



# SEVEN ARROWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## SECOND GRADE READING LIST

### PICTURE BOOKS and GOOD FAMILY BOOKS

#### ***A Sick Day for Amos McGee*** by Philip C. Stead

A friendly zookeeper visits his good friends: the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the rhinoceros, and the owl each and every day. But when the zookeeper gets a cold, who visits him? This playful tale is full of friendship, dedication, sneezes, and beautiful illustrations. Your child will definitely be asking to read this one to you.

#### ***Bad Kitty*** by Nick Bruel

In this riotous story, a cat goes berserk when her favorite foods are all gone. She's left with gross vegetables and outrageously Awful herbs that make her Bite Grandma, Claw the curtains, Damage the dishes, and so on through Z. But when tastier assortments of anchovies and buffalo burritos show up, Bad Kitty realizes how mean she was to Grandma. The question is, does she apologize for how she behaved when she was hungry? (There are several books in the Bad Kitty series, so if your child likes the first one, keep reading!)

#### ***The Giving Tree*** by Shel Silverstein

A classic. Shel Silverstein's power to convey love, unexpected friendship, and the gift of giving is touched with a bit of sadness and abound with consolation. This is not a story that your child will read just once.

#### ***The Great Kapok Tree*** by Lynne Cherry

In this visually stimulating picture book, Lynne Cherry introduces her readers to exotic animals and the great kapok tree. As the animals visit a sleeping man in the forest, Cherry teaches the importance of trees and how "all living things depend on one another." This award-winning book is bound to keep your child engaged.

#### ***Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy*** by David Soman and Jacky Davis

*Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy* secretly teaches children the importance of compromise. When Lulu and Sam cannot agree upon a playground activity, they decide to invent a whole new game and have tons of fun imagining together.

#### ***Flat Stanley*** by Jeff Brown

Not all flat characters are boring. Flat Stanley wakes up one morning to find himself only half an inch thick after being squished by a bulletin board. But that's okay with him because now he can get into tight spaces. Follow Flat Stanley on his dynamic adventures!

#### ***Magic Bone*** by Nancy E. Krulik

When Sparky is sent to the backyard for breaking a toy, he does what dogs do best — he digs. While digging, he finds a magic bone. When he clutches the bone between his teeth, Sparky is



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transported to London where he makes new friends, sees incredible sights, and maybe gets into a bit of trouble. But how in the world is he going to get back home?

### ***Library Mouse*** by Daniel Kirk

A timid mouse who lives in the library decides to write and illustrate his own tales. Once he's finished, he put his self-published books on the shelves. The children who visit the library love the mouse's tales and beg to meet the author. Will the library mouse finally reveal himself to his fans?

### **CHAPTER BOOKS and SERIES**

Summer is a fantastic time for your children to delve into the great wide world of fiction and chapter books! Here are some favorite picks for a variety of reading levels:

#### ***Ballpark Mysteries***

Calling all baseball fans! This was my son's favorite series, and there just weren't enough of them! Parents need to know that David A. Kelly's Ballpark Mysteries series is an upbeat bunch of "whodunits" for baseball fans of all ages. Readers will enjoy solving mysteries with Kate and Mike, and parents reading aloud will enjoy the ballpark trivia specific to the location in each book. The two baseball-junkie kids never face any true danger while they're sleuthing, and their days are filled with jokes, ballpark adventures, and earnest quests to discover the truth. The lessons in these books go beyond the academic: The star of one baseball team almost quits because he thinks he's a disappointment to his dad, but Kate and Mike set him straight -- surprisingly deep emotions for an early reader book. These books are about baseball, but gender stereotypes are nowhere to be found here. This series is a great choice for both boys and girls. Reading level: Grade 3.8

#### ***Junie B. Jones***

This series is perfect for beginning chapter book readers. The books share the story of rambunctious kindergartner Junie B. Jones and her adventures at school and home. The series eventually follows her into 1st grade where Junie faces a whole new set of life's great and not-so-great moments. Though Junie ages, the series stays at a consistent reading level compared to other book series on this list. Reading Level: Grade 2, DRA 20-24, AR 2.6 – 3.0

#### ***A to Z Mysteries***

Parents need to know that Ron Roy's A to Z Mysteries series is a wholesome, funny bunch of sleuthing stories that have just enough twists to keep readers interested, and enough clues that readers can solve the mystery before Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose. The kids are always



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trying to help others and do the right thing, like when they gave their reward money to a high school kid so he could afford college. There's nothing scary in these mysteries, the chapters are short, and everything wraps up nicely at the end of each book: good guys win, bad guys lose. Reading level: Grade 2-3, DRA 24-34

### **Cam Jansen**

The Cam Jansen series is a collection of lighthearted mysteries for readers just starting to enjoy longer chapter books. Fifth-grader Cam and her friend Eric use the clues around them to sleuth and solve, and to help people. The focus is on solving crimes, and no one in the books cares about the perpetrators or why they are such scoundrels. These formulaic books have simple sentences without challenging vocabulary, and are all about Cam Jansen and her amazing memory having fun while solving mysteries. Reading level: Grade 2-3, DRA 20-30

### **Ramona** series, by Beverly Cleary

I am a big fan of Beverly Cleary, a talented author who has written many, many books kids adore. Ramona Quimby—the protagonist of Beverly Cleary's popular "Ramona" series—has a knack for getting into trouble, whether it's dropping out of kindergarten, squeezing a tube of toothpaste down a sink, or cracking a hard-boiled egg on her head to show off (only to find her mom forgot to boil it). While her older sister Beezus calls her a "pest," Ramona's imaginative and lively nature is why readers love her, and these books continue to be classics. Reading Level: Grade 4, DRA 40, AR 5.1 – 5.6

There are eight books in the Ramona series, which you can read about here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/40341-ramona-quimby>

If your child would rather read about a male protagonist, Cleary's *Henry Huggins* books are wonderful, too. You can read about them here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/search?q=Henry+huggins>

### **Magic Tree House** series

In these exciting, thematic books, siblings Jack and Annie find a magic treehouse whisking them away to different countries, historical moments, and sometimes fictional places. There are a whopping 55 books in the series, but each one is just as intriguing as the last. The historical themed books are particularly great, as kids not only improve their reading skills, but also learn about the past. Historical places Jack and Annie venture to include: the middle ages, Ancient Egypt, the Caribbean in the age of pirates, the Wild West, Pompeii, the deck of the Titanic, and more. Reading Level: Grade 2-3, DRA 20-38, AR 2.6 – 4.1



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### ***Sideways Stories from Wayside School***

If your child likes shorter stories, this is the perfect series for him/her as the chapters each consist of mostly self-contained stories. This wacky series features all sorts of mischief and funny stories about elementary students and teachers at a very, very odd school.

Reading Level: Grade 2-3, DRA 28-30, AR 3.3 – 3.4

### ***Geronimo Stilton and Thea Stilton series***

In the Geronimo Stilton series, the title character is an anthropomorphic mouse who lives in New Mouse City on Mouse Island. A best-selling author, Geronimo Stilton works as a journalist and editor for the fictional newspaper, “The Rodent’s Gazette.” He has a younger sister named Thea Stilton (who has her own series of books!), a cousin named Trap Stilton, and a favorite nephew, nine-year-old Benjamin Stilton (Ben). Geronimo is a nervous, mild-mannered mouse who would like nothing better than to live a quiet life, but he keeps getting involved in far-away adventures with Thea, Trap, and Benjamin, and sometimes Aunt Sweetfur. The books are written as though they are autobiographical adventure stories. Your children will love reading about Geronimo and Thea! Learn more at these links:

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/43728-geronimo-stilton>

<https://www.goodreads.com/search?q=thea+stilton>

Reading Level: Grade 3, DRA 30, AR 3.7

### ***Clementine series***

The *Clementine* series by Sara Pennypacker is sure to hook your child with Clementine’s fun and funny adventures! There are seven books in the series and you can read about them here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/series/41379-clementine>

*Clementine* books are great for independent reading or as family read-alouds! Both younger and older siblings will love hearing about this unique protagonist and her experiences. Reading Level: Grade 3-4, DRA 34-38, AR 3.9 – 4.6

### ***Bunnicula***

A delight for younger elementary students, *Bunnicula* tells the story of a family dog and cat whose home is intruded upon by a new pet rabbit. The cat is convinced the new addition to the family is a vampire due to the rabbit’s strange eating habits (sucking vegetables dry of juice). Hilarity ensues as the cat repeatedly fails to prove the rabbit, aptly named *Bunnicula*, is a



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vampire, and the family grows more and more frustrated with the cat's seemingly disturbed antics. Reading Level: Grade 3-4, DRA 38, AR 4.0 – 4.8

### ***Little House on the Prairie***

The *Little House* books are based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's real life growing up in the Midwest in the 1870s and 1880s. Follow Laura as she grows from a child in a *Little House in the Big Woods* to *The First Four Years* of her marriage to Almanzo Wilder, in this nine-part series following Laura's childhood, teen years, and young adulthood.

[After finishing the series, show your child some episodes of the 1970s television show, *Little House on the Prairie*. While the show doesn't follow very closely to the books, the wholesome show is still an entertaining watch for the family and still manages to capture the spirit of the book series.] Reading Level: Grade 4, DRA 40-44, AR 4.6 – 5.8

### ***Stuart Little***

*Stuart Little* is the classic story by E. B. White, author of the Newbery Honor Book *Charlotte's Web* and *Trumpet of the Swan*, about one small mouse on a very big adventure! Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure. Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the very first time in his life. He finds adventure aplenty. But will he find his friend? Reading Level: Grade 5, DRA 44, AR 6.0

### ***Artemis Fowl***

An underappreciated gem of children's book series, *Artemis Fowl* tells the story of a boy genius, his butler, and his mission to kidnap a leprechaun for gold – only it's actually quite the misunderstanding. It turns out "leprechaun" is actually "LEP Recon" and the imaginary (or in this case, very real) kidnapped creature in question is actually part of an elf fairy police force. Shenanigans ensue, and the results prove to be humorous, entertaining, and truly heartfelt as the series continues. Reading Level: Grade 4-5, DRA 40-44, AR 5.0 – 6.6