Recommended Books
For
Grades 3-6
RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR GRADES 3 – 6
Curriculum Materials Center
David and Lorraine Cheng Library, William Paterson University

GRADES THREE & FOUR

In 1938, a young Jewish girl, and her family flee persecution in their Austrian homeland by escaping into Switzerland.
*Call Number: J Ack 1995*

Poems in both Spanish and English (one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet) tell about working in the fields.
*Call Number: j861 Ada*

The author describes her life growing up in Cuba.
*Call Number: jB Ada*

Noor and her family celebrate the festive holiday, Girgian, which comes in the middle of the holy month of Ramadan. Afterward, she and her grandfather deliver a food basket for the poor and demonstrate the greatest joy of all, the joy of giving.
*Call Number: j297.36 Add*

Two nine-year-old Jewish boys survive World War II by hiding in the forest. They are helped by Mina, who brings them food, but they also help others fleeing for their lives. The author escaped a concentration camp at eight years old and spent three years roaming the forests.
*Call Number: J App*

The unexpected delivery of an Antarctic penguin surprises and delights a house painter named Mr. Popper.
*Call Number: J Atw 1988*

In this timeless tale, the three Darling children share adventures in Never-Never land with Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up.
*Call Number: J Bar 1987*
Young Pepe’s father is upset when the boy takes a lowly job as a lamplighter in turn-of-the-century New York City.
**Call Number:** P J Bar

Young Ada runs away to join her brother as he is evacuated from London during World War II, when she learns their cruel mother has no intention of sending her because of her club foot. The siblings are sent to live with the sad and reluctant Miss Smith, but they gradually find affection and love and become a real family.
**Call Number:** J Bra

A young boy tells a lie to get gardening jobs for his Spanish-speaking grandfather and himself, but everything goes wrong and his grandfather teaches him a lesson about honesty.
**Call Number:** P J Bun

In this popular, fact-based science series, the unflappable Ms. Frizzle takes her students on an unexpected field trip through our solar system.
**Call Number:** J523.32 Col

James escapes a horrid home life by taking an amazing ride in a magical peach.
**Call Number:** J Dah

Popular author Tommie De Paola was five in the 1930s when his family had a new home built. This is the first in a series of chapter books describing his early years.
**Call Number:** jB DeP

Ten year old India Opal Buloni is new in town. At the market, she meets and adopts a big ugly dog who helps her make new friends and learn some things about herself.
**Call Number:** J Dic

Eleven-year-old Harriet enjoys recording everyone’s secrets in her hidden notebook until they find out and seek revenge.
**Call Number:** J Fit

The year of Billy Miller focuses on the important people in his life. He is afraid that he has offended his new teacher and maybe isn’t smart enough for second grade, he has good and bad times with his stay-at-home dad and his little sister, and he writes a special poem for his mom.

**Call Number: J Hen**


Roy has problems at his new school, but things get worse when he helps a runaway and his tough stepsister save some tiny owls threatened by a construction project.

**Call Number: J Hia**


This beautifully illustrated biography of Arizona Houston Hughes, a teacher for 57 years, celebrates her dedication and influence across several generations.

**Call Number: JB Hug**


Ally has fooled a lot of smart people. Every time she starts at a new school, she hides her inability to read, but her new teacher, Mr. Daniels, sees the bright, creative kid underneath it all, and he helps Ally learn that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of.

**Call Number: J Hun**


Astrid thinks it will be a disastrous summer when she signs up for Roller Derby camp, and BFF Nicole signs up for ballet camp. Astrid grows to love the rough and tumble sport and learns that friends can grow apart and relationships can be just as scary as roller derby. (In graphic format.)

**Call Number: J Jam**


Greg Heffley and his family take off on a wimpy kid-style adventure in this ninth book of the series.

**Call Number: J Kin**


A brave mongoose saves his adopted family by outwitting two big black cobras who live in the garden. Adapted and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.

**Call Number: J Pin**


During WWII Nim, a Chinese-American, collects newspapers for the war effort, and is determined to do her part, but she is competing against Garland, who thinks he should win because he is an American.

**Call Number: J Lee**
This beautifully illustrated tale was inspired by the true story of a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, who escaped to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.
*Call Number: J Lev*

Shirley Temple Wong is given a new name after moving from China to Brooklyn, NY. It is tough to fit in, but her growing love for baseball and Jackie Robinson help her achieve acceptance.
*Call Number: J Lor*

Ten-year-old Annemarie lives in Nazi-occupied Denmark, where she learns bravery and courage as she helps hide her Jewish friend from the Nazis.
*Call Number: J Low*

This is the first in a classic series about little people who secretly live under the floorboards of big peoples’ houses.
*Call Number: J Nor*

Through a mix of history and fantasy, Cassie and Be Be fly through the sky and retrace Harriet Tubman’s steps from slavery to freedom with the Underground Railroad.
*Call Number: P J Rin*

Wrongly accused of stealing, Stanley Yelnats is sent to the correctional Camp Green Lake, where nothing is green, and there is no lake. But at the camp, Stanley finally breaks free of a family curse, finds self-respect, treasure, and his first real friend.
*Call Number: J Sac*

This eerie story told with gentle southern humor is set in 1930s Alabama, and twelve-year-old Hoodoo Hatcher is the only member of his family unable to practice the folk magic called Hoodoo. But when a mysterious Stranger threatens the town, only Hoodoo can defeat him, he just needs to learn how to conjure.
*Call Number: J Smi*

The three young Baudelaire children, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, are suddenly orphaned and must rely on their many talents to stay alive and resist their greedy Uncle Olaf.
*Call Number: J Sni*
Monsieur Bibot is a selfish and cruel dentist, but when he is given two magical figs that can make his dreams come true, Marcel, his long-suffering dog, turns the tables on him.
**Call Number:** P J Van

A friendship grows between a very special spider and a pig who becomes famous.
**Call Number:** J Whi

Williams, V. (2001). *Amber was brave, Essie was smart: The story of Amber and Essie told here in poems and pictures.* New York, NY: Greenwillow Books.
Two sisters fight hunger, talk, play, and take care of each other, while their mother works long hours and Amber keeps asking the dreaded question, “Where’s Daddy?”
**Call Number:** J Wil

Three sisters travel from Brooklyn to Alabama for an exciting summer visiting their grandmother, Big Ma and great-grandmother, Ma Charles. Ma Charles’ half-sister lives nearby, but the two haven't spoken in years. Delphine struggles to bring them together, but when tragedy strikes, she finds that the family bonds are deeper than they appear.
**Call Number:** J Wil

This true story tells how librarian Alia Muhammad Baker fought to save a collection of thirty thousand books from the war that overtook her country. She moved all the books to her home and those of her friends only days before the library burned to the ground.
**Call Number:** j020.92 Win

The author intertwines her family’s history and their tradition of quilt-making, through which quilts were used as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves.
**Call Number:** J Woo

**GRADES FIVE & SIX**

A new cat suddenly appears in a rundown barnyard, and he not only fights the rats and restores order, but he tells the story of Dick Whittington’s cat, his famous ancestor from English folklore.
**Call Number:** J Arm

After his mother’s death, a thirteen year old boy in medieval England finds that he has a price on his head. Crispin must flee his village to clear his name and gain his freedom.
**Call Number:** J Avi

Ten year old Winnie steps outside her safe, protected yard into a strange adventure. She meets a wonderful, mysterious family that invites her to live with them forever, or return home to her quiet, loving parents.

**Call Number:** J Bab


In this classic story, Dorothy is accompanied by the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Cowardly Lion as they seek the Land of Oz, where all their problems will be solved.

**Call Number:** J Bau


Twelve year-olds Zach, Poppy, and Alice have enjoyed a long-running fantasy game until Zach’s dad insists they stop playing. Their adventures seem to be ending, but Poppy persuades them to join a real-live quest to bury her antique doll, who may be possessed.

**Call Number:** J Bla


During the French and Indian War, the British destroy an entire Abenaki village, and take several people hostage. Fourteen-year-old Saxso must track the raiders to bring his mother and two younger sisters home.

**Call Number:** J Bru


Bailey, the boy next door, is really starting to get to Rosie! But Granny Torrelli’s recipes mix good cooking with advice and stories from the old country, and Rosie begins to feel better about her best friend.

**Call Number:** J Cre


Three young African-Americans from Newark overcame drugs and violence to make a friendship pact to complete high school, attend college, and graduate medical school. Their strong will to "beat the street," enabled them to achieve their goals.

**Call Number:** J920 Dav


Flora Belle Buckman, a self-described comic-reading cynic, experiences some really amazing adventures when she rescues a squirrel from her neighbor’s vacuum cleaner. After reviving him, Ulysses becomes a super-hero who can talk, fly, and type really sensitive poems on her mother’s typewriter.

**Call Number:** J DiC
Ten-year-old Rayona's Native American mother enters a treatment facility, and her estranged African-American father finally introduces her to his side of the family, but they are not at all what she expected.
Call Number: J Dor

In 1847, on an island in Lake Superior, a young Native American girl experiences the joys of summer and the terrible trials of winter.
Call Number: J Erd

Daisy Bates overcame a difficult childhood to become a successful newspaper publisher and activist. In 1957, when nine youngsters were chosen to be the first black students to enroll in Little Rock’s Central High, she kept them safe, and encouraged them to stand up to hate and even death threats.
Call Number: j323.092 Fra

Pursued by a nasty aunt, (who only wants to adopt the cuter, younger brother), two orphans run away to the magical city of Venice. There they experience danger and excitement when they are taken under the wing of “The Thief Lord.”
Call Number: J Fun

Joey lives with his mom and takes medication to keep from “spinning out of control.” However, this summer he is going to live with his dad who doesn’t believe in medication. Students may relate to this touching, yet funny story about a boy with ADD.
Call Number: J Gan

George has a secret. People see her as a boy, but she knows she is really a girl. She thinks she will have to keep this secret forever, but when her teacher says boys can’t try out for the part of Charlotte in the class play, George and her best friend come up with a plan to get her the part, and let everyone know who she really is.
Call Number: J Gin

Beautiful photographs illustrate a modern reenactment of the first Thanksgiving, based on new research and Wampanoag accounts that give a balanced view of the three day harvest celebration.
Call Number: j394.2649 Gra
Text and photographs depict the daily life and Muslim faith of a New Jersey fourth-grader. Along with a brief history of Islam, Muhammad, and basic beliefs, Ibraheem and his family are shown celebrating the month of Ramadan with prayer and fasting. 
**Call Number:** j297 Hoy

A young mouse named Matthias searches for a legendary sword to help save Redwall Abbey from the evil rat Cluny and his villainous followers. 
**Call Number:** J Jac

Growing up in rural 1950’s Georgia, Katie idolizes her older sister, while their Japanese-American family endures prejudice and hardships. Then Lynn becomes terminally ill, and Katie struggles to find the beauty and joy of life that Lynn taught her. 
**Call Number:** J Kad

Meg Murry and her friends search through space and time to find her father, who has disappeared while doing secret government research. 
**Call Number:** J L’En 1997

Four English children find a magical wardrobe through which they enter the land of Narnia and help the golden lion, Aslan, battle the White Witch. 
**Call Number:** J Lew

The brilliant botanist, scholar, and scientist is portrayed through a series of lyrical poems. 
**Call Number:** jB Car

The author’s great-uncle, Louis Michaux Sr, founded Harlem’s National Memorial African Bookstore in 1939. This story is narrated through Louis Michaux Jr., who met famous men like Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X, while helping there, and also tells of the loyal community that helped the store thrive for nearly forty years. 
**Call Number:** J Nel

In 12th century Korea, a young orphan lives in extreme poverty and scavenges for food, but Tree-ear longs to become a potter like the famous Master-Potter Min. Strength of character and courage help him accomplish his dream. 
**Call Number:** J Par

**Call Number:** J Pau


**Call Number:** J Pec


**Call Number:** J Row

Ryan, P. (2000). *Esperanza rising*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press. After her father’s murder, Esperanza and her mother lose their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico, and are forced to experience the harsh conditions facing migrant farm workers during the 1930’s.

**Call Number:** J Rya

Ryan, P. (2015). *Echo*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press. Young Otto gets lost in the woods, but is rescued by three sisters imprisoned by a witch's curse. He promises to break the curse by carrying their spirits out of the forest in a harmonica and to pass it along when the time is right. Decades later, the harmonica connects and gives hope to three musically gifted and struggling children.

**Call Number:** J Rya


**Call Number:** J Sel

Silverberg, C. (2015). *Sex is a funny word: A book about bodies, feelings, and YOU*. New York, NY: Triangle Square Books for Young Readers. An important resource (in comic book format), about bodies, gender, and sexuality, written for children ages 8 to 10 and their parents, aims “to open conversations … that allow adults to convey their values and beliefs while providing information…”

**Call Number:** j613.9071 Sil
In this historical-fiction mystery, set in 1871 Wisconsin, 13-year-old Georgie’s sister is missing but when the sheriff brings home a body, she is sure that it is not Agatha. Georgie bravely meets mountain lions, counterfeiters, drought, fires, and passenger pigeons, as she and Agatha’s ex-suitor set out to find her and bring her home.

**Call Number:** J Tim

The esteemed hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, is called upon by the wizard Gandalf to leave his comfortable home and take part in an incredible adventure.

**Call Number:** J Tol 1984

In Memphis, in the summer of 1959, 11-year old Vincent takes over a friend’s paper route. His severe stutter challenges his interactions with friendly and not-so-friendly (even dangerous) customers, and he becomes aware of the adult world’s racial tensions, segregation, and inequality. The story is based on the author’s own experiences.

**Call Number:** J Vaw

In 1942, eleven-year-old Milada and other blond, blue-eyed children are taken from their Czechoslovakian village, for “Germanization” and adoption by German families. Forced to speak only German, trained in Nazi ideology, and given a new name, Milada struggles to hold onto her true identity. Based on actual events.

**Call Number:** J Wol

At the annual Seder, Hannah wishes she were somewhere else as she listens to family Holocaust stories. But when she is mysteriously transported back to 1940’s Poland and she learns the importance of her family’s survival and remembering their past.

**Call Number:** J Yol

Three Japanese youth become obsessed with death, and although preparing for exams, they decide to spy on a lonely old man from their neighborhood so they can witness his death. A friendship develops, and they begin to dread what they had hoped for.

**Call Number:** J Yum

Death narrates this story set in Nazi Germany of young Liesel, brought to live with a foster couple during the war: kind, sweet Hans and the fierce, foul-mouthed Rosa. Liesel begins stealing books after her brother’s funeral, and she continues to steal and share them with her new family and friends.

**Call Number:** J Zus

Compiled by Louise Nordyk, October 2016