

The 2016–2017

BUILDING  READERS®

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Meaniehead*** by Bruce Eric Kaplan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Henry and Eve are siblings who get into a huge fight over an action figure. See what happens as this fight blows out of proportion and ends up getting completely out of hand! (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine*** by Gloria Whelan (A Paula Wiseman Book). All Queen Victoria wanted to do on a hot day was go for a swim—something that was not appropriate for the Queen of England. Prince Albert brainstormed, and he concocted a plan that allowed the queen to take a dip. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***The Stranded Whale*** by Jane Yolen (Candlewick Press). Sally and her brothers are walking home from school when they find a beached whale on a cold Maine shore. Together, they do everything they can to help the whale get back into the ocean. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands*** by Louise Borden (Margaret K. McElderry Books). Piet dreams of being a famous skater and winning the Elfstedentocht, a speed skating race, that takes place throughout the Netherlands. Before he can do that, he is given an important task that involves skating on the canals in his Nazi-occupied Dutch town. (*upper elementary; historical fiction*)

***Chess! I Love It I Love It I Love It!*** by Jamie Gilson (Clarion Books). Richard and Patrick are avid members of the Sumac School Chess Club. They spend Mondays after school battling it out, each trying to be the best. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Runt*** by Nora Raleigh Baskin (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Several sixth graders learn about themselves and others as they adjust to life in middle school. Told from multiple perspectives, this book looks at the many forms bullying can take, including cyberbullying. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***I Am Henry Finch*** by Alexis Deacon (Candlewick Press). Each morning, the finches wake up and begin talking—and talk all day until they go to bed. But Henry Finch wakes in the middle of the night and begins to think about what it means to have his own identity. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Mango, Abuela, and Me*** by Meg Medina (Candlewick Press). When Mia's grandmother comes to live with her family, Mia worries about being able to communicate. Over time, Abuela teaches Mia Spanish while Mia teaches Abuela English and they come to be close friends. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Fly Away*** by Patricia MacLachlan (Margaret K. McElderry Books). Lucy's family travels to North Dakota every summer to see her Aunt Frankie. This year, they take on the task of helping Aunt Frankie prepare for an impending flood, even though she is convinced she doesn't need any help. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

The 2016–2017

BUILDING READERS®

## Book List

***Help! We Need a Title!*** by Hervé Tullet (Candlewick Press). Some characters in a book are greatly disturbed when they realize that someone—the reader—is watching them! While they worry that the book isn't finished, they also brainstorm ways to entertain the reader. *(lower elementary; fiction)*

***The Girl and the Bicycle*** by Mark Pett (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). In this wordless picture book, a girl sees a beautiful bicycle in a shop window and works tirelessly to raise money so she can buy it. When she finally raises enough money, she finds that the bike has been sold—but she decides on something else to purchase.  
*(lower elementary; fiction)*

***Rainbows Never End and Other Fun Facts*** by Laura Lyn DiSiena (Little Simon). Did you know that rainbows are round? And that they appear after rain, which is recycled water from lakes, rivers and oceans? Learn about natural elements—including tornadoes, deserts and the Northern Lights—in this book that highlights a ton of cool facts.  
*(lower elementary; nonfiction)*

***Willowood*** by Cecilia Galante (Aladdin). Lily and her mom move to the city right before she starts fifth grade. Even though her mom says she'll get used to it, she misses everything about home—especially her best friend Bailey. Over time, Lily begins to meet people as she slowly adjusts to her new school and life. *(upper elementary; fiction)*

***Panda Kindergarten*** by Joanne Ryder (HarperCollins). Join the panda kindergarten class at China's Wolong Nature Reserve. Young panda cubs are raised together in this protected environment. And it isn't too different from school—there is even a panda playground! *(lower elementary; nonfiction)*

***Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France*** by Mara Rockliff (Candlewick Press). Ben Franklin used the scientific method to prove several of his theories. While in France during the American Revolution, he used it to uncover the truth behind Dr. Mesmer's strange treatment of his patients.  
*(upper elementary; nonfiction)*

***All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom*** by Angela Johnson (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). What seemed like an ordinary day turned out to be quite different and special, as slaves learned that their freedom had been granted in the midst of the Civil War. Accompanied by beautiful paintings, this book celebrates an important event in history. *(lower elementary; nonfiction)*

***If: A Mind-Bending New Way of Looking at Big Ideas and Numbers*** by David J. Smith (Kids Can Press). It can be hard to conceptualize just how old the Earth is or

when certain inventions shaped history. This book puts these events and other big concepts into perspective and helps readers visualize them in an approachable way. *(upper elementary; nonfiction)*

***Ace Dragon Ltd.*** by Russell Hoban (Candlewick Press). As John is walking down the street, he sees a manhole cover with the words Ace Dragon Ltd. printed on it. After knocking and encountering the dragon that lives there, he develops an unlikely friendship. *(lower elementary; fiction)*

***Goatlocks and the Three Bears*** by Erica S. Perl (Beach Lane Books). In this silly take on the classic fairy tale, Goatlocks explores her neighbors' house—and eats and eats and eats! From the spoon in the porridge bowl to Baby Bear's bed, everything is food for Goatlocks!  
*(lower elementary; fiction)*

