

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***We Are Family*** by Patricia Hegarty (Tiger Tales). This detailed picture book with short rhyming text introduces young readers to different kinds of families who have one big thing in common: unconditional love. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Paper Wishes*** by Lois Sepahban (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). A young Japanese-American girl and her family are forced into an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. An engaging story about survival and love offers a personal perspective on American history. (*historical fiction, upper elementary*)

***Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*** by Patricia Valdez (Knopf Books for Young Readers). Dynamic illustrations and text tell the story of a pioneering female scientist and how she turned her passion for reptiles into a career. (*biography, lower elementary*)

***The Book of Boy*** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (Greenwillow Books). Winner of multiple awards, this thrilling tale takes readers on a suspenseful medieval adventure, where nothing is quite what it seems. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***The Fox on the Swing*** by Evelina Daciute (Thames & Hudson, Inc). Readers will encounter unexpected details and a satisfying surprise in an award-winning tale about happiness and friendship. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** by Meg Medina (Candlewick). Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal, this story follows a young girl as she enters sixth grade and experiences difficult challenges with her friends and family. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***All that Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff*** by Meghan

McCarthy (Simon & Schuster). Filled with comical illustrations and facts about recycling, this is the true story of a ship full of trash that traveled over 6,000 miles. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

***Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild*** by

Catherine Thimmesh (HMH Books for Young Readers). In this award-winning book with stunning photos, readers get an up-close view of pandas and wildlife conservation. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

***The Adventures of Otto: See Pip Flap*** by David Milgrim

(Simon Spotlight). With simple vocabulary and illustrations, this silly story about a robot who tries to teach his friend how to fly will entertain young readers. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***The Parker Inheritance*** by Varian Johnson (Arthur A. Levine Books). A mystery takes readers on a journey through time and explores issues of race, bullying and identity. (*fiction, upper elementary*)



The 2019–2020

# BUILDING READERS® Book List

***Mommy’s Khimar*** by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow (Salaam Reads). An award-winning book with colorful illustrations and lyrical text introduces readers to a young American Muslim girl who loves her mother’s beautiful headscarves. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Elvis Is King!*** by Jonah Winter (Schwartz & Wade). In this illustrated biography, readers will learn about music legend Elvis Presley’s rise to fame. (*biography, upper elementary*)

***Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing*** by Marilyn Singer (Dial Books). Celebrate music and styles of dance with this engaging picture book poetry collection. (*poetry, lower elementary*)

***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems*** by Bob Raczka (Roaring Brook Press). This collection of clever poems gives readers a new and exciting way to experience poetry. Through arrangement and form, each poem becomes a “word painting.” (*poetry, upper elementary*)

***Say Something!*** by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books). This powerful picture book encourages children to speak up and speak out. Everyone can make a difference in the world—just by making their voice heard. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang (Arthur A. Levine Books). Follow Mia and her parents as they work together in a motel. This award-winning book, loosely based on the author’s childhood, examines issues of immigration and social justice. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Benji, the Bad Day, and Me*** by Sally J. Pla (Lee & Low Books). When Sammy has a horrible day, his autistic brother knows just how to make him feel better. This is a beautifully illustrated, sweet story about feelings and family. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Amal Unbound*** by Aisha Saeed (Nancy Paulsen Books). A young Pakistani girl dreams of continuing her education, but is forced into

indentured servitude. Find out how she overcomes her circumstances with strength and dignity. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom*** by Eric Walters (Tundra Books). A collection of wise African sayings and bold full-page illustrations will inspire readers of all ages. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Road Trip with Max and His Mom*** by Linda Urban (HMH Books for Young Readers). Max goes on an exciting adventure with his mom after returning

from a weekend at his dad’s house. This chapter book offers a loving look at family life after a divorce. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Flow, Spin, Grow: Looking for Patterns in Nature*** by Patchen Barss (Owlkids). Clear illustrations and rhyming text introduce young readers to the world of patterns. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

***National Parks of the USA*** by Kate Siber (Wide Eyed Editions). An award-winning science book, filled with fascinating facts and breathtaking illustrations, takes readers on a tour of America’s national parks. (*nonfiction, upper elementary*)

