

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Totally Wonderful Miss Plumberry*** by Michael Rosen (Candlewick). Grandma gave Molly a lovely crystal, and it's the best, most special thing the little girl could ever have. Surely her classmates will agree, right? Wrong! At least not until their teacher notices the sparkling stone, too.

***Great Big Guinea Pigs*** by Susan L. Roth (Bloomsbury). "Once upon a time, about eight million years ago, guinea pigs like us weren't sweet, cute and little . . ." So begins the mommy guinea pig's bedtime tale to her youngster. But is it true? Absolutely! The newspaper lining the cage says so!

***Imagine Harry*** by Kate Klise (Harcourt). Harry may be imaginary, but he's Little Rabbit's best buddy. They roll down hills, play games and take baths together. But once school starts, Little Rabbit makes new friends that everyone can see. Maybe Harry doesn't need to stick around anymore.

***Jake the Philharmonic Dog*** by Karen LeFrak (Walker & Company). "Ruff!" Jake likes the violins. "Woof! Woof!" He adores the clarinets. But when the music-loving pup hears the crash of the drums? Yikes! He's sure it's thunder. Even worse, he thinks the conductor's baton is a chew toy!

***So Few of Me*** by Peter H. Reynolds (Candlewick). Leo is such a busy boy! With so very much to do, maybe he needs a Leo Two! Or even a Three, or a Four, or a Five. Hmm . . . maybe more Leos aren't the answer. Find out what Leo does in this story packed with cute drawings.

***The Best Time of Day*** by Eileen Spinelli (Harcourt). "The best time of day for the rooster is when the sun rises high over barnyard and pen." But he isn't the only one who

loves a particular part of the day. Find out which times everybody else adores in this delightful book full of family and rhymes.

***Silly Billy*** by Anthony Browne (Candlewick). There are lots of things to worry about, and Billy's nervous about all of them! But then Grandma has an idea. What if Billy puts worry dolls under his pillow and lets them do the fretting? Okay! But what if they start worrying too much, too?

***Moi & Marie Antoinette*** by Lynn Cullen (Bloomsbury). The Austrian girl is only 14, but she's being sent to France to marry a king. She's Marie Antoinette, and the only part of her old life she may bring along is her pug. But will the future queen have time for a dog? Will she notice when he leaves?

***Mercy Watson Fights Crime*** by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick). Mercy may just be a pig, but she catches criminals, too! Okay, so maybe she didn't know that sneaky Leroy Ninker was in her kitchen to steal the toaster. Maybe she just smelled the butter in his bag.

***Lucia and the Light*** by Phyllis Root (Candlewick). The bright sun keeps

Lucia's house in the Far North snug and warm. But when the sun stops rising, what does Lucia do? She ventures off to find out what's wrong. She doesn't expect to meet a group of trolls, though!

***Ella, of Course!*** by Sarah Weeks (Harcourt). Ella is a fixer. Whenever there's a problem, who solves it? Why, the bright little pig, naturally! But when Grammy sends Ella a cool blue umbrella for her birthday, watch out! Suddenly Ella isn't easing everyone's troubles—she's causing them!



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***Clockwise: a Time-Telling Tale*** by Sara Pinto (Bloomsbury). Thomas' family is super busy. There are lots of errands to run, so it's always time to go, go, go! But poor Thomas can't even tell time. Why do clocks have to be so confusing? Well, they don't, and this instructive story proves it.

***Beverly Billingsly Takes a Bow*** by Alexander Stadler (Harcourt). If anyone's ready for a close-up, it's Beverly. But when it's time to audition for the class play, oh boy! She freezes and ends up being cast as a wall and a shrub. With only one line to speak, will Beverly shine in her debut?

***The Runaway Dinner*** by Allan Ahlberg (Candlewick). It's weird enough when the sausage sprints away from Banjo Cannon's plate. But when the carrots, fries and even the plate itself take off, too? Well, that's just nuts! Will Banjo ever get his dinner back where it belongs—in his tummy?

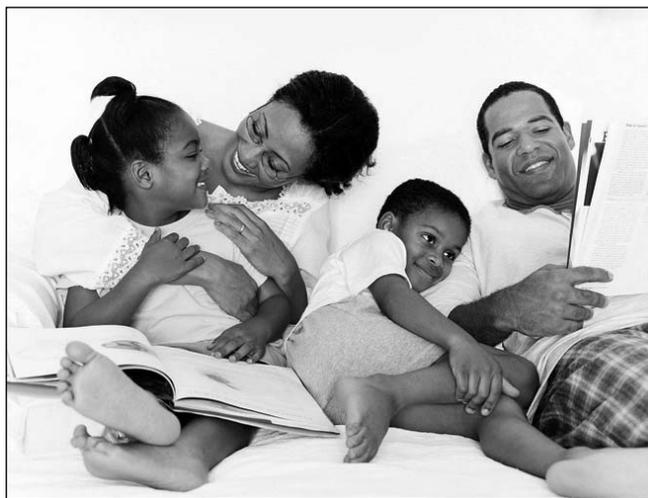
***That Summer*** by Tony Johnston (Harcourt). "That summer began like always, with hoots and shouts, all of us running into the sun ... ." But it ends so differently when young Joey takes ill. Soon, the boy is dying, and his big brother discovers what it's like to really live, laugh, love and let go.

***Scien-Trickery: Riddles in Science*** by J. Patrick Lewis (Harcourt). "My father's the arc, my mother's the spark. Without them you would be left in the dark." What are they? Electricity! Budding Einsteins can put their smarts to the test by figuring out the other riddles in this sharp collection.

***Jack and the Beanstalk*** by E. Nesbit (Candlewick). It's the classic tale retold here with lush drawings and rich language. Follow along as clever Jack sneaks into the giant's home again and again to steal the evil man's treasures. Will the angry giant ever catch the wily youngster?

***Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit*** by Joan Carris (Candlewick). Grandpa can't run his animal boarding-house alone! He needs plenty of help from Ernest the pig, Gabby the mynah bird and Milly the cat. But why can't the trusted critters help out when Grandpa brings home a mysterious warm bundle?

***The Nightingale*** by Stephen Mitchell (Candlewick). The emperor of China is a great and powerful man. But he can't force the tiny nightingale to live in his palace and sing its songs. Will a sparkling mechanical bird sound just as sweet? Find out in this smart retelling of a Hans Christian Andersen tale.



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***Iris and Walter and the Field Trip*** by Elissa Haden Guest (Harcourt). The class is going on a field trip to the aquarium! Best pals Iris and Walter can't wait. But what happens when Walter gets separated from the class? Will they ever find him again? Will he even realize he's lost?

***The Jade Dragon*** by Carolyn Marsden (Candlewick). Second-grader Ginny (or Ah Mei, as MaMá and Babá call her) is sure Stephanie will be her best friend. After all, the other little girl is Chinese, too! But what if Ginny's family is "more" Chinese than Stephanie's? Can they still be pals?

***I Believe in Unicorns*** by Michael Morpurgo (Candlewick). Tomas does not like the library, and he certainly doesn't like books. But thanks to the Unicorn Lady, he soon learns how powerful books and stories can be. So powerful that they're strong enough to survive—and thrive—during war.

***Backyard Bear*** by Anne Rockwell (Walker & Company). Neighborhoods are for people, not bears. But the hungry cub doesn't know that. He just smells the trash cans full of delicious food. Can he really live near people, though? No. Soon he must be moved back to the woods where he belongs.