

The 2020-2021  
**BUILDING READERS®**

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

**What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?** by Chris Barton (Beach Lane Books). This beautifully illustrated picture book biography of Congresswoman Barbara Jordan follows her career as a lawyer, educator, politician and civil rights leader. (*biography, lower elementary*)

**Guts** by Raina Telgemeier (Graphix). Winner of multiple awards, this graphic novel will engage readers right from the start.

It's the true story of a girl who must face her fears while navigating school, friends and health challenges. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

**What Is Given from the Heart** by Patricia C. McKissack (Schwartz & Wade). James Otis may be poor, but that doesn't stop him from giving to others. The tale of compassion and its breathtaking illustrations will touch hearts young and old. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**It Rained Warm Bread: Moishe Moskowitz's Story of Hope** by Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet and Hope Anita Smith (Henry Holt). This collection of poems tells the story of one boy's experience surviving the Holocaust. (*poetry, upper elementary*)

**I Can Do Hard Things: Mindful Affirmations for Kids** by Gabi Garcia (Skinned Knee Publishing). Written by a licensed counselor, this picture book encourages children to tap into their inner strength and listen for the quiet voice inside them. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**New Kid** by Jerry Craft (Quill Tree Books). Jordan Banks feels trapped between two worlds as he struggles to fit in at his fancy new school. Find out if he will be able to stay true to himself in this award-winning graphic novel. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Dinosaur Feathers** by Dennis Nolan (Neal Porter Books). Discover how some dinosaurs evolved into birds in this bestselling poetic book filled with dynamic illustrations. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)



**The Forgotten Girl** by India Hill Brown (Scholastic Press). When a group of friends stumble upon an abandoned segregated cemetery, they decide to learn more about it. This ghost story highlights the connection between the past and the present. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me** by Eloise Greenfield (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky). Thinker is a puppy who can talk ... but only in verse. This silly collection of linked poetry and collage illustrations is sure to make readers smile. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

**We Are Artists: Women who Made Their Mark on the World** by Kari Herbert (Thames & Hudson). This gorgeously illustrated biography celebrates fifteen artists from around the world who created awe-inspiring artwork, often against startling odds. (*biography, upper elementary*)

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**The Crayon Man** by Natascha Biebow (biography HMH Books for Young Readers). Learn all about Edwin Binney, the inventor of Crayola crayons in this colorful picture book. Kids will discover that working hard and learning from mistakes along the way gets results. (*biography, lower elementary*)

**The Distance between Me and the Cherry Tree** by Paola Peretti (Atheneum Books for Young Readers). Ten-year-old Mafalda is going blind and doesn't want friends or family to know. This powerful story of loss helps readers find the light, even in the darkest of times. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Small in the City** by Sydney Smith (Neal Porter Books). Winner of multiple awards, this heartfelt picture book illustrates what it's like to see a big world through a child's eyes. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Stargazing** by Jen Wang (First Second). Moon and Christine are unlikely friends. They learn the value of friendship during difficult times in this graphic novel. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln** by Margarita Engle (Atheneum Books for Young Readers). Meet Teresa, a child prodigy and gifted musician who shared her love for music throughout Europe and the United States. (*biography, lower elementary*)

**Hector: A Boy, a Protest, and the Photograph That Changed Apartheid** by Adrienne Wright (Page Street Kids). Based on a true story, this picture book introduces readers to a South African boy whose death fueled the uprising against apartheid. (*fiction, upper elementary*)



**Pigeon Math** by Asia Citro (The Innovation Press). This award-winning picture book will have readers laughing as the author uses math facts to keep up with some crazy pigeons. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Rise Up: Ordinary Kids with Extraordinary Stories** by Amanda Li (Andrews McMeel Publishing). An inspiring look at 29 courageous kids who have made a big difference in the world, this illustrated biography will motivate readers of all ages. (*biography, upper elementary*)

**Bear Came Along** by Richard T. Morris (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Bear goes on an action-packed adventure and meets lots of friends along the way in this hilarious picture book. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Each Tiny Spark** by Pablo Cartaya (Kokila). Twelve-year-old Emilia Rosa has trouble focusing in school and feels like her life is unraveling. This endearing tale masterfully touches on issues of mental health, immigration, culture and family. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

**The Day War Came** by Nicola Davies (Candlewick Press). Expressive illustrations come to life in this hopeful story about a little girl who is forced to become a refugee. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

**Ostriches: Superpower Field Guide** by Rachel Poliquin (HMH Books for Young Readers). Did you know that ostriches can outrun most horses? Discover more interesting facts about these amazing animals in this informative picture book. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)