Read Alouds for Grades K—6
Grades K—3

Mr. Popper’s Penguins  J Fic Atwater
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of Polar regions.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz  J Fic Baum
Dorothy and her dog, Toto, experience amazing adventures and make new friends as they journey to the Emerald City in search of the famous Wizard of Oz.

The Mouse and the Motorcycle  J Fic Cleary
A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

Ramona the Pest  J Fic Cleary
Ramona works hard at being noticed in kindergarten.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  J Fic Dahl
Each of the five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka’s mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in their own way.

Prairie Lotus  J Fic Park
In Dakota Territory in the 1880s, half-Chinese Hanna and her white father face racism and resistance to change as they try to make a home for themselves.

Hatchet  J Fic Paulsen
After a plane crash, thirteen–year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and also learning to survive his parents divorce.

The Westing Game  J Fic Raskin
The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Okay for Now  J Fic Schmidt
While Doug struggles to be more than the thug that his teachers and the police think him to be, he finds an unlikely ally in Lil Spicer, as they explore Audubon’s art.

When You Reach Me  J Fic Stead
As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, “The $20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve–year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Beyond the Bright Sea  J Fic Wolk
Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.

Scary Stories series  J 398.25 Schwartz
Tapped from the oral traditions of American folklore, these ghost stories and tales of weird happenings, witches, and graveyards have startling, funny, or surprising endings.
The Ruins of Gorlan
J Fic Flanagan
When thirteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Hall, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger.

Ground Zero
J Fic Gratz
Brandon is visiting his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 when the attack comes; Reshmina is a girl in Afghanistan who has grown up in the aftermath of that attack but dreams of peace, becoming a teacher and escaping her village and the narrow role that the Taliban believes is appropriate for women—both are struggling to survive, both changed forever by the events of 9/11.

Among the Hidden
J Fic Haddix
(Shadow Children #1) A government decree allows each family only two children. For Luke, a third child, this has meant a lifetime of hiding. But could a stray glimpse of a child hiding in the house across the way lead to freedom?

The Giver
J Fic Lowry
Given his life time assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.

Lalani of the Distant Sea
J Fic Kelly
Finds a young girl embarking on a quest normally reserved for boys in the hope of saving her village from life-threatening hazards, including a deadly plague affecting her mother.

Restart
J Fic Korman
When Chase returns to middle school after falling off the roof and losing his memory, he learns that the person he was before the amnesia is not someone he likes.

The False Prince
J Fic Nielsen
In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

Three Tales of My Father's Dragon
J Fic Gannett
In this trilogy, a young boy named Elmer rescues a baby dragon, who was being used by a group of lazy animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island.

Big Bad Detective Agency
J Fic Hale
The houses of all Three (not-so) Little Pigs were broken into and ransacked, and the Pigs are squealing for justice.

Pippi Longstocking
J Fic Lindgren
Tommy and his sister Annika have a new neighbor. Pippi has crazy pig tails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse that lives on her porch, and a pet monkey named Mr. Nilsson.

Mrs. Piggle Wiggle
J Fic MacDonald
From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle issues to parents her marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism, and Fighter-Quarrelitis.

Winnie the Pooh
J Fic Milne
The adventures of Christopher Robin and his friends in which Pooh Bear uses a balloon to get honey, Piglet meets a Heffalump, and Eeyore has a birthday.

Charlotte's Web
J Fic 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.

Stuart Little
J Fic White
After being adopted by a human family, a tiny mouse sets out to win over his resentful new brother and the family feline while fending off a gang of cats who want him out of the house.

Aesop's Fables
J 398.2 Aesop by Lobel
Twenty original fables about an array of animal characters from crocodile to ostrich.
**Grades 2—4**

**Dancing Home**  
J Fic Ada

When Margie’s cousin Lupe comes from Mexico to live in California with Margie’s family, Lupe must adapt to America, while Margie, who thought it would be fun to have her cousin there, finds that she is embarrassed by her in school and jealous of her at home.

**The World According to Humphrey**  
J Fic Birney

You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That’s what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true! In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student.

**Freckle Juice**  
J Fic Blume

More than anything in the world, Andrew Marcus wants freckles. His classmate Nicky has freckles—they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. His classmate Sharon offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe for fifty cents.

**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**  
J Fic Blume

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem.

**The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters...**  
J Fic Birdsall

This summer the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel. Soon they are busy discovering the summertime magic of Arundel’s sprawling gardens, treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread in Massachusetts.

**The Wild Robot**  
J Fic Brown

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She knows she needs to survive. She must adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island’s animals.

**Grades 5—6**

**Crispin: the Cross of Lead**  
J Fic Avi

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger than life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

**The Fast and Furriest**  
J Fic Behrens

The overweight and unathletic son of a famous former football star discovers that his equally fat and lazy dog is unexpectedly and obsessively interested in competing in dog agility contests.

**The Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus**  
J Fic Bowling

Aven Green was born without arms—so when her dad takes a job running a dying western theme park in Arizona, she knows she’ll become the center of unwanted attention at her new school. But she bonds with Connor, a classmate with his own disability to conquer. Then they discover a room at the park that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. Can Aven face her fears, solve a mystery, and help her friend, too?

**The War That Saved My Life**  
J Fic Bradley

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

**Al Capone Does My Shirts**  
J Fic Choldenko

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards’ families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
Indian No More  J Fic McManis
Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. But when the federal government signs a bill into law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight.

With no good jobs available in Oregon, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism, personally and toward her new friends.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH  J Fic O'Brien
Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.

Hatchet  J Fic Paulsen
After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce.

Daughter of the Deep  J Fic Riordan
In this story inspired by Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," Ana Dakkar, a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.

The Hobbit  J Fic Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard, Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

Front Desk  J Fic Yang
After emigrating from China, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel, despite the nasty owner, Mr. Yao, who exploits them, while she works the front desk and tries to cope with fitting in at her school.

Eerie Elementary: The School is Alive  J Fic Chabet
Discovering that his elementary school is alive and menacing, hall monitor Sam Graves, assisted by his friends Lucy and Antonio, works to defend his fellow students as they rehearse for the class play

No Talking  J Fic Clements
The noisy, fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Frindle  J Fic Clements
When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Ruby Holler  J Fic Creech
Thirteen-year-old fraternal twins, Dallas and Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage, but their lives change forever when an eccentric but sweet older couple invites them each on an adventure beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler

James and the Giant Peach  J Fic Dahl
After James parents are tragically eaten by a rhinoceros, he goes to live with his two horrible aunts, Spiker and Sponge. Life there is no fun, until James accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree and strange things start to happen.

Matilda  J Fic Dahl
Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a kid-hating terror of a headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it!
The Lemonade War

The Lemonade War by J Fic Davies

Evan and his younger sister, Jessie, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade and as the end of summer approaches, they battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by J Fic DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

Fortunately, the Milk

Fortunately, the Milk by J Fic Gaiman

While picking up milk for his children’s cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space.

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by J Fic Konigsburg

Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve year old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

Ella Enchanted

Ella Enchanted by J Fic Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by J Fic Lewis

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Wild Wings

Wild Wings by J Fic Lewis

Callum becomes friends with Iona, a practically feral classmate who has discovered an osprey, thought to be gone from Scotland, on Callum’s family farm, and they eventually share the secret with others, including Jeneba who encounters the same bird at her home in Gambia.

When you Trap a Tiger

When you Trap a Tiger by J Fic Keller

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her Halmoni’s Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers.

When the World was Ours

When the World was Ours by J Fic Kessler

Torn apart by the historical events leading up to World War II, three friends from 1936 Vienna are scattered to different countries as darkness spreads throughout Europe, impacting their families and their bonds with each other.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by J Fic Lord

Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. America is indeed a land full of wonders, but Shirley doesn’t know any English, so it’s hard to make friends.

Then a miracle happens: baseball! It's 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is a superstar. Suddenly Shirley is playing stickball with her class and following Jackie as he leads the Brooklyn Dodgers to victory after victory.

Shiloh

Shiloh by J Fic Naylor

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog’s real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Wonder

Wonder by J Fic Palacio

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme 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 classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
Starfish  J Fic Fipps
Bullied and shamed her whole life for being fat, twelve-year-old Ellie finally gains the confidence to stand up for herself, with the help of some wonderful new allies.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library  J Fic Gravenstein
Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero, the famous gamemaker, Luigi Lemoncello, with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Among the Hidden  J Fic Haddix
Luke has never been to school. He's never had a birthday party, or gone to a friend's house for an overnight. In fact, Luke has never had a friend. Luke is one of the shadow children, a third child forbidden by the Population Police. He's lived his entire life in hiding, and now, with a new housing development replacing the woods next to his family's farm, he is no longer even allowed to go outside.

Turtle in Paradise  J Fic Holm
In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.

Fish in a Tree  J Fic Hunt
Ally’s greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is as dumb as they think she is because she still doesn’t know how to read.

Number the Stars  J Fic Lowry
In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Sarah, Plain and Tall  J Fic Maclachlan
Set in the late nineteenth century and told from young Anna’s point of view, Sarah, Plain and Tall tells the story of how Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton comes from Maine to the prairie to answer Papa’s advertisement for a wife and mother. ?

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIHM  J Fic O’Brien
Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.

How to Eat Fried Worms  J Fic Rockwell
Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

Holes  J Fic Sachar
As further evidence of his family’s bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

The Trumpet of the Swan  J Fic White
Like the rest of his family, Louis is a trumpeter swan. But unlike his four brothers and sisters, Louis can’t trumpet joyfully. In fact, he can’t even make a sound. And since he can’t trumpet his love, the beautiful swan Serena pays absolutely no attention to him.
Grades 4-5

A Place to Hang the Moon  J Fic Albus
In World War II England, orphaned siblings William, Edmund, and Anna are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, where they bounce from home to home in search of someone willing to adopt them permanently.

Amari and the Night Brothers  J Fic Alston
Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

The One and Only Ivan  J Fic Applegate
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.

Chasing Vermeer  J Fic Balliett
When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon  J Fic Barnhill
An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Bud, Not Buddy  J Fic Curtis
Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.

The BFG  J Fic Dahl
Kid snatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling cannybull giants.

Because of Winn Dixie  J Fic DiCamillo
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of a big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

The Magician’s Elephant  J Fic DiCamillo
When ten-year-old orphan, Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day and she tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures as he desperately tries to find her.

Tale of Despereaux  J Fic DiCamillo
The adventures of Despereaux Tilling follow a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and the devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Out of My Mind  J Fic Draper
Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.