

Friends and School

Clements, Andrew
LUNCH MONEY

When budding billionaire Greg decides to make and sell comic books at school, he has a serious rival in his neighbor and classmate Maura.

Danziger, Paula
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Between entries in her diary and pages in her scrapbook, Skate tells about her difficulties adjusting to middle school.

Fletcher, Ralph
FLYING SOLO

When the substitute teacher never shows up, the kids in a sixth grade class decide to teach themselves for the day.

Franklin, Kristen
LONE WOLF

Home-schooled Perry lives in the remote woods with his dad and nature until a large family moves in nearby.

Gutman, Dan
MILLION DOLLAR KICK

Whisper, who hates sports, is torn when she gets a chance to win a million dollars by kicking a goal against a local soccer hero.

Koningsburg, E. L.
THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY
Why are Noah, Ethan, Nadia and Julian chosen for the 6th grade Academic Bowl team over the usual honor students?

***This book has one or more sequels or is part of a series.**

McGhee, Alison
SNAP

When Sally is losing the grandmother that raised her, she learns she can count on her best friend for strength.

Mackel, Kathy
MAD CAT

A fast-pitch softball catcher nearly loses her friends when her team makes the nationals.

Park, Linda Sue
PROJECT MULBERRY

No obstacle, real or imagined, can stop Julia Song and her best friend Patrick from entering a community farming-club contest.

Perkins, Donna
ALL ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE *
Debbie's best friend since third grade has found a new friend who doesn't want anything to do with Debbie.

Philbrick, Rodman
FREAK THE MIGHTY *
Learning disabled Max and his new brilliant friend Freak find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.

Stauffacher, Sue
DONUTHEAD
Franklin Delano Donuthead is pathologically afraid of germs, junk food, and making friends.

Humor

Gantos, Jack
JACK ON THE TRACKS *
Jack, who loves all things gross and weird, writes about his fifth grade year.

Hiassen, Carl
HOOT
Roy gets involved with some wacky characters in his attempts to help save the owls whose habitat is threatened by development.

Klise, Kate
REGARDING THE SINK *
Told in letters, notes, and drawings, a sixth grade class takes on the government and big business to fix a problem at their school.

Lowry, Lois
ANASTASIA KRUPNIK *
Anastasia would like to have a boyfriend, but what she is getting is a baby brother.

Maguire, Gregory
FOUR STUPID CUPIDS *
When a vase breaks, releasing four real cupids from ancient Greece, the kids in Miss Earth's fifth grade class plot to have her fall in love.

Peck, Richard
THE TEACHER'S FUNERAL
Russell's hopes that his rural one-room school will be closed when the teacher dies are dashed when his older sister Tansy takes over the job.

Schirripa, Steven R.
NICKY DEUCE: WELCOME TO THE FAMILY
Rich, suburban Nicky spends the summer with his Italian relatives in Brooklyn where he is exposed to new food, new kids, and new risks.

Tolon, Stephanie
SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES
Jake, a delinquent teen, has no idea what's in store for him when he is sent to live and home-school with the eccentric Applewhite family.

Animals

Armstrong, Alan
WHITTINGTON
A beat-up cat moves into a barn and creates a community among the animals who live there and the children who visit them.

Cleary, Beverly
STRIDER
Leigh and his friend find an abandoned dog and agree to share custody-- not an easy task for a boy coping with his parents' divorce.

DiCamillo, Kate
BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE
New in town and lonely, Opal adopts a big ugly dog who introduces her to some of the unusual townspeople—her new friends.

George, Jean Craighead
MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN *
Unhappy with life in New York City, Sam sets up house in a hollowed-out tree, with a falcon and a weasel for companions..

Lester, Alison
QUICK SAND PONY
After her pony is rescued from quicksand by an unseen person, Bidy follows the trail into the Australian bush and discovers the solution to a disappearance that happened years ago.

McKay, Hilary
DOG FRIDAY
Since being attacked by a dog, Robin is afraid of them, but finding an abandoned mutt on the beach helps him overcome his fear.

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Animals

Rawls, Wilson

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

Glory, victory and sadness come to Billy and his two coonhounds in Depression-era Oklahoma.

Seidler, Tor

TOES

An exceptionally intelligent kitten with seven toes on each paw must make his own way in the world after his mother dies and his siblings reject him.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley

GIB RIDES HOME *

Orphaned Gib is disappointed to be farmed out to a family that expects him to work as a field hand, but he discovers his talent with horses.

Tamar, Erika

JUNKYARD DOG

The owner of the junkyard starves his dog and the neighborhood boys abuse him, so Katie decides to do what she can to help.

Family Stories

Avi

THE BARN

After their father suffers a stroke, three motherless children try to keep their struggling farm going in 1855 Oregon.

Birdsall, Jeanne

THE PENDERWICKS

Four lively sisters, aged 4 to 12, spend a summer with their dad and their dog in a cottage in Massachusetts.

Choldenko, Geraldine

AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS

Moose's world is turned upside down when his family moves to Alcatraz Island where his dad has a job as a prison guard.

Conly, Jane

CRAZY LADY!

A relationship with the neighborhood "Crazy Lady" and her son helps Vernon cope with life after his mother dies.

Creech, Sharon

RUBY HOLLER

The trouble twins, Dallas and Florida, are offered a 3 month break from the orphanage when an eccentric elderly couple needs help.

Dowell, Francis O'Roark

CHICKEN BOY

Because his siblings are delinquents and his father is never home, Tobin spends his time with his unconventional grandmother and his chicken-obsessed friend, Henry.

Konigsburg, E. L.

OUTCASTS OF 19 SCHULYER PLACE

Margaret Rose's summer with her great uncles is spent in a crusade to save their beautiful towering sculptures from being torn down as a neighborhood eyesore.

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Family Stories

Lisle, Janet Taylor

HOW I BECAME A WRITER AND OGGIE LEARNED HOW TO DRIVE

Archie's protection of his younger brother leads to a mix up with a tough gang.

McKay, Hilary

INDIGO'S STAR *

Meet the extraordinary and irresistible Casson family: four very individual kids and their artist parents.

MacLachlan, Patricia

BABY

Larkin's family learns to accept the death of Larkin's baby brother after another baby is left in a basket on their doorstep.

Nelson, Theresa

RUBY ELECTRIC

Ruby has two goals: to become a famous screenwriter and to find her missing father.

Voigt, Cynthia

HOMECOMING *

The four Tillerman kids must depend on each other as they travel across Connecticut in search of a relative who will give them a home.

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Children's Department

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Great Reads for Grades 5-6



Humor
Family Stories
Friends and School
Animals

