
Before Entering Third Grade



Read Alouds

Bridges: *Ruby's Wish* c2002 *historical fiction, ethnic diversity*

During the 1800s in China, when few girls learn to read and write, Ruby fervently desires to attend university with all the males in her family.



Curtis: *The Bat Boy and His Violin* c1998 *sports, music, ethnic diversity*

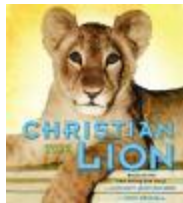
Reginald loves to play his violin, but Papa wants him to be outdoors more and enlists him as the bat boy for the baseball team Papa manages. Reginald plays his violin in the dugout, and the team improves.



Independent Reading

Adler: *Bones* series *mystery*

Everyone needs bones — Detective Jeffrey Bones that is. With his bag of detective tools in hand, read how Jeffrey can solve any mystery.



Bourke: *Christian the Lion: Based on the True Story of Anthony (Ace) Bourke, John Rendall and Christian the Lion* c2009 *nonfiction*

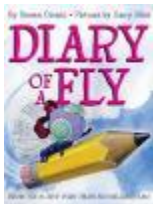
Details the experiences of Anthony Bourke and John Rendall, who bought a lion cub from a department store, raised him as a pet, reintroduced him to the wild in Kenya and years later received a warm welcome from the grown lion.



Bunting: *One Green Apple* c2006 *historical fiction, ethnic diversity*
 Farah is new to the U.S. and her class. She feels alone until she goes on a field trip and realizes things are alike everywhere.



Cleary: *Math is CAtegorical* series *stores in rhyme, mathematics*
 Mathematical functions are explained in rhyming text and simple, silly cartoons.



Cronin: *Diary of a Fly* c2007 *animal fiction*
 A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.



Dadey: *Adventures of the Bailey School Kids* series *schools, fiction*
 There are some pretty weird grown-ups living in Bailey City.



DeFelice: *One Potato, Two Potatoes* c2006 *fairy tale*
 A very poor, humble couple live so simple a life they share everything, until the husband discovers a pot with magical powers buried under the very last potato in the garden.



DiCamillo: *Mercy Watson* series *animal, fantasy, humor*
 Welcome to the wry and endearing world of Mercy Watson, the beloved "pig wonder" of the Watson household.



Foxworthy: *Dirt On My Shirt* c2008 poetry

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy presents more than thirty illustrated poems for children on such topics as friends, bugs, family members and pretending.



Holm: *Baby Mouse* series c2005 graphic fiction, friendship, imagination

An imaginative mouse learns life lessons while living her life.



Hopkinson: *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend)* c2008 historical fiction

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend.



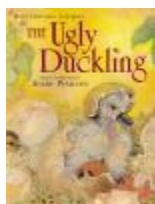
Johnson: *Just Like Josh Gibson* c2007 sports fiction, historical fiction

A grandmother recounts the story of the day she was allowed to play in a baseball game, even though she was a girl.



Kerrin: *Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff!* c2005 fiction

Martin means well, but his ideas don't always turn out as expected. In three stand-alone chapters, Martin deals with issues at home and school.



Pinkney: *The Ugly Duckling* c1999 fairy tale

This adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen classic portrays an unhappy year for an ugly duckling who eventually grows up and transforms into a beautiful swan.



Sachar: *Marvin Redpost* series fiction

Marvin Redpost encounters hilarious problems with school, family and friends.



Stilton: *The Geronimo Stilton* series *mice, fantasy, mystery*

Geronimo Stilton is a mouse newspaper editor and journalist who travels the world to chase important interviews but winds up in the middle of adventures that involve solving intriguing mysteries.



Tunnell: *Mailing May* c1997 *historical fiction*

Five-year-old May wishes to visit her grandmother, but the train is too expensive. May's father and cousin concoct a clever means of sending the child after all.



Warner: *Only Emma* c2005 *fiction*

Emma's mother loses her job, so Emma becomes the new kid in the school and neighborhood. An only child, Emma's life changes when a four year old comes for a visit.