Great Books for Third and Fourth Graders

**Picture Books**

**The Village that Vanished** by Ann Grifalconi     42 pages

* In southeastern Africa, a young Yao girl and her mother find a way for their fellow villagers to escape approaching slave traders.

**Chester’s Way** by Kevin Henkes     32 pages

* Chester and Wilson share the same exact way of doing things, until Lilly moves into the neighborhood and shows them that new ways can be just as good.

**Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice** by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova      32 pages

* Mama Provi takes chicken and rice to her sick granddaughter Lucy who lives upstairs.

**Abiyoyo** by Pete Seeger     47 pages

* Banished from the town for making mischief, a little boy and his father are welcomed back when they find a way to make the dreaded giant Abiyoyo disappear.  **Zathura** by Chris Van Allsburg     32 pages
* Left on their own for an evening, two boisterous brothers find more excitement than they bargained for in a mysterious and mystical space adventure board game

**The Other Side** by Jacqueline Woodson

* Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

Easy Readers

**Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game** by David Adler     32 pages

* When eight-year-old Cam Jansen and her friend Eric go to a birthday party, she uses her photographic memory to solve the puzzle of the dinosaur count.

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** by Molly Bang     64 pages

* With his mother's help, Wiley outwits the hairy creature that dominates the swamp near his home by the Tombigbee River.

**Minnie and Moo Go to the Moon** by Denys Cazet    48 pages

* Two cow friends, Minnie and Moo, decide to drive the farmer's tractor all the way to the moon.

**Baseball Ballerina** by Kathryn Cristaldi     48 pages

* A baseball-loving girl worries that the ballet class her mother forces her to take will ruin her reputation with the other members of her baseball team.

**Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown** by Paula Daniziger      48 pages

* Amber is nervous about starting second grade with a new teacher, but despite being in the same class as mean Hannah Burton, things turn out just fine.

**Mercy Watson to the Rescue** by Kate DiCamillo      68 pages

* Breaking the Watson's bed is only one of the adventures that their adored pig Mercy gets into.

**Iris and Walter** by Elissa Haden Guest     43 pages

* When Iris moves to the country, she misses the city where she formerly lived; but with the help of a new friend named Walter, she learns to adjust to her new home.    **Lionel at Large** by Stephen Krensky     56 pages
* Lionel faces such ordeals as having to eat green beans, going to the doctor, and looking for the snake his sister lost in his room.

**Captain and Matey Set Sail** by Daniel Laurence     64 pages

* Despite their frequent disagreements, two pirates share many adventures.   **Days With Frog and Toad** by Arnold Lobel    64 pages
* Five more stories about Frog and Toad and their happy adventures.

**Soccer Sam** by Jean Marzollo    48 pages

* Sam's cousin from Mexico comes for an extended visit and teaches Sam and all the second graders to play soccer.

**Bravo, Amelia Bedelia!** by Herman Parish     40 pages

* From the time she is sent to pick up the guest conductor to the final bow by the orchestra, Amelia Bedelia's confusion causes quite an uproar at the school concert.

**Henry and Mudge and the Happy Cat** by Cynthia Rylant      47 pages

* Henry's family takes in a stray cat, the ugliest cat they have ever seen, and an amazing relationship blossoms between it and their big dog Mudge.

**In a Dark, Dark Room, and Other Scary Stories** by Alvin Schwartz     63 pages

* Seven scary stories to tell at night in front of a fire or in the dark, based on traditional stories and folklore from various countries.

**Nate the Great** by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat      60 pages

* Nate the Great solves the mystery of the missing picture.

Chapter Books

**The Absent Author** by Ron Roy     87 pages

* Dink Duncan and his two friends investigate the apparent kidnapping of famous mystery author Wallis Wallace.

**Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus** by Barbara Park     69 pages

* In her own words, a young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and what she does when she decides not to ride the bus home.

**Dinosaurs Before Dark** by Mary Pope Osborne      68 pages

* Meet Jack and Annie as they track

**Andy Russell, NOT Wanted by the Police** by David Adler     118 pages

* Andy and Tamika are watching their neighbor's house while they are away, but when strange and troubling things start happening inside the house, the police do not believe the children.

**Freckle Juice** by Judy Blume      40 pages

* Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys his friend’s freckle recipe for fifty cents.

**The Stories Julian Tells** by Ann Cameron       71 pages

* Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend.

**The Chocolate Touch** by Patrick Catling       87 pages

* What if everything that touched your lips turned to chocolate?

**The Dog that Pitched A No-Hitter** by Matt Christopher     42 pages

* Mike's telepathic dog sends him signals on the pitcher's mound.

**Ramona Quimby, Age 8** by Beverly Cleary     190 pages

* The further adventures of the Quimby family as Ramona enters the third grade.

**Lunch Money** by Andrew Clements      222 pages

* Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

**Molly's Pilgrim** by Barbara Cohen       32 pages

* Told to make a doll like a Pilgrim for the Thanksgiving display at school, Molly's Jewish mother dresses the doll as she herself dressed before leaving Russia to seek religious freedom--much to Molly's embarrassment.

**The Hundred Dresses** by Eleanor Estes      80 pages

* When ragged Wanda brags that she has one hundred dresses at home, the other girls in her class don’t believe her.

**The Whipping Boy** by Sid Fleischman      90 pages

* A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

**The Wolves in the Walls** by Neil Gaiman      56 pages

* Lucy is sure there are wolves living in the walls of her house, although others in her family disagree, and when the wolves come out, the adventure begins.

**My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett       86 pages

* A boy takes along chewing gum, two dozen lollipops, a package of rubber bands, six magnifying glasses and seven hair ribbons when he goes off to Wild Island to rescue a baby dragon.

**Runaway Radish** by Jessie Haas      56 pages

* When Radish the pony grows too big for the girls who own him, he goes to live at a horse camp where there are always new children for him to train.

**The Big Nap: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko** by Bruce Hale      113 pages

* Someone is turning the students at Emerson Hickey Elementary into zombies, and it's up to fourth-grade private eye Chet Gecko to find out who.

**Misty of Chincoteague** by Marguerite Henry      173 pages

* The determination of two youngsters to win a Chincoteague pony is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among those rounded up for the yearly auction.

**Pinky and Rex** by James Howe      40 pages

* Rex and her best friend Pinky, each the proud possessor of twenty-seven stuffed animals or dinosaurs, find their visit to the museum and its gift shop complicated by Pinky's little sister Amanda.

**Lady Lollipop** by Dick King-Smith     123 pages

* A quick-witted swineherd and a pig named Lollipop are royally rewarded after they reform a spoiled princess.

**Horrible Harry in Room 2B** by Suzy Kline      56 pages

* Doug discovers that though being Harry's best friend in Miss Mackle's second grade class isn't always easy, as Harry likes to do horrible things, it is often a lot of fun.  **Catwings** by Ursula Le Guin     39 pages
* Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hands.

**Morgy Makes His Move** by Maggie Lewis     74 pages

* When third-grader Morgy MacDougal-MacDuff moves from California to Massachusetts with his parents, he has a lot of new things to get used to before he feels comfortable.

**Pippi Longstocking** by Astrid Lindgren     158 pages

* Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey -- but without any parents -- at the edge of a Swedish village.

**Gooney Bird Greene** by Lois Lowry      88 pages

* A most unusual new student who loves to be the center of attention entertains her teacher and fellow second graders by telling absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name.

**Sarah, Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLachlan      58 pages

* When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.
* **Judy Moody** by Megan McDonald     160 pages
* Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

**7 x 9 = TROUBLE** by Claudia Mills       103 pages

* Third-grader Wilson struggles with his times-tables in order to beat the class deadline.

**Amelia Works it Out** by Marissa Moss      40 pages

* Amelia draws on her artistic talent to earn money for something special that she really wants.

**The Adventures of Captain Underpants** by Dav Pilkey      121 pages

* Two mischievous boys turn their ill-tempered school principal into a superhero in an outrageously funny book featuring comics and flip-o-rama art.

**The Many Adventures of Johnny Mutton: Stories and Pictures** by James Proimos      42 pages

* Although he is a sheep, Johnny Mutton goes to school, competes in the spelling bee, and dresses up for Halloween while always remaining true to himself.

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson      117 pages

* The six horrible Herdmans, the worst kids in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year.

**Wedding Flowers** by Cynthia Rylant       72 pages

* Ten-year-old cousins Lily, Rosie, and Tess return to their aunt's house on Cobble Street to help her plan the perfect wedding.

**Knights of the Kitchen Table** by Jon Scieszka      55 pages

* Joe receives a magic book for his birthday present from his uncle. Joe, Fred and Sam are transported to a time when evil knights, fire-breathing dragons and vile-smelling giants roamed the land.

**The Cricket in Times Square** by George Selden      134 pages

* A country cricket, unintentionally arrives in New York City and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat.

**Secret Identity** by Wendelin Van Draanen      138 pages

* Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!

**Charlotte's Web** by E.B. White     184 pages

* 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.

**Little Wolf's Haunted Hall for Small Horrors** by Ian Whybrow     125 pages

* In a series of letters to his parents, Little Wolf describes his attempts to create "the scariest school in the world" and convince his ghostly Uncle Bigbad to teach a magic class.

Folk & Fairy Tales

**The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales** by Jon Scieszka      52 pages

* Young subversives everywhere will love these ten fractured fairy tales

**Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls** by Jane Yolen         116 pages

* A collection of thirteen traditional tales from various parts of the world, with the main character being a fearless, strong, heroic, and resourceful woman.

**Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl** by Virginia Hamilton     32 pages

* In this retelling, using Gullah speech, of a familiar story the wily Brer Rabbit outwits Brer Fox who has set out to trap him.

**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears** by Verna Aardema       30 pages

* A retelling of a traditional West African tale that reveals how the mosquito developed its annoying habit.

**John Henry** by Julius Lester

* Retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain.

**The Boy Who Drew Cats** by Arthur A. Levine    32 pages

* An artistic young boy's love for drawing cats gets him into trouble and leads him to a mysterious experience. Based on a Japanese legend.

Non-Fiction

**How Much is a Million?** by David Schwartz      40 pages

* Text and pictures try to make possible the conceptualization of a million, a billion, and a trillion.

**Actual Size** by Steve Jenkins      32 pages

* Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals.

**Koko’s Kitten** by Francine Patterson      32 pages

* The real life experience of Koko, a gorilla in California who uses sign language, with a young kitten whom she loved and grieved over when it died.

**Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun** by Jeff Szpirglas      64 pages

* The book reveals the science behind all the disgusting things that kids love to talk about. From mucus to vomit, from farts to phlegm, nothing is off-limits.

Poetry

**Read a Rhyme, Write a Rhyme** by Jack Prelutsky      23 pages

* Encourages children to write poetry by providing complete poems by various authors as well as the opening lines of poems by Jack Prelutsky which young readers are asked to complete.

**Where the Sidewalk Ends** by Shel Silverstein      166 pages

* A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in a collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings.

**Insectlopedia** by Florian Douglas       47 pages

* Presents twenty-one short poems about such insects as the inchworm, termite, cricket, and ladybug.

Biography

**Harvesting Hope** by Kathleen Krull      48 pages

* As a boy, Cesar Chavez had to attend 35 schools. When he grew up he changed the world.

**26 Fairmount Avenue** by Tomie dePaola      71 pages

* The popular author-illustrator recalls a year from his childhood, including memories of kindergarten and moving to a new house.