

Summer Reading Adventures for Students Entering Third Grade at CHS



REQUIRED READING: Byars, Betsy. *The SOS File*. The students in Mr. Magro's class submit stories for the SOS file about their biggest emergencies, and then they read them aloud for extra credit. Students will borrow a copy of this item from the school library. Other titles on this list are available in public libraries throughout the area, or for purchase through our amazon.com store at <http://astore.amazon.com/concordhillsc-20>.

Fiction

Abbott, Tony. *The Hidden Stairs and the Magic Carpet*. Eric and his two friends, Neal and Julie, discover a secret doorway in Eric's basement that leads to the rainbow stairs. The stairs reach down into the wondrous world of Droon - a land where all kinds of amazing things occur. (Secrets of Droon series)

Angelberger, Tom. *Fake Mustache: or, how Jodie O'Rodeo and her wonder horse (and some nerdy guy) saved the U.S. Presidential election from a mad genius criminal mastermind*. Lenny Flem Jr. is the only one standing between his evil-genius best friend, Casper, and world domination as Casper uses a spectacularly convincing fake mustache and the ability to hypnotize to rob banks, amass a vast fortune, and run for president.

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan*. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Auch, Mary Jane. *I Was a Third Grade Science Project*. While trying to hypnotize his dog for the third grade science fair, Brian accidentally makes his best friend Josh think he's a cat.

Avi. *Iron Thunder: the battle between the Monitor & the Merrimac: a Civil War novel*. Tom's job as an assistant to Captain John Ericsson, the inventor of the Monitor, makes him a target of Confederate spies.

Babbitt, Natalie. *The Eyes of the Amaryllis*. When eleven-year-old Jenny goes to stay with her widowed grandmother who lives by the seaside, she learns a great deal about the nature of love and the ways of the sea.

Barnett, Mac. *The Terrible Two*. When you move to a new school, you get to decide who you want to be: front-row kid, kid with cool shoes, or smart kid. Miles Murphy has moved to a new town and a new school, but he doesn't want to reinvent himself. He wants to be who he has always been; a prankster. The problem is, that role has already been taken by a troublemaker who is even better than Miles, Niles Sparks, masquerading as a do-gooder.

Benton, Jim. *Lunch Walks Among Us*. Franny K. Stein is not your average girl -- she's a mad scientist. She prefers poison ivy to daisies, and when Franny jumps rope, she uses her pet snake. When a giant Monstrous Fiend attacks the class, everyone knows it's up to a *mad scientist* to save the day. (Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist series)

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 young 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!
(series)

Blume. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Peter Hatcher must deal with little brother Fudgie's disgusting cuteness, his constant meddling with Peter's stuff, and other grave offenses, one of which is almost too much to bear.

Bruchac, Joseph. *Children of the Longhouse*. Told from the alternating points of view of Native American Ohkwa'ri and his twin sister Otsi:stia, this historic novel shows a Mohawk village during the best of times: after the Great League of Peace is formed and before European settlers rob the tribe of its land. The story revolves around 11-year-old Ohkwa'ri's conflicts with a pompous bully, but the plot is less essential than the painstakingly wrought details about the tribe's daily rituals, legends and annual celebrations.

Buckley, Michael. *Sisters Grimm, Book 1: The Fairy Tale Detectives*. Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother that they have always believed to be dead. The girls are immediately swept up in a mystery that includes giants, pixies, fairies, and witches who live side-by-side with humans.

Cabot, Meg. *Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls: Moving Day*. Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules.

Child, Lauren. *Utterly Me, Clarice Bean*. When someone steals the winner's trophy for the school book project, Clarice emulates her favorite book heroine, Ruby Redfort the detective.

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

_____. *Muggie Maggie*. Maggie resists learning cursive writing in the third grade, until she discovers that knowing how to read and write cursive promises to open up an entirely new world of knowledge for her.

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Teacher's Pet*. Jake remembers the terrible days in third grade when everybody thought he was the teachers' pet.

Cooper, Susan. *The Boggart*. Returning home to Toronto, Canada, after visiting the Scottish castle inherited by her family, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, a mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

_____. *The Magician's Boy*. A boy who works for a magician meets familiar fairy tale characters when he is transported to the Land of Story in search of a missing puppet.

Coville, Bruce. *Into the Land of the Unicorns*. Having jumped into the fantasy land of Luster, Cara joins Lightfoot the unicorn in the search for Queen Arabella Skydancer.

Creech, Sharon. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*. With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Dahl, Roald. *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn Dixie*. Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

_____. *Flora & Ulysses*. Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

Dowell, Frances O. *Phineas L Maguire ... Erupts! The First Experiment*. "Mac" considers himself quite a scientist, but his plans to win the fourth-grade science fair may be ruined when Mrs. Tuttle assigns new kid "Mac R." as his partner. Though the boys share the same name, they aren't alike; obnoxious Mac R. has already alienated the whole class. But to his surprise, Mac discovers that the new boy is really a gifted artist and decent guy, and he finds a way to help the kid start fresh.

Duffey, Betsy. *How to Be Cool in the Third Grade*. It's not easy to seem cool when the whole class knows you wear superhero underwear and your mom still kisses you goodbye at the bus stop. But Robbie York has an action plan for becoming "cool."

Fitzgerald, John. *The Great Brain*. The exploits of the Great Brain of Adenville, Utah are described by his younger brother, frequently the victim of the Great Brain's schemes for gaining prestige or money.

Funke, Cornelia. *Igraine the Brave*. The daughter of two magicians, twelve-year-old Igraine wants nothing more than to be a knight, and when their castle is attacked by a treacherous neighbor bent on stealing their singing magic books, Igraine has an opportunity to demonstrate her bravery.

Gaiman, Neil. *Fortunately, the Milk*. While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space.

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.

Gutman, Dan. *They Came from Center Field*. Bloop Jones and the rest of the SBD's always win their baseball games, but what will happen when they take on some aliens who want to play?

Hale, Bruce. *The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse*. Fourth-grade gumshoe Chet Gecko searches for a missing chameleon named Billy. As Chet says, "Some cases start rough, some cases start easy. This one started with a dame." (*Chet Gecko Mystery* series)

Harris, R. P. *Tua and the Elephant*. One day, Tua makes an accidental acquaintance—one with wise, loving eyes and a very curious trunk. And this elephant needs her help. From the bustling night market to the hallowed halls of a Buddhist temple and finally, to the sanctuary of an elephant refuge, this clever girl and her beloved companion find that right under their noses is exactly what each has been searching for: a friend.

Holman, Felice. *The Cricket Winter*. A little boy exchanges Morse code messages with the cricket that lives in his house and together they trap the rat that has been plaguing the boy's father and the cricket's friends.

Holub, Joan. *Tatiana Comes to America: an Ellis Island Story*. Sisters Lila and Rose are spending the year with their eccentric grandmother, who runs a doll hospital. The girls are not pleased with the arrangement, but they begin to enjoy themselves when they learn their grandmother has a special power to "read" the lives of the dolls she is working to restore. (*The Doll Hospital* series)

Horvath, Polly. *Everything on a Waffle*. Eleven-year-old Primrose living in a small fishing village in British Columbia recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

_____. *The Trolls*. Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*. Eight-year-old David is convinced that his life will be more adventurous when he changes his name to Ali Baba.

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, D.C. 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 during a holiday.

Kline, Suzy. *What's the Matter with Herbie Jones?* When Herbie Jones gets the dreaded girl disease and becomes lovesick for Annabelle Hodgekiss, it threatens to break up his friendship with his good pal Raymond.

Lovelace, Maud. *Betsy-Tacy*. After Tacy Kelly moves into the house across the street from Betsy Ray, the five-year-olds become inseparable friends.

Lowry, Lois. *Anastasia Krupnik*. Anastasia's 10th year has some good things like falling in love and really getting to know her grandmother and some bad things like finding out about an impending baby brother.

_____. *Gooney Bird Greene*. A most unusual new student who loves to be the center of attention entertains her teacher and fellow second graders by telling absolutely true stories about herself, including how she got her name.

_____. *The Willoughbys*. In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, the four Willoughby children set about to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Macall Smith, Alexander. *The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's First Case*. Before becoming the first female private investigator in Botswana, eight-year-old Precious Ramotswe tracks down a thief who has been stealing her classmates' snacks.

Martin, Ann. *The Doll People*. A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody*. Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage.

Messner, Kate. *All the Answers*. What if your pencil had all the answers? Would you ace every test? When Ava Anderson finds a scratched up pencil she doodles like she would with any other pencil. But when she writes a question in the margin of her math quiz, she hears a clear answer in a voice no one else seems to hear.

Naylor, Phyllis. *Starting with Alice*. After she, her older brother, and their father move from Chicago to Maryland, Alice has trouble fitting into her new third grade class, but with the help of some new friends and her own unique outlook, she manages. (the prequel vols. to the *Alice* series, when she is 8 yrs. old)

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine* While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. (series)

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?

- Pflugfelder, Bob. *Nick & Tesla's High Voltage Danger Lab: a Mystery with Electromagnets, Burglar Alarms, and Other Gadgets You Can Build Yourself*. Nick and Tesla are bright 11-year-old siblings with a knack for science, electronics, and getting into trouble. When their parents mysteriously vanish, they're sent to live with their Uncle Newt, a brilliant inventor who engineers top-secret gadgets for a classified government agency. It's not long before Nick and Tesla are embarking on adventures of their own—engineering all kinds of outrageous MacGyverish contraptions to save their skin: 9-volt burglar alarms, electromagnets, mobile tracking devices, and more. (series)
- Roy, Ron. *Who Cloned the President?* KC discovers that the President of the United States has been replaced by a clone and sets out with her friend Marshall, on a dangerous mission to set things right. (*Capital Mysteries* series)
- Rylant, Cynthia. *Gooseberry Park*. In this animal adventure from Newbery Medal-winning author Cynthia Rylant, Stumpy Squirrel has just settled into a new nest in a magnificent pin oak in Gooseberry Park. It's the perfect spot for her babies to be born! When they arrive healthy and strong, Stumpy's three good friends--a Labrador retriever, a wise hermit crab, and a bat who eats Chinese food--are thrilled. But after a terrible ice storm destroys the pin oak, Stumpy disappears. It takes a special combination of courage, humor, and tenacity for Stumpy's friends to rescue her babies and bring her home again
- Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan*. There has been no rain for months, and all of the animals in Gooseberry Park are in danger. Can the gang of dear friends come up with a brilliant solution in time to save the day? Absolutely! (long-awaited sequel to *Gooseberry Park*, which may have been a CHS 2nd grade read-aloud selection)
- Sachar, Louis. *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*. Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.
- Scieszka, Jon. *Knights of the Kitchen Table*. Joe receives a magic book for his birthday present from his uncle. Joe, Fred and Sam are transported to a time when evil knights, fire-breathing dragons and vile-smelling giants roamed the land. (*Time Warp Trio* series)
- Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck*. Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.
- Stratford, Jordan. *The Case of the Missing Moonstone: the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency, book 1*. History meets mystery in this story in which the author reimagines the lives of Ada Byron and Mary Shelley as two girls who meet in 1826 London, agree to form a secret detective agency, and embark upon a series of adventures together. Ada (who will later become known as Lady Lovelace, often considered the world's first computer programmer) is a reclusive genius, lacking in social skills. Mary, who will one day become the author of the classic novel *Frankenstein*, is observant and a bit romantic. Their first case involves a stolen heirloom, a false confession, and an array of fishy suspects. But it's no match for the deductive powers and bold hearts of Ada and Mary.
- Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived the San Francisco Earthquake, 1906*. Leo enjoys being a newsboy in bustling San Francisco Early one spring morning, however, everything changes. Leo's world is shaken -- literally -- and he finds himself stranded in the middle of the city as it crumbles and burns to the ground. Does Leo have what it takes to survive this devastating disaster?

Young readers who enjoy historical fiction and are ready for survival stories will enjoy this series. (I Survived series)

Various authors. Great Illustrated Classics series. These greatly abridged and highly adapted versions of titles such as *Treasure Island*, *Little Women*, and *A Journey to the Center of the Earth* are easy to read and may tide children over until they are able to read the original versions. Half the pages are illustrations. Please do NOT substitute these for original classics that were written for children, e.g., *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Secret Garden*, or *The Wizard of Oz*.

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)

White, E. B. *Charlotte's Web*. Wilbur the pig is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend Charlotte decides to help him.

_____. *Stuart Little*. The adventures of the debonair mouse Stuart Little as he sets out in the world to seek out his dearest friend, a little bird who stayed a few days in his family's garden.

Wilder, Laura. *Little House in the Big Woods*. A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors.

Folklore

Brett, Jan. *Town Mouse, County Mouse*. After trading houses, the country mice and the town mice discover there's no place like home.

Hamilton, Virginia. *Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales, and True Tales*. The distinguished creators of *The People Could Fly* and *Many Thousand Gone* return for this striking collection of 17 tales, each featuring an African American woman or girl as the main character. True stories, ghost stories, folk legends, classic fairy tales, tall tales and more indicate the breadth of African American cultural traditions. (Coretta Scott King Author award winner)

Lester, Julius. *John Henry*. John Henry is stronger than ten men, and can dig through a mountain faster than a steam drill. Julius Lester's folksy retelling of a popular African-American folk ballad has warmth, tall tale humor, and boundless energy. Beautifully illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.

Osborne, Mary. *American Tall Tales*. A collection of tall tales about such American folk heroes as Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind, Pecos Bill, John Henry, and Paul Bunyan.

Osborne, Mary. *Favorite Greek Myths*. Retells twelve tales from Greek mythology, including the stories of King Midas, Echo and Narcissus, the Golden Apples, and Cupid and Psyche.

Pinkney, Jerry. *Aesop's Fables*. A collection of nearly sixty fables from Aesop, including such familiar ones as "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The North Wind and the Sun," "Androcles and the Lion," and "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Nonfiction

- 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.
- Anholt. *Stone Girl, Bone Girl*. A brief biography of the English girl whose discovery of an Ichthyosaurus skeleton in 1811 when she was twelve led to a life-long interest in fossils and other important discoveries.
- Bany-Winters *Show Time! Music, Dance, and Drama Activities for Kids*. Introduces the concepts of music, dance, and acting, suggesting how to create a musical production through games and role-playing and describing all aspects of a show from auditions to curtain call.
- Belviso, Meg. *Who Was Nelson Mandela?* As a child he dreamt of changing South Africa; as a man he changed the world. Nelson Mandela spent his life battling apartheid and championing a peaceful revolution. He spent twenty-seven years in prison and emerged as the inspiring leader of the new South Africa. He became the country's first black president and went on to live his dream of change. (Try other biographies in the *Who Was* series, as well.)
- Chin, Jason. *Island: the Story of the Galápagos*. Thoroughly researched and filled with intricate and beautiful paintings, this extraordinary book is an epic saga of the life of an island—born of fire, rising to greatness, its decline, and finally the emergence of life on new islands.
- 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. Back at school and at home, they start putting energy-saving practices into effect.
- Cowley, Joy. *Chameleon, Chameleon*. Brilliant color photos of Madagascar panther chameleons highlight this slender story of a male who runs into a defensive female while changing territories in his search for food.
- Davis, Kathryn Gibbs. *Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*. Capturing an engineer's creative vision and mind for detail, this fully illustrated picture book biography sheds light on how the American inventor George Ferris defied gravity and seemingly impossible odds to invent the world's most iconic amusement park attraction, the Ferris wheel.
- Facklam, Margery. *Spiders and their Web Sites*. Illustrations and text provide a close-up look at the physical characteristics and habits of twelve different spiders and daddy-longlegs.
- 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.
- Guiberson, Brenda. *The Cactus Hotel*. Describes the life cycle of the giant saguaro cactus, with an emphasis on its role as a home for other desert dwellers.
- Greenfield, Eloise. *Rosa Parks*. A brief biography of the African American woman sometimes known as the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement for her part in precipitating the Montgomery bus boycott.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. *Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark*. When a childhood illness leaves her blind and deaf, Helen Keller's life seems hopeless indeed. But her indomitable will and the help of a devoted teacher empower Helen to triumph over incredible adversity.

- Jenkins, Steve. *Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World*. In this book you will learn that anteaters are always only children, nine-banded armadillos are always born as identical quadruplets, and that falcons play-hunt in the sky, among other interesting facts.
- Kirk, Ellen. *Human Footprint: Everything You Will Eat, Use, Wear, Buy, and Throw Out in Your Lifetime*. Illustrates how humans interact with the environment and how we can lessen our impact. Astonishing photography captures the full picture of consumption, documenting all the diapers you wore as a baby, the bread you'll eat in a lifetime, and the cans you'll recycle, based on national averages.
- 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.
- Kerley, Barbara. *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*. The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built life-sized models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about what these awe-inspiring ancient animals and what they were like.
- 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.
- Malam, John. *You Wouldn't Want to Be a Roman Gladiator! Gory Things You'd Rather Not Know*. A light-hearted introduction to the life and training of a Roman gladiator. (*You Wouldn't Want To...* series)
- McKay, Kim. *True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet*. Invites children and their parents, teachers, and community to embark on an eco-adventure through a series of fun ideas that can be applied everywhere from the living room to the local park.
- 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.
- Rockliff, Mara. *Gingerbread for Liberty: How a German Baker Helped Win the American Revolution*. This book relates the true story of a generous, beloved, and industrious member of the Philadelphia community, originally from Germany, referred to as "the baker." He insisted upon joining the war effort, despite being told he's too old and fat. George Washington put the baker to work baking bread for the troops and eventually sent him on a special mission to convince the mercenary Hessian soldiers to abandon the English army.
- Roy, Katherine. *Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*. A few miles from San Francisco lives a population of the ocean's largest and most famous predators. Each fall, while the city's inhabitants dine on steaks, salads, and sandwiches, the great white sharks return to California's Farallon Islands to dine on their favorite meal: the seals that live on the island's rocky coasts. Massive, fast, and perfectly adapted to hunting after 11 million years of evolution, the great whites are among the planet's most fearsome, fascinating, and least understood animals.

- 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.
- Stewart, Melissa. *Robots* (National Geographic Readers, level 3) Discover the coolest robots of today and tomorrow in this colorful, photo-packed book. In this inviting and entertaining format, kids will learn about the science behind these amazing machines.
- 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.
- Tavares, Matt. *Growing Up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made it from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Major Leagues*. Growing up in the Dominican Republic, Pedro loved baseball more than anything, and his older brother Ramon was the best pitcher he'd ever seen. He dreamed of the day he and his brother could play together in the major leagues—and here, Matt Tavares tells the story of how that dream came true.
- 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.
- Van Allsburg, Chris. *Queen of the Falls*. The true story of charm-school teacher Annie Edson Taylor, who, at age 62, decided on a whim to fund her golden years by being the first person to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.
- 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)
- Wallmark, Laurie and April Chu. *Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*. Ada Lovelace, the daughter of the famous romantic poet, Lord Byron, develops her creativity through science and math. When she meets Charles Babbage, the inventor of the first mechanical computer, Ada understands the machine better than anyone else and writes the world's first computer program in order to demonstrate its capabilities. See also Wallmark's new collaboration with Katy Wu, *Grace Hopper Queen of Computer Code*.
- Woodcock, Jon. *Cool Stuff 2.0: and how it works. Following on the success Cool Stuff and How it Works*. Shows and explains exactly how the technology that shapes our world works. Learn about the science behind machines and gadgets, and find out when and how things were invented—from mobile phones and games consoles to smart cards and space planes.

Poetry / Humor / Graphic Novels / Picture Book (additional picture books on other lists)

- Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*. (Graphic novel) Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid.
- Giovanni, Nikki. *Hip-Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*. This anthology highlights the use of rhythm and vernacular in hip-hop, rap, and African-American

poetry. The 51 pieces—which also include a passage from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech—use gospel rhythms, "hambone" rhythms (which Giovanni explains in her informative introduction), jazz and blues rhythms, and language from the fields and the city streets. Artists range from Langston Hughes to Kanye West, from Eloise Greenfield to Queen Latifah.

Hatke, Ben. *Little Robot*. (Graphic novel) When a little girl finds an adorable robot in the woods, she presses a button and accidentally activates him for the first time. Now, she finally has a friend. But the big, bad robots are coming to collect the little guy for nefarious purposes, and it's all up to a five-year-old armed only with a wrench and a fierce loyalty to her mechanical friend to save the day!

Hopkins, Lee, ed. *My America: a Poetry Atlas of the United States*. A collection of poems evokes seven geographical regions of the United States, including the Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Plains, Mountain, Southwest, and Pacific Coast States.

Larson, Gary. *The Far Side*. These single-panel comics, often featuring animals' points of view about the world, are third grade favorites.

Lewis, J. Patrick. *Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems*. Is this poetry? Math? A brainteaser? Yes! It's all that and more. Poet J. Patrick Lewis has reimagined classic poems—such as Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" and Langston Hughes's "April Rain Song"—and added a dash of math.

National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar! Combines photography with lyrical text celebrating the animal world, in a compilation that includes works by such poets as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Rudyard Kipling.

Prelutsky, Jack. *The Dragons are Singing Tonight*. A collection of poems about dragons, including "I'm an Amiable Dragon," "If You Don't Believe in Dragons," and "A Dragon Is in My Computer."

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.

Silverstein, Shel. *A Light in the Attic*. A collection of humorous poems and drawings.

Singer, Marilyn. *Echo Echo*. What happens when you hold up a mirror to poems about Greek myths? You get a brand-new perspective on the classics! And that is just what happens in this new collection of verso poems from Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Josée Masse.

Watterson, Bill. *Attack of the Deranged Mutant Killer Monster Snow Goons*. With the help of his faithful stuffed tiger companion and his alter-egos--Spaceman Spiff, Stupendous Man, and Tracer Bullet-- Calvin navigates the tricky waters of youth. (Calvin & Hobbes)

Wiesner, David. *Flotsam*. A fascinating wordless story of what happens when a camera becomes a piece of flotsam.

Winnick, Judd. *Hilo: the Boy Who Crashed to Earth*. (Graphic novel) Daniel Jackson Lim, aka DJ, is an ordinary boy in a family of overachievers. He meets Hilo, a robot boy who fell to Earth from space and doesn't know where he came from or what he is doing on this planet. DJ, along with his best friend, Gina, help Hilo unlock the secrets of his past and stop the destruction of the planet.