

The 2021-2022

BUILDING READERS®

Book List

Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

The Magical Yet by Angela DiTerlizzi (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Kids often get frustrated by what they can't do. The rhyming text and uplifting message in this colorful picture book reminds kids to keep going—even when they haven't got it yet. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller (Random House Books for Young Readers). Discover what happens when a young girl makes a deal with a magical tiger. This 2021 Newbery Medal winner is a mix of Korean folktale, fantasy and love. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart by Zetta Elliott (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). This powerful illustrated poem follows a child's emotional journey after a police shooting in his neighborhood. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

We Dream of Space by Erin Entrada Kelly (Greenwillow Books). Set in 1986, as the country awaits the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, this chapter book tells the story of three siblings who must navigate challenges of their own. (*historical fiction, upper elementary*)

We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom (Roaring Book Press). Inspired by Indigenous-led movements to protect our natural resources, this award-winning picture book celebrates the importance of water and the need to protect it. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Before the Ever After by Jacqueline Woodson (Nancy Paulsen Books). ZJ's father is a professional football player who suffers from a brain injury and personality changes. This heartbreaking, lyrical novel explores how families deal with trauma and mend relationships. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

I Do Not Like Stories by Andrew Larsen (Owlkids). This short picture book tells the tale of a grumpy boy whose opinion about stories slowly changes.

Charming illustrations and repetitive text make this a fun and easy read. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Trespassers by Breena Bard (Graphix). Gabby meets Paige while on summer vacation and the two girls get caught up in a local mystery. Readers won't be able to put down this exciting book. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best? by Stephen Shaskan (Random House Books for Young Readers). Pizza and Taco are best friends. What

happens when they ask their friends to vote for who is best? Find out in this funny graphic novel for early readers. (*graphic novel, lower elementary*)

Breaking the News: What's Real, What's Not, and Why the Difference Matters by Robin Terry Brown (National Geographic Kids). Give kids the tools they need to distinguish fact from fiction when it comes to the news with this guide to the information age. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)



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All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything

by Annette Bay Pimentel (Sourcebooks Explore.) Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins participated in the Capitol Crawl when she was a young girl. Learn about her life-long fight for the rights of Americans with disabilities in this inspiring biography. (*biography, lower elementary*)

Count Me In by Varsha Bajaj (Puffin Books).

After a tragic event, two new friends tackle racism and hate head on and bring their community together. This is a novel that is both powerful and uplifting. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott (Neal Porter Books).

This award-winning picture book captures the struggles of a boy who stutters. The compassionate story, coupled with beautiful illustrations, is sure to touch readers' hearts. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Connect the Dots by Keith Calabrese (Scholastic Press). Oliver and Frankie try to navigate the complexities of middle school when they meet Matilda—a mysterious new student. Well-developed characters and fast-paced action make this book a page-turner. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera by Candace Flemming (Neal Porter Books). This informative book is a tribute to the hardworking honeybee. Poetic text and detailed illustrations keep readers engaged. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

The List of Things That Will Not Change by

Rebecca Stead (Wendy Lamb Books). Bea's life becomes different in many ways after her parents get divorced. As time goes by, however, she learns that the really important things stay the same. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

Find Your Calm: A Mindful Approach To Relieve Anxiety And Grow Your Bravery by Gabi Garcia

(Skinned Knee Publishing). Help children tackle anxiety with this practical picture book that introduces readers young and old to mindfulness and coping techniques. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Everything Awesome About Sharks and Other Underwater Creatures!

by Mike Lowery (Orchard Books). Did you know that clown fish are protected by snot armor? Learn all sorts of weird and wild facts about underwater creatures in this intriguing, comic-style book. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

The Bear in My Family by

Maya Tatsukawa (Dial Books). Sometimes it's a good thing to have an older sibling. Readers will enjoy the sweet story in

this picture book about the complicated nature of sibling relationships. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

Efrén Divided by Ernesto Cisneros (Quill Tree Books). Efrén is a young boy who worries about his undocumented parents. This story, about a family struggling with poverty and deportation, will open hearts and spark important conversations. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

