

The 2022-2023

BUILDING  READERS™

# Book List

## Recommended Books for Elementary School Children

***I Am Smoke*** by Henry Herz (Tilbury House Publishers). Smoke is the main character in this beautifully illustrated poetic picture book. Children will learn about the mysteries of smoke and the many ways humans have used it over the centuries. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***The Last Cuentista*** by Donna Barba Higuera (Levine Querido). Petra is only 12 when she boards one of the last ships leaving Earth. Follow her journey as she wakes to a new planet in this award-winning tale that combines Mexican folklore with science fiction. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Dream Street*** by Tricia Elam Walker (Anne Schwartz Books). Welcome to the best street in the world! Teach your child the importance of community with this uplifting picture book filled with joyful illustrations. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Temple Alley Summer*** by Sachiko Kashiwaba (Yonder). After watching a scary ghost story show on TV, Kazu thinks he sees a ghost. When that same figure is sitting in his classroom the next day, he begins an investigation and uncovers a forgotten legend. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Alaina and the Great Play*** by Eloise Greenfield (Alazar Press). Alaina is excited to be in the school play, especially since she is only in kindergarten. She practices her lines but things don't go quite as planned. (*fiction, lower elementary*)

***Ten Thousand Tries*** by Amy Makechnie (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) Golden is a middle school boy who never gives up—not on the soccer field and not on loved ones. Be prepared for laughter and tears in this heart-tugging story of family, friendship, loss and love. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Survivor Tree*** by Marcie Colleen (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers). Introduce your child to the importance of resilience with this true story

about an incredible tree that survived the September 11 tragedy. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

***The Sea in Winter*** by Christine Day (HarperCollins). When Maisie injures her knee, her life changes drastically and she must give up ballet. Her family is supportive, but they don't understand how hopeless she feels. (*fiction, upper elementary*)

***Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small*** by Jess Wade (Candlewick). Help your child learn about atoms and other scientific concepts

in this boldly-illustrated picture book. Perfect for budding scientists, this book will fascinate readers of all ages. (*nonfiction, lower elementary*)

***Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*** by Jeff Gottesfeld (Candlewick). Setinel guards at Arlington National Cemetery keep vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Learn how they honor and remember America's fallen. (*fiction, upper elementary*)



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***My First Day*** by Phung Nguyen Quang (Make Me a World). With a wooden boat and a single oar, a Vietnamese boy sets off on a journey all by himself. He must overcome many obstacles to reach his destination in this beautiful picture book about determination. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

***A Bird Will Soar*** by Alison Green Myers (Dutton Books for Young Readers). This award-winning novel gives readers a glimpse into the world of a bird-loving boy with autism. Readers will discover interesting facts about birds while immersing themselves in a lyrical tale about family. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

***The Cot in the Living Room*** by Hilda Eunice Burgos (Kokila). A young girl's family opens up their home to neighbors' children when their parents have to work the night shift. Kindness and empathy are at the center of this enlightening picture book. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

***The Leak*** by Kate Reed Petty (First Second). Ruth is a young journalist who uncovers a secret that is threatening her town. This graphic novel about corruption, pollution and freedom of the press highlights the importance of civic responsibility. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

***Coquí in the City*** by Nomar Perez (Dial Books). When Miguel and his parents have to move from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland, Miguel must leave behind so many things he loves, including his pet frog. This tale about new beginnings will comfort young readers who may be facing big changes. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

***The Beatryce Prophecy*** by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick). Follow a young girl, a feisty goat and an empathetic monk in this medieval adventure about courage and the determination to do the right thing. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

***The Great Stink*** by Colleen Paeff (Margaret K. McElderry Books). In 1858, Joseph Bazalgette engineered a new sewer system in London to solve a stinky pollution problem. Funny text and detailed illustrations make this picture book an informative and entertaining read. *(biography, lower elementary)*



***Starfish*** by Lisa Fipps (Nancy Paulsen Books). Meet Ellie, a young girl who is relentlessly bullied because of her weight. Follow her struggle with self-worth as she learns how to stand up to the bullies and accept herself just as she is. *(fiction, upper elementary)*

***Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost*** by Betina Birkjær (Enchanted Lion Books). This is a powerful story about a changing relationship between a young boy and his grandfather, who is starting to lose his memory and words. It includes practical tips for navigating the challenges

of caring for a relative with dementia. *(fiction, lower elementary)*

***A Place to Hang the Moon*** by Kate Albus (Margaret Ferguson Books). Three orphaned siblings are evacuated from London at the beginning of World War II. Accompany them as they search for a permanent home and a new family in this award-winning best seller. *(fiction, upper elementary)*