Great Read-Aloud Books for Grades 1-3



Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Ivan**, 2012. JFIC/JNBRY When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.



Auxier, Jonathan. Night Gardener, 2004. JFIC

Irish orphans Molly, fourteen, and Kip, ten, travel to England to work as servants in a crumbling manor house where nothing is quite what it seems to be, and soon the siblings are confronted by a mysterious stranger and secrets of the cursed house.



Barrows, Annie. Ivy + Bean series, 2006. JFIC

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide--quick--Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other. Vibrant characters and lots of humor make this a charming--and addictive--introduction to Ivy and Bean.



Cameron, Ann. Stories Julian Tells, 2001. JFIC

Julian has a big imagination. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people--especially his younger brother, Huey--believe just about anything. Like the story about the cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble!



Martin, Ann M. Doll People, 2000. JFIC

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.



Pennypacker, Sara. Pax, 2016. JFIC

After being forced to give up his pet fox, Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back.



Snicket, Lemony. Series of Unfortunate Events, 2006. JFIC

Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire are taken in by a series of oddball relatives and others after their wealthy parents are killed in a fire. The first to take them in is the dastardly and cunning Count Olaf, who is only interested in their inheritance.

Short Reads:



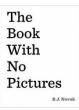
Barnett, Mac. Leo: A Ghost Story, 2015. JE

Leo is a friendly house ghost--but when a family moves into his house, and tries to get rid of him, he leaves and roams the city looking for a friend.



Daywalt, Drew. The Day the Crayons Quit, 2013. JE

Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?



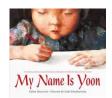
Novak, B.J. The Book with No Pictures, 2014. JE

You might think a book with no pictures seems boring and serious. Except... here's how books work. Everything written on the page *has* to be said by the person reading it aloud. Even if the words say... BLORK. Or BLUURF. Cleverly irreverent and irresistibly silly, *The Book with No Pictures* is one that kids will beg to hear again and again.



Rappaport, Doreen. Martin's Big Words, 2001. JBIO

Simple and graceful text and the words of Martin Luther King Jr. weave into a captivating narrative, telling the story of Dr. King's life in a way that is entirely accessible for young readers.



Recorvits, Helen. My Name is Yoon, 2003. JE

Yoon's name means "shining wisdom," and when she writes it in Korean, it looks happy, like dancing figures. But her father tells her that she must learn to write it in English. In English, all the lines and circles stand alone, which is just how Yoon feels in the United States. Yoon isn't sure that she wants to be YOON. At her new school, she tries out different names--maybe CAT or BIRD. Maybe CUPCAKE!



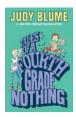
Scieszka, Jon. **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs**, 1989. JNF 398.2 Sci416t A spoof on the three little pigs story, this time told from the wolf's point of view. The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs.



Stein, David Ezra. Interrupting Chicken series, 2010. JE

It's time for the little red chicken's bedtime story--and a reminder from Papa to try not to interrupt. But the chicken can't help herself! Whether the tale is *Hansel and Gretel* or *Little Red Riding Hood* or even *Chicken Little*, she jumps into the story to save its hapless characters from doing some dangerous or silly thing.

Great Read-Aloud Books for Grades 4-6



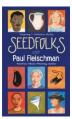
Blume, Judy. Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, 2012. JFIC

Two is a crowd when Peter and his little brother, Fudge, are in the same room. Grown-ups think Fudge is absolutely adorable, but Peter and his pet turtle, Dribble, know the truth. From throwing temper tantrums to smearing mashed potatoes on the wall, Fudge causes mischief wherever he goes!



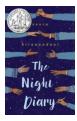
Brown, Peter. Wild Robot, 2020. JFIC

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is. She realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.



Fleischman, Sid. Seedfolks, 2004. JRL

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and cultures transform a Cleveland inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden, and in doing so, the gardeners are themselves transformed.



Hiranandani, Veera. **The Night Diary**, 2018. JFIC

Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary.



Lowry, Lois. **The Giver**, 1993. JFIC/JNBRY

Living in a "perfect" world without social ills, a boy approaches the time when he will receive a life assignment from the Elders, but his selection leads him to a mysterious man known as the Giver, who reveals the dark secrets behind the utopian facade.



Palacio, R.J. Wonder, 2012. JFIC

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.



Paterson, Katherine. **Bridge to Terabithia**, 1978. JFIC/ JNBRY

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief.



Tolkien, J.R.R. **The Hobbit**, 1938. JFIC

Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable, unambitious life, rarely traveling any farther than his pantry or cellar. But his contentment is disturbed when the wizard Gandalf and a company of dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on an adventure. Bilbo reluctantly joins their quest, unaware that on his journey to the Lonely Mountain he will encounter both a magic ring and a frightening creature known as Gollum.



Woodson, Jacqueline. Brown Girl Dreaming, 2016. JFIC/ JRL/ JCSK

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.





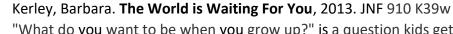
Black, Michael Ian. I'm Bored, 2012. JE

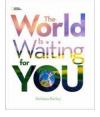
When a **bored** girl meets a potato who finds children tedious, she tries to prove him wrong **by** demonstrating all of the things they can do, from turning cartwheels to using their imaginations.





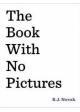
You've played the game. Now read the legend of how it all began ... Long ago, in an ancient and distant realm called the Kingdom of Backyard, there lived a warrior named ROCK. Meanwhile in the Empire of Mom's Home Office, a second great warrior sought the glory of battle. And his name was PAPER. At the same time, in the Kitchen Realm, in the tiny village of Junk Drawer, lived a third warrior. They called her SCISSORS. These three were the strongest, smartest, and fastest in all the land. But when the warriors finally meet each other, the most epic round of battles begins ... and never ends.





"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is a question kids get asked over and over. But very few connections are made for kids between the present and the future. This book shows kids a pathway from their current interests and talents to a future career or interest. And in so doing, it also encourages adventure, exploration, and discovery, three core principles of National Geographic's mission. It's a celebration of possibility--so simple and so profound.

Novak, B.J. The Book with No Pictures, 2014. JE



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