



# KIDS NEED TO READ

INSPIRING IMAGINATION

Official Book List

***Kids Need to Read works to create a culture of reading for children by providing inspiring books to under-funded schools, libraries, and literacy programs across the United States, especially those serving disadvantaged children.***

*It's oddly terrifying for me to consider the years during my childhood before I discovered reading. The world was a duller place, less ALIVE. The transformation happened when a gifted teacher knew which story to give me. To this day, I can't explain why discovering fantasy novels made me come to life, but I changed in a few brief months from a mediocre student to top of my class. All because of a book. Perhaps it was because I'd discovered something to care about, something that was ME. Novels aren't just happy escapes; they are slivers of people's souls, nailed to the pages, dripping ink from veins of wood pulp. Reading the right one at the right time can make all the difference.*

– Brandon Sanderson, *Alcatraz and the Evil Librarians Series*

## Fiction

### **Preschoolers (Ages 0-4)**

Ferri, Francesca – *Peek-A-Boo*  
Foley, Greg – *Thank You Bear*  
Foley, Greg – *Don't Worry Bear*  
Foley, Greg – *Good Luck Bear*  
Katz, Karen – *Where is Baby's Belly Button?*  
McGhee, Allison – *Someday*  
McGhee, Allison – *Little Boy*  
Portis, Antoinette – *Not A Box*  
Portis, Antoinette – *Not A Stick*  
Ringgold, Faith – *Cassie's Word Quilt*  
Seeger, Laura Vaccaro – *First the Egg*

### **Children (Ages 5-7)**

Choi, Yangsook – *The Name Jar*  
Dewdney, Anna – *Llama Llama Red Pajama*  
French, Jackie – *Diary of a Wombat*



Gall, Chris – *Dinotrux*  
Harris, Robie H. – *Maybe A Bear Ate It!*  
Jeffers, Oliver – *Lost and Found*  
Johnson, Angela – *A Sweet Smell of Roses*  
Johnson, Angela – *Lily Brown's Paintings*  
Kirk, Daniel – *Library Mouse*  
Levine, Ellen – *Henry's Freedom Box*  
McKissack, Patricia C. – *Goin' Someplace Special*  
McKissack, Patricia C. & Cabrera, Cozbi A. – *Stitchin' and Pullin': A Gee's Bend Quilt*  
Morris, Jackie – *The Snow Leopard*  
Morris, Jackie – *Tell Me a Dragon*  
Muth, Jon – *Zen Series* (2 books)  
    *Zen Shorts*  
    *Zen Ties*  
Otoshi, Kathryn – *One*  
Rodman, Mary Ann – *My Best Friend*  
Troiano, Joe – *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin*  
Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*  
Willems, Mo – *Elephant and Piggie Series* (11 books)  
    *My Friend is Sad*  
    *Today I will Fly!*  
    *I Am Invited to a Party!*  
    *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*  
    *I Love My New Toy!*  
    *I Will Surprise My Friend!*  
    *Are You Ready to Play Outside?*  
    *Watch Me Throw the Ball!*  
    *Elephants Cannot Dance!*  
    *Pigs Make Me Sneeze!*  
    *I Am Going!*  
Woodson, Jacqueline – *Coming on Home Soon*

### **Middle Readers (Ages 8-9)**

Barnes, Derrick D. – *Ruby and the Booker Boys Series* (4 books)  
    *Brand New School, Brave New Ruby*  
    *Trivia Queen, 3rd Grade Supreme*  
    *Slumber Party Payback*  
    *Ruby Flips for Attention*  
Benton, Jim – *Dear Dumb Diary Series* (9 books)  
    *Let's Pretend This Never Happened*  
    *My Pants are Haunted*

*Am I the Princess or the Frog?*  
*Never do Anything, Ever*  
*Can Adults Become Human?*  
*The Problem with Here is that it's Where I'm From*  
*Never Underestimate Your Dumbness*  
*It's Not My Fault I Know Everything*  
*That's What Friends Aren't For*

Codell, Esme Raji – *Sahara Special*

Draper, Sharon M. – *Sassy Series* (3 books)\*  
*Sassy: Little Sister Is NOT My Name!*  
*Sassy: The Birthday Storm*  
*Sassy: The Silver Secret*

Flake, Sharon G. – *The Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street*

Goldberg, Whoopi – *Sugar Plum Ballerinas Series* (3 books)  
*Plum Fantastic*  
*Toeshoe Trouble*  
*Perfectly Prima*

Johnson, Angela – *Just Like Josh Gibson*

Kinney, Jeff – *Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series* (5 books)\*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: A Novel in Cartoons*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Do-It-Yourself Book*  
*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*

McNamee, Graham – *Nothing Wrong with a Three-Legged Dog*

Richardson, Charisse K. & Nelson, Kadir – *The Real Slam Dunk*

Robinet, Harriet Gillem – *Walking to the Bus-Rider Blues*

Various authors – *Actionopolis* illustrated novel *Series* (7 books)\*  
 Beechen, Adam & Hipp, Dan – *What I did on my Hypergalactic Interstellar Summer Vacation*

Hart, J.J. & Meugniot, Will – *Zombie Monkey Monster Jamboree*

Long, Christopher E., & Geiger, Michael – *Blackfoot Braves Society: Spirit Totems*

Mishkin, Dan & Mandrake, Tom – *The Forest King: Woodlark's Shadow*

Reed, Gary & Hoberg, Rick – *Spirit of the Samurai: Of Swords and Rings*

Worley, Rob M. & Dubisch, Mike – *Heir to Fire: Gila Flats*

Zick, Bruce – *The Anubis Tapestry: Between Twilights*

Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Birmingham, 1963*

Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Racing Against the Odds: The Story of Wendell Scott, Stock Car Racing's African-American Champion*

Williams, Mary – *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*

Woodson, Jacqueline – *Show Way*

## **Middle Readers (Ages 10-12)**

Beddor, Frank – *The Looking Glass Wars Series* (3 books)

*The Looking Glass Wars*

*Seeing Redd*

*ArchEnemy*

Benz, Derek & Lewis, J.S. – *Grey Griffins Series* (3 books)\*

*The Revenge of the Shadow King*

*The Rise of the Black Wolf*

*The Fall of the Templar*

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Bud, Not Buddy*

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Elijah of Buxton*

Draper, Sharon M. – *Out of My Mind*

Forester, Victoria – *The Girl Who Could Fly*

Frazier, Sundee T. – *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It\**

Gantos, Jack – *Joey Pigza Series* (4 books)

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*

*Joey Pigza Loses Control*

*What Would Joey Do?*

*I Am Not Joey Pigza*

Grimes, Nikki– *The Road to Paris*

Haarsma, PJ – *The Softwire Series* (4 books)\*

*The Softwire: Virus on Orbis 1*

*The Softwire: Betrayal on Orbis 2*

*The Softwire: Wormhole Pirates on Orbis 3*

*The Softwire: Awakening on Orbis 4*

Jimenez, Francisco – *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*

Johnson, Angela – *A Cool Moonlight*

Johnson, Angela – *Bird*

Kingsley, Kaza – *Erec Rex Series* (3 books)\*

*Erec Rex: The Dragon's Eye*

*Erec Rex: The Monsters of Otherness*

*Erec Rex: The Search for Truth*

Landy, Derek – *Skulduggery Pleasant Series* (2 books)\*

*Skulduggery Pleasant*

*Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing with Fire*

Lorey, Dean – *Nightmare Academy Series* (2 books)\*

*Nightmare Academy: Monster Hunters*

*Nightmare Academy: Monster Madness*

MacHale, D. J. – *Pendragon Series* (10 books)\*

*Pendragon Series: The Merchant of Death*

*Pendragon Series: The Lost City of Faar*

*Pendragon Series: The Never War*

*Pendragon Series: The Reality Bug*  
*Pendragon Series: Black Water*  
*Pendragon Series: The Rivers of Zadaa*  
*Pendragon Series: The Quillan Games*  
*Pendragon Series: The Pilgrims of Rayne*  
*Pendragon Series: Raven Rise*  
*Pendragon Series: The Soldiers of Halla*

Resau, Laura – *Red Glass*

Rex, Adam – *The True Meaning of Smekday*

Ryan, Pam Munoz – *Esperanza Rising*

Sanderson, Brandon – *Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians Series (3 books)\**

*Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians*

*Alcatraz Versus the Scrivener's Bones*

*Alcatraz Versus the Knights of Crystallia*

Selznick, Brian – *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

Stead, Rebecca – *When You Reach Me*

Stewart, Trenton Lee – *The Mysterious Benedict Society Series (3 books)*

*The Mysterious Benedict Society*

*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey*

*The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma*

Woodson, Jacqueline – *Locomotion Series (2 books)*

*Locomotion*

*Peace, Locomotion*

Woodson, Jacqueline – *Feathers*

Yee, Lisa – *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*

Yee, Lisa – *Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time*

### **Teens (Ages 13+)**

Alexie, Sherman – *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Contains Mature Content)

Brandt, Robin – *Evolution, Me and Other Freaks of Nature*

Brandt, Robin – *Fat Cat*

Clement-Davies, David – *Fire Bringer*

Curtis, Christopher Paul – *Bucking the Sarge*

Davis, Tanita – *A la Carte*

Draper, Sharon M. – *Copper Sun*

Draper, Sharon M. – *Fire from the Rock*

Draper, Sharon M. – *The Battle of Jericho Series (3 books)* (Contains Mature Content)

*The Battle of Jericho*

*November Blues*

*Just Another Hero*

Flake, Sharon G. – *The Skin I'm In*

Flake, Sharon G. – *Money Hungry Series* (2 books)  
*Money Hungry*  
*Begging For Change*

Friesner, Esther – *Nobody’s Princess*

Friesner, Esther – *Nobody’s Prize*

Galante, Cecilia – *The Patron Saint of Butterflies*

Grimes, Nikki – *Bronx Masquerade*

Grimes, Nikki – *Dark Sons*

Hale, Shannon – *Book of a Thousand Days*

Johnson, Angela – *The First Part Last* (Contains Mature Content)

Kluger, Steve – *My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins & Fenway Park*

Leveen, Tom – *Party* (Contains Mature Content)\*

McKinley, Robin – *Dragonhaven*

McMann, Lisa – *Wake Series* (3 books) (Contains Mature Content)  
*Wake*  
*Fade*  
*Gone*

Myers, Walter Dean - *Harlem Summer*

Owen, James A. – *The Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica Series* (4 books)  
*Here, There be Dragons*  
*The Search for the Red Dragon*  
*The Indigo King*  
*The Shadow Dragons*

Pike, Aprilynne – *Wings Series* (2 books)  
*Wings*  
*Spells*

Rallison, Janette – *My Double Life*\*

Shulman, Polly – *Enthusiasm*

## Nonfiction

### Children (Ages 5-7)

Barretta, Gene – *Now and Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin*\*

Bolden, Tonya – *The Champ: The Story of Muhammad Ali*

Coles, Robert – *The Story of Ruby Bridges*

Editors of *Times for Kids* with Skelton, Renee – *Harriet Tubman: A Woman of Courage*

Edwards, Roberta – *Who Was Leonardo da Vinci?*

Giovanni, Nikki – *Rosa*

Grimes, Nikki – *Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope*

Holub, Joan – *Vincent Van Gogh: Sunflowers and Swirly Stars*

Hughes, Langston & Smith Jr., Charles R. – *My People*  
Napoli, Donna Jo & Nelson, Kadir – *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya*  
Rodriguez, Rachel Victoria – *Through Georgia's Eyes*

### **Middle Readers (Ages 8-9)**

Colbert, David – *Michelle Obama: An American Story*  
Grimes, Nikki – *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*  
Grogan, John – *Marley: A Dog Like No Other\**  
Hausfater, Rachel – *The Little Boy Star: An Allegory of the Holocaust\**  
Shange, Ntozake – *Coretta Scott*  
Shange, Ntozake – *Ellington Was Not a Street*  
Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane*  
Weatherford, Carole Boston – *I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer*  
Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive*  
Weatherford, Carole Boston – *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*  
Winter, Jeanette – *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*  
Wolfe, Gillian – *Look! Art Series (2 books)*  
    *Look! Drawing the Line in Art*  
    *Look! Seeing the Light in Art*

### **Middle Readers (Ages 10-12)**

Bolden, Tonya – *M.L.K.: Journey of a King*  
Bolden, Tonya – *Tell All the Children Our Story: Memories and Mementos of Being Young and Black in America*  
Clements, Gillian – *The Picture History Series (3 books)*  
    *The Picture History of Great Inventors*  
    *The Picture History of Great Buildings*  
    *The Picture History of Great Explorers*  
Medina, Tony – *Love to Langston*  
Morrison, Toni – *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*  
Mortenson, Greg & Relin, David Oliver – *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World... One Child at a Time*  
Pinkney, Andrea Davis – *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*  
Reit, Seymour – *Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy*  
Robinson, Anthony; Young, Annemarie & Allan, June – *Mohammed's Journey*  
Rockwell, Anne – *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*  
Smith Jr., Charles R. – *Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali*  
Smith Jr., Charles R. – *Hoop Kings: Poems*  
Smith Jr., Charles R. – *Hoop Queens: Poems*  
Smith Jr., Charles R. – *Perfect Harmony: A Musical Journey with the Boys Choir of Harlem*  
Zullo, Mara Bovsun – *Survivors: True Stories of Children in the Holocaust*

## Teens (Ages 13+)

Gantos, Jack – *Hole in My Life* (Contains Mature Content)

Houston, Jeanne Wakatsuki & Houston, James D. – *Farewell to Manzanar*

Jiang, Ji-Li – *Red Scarf Girl: A Memior of the Cultural Revolution*

Myers, Walter Dean – *Bad Boy*\*

Perl, Lila & Lazan, Marion Blumenthal – *Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story*

Pfetzter, Mark & Galvin, Jack – *Within Reach: My Everest Story*

## Graphic Novels

### Children (Ages 5-7)

Cammuso, Frank – *Knights of the Lunch Table Series* (2 books)\*

*Knights of the Lunch Table: The Dodgeball Chronicles*

*Knights of the Lunch Table: The Dragon Players*

Holm, Jennifer L. & Holm, Matthew – *Babymouse Series* (12 books)\*

*Babymouse: Queen of the World!*

*Babymouse: Our Hero*

*Babymouse: Beach Babe*

*Babymouse: Rock Star*

*Babymouse: Heartbreaker*

*Camp Babymouse*

*Babymouse: Skater Girl*

*Babymouse: Puppy Love*

*Babymouse: Monster Mash*

*Babymouse: The Musical*

*Babymouse: Dragonslayer*

*Babymouse: Burns Rubber*

Morse, Scott – *Magic Pickle Series* (5 books)\*

*Magic Pickle*

*Magic Pickle vs. the Egg Poacher*

*Magic Pickle and the Planet of the Grapes*

*Magic Pickle and the Creature from the Black Legume*

*Magic Pickle and the Garden of Evil*

Steinberg, D. J. – *The Adventures of Daniel Boom AKA Loud Boy Series* (3 books)\*

*The Adventures of Daniel Boom AKA Loud Boy: Sound Off!*

*The Adventures of Daniel Boom AKA Loud Boy: Mac Attack!*

*The Adventures of Daniel Boom AKA Loud Boy: Game On!*

Trine, Greg – *Melvin Beederman, Superhero Series* (7 books)\*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: The Revenge of the McNasty Brothers*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: The Grateful Fred*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: Terror in Tights*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: The Fake Cape Caper*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: Attack of the Valley Girls*

*Melvin Beederman, Superhero: Brotherhood of the Traveling Underpants*

### **Middle Readers (Ages 8-9)**

Kruse, Jason T. – *The World of Quest Series, Volumes 1-2* (2 books)\*

Smith, Jeff – *Bone Series* (9 books)\*

*Bone: Out from Boneville*

*Bone: The Great Cow Race*

*Bone: Eyes of the Storm*

*Bone: The Dragonslayer*

*Bone: Rock Jaw: Master of the Eastern Border*

*Bone: Old Man's Cave*

*Bone: Ghost Circles*

*Bone: Treasure Hunters*

*Bone: Crown of Horns*

### **Middle Readers (Ages 10-12)**

Kibuishi, Kazu – *Amulet Series* (2 books)\*

*Amulet: The Stonekeeper*

*Amulet: The Stonekeeper's Curse*

### **Teens (Ages 13+)**

Castellucci, Cecil & Rugg, Jim – *The Plain Janes Series* (2 books)\*

*The Plain Janes*

*Janes in Love*

Gaiman, Neil – *Coraline*\*

Hale, Shannon; Hale, Dean & Hale, Nathan – *Rapunzel's Revenge*\*

Hale, Shannon; Hale, Dean & Hale, Nathan – *Calamity Jack*\*

Hatori, Bisco – *Ouran High School Host Club Series, Volumes 1-13* (13 books)\*

Satrapa, Marjane – *Persepolis Series* (2 books) (Contains Mature Content)\*

*Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*

*Persepolis 2: The Story of a Return*

Schreiber, Ellen – *Vampire Kisses: Blood Relatives, Volumes 1-3* (3 books)\*

Tan, Shaun – *The Arrival*\*

Various authors – *All-Action Classics Series* (2 books)\*

Stoker, Bram – *All-Action Classics: Dracula*

Twain, Mark – *All-Action Classics: Tom Sawyer*

Yang, Gene Luen – *American Born Chinese*\*

## Magazines

*Highlights High Five*\*

*Highlights*\*

\*Excellent for Reluctant Readers



Kids Need to Read is a national nonprofit charity focusing on promoting childhood literacy and addressing the deplorable state of library funding that currently exists in the United States. Donating exciting, new books to schools, public libraries, health clinics and shelters in need, the foundation works to develop a lifelong love of reading in all children.

The highly praised Kids Need to Read book donation list features the best of contemporary reading material to appeal to the sensibilities of today's youth, including the most reluctant of readers. Whether it is giving free comics and *Highlights* magazines to homeless children or providing the first books to a charter school with no library, Kids Need to Read focuses on one goal – getting kids to pick up something to read and never wanting to stop.

### **Kids Need to Read**

124 South 54th Street #65

Mesa, Arizona 85206

480.227.3471

[info@kidsneedtoread.org](mailto:info@kidsneedtoread.org)

[www.kidsneedtoread.org](http://www.kidsneedtoread.org)