thief is tortured by his conscience.
* *Savvy* by Ingrid Law. AR: 6.0, Lexile: 1070. Series. Newbery Honor winner 2008. The adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose 13th birthday has revealed her “savvy” – a magical power unique to each member of her family – just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. This would interest students who enjoy the *Harry Potter* or *Charlie Bone* series.
* *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz. AR: 5.1, Lexile: 670. Series. Spy series that centers on British Intelligence.
* *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer* by John Grisham. AR: 5.2, Lexile: 790. A lawyer’s son, Theodore Boone, knows every judge, police officer, and court clerk in the small town of Strattenburg. He finds himself involved in a murder trial because of knowledge he might have about the killer.
* *Treasure Hunters* by James Patterson, Chris Grabenstein, Mark Shulman, and Juliana Neufeld. AR: N/A, Lexile: N/A. Series. The Kidd siblings have grown up diving down to shipwrecks and traveling the world, helping their famous parents recover everything from swords to gold doubloons from the bottom of the ocean. But after their parents disappear n the job, the kids are suddenly thrust into the biggest treasure hunt of their lives. They'll have to work together to defeat dangerous pirates and dodge the hot pursuit of an evil treasure hunting rival, all while following cryptic clues to unravel the mystery of what really happened to their parents--and find out if they're still alive.
* *Young Samurai: the Way of the Dragon* by Chris Bradford. AR: 6.1, Lexile: 890. Series. Action-packed adventure for students interested in the ancient Samurai.
* *Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann. AR: 5.7, Lexile: 880L. Series. When Alex finds out he is Unwanted, he expects to die. That is the way of the people of Quill. Each year, all the thirteen-year-olds are labeled as Wanted, Necessary, or Unwanted. Wanteds get more schooling and train to join the Quillitary. Necessaries keep the farms running. Unwanteds are set for elimination. It's hard for Alex to leave behind his twin, Aaron, a Wanted, but he makes peace with his fate, until he discovers that instead of a death farm, what awaits him is a magical place called Artim . There, Alex and his fellow Unwanteds are encouraged to cultivate their creative abilities and use them magically.
* *Wonder* ☺by R.J. Palacio. AR: 4.8, Lexile: N/A. Ten-year-old Auggie, born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school, where he endures taunts and bullying and struggles to be seen as just another student.

**4th graders**

* *Blue* by Joyce Hostetter. AR: 4.9, Lexile: 780. Series. Ann Fey deals with many difficult situations in her life in rural North Carolina during World War II. The defining element if the story is the family’s battle with polio. Issues of polio, Jim Crow laws, America’s home front during the war and rural family life color the plot of this rich novel.
* *Bud, Not Buddy* ☺ by Christopher Paul Curtis. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 950. Newbery Winner 1999. Corretta Scott King Award 1999. Classic tale filled with humor and emotion as a young orphan chases the dream of finding his father. His trials include terrible foster homes and finding out what the items in his suitcase will tell him about his dad.
* *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 800. Series. A wonderful documentary novel filled with photographs and memorabilia from the mid-60’s. This is a powerful picture of the two weeks known as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the nuclear fear that existed during the Cold War during the 1960’s. Students in this grade may have better background knowledge of the history to comprehend this novel.
* *Doctor Proctor’s Fart Powder* by Jo Nesbo. AR: 5.2, Lexile: 830. Series. Friends helps their eccentric scientist friend perfect his fart powder invention. Unfortunately, someone wants to steal his invention for evil purposes.
* *The Danger Box* by Blue Balliet. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 900. In small town Michigan, 12-year-old Zoomy and his new friend Lorrol investigate the journal found inside a mysterious box and find family secrets and a more valuable treasure, while a dangerous stranger watches and waits.
* *The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 650. A beautifully crafted biography about the early life and influences on poet Pablo Neruda.
* *Evil Genius* by Catherine Jinks. AR: 4.9, Lexile: 720. Series. A child prodigy who is being trained to be a master criminal. This is an entertaining and nature series that has several themes represented that make it a read for fifth grade and up. Similar to the Artemis Fowl series.
* *Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly. AR: 5.3, Lexile: 830. Newbery Honor book 2009. A wonderful book with a very bright girl who learns about love from her brothers and sisters and the natural world from her reclusive grandfather. There is a realistic portrayal of scientific observation of nature leading to an important discovery.
* *Flora & Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo. AR: N/A, Lexile: N/A. Flora, obsessed with superhero comics, immediately recognizes and gives her wholehearted support to a squirrel that, after a near-fatal brush with a vacuum cleaner, develops the ability to fly and type poetry. The 10-year-old hides her new friend from the certain disapproval of her self-absorbed, romance-writer mother, but it is on the woman's typewriter that Ulysses pours out his creations.
* *Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus. AR: 5.2, Lexile: 760. Newbery Honor book 2010. Great adventure read that portrays the travels of a poor fisherman boy who wishes to become a great samurai. Instead, he and his companions are lost at sea and eventually rescued by an American whaling ship out of Massachusetts. The boy and the ship’s captain form a special bond.
* *The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 720. Series. This book tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.
* *The Magician’s Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 730. When ten-year-old orphan Peterencounters a fortuneteller in the marketplace, she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive. Peter embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.
* *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee. AR: 5.8, Lexile: 800. Using a journal format, 11-year-old child prodigy Millicent Min records her struggles to learn to play volleyball, tutor her enemy, deal with her grandmother’s departure and make friends over the course of a tumultuous summer.
* *Mysterious Benedict Society* ☺ by Trenton Lee Stewart. AR: 5.6, Lexile: 890. Series. A wonderfully complex story of a group of students who are chosen through a process of difficult mental puzzles. When chosen, the children become part of the Mysterious Benedict Society – the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and are entrusted with saving the world from hostile takeover by a madman. Great for gifted students – as the characters in the book are gifted.
* *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 750. Newbery Honor book 2010. Corretta Scott King Award 2010. National Book award finalist 2010. This book portrays life for African-Americans in the 1960s as three little girls must go to California to stay with the mother that left them to become a dedicated activist and poet. The girls learn about the Black Panthers and community involvement.
* *Red Blazer Girls: Ring of Rocamadour* by Michael Beil. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 720. Series. 7th graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca and Leigh Ann follow a trail of cryptic clues to locate a rare violin, catch the person sneaking into St. Veronica’s School for late-night cleaning and redecorating, and outsmart a conniving classmate.
* *Scat* by Carl Hiaasen. AR: 5.5, Lexile: 810. Nick and Marta are both suspicious when their biology teacher, the feared Mrs. Bunny Starch, disappears. They try to uncover the truth despite the police and headmaster’s insistence that nothing is wrong. In the ecological tradition of *Hoot* and *Flush*, readers will love this storyline.
* *Science Fair* by Dave Barry. AR: , Lexile: 770. The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the U.S. government, but when Toby Harbinger makes up his mind to win the fair, the terrorists’ plans go awry.
* *Skeleton Creek* by Patrick Carman. AR: 4.8, Lexile: 740. Series. The mystery unfolds by written journal notes and an online blog. Similar to the *39 Clues* series, this series ties together print and online entertainment.
* *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz. AR: 5.1, Lexile: 670. Series. Spy series that centers on British Intelligence.
* *A Tale Dark and Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 690L. This book follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering wicked creatures such as witches, as well as kindly strangers and other helpful folk. The plot contains violence. \*
* *Treasure Hunters* by James Patterson, Chris Grabenstein, Mark Shulman, and Juliana Neufeld. AR: N/A, Lexile: N/A. Series. The Kidd siblings have grown up diving down to shipwrecks and traveling the world, helping their famous parents recover everything from swords to gold doubloons from the bottom of the ocean. But after their parents disappear n the job, the kids are suddenly thrust into the biggest treasure hunt of their lives. They'll have to work together to defeat dangerous pirates and dodge the hot pursuit of an evil treasure hunting rival, all while following cryptic clues to unravel the mystery of what really happened to their parents--and find out if they're still alive.
* *Wonderstruck* by Brain Selznick. AR: 5.4, Lexile: 830L. Twelve-year old Ben, whose story is told in words, loses both his mother and his hearing, and leaves home to seek the father he never knew. While Rose, whose story is told in pictures, is also compelled to search for the something missing in her life.

**3rd graders**

* *11 Birthdays* by Wendy Mass. AR: 4.1, Lexile: 650. After celebrating their first nine same day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately, but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again. Think *Groundhog Day* for kids!
* *Anastasia Krupnik* by Lois Lowry. AR: 4.5, Lexile: 700. Series. Anastasia is a 10 year old who loves keeping lists of important information in her green notebook – including things she hates. But as the year passes, Anastasia finds that the items on her lists keep moving around.
* *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 800. Series. A wonderful documentary novel filled with photographs and memorabilia from the mid-60’s. This is a powerful picture of the two weeks known as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the nuclear fear that existed during the Cold War during the 1960’s.
* *Boom!* By Mark Haddon. AR: 4.1, Lexile: 1180. When Jim and Charlie overhear two of their teachers talking in a secret language and the two friends set out to solve the mystery, they do not expect the dire consequences of their actions.
* *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 670. Series. A classic tale that is entertaining for children and adults alike. A girl is “cursed” to do whatever she is told. Full of classic fairy tale characters – the wicked step-sisters, prince, talking objects – but with a twist. Fun and funny!
* *Hero* by Mike Lupica. AR:4.6, Lexile: 730. Zach learns he has special abilities after his beloved father is killed in an accident. He learns that his dad was actually a superhero and that he, too, possess unlikely talents.
* *Ida B…and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan. AR: 5.3, Lexile: 970. 4th grader Ida B spends happy hours being homeschooled and playing in her family’s apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.
* *The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 720. Series. This book tells the tale of twins Alex and Conner. Through the mysterious powers of a cherished book of stories, they leave their world behind and find themselves in a foreign land full of wonder and magic where they come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about.
* *A Nest for Celeste* by Henry Cole. AR: 5.1, Lexile: 730. Celeste, a mouse, yearns for a home. Joseph, a teenaged assistant to John James Audubon, gives her one as he stays at a plantation in 1829. The assistant helps to create the backgrounds for the pictures that Audubon paints.
* *No More Dead Dogs* by Gordon Korman. AR: 4.5, Lexile: 610. Tired of reading books where dogs die. A rebellious boy refuses to work in class. He spends time in detention where the school play is being rehearsed. He influences the play to change the outcome, so that no more dogs die.
* *The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure* by Hans Magnus Enzensberger. AR: 4.4, Lexile: 580. Annoyed with his math teacher who assigns word problems and won’t let him use a calculator, 12-year-old Robert finds help from the number devil in his dreams.
* *Science Fair* by Dave Barry. AR: 5.5 , Lexile: 770. The president of Kprshtskan is plotting to infiltrate the science fair at Hubble Middle School in Maryland in order to take over the U.S. government, but when Toby Harbinger makes up his mind to win the fair, the terrorists’ plans go awry.
* *Skeleton Creek* by Patrick Carman. AR: 4.8, Lexile: 740. Series. The mystery unfolds by written journal notes and an online blog. Similar to the *39 Clues* series, this series ties together print and online entertainment.
* *The Triple Chocolate Brownie Genius* by Deborah Sherman. AR: 4.8, Lexile: 660. A lazy students eats brownies that accidentally contain a microchip. This leaves him a brilliant know-it-all the kind of person he has always disliked.
* *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead. AR: 4.5, Lexile: 750. Newbery winner 2009. A 12-year-old girl concentrates on going to school and helping her mother prepare to win the “$20,000 Pyramid” show. She begins to receive strange notes that she tries to figure out as well as trying to understand a homeless man with odd behavior. A wonderful read that ties back to a previous classic, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle, the girl’s favorite book. I would suggested reading *A Wrinkle in Time* before you read this book.
* *A Tale Dark and Grimm\** by Adam Gidwitz. AR: 4.6, Lexile: 690L. This book follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering wicked creatures such as witches, as well as kindly strangers and other helpful folk. The plot contains some violence (related to fairy tales).
* *The Widow’s Broom* by Chris VanAllsburg. AR: 4.7, Lexile: 810. A widow finds herself in possession of an extraordinary broom left by a witch who fell into the widow’s garden.
* *Wonderstruck* by brain Selznick. AR: 5.4, Lexile: 830L. Twelve-year old Ben, whose story is told in words, loses both his mother and his hearing, and leaves home to seek the father he never knew. While Rose, whose story is told in pictures, is also compelled to search for the something missing in her life.

**2nd graders**

* *Katie Kazoo* series by Nancy Krulik. AR: 3.2-3.7, Lexile: 500-630. Series. A likeable girl, Katie Kazoo has many exciting and enlightening adventures whereby she perseveres in the style of Junie B. Jones and Judy Moody. There are currently 35 books in this series.
* *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes. AR: 3.7, Lexile: 620. Series. A spunky 3rd grader moves and has to fit in at a new school.
* *Olympians: Zeus, King of the Gods* by George O’Connor. AR: 3.5, Lexile: 640. Series. Graphic novel about the Greek gods. Popular with kids who enjoy the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.
* *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall. AR: 4.7, Lexile: 800. Series. While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, 4 lovable sisters share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his anobbish mother. Similar to *The Secret Garden* in style and content.
* *Philippa Fisher’s Fairy Godsister* by Liz Kessler. AR: 4.1, Lexile: 590. Series. Fairy fantasy whereby the fairies go on fantastic journeys and adventures.
* *The Show Must Go On! (Three-Ring Rascals)* by Katie Klise and M. Sarah Klise. AR: N/A. Lexile: N/A. Series. After years of developing his traveling circus into one of the best shows in the world, old and tired Sir Sidney decides he needs some help. He hires Barnabas Brambles for a one-week trial run, but it’s clear that the smarmy certified lion tamer is more concerned with making money than respecting the performers and talking circus animals. When Brambles tries to add more cities to their tour, sell off some of the older animals, and allow the directionless Famous Flying Banana Brothers to navigate the circus train, plenty of high jinks ensue, including getting stuck atop the Saint Louis Arch.
* *The Sisters Grimm: The Fairy-Tale Detectives* by Michael Buckley. AR: 5.2, Lexile: 840. Series. Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with their eccentric grandmother, who they have always believed to be dead. Heartbroken and wary, the girls are immediately swept up in a mystery that includes giants, pixies, fairies, and witches. Readers well grounded in their fairy tales will get the most pleasure from recognizing the characters–Prince Charming, Jack-the-Giant-Killer, the Three Pigs, the Magic Mirror, and more!
* *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo. AR: 4.0, Lexile: 520. Rob is a young boy who recently lost his mother. His father moves them to Florida, where he is not happy in school and his father’s boss is keeping a caged tiger at an abandoned gas station. Two more characters and the tiger help Rob learn to change and to make the most of his life.
* *The Time Warp Trio* by Jon Scieszka. AR: 2.7-4.2, Lexile: 530-830. Series. Three friends, Joe, Fred, and Sam are the Time-Warp Trio! They are sent back in time and have wacky adventures with famous historical figures. Similar to Magic Tree House series, but more sophisticated.
* *The Trouble With Chickens* by Doreen Cronin. AR: 3.8, Lexile: 570. A former search and rescue dog helps solve a mystery of a missing chicken.
* *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer Holm. AR: 3.7, Lexile: 610. In 1935, Turtle is sent to live with her relatives in Key West as her mother is working as a housekeeper in a home where Turtle is not welcome. She discovers her extended family and the value of relationships as she learns to fit in, survive a hurricane, and look for lost pirate treasure.
* *Warp Speed* by Lisa Yee. AR: 4.0, Lexile: 620. Marley Sandelski fades into the background and is susceptible to bullying. A series of unexpected events gives him a taste of popularity and an understanding of the more popular classmates. Great for those “Trekky” boys out there.
* *The Candy Shop War* by Brandon Mull. AR: 5.0, Lexile: 750L. When fifth-graders Nate, Summer, Trevor, and Pigeon meet the owner of the new candy store in town and are given a magical candy that endows them with super powers, they find that along with its benefits, there are also dangerous consequences.
* *The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes. AR: N/A, Lexile: N/A. When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade, with a lump on your head! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad.

(Classics book summaries from Scholastic Book Wizard)