

RECOMMENDED READING

ELEMENTARY



AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR INDEPENDENT READING



Introduction

There is no greater indicator of student academic success than reading ability and good reading habits. The books contained in these lists have been chosen with the belief that good books belong in students' hands.

The lists of recommended titles have been adapted from the recommended reading lists sponsored by *Just Read, Florida!*, Governor Jeb Bush's comprehensive, coordinated reading initiative aimed at helping all students become successful, independent readers. Some selections have been taken from the American Library Association's Notable Children's Books of 2005, as well as from lists of books that have won literary awards. You will find classical and contemporary works included in this wide variety of ethnic, cultural, and historical titles that represent the rich cultural diversity of our students and our society. These lists are intended for independent student reading and are not meant to be curriculum-based required readers. The intent is that they will help shape the literary experiences of our students.

Help your child make a selection by previewing the title yourself. Take into consideration the difficulty of the text, including the vocabulary. Assist your child in selecting a book with which he or she will be comfortable. While the books are arranged by grade level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content, you are familiar with your child's skills, maturity, and interests, and can better assist your child in selecting appropriate titles. Students should be encouraged to read titles that may not be designated in their grade level, but for which they have an interest in reading. There are often students for whom "out of level" selections are more suitable, more desirable.

Many of these books may be found in library collections in Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) library media centers, your neighborhood library or book store. If your school does not have a copy of the title, you may request an interlibrary loan from a neighboring school. You may search for these titles in your school's library media center or from the comfort of your home, using the M-DCPS online library catalog, *Destiny*. *Destiny* can be accessed at <http://destiny.dadeschools.net> from any computer with an Internet connection.

Multilingual/multicultural titles in Spanish and Haitian Creole have been included in these recommendations. The lists of multilingual titles are not intended to be comprehensive in scope nor a substitute for the selections in English. Their intent is to provide students with a sampling of literature in their native language and about their native culture. Every effort should be made to encourage students to read in English; however, these multilingual selections will provide an opportunity for students who are struggling in English, but are fluent in their native language, to participate in the enjoyment of reading.

Encourage your child to explore a range of books that suits his or her interests and stretches the imagination. Remember, don't hesitate to ask teachers or school library media specialists for assistance in recommending additional book titles. Review the lists and help your child begin the journey to new worlds that will challenge thinking and stimulate the imagination!

Kindergarten

Alphabatics, Suse MacDonald

The letters of the alphabet are transformed and incorporated into twenty-six illustrations, so that the hole in "b" becomes a balloon and "y" turns into the head of a yak.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do you See?, Bill Martin, Jr.

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them.

The Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss

A fantastic cat entertains two children in a most unusual way.

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin, Jr.

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.

Color Zoo, Lois Ehlert

Introduces colors and shapes with illustrations of shapes on die-cut pages that form animal faces when placed on top of one another.

Froggy Learns to Swim, Jonathan London

Froggy is afraid of the water until his mother, along with his flippers, snorkel, and mask, helps him learn to swim.

Have You Seen My Duckling?, Nancy Tafari

A mother duck leads her brood around the pond as she searches for one missing duckling.

Home, Jeannie Baker

A wordless picture book that observes the changes in a neighborhood from before a girl is born until she is an adult, as it first decays and then is renewed by the efforts of the residents.

Hop on Pop, Dr. Seuss

Pairs of rhyming words are introduced and used in simple sentences, such as "Day. Play. We play all day. Night. Fight. We fight all night."

I Read Signs, Tana Hoban

Introduces signs and symbols frequently seen along the street.

The Little Engine That Could, Watty Piper

When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain.

Mouse Count, Ellen Walsh

Ten mice outsmart a hungry snake.

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Peter's Chair, Ezra Jack Keats

When Peter discovers his blue furniture is being painted pink for a new baby sister, he rescues the last unpainted item, a chair, and runs away.

Richard Scarry's Best Mother Goose Ever, Richard Scarry

A colorfully illustrated collection of fifty traditional Mother Goose rhymes.

Ten Black Dots, Donald Crews

A counting book which shows what can be done with ten black dots--one can make a sun, two can make a fox's eyes, or eight can make the wheels of a train.

The Three Little Pigs, Paul Galdone

Retells the fatal episodes in the lives of two foolish pigs and how the third pig managed to avoid the same.

Tomie DePaola's Mother Goose, Tomie DePaola

An illustrated collection of 204 Mother Goose nursery rhymes, including well-known ones such as "Little Boy Blue" and less familiar ones such as "Charlie Warlie and His Cow."

The Very Busy Spider, Eric Carle

The farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing of both beauty and usefulness. The pictures may be felt, as well as seen.

Where The Wild Things Are, Maurice Sendak

After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.

Grade 1

All by Myself, Mercer Mayer

All the many things a young child can do independently are demonstrated, tying shoes, riding a bike, kicking a ball, but there is one thing the child cannot do alone.

Blueberries for Sal, Robert McCloskey

Little Sal and Little Bear both lose their mothers while eating blueberries and almost end up with the other's mother.

Color Farm, Lois Ehlert

The rooster, dog, sheep, cow, pig, and other animals on a farm are made up of colorful shapes such as square, circle, rectangle, and triangle. Features die-cut pages.

Curious George Goes to School, H. A. Rey

Curious George makes a mistake in the art room of his school but finds a missing painting in time for an open house for parents of the students.

Eating the Alphabet, Lois Ehlert

An alphabetical tour of the world of fruits and vegetables, from apricot and artichoke to yam and zucchini.

Goodbye House, Frank Asch

Just before leaving with his family for the move to their new home, Little Bear says goodbye to all his favorite places in and around his old house.

Goodnight Moon, Margaret Wise Brown

As a little bunny says goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room, the illustrations grow progressively darker.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura Numeroff

A young boy, having given a cookie to a bossy mouse, is run ragged by the energetic rodent's subsequent requests.

Jessica, Kevin Henkes

Ruthie does everything with her imaginary friend Jessica. Then on her first day at kindergarten, she meets a real new friend with the same name.

Love and Roast Chicken, Barbara Knutson

In this folktale from the Andes, a clever guinea pig repeatedly outsmarts the fox that wants to eat him for dinner.

Mouse Paint, Ellen Stoll Walsh

Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color.

***My Many Colored Days*, Dr. Seuss**

This rhyming story describes each day in terms of a particular color which in turn is associated with specific emotions.

***The Napping House*, Audrey Wood**

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

***Rosie's Walk*, Pat Hutchins**

Although unaware that a fox is after her as she takes a walk around the farmyard, Rosie the hen still manages to lead him into one accident after another.

***School Bus*, Donald Crews**

Follows the progress of school buses as they take children to school and bring them home again.

***The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Eric Carle**

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

***Timothy Goes to School*, Rosemary Wells**

Timothy learns about being accepted and making friends during the first week of his first year at school.

***What Comes in 2's, 3's, and 4's?*, Suzanne Aker**

Introduces the numbers two, three, and four by enumerating the ways in which they occur in everyday life, from your two eyes and two arms to the four seasons of the year.

***Where is the Green Sheep?*, Mem Fox**

A story about many different sheep, and one that seems to be missing.

***Zoo*, Gail Gibbons**

Provides a behind-the-scenes look at a working day at the zoo, from the moment the workers arrive until the night guard locks the gate.

Grade 2

Alexander and the Horrible, No Good Very Bad Day, Judith Viorst

Objecting loudly to his family's plans to relocate, the hero of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* "makes a gratifying return,".

Amelia Bedelia, Peggy Parish

The classic tale of the literal-minded housemaid has been revamped as a full-color easy reader. The accessible format contains the original illustrations, attractively revised, as well as several new ones.

Arthur's Eyes, Marc Brown

His friends tease Arthur when he gets glasses, but he soon learns to wear them with pride.

Clean Your Room, Harvey Moon!, Pat Cummings

Harvey tackles a big job: cleaning his room.

Corduroy, Don Freeman

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.

Flat Stanley, Jeff Brown

After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages.

Hot Day on Abbot Avenue, Karen English

After having a fight, two friends spend the day ignoring each other, until the lure of a game of jump rope helps them forget about being mad.

The Josefina Story Quilt, Eleanor Coerr

Examines twelve common traditional grandparent beliefs, or rules, that have been handed down over time, each accompanied by basic child development information designed to help grandparents understand what to expect from a child at any given time.

The Little House, Virginia Burton

A country house is unhappy when the city, with all its buildings and traffic, grows up around her.

Millions of Cats, Wanda Gag

An old man sets out in search of a pet for his lonely wife and returns with millions of cats, all claiming to be the most beautiful of the bunch.

Miss Nelson Is Missing, Harry Allard

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

Molly the Brave and Me, Jane O'Conner

Beth admires her friend Molly's courage, but on a visit to Molly's country home, Beth surprises herself with her own bravery when the two become lost within the maze of a cornfield.

Mouse Soup, Arnold Lobel

A mouse convinces a weasel he needs the ingredients from several stories to make a tasty mouse soup.

My Father's Dragon, Ruth Gannett

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island.

A New Coat for Anna, Harriet Ziefert

Even though there is no money, Anna's mother finds a way to make Anna a badly needed winter coat.

Owl Moon, Jane Yolen

On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl.

Polar Bear Night, Lauren Thompson

After wandering out at night to watch a magical star shower, a polar bear cub returns home to snuggle with her mother in their warm den.

The Rainbow Fish, Marcus Pfister

The most beautiful fish in the entire ocean discovers the real value of personal beauty and friendship.

Stellaluna, Janell Cannon

After she falls headfirst into a bird's nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother.

Today Was a Terrible Day, Patricia Giff

The story follows the humorous mishaps of a second grader who is learning to read.

Grade 3

Amusement Park Mystery, Gertrude Warner

The Aldens search for carousel horses that have disappeared from an amusement park.

Busybody Nora, Johanna Hurwitz

Relates the adventures of an inquisitive little girl who lives in a large apartment building in New York with her parents and little brother Teddy.

Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery, David A. Alder

When Cam Jansen and her friend Eric uncover a mystery while selling fudge door-to-door to raise money for the local library, Cam uses her photographic memory to foil a crime.

Camp Out Mystery, Gertrude Warner

While on a camping trip with their grandfather, the Alden children try to find out about the loud music and missing food that threatens to scare away other campers.

A Case for Jenny Archer, Ellen Conford

After reading three mysteries in a row, Jenny becomes convinced that the neighbors across the street are up to no good and decides to investigate.

Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors, Dennis Fradin

Introduces asteroids, comets and meteors, including their origin, composition, orbits, and effects on Earth and other bodies in the solar system.

Fantastic Mr. Fox, Roald Dahl

Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family.

Gerbils, Pets, and Other Small Rodents, Ray Broekel

A brief introduction to the care and feeding of pet gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, and mice.

Herbie Jones and the Class Gift, Suzy Kline

Disaster strikes when Annabelle trusts Herbie Jones and Raymond with the job of picking up the class's gift to their teacher.

Julian, Secret Agent, Ann Cameron

When Julian, his little brother Huey, and their friend Gloria decide to be "crime busters," they find themselves in one adventure after another.

Miss Nelson Has a Field Day, Harry Allard

The notorious Miss Swamp reappears at the Horace B. Smedley School, this time to shape up the football team and make them win at least one game.

On the Way Home, Laura Ingalls Wilder

Describes the sights and events Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family encountered traveling from South Dakota to the Ozarks in 1894.

Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great, Judy Blume

A summer in Tarrytown, N.Y., is a lot of fun for ten-year-old Sheila even though her friends make her face up to some self-truths she doesn't want to admit.

Ramona the Brave, Beverly Cleary

Six-year-old Ramona tries to cope with an unsympathetic first-grade teacher.

Something Big Has Been Here, Jack Prelutsky

An illustrated collection of humorous poems on a variety of topics.

Grade 4

Abel's Island, William Steig

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Aliens for Breakfast, Jonathan Etra

Finding an intergalactic special agent in his cereal box, Richard joins the extraterrestrial in a fight to save Earth from the Dranes, one of whom is masquerading as a student in Richard's class.

Arthur for the Very First Time, Patricia MacLachlan

Arthur spends a summer with his unconventional aunt and uncle and begins to look at life, his family, and himself differently.

Babe: the Gallant Pig, Dick King-Smith

A piglet comes to Farmer Hogget's farm, where he is adopted by an old sheep-dog and accomplishes amazing things.

Bunnicula, James and Deborah Howe

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

The Castle in the Attic, Elizabeth Winthrop

A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, introduces William to an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

The Fear Place, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When he and his older brother Gordon are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve-year-old Doug faces his fear of heights and his feelings about Gordon--with the help of a cougar.

Fourth Grade Rats, Jerry Spinelli

Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown up fourth grader.

The Green Book, Jill Paton Walsh

As their small stock of essential supplies dwindles, a group of refugees from Earth struggles to make their strange new planet provide life's necessities.

Homer Price, Robert McCloskey

Six episodes in the life of Homer Price including one in which he and his pet skunk capture four bandits and another about a donut machine on the rampage.

If You're Not Here Raise Your Hand, Kalli Dakos

An illustrated collection of poems about a variety of elementary school experiences.

Mayfield Crossing, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

When the school in Mayfield Crossing is closed, the students are sent to larger schools, where the black children encounter racial prejudice for the first time. Only baseball seems a possibility for drawing people together.

Merlin and the Making of the King, Margaret Hodges

Retold from Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*. A retelling of four Arthurian legends.

Millions, Frank Cottrell Boyce

The Cunningham brothers literally have money drop in their laps when a bag of cash falls from the sky; however, the crooks who initially stole the loot are hot on the trail to retrieve it.

Minty: Story of a Young Harriet Tubman, Alan Schroeder

Young Harriet Tubman, whose childhood name was Minty, dreams of escaping slavery on the Brodas plantation in the late 1820s.

Misty of Chincoteague, Marguerite Henry

Two youngsters' determination to own a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick, Chris Van Allsburg

Presents a series of loosely related drawings each accompanied by a title and a caption which the reader may use to make up his or her own story.

Skinnybones, Barbara Park

Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Judy Blume

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever-increasing problem.

Grade 5

***Around the World in a Hundred Years*, Jean Fritz**

Examines the great wave of European exploration during the fifteenth century which resulted in more accurate maps.

***Becoming Naomi Leon*, Pam Munoz Ryan**

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

***Dear Levi: Letters from the Overland Trail*, Elvira Woodruff**

Twelve-year-old Austin Ives writes letters to his younger brother describing his three-thousand-mile journey from their home in Pennsylvania to Oregon in 1851.

***Five Brave Explorers*, Wade Hudson**

Presents the life stories of five African American explorers: Esteban Dorantes, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, Matthew A. Henson, Mae C. Jemison, and James Pierce Beckwourth.

***Followers of the North Star*, Susan Lechner & Susan Alman**

Through rhymed verse, Altman and Lechner present the history of African Americans from the early slaves who followed the North Star to freedom, to youngsters today.

***Follow the Drinking Gourd*, Jeanette Winter**

A young slave girl sets off north with her brother and mother, following the star in the Drinking Gourd, or Big Dipper, that points to freedom.

***Heartland*, Diane Seibert**

Evokes the land, animals, and people of the Middle West in poetic text and illustrations.

***Helen Keller: The Story of My Life*, Helen Keller**

An autobiography of Helen Keller, written while she was a young woman, in which she tells of her early life, her relationship with her teacher Anne Sullivan, and her struggles to triumph over blindness and deafness.

***Indian in the Cupboard*, Lynne Reid Banks**

A nine-year-old boy receives a toy Native American, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and embarks on an adventure when the toy comes to life and befriends him.

***In the Eyes of the Cat: Japanese Poetry for All Seasons*, Demi**

A selection of poems translated from the Japanese. A collection of Japanese nature poems organized according to the seasons, illustrated with paintings corresponding to the themes of the poems.

The Light in the Attic, Shel Silverstein

A collection of humorous poems and drawings.

Poppy, Avi

Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas.

The Return of the Indian in the Cupboard, Lynne Reid Banks

Omri tries to see his friend Little Bear again, but finds himself in the middle of astonishing and dangerous adventures.

Rosa Parks, My Story, Rosa Parks

Rosa Park's life story reveals the deliberate choices she made that earned her the title "Mother to a Movement."

The Secret of the Indian, Lynne Reid Banks

In this third book about Omri and his magic cupboard, Omri and his friend Patrick must risk grownups' discovering their secret when they find themselves in need of a friend's toy plastic doctors to save wounded people from the dangerous world of the Old West which the cupboard enables them to enter.

This Time, Tempe Wick?, Patricia Lee Gauch

Everyone knows Tempe Wick is a most surprising girl, but she exceeds even her own reputation when two mutinous Revolutionary soldiers try to steal her beloved horse.

To Walk the Sky Path, Phyllis R. Naylor

Ten-year-old Billie, a Seminole Indian, is caught between the cultures when his family moves away from the Florida Everglades and nearer the white man's civilization.

Spanish & Haitian Creole Titles Elementary



This list is intended to provide parents with a selection of titles that are appropriate for their child's reading level. The titles are listed by reading level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content; parents are most familiar with their child's reading skills, maturity, and interests. Parents are encouraged to help their child make a selection by previewing the titles. Consideration should be given to the difficulty of the text, subject matter, and content of the book.

Kindergarten

La araña muy ocupada, Eric Carle

The farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing of both beauty and usefulness. The pictures may be felt as well as seen.

Crayola: Libro de los colores del arco iris, Angela C. Santomero

Designed to resemble a Crayola box, this book teaches colors and invites children to associate objects with colors.

Un día de nieve, Ezra Jack Keats

A little boy enjoys a snowy winter day.

Donde viven los monstruos, Maurice Sendak

Caldecott Medal, 1964. After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are.

La familia de Clifford, Norman Bridwell

Clifford goes to see his family, who all live in different places and have different jobs.

Froggy se viste, Jonathan London

Although it's winter and frogs are supposed to hibernate, Froggy insists on going out to play in the snow. But getting dressed for the cold is not that easy, and Froggy keeps forgetting one thing or another.

El gato con sombrero viene de nuevo, Dr. Seuss (Translated by Yanitzia Canetti)

Sally and her brother are shoveling snow when they are surprised by a visit from the Cat in the Hat. This time the cat brings with him tiny cats, A through Z.

La hamaca de la vaca o un amigo mas, Alma Flor Ada

Many animals gather on the hammock in the cow's backyard. The arrival of the elephant poses a problem.

Jorge el curioso, H.A. Rey

A monkey's curiosity leads him into hilarious adventures.

Mamá Gansa, Michael Hague

A collection traditional Mother Goose rhymes.

Me encantan los Saturdays y los domingos, Alma Flor Ada

A little girl enjoys weekends spent with her Hispanic and her American grandparents.

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El mejor es mi papá, Georgina Lázaro León

Various animals explain in humorous, rhyming text why their father is the best.

Mis letras favoritas, Margarita Robleda

Children are encouraged to discover and play with the letters of the alphabet.

La mochila de Dora, Sara Wilson & Robert Roper

Dora has to get to the library before it closes to return some books. Luckily, Backpack as always, lends a helping hand. Will she make it to the library on time? Read and find out!

La oruga muy hambrienta, Eric Carle

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

Oso polar, oso polar, ¿Qué es ese ruido?, Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle

Children discover the sound of different animals as they ask the question: What do you hear?

¡Papá!, Philippe Corentin

A little boy complains about a monster in his bed and a little green creature complains about a monster in his bed. They are each other's nightmare!

La pequeña locomotora que sí pudo, Watty Piper

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain.

¡Pío Peep!, Alma Flor Ada/Alice Schecter (Bilingual book)

A collection of traditional Hispanic nursery rhymes.

¿Quién es la bestia?, Keith Baker

All of the animals are hiding because they have spotted the beast. But the tiger wants to know who the beast is--could it really be him?

Los tres cerditos, David Wisener

Tells the story of two foolish pigs and how a third pig managed to avoid the same fate.

Grade 1

1,2,3, Vamos a contar, Vicky Sempere

Children learn to count with humorously drawn animals.

Buenas noches, luna, Margaret Wise Brown

A little bunny says goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room. The illustrations grow progressively darker.

El camaleón camaleónico, Eric Carle

The chameleon discovers that he can change shape and size, not just color.

La casa adormecida, Audrey Wood

In this cumulative tale, a wakeful flea atop a number of sleeping creatures causes a commotion, with just one bite.

El gallo Jacinto, Ricardo Alcantara

Jacinto the rooster loves to sing, but he is a horribly bad singer. All of the other farm animals decide to tie his beak closed to stop the unbearable noise. When the silence finally gets to them, the animals realize that a singing teacher is a much better solution.

Jorge el curioso encuentra trabajo, H. A. Rey

Curious George escapes from the zoo and performs a variety of jobs, from dishwasher to painter.

Listos para leer, Rosemary Wells

Children will participate in Mrs. Jenkins' class as she introduces students to letters, capital and lower case, writing their names, and many other skills.

¡El lobo ha vuelto!, Geoffroy de Pennart

Peter, the rabbit, the three pigs, the billy goats, and Little Red Riding Hood are very worried when they read in the papers that the wolf is back. When he knocks at the front door, they join forces and jump on him. The wolf promises to be kind, and tell scary stories so they invite him to dinner.

Mamá Goose: A latino nursery treasury, Alma Flor Ada

A collection of popular and beloved lullabies, jump-rope songs, riddles, and proverbs from all over the Spanish Speaking World.

Martes peludo, Uri Orlev

Miguelito hates Tuesdays because that is the day his mother washes his hair. His sister tries to convince him to shave his head so he will stop crying every Tuesday but, Miguelito is more afraid of the barber than having his hair washed.

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Me gustaría tener, Alma Flor Ada

The author expresses the desire of owning a variety of eccentric animals doing or wearing very imaginative things.

Los niños alfabéticos, Lourdes Ayala

Gerrado, Isabel, and their friends dramatize each letter of the alphabet.

Olivia, Ian Falconer

Olivia the pig is like a typical preschooler. She's good at lots of things, like singing very loud songs, trying on all her clothing, scaring away her little brother, reproducing abstract artwork on the walls, and especially wearing people out—even herself!

Una pesadilla en mi armario, Mercer Mayer

A little boy goes to sleep and a nightmare comes out of his closet.

Un pez, dos peces, pez rojo, pez azul, Dr. Seuss (Translated by Yanitzia Canetti)

Dr. Seuss introduces numbers, adjectives, and all manner of things in his typical humorous rhymes.

Pinta ratones, Ellen Stoll Walsh

Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color.

El sapo que no quería comer, Martha Sastría

The Toad King goes to the Turtle Queen's palace and refuses to eat so he gets sick. When they call in the King's doctor he reveals the reason: the toad King only eats insects!

Si llevas un ratón a la escuela, Laura Numeroff

The mouse is going to school but first he wants a lunch, a snack, a pencil, a notebook, and so on.

Tren de carga, Donald Crews

Young readers will be mesmerized by each car of the train as it passes and learn their colors at the same time.

Yoko, Rosemary Wells

Yoko's classmates make fun of the sushi in her lunchbox. Yoko's teacher decides to have an International Food Day to show all the kids how delicious cuisine from all over the world can be.

Grade 2

Alejandro, que era rico el domingo pasado, Judith Viorst

Alexander's grandparents come to visit and give him and each of his brothers a dollar. Alexander tries to decide whether to save it or spend it. There are so many things a boy can do with a dollar.

Amelia Bedelia, Peggy Parish

The classic tale of the literal-minded housemaid has been revamped as a full-color easy reader. The accessible format contains the original illustrations, attractively revised, as well as several new ones, which double the book's length.

Arturo y el desastre de la computadora, Marc Brown

Arthur uses his mother's computer without permission and gets into trouble.

Una cama para tres, Yolanda Reyes

Dad does not want to share his bed until he himself encounters a dragon.

Completamente diferente, Yanitzia Canetti

A lovely blue hippopotamus has problems making friends until she meets a yellow fish that understands that they have much in common.

Dinosaurios al atardecer, Mary Pope Osborne

Jack and Annie travel through time in their Magic Tree House and explore history while experiencing adventure after adventure.

Frida, Jonah Winter

This fanciful picture book captures the essence of Frida Kahlo's life and art and provides an excellent introduction for younger readers. Jonah Winter's poetic text is based loosely on biographical facts, while Ana Juan's dreamlike illustrations imaginatively recreate scenes from the artist's life, especially her childhood.

Me llamo Yoon, Helen Rocorvits

New to the country Yoon can't manage to write her name in English until she realizes that her name in any language is still her name.

Molly y los peregrinos, Barbara Cohen

Molly, a Russian Jewish girl, makes a pilgrim doll for a school Thanksgiving project. Because her doll resembles a Russian peasant, her classmates make fun of her. In an important lesson, the teacher reminds the class that Molly's family, like the pilgrims, came to the United States in search of tolerance.

La obra maestra de Sofía, Eileen Spinelli

Sofia is a spider who weaves webs into extraordinary works of arts but no one appreciates them. When a poor woman runs out of yarn to weave a blanket for her baby, Sofia does so with her own silky web.

El pingüino Pedro, Marcus Pfister

Penguin Pete befriends Steve, a little bird. When it is time for Steve and his flock to depart, Pete is very sad and his mother consoles him with a great remedy for grief.

¡Que locura por la lectura!, Judy Sierra

A librarian makes a mistake and takes drives mobile library to the zoo where she reads to the animals and introduces all kinds of the books. This starts a reading frenzy that motivates the animals to become authors and write new books. Finally a new library is built at the zoo.

El sapo que no quería comer, Martha Sastrías

The Toad King goes to the Turtle Queen's palace and refuses to eat so he gets sick. When they call in the King's doctor he reveals the reason: the toad King only eats insects!

La Señorita Nelson ha desaparecido, James Allard

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

La Señorita Runfio, Barbara Cooney

As a child, Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.

Si le das una galletica a un ratón, Laura Joffe Numeroff

A young boy, having given a cookie to a bossy mouse, is run ragged by the energetic rodent's subsequent requests.

Yo, el gran Fercho, Marjorie W. Sharmat

Nate the Great solves the mystery of the missing picture.

Sopa de raton, Arnold Lobel

A mouse convinces a weasel he needs the ingredients from several stories to make a tasty mouse soup.

La verdadera historia de los tres cerditos, Jon Scieszka

When Alexander Wolf is framed, he seeks justice and tells his own version of The Three Little Pigs. Children will love this amusing rendition of the classic fairy tale.

Verdi, Janell Cannon

Verdi is yellow and does not want to turn green as all adult snakes of his breed do when they grow up.

Grade 3

Las aventuras de Don Quijote: En un lugar de la Mancha, Miguel de Cervantes

(Adaptación)

This beautifully illustrated book presents the most outstanding adventures of the beloved hero and maintains the spirit of the original novel.

La canción de la abuelita, Barbara Soros

An extremely timid and fearful girl is transformed by her grandmother's love into a brave and self-confident woman.

Un caso grave de rayas, David Shannon

Camilla wakes up one day with her skin full of colored stripes. Many doctors and specialists try to cure her to no avail. Finally a wise old lady helps her by giving her lima beans to swallow and at last she is cured.

Cosechando Esperanza: La historia de César Chávez, Kathleen Krull

This biography of civil rights leader, César Chávez, examines his life from its beginnings on an Arizona ranch to his important and peaceful work for farm workers' rights.

Cuentos con sazón, Lulu Delacre

When a neighbor gives Carmen Teresa a blank notebook, everyone has a different idea of how to fill it. Seven heartwarming and humorous stories follow, highlighting holidays from all over Latin America.

Encuentro, Jane Yolen

When Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador in 1492, he encountered the Taino Indians. This story is told from the point of view of a Taino boy.

El gran capoquero: Un cuento de la selva Amazonica

Deep in the Amazon jungle, a man begins to cut down a big kapok tree. He falls asleep, and the animals that make their home in the tree surround him and persuade him to stop cutting it down.

Hola y adiós, Maria I. Vendrel

A young boy describes his thoughts and feelings about summer camp.

Las huellas secretas, Julia Alvarez

A story based on Dominican folklore, about the ciguapas, a tribe of beautiful underwater people whose feet are attached backwards, with their toes pointing in the direction from which they have come.

Jugo de pecas, Judy Blume

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents.

The titles contained in these recommended reading lists reflect diverse cultures and perspectives. While the titles have been arranged by grade level for easier identification of age appropriate reading level and content; parents are most familiar with their child's reading skills, maturity, and interests. Parents are encouraged to help their child make a selection by previewing the titles. Consideration should be given to the difficulty of the text, subject matter, and content of the book.

Me llamo María Isabel, Alma Flor Ada

María Isabel begins having problems in her new classroom when her teacher changes her name to Mary.

La moneda de oro, Alma Flor Ada

Juan is a thief who is determined to steal Doña Josefa's gold coin. When she sets off to travel, he follows her. Along the way he meets many people who Doña Josefa has helped through her kindness and generosity, and slowly begins to mend his ways.

Mumú, Hilda Perera

A young elephant struggles for survival.

Noche de humo, Eve Bunting

The story of a little boy, his mother, and their cat on the night of the Los Angeles riots shows that everyone is affected by racial conflict, and that right and wrong are not always “black and white.”

La pequeña zapatones, Ingrid & Dieter Schubert

A tiny witch with big feet befriends a little girl with big ears.

Piratas después del mediodía, Mary Pope Osborne

On a rainy afternoon Jakie and Annie go to the tree house that is full of books that take them to adventures and dangerous places.

Ramona empieza el curso, Beverly Clearly

The further adventures of the Quimby family as Ramona enters the third grade.

Táinos, Michael Dorris

Alba, who loves the day, and her younger brother, Noche, who loves the night, take turns describing their life on an island in pre-Columbian America; in her last narrative, she witnesses the arrival of the first Europeans to her world.

Tomasín y el cerdito, Hilda Perera

Tomasín fights to defend his new friend, a piglet he found floating in the sea.

Tomás y la señora de la biblioteca, Pat Mora

When Tomás--the son of migrant workers--discovers the local library, he is able to share new stories with his family. Inspired by the real-life story of Tomás Rivera, who became president of the University of California at Riverside, this tale portrays the joys of reading and libraries as experienced by a young boy.

Grade 4

Las bellas hijas de Mufaro, John Steptoe

This Cinderella story is set in Africa and tells of two sisters, spiteful Manyara and considerate Nyasha, and the young king who is searching for a bride.

Bonícula, James and Deborah Howe

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Chaikovski descubre América, Esther Kalman (Translated by María Aurora Martínez Ramos)

Jenny's diary entries describe her meeting the composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky at the opening of Carnegie Hall in New York City in 1891.

Cuando Tía Lola vino de visita a quedarse, Julia Alvarez

Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her.

Érase una vez Don Quijote, Miguel De Cervantes (Adaptación de Agustín Sánchez Aguilar)

Younger readers get a glimpse of the crazy and profound world that exists within the mind of the most famous of all knights, Don Quixote de la Mancha.

Gracias, Señor Falker, Patricia Polacco

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

La isla de Abel, William Steig

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Kiki, Hilda Perera

Kiki and his older brother Toni are saddened when they must leave their family in Cuba to start a new life in Miami; however, Kiki becomes accustomed to the American lifestyle of his wealthy foster family.

María, una niña latina en Estados Unidos, Margarita Robleda Moguel

An eleven-year-old girl, born in the USA to a family of Mexican immigrants, writes her autobiography for a school assignment.

El mensaje: un cuento de paz, Friedrich Recknagel (traducción del alemán, Marinella Terzi)

A dove carries an important message from one feuding kingdom to another, facing many dangers along the way.

***El misterio del ojo esmeralda*, Geronimo Stilton**

Geronimo Stilton, an adventurous rodent journalist, and his sister Thea find a treasure map between the pages of an ancient book. Soon they all set sail for a faraway, dangerous island.

***El monstruo y la bibliotecaria*, Alfredo Gomez Cerdá**

When a nameless monster takes refuge in an air-conditioned library, the monster and the librarian find a way to work together on story hour.

***La moneda de oro*, Alma Flor Ada**

Determined to steal an old woman's gold coin, a young thief follows her all around the countryside and finds himself involved in a series of unexpected activities.

***La osa menor: Una historia del ferrocarril subterráneo*, F. N. Monjo**

The stars of the Drinking Gourd guide a family of fugitive slaves to the house of Deacon Fuller, one of the stops on the Underground Railroad.

***El payaso de la clase*, Johanna Hurwitz**

Lucas Cott is unmistakably the class clown, but when he tries to mend his ways, no one takes him seriously.

***El pollo de los domingos*, Patricia Polacco**

To thank Miss Eula for her wonderful Sunday chicken dinners, three children sell decorated eggs to buy her a beautiful Easter hat.

***El sastrecillo valiente*, Arnica Esterl**

A tailor, who kills seven flies with one blow, wins half the kingdom and the princess's hand in marriage by outwitting the king.

***Los trapiés de Alicia Paf*, Gianni Rodan**

A collection of stories that recount the whimsical adventures of tiny Alicia Paf, who is always stumbling into problems.

***Trotón, mi perro*, Beverly Cleary**

In this sequel to *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, Leigh discovers the companionship he long for when he finds an abandoned dog.

***Tuck para siempre*, Natalie Babbitt**

The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older.

Grade Five

Las ballenas cautivas, Carlos Villanes Cairo

Yak and his grandfather discover a family of whales trapped in the ice and unable to feed themselves. Thanks to modern means of communications, the news spreads rapidly all over the world.

Batacazos, Shel Silverstein

A collection of humorous poems and drawings.

Charlie y el gran ascensor de cristal, Roald Dahl

Taking up where *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* leaves off, Charlie, his family, and Mr. Wonka find themselves launched into space in the great glass elevator.

Charlie y la fábrica de chocolate, Roald Dahl

Charlie wins the opportunity to tour Willie Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

Los cien vestidos, Eleanor Estes

Wanda's classmates make fun of her Polish name and her one faded dress. She tells them that she owns 100 dresses, and enters drawings of them in the school's art contest before she moves away. Only after she is gone do the students discover her remarkable talent and realize how cruel they have been.

Cuentos para chicos y grandes, Hilda Perera

This exceptional collection of exquisitely written short stories will surely tug at the heartstrings of readers of all ages. These stories touch upon universal themes such as hope, love, freedom, and truth.

De oro y esmeraldas: Mitos, leyendas y cuentos populares de Latinoamérica, Lulu Delacre

This collection features twelve sparkling traditional tales from Latin America.

El diario de Pedro, Pam Conrad

Written in diary form, this captivating book brings the story of Christopher Columbus's journey to America to life through the eyes of Pedro, a young sailor on the Santa María.

Esperanza renace, Pam Muñoz Ryan

When her father dies and fire ravages the family estate, Esperanza must leave her privileged life in Mexico and learn to adapt to a new life in the United States.

Esto es coraje, Armstrong Sperry

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe.

Huida al Canada, Barbara Smucker,

Fleeing to the North via the legendary Underground Railroad, young Julilly and Liza face countless dangers and hardships. This masterful blend of fiction and fact includes a stirring prologue by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

La isla del tesoro, Robert Luis Stevenson (Adaptación de Celia Ruiz)

The mistress of an inn and her son find a treasure map that leads to a pirate fortune as well as great danger.

La llave mágica, Lynne Reid Banks

A nine-year-old boy receives a toy Native American, a cupboard, and a little key for his birthday and embarks on an adventure when the toy comes to life and befriends him.

El misterio Velázquez, Eliacer Cansino

Velázquez, court painter to Spain's Felipe IV, was especially fond of painting the midgets who lived at the Palace. One of these midgets, Nicolás Pertusato, narrates this award-winning novel, revealing the mystery behind the creation of Velázquez's masterpiece, 'Las Meninas.'

Querido Señor Henshaw, Beverly Cleary

Leigh Botts writes letters to his favorite author, Boyd Henshaw. Through his letters and diary entries, a picture emerges of a boy growing up and trying to adjust to new situations--especially his parents' divorce.

El secreto del indio, Lynne Reid Banks

Omri and Patrick do not want to reveal the secret of the magic cupboard but they inadvertently bring back a fierce cyclone and must tell their cousin Emma in order to save England.

El regreso del indio, Lynne Reid Banks

Omri tries to see his friend Little Bear again, but finds himself in the middle of astonishing and dangerous adventures.

Rosa Blanca, Christophe Gallaz y Roberto Innocenti

In Nazi Germany, a little schoolgirl risks her personal safety to travel through the forest in the dead of winter to give food to the prisoners of a concentration camp.

El secreto de Cristobal Colón, Luis Maria Carrero

Presents a concise manual that examines who Christopher Columbus really was and what he had hoped to accomplish in his historic voyage.

La vuelta al mundo en 80 días, Julio Verne (Adaptación de Sagrario Luna)

Englishman Phileas Fogg races around the world on a daring wager in the seemingly impossible time of eighty days.

Haitian Creole Titles

Grades K-2

Makso's Farm / Makso, Maude Heurtelou
Kalo visits his uncle's farm.

Tim Tim Bwa Chèch, Marika Roumain
Riddles in Haitian-Creole.

Fefe ak Kikit, Nirvah Jean-Jacques
This is the story about Kikit the hen and Fefe who owns Kikit.

The Lion Cub/ Pitit Lyon / Le Lionceau, Maude Heurtelou
The story of a lion cub in a Safari and experiencing collaboration with other animal.

Dekouvet, Maude Heurtelou
Teaching in Haitian Creole the five senses, comparison and time.

Grades 3-5

Ti Lonbraj Vole (I Will Fly Away), Ketsia Theodore
Grandma retells the story of Yondo to Pierre and Richard. Bilingual English/Haitian Creole.

Do Tòti, Turtle's Back, Marie Lily Cerat
The story of a turtle and its friends. Learning about collaboration.

Les Deux Amis et La Vieille, Jacques Fénelon.
A story about two good friends and an old lady.

One More Daughter, Ketsia Theodore
In a scary trip across the Caribbean Sea, a daughter sings a lullaby to calm the thunderstorm.