



Books for Fourth Grade SRC 2011

Chapter Books (J)

Behrens, Andy. Fast and the Furriest.

Kevin's looking forward to spending his summer doing as little as possible. Unfortunately, Kevin's father feels differently. So does Kevin's Dog, Cromwell, who has suddenly and mysteriously developed a fascination with agility competitions. If he has to do anything, Kevin would rather do something for Cromwell, but dog agility lessons do not constitute a sport in his father's mind, so football camp it is. Until some well-timed events collide, literally, and Kevin's found a way for him and Cromwell to take classes, and the upstart Team Cromwell is born.

Clements, Andrew. We the Children.

Sixth-grader Ben Pratt's life is full of changes that he does not like--his parents' separation and the plan to demolish his seaside school to build an amusement park--but when the school janitor gives him a tarnished coin with some old engravings and then dies, Ben is drawn into an effort to keep the school from being destroyed.

Fleming, Candace. Lowji Discovers America.

A nine-year-old East Indian boy tries to adjust to his new life in suburban America. While he misses his old life in Bombay, maybe now he can get the pet he's always wanted.

Jennings, Patrick. Guinea Dog.

Rufus has been dreaming of getting a dog. His best friend has one. His worst friend has one. But his dad has a few objections: They whine. They gnaw. They bark. They scratch. They beg. They drool. Rufus pays no attention when his mom offers her think-outside-the-box suggestion. If Rufus's dad thinks dogs are a problem, he won't know what hit him when he meets the Guinea Pig that Thinks She's a Dog. She barks. She bites. She'll eat your homework.

London, C. Alexander. We Are Not Eaten by Yaks: an Accidental Adventure.

Eleven-year-old twins Oliver and Celia Navel live on the 4-1/2th floor of the Explorers Club with their father, Dr. Navel. Their mother, Dr. Navel, has been missing for years. So when an explorer shows up with a clue as to where his wife could be, Dr. Navel drags Oliver and Celia to Tibet to find her. Once there, the twins fall out of airplanes, encounter Yetis, travel through waterfalls, and end up in the Demon Fortress of the Warrior King where they-just possibly-might find their mother and save their father from the Poison Witches. Thing is, they would much rather be watching television.

Lowry, Lois. The Birthday Ball.

When a bored Princess Patricia Priscilla makes her chambermaid switch identities with her so she can attend the village school, her attitude changes and she plans a new way to celebrate her sixteenth birthday.

Mass, Wendy. The Candymakers.

Four children have been chosen to compete in a national competition to find the tastiest confection in the country. Who will invent a candy more delicious than the Oozing Crunchorama or the Neon Lightning Chew? This sweet, charming, and cleverly crafted story, told from each contestant's perspective, is filled with mystery, friendship, and juicy revelations.

Spinelli, Eileen. The Dancing Pancake.

The grand opening of the Dancing Pancake isn't the only new thing in Bindi's life: new friends, a new apartment, maybe even a cute new crush? But there are other changes, like her dad's move to a new city that have left Bindi confused and wondering: What will happen to my family? Will this new life ever feel normal?

Voigt, Cynthia. Young Fredle.

Fredle is an earnest young fellow suddenly cast out of his cozy home behind the kitchen cabinets—into the outside. It's a new world of color and texture and grass and sky. But with all that comes snakes and rain and lawnmowers and raccoons and a different sort of mouse (field mice, they're called) not entirely trustworthy. Do the dangers outweigh the thrill of discovery?

Chapter Book Series (J)

Buckley, Michael. N.E.R.D.S.

NERDS combines all the excitement of international espionage with all the awkwardness of elementary school, and the results are hilarious. A group of unpopular fifth graders run a spy network from inside their school. With the help of cutting-edge science, they transform their nerdy qualities into incredible abilities! Their enemies? An array of James Bond-style villains, each with an evil plan more diabolical and more ridiculous than the last.

Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth. Moxy Maxwell.

It isn't as though Moxy is too lazy to do her summer reading, or write her thank you notes, or even practice the piano. She just has more important things to do. But, not surprisingly, she rises to the occasion brilliantly.

J Picture Books

Peet, Mal. Cloud Tea Monkeys.

Tashi lives in a tiny village at the foot of the mountains, below the tea plantations where her mother works. When her mother falls ill, Tashi goes alone to the plantation, hoping to earn money for the doctor. But she is far too small to harvest the tender shoots, and her clumsy efforts anger the cruel Overseer. She is desolate, until something extraordinary happens. Inspired by a centuries-old legend of tea-picking monkeys, here is a richly told tale full of vivid characters: the heartless Overseer, the enigmatic Royal Tea Taster, and — far away — an empress with a penchant for tea.

Nonfiction

Aguilar, David A. Super Stars: the Biggest, Hottest, Brightest, Most Explosive Stars in the Milky Way.

Everyone knows that those bright, white dots in the night sky are stars; but how many of us really know what stars are, how they are born, how their lives affect ours, and how they die. *SuperStars!* is a book to expand the knowledge and fire the imaginations of stargazers everywhere. Expert David Aguilar guides young readers through a galaxy of stars, including the biggest, wariest, and most explosive, not to mention star daycares and "diamonds in the sky". **(523.88 Ag)**

Beccia, Carlyn. I Feel Better with a Frog in My Throat: History's Strangest Cures.

From chicken soup, honey, and mother's kisses to frog soup, mummy powder, and leeches, this book highlights some unusual cures for common illnesses that have been practiced throughout history. **(615.88 Be)**

Levine, Susan Sachs. Packard Takes Flight: a Bird's-Eye View of Columbus, Ohio.

After a frightening fall from his nest high up on a ledge of the Rhodes Tower in downtown Columbus, Packard, a peregrine falcon chick, sets off to find his way back home. Follow Packard as he visits many of the wonderful sites in Ohio's capital city, including the Center of Science and Industry, the Franklin Park Conservatory and the North Market. Finally arriving at the Statehouse, he can see his nest, and even his family, but how will he reach them? **(917.7157 Le)**

Lister, Adrian. The Ice Age Tracker's Guide.

If you were exploring in the Ice Age, would you be able to recognize the tracks of a saber-tooth tiger, the droppings of a woolly rhinoceros, or the call of the giant deer? If not, this unique book is the essential guide for quick, on-the-spot reference. For readers fascinated by long-extinct creatures, this is a guide to how 12 Ice-Age animals would have lived, eaten, and hunted. **(569 Li)**