

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***Otto's Orange Day*** by Frank Cammuso and Jay Lynch (Toon Books). Otto wishes the world to be orange, and voila! It is! What could go wrong? A lot, that's what. Especially when Otto's mom serves him orange mashed potatoes and orange milk. Eew! Maybe orange isn't the best color for everything ...

***Giant Meatball*** by Robert Weinstock (Harcourt). Who doesn't love the huge ball of meat? The townspeople, that's who. Especially when it crashes through the raspberries, scares the cows and plows over the poodles. Luckily, the mayor has a plan to stop the meaty menace. Hope everyone's hungry!

***Night of the Veggie Monster*** by George McClements (Bloomsbury). He clenches his toes. He squirms in his seat. His eyes begin to water. All this from one itty-bitsy pea on his tongue. Just imagine what happens to the "veggie monster" on broccoli night! Will he survive? Will Mom and Dad?

***What's So Bad About Being an Only Child?*** by Cari Best (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). What's it like being an only child? If you ask Rosemary Emma Angela Lynette Isabel Iris Malone, she'd say, "Everything!" So she insists on getting some siblings—even if they're sort of furry. Or scaly. Or chirpy.

***Mary Had a Little Lamp*** by Jack Lechner (Bloomsbury). "Mary had a little lamp—the bendy, gooseneck kind. And everywhere that Mary went, she dragged the lamp behind." Okay, so it's not exactly the companion you'd expect Mary to have. But it sure is a hilarious twist on a classic!

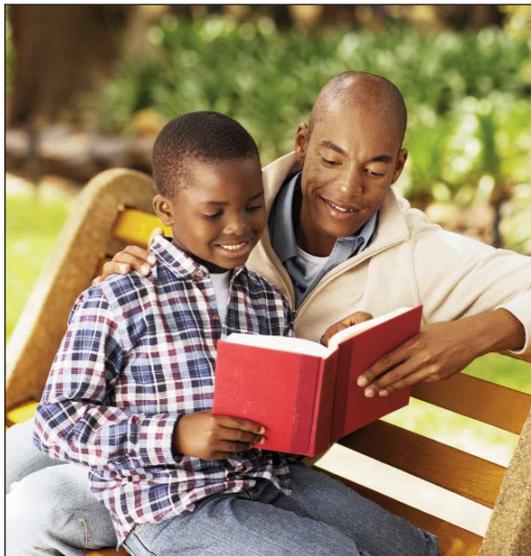
***A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*** by Marla Frazee (Harcourt). What could be better than a whole week at nature camp? Not much, think James and Eamon—except for spending time with Eamon's cool grandparents! The beach ... the sun ... the fun. Could life get any sweeter?

***Where the Giant Sleeps*** by Mem Fox (Harcourt). "This is where the giant sleeps, and here the fairy dozes. Here the pirate lays his head—though one eye never closes." But what are these clever, colorful scenes really? A dozy, dreamy look at the landscape as a heavy-eyed boy drifts off at bedtime.

***Curious George Flies a Kite*** by Margret Rey (Houghton Mifflin). The playful monkey uses a string to rescue the baby bunny. But what happens when he uses another string to catch fish? Ker-plop! And when he grabs the end of a string tied with ribbon tails? It's up, up and away for hapless George!

***Rabbit & Squirrel*** by Kara LaReau (Harcourt). Who's been messing with Rabbit's lettuce? It must be that mangy Squirrel! And, by the way, who's been picking Squirrel's tomatoes? It's gotta be Rabbit! But, wait. What if there's an even peskier critter prowling the garden? A big, tall, human one?

***Arnie the Doughnut*** by Laurie Keller (Henry Holt). Think a doughnut's life is all sprinkles and icing? Think again! People actually try to eat the tasty treat—even if the treat doesn't want to be eaten! Can Arnie the Doughnut keep from becoming breakfast? If he's quick and clever enough ... Find out in this fun book that is sure to become a favorite.



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**Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth** by Alison McGhee (Harcourt). When it comes to starting first grade, you can't be too careful. True, your teacher may seem friendly, but if she catches sight of your loose tooth? Watch out! Or maybe that goofy second grader just made the whole legend up . . .

**What Day Is It?/¿Qué día es hoy?** by Alex Moran (Harcourt). "Gil was glad. 'This is my big day!' Guille estaba contenta. —¡Hoy es mi gran día!" But, later, the orange bug worries his friends have forgotten his birthday. Guille estaba tan triste. Did they really forget, though? —¡No se nos olvidó!

**Yuki's Ride Home** by Manya Tessler (Bloomsbury). Yuki and her grandma spend a quiet, lovely day filled with warm soup, soft animals and sweet stories. But when the sun sets, will the little girl be brave enough to ride her bike back home alone? Of course—if the music of the night serenades her!

**Benny and Penny in Just Pretend** by Geoffrey Hayes (Toon Books). Aaaarrrrr! If Penny doesn't stop bothering big brother Benny, he'll never be able to play pirates! But if his kid sister goes away, how much fun will Benny have, anyway? Maybe two pirates really are better than one . . .

**Guess What I Found in Dragon Wood** by Timothy Knapman (Bloomsbury). What's the craziest thing a dragon could bring to school? A human boy! So that's just what the dragon does. But his fire-breathing classmates sure think the "Benjamin" is strange. Why, he doesn't even have scales!

**Texas Rangers: Legendary Lawmen** by Michael P. Spradlin (Walker). "Life on the vast Texas frontier of the 1820s was hard and rugged . . ." Dangerous, too. Soon, the famed Texas Rangers would come together to protect the Lone Star State. Learn how they did it in this straightforward, fact-filled tale.

**Freedom Summer** by Deborah Wiles (Atheneum). It's 1964, and race relations are improving down South.

Sadly, though, Joe and John Henry soon discover that things aren't changing quickly enough. No matter. The boys' friendship is deeper than the suddenly drained whites-only pool.

**Miss Alaineus: a Vocabulary Disaster** by Debra Frasier (Voyager). Sage messes up and makes a big mistake on her vocabulary homework. It leaves her humbled: modest, meek; devastated: wasted, ravaged; and ruined: destroyed. Can she overcome her snafu and triumph: prevail, succeed?

**Wizzil** by William Steig (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). "Wizzil the witch was busy biting her nails. 'Beatrice,' she said, 'I'm bored stiff.'" So she and her parrot hatch a plan to bug the neighbors. But little does the rascally witch know that her plan will lead to true love—for herself, no less!



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**The Moon Lady** by Amy Tan (Macmillan). The girls can't believe that Nai-nai, their grandmother, was once young. But she was. And on a long-ago night in China, Nai-nai made a secret wish to the Moon Lady. And it was granted—even though the child really made it come true herself.

**Osprey Adventure** by Jennifer Keats Curtis (Tidewater). The famed Chesapeake Bay birds face a deadly enemy: trash. Can worried Pete, along

with his father, help one of the ospreys escape the debris in its nest? Find out in this tale based on a real-life U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist.

**I, Matthew Henson, Polar Explorer** by Carole Boston Weatherford (Walker). How does a sharecropper's son rise above poverty and racism to reach the North Pole? By being brave and determined. Learn just how brave and determined in this true story of an African-American hero.

**Snowflake Bentley** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (Houghton Mifflin). Wilson Bentley loved taking pictures of snowflakes. (He was known to many as "The Snowflake Man.") Through his pictures he discovered that no two snowflakes are alike. This is the story of his life.