Books for Reluctant Readers: Grades K-12

Compiled by Julie Greller, Media Specialist
Blog: A Media Specialist’s Guide to the Internet
KINDERGARTEN-GRADE 4 PICTURE BOOKS

The Adventures of Taxi Dog- Debra Barracca
Bad Kitty Books- Nick Bruel
The Berenstain Bears- Stan and Jan Berenstain
Clifford Books- Norman Bridwell
Corduroy Books- Don Freeman

Curious George Books- H.A. Ray

Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten! The Story of Little Red Riding Hood as Told by the Wolf- Trisha Speed Shashkan

I Spy Books- Jean Marzollo
Knuffle Bunny- Mo Willems
No, David!- David Shannon

Olivia and the Fairy Princesses- Ian Falconer
Richard Scarry's What Do People Do All Day?

Dr. Seuss Books

The Polar Express- Chris Van Allsburg
The Three Ninja Pigs- Corey Rosen Schwartz
Where the Wild Things Are- Maurice Sendak
Where's Waldo Books- Martin Handford
CHAPTER BOOKS and BEYOND

Arthur - Marc Brown
The Big Field - by Mike Lupica
Big Nate Series - Lincoln Peirce
Boxcar Children Series - Gertrude Chandler
Amber Brown Series - Paula Danziger
The Baseball Card Adventures - Dan Gutman

Brian's Winter - Gary Paulsen
Bunnicula Series - James Howe
Cam Jansen Series - David Adler
Captain Underpants Collection - Dav Pilky
The Chet Gecko Mysteries - Bruce Hale
Mr. Chickee's Funny Money - Christopher Paul Curtis
The Cricket in Times Square - George Selden
Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series - Jeff Kinney
Encyclopedia Brown Series - Donald J. Sobol
Fantastic Mr. Fox - Roald Dahl
Flat Stanley Collection - Jeff Brown
Freckle Juice - Judy Blume
Frindle - Andrew Clements
Frog and Toad Series - Arnold Lobel
Goosebumps Series - R.L. Stine
Granny Torrelli Makes Soup - Sharon Creech

James and the Giant Peach - Roald Dahl

Judy Moody Series - Megan McDonald

Junie B. Jones Books - Barbara Park

The Kids of the Polk Street School Series - Patricia Reilly Giff

Lawn Boy - Gary Paulsen

Lunch Money - Andrew Clements

The Magic School Bus Series - Joanna Cole

Magic Tree House Series - Mary Pope Osborne

Matt Christopher's Sports Series

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane - Kate DiCamillo

My Teacher is an Alien - Bruce Coville

The Ralph Mouse Collection - Beverly Cleary

Ribsy - Beverly Cleary

Shiloh - Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Sideways Stories from Wayside School - Louis Sachar

Skinny-Bones - Barbara Park

Stuart Little - E.B. White

Superfudge - Judy Blume

The Twits - Roald Dahl

My Weird School Daze Series - Dan Gutman

Wonder - R.J. Palacio
GRADES 5-8

The Absolutely Amazing Adventures of Auggie Spinoza - Steven Stickler
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian - Sherman Alexie
After Eli - Rebecca Rupp
Al Capone Does My Shirts - Gennifer Choldenko
Al Capone Shines My Shoes - Gennifer Choldenko
Artemis Fowl Series - Eon Colfer

Bad Island (Graphic Novel) - Doug Tennapel

The Batboy - Mike Lupica

The Black Stone Prophecy - Alex Baj

Bud, Not Buddy - Christopher Paul Curtis

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Extra Credit - Tom Greenwald

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading - Tom Greenwald

Chomp - Carl Hiaasen

Comeback Kids Series - Mike Lupica

Crispin: The Cross of Lead - Avi

Crossing the Wire - Will Hobbs

The Cruisers (3 books) - Walter Dean Myers

Crush: The Theory, Practice and Destructive Properties of Love - Gary Paulson

Daniel X Series - James Patterson

The Dawn Patrol - Don Winslow

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series - Jeff Kinney
Dork Diaries Books - Rachel Renee Russell

The Encyclopedia of Me - Karen Rivers

Flipped - Wendelin Van Draanen

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making - Catherynne M. Valente

The Girl Who Fell Beneath Fairyland and Led the Revels There - Catherynne M. Valente

The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman

Grey Griffins Series - Derek Benz and J.S. Lewis

Holes - Louis Sachar

Hoops - Walter Dean Myers

Hoot - Carl Hiaasen

I Funny: A Middle School Story - James Paterson

Island of Thieves - Josh Lacey

Joey Pigza Books - Jack Gantos

Journal of a Schoolyard Bully: Notes on Nooglies, Wet Willies, and Wedgies - Farley Katz

The Kill Order - James Dashner

Liar and Spy - Rebecca Stead

Lula Bell on Geekdom, Freakdom and the Challenges of Bad Hair - C.C. Payne

Maniac Magee - Jerry Spinelli

Maximum Ride Series - James Patterson

The Maze Runner Books - James Dashner

Middle School: Get Me Out of Here! - James Patterson

Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life - James Patterson

My Life as a Stuntboy - Janet Tashjian
The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World - E.L. Konigsburg

NERDS Books - Michael Buckley

Peak - Roland Smith

Percy Jackson Series - Rick Riordan

Sean Yeager and the DNA Thief - David Jarrett

See You at Harry's - Jo Knowles

A Series of Unfortunate Events Series - Lemony Snicket

Stickman Odyssey, Book 1: An Epic Doodle - Christopher Ford

The Templeton Twins Have an Idea - Ellis Weiner

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 - Christopher Paul Curtis

The Wish List - Eon Colfer

Witch and Wizard Series - James Patterson
GRADES 9-12

11/22/63- Stephen King
Blank Confession- Pete Hautman
Bluford High Series- (various authors)
The Book Thief- Marcus Zusak
Box Out- John Coy
Breathing Underwater- Alex Finn

Chasing Lincoln’s Killer- James L. Swanson
Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul- Jack Canfield
The Chocolate War- Robert Cormier
Cirque du Freak Series- Darren Shan
City of Glass Series- Cassandra Clare
The Coldest Winter Ever- Sister Souljah
Dairy Queen- Catherine Gilbert Murdock
Dope Sick- Walter Dean Myers
The Duff (Designated Ugly Fat Friend)- Kody Keplinger
Fat Kid Rules the World- K.L. Going
The Fault in Our Stars- John Green
Feed- M.T. Anderson
The First Part Last- Angela Johnson
The Giver- Lois Lowry
Glimpse - Carol Lynch Williams
Gone Series - Michael Grant
Gossip Girl Series - Cecily von Ziegesar
Guinness Book of World Records - any year, any book
Hunger Games Trilogy - Suzanne Collins
I'd Tell you I Love you, But Then I'd Have to Kill You - Ally Carter
Just Listen - Sarah Dessen
King Dork - Frank Portman
The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
Life of Pi - Yann Martel
Looking for Alaska - John Green
Monster - Walter Dean Myers
My Sister's Keeper - Jodi Picoult
One Hundred Young Americans - Michael Franzini
Paper Towns - John Green
Payback Time - Carl Deuker
The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky
Push - Sapphire
Rikers High - Paul Volponi
Ripley's Believe it or Not - any year, any issue
Rooftop - Paul Volponi
Scars - Cheryl Rainfield

Shiver Trilogy - Maggie Stiefvater

Someone Like You - Sarah Dessen

Star Wars Character Encyclopedia - DK Publishing

Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes - Chris Crutcher

Stuck in Neutral - Terry Trueman

Ten Things We Did (and Probably Shouldn't Have) - Sarah Mylnokski

The Top Ten of Everything - Caroline Ash

The Truth About Forever - Sarah Dessen

Twilight Series - Stephenie Meyer

Uglies Trilogy - Scott Westerfeld

Vampire Academy Series - Richelle Mead

What I Saw and How I Lied - Judy Blundell

Zombie High Yearbook '64 - Jeff Busch