

The 2014–2015

BUILDING READERS®

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Outside the Box: A Book of Poems*** by Karma Wilson (Margaret K. McElderry). Enjoy this quirky, fun and hilarious book of poetry, which includes poems titled “Definition of a Unicorn,” “Inside, Outside, Upside Down” and “Alien Under My Bed.” (*lower elementary; poetry*)

***Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems*** selected by Paul B. Janeczko (Candlewick). Beginning with a celebration of spring and continuing all the way to a recollection of cold and snow, this collection of poems spans an entire year. The book features the work of many esteemed poets, including Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes and Carl Sandburg! (*upper elementary; poetry*)

***The Tree Lady*** by H. Joseph Hopkins (Beach Lane). Katherine Olivia Sessions defied the odds to become the first woman to graduate from the University of California with a science degree. Following her passion for nature and trees, she designed and built San Diego’s Balboa Park. (*lower elementary; nonfiction*)

***The Two and Only Kelly Twins*** by Johanna Hurwitz (Candlewick). Arlene and Ilene Kelly are identical twins. Not only do they look exactly alike, they like to dress the same and they have identical pet ferrets. See what life is like for a Kelly girl, who always has her best friend with her. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***How to Train a Train*** by Jason Carter Eaton (Candlewick). Training a dog is easy compared to training a train. But if you follow these directions, you’ll know exactly how to catch and train the perfect pet train. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***How Dinosaurs Really Work!*** by Alan Snow (Atheneum). Learn about different kinds of dinosaurs, such as *Apatosaurus*, *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus rex*—as well as facts about their height, weight and what each dinosaur’s name means. Plus, each page features a silly dino joke! (*lower elementary; nonfiction*)

***Mousetronaut Goes to Mars*** by Mark Kelly (Paula Wiseman). The Galaxy Rocket is preparing to go into space and land on Mars—but Meteor the Mousetronaut doesn’t make the list of astronauts who will travel on the mission. See what happens when he sneaks on board. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

### ***What Color Is My World? The Lost History of African American Inventors***

by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld (Candlewick). Herbie and his sister Ella must help the handyman, Mr. Miter, clean up their new house.

Throughout the day, Mr. Miter tells them about African American inventors, including Alfred L. Cralle, who invented the ice cream scoop, and Frederick McKinley

Jones, the inventor of the refrigerated truck. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***One Cool Friend*** by Toni Buzzeo (Dial). Elliot is extremely polite and well-behaved, and he always wears a tuxedo. But when he’s at the aquarium Family Fun Day, he decides to sneak a Magellanic penguin (who’s also wearing a tuxedo) home with him. Now he has a friend to hang out with all the time! (*lower elementary; fiction*)



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***Bat 6*** by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Scholastic). It's 1949, and it's the fiftieth anniversary of the first girls' softball game between the two elementary schools in town. This novel, told from the point of view of 21 girls, looks at many bigger issues facing the United States immediately after World War II, including patriotism and racism. (*upper elementary; historical fiction*)

***Please, Louise*** by Toni Morrison and Slade Morrison (Paula Wiseman). Go on a walk with Louise to a very special place—the library! At the library, Louise's imagination is free to roam as she reads countless entertaining stories. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Ruby Goldberg's Bright Idea***

by Anna Humphrey (Simon & Schuster). After coming in second place in the science fair two years in a row, Ruby Goldberg is determined to win. But first, she must decide on the perfect project. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit***

***Up the World*** by Elizabeth Rusch (Candlewick). As a young child, Nikola Tesla was fascinated with lighting and electricity. Learn how he would go on to develop an alternating current system to supply electricity. (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***The Nowhere Box*** by Sam Zuppardi (Candlewick).

George is tired of his little brothers getting in his way while he plays—until he finds a giant box, the perfect thing to take him to Nowhere. But George soon discovers that Nowhere can be a little boring. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Lulu Walks the Dogs*** by Judith Viorst (Atheneum).

Lulu comes up with the perfect plan to make money. She will wake up precisely at 6:30 every morning and walk her neighbors' dogs. But her plan doesn't go quite perfectly in this hilarious story. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Sidney, Stella and the Moon*** by Emma Yarlett (Templar). Sidney and Stella do everything together, but they do not like to share. See what happens when they accidentally knock the moon out of the sky—and how they figure out how to get a new moon in its place. (*lower elementary; fiction*)

***Hippos Can't Swim and Other Fun Facts***

by Laura Lyn DiSiena and Hannah Eliot (Little Simon). Did you know that hummingbirds can hover in the air by flapping their wings up to 80 times per second? Or that zebras are attracted to black and white stripes? In this book, learn fascinating facts about these animals and many more! (*upper elementary; nonfiction*)

***Weeds Find a Way*** by Cindy

Jenson-Elliott (Beach Lane).

Weeds can be found all over, even where other plants are unable to grow. They always find ways to multiply—but that may not be a bad thing when they produce lovely flowers!

This book shows that contrary to popular belief, weeds can be beautiful things. (*lower elementary; nonfiction*)

***33 Minutes*** by Todd Hasak-Lowy (Aladdin).

Sam Lewis and Morgan Sturtz used to be best friends. But now, Sam is counting down the minutes until recess, when Morgan said he would kick Sam's butt. In these 33 minutes, Sam wonders about what caused Morgan to go from being his best friend to being his former best friend. (*upper elementary; fiction*)

***Pie*** by Sarah Weeks (Scholastic). Aunt Polly was the best pie-maker around—but she didn't tell anyone her secret pie recipes before she passed away. Anyone except for Lardo, her cat. Could someone really leave a recipe and a pie shop to a cat? (*upper elementary; fiction*)

