

# The Dog Ate My Read-Aloud

## Stories Set in School to Read-Aloud

Suggested by Rob Reid in *Book Links*, September 2006

"The following recently published books have contemporary school settings and have been selected for their read-aloud qualities—flowing text, engaging storytelling, and interesting topics that appeal to a wide range of students."



(Grade levels listed indicate audience guidelines rather than reading levels.)

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### ***Love, Football, and Other Contact Sports*** by Alden R. Catter (**YA F Car**)

(Gr. 8-11) This rich collection of short stories focuses on the Argyle West High School football team. The chapter entitled "The Doughnut Boots His reputation," features a huge offensive tackle who attends his mother's baby classes and learns to change a diaper.

### ***Frindle*** by Andrew Clements (**J F Cle**)

(Gr. 3-6) Nick is an intelligent kid who occasionally pushes the limits of the school's rules. When he campaigns to have students refer to pens as *frindles*, clashes arise between Nick and his no-nonsense teacher, Mrs. Granger.

### ***Bloomability*** by Sharon Creech (**J F Cre**)

(Gr. 4-6) Thirteen-year-old Dinnie is "kidnapped" by her aunt and uncle and taken to live with them at an international school in Switzerland. Dinnie misses her dysfunctional family, and even goes so far as to post signs pleading for her rescue.

### ***Jack Adrift: fourth Grade Without a Clue*** by Jack Gantos (**J F Gan**)

(Gr-4-6) In this entry in the Jack Henry Adventure series, Jack and his family move to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, where his father rejoins the navy. Jack then develops a crush on his teacher and works to adapt to his new school and living conditions.

### ***Bronx Masquerade*** by Nikki Grimes (**YA F Gri**)

(Gr 9-11) A high-school class establishes Open Mic Friday to read students' original poetry and, in doing so, reveal their inner selves. The format of the book is set up so that each student shares his or her thoughts before reading his or her poem. One of the students, Tyrone, then comments on each student and poem.

### ***Homework Machine*** by Dan Gutman (**J F Gut**)

(Gr. 4-6) Four students form an unusual bond when one of them invents a homework machine. The machine is a computer capable of interpreting questions on a quiz, searching for the correct answer on the Internet, and even printing the answers in each student's handwriting.

***Martin Bridge on the Lookout!*** by Jessica Scott Kerrin. **(J F Ker)**

(K-2-4) This book contains three brief episodes that provide life lessons. In the first story, an unwanted classmate shows up at Martin's house a day too late for his birthday party. In the second story, Martin misses his class field trip and is forced to attend class with younger students. In the final story, Martin and two of his classmates lose the class pet.

***The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Nickname Game*** by Gordon Korman **(J F Kor)**

(Gr. 4-6) Best friends Jeff and Wiley give nicknames to practically everyone in school. Their principal, Mr. Doncaster, is Deer in Headlights; Kelly Warnover is Warmed-Over-Leftovers; and their new six-foot-five substitute teacher, Mr. Hughes, is now Mr. Huge. The boys' friendship is strained when they both vie for the attention of the new girl.

***Three Rotten Eggs*** by Gregory Maguire **(J F Mag)**

(Gr. 4-6) The fifth book in Maguire's Hamlet Chronicles features new arrivals to Miss Earth's classroom in the form of genetically altered eggs and a rough kid named Thaddeus "Thud" Tween ("TNT" for short). This humorous book quickly turns into an outrageous adventure as the balance between the two class clubs, the Copycats and the Tattletales, is threatened.

***Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker***

by Megan McDonald **(J F McD)**

(Gr. 1-4) Stink uses the letter-writing skills he learned in school for personal gain. He receives free items in the mail by complaining to companies about their products, including a jawbreaker that didn't break his jaw.

***Book of Coupons*** by Susie Morgenstern **(J F Mor)**

(Gr. 4-6) Monsieur Noel, an older, overweight teacher new to the Marie Cure School in France, surprises his students by distributing coupons that can be redeemed for sleeping late, being inattentive in class, making a lot of noise, and so on. Principal Madame Incarnation Perez strictly adheres to the rules and does not tolerate Monsieur Noel's teaching methods.

***Stargirl*** by Jerry Spinelli **(J F Spi)**

(Gr. 6-9) The students of Mica High School are fascinated with a nonconformist new student known as Stargirl. Her popularity soon drops when she starts cheering for both teams at basketball games, refusing to view the opponents as the enemy.

***Tripping over the Lunch Lady: And Other School Stories***

by Nancy E Mercado **(J SC Tri)**

(Gr. 4-8) Ten lively original stories written by several popular children's authors highlight the interesting aspects of school life.

***Adam Canfield of the Slash*** by Michael Winerip **(J F Win)**

(Gr. 5-7) Adam and Jennifer, coeditors of the school newspaper, uncover a big story that involves the scandalous behavior of the controlling Principal Marris.

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