

Teacher Book Recommendations

Kindergarten:

My Father's Dragon
Ruth Gannett

(Mrs. Juriansz)

Billy Blaze Series
C.W. Anderson

(Mrs. Juriansz)

(Ms. Juriansz) My all-time favorite series from K-3 was the "Billy and Blaze" horse series by C. W. Anderson, and as far as chapter books, I did love the book "My Father's Dragon" by Ruth Gannett.

Llama Llama Mad at Mama
Anna Dowdney

(Mrs. Turgeon)

Lily's Purple Plastic Purse
Kevin Henkes

(Mrs. London)

This is one of my favorite books to read aloud in the classroom! I love it for many reasons, but mainly for how children in kindergarten can relate to the excitement Lilly has for sharing her new things with the class. It also teaches a wonderful lesson about having patience and not jumping to conclusions about other people's intentions.

Elmer
David McKee

(Ms. Pratt)

Elmer is a multi-colored elephant that loves to laugh! However, he begins to feel different from the other elephants and tries to be just like them, but learns that being different is what makes us each special! :)

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
Laura Nemeroff

(Ms. Pratt)

This is a fun story about a mouse that begins by only wanting a cookie, but it leads to a day full of fun! At the end he wants another cookie and the fun starts all over again! :)

Busy Busy Town
Richard Scary

(Mrs. London)

I loved looking at this book as a child because the illustrations were so interesting to me. I loved going to the "real" places represented in this book and comparing it with the picture in my mind from the book.

1st Grade:

Mercy Watson series
Kate DiCamillo

(Ms. Martinez)

My first grade students absolutely love the main character in this series - Mercy Watson. The books are simple to understand, engaging, and very humorous. It is also exciting to see the students really interested in a series and particular character. I found that many students were checking out the next books in the series from the Library.

Tales of Despereaux (Mrs. Thayer)
Kate Dicamillo

The Golden Treasury of Caroline & Her Friends (Mrs. Thayer)
Pierre Probst

The King, The Mice and The Cheese (Mrs. Thayer)
Nancy & Erik Gurney

(Mrs. Thayer) I loved these because I enjoyed the pictures the humor.

Make Way for Ducklings (Mrs. Flynn & Ms. Martinez)
Robert McKloskey

(Mrs. Flynn) I have two passions in my life (besides my family), and those are books and animals. So, it was no surprise to me that when I asked my family members what my favorite book was when I was in first grade they said, "Make Way for Ducklings". I loved reading the story and visiting the Public Garden often as a young child, long before the status and swan boats became popular

(Ms. Martinez) This book is a classic! I remember loving the story as a child, and connecting to it because I often visited Boston. When I was growing up there were not an abundance of stories that took place in my home state. To this day, I still become overly excited to see baby ducklings around the Boston Public Garden.

Little Bear (Ms. Reed)
Else Holmelund Minarik

I vividly remember reading this book. I loved and could relate to Little Bear's wonderful imagination, I am sure I went to the moon and back many times myself! My favorite chapter (because this was also exciting - it was a "chapter book") was and is "Birthday Soup." I often talk with friends about having "birthday soup" and everyone always gets the reference, so I think I am not the only one whom this book touched! The illustrations are spare but incredible and the characters' expressions and body language make them even more appealing.

Amelia Bedelia (Ms. Metter)
Peggy Parish

(Mrs. Metter) For k-2, I like the Amelia Bedelia books because of the use of figurative and literal use of language which some children find difficult.

The Kissing Hand (Mrs. Flynn & Ms. Yurchenko)
Audrey Penn

(Mrs. Flynn) I read this book on the first day of first grade. It is about a little raccoon ready to start school. He talks about his fears to his mother, fears that most children have before beginning school. His mother comes up with a wonderful solution to help her little raccoon remember that she loves him and is thinking about him, even when she isn't with him. A true favorite of my students.

2nd Grade:

Ramona & Her Mother (Ms. Ceglia)
Beverly Cleary

I loved the Ramona series as a child! In second grade I especially liked Ramona and Her Mother, because Ramona was the same age as I was. I always enjoyed reading about all the trouble Ramona got into at home and in school! She is a very fun character!

Any Book by Roald Dahl*(Ms. Ceglia)*

Roald Dahl is my absolute favorite author of all time! I can't pick just one of his books, all of them are amazing! He has a great imagination and his stories are incredible. If you like fantasy stories, these are for you!

Bailey School Kids Series**Debbie Dadey & Marcia Thornton Jones***(Ms. Regianninni)***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon****Grace Lin***(Mrs. Ramgren)***One Monday Morning****Uri Shulevitz***(Ms. Reed)*

This was another favorite of mine, so much so that I recently bought a copy on Amazon. It is based upon a French folk song. I think you will see the theme here, but it is about a young boy whose imagination leads him to a wonderful day where a king and queen visit him. The reader is surprised at the end to find that the young boy has been playing with a set of playing cards. The illustrations in this book are incredibly detailed and capture the experience of growing up in the city, as I did.

3rd Grade:**Superfudge****Judy Blume***(Ms. Metter)*

(Ms. Metter) For 3-5, I like books by Judy Blume, such as Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and some of her more recent books. She deals with childhood issues with humor and sensitivity.

The Secret Garden**Frances Hodgson Burnett***(Ms. Metter)*

The Secret Garden was probably my first exposure to English country life. It contained a sense of mystery and fostered a feeling of kindness to both humans and animals. I didn't realize it then, but it had great character development.

Trixie Belden**Julie Campbell***(Mrs. Cleveland)*

This is a fun mystery series with slightly younger characters than Nancy Drew that will still appeal to that same basic audience.

Anne of Green Gables**L.M. Montgomery***(Ms. Chen)***There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom****Louis Sachar***(Ms. Chen)***Ramona Quimby, Age 8****Beverly Cleary***(Ms. Chen)*

(Ms. Chen) In third grade, I loved the Ramona books by Beverly Cleary as well as There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom! by Louis Sachar. I was also starting to read the Anne of Green Gables series, although that was more in 4th grade. "There's a Boy ..." and "Anne of Green Gables" are still my top picks to this day!

A Nest for Celeste
Henry Cole

(Mrs. Morrall)

Hardy Boys series
Franklin W. Dixon

(Mr. Springer)

Hitty, Her First Hundred Years
Rachel Field

(Mrs. Cleveland)

Hitty is a doll of great charm and character. Hitty, or Mehitable as she was really named, was made in the early 1800s for Phoebe Preble, a little girl from Maine. This is a book of her memoirs, which, besides being full of the most thrilling adventures on land and sea, also reveal her delightful personality.

Nancy Drew Series
Carolyn Keene

(Mrs. Scigliano & Ms. Swerling)

(Ms. Swerling) I was a HUGE Nancy Drew fan. The first book I ever read on my own was The Ringmaster's Secret. I devoured Nancy and my best friend and I would pretend to be her. I still enjoy reading mysteries!

(Ms. Scigliano) My favorite books as a child were the Nancy Drew Series. There were so many books in the series, but I read every one. Sometimes I read them twice. I would recommend them to any female sleuth who enjoys suspense novels.

Little House in the Bog Woods
Laura Ingalls Wilder

(Mrs. Kelleher)

4th Grade:

11 Birthdays
Wendy Mass

(Ms. McManama)

Tuck Everlasting

(Ms. McManama)

(Ms. McManama) My favorite book when I was in 4th grade was Tuck Everlasting. Some of the books I like to recommend for students include: 11 Birthdays, The Homework Machine, Stargirl, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, and 39 Clues.

Natalie Babbitt

Matilda
Roald Dahl

(Mrs. Malin)

(Ms. Malin) My favorite books in 4th grade were anything from the Ramona series and Matilda. I loved Ramona because she reminded me of myself. She was adventurous, silly and loved to have fun. Current recommendations - No Talking by Andrew Clements, A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck, Love that Dog by Sharon Creech.

The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles
Julie Andrews Edwards

(Ms. Page)

I really like how descriptive the author is and the words she uses to describe the setting. I feel like I am "in the book".

Christina Katarina & the Box
Patricia Lee Gauch

(Ms. Bailey)

In this book, a huge cardboard box becomes a castle, a clubhouse, a racing car and more for Christina and her friend Fats. In it they swear undying friendship, wage furious battles and drive Christina's mother crazy. You won't believe how much fun a cardboard box can be!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid
Jeff Kinney

(Ms. McManama)

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
C. S. Lewis

(Mr. Williams)

C.S. Lewis does an excellent job creating a mythical world alongside our own with noble creatures and terrible villains. As a child, this was THE book I read that really turned me into a voracious reader. I would recommend this book to anyone that likes (in C.S. Lewis's words), "...dwarves, giants, werewolves, evil Tree Spirits, ghouls, boggles, ogres, minotaurs, cruels, hags, spectres...[and creatures that are] so horrible that if I told you, your parents probably wouldn't let you read this book."

Hailstones and Halibut Bones
Mary O'Neil

(Ms. Page)

This book was given to me when I was a child by my aunt and grandmother. It is a book of poems about colors. I absolutely love colors and always found the poems very interesting to read.

Freak the Mighty
Rodman Philbrick

(Mr. Williams)

This is a lesser-known book that really tugs at your heartstrings. In it, two middle-school boys with their own differences, issues, and unique struggles, come together as a team to overcome their problems and learn that together they are greater than the sum of their parts. A realistic fiction book complete with action & adventure, a homemade acid water gun, and a truly surprising ending, Freak the Mighty will keep you guessing and coming back for more.

5th Grade:

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret
Judy Blume

(Mrs. Ramgren)

Hatchett
Gary Paulsen

(Ms. Webb)

Homecoming
Cynthia Voight

(Ms. Webb)

The Golden Compass
Philip Pullman

(Ms. Webb)

Among the Hidden
Margaret Peterson Haddix

(Ms. Webb)

(Ms. Webb) When I was in 5th grade I had a few favorite books! But I will just say two. One of my favorite books was Hatchet by Gary Paulson. Also, I especially enjoyed Homecoming by Cynthia Voight. I read Homecoming in a "book club" setting with 4 of my other friends in 5th grade. We would read a few chapters, and then met to talk about things we were thinking or feeling. I really enjoyed that experience; it's very fun to read the same book at the same time your friends are reading it. Today I would recommend Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix. It is the first book of a page-turning series. I would also recommend Holes by Louis Sachar. Finally, I recommend The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman. (although I think there are movies out for BOTH Holes and The Golden Compass... but please, read the books first!)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler *(Ms. Citrin)*
e.l. Konigsburg

I read this book when I was in 5th grade and I loved the mystery! I still remember the vivid pictures the words painted in my mind. To this day, whenever I visit a museum like the MFA, I still get a flashback from this book and think about what it would be like to secretly stay overnight at a museum.

A Wrinkle in Time
Madeline L'Engle

(Ms. Webb & Ms. Nomy)

Drita My Homegirl
Jenny Lombard

(Mr. Springer)

In this book, appropriate for grades 3 through 5, two fourth graders tell about the development of their unlikely friendship. Drita is a refugee from Kosova who, along with her family, is finally joining her father in New York City in a cramped apartment and without connections or language skills. Maxie, a precocious African-American child who lives with her supportive grandmother and her widowed father, struggles, too. When she sees a news report on Kosova, she decides to do a project on Albanian refugees, focusing on Drita. The girls find common ground, and eventually the families forge a bond as well.

The Single Shard
Linda Sue Park

(Mr. Costello)

I would recommend this book because it provides a window into a culture so different from our own. It takes place in 12th century Korea. The main character does not let his terribly poor background stop him from dreaming of achieving great things. The story also gives you detailed descriptions of the art of pottery making. Tree Ear, the main character watches the master potter and ends up learning the trade himself. I love stories like this that transport you to a different place and time, making you feel like you are right there in the story! I highly recommend this powerful story to any fifth grader.

Holes
Louis Sachar

(Ms. Citrin & Ms. Webb)

(Ms. Citrin) While the premise of the book is difficult to relate to (a juvenile detention facility in the desert), the character's are deep and real. Their personalities shine through as they experience many twists and turns. You will be hooked the minute you open the book!

The Invention of Hugo Cabret
Brian Selznick

(Ms. Liu)

This book is filled with adventure and the author draws you in almost immediately. The plot of the story is very engaging and the illustrations amazing. Hugo is carefully crafted as a character and you want to learn more about him and his predicament.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond
Elizabeth George Speare

(Ms. Swerling)

In fifth grade, I read *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare for the first time (I went on to read it at least 5 more times I loved it so!) That was the start, for me, of reading award winners - and historical fiction. I always recommend reading a Newbery Award winner! One of the high points of my life (MANY years later) was in Harvard Square. I was attending a workshop at Harvard University and eating on campus. As I sat down at a table I introduced myself to the woman sitting there. When she introduced herself as "Elizabeth George Speare" I almost fainted - and then spent 20 minutes gushing to her about how I loved her books and how much she had meant to me as a reader in elementary school.

Charlotte's Web
E.B. White

(Ms. Liu)

I loved this book as a child because the characters are both interesting and endearing. The friendship between Wilbur and Charlotte is so special and engages the reader. E.B. White uses a lot of descriptive language to create many wonderful pictures in the reader's mind.

Stuart Little
E.B. White

(Mr. Costello)

This is a book that captured my imagination when I was in fifth grade because of the adventurous spirit of Stuart. I was familiar with Central Park in New York City and Stuart's adventures there helped me see the city and park in brand new ways. I was absolutely riveted by the description of the boat race! The incredible illustrations remain vivid in my mind to this day. I think this is a book that every child should read. Who knows? Maybe it will have the same affect on you!

Specialists:

My Daddy is a Pretzel
Baron Baptiste

(Ms. Nomy)

This picture book revolves around children participating in a yoga class and discussing their parents' occupations. For each job-gardener, veterinarian, architect - a corresponding pose is demonstrated -tree, dog, triangle. Stylized watercolor illustrations alternate between spreads showing people at work and an assortment of smaller paintings that break the poses into several steps, along with simple instructions. With warmth and charm, this offering gently encourages young readers, along with their parents, to give yoga a try just for enjoyment.

Splodges
Malcolm Corrck

(Mrs. Horner)

As a child, I loved how the book told and showed the story of how the art work was created, mostly by accident sometimes.

Emil series
Astrid Lindgren

(Ms. Belau)

Emil is a Swedish farm boy. In this series of books, chaos seems to follow Emil everywhere he goes in the community.

Pipi Longstocking
Astrid Lindgren

(Ms. Belau)

Chester Raccoon and the Acorn Full of Memories *(Ms. Yurchenko)*
Audrey Penn

The Pocket Full of Kisses *(Ms. Yurchenko)*
Audrey Penn

(Ms. Yurchenko) I feel so privileged to recommend the books that I enjoy reading not only to the ELL children but all the kids here at M-R. I grew up in Russia and as a young girl I enjoyed reading fairy tales. I would definitely recommend the books of Audrey Penn - The Kissing Hand (my favorite), The Pocket Full Of Kisses and Chester Raccoon and The Acorn Full Of Memories. There are so many books on my list I would like to include but Audrey Penn's books are one of my favorite books.

I'm Here *(Ms. Bailey)*
Peter Reynolds

Peter Reynold's wrote and illustrated, "I'm Here", to help us all reach out, embrace, and appreciate children in the autism spectrum, as well as anyone who is different from ourselves. All of us on the Sped Team LOVE this book!

Ish *(Mrs. Horner)*
Peter Reynolds

The art book I love is called "Ish" by Peter Reynolds. It tells the story of how sometimes, as artists and as people, we need to look at things from a different perspective and not always worry about what other people think.