

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Mousie Love*** by Dori Chaconas (Bloomsbury). It was love at first sight for Tully. He immediately asked Frill, “Will you marry me?” But interruptions keep Frill from being able to answer! What will she finally say? Your young reader will love finding out!

***Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully*** by Julianne Moore (Bloomsbury). Freckleface Strawberry loves going to Early Bird time at her school. It means extra play—instead of extra breakfast. But when it rains, all the kids have to play scary dodgeball. Will Freckleface Strawberry get over her fear and have fun?

***Bea Rocks the Flock*** by Victoria Jamieson (Bloomsbury). Bea’s flock has one rule: Sheep are not unique! But Bea stands out no matter what she does. So she leaves the flock and heads to the city. Will she find a place to fit in there? This brightly-colored tale encourages readers to learn to be themselves.

***Goldilicious*** by Victoria Kann (HarperCollins Publishers). Pinkalicious introduces readers to her imaginary friend, Goldilicious the unicorn. They roller skate and fly kites together, occasionally accompanied by Pinkalicious’s brother Peter. Creative and colorful illustrations bring their adventures to life.

***Melonhead*** by Katy Kelly (Random House Children’s Books). Adam Melon—or Melonhead, as he prefers to be called—is an inventor. He can’t help it—great ideas are always popping into his large head. This year, his class is entering an inventing fair. Can he and his friend Sam come up with a first-place invention? Older readers will enjoy following Melonhead on his adventure to locate parts for his invention.

***No Talking*** by Andrew Clements (Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing). Laketon Elementary’s fifth-grade boys and girls disagree—loudly. Then a contest is suggested: whichever team, boys against girls, can say the fewest words during two days is the winner. How will the school react to the silent fifth graders?

***The Hair of Zoe Fleefenbacher Goes to School*** by Laurie Halse Anderson (Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing). Zoe’s hair is wild, beautiful ... and a little

out-of-control. Her kindergarten teacher loved her hair, but her first-grade teacher is a bit more strict. She wants Zoe’s hair to follow the rules! What will Zoe (and her hair) do?

***No Excuses! How What You Say Can Get in Your Way*** by Wayne W. Dyer (Hay House, Inc.). This book explores the idea that when you eliminate excuses, anything is possible! Your child is sure to love watching the main character strive towards his dream—and may even start using fewer excuses around chore time.

***The Curious Garden*** by Peter Brown (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Liam comes across a small garden when exploring his city one day. He decides to take care of the garden—never realizing how this tiny act will change the whole city! Look out as plants take over the book’s illustrations as well as Liam’s city.

***Duck! Rabbit!*** by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (Chronicle Books LLC). This book brings an optical illusion to life through bright illustrations and an engaging story. Listen in as the narrators argue over whether the main character is a duck or a rabbit—and whether it really matters in the end.



Getty Images/Stockbyte

**All in a Day** by Cynthia Rylant (Harry N. Abrams, Inc.). This book encourages readers to take advantage of every opportunity and chance offered in a day. Follow a young boy as he spend a day on a farm. Children will enjoy the rhythm of the story, while adults will appreciate the message about how time flies.

**The Dunderheads** by Paul Fleischman (Candlewick Press). Miss Breakbone is a terrifying teacher who terrorizes her class. She insults them—calling them “doodling, dozing, don’t-knowing dunderheads!”—and basically dares them to retaliate. Can the class of misfits work together to teach their teacher a lesson?

**Scaredy Squirrel at Night** by Melanie Watt (Kids Can Press, Limited). Scaredy Squirrel lives up to his name—he has too many fears to list! This book explores how Scaredy Squirrel never sleeps due to a fear of bad dreams. Will his “Bad Dream Action Plan” help him overcome his fears and finally get some rest? Younger readers will love finding out!

**The Swamps of Sleethe** by Jack Prelutsky (Random House Children’s Books). Older readers will enjoy meeting aliens and exploring outer space in this book of poems, most of which warn explorers-to-be of the perils of new planets. For more fun, the weird planet names are actually anagrams for readers to solve—but don’t worry, there’s a key at the back of the book.

**Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life** by Penny Chisholm (Scholastic, Inc.). The sun is the narrator of this tale, explaining how its light affects plants, animals and people. Yellow dots representing sunlight sparkle throughout this gorgeously illustrated story. It serves as a great starting point to talk to kids about photosynthesis—how plants need sunlight to live, and people need plants to live.

**Let’s Do Nothing!** by Tony Fucile (Candlewick Press). Frankie and Sal have already done *everything*—they’ve baked cookies, painted pictures and played sports and board games. So they decide to try to do *nothing*—for

10 whole seconds. Can two boys with active imaginations actually do nothing? Find out in this fun tale.

**If You Find a Rock** by Peggy Christian (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). There are many different kinds of rocks out in the world—chalk rocks, wishing rocks and skipping rocks. Illustrated by hand-colored photographs, this book will make your child (and you) take a second look at the ground when walking around.

**Just the Right Size** by Nicola Davies (Candlewick Press). This book is perfect for readers who are curious about why there are no superheroes in real life. It gives easy-to-understand explanations of why big animals are big, why little animals are little and the benefits and drawbacks to each.

**Song of Middle C** by Alison McGhee (Candlewick Press). A little girl is preparing for her first piano recital—but she’s not nervous. Oh no, of course not! She has practiced, is wearing her lucky underwear, and has the support of her family. But wait—her mind goes blank as she walks onto the stage. What will the girl do to save her recital?

**The Old Blue Pickup Truck** by Candice F. Ransom (Walker and Company). As a girl and her father

run errands in their old blue pickup truck, Old Blue transforms into a toolshed, a restaurant and a garden, among other things. But when it begins to rain, what will happen to Old Blue? Find out in this vividly illustrated tale.

**The Lemonade War** by Jacqueline Davies (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Older readers will enjoy this story of two siblings competing to be the first to make \$100 by selling lemonade. Marketing terms and math ideas are woven into this compelling saga of sibling rivalry.

**The Hidden Swan** by AnnaMarie Squailia (Successful Kids). This new take on the traditional tale of the Ugly Duckling includes illustrations for your child to color. The story is followed by pages of discussion questions designed to help you build your child’s character.



Getty Images/Stockbyte