

# RESOURCE ROOM, FEB 2016:

*As a teacher who loves children's literature, I find myself often getting requests for children's book recommendations. A lot of times, kids who get hooked on reading tend to stick with a certain series. They love reading! (As long as it's Captain Underpants or Magic Treehouse...) What's a parent/teacher to do with these kids? Easy... get them hooked on another series! Here's my list of recommendations for those bright minds out there who love to read, but can't seem to find the right book. Check out some of these books, and let us know if you find one you like!*

- **On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness (Book 1 of "Wingfeather Saga"), by Andrew Peterson**

This is a rollicking fantasy novel about standing for love, family, unity, and compassion. These books are marked by creativity, weaving a fascinating fairy-tale that echoes truth through the use of allegories (much like the Chronicles of Narnia).

- **"The Magic Treehouse" Series, by Mary Pope Osborne**

This is a great series for avid readers because it contains so many books. Each book is its own episode, but read together there is a greater story for kids to follow as well.

- **Inkheart, (Book 1 of the "Inkheart Trilogy"), by Cornelia Funke**

These are thick books, good for kids who like a challenge. The story is rich and compelling, and young readers will be drawn into Inkworld, experiencing the story alongside its characters.

- **Eragon, (Book 1 of "The Inheritance Cycle"), by Christopher Paolini**

A book about dragons, quests, unlikely heroes, etc. The themes may be classic, but the rich, vast world of Eragon brings them to life in a new way for its readers.

- **The Invention of Hugo Cabret, by Brian Selznik**

This book is inspired by the mystery of turn-of-the-century filmmaker George Melies: his life, work, and vanishment from society. In addition to being a totally fascinating story, it's the only novel to have ever won a Caldecott Medal.

- **"The Series of Unfortunate Events," by Lemony Snicket**

There are 13 books in this witty series by perhaps the most sarcastic children's author of all time. While the writing style certainly is clever, the most important thing about this series is that it is unique, which is very appealing to young avid readers.

- **A Wrinkle in Time (Book 1 of "Time" Series), by Madeline L'Engle**

This is a beautiful science fiction novel about time travel, space travel, and a father who never found his way home. While I think the first book is the absolute best, the companion books in the series are also quite good.

- **Amber Brown is Not a Crayon (Book 1 of the "Amber Brown" Series), by Paula Danzinger**

These beginning chapter books make up a realistic fiction series about a little girl who faces some pretty common challenges of childhood: boys with cooties, stuck up kids at school, etc. Amber also has some pretty serious problems, like her parents getting a divorce or her best friend moving to Alabama. These are great for young readers looking for a book that gives them more than a character: it gives them a friend.

- **The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place, by E.L. Konigsburg**

This is the story of passionate people, who do things not because they have to, but because they care. The unique and unusual characters of this novel come alive through E.L. Konigsburg's beautiful writing, and make kids want to read even more of her work.

- **"The Seven Sleepers" Series by Gilbert Morris**

This is a Christian sci-fi series, about a group of regular teenagers trying to figure out life in a post-apocalyptic world. A good series for kids looking for a unique genre of literature.

- **The Watsons Go to Birmingham, Christopher Paul Curtis**

This is a historical fiction novel about a black family during the 1960's. While there are many hilarious moments throughout the book, there is also quite a bit of social commentary on the Civil Rights movement and life in the 60's.

- **"The Royal Diaries" Series, by various authors**

This is a great series for girls who love historical fiction. Each book is the fictional "diary" of a famous princess in different countries and time periods across history.

- **The Fiddler's Gun (Book 1 of "Fin's Revolution" Series), by A.S. Peterson**

This is an historical fiction novel about an orphan girl, pirates, and the American Revolution. A more obscure series with excellent writing and imagery.

- **Crispin: The Cross of Lead (Book 1 of the "Crispin" Series), by Avi**

A historical fiction book about life in the Middle Ages from the perspective of a peasant boy. An engaging read about a rather uncommon topic in children's literature.

- **The Westing Game, by Ellen Raskin**

This is one of the best mystery novels I have ever read, and it's also the winner of a Newberry. Give this to young readers to challenge their comprehension skills!

- **Artemis Fowl (Book 1 of the "Artemis Fowl" Series), by Eoin Colfer**

Fairies, dwarves, leprechauns, goblins...all the usual fantasy characters, using Mac computers, shield technology, advanced weaponry, and the like. This is a great book for readers looking for a fresh new twist on fantasy.

- **The Giver (Book 1 of "The Giver Quartet"), by Lois Lowry**

A phenomenal book that really led the way into the dystopian craze that now characterizes much of children's literature. The first of its kind in many areas, *The Giver* offers its readers creative storytelling, deep themes, and beautiful writing.

- **My Side of the Mountain, by Jean Craighead George**

A cheesy book that most readers end up loving despite themselves. In all seriousness though, adventurous young boys will love this book for its (fairly) scientific depiction of a kid who really knows how to rough it in the wilderness.

- **"The Littles" Series, by John Peterson**

I suspect these books started out as a more condensed version of *The Borrowers* (Mary Norton) so that younger readers could get in on the action. These are fun books that are lesser-known, good to recommend to less advanced readers who love good stories.

- **The City of Ember (Book 1 of the "Books of Ember"), by Jeanne DuPrau**

A dystopian novel (see what I mean?) that, when you get past the weird names and the cool maps, tells a story that echoes some pretty deep themes of faith in the unknown and courage to believe in something when no one else does.

- **"Sherlock Holmes" Series by Arthur Conan Doyle**

Although these books are classics, they could be new for many young readers. The originals may be a little too challenging for average elementary students, but many have been republished in an abridged format.

- **Redwall (Book 1 of the "Redwall" Series), by Brian Jacques**

This series is a gateway to fantasy: a medieval world of fights for good and evil, portrayed through woodland creatures. This is another series with many books, so kids can get going and stick with the series for a while.

- **Around the World in 80 Days, by Jules Verne**

Another oldie but goodie. Its companion novels, *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *The Secret Island*, and *The Underground City*, are also quite good. This has something for everyone: sci-fi, historical fiction, and a touch of fantasy.

- **"Animal Ark" Series by Ben M. Baglio**

There are a ton of books in this series, as well as its companion series, "Animal Ark Pets." These are also beginning chapter books, good for young avid readers who love animals.

- **Clementine, (Book 1 of the "Clementine" Series), by Sarah Pennypacker**

These seven books about a spunky, honest-to-goodness, gets-herself-into-all-kinds-of-scrapes third grader will capture the hearts of beginning readers in much the way that *Junie B. Jones* or *Ramona* have. There's a reason these books are so popular: there's something so refreshing about viewing life from the perspective of a bodacious elementary schooler.