

RESOURCES TO HELP LOCATE BOOKS FOR BEGINNING READERS

The goal of this program is to help children gain entry to books as efficiently as possible by teaching fundamental reading skills that pave the way to reading books. Then the match begins: matching the right books with the right child. If the right matches are made, children will want to read, and the more they read, the more proficient they will become. What follows are a few resources to assist in identifying books for beginning readers to put them on the road to become life-long readers.

PEOPLE AS RESOURCES:

Reading teachers, reading specialists, and librarians can provide titles appropriate for a child's reading ability and interests. Seek out people who have a passion for children's literature wherever you can find them: universities, bookstores, book fairs, blogs. Gather as much information as you can from the experts. Talk to friends and colleagues to see what their children are reading; share and exchange books.

PUBLISHERS AS RESOURCES:

Scholastic (<http://www.scholastic.com>) offers the Scholastic Reader series for beginning readers at four different levels from Level 1: Simple words and short sentences for the newest readers to Level 4: First chapter books for advanced beginners.

Samples:

Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold
I Spy Fly Guy! by Tedd Arnold
Super Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold
Dinosaur Time by Peggy Parish
Pokemon: Deoxys' Secret adapted by Tracey West
There's a Mouse in the House by Wendy Cheyette Lewison and Hans Wilhelm
Two Crazy Pigs by Karen Berman Nagel

Scholastic has non-fiction books for children wanting to read information books.

Samples:

Fly Guy Presents: Space by Tedd Arnold
Fly Guy Presents Sharks by Tedd Arnold
Make Way for Tooth Decay by Bobbi Katz
If Dogs Ruled the World by Faith McNulty
Rookie: Read about Science series
Scholastic Science Reader series

Additionally, Scholastic provides a wide variety of easy-to-read books by notable authors.

Samples:

Clifford: The Big Red Dog Series by Norman Bridwell
Danny and the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
Little Bill Books for Beginning Readers by Bill Cosby
Nate the Great by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Random House, Inc. (<http://www.randomhousekids.com>) presents the classic I Can Read It by Myself series.

Sample:

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
One Fish two fish red fish blue fish by Dr. Seuss
The FOOT Book by Dr. Seuss
Mr. Brown Can MOO! Can You? Dr. Seuss
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire
Robert the Rose Horse by Joan Heilbroner
I Am Not Going to Get Up Today by James Stevenson
It's Not Easy being a Bunny by Marilyn Sadler
Summer by Alice Low
Monster Munchies by Laura Numeroff

Berenstain Bear Series by Stan and Jan Berenstain

In addition, Random House, Inc. (<http://www.stepintoreading.com>) has the Step into Reading Series from Level 1: Ready to Read to Level 5: Ready for Chapters.

Samples:

One Hundred Shoes by Charles Ghigna
Big Monster, Little Monster by Mary Tillworth (selection from the Disney series)
George Washington and the General's Dog by Frank Murphy
Ready? Set. Raymond! by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
The Statue of Liberty by Lucille Recht Penner

Harper Collins Publishers (<http://www.icanread.com>) designed a series that starts with My First Books for Emergent Readers and progresses to Level 4: The Perfect Bridge to Chapter Books.

Samples:

And I Mean It, Stanley by Crosby Bonsall
Amelia Bedelia Series by Peggy Parish
Big Max by Kin Platt
Biscuit Series by Alyssa Satin Capucilli
Days with Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
Dirk Bones Series by Doug Cushman
Fancy Nancy: Splendid Speller by Jane O'Connor
Frances Series by Russell Hoban
Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel
A Green, Green Garden by Mercer Mayer
A Ghost Named Fred by Nathaniel Benchley
Hattie Rabbit by Dick Gackenbach
Little Bear Series by Else Holmelund Minarik
Mac and Cheese by Sarah weeks and Jane Manning
Moke and Poki in the Rain Forest by Mamoru Funai
Mouse Soup by Arnold Lobel
Owl at Home by Arnold Lobel
Pete the Cat Series by James Dean
Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin
Space Cat by Doug Cushman
This is the House Where Jack Lives by Joan Heilbroner
Uncle Elephant by Arnold Lobel
Who's a Pest? by Crosby Newell Bonsall

Puffin Books Easy-to-Read series (Google Puffin Easy-to-Read Books) has levels of books by notable authors at varying levels of reading difficulty in both fiction and nonfiction categories.

Samples:

Bones Series by David Adler
Fishy Riddles by Katy Hall
Fox and His Friends by Edward Marshall
A Snake Mistake by Mavis Smith
The Snow Child retold by Harriet Zeifert
Tiny the Snow Dog by Cari Meister
When the TV Broke by Harriet Zeifert
Where Fish Go in Winter by Amy Goldman
Young Cam Jansen and the Missing Cookie by Susanna Natti

DK Publishing, Inc. (<http://www.dk.com>) provides five levels for beginning readers from Pre-Level 1: Learning to Read to Level 4: Proficient Readers.

Samples:

Diving Dolphin by Karen Wallace
Pirate Attack by Deborah Lock
Rockets and Spaceships by Karen Wallace
Star Wars Series

Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Book Group (<http://www.books.disney.com>), offers books with both classic Disney and Marvel Comics themes that can be read by beginning readers. They also feature the books of their all-star author and illustrator Mo Willems.

Samples:

Are You Ready to Play Outside? By Mo Willems
Can I Play Too? by Mo Willems
Happy Pig Day! by Mo Willems
I Broke My Trunk by Mo Willems
Let's Go for a Drive! by Mo Willems
There Is a Bird on Your Head by Mo Willems
We Are in a Book! by Mo Willems

World of Reading Series: Marvel
These Are the X-Men
The Story of the X-Men
This Is Wolverine
Iron Man
Avengers
Spiderman

National Geographic Readers (<http://www.shop.nationalgeographic.com>) are books with easy-to-read text and enthralling pictures that draw in the readers and hold their interest. When you go to the site, *search* National Geographic Readers and the entire collection will be displayed.

Samples:

Amazing Animal Journeys by Laura Marsh

Frogs by Elizabeth Carney
Monkeys by Anne Schreiber
Planets by Elizabeth Carney
Polar Bears by Laura Marsh
Ponies by Laura Marsh
Safari by Gail Tuchman
Sea Turtles by Laura Marsh
Snakes by Melissa Stewart
Volcanoes by Anne Schreiber
Weather by Kris Rattini
Whales by Laura Marsh

Additional Books and Series for Beginning Readers

26 Fairmount Avenue by Tomie DePaola
Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day by Jean Van Leeuwen
Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo and Alisson McGhee
Bink & Gollie: Two for One by Kate DiCamillo and Alisson McGhee
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
Dodsworth in Tokyo by Tim Egan
First the Egg by Laura Vaccaro
Follow the Swallow by Julia Donaldson
Henry and Mudge Series by Cynthia Rylant, e.g., *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas* by Cynthia Rylant
I Want My Hat Back by Jon Klassen
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff
Ling and Ting Not Exactly the Same! by Grace Lin
Ling and Ting Share a Birthday by Grace Lin
Masha and the Bear retold by Lari Don and Melanie Williams
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo
Move Over, Rover! By Karen Beaumont
Mr. Putter & Tabby Bake the Cake by Cynthia Rylant and Arthur Howard
Mr. Putter & Tabby Pour the Tea by Cynthia Rylant and Arthur Howard
Not a Box by Antoinette Portis
Penny and Her Doll by Kevin Henkes
Pete the Cat Original Series by Eric Litwin
Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant
Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover by Cece Bell
See Me Run by Paul Meisel
A Splendid Friend, Indeed by Suzanne Bloom
Squirrel's Fun Day by Lisa Moser
Stinky by Eleanor Davis
Tales from a Very Picky Eater by Josh Schneider

Up, Tall and High! by Ethan Long
Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways by Linda McGee

RESOURCES TO LOCATE HIGH INTEREST, LOW READING LEVEL BOOKS FOR OLDER STUDENTS:

At one time I taught adolescent non-readers and had access to books that the students did not regard as “baby books.” It took a long time to find the right resources. Since then, new series have been developed, and in order to find what books match your students’ needs, you will have to speak to reading specialists, reading teachers and scour resources online by searching high interest, low reading level books. One such resource is <http://www.schoolonwheels.org/pdfs/3328/Hi-Lo-Book-List.pdf>.

GENERAL WEBSITES AS RESOURCES:

1. International Reading Association (IRA) <http://www.reading.org>. In the search box enter Children’s Choices and then do another search entering Teachers’ Choices; recommendations will be provided for each search. There is a plethora of resources available at this site on beginning readers and struggling readers.
2. The Children’s Book Council (CBC) <http://www.cbcbooks.org>. The CBC sponsors National Children’s Book Week every November. Search for recommendations at their site.
3. The American Library Association (ALA) <http://www.ala.org>. The ALA gives the Newbery Award for distinguished American children’s book published the previous year and the Caldecott Award for the most distinguished picture book. They also present the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award annually for the most distinguished American book for beginning readers. At the site search these award names to get the titles for the current and previous years. Other resources are also provided at the ALA website.
4. The New York Public Library <http://www.nypl.org>. Search the Children’s Library division on their website and explore books, services, resources, and recommended selections.