

Keep your kids occupied with a great book — or a few! Our suggestions should keep them busy all year long. These titles will encourage your kids to love reading, while improving their language arts skills.

Books for Ages 7-8

- ***Agapanthus Hum and Major Bark***, by Jennifer Plecas When she loses a tooth, Agapanthus discovers that she can make an angel hoot by blowing through the hole in her smile.
- ***Aloha, Dolores***, by Barbara Samuels When Dolores enters her cat, Duncan, in a Meow Munchies Cat Food contest, she's certain Duncan is so good-looking, smart, and talented that he'll win first prize. When a cat named Fifi wins instead, Dolores must rise to the occasion... and with a little help from Faye, she discovers that winning isn't everything.
- ***Bonaparte***, by Marsha Wilson Chall When a young French boy goes away to school, he and his dog are sad to be separated until they find a way to change the school's rules about dogs.

- ***Cam Jansen and the Birthday Mystery***, by *David A. Adler* When Cam's grandparents are robbed on their way to her parents' surprise birthday party, Cam uses her photographic memory to solve the mystery.
- ***Cold Feet***, by *Cynthia C. DeFelice* Willie McPhee has fallen on hard times and discovers spooky happenings when he takes much-needed boots off a dead man. Soon Willie's feet are warm...but who is that tapping on the door?
- ***Corduroy at the Zoo***, by *Don Freeman* Corduroy and his friends are taking a trip to the zoo. Find the mischievous monkeys playing hide-and-seek in the Jungle Walk, or spot the wombats in the Australia exhibit.
- ***Everything to Spend the Night From A to Z***, by *Ann Whitford Paul* Rollicking rhymes and illustrations packed with funny details reflect this exuberant narrator's delight as she pulls one thing after another out of her overnight bag and invites her grandpa to join in the fun.

- ***Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep: A Yarn About Wool***, by Teri Sloat Farmer Brown was shearing sheep, piling up a snowy heaps of wool that filled his shed, knee-deep. But when the temperature drops, his shivering sheep see all their wool in sacks--and "BAAA!" they cry. "WE WANT IT BACK!"
- ***Hamster Chase***, by Anastasia Suen The class hamster gets loose and it's up to Peter, Amy, and Archie to find him and lure him back into his cage.
- ***How To Catch An Elephant***, by Amy Schwartz Enjoy this zany tale about a journey into the wilds where elephants live and about the fun of catching one -- a process that is utterly logical and utterly nuts.
- ***It's Justin Time, Amber Brown***, by Paula Danziger Amber wants a watch for her seventh birthday more than anything so she can feel more grown-up and she will always know exactly how late Justin Daniels, her best friend, is.

- ***Letters and Sounds (Get Set for Kindergarten series)***, by Rosemary Wells Timothy and his kindergarten classmates learn about the alphabet, sounds, and rhyming. Includes activities on letter recognition, single and multiple syllable words, and words that start with consonants and vowels.
- ***The Lion and the Mouse and Other Aesop Fables***, by Doris Orgel Getting there is half the fun with this pair, and along the way Minnie and Moo pick up a busload of equally adventurous animal friends from nearby Africa World, careen through a car wash they believe is China, and find themselves trading stories under a night sky in what they hope is America.
- ***Minnie and Moo Go to Paris***, by Denys Cazet Getting there is half the fun with this pair, and along the way (past an electrical tower they think is the Eiffel), Minnie and Moo pick up a busload of equally adventurous animal friends from nearby Africa World, careen through a car wash they believe is China, and find themselves trading stories under a night sky in what they hope is America

- ***Minnie And Moo and the Musk of Zorro***, by *Denys Cazet* Moo longs for the days of heroes, the days of the derring-do of good-deed doers. As Juanita del Zorro del Moo and Dolores del Zorro del Minnie, our heroes roam the farm armed with an aerosol can of Zorro musk and a barbecue skewer, attempting to rescue the downtrodden.
- ***Old Thunder and Miss Raney***, by *Sharon Darrow* Miss Raney is determined to win a ribbon for her biscuits at the county fair until a tornado changes her plans.
- ***The Other Side***, by *Jacqueline Woodson* Woodson's pre-civil rights picture book tells a story of a friendship across race.
- ***Ring! Yo?***, by *Chris Raschka* RING! YO? gives young readers only one side of the conversation -- and asks them to use their imaginations to fill in the other half.

- ***Three Cheers for Catherine the Great!***, by Cari Best A little English, a little Russian, and a lot of heart make a birthday celebration you won't want to miss. This lively borscht-and-blintzes birthday celebration shows that sometimes no presents can be the best presents of all.
- ***Willie's Birthday***, by Anastasia Suen A "Bring Your Pet" birthday party gets out of hand when the pets show more interest in chasing each other than in celebrating.
- ***Yoshi's Feast***, by Kimiko Kajikawa Long ago there lived a fan maker named Yoshi who loved to eat broiled eels but the cook wants to charge him for the ones he smells as well as eats! How Yoshi repays the cook makes for a witty, satisfying tale about the pleasures of give and take.
- ***Young Classics: Alice in Wonderland***, by Julie Fior In this Young Classic edition, children discover the extraordinarily imaginative world of Wonderland. Photography and background information helps to establish the setting, and bring Alice in Wonderland to new life for a new generation of children.

- ***The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, by Trinka Hakes Noble** When Jimmy's unusual pet accompanies him on his class trip, an ordinary jaunt to a farm turns into a hilarious, slapstick romp.
- ***The Art Lesson*, by Tomie de Paola** Tommy can't wait to start his art class at school. But once there, he is surprised to find rules! His art teacher wants him to copy her drawing, and he wants to create his own.
- ***Swimmy*, by Leo Lionni** A little fish, the lone survivor of a school of fish swallowed by a tuna, devises a plan to camouflage himself and his new companions.
- ***If You Were a Writer*, by Joan Lowery Nixon** Melia wants to be a writer just like her mother. With a few helpful suggestions and lots of encouragement, she is soon on her way.

- ***Author: A True Story***, by Helen Lester
Children's author Helen Lester describes her life from age three to adulthood and discusses how she writes.
- ***Amelia's Road***, by Linda Jacobs Altman
This touching tale of the importance of home will strike a chord with children who find themselves having to cope with moving. Amelia, a child of migrant farm workers, is weary of wandering with the seasons and longs for a home with a fine yard and shade tree.
- ***Miss Rumphius***, by Barbara Cooney
As a child Great-Aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all.
- ***A Chair for My Mother***, by Vera B. Williams
A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

- ***The New Kid on the Block*, by Jack Prelutsky**
Open this book to any page to begin your exploration. Here are poems about things you may never have thought about before. You'll be introduced to jellyfish stew, a bouncing mouse, a ridiculous dog, and a boneless chicken. You'll meet the world's worst singer and the greatest video game player in history. You'll even find an invitation to a dragon's birthday party...Your friends are invited too.
- ***Freckle Juice*, by Judy Blume** Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens...
- ***Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White** Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte decides to help him.
- ***Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, by Beverly Cleary** Mr. Quimby's going to college, Mrs. Quimby's going to work. Now that Ramona is eight, she can go to a new school with a new teacher and ride the bus

all by herself. But life isn't as easy for Ramona as it used to be. All the Quimbys have to adjust, and Ramona gets her chance to prove that she's "big enough for her family to depend on."

- ***Fudge-A-Mania***, by *Judy Blume* Pete describes the family vacation in Maine with the Tubmans, highlighted by the antics of his younger brother Fudge.
- ***Where the Sidewalk Ends***, by *Shel Silverstein* Irreverent, hilarious and wildly popular, Silverstein's collection of verse is hard to put down.