

# Building A Home Library

Ages 8-11

The ALA-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee, with cooperation from the ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee, has created this bibliography to provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for their children at home.



We suggest the following sites for more book titles:

[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

**Questions?**

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## Welcome to the world of books for your home!

Here are suggested classic and contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library, an ever-present resource for children and adults. The American Library Association - Children's Book Council Joint Committee and the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee recommend these titles for children ages 8-11.

Three other pamphlets recommend books for children ages 0-3, 4-7, and 12-14. Ask your librarian or bookseller about multiple formats for these books and for more suggestions to add to your growing collection.

Barnhill, Kelly.

**The Mostly True Story of Jack.** Little, Brown, 2011.

Can an ordinary boy solve the mystery of disappearing children—before he becomes one of them?

Bishop, Nic.

**Frogs.** Scholastic, 2008.

Frogs who eat snakes, frogs with see-through skin, frogs who live for months at a time buried in dried mud - who knew frogs were so fascinating?

DiCamillo, Kate. Illustrated by Yoko Tanaka.

**The Magician's Elephant.** Candlewick, 2009. A fortune teller predicts an elephant will help Pete find his sister, and a magician performs an incredible trick in this fable-like tale.

\* DuPrau, Jeanne.

**The City of Ember.** Random House, 2003.

Lina and Doon live in a world with no sun. Light comes from a generator which is starting to fail. Can they find a way out?

Gidwitz, Adam.

**A Tale Dark and Grimm.** Dutton, 2010.

Warning! This is not your average fairytale. Read only if you want to know the true, funny, creepy, tragic, heroic story behind Hansel and Gretel and other fairytales. You have been warned!

\* Harper, Charise Mericle.

**Just Grace.** Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Seven-year-old Grace prides herself on her teeny-tiny superpower of knowing how people are feeling, but when she tries to help a neighbor feel better, her good intentions backfire.

Holm, Jennifer L.

**Turtle in Paradise.** Random House, 2010.

In 1935, eleven-year-old Turtle moves to Key West, where she learns the trials of boy cousins and the wonders of sugar apple ice cream.

Juster, Norton, illustrated by Jules Feiffer.

**The Phantom Tollbooth.** Random House, 1961.

When Milo goes through the Phantom Tollbooth, he discovers a land where watchdogs have actual clocks, the Mathematician rules the land of numbers, and "Whichs" are not so wicked.

Levine, Ellen. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

**Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad.** Scholastic, 2007.

In this retelling of a true story, Henry "Box" Brown escapes from slavery by being mailed in a box to free Philadelphia.

Lin, Grace.

**Where the Mountain Meets the Moon.** Little, Brown, 2009.

Following directions from a grateful goldfish, Minli sets out on a quest to Never-Ending Mountain in hopes of changing her community's fortunes.

\* Look, Lenore. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham.

**Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters.** Schwartz & Wade, 2009.

Alvin's worst fear has been realized - camping! Can his night-vision goggles, water purifying tablets, and heavy-duty flashlight keep him safe from the great outdoors?

Lord, Cynthia.

**Rules.** Scholastic, 2006.

An autistic brother, a parapalegic boy, and a new friend teach Catherine that the rules of normal behavior are not as important as friendship and acceptance.

\* McDonald, Megan. Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.

**Judy Moody, Girl Detective.** Candlewick, 2010.

In true Nancy Drew form, Judy sets out to solve the case of the missing puppy.

McKissack, Patricia C. Illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon.

**Never Forgotten.** Schwartz & Wade, 2011.

After a young boy is stolen, his father and the Mother Elements who raised him search the earth to find him again.

MacLachlan, Patricia. Illustrated by Amy June Bates.

**Waiting for the Magic.** Simon & Schuster, 2011.

Four dogs and a cat can't fill the hole left in their family when the father leaves...or can they help the family find the magic?

Mass, Wendy.

**Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life.** Little, Brown, 2006.

When he receives a mysterious locked box left to him by his deceased father, Jeremy begins a journey to find the keys to unlock the meaning of life.

Nelson, Kadir.

**We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball.** Hyperion, 2008.

Fans of baseball can spout statistics and list their favorite players, but some of the greatest players of the game were never really famous.

Paterson, Katherine.

**Bridge to Terabithia.** HarperCollins, 1977.

Two lonely children create a magical kingdom, and declare themselves king and queen, in the woods by their homes.

**\* Book is part of a series (including sequels and trilogies)**

\* Pennypacker, Sara. Illustrated by Marla Frazee.

**Clementine.** Hyperion, 2006.

Third-grader Clementine gains several unique hairstyles, confronts friendships issues, and helps banish pesky pigeons from the front of her apartment building.

Sacher, Louis.

**Holes.** Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1998.

Stanley Yelnats carries the burden of the family curse brought upon by his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather, which brings him to a memorable summer at Camp Greenlake.

Scieszka, Jon.

**Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up** Scieszka. Viking, 2008.

Growing up with five brothers, piles of comic books and lots of free time gave Jon Scieszka plenty of accidents, jokes and misadventures to write about.

Selznick, Brian.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret.** Scholastic, 2007.

Beautiful drawings help to tell the story of a orphan secretly living inside the walls of a Paris train station.

Silverstein, Shel.

**Every Thing on It.** HarperCollins, 2011.

This poetry collection includes more than 130 never-before-seen poems and drawings.

Stead, Rebecca.

**When You Reach Me.** Random House, 2009.

Twelve-year-old Miranda must unravel a puzzle involving increasingly strange notes with a mysterious warning that seem to defy the laws of time and space.

Williams-Garcia, Rita.

**One Crazy Summer.** HarperCollins, 2010.

In 1968, three young sisters are sent to live with the poet mother who abandoned them years before and have trouble adjusting to her bohemian lifestyle and Black Panther involvement.