

## **Grades 3 and 4 Suggested Reading**

Aldrin, Buzz. ***Look to the Stars***. Putnam, 2009. Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin traces the history of air and space exploration from Isaac Newton to the International Space Station and Mars using personal insights and conversational text.

Barshaw, Ruth McNally. ***Ellie McDoodle: New Kid in School***. Bloomsbury, 2008. Armed only with humor, a pen, and a sketchbook, eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle chronicles her adventures and mishaps as the "new kid" in her new school. *Series*

Barton, Chris. ***The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-new Colors***. Charlesbridge, 2009. Brothers Bob and Joe Switzer had different interests and ambitions but worked together on the dazzling creation of fluorescent colors.

Bishop, Nic. ***Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide***. Scholastic, 2004. Enjoy up close views of the wildlife in a deciduous forest through breathtakingly beautiful photography and informative text.

Bruel, Nick. ***Happy Birthday, Bad Kitty***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Bad Kitty's birthday party seems to be going well until her presents begin to disappear, but is one of the guests stealing them? *Series*

Buckley, Carol. ***Tarra and Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends***. Putnam, 2009. This book shares the story of an elephant named Tarra who befriends a dog, Bella, at an elephant sanctuary.

Byars, Betsy. ***My Dog, My Hero***. Holt, 2000. A panel of three judges has to decide which dog out of eight finalists deserves to win the title of "My Hero."

Cheshire, Simon. ***The Curse of the Ancient Mask: And Other Case Files***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Become a detective and see if you can solve each mystery from the clues Saxby gives as he works three cases in this fast-paced chapter book. *Series*

Cleary, Beverly. ***Ribsy***. First published 1964. When Ribsy gets lost from his family at the shopping center, he begins a series of humorous escapades and wanderings in his quest to find his family. *Series*

Clements, Andrew. ***No Talking***. Simon & Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade class of Laketon Elementary becomes suspiciously quiet when the boys challenge the girls to a –no talking contest.

Coombs, Kate. ***The Secret-Keeper***. Atheneum, 2006. Kalli is entrusted with everyone's secrets until the potter's son reveals the best secret of all.

Davies, Nicola. ***Extreme Animals: the Toughest Creatures on Earth***. Candlewick, 2006. This amazing natural history book reveals how animals adapt to and survive the harshest of conditions that would kill any human.

Demi. ***Marco Polo***. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Travel with the legendary explorer, Marco Polo, through colorful, exotic lands, experiencing the dangers and adapting to strange cultures over his 24-year, 3,000-mile journey through the Far East.

Dennis, Brian. ***Nubs : The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle***. Little, Brown, 2009. Heartwarming true tale of a United States Marine and his canine friend as they met and bonded in Iraq, and how Nubs came to America.

Eilenberg, Max. ***Beauty and the Beast***. Candlewick, 2006. This beautifully illustrated version of the classic tale includes such interesting family members as Beauty's two spoiled sisters and her proud, adoring father.

French, Jackie. ***How to Scratch a Wombat: Where to Find It ... What to Feed It ... Why It Sleeps All Day***. Clarion, 2009. This book tells you all you need to know about caring for and living with wombats -- how to scratch their backs, how to sing to them, and how to keep the "hairy brown rocks with legs" from breaking your door down -- based on the author's thirty years of experience in her Australian home.

Friedman, Laurie B. ***Red White & True Blue Mallory***. Carolrhoda, 2009. On a class trip to Washington, D.C., Mallory keeps a journal in which she writes about sites she visits, her bothersome loose tooth, the lack of attention from her best friend, Mary Ann, and getting lost in a museum. *Series*

Gardiner, John Reynolds. ***Stone Fox***. First published 1980. Willie hopes to win the purse in a dog sled race in order to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm.

Gibbons, Gail. ***Hurricanes!*** Holiday House, 2009. Informative text and drawings present an overview of how hurricanes are formed, their categories, the destruction they can cause, and how they are forecasted and tracked.

Giovanni, Nikki. ***The Grasshopper's Song: an Aesop's Fable Revisited***. Candlewick, 2008. It is the alleged "frivolous" grasshopper's day in court as he tries to prove his case against the industrious ants who did not share their food with him through the long, cold winter.

Goldish, Meish. ***Gray Wolves Return to Yellowstone***. Bearport, 2008. After 70 years of absence, gray wolves are reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park through a very successful program to restore balance to the park's ecosystem.

Goldstone, Bruce. ***Great Estimations***. Henry Holt, 2006. This book will show you how to train your eyes and your mind to make really great estimations using photographs and easy-to-follow text.

Hamilton, Virginia. ***The Girl Who Spun Gold***. Scholastic, 2000. This beautifully illustrated folk tale is a West Indian variant of the Rumpelstiltskin story.

Hanson, Mary. ***How to Save Your Tail***. Schwartz & Wade, 2007. Take a romp with Bob the rat, who survives capture by two cats by sharing both fresh-baked cookies and fractured fairy tales about his ancestors.

Harper, Charise Mericle. ***Just Grace Walks the Dog***. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Grace hopes to prove to her parents that she can be dependable and responsible enough to have a real dog, not just the cardboard dog she has been pulling around. *Series*

Helman, Andrea. ***Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts***. Walker, 2008. This beautifully photographed book takes the reader to ecosystems around the world to show how animals camouflage themselves for protection in each unique habitat.

Hicks, Betty. ***Scaredy-Cat Catcher***. Roaring Brook, 2009. Rocky had all-star catcher potential until a play at the plate broke his arm resulting in his needing help from his friends, coach, and dog to overcome his fear of getting hurt again.

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Keep On!: The Story of Matthew Henson, Co-Discoverer of the North Pole***. Peachtree, 2009. Well-researched text and striking drawings portray the courage and determination of explorer Matthew Henson as he traveled with Admiral Peary to the North Pole in 1909.

Hubbard, Crystal. ***The Last Black King of the Kentucky Derby: the Story of Jimmy Winkfield***. Lee & Low, 2008. This is the inspiring story of Jimmy Winkfield, the last African-American jockey to win the Kentucky Derby.

Janeczko, Paul B. (selected by) ***A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout***. Candlewick, 2009. This collection contains more than three dozen illustrated rhyming poems, with tongue twisters and bilingual pieces, drawn from contemporary and classic literary sources and anonymous authors.

Judge, Lita. ***One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II***. Hyperion, 2007. The author relates the story of her grandparents' efforts after World War II to send packages of food, clothing, and shoes to their friends in Germany and others in Europe who suffered from the after-effects of the war.

Kelly, Katy. ***Lucy Rose: Working Myself to Pieces and Bits***. Delacorte, 2007. In her diary, fourth grader Lucy Rose, who is a lover of palindromes and big words, records her adventures with friends Jonique and Melonhead, including their unorthodox ways of raising money so that the McBees can remodel their bakery. *Series*

Klimo, Kate. ***The Dragon in the Sock Drawer***. Random House, 2008. When Jesse and Daisy's "geode" hatches a dragon, the ordinary ten-year-olds begin an extraordinary adventure as Dragon Keepers, who must not only take care of the baby dragon, but also protect her from St. George the Dragon Slayer. *Series*

Krull, Kathleen. ***The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth***. Knopf, 2009. As a young boy in the early 1900's, Philo Farnsworth's curiosity about how things worked eventually led him to develop the idea of how television could work.

Levine, Ellen. ***Henry's Freedom Box***. Scholastic, 2007. This is a fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry –Box Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Levine, Gail Carson. ***Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg***. Disney, 2005. Follow fairy Prilla in her quest to save Never Land despite her feelings of inadequacy and frustration over being a "no-talent" fairy. *Series*

Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho, Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters***. Schwartz & Wade, 2009. Laugh as you read about young Alvin Ho, anxious about almost everything, as he experiences his first family camping trip. *Series*

MacDonald, Betty. ***Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle***. First published 1947. Loved by children and their parents, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle always knows just the right way to solve any problem. *Series*

MacLachlan, Patricia. ***Sarah, Plain and Tall***. First published 1985. This sweet prairie tale of a family's experiences with Sarah, a mail-order bride from Maine, begins with children Anna and Caleb worried that their new mother might not like being away from the sea. *Series*.

Markey, Kevin. ***Slumpbuster***. HarperCollins, 2009. Just when his team is counting on him to lead them into the division championship, Banjo Bishbash goes into a horrendous hitting slump. Book 1 of the *Super Slugger series*.

Markle, Sandra. ***Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories***. Milbrook, 2009. Nine riveting tales share examples of animals saving humans, along with photos and extra information and insights into animal behavior.

McDonald, Megan. ***Judy Moody And Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt.*** Candlewick, 2009. This island vacation is all about action as Judy Moody and Stink race other teams of vacationing "pirates" to collect gold doubloons in the hunt for Blackbeard's pirate treasure. *Series*

Mills, Claudia. ***How Oliver Olson Changed the World.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009. Oliver's teacher wants him to write about how he would change the world, but he cannot even get his own parents to let him go to the third grade space sleepover or make his own science fair space diorama, so he definitely has his work cut out for him.

Morris, Gerald. ***The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great.*** Houghton Mifflin, 2008. This humorous version of the Arthurian legend features a more laid-back Sir Lancelot who is equally at home fighting "recreant knights" with his sword as with his wits – preferably in shiny armor and after his afternoon nap.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. ***Shiloh.*** Atheneum, 1991. Marty must make some painful decisions about returning a dog to his abusive owner. Newbery Honor Book 1992. *Series*

Nivola, Claire. ***Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2008. This beautifully illustrated biography tells how Wangari Maathai encouraged the people of Kenya to plant trees in an effort to restore their depleted land.

Nolan, Lucy. ***Bad to the Bone.*** Marshall Cavendish, 2008. Neighboring dogs, Down Girl and Sit, are discovering that their owners are very hard to train. *Series*

O'Malley, Kevin. ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude.*** Walker & Co., 2005. Cooperatively writing a fairy tale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.

Perkins, Mitali. ***Rickshaw Girl.*** Charlesbridge, 2007. When her family faces financial difficulties, Naima seeks to find a way to help while remaining true to her Bangladeshi heritage and her own artistic talent.

Petersen, P. J. ***Wild River.*** Delacorte, 2009. When their kayak hits a log and his older brother is seriously hurt, Ryan must overcome his fears and go for help.

Polacco, Patricia. ***The Keeping Quilt.*** First published 1988. Follow the author's family's quilt through several generations, from it's creation by the first generation immigrant family, all the way to the present generation.

Prelutsky, Jack. ***My Dog May be a Genius.*** Greenwillow, 2008. A collection of poems by children's poet laureate Jack Prelutsky that celebrates the joys of childhood with tongues twisting and imaginations soaring.

Rappaport, Doreen. ***Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt.*** Disney/Hyperion, 2009. Well-researched and powerfully presented, this biography of Eleanor Roosevelt chronicles her life from a quiet, reserved child to an outspoken champion for the rights of all individuals.

Riordan, Rick. ***Maze of Bones.*** Scholastic, 2008. When Amy and Dan's grandmother passes away, they are offered two choices: take one million dollars or get the first clue to what could be "the most important treasure in the world." *Series*

Root, Phyllis. ***Paula Bunyan.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2009. Paula Bunyan is a rough, tough lady with a singing voice that cracks windows, a live bear for a foot warmer, and a heart for the environment in this fun folk tale set in the North Woods.

Saint-Lot, Katia Novet. **Amadi's Snowman**. Tilbury House, 2008. Young Amadi learns the value of reading through a book about snow which is something Amadi has never heard of nor seen.

Salas, Laura Purdie. **Chatter, Sing, Roar, Buzz: Poems About the Rain Forest**. Capstone, 2009. This collection of poetry about the rain forest is accompanied by brilliant photos of fascinating animals and plants.

Scott, Elaine. **When is a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto**. Clarion, 2007. This book takes the downgrading of Pluto from planet to dwarf planet as a teachable moment for discussing questions such as how the number of planets has changed through the centuries, what can be called a planet, and how scientists come to conclusions—and occasionally change their minds.

Singer, Marilyn. **First Food Fight This Fall: And Other School Poems**. Sterling, 2008. Follow twelve children through a lively, illustrated collection of their poems about school related activities.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. **Dodger and Me**. Feiwel & Friends, 2008. Befriended by a blue chimpanzee genie, awkward Willie humorously navigates the road to discovering what real life wishes are all about. *Series*

Tate, Lindsey. **Kate Larkin, the Bone Expert**. Holt, 2008. When Kate falls off her bike and breaks her arm, she learns everything she can about the amazing bones in her body.

Tolan, Stephanie S. **Wishworks Inc**. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Third grader Max copes with his parents' divorce by retreating into an imaginary world complete with an imaginary dog to protect him from the bullies at school until he realizes that one must be careful what one wishes for even at his imaginary Wishworks, Inc.

Weeks, Sarah. **Oggie Cooder**. Scholastic, 2008. Oggie, an outcast to his classmates, garners friends and fame by sharing his unique talent of "charving," chewing and carving processed cheese into the shape of states, on a television talent show. *Series*

Wilson, Karma. **What's the Weather Inside?** McElderry, 2009. This clever collection of original poetry is mostly light, humorous verse about family, friends, and school.

Yee, Lisa. **Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)**. Arthur A. Levine, 2009. Two long-time best friends' disagreement escalates into a war between the girls and boys of their fourth grade classroom.

(These book suggestions have been adopted from HAISLN Organization.

For more great book ideas, check out [www.haisln.org](http://www.haisln.org). The values are not necessarily endorsed by CCS.)