



Summer Reading Adventures for  
Students Entering Second Grade at  
Concord Hill School

These books have been selected by your child's teachers and librarian at Concord Hill. Please continue to read to your child every day, as he or she becomes an independent reader. Transitional chapter books, such as the Gannetts' dragon

trilogy, allow you and your child to take turns reading to each other. All of these titles are available in public libraries throughout the area, or for purchase through our amazon.com store at <http://astore.amazon.com/concordhillsc-20>. For more read-aloud ideas, see *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, 7th ed., by Jim Trelease, or *What to Read When: the Books and Stories to Read with your Child – and All the Best Times to Read Them*, by Pam Allyn, also available through [our amazon.com store](#).

**Picture Books**

Anno, Mitsumasa. *Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar*. Simple text and pictures introduce the mathematical concept of factorials.

Beaty, Andrea. *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal--to fly--Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. But when her contraption doesn't fly but rather hovers for a moment and then crashes, Rosie deems the invention a failure. On the contrary, Aunt Rose insists that Rosie's contraption was a raging success.

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*. Becker's balance of color and immaculately detailed illustrations capture the eye and effortlessly tell the story of a lonely girl who uses a red crayon to draw her way into a magical adventure. As the journey comes full circle, a purple bird--the work of another imagination--leads the way to the best adventure of all: friendship.

------. *Quest*. A king emerges from a hidden door in a city park, startling two children sheltering from the rain. No sooner does he push a map and some strange objects into their hands than he is captured by hostile forces that whisk him back through the enchanted door. Just like that, the children are caught up in a quest to rescue the king and his kingdom from darkness, while illuminating the farthest reaches of their imagination. Colored markers in hand, they make their own way through the portal, under the sea, through a tropical paradise, over a perilous bridge, and high in the air with the help of a winged friend. (Sequel to Journey)

Brisson, Pat. *The Summer My Father Was Ten*. A father tells his son the story of how he damaged a neighbor's garden when he was a boy and what he did to make amends.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Wanda's Roses*. Wanda's unwavering optimism, along with the support of helpful neighbors, transforms a rubbish-ridden vacant lot into a rose garden.

Bunting, Eve. *Yard Sale*. Almost everything Callie's family owns is spread out in their front yard—their furniture, their potted flowers, even Callie's bike. They can't stay in this house, so they're moving to an apartment in the city. The new place is "small but nice," Mom says, and most of their things won't fit, so today they are having a yard sale. But it's kind of hard to watch people buy your stuff, even if you understand why

it has to happen. With sensitivity and grace, Eve Bunting and Lauren Castillo portray an event at once familiar and difficult, making clear that a home isn't about what you have, but whom you hold close.

Castillo, Lauren. *Nana in the City*. a young child spends an overnight visit with his/her nana and is frightened to find that the city where she lives is filled with noise and crowds and scary things. But then Nana makes the child a special cape for bravery, and soon the everyday sights, sounds, and smells of the city are not scary—but wonderful.

Chin, Jason. *Redwoods*. A young city boy, riding the subway, finds an abandoned book about redwoods. He finds himself in the very forest described in the book. After finishing the book, he leaves it for someone else to read.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Coral Reefs*. During an ordinary visit to the library, a girl pulls a not-so-ordinary book from the shelves. As she turns the pages in this book about coral reefs, the city around her slips away and she finds herself surrounded by the coral cities of the sea and the mysterious plants and animals that live, hunt, and hide there.

De la Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.

Diaz, Natalia. *A Ticket Around the World*. Join a young boy as he hops around the globe, visiting friends in 13 different countries spanning all six populated continents. Along the way, he introduces us to each friend's environment and customs, and shares interesting facts about each country's culture, language, food, geography, wildlife, landmarks and more.

Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City.

Higgins, Ryan T. *Mother Bruce*. Bruce the bear likes to keep to himself. That, and eat eggs. But when his hard-boiled goose eggs turn out to be real, live goslings, he starts to lose his appetite. And even worse, the goslings are convinced he's their mother. Bruce tries to get the geese to go south, but he can't seem to rid himself of his new companions. What's a bear to do?

Howard, Elizabeth. *Aunt Flossie's Hats (and Crab Cakes Later)*. Sara and Susan share tea, cookies, crab cakes, and stories about hats when they visit their favorite relative, Aunt Flossie.

Joyce, William. *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*. Morris Lessmore loves words, stories and books, and after a tornado carries him to another land, dreary and colorless, he finds a single book in color that leads him to an amazing library where, he learns, the books need him as much as he needs them.

Keller, Laurie. *Arnie the Doughnut*. Arnie the talking doughnut convinces Mr. Bing that not all doughnuts are meant to be eaten.

LaMarche, Jim. *The Raft*. Reluctant Nicky spends a wonderful summer with Grandma who introduces him to the joy of rafting down the river near her home and watching the animals along the banks.

- Mitchell, Rhonda. *The Talking Cloth*. When Amber and her father go to visit her Aunt Phoebe, she wraps herself in cloth from Ghana and learns the significance of the colors and symbols to the Ashanti people.
- Novak, B. J. *The Book with No Pictures*. In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what.
- O'Malley, Kevin. *Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*. Cooperatively writing a fairy tale for school, a girl imagines a beautiful princess whose beloved ponies are being stolen by a giant, and a boy conjures up the muscular biker who will guard the last pony in exchange for gold.
- Rocco, John. *Blackout*. When a busy family's activities come to a halt because of a blackout, they find they enjoy spending time together and not being too busy for once.
- Wiesner, David. *Tuesday*. In this delightful Caldecott medal winner, frogs rise on their lily pads, float through the air, and explore the nearby houses while their inhabitants sleep.
- Williams, Karen. *A Beach Tail*. How will Gregory find his way back to Dad? Swish-swoosh, Gregory draws a lion in the sand. "Don't go in the water, and don't leave Sandy," warns Dad. But the sandy lion grows a tail that gets longer and longer—and soon Gregory is lost on the beach. This wonderful read-aloud book brings to life a summer experience that is all too familiar for young children.
- Four Feet, Two Sandals*. Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers.
- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Each Kindness*. Woodson & illustrator E. B. Lewis team up to deal a blow to the pervasive practice-among students of all economic backgrounds-of excluding those less fortunate. When a new student arrives midterm, head down, with broken sandals, the teacher introduces the pigtailed new student as Maya, but hardly anyone says hello.
- *The Other Side*. Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town.

### **Early Readers**

- Coville, Bruce. *Sarah's Unicorn*. Although she tries to keep her friendship with Oakhorn a secret, Sarah's wicked aunt finds out and is determined to rob the unicorn of his magic.
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends, Frog and Toad. (series)
- Kessler, Leonard. *Here Comes the Strikeout*. Bobby changes from an "easy out" to a game-winning hitter with the help of a friend and a lot of hard work.
- Miller, Sara. *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog*. Stories addressed to dogs and written from a dog's point of view, featuring such topics as a burglar, bones, and running free. (series)
- Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge*. Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. (series)
- Shea, Bob. *Ballet Cat: the Totally Secret Secret*. Ballet Cat and Sparkles the Pony are trying to decide what to play today. Nothing that Sparkles suggests--making crafts, playing checkers, and selling lemonade--goes well with the leaping, spinning, and twirling that Ballet Cat likes to do. When Sparkles's leaps, spins, and twirls seem

halfhearted, Ballet Cat asks him what's wrong. Sparkles doesn't want to say. He has a secret that Ballet Cat won't want to hear. What Sparkles doesn't know is that Ballet Cat has a secret of her own, a totally secret secret. (series)

Willems, Mo. *Elephant and Piggie* series. This 25-volume series has just ended with *The Thank You Book*. The tales of best friends Gerald and Piggie have won many awards and are perennial favorites among the students at CHS.

**Short Chapter Books** – Let child practice reading to you. We encourage students to try the "five finger test" to determine if a book is too difficult: as a student begins to read the first page, he or she sticks up a finger upon encountering a word he or she can't figure out. If five fingers are up before the end of the first page, we generally steer the student to another selection. Second graders love book series; not surprisingly, almost all the following titles are series.

Adler, David. *Cam Jansen Mysteries*. Nicknamed Cam for her photographic memory, the protagonist closes her eyes and says "click" at various points in a story, mimicking the noise of a camera while memorizing a scene in front of her. She later recalls these scenes to aid in solving a mystery. (series)

Averill, Esther. *Jenny and the Cat Club*. Jenny Linsky, a black cat who lives with Captain Tinker in New York City, has adventures with the neighborhood cats who belong to the Cat Club. (series)

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean*. When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. (series)

Cameron, Ann. *The Stories Julian Tells*. Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend. The books about younger brother Huey are a little easier and feature larger typefaces. (series)

Cronin, Doreen. *The Chicken Squad: the First Misadventure*. Meet the Chicken Squad: Dirt, Sugar, Poppy, and Sweetie. These chicks are not your typical barnyard puffs of fluff, and they are not about to spend their days pecking chicken feed and chasing bugs. No sir, they're too busy solving mysteries and fighting crime.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*. After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor. (series)

----- *Leroy Ninker Saddles Up: Tales from Deckawoo Drive, Vol. One*. Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn't have is a horse — until he meets Maybelline, that is, and then it's love at first sight. Maybelline loves spaghetti and sweet nothings, and she loves Leroy, too. But when Leroy forgets the third and final rule of caring for Maybelline, disaster ensues. Can Leroy wrestle fate to the ground, rescue the horse of his heart, and lasso loneliness for good?

Duey, Kathleen. *Moonsilver*. Heart Avamir remembers nothing prior to her rescue as a toddler by Old Simon, but her life becomes interesting when she discovers a starving, injured white horse wandering in the woods. (Unicorn's Secret series)

English, Karen. *Nikki & Deja*. Meet Nikki and Deja, who live next door to each other and are best friends. They do everything together—watch Saturday morning cartoons, play jacks, jump double Dutch at recess, and help each other with their homework for

- Mrs. Shelby's third-grade class. But when an arrogant new girl arrives and Nikki and Deja form a club that would exclude her, the results are not what they expect. (series)
- Gannett, Ruth. *My Father's Dragon*. A young boy works to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. (trilogy).
- Greenburg, J.C. *Andrew Lost: On the Dog*. After being shrunk by a shrinking machine and ending up on a dog having a bubble bath, Alexander, his cousin Judy, and a tiny robot try to survive encounters with insects, soapy bubbles, and bathtub and toilet drains. (series).
- Howe, James. *Pinky and Rex and the School Play*. Pinky is jealous when his best friend Rex gets the lead in the school play, even though she only tried out to give Pinky moral support. (series).
- Hurwitz, Johanna. *Busybody Nora*. Relates the adventures of an inquisitive little girl who lives in a large apartment building in New York with her parents and little brother Teddy. (*Riverside Kids* series)
- Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry in Room 2B*. Doug discovers that though being Harry's best friend in Miss Mackle's second grade class isn't always easy, as Harry likes to do horrible things, it is often a lot of fun. (series)
- LeGuin, Ursula. *Catwings*. Four young cats with wings leave the city dangers in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hands. (series)
- Marsden, Carolyn. *The Gold-Threaded Dress*. When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different.
- McCall Smith, Alexander. *Akimbo and the Elephants*. On the African game preserve where his father works, Akimbo devises a dangerous plan to capture a ring of elephant poachers. (series)
- McMullan, Kate. *97 Ways to Train a Dragon*. Wiglaf's supposed to be a dragon slayer, but he's more like a dragon *babysitter* when he finds a baby dragon and decides to keep it! (Dragon Slayers' Academy series)
- Osborne, Mary Pope. *Magic Tree House* series. Jack and Annie travel through time in their tree house and help historical characters solve problems in this introduction to historical fiction that numbers more than 50 books so far.
- Park, Barbara. *Junie B. Jones* series. These funny stories are available in boxed sets; the later volumes feature Junie's first grade escapades.
- Perkins, Mitali. *Rickshaw Girl*. Naima's parents cannot afford to pay school fees for her anymore, but she wins the village prize for painting the best traditional *alpana* patterns. She wishes she could help her father drive his rickshaw, and one day, disguised as a boy, she drives--and crashes--it. How will they afford to fix the dents and tears?
- Riddell, Chris. *Ottoline and the Yellow Cat*. While her parents are off traveling the world collecting "interesting things," Ottoline Brown lives in an elaborate apartment in Big City with Mr. Monroe, her best friend, guardian, and accomplice in forming clever plans. Ottoline solves a mystery involving a cat burglar, who is actually a cat, and the missing lapdogs of well-to-do women.
- Roy, Ron. *A-Z Mysteries*. This popular series provides a nice introduction to the mystery genre.

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Van Gogh Café*. The Van Gogh Cafe, located in Flowers, Kansas, has magic in its walls, causing strange and mysterious events to occur there.

Sachar, Louis. *Marvin Redpost: Alone in His Teacher's House*. Marvin is pleased when his teacher asks him to take care of her dog while she's away, but he soon finds that there's more pressure involved than he likes. (series)

Scieszka, Jon. *The Not-So-Jolly Roger*. When Joe receives a mysterious book from his uncle on his 10th birthday, he has no idea what is in store for him and his two best friends. Every time they open the book, it transports them through time and into perils. With author Scieszka in charge, hilarity ensues. (*Time Warp Trio* series)

Sharmat, Marjorie. *Nate the Great*. Young Nate is a great finder and detective who always cracks the case. (series)

Thomson, Melissa. *Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-up*. Keena chronicles her many mishaps as she enters second grade. (series)

Warner, Sally. *EllRay Jakes is a Rock Star!* In Ms. Sanchez's third-grade class some kids are tall, some are popular, and some have dads with cool cars and fast ATVs. EllRay, whose own father is a bookish geology professor, wants something to brag about and decides to take his father's rare and valuable crystals to school to impress his friends. When his plan for popularity goes haywire, he finds himself involved in a glittery blackmail scheme. Kids of all stripes will identify with little EllRay and his unwittingly hilarious antics. (series)

#### **Novels – for parents to read to or with child**

Babbitt, Natalie. *The Search for Delicious*. The Prime Minister is compiling a dictionary and when no one at court can agree on the meaning of delicious, the King sends his twelve-year-old messenger to poll the country.

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*. While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Birney, Betty G. *Summer According to Humphrey*. When Humphrey hears that school is ending, he can't believe his ears. What's a classroom hamster to do if there's no more school? It turns out that Mrs. Brisbane has planned something thrilling for Humphrey and Og the frog: they're going to Camp Happy Hollow with Ms. Mac and lots of the kids from Room 26! Camp is full of FUN-FUN-FUN new experiences, but it's also a little scary. Could camp be too wild even for Humphrey? (series)

Cleary, Beverly. *Henry Huggins*. His adoption of a stray dog begins an exciting year for Henry.

Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona* series. Begin this hilarious series with *Ramona the Pest*, during which our intrepid, sometimes pesky heroine enters Kindergarten, then follow her through first and second grades.

Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. After the untimely death of his parents, little James finds life with aunts Sponge and Spiker miserable until a magic potion produces an enormous peach which becomes his new and exciting home.

Grahame, Kenneth. *The Wind in the Willows*. Classic animal fantasy relating the adventures of Mr. Toad and his friends Badger, Rat, and Mole.

Kelly, Katy. *Lucy Rose* series. Start with *Here's the Thing about Me*, in which eight-year-old Lucy Rose keeps a diary of her first year in Washington, DC. She must adjust to

- her parents' separation as she spends time with her grandparents, makes new friends, and longs to convince her teacher to let her take care of the class pet.
- Howe, James. *Bunnacula*. Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire. (series)
- Jarrell, Randall. *The Bat-Poet*. A bat who can't sleep days makes up poems about the woodland creatures he now perceives for the first time.
- King-Smith, Dick. *Babe, the Gallant Pig*. A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success.
- Lawson, Robert. *Rabbit Hill*. New folks are coming to live in the Big House. The animals of Rabbit Hill wonder if they will plant a garden and thus be good providers.
- Parish, Peggy. *The Key to the Treasure*. Three children work to solve a puzzle left by their grandfather's grandfather that will lead to a treasure of old artifacts.
- Rylant, Cynthia. *The Lighthouse Family* Life with only the sea can be lonely. Just ask Pandora and Seabold. They've lived most of their lives with the sea -- Pandora in a lighthouse and Seabold on a boat -- and they're each quite used to being alone. But one day, the sea did something extraordinary: It brought Pandora and Seabold together. Even better, the sea gave them the ingredients for an adventure that neither of them had considered before -- an adventure called "family." (series)

### **Poetry / Humor**

- Greenfield, Eloise. *Honey, I Love and Other Poems*. Sixteen poems tell of love and the simple joys of everyday life, seen through the eyes of a child: playing with a friend, skipping rope, riding on a train--or keeping Mama company until Daddy gets back.
- Hall, Katy. *Snakey Riddles*. A collection of riddles about snakes, including "What kind of snake do you find on the front of your car? A windshield viper!" (series).
- Janeczko, Paul B. *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems*. It only takes a few words, if they're the right words, to create a strong image. Whether listened to in the comfort of a cozy lap or read independently, the thirty-six very short poems in this collection remind readers young and old that a few perfect words and pictures can make the world glow. Selected by acclaimed poet Paul B. Janeczko, this collection invites children to sample poems throughout the four seasons.
- Katz, Alan. *Take Me Out of the Bathtub*. Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Row Row Row Your Boat," are presented with new words and titles, such as "I'm So Carsick" and "Go Go Go to Bed."
- O'Neill, Mary. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*. Charming collection of poems about the sights, sounds, smells and feelings associated with different colors.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *Something Big Has Been Here*. Compilation of rhyming poems by a master of humorous poetry for children.
- Sidman, Joyce. *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature*. With simplicity and grace, poet Sidman and illustrator Beth Krommes reveal the many spirals in nature—from fiddleheads to elephant tusks, from crashing waves to spiraling galaxies— and celebrate the beauty and usefulness of this fascinating shape.

### **Non-fiction**

Aguilar, David. *13 Planets: the Latest View of the Solar System*. Brilliant photo-realistic illustrations and fascinating up-to-date facts straight from the latest astronomy news provide a comprehensive look at our solar system as you've never seen it before.

Aliki. *Fossils Tell of Long Ago*. Explains how fossils are formed and what they tell us about the past.

Andrews, Troy, and Brian Collier. *Trombone Shorty*. (Picture book autobiography)  
Hailing from the Tremé neighborhood in New Orleans, Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews got his nickname by wielding a trombone twice as long as he was high. A prodigy, he was leading his own band by age six, and today this Grammy-nominated artist headlines the legendary New Orleans Jazz Fest.

Cole, Joanna. *Hungry, Hungry Sharks*. A simple discussion of the kinds of sharks and their behavior. (Step into reading, level 2)

Cole, Joanna. *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge*. Ms. Frizzle takes her students soaring around the earth to study climate change, through the atmosphere to understand the greenhouse effect, above solar and wind power installations to see alternative energy sources, and above their town to observe carbon dioxide emissions.

DK *Eye Wonder* series. This “younger sibling” to the Eyewitness series provides simple text and visually appealing introductions to subjects including rocks and minerals, birds, weather, human body, and pirates.

Danneberg, Julie. *John Muir Wrestles a Waterfall*. The now iconic figure John Muir, while living at the base of Yosemite Falls in California, ventures up the trail from his cabin one night and has a harrowing waterfall adventure. Back matter roots the story in Muir’s life’s work as a conservationist and naturalist.

Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl*. Girls cannot be drummers: long ago in Cuba, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.

Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*. This Caldecott Medal winner provides a breathtaking look at a family’s 1869 journey from Omaha to Sacramento via the newly completed Transcontinental Railroad. The unnamed family is a launching point for Floca’s irrepressible exploration into, well, everything about early rail travel, from crew responsibilities and machinery specifics to the sensory thrills of a bridge rumbling beneath and the wind blasting into your face.

Hale, Christy. *Dreaming Up: a Celebration of Building*. A collection of illustrations, concrete poetry, and photographs that shows how young children’s constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

Heilbroner, Joan. *Meet George Washington*. Simple text and large typeface make this an age-appropriate introduction to our first President. (series)

Jenkins. *Living Color*. Depicts how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from their enemies.

Keating, Jess and David DeGrand. *Pink is for Blobfish: Discovering the World’s Perfectly Pink Animals*. “Think you know pink? Think again.” Among the fascinating animals described and depicted are the naked mole rat, the pinktoe tarantula, and the roseate spoonbill.

- Lipkowitz, Daniel. *The LEGO Ideas Book*. Did you ever wonder what you can do with all of those LEGO® bricks after you have created the project they came with? This book shows how you can take what you already have and make something new. The book is divided into six themed chapters — transportation, buildings, space, kingdoms, adventure, and useful makes — each with basic templates of key models and spreads to inspire you to create your own.
- Mattick, Lindsay and Sophie Blackall. *Finding Winnie: the True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*. This story within a story describes how a Canadian bear cub became the mascot of a soldier's unit during World War I and inspired A. A. Milne to write the Winnie-the-Pooh stories later.
- Messner, Kate. *Tree of Wonder: the Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest Tree*. This enlightening picture book introduces readers to the almendro tree, a native of the rain forest in Latin America and host to more than a thousand organisms.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt*. (Informational picture book) This yearlong adventure begins early in spring, with a young girl learning from her grandmother that the soil is still too cold and wet to begin planting. The pair makes plans while earthworms and insects work in the dirt. As the year goes by, they tend to the garden, weeding, watering, and keeping away pests, and later harvesting vegetables. Beautifully illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal. Also see their other collaboration, *Over and Under the Snow*.
- Milton, Joyce. *Whales: the Gentle Giants*. Describes how whales live and some different types of whales. (Step into Reading, level 3)
- Nivola, Claire. *Planting the Trees of Kenya: the Story of Wangari Maathai*. The story of Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her environmental and human rights achievements. Founder of the Green Belt Movement, she has encouraged people to repair their economy, land, and health with simple, environmentally friendly acts, such as planting more trees.
- Paul, Miranda. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*. As a girl, Ceesay realized that the goats on which her village relied were dying because they were eating plastic bags. She also saw that people were tossing the used bags on the ground just as they had always thrown away their baskets when no longer useful—except the plastic bags, unlike the baskets, weren't biodegradable. Ceesay figured out how to use crochet, a skill with which the villagers were already familiar, to make purses out of the plastic bags.
- Schwartz, David. *If You Hopped Like a Frog*. This book describes how “it’s all relative” by comparing human abilities to those of other creatures in the animal kingdom.
- Settel, Joseph. *Exploding Ants*. Describes examples of animal behavior that may strike humans as disgusting, including the "gross" ways animals find food, shelter, and safety in the natural world.
- Smith, Penny. *See How It's Made*. Depicts and describes the processes involved in the manufacture or creation of crayons, ballet shoes, Lego blocks, sausage, skateboards, and many other products.
- Tang, Greg. *Math Potatoes: Mind Stretching Brain Food*. Each spread includes a poem consisting of neatly rhymed couplets that first set a scene and concludes with a hint or suggestion as to how the objects on the opposing page might most efficiently be grouped to arrive at a sum. (series)

Thompson, Laurie Ann. *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*. Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*. Picture-book storytelling brings attention to the 1947 California ruling against public-school segregation. The concise, informative text, with occasional and always translated Spanish lines, discusses how being banned from enrolling in an Orange County grade school because of her skin tone and Mexican surname inspired Sylvia Mendez' family to fight for integrated schools.

*Weird But True: 300 Outrageous Facts*. Wacky facts, fascinating information, and lively art combine in this easy-to-browse, casual reference book that is sure to give young readers hours of fun. (series)

**Folklore and Mythology** for Parents to read to or with children. Cinderella stories, marked with an asterisk, complement the Cinderella stories read during first grade.

Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: a West African Tale*. This classic pourquoi tale reveals the meaning of the mosquito's buzz.

Climo, Shirley. *The Egyptian Cinderella*. In this version of Cinderella set in Egypt in the sixth century B.C., Rhodopes, a slave girl, eventually comes to be chosen by the Pharaoh to be his queen.

Coburn, Jewell. *Jouanah, a Hmong Cinderella*. Despite a cruel stepmother's schemes, Jouanah, a young Hmong girl, finds true love and happiness with the aid of her dead mother's spirit and a pair of special sandals.

DePaola, Tomie. *The Legend of the Bluebonnet*. A retelling of the Comanche Indian legend of how a little girl's sacrifice brought the flower called bluebonnet to Texas.

DePaola, Tomie. *Strega Nona*. When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works.

Fleischman, Paul. *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal*. The author draws from a variety of folk traditions to put together this version of Cinderella, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and more.

Jaffe, Nina. *The Way Meat Loves Salt: a Cinderella tale from the Jewish Tradition*. The youngest daughter of a rabbi is sent away from home in disgrace, but thanks to the help of the prophet Elijah, marries the son of a renowned scholar and is reunited with her family.

Lester, Julius. *Sam and the Tigers*. Follows the adventures of a little boy named Sam when he matches wits with several tigers that want to eat him.

Lowell, Susan. *Cindy Ellen: a wild western Cinderella*. Cindy Ellen loses one of her diamond spurs at the square dance in this wild western retelling of the classic Cinderella story.

Melmed, Laura. *The Rainbabies*. When the moon gives twelve tiny babies to a childless couple, the new parents take great care of their charges and eventually receive an unexpected reward.

- Pinkney, Jerry. *The Little Red Hen*. A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals who learn a bitter lesson from it.
- Rockwell, Ann. *The Robber Baby*. Retells fifteen tales from Greek mythology, including the stories of Hermes, Daedalus, and Pandora.
- San Souci, Robert. *Cendrillon: a Caribbean Cinderella*. A Creole variant of the familiar Cinderella tale set in the Caribbean and narrated by the godmother who helps Cendrillon find true love.
- Stephoe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.
- Wiesner, David. *The Three Pigs*. The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon.