

New Chapter Books to Read-Aloud



"Books Kids Will Sit Still For: Ten ways to recognize a great read-aloud" by Judy Freeman
Curriculum Connections; Fall, 2006
(Includes samples of new books, ideal for children grades 3-8.)

1) The narrative pulls you into the story with scenes and characters that you remember long after the book is finished.

Clementine

by Sara Pennypacker (**J F Pen**) – on order (Target age 6-10)
(The author of "Stewart's Cape" and "Stewart Goes to School" introduces a new charmingly flawed and quirky character with an altogether unforgettable voice.)

2) The book has a universal plot that relates to children's lives and speaks to boys and girls alike, developing and stretching their senses of humor, curiosity, and imagination.

Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Sting Ray, a Toughy Little Buffalo and Someone Called Plastic

by Emily Jenkins (**E Jen**) – on order (Target age 7-11)
(In this utterly delightful peek into the secret lives of toys, three beloved playthings participate in a series of small adventures.)

3) The language is rich and dramatic and flows well when read aloud; the special experience of hearing this book read will lead children through a range of emotions that will help them make connections to their own lives.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

by Kate DiCamillo (**J F Dic**) (Target age 7-10)
(The Newbery Medal-winning author of "The Tale of Despereaux" returns with this story about a toy china rabbit named Edward Tulane. When he becomes lost, Edward takes an extraordinary journey and shows readers a true miracle.)

4) The story takes a fresh approach to a familiar theme or plot and makes it seem new again, or breaks new ground because it's unlike anything else children have ever read.

Younguncle comes to Town

by Vandana Singh (**J F Sin**) (Target age 8-12)
(Three children, Ravi, Sarita, and -the baby, - have a mysterious uncle who has spent the last two years traveling about and having adventures. Now, however, their father has decided that -he needs to settle down, - and has invited him to live with their family.)

5) All of the supporting details are just right, so that plot, characters, and setting work together harmoniously, encouraging our willing suspension of disbelief; the ending is surprising, startling, and satisfying.

Bella at Midnight

by Diane Stanley (**J F Sta**) (Target age 10-14)
(Loosely based on "Cinderella," this fairy tale features a memorable heroine who embarks on a stirring adventure when she discovers her surprising destiny.)

6) The story exposes children to people of other races, cultures, and communities, and spurs them to broaden their worldviews.

Year of the Dog

by Grace Lin (**J F Lin**) (Target age 8-12)

(The year 2006 is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar. The story of young Pacy who, as she celebrates the New Year with her family and discovers this is the year she is supposed to "find herself.")

7) The book enables children to discuss difficult or sensitive issues, wrestle with personal ethics, reevaluate their opinions, and develop empathy for others.

Crooked River

by Shelly Pearsall (**J F Pea**) (Target age 10-14)

(In the year 1812, a white trapper is murdered and a young Chippewa Indian stands accused. Captured and shackled, Indian John awaits his trial in a settler's loft. In a world of crude frontier justice where evidence is often overlooked in favor of vengeance, he struggles to make sense of the white man's court.)

8) The book's content enhances the school curriculum and inspires writing possibilities or a range of meaningful extension activities.

All of the Above

by Shelly Pearsall (**J F Pea**) (Target age 8-12)

(Based on a true story, this is the delightful and suspenseful story of four inner city students and their quest to build the world's largest tetrahedron.)

9) In a biography or nonfiction book, the narrative and presentation of facts flows so smoothly and interestingly, it feels as if you are reading fiction.

Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini

by Sid Fleischman (**J B Houdini**) on order (Target age 9 and up)

(Fleischman looks at Houdini's life through his own eyes, as a fellow magician. Guarding the secrets, yet entertaining readers, he tells the -rags-to-rags - story of a poor Jewish boy named Ehrich Weiss, who longed to be like his idol, French magician Robert-Houdin.)

10) It has the power to bring great joy in shared experience, to expand children's personal lifetime expectations, to connect them with the past, or even change their lives.

The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History

by Jennifer Armstrong (**J 973 Arm**) (Target age 6-9)

(This collection of lively tales demonstrates the broad base of individuals who make up our country and the slow accumulation of incidents that create a heritage.)

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