for Children in Grades 2-3 reading at a 5th Grade level

25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children’s Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.

2020-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Editors</th>
<th>Publisher/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart</td>
<td>Candace Fleming</td>
<td>Random House Children’s Books / Yearling, 2019</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>A riveting look at the life, disappearance, and search for legendary aviatrix Amelia Earhart.</td>
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<td>Echo</td>
<td>Pam Muñoz Ryan</td>
<td>Scholastic, 2015</td>
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<td>In a story that blends folktale and realism, a harmonica connects three musically-talented children from different periods in history.</td>
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<td>Genius!: The Most Astonishing Inventions of All Time</td>
<td>Deborah Kespert</td>
<td>Thames and Hudson, 2015</td>
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<td>Young readers are introduced to the stories of the thinkers and inventors that helped shape our modern world, such as Archimedes, da Vinci, Gutenberg, James Watt, the Wright brothers, and Tim Berners-Lee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian’s Art Changed Science</td>
<td>Joyce Sidman</td>
<td>HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018</td>
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<td>A biography of Maria Sibylla Merian, a pioneering 17th-century scientist and artist who documented the metamorphosis of butterflies.</td>
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<td>Go for the Moon: A Rocket, a Boy, and the First Moon Landing</td>
<td>Chris Gall</td>
<td>Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / Roaring Brook Press, 2019</td>
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<td>A boy creates his own adventures to accompany the Apollo 11 astronauts in this picture book filled with scientific details and fun facts.</td>
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<td>Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla who spent 27 years in an enclosure in a shopping mall.</td>
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<td>The Parker Inheritance</td>
<td>Varian Johnson</td>
<td>Scholastic, 2018</td>
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<td>A multigenerational family story set in South Carolina explores the history of racism in a mystery with elements of The Westing Game.</td>
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<td>A Place to Belong</td>
<td>Cynthia Kadohata. Illus. by Julia Kuo</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster Children’s Publishing / Atheneum, 2019</td>
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<td>Story illuminating the history of post-WWII Japan, told through a Japanese-American girl whose family was expatriated and had to join her grandparents on a farm outside Hiroshima.</td>
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<td>Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders</td>
<td>ICPBS (various authors). Illus. by various</td>
<td>Candlewick Studio, 2019</td>
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<td>Postcard images of birds (and words) by 50+ creators from all over the world send messages of hope for human migration.</td>
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<td>A novel in verse told from two points of view: Tony, whose mother is incarcerated, and Gabe, a search-and-rescue dog who helps Tony learn about life in the wilderness.</td>
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<td>The Poetry of Us</td>
<td>J. Patrick Lewis</td>
<td>National Geographic Kids, 2018</td>
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<td>A wide variety of old and new poets, poetic techniques, forms, and topics covering life in the United States, from large cities to rural areas.</td>
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</tbody>
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Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse
by Leslie Bulion. Illus. by Mike Lowery
Peachtree Publishing Company, 2015
Anatomy riddles with high-level vocabulary and a Shakespeare theme.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus
by Jen Bryant. Illus. by Melissa Sweet
Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014
Roget is more than the creator of the thesaurus, this extensive biography shows many aspects of his life, from his list-loving childhood to his inventions. ▲ Spanish.

*Science Comics: Trees: Kings of the Forest
by Andy Hirsch
Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / First Second, 2018
A personified acorn (and its woodland friends) teach us about phototropism, the mycorrhizal network, and other science details behind the growth of a tree.

*Secret Coders
by Gene Luen Yang. Illus. by Mike Holmes
Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group / First Second, 2015
In this graphic novel, Hopper is a new student at a school filled with secrets. She and friend Eni use the magic of coding to figure out what’s been hidden, but will they be discovered?

*The Serpent’s Secret
by Sayantani DasGupta
Scholastic Press, 2018
A New Jersey sixth grader discovers that she might be an Indian princess who must solve riddles and battle demons to save the world.

Smile
by Raina Telgemeier
Scholastic / Graphix, 2010
Based on the author’s own experiences, this graphic memoir addresses the pain and embarrassment of years of orthodontia following an accident. ▲ Spanish.

The Way Things Work Now
by David Macaulay
HMH Books for Young Readers, 2016
Clever illustrations and text explain how the technological wonders of the past and present work.

What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?
by Chris Barton. Illus. by Ekua Holmes
Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing / Beach Lane Books, 2018
This celebration of Congresswoman and African-American pioneer Barbara Jordan contains rich back matter that asks readers to think about how to use their own gifts toward a greater good.

What Elephants Know
by Eric Dinerstein
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016
A renowned scientist depicts the complexities of life in the Nepalese Borderlands during the 1970s and the delicate relationship between man and nature.

*Wings of Fire: The Graphic Novel
by Tui Sutherland. Illus. by Mike Holmes
Scholastic / Graphix, 2013
Graphic novel adaptation of the popular fantasy series shows the world of warring dragons in full color.

When the Sea Turned to Silver
by Grace Lin
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016
In a fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore, a girl goes on a quest to save her grandmother’s life.

*The Wild Robot
by Peter Brown
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016
Robot Roz is marooned on a desert island and becomes part of the wildlife family, but her new life is threatened when her creator discovers her new home.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World
by Rachel Ignotofsky
Ten Speed Press, 2016
Profiles of 50 women leaders in STEM, as well as an illustrated scientific glossary and supplemental information.

* asterisk denotes one book of a series. ▲ denotes Spanish edition available
We suggest the following sites for more book titles:
www.cbcbooks.org
www.ala.org/alsc

Questions?
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
alsc@ala.org

The Children’s Book Council
54 W 39th St., 14 Floor
New York, NY 10018
cbc.info@cbcbooks.org

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