

KinStar Recommended Reading List 2007 Grades 1 and 2

Any unabridged title is acceptable.

**Beginning readers are marked with an asterisk.*

*Adler, David. ***Bones & the Big Yellow Mystery***. Viking, 2004. Detective Jeffrey Bones and his grandfather quickly lead the reader to the solution of the missing school bus.

*Adler, David. ***President George Washington***. Holiday House, 2005. From Washington's youth to his death, this book gives enough details and background to make it an enjoyable biography for new readers.

*Adler, David. ***Young Cam Jansen and the Double Beach Mystery***. Viking, 2002. Cam uses her photographic memory and her brain to solve two mysteries at the beach, involving a missing mother and a missing set of papers. Cam Jansen Adventure Series
Ahlberg, Allan. ***The Children who Smelled a Rat***. Candlewick Press, 2005. Another adventuresome day in the Gatskill family starts when the baby rolls away in a shopping cart, the twin's teacher acts strange and a lost bird tries to hypnotize the cat.

Bailey, Linda. ***Stanley's Party***. Kids Can Press, 2003. Stanley is a good dog, but when his people go out at night, he begins to wonder what it would be like to taste the forbidden pleasures of sitting on the couch, and when he tries it, one thing leads to another.

*Baker, Keith ***More Mr. and Mrs. Green***. Harcourt, 2004. The two happy alligators have a wonderful day fishing with special bait; a day painting pictures and a sunny play day in the park.

*Bang-Campbell, Monika. ***Little Rat Rides***. Harcourt, 2004. Little Rat overcomes her fears and learns how to ride. Pee Wee, the very big horse doesn't always do what Little Rat expects.

*Bang-Campbell, Monika. ***Little Rat Sets Sail***. Harcourt, 2002. Little Rat is taking sailing lessons but is afraid of the water. Buzzy Bear, the sailing instructor, teaches him to make friends, jump in the water and sail.

Barber, Tiki. ***By My Brother's Side***. Simon & Schuster, 2004. Through hard work and determination twin brothers who have shared a love of football since childhood become NFL superstars.

Bauer, Marion Dane. ***The Blue Ghost***. Random House Children's Book, 2005. While visiting her grandmother's log cabin, Liz encounters the ghost of her great-greatgreat grandmother and suddenly finds that she has been transported back in time.

Berenzy, Alix. ***Sammy the Classroom Guinea Pig***. Henry Holt, 2005. Why is Sammy, the classroom guinea pig squealing on Monday morning? Mrs. B. and her students go through all the possible reasons for caring for a pet guinea pig.

Brett, Jan. ***Honey...Honey...Lion***. G.P. Putnam, 2005. African honey badger and the honeyguide bird always share their honey until one day badger becomes greedy.

Chesworth, Michael. ***Alphaboat***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002. A rhyming text full of puns tells the story of the letters of the alphabet sailing off to look for a buried treasure.

Climo, Shirley. ***The Little Red Ant and the Great Big Crumb: A Mexican Fable***.

Clarion, 1995. A small red ant finds a crumb in a Mexican cornfield, but she is afraid that she lacks the strength to move it herself so she goes off to find an animal that can move the crumb.

Creech, Sharon. *A Fine, Fine School*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2001. When a principal loves his school so much that he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year, it's up to his students to show him free time is a good thing, too.

Cronin, Doreen. *Diary of a Spider*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2005. In this sequel to *Diary of a Worm*, worm's friend spider gives his view of the world. He discovers that there is a lot to learn about being a spider, including spinning webs, avoiding vacuum cleaners and never falling asleep in a shoe.

Crummel, Susan Stevens. *City Dog, Country Dog*. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. Two French dogs, Henri and Vincent, meet at art school and become good friends despite their differences.

Danneberg, Julie. *First Year Letters*. Whispering Coyote, 2003. Through a series of letters sent to Mrs. Hartwell in the classroom mailbox, we experience the sometimes hilariously funny pleasures and pains of a normal group of kids and an innovative first-year teacher.

*Danziger, Paula. *Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown*. G.P. Putnam Sons, 2004. Amber Brown loves the second grade but wonders if she will ever receive an award from Deskarina, the desk fairy, for keeping her desk clean. A is Amber Series

Davies, Nicola. *Surprising Sharks*. Candlewick Press, 2003. Sharks come in all shapes and sizes. Many species from the smallest to the scariest are described in this informative picture book.

De Paola, Tomie. *Stagestruck*. G.P. Putnam & Sons, 2005. Tomie does not get the leading role of Peter Rabbit in the class play. He is so disappointed he decides to get the audience's attention by making his character Mopsy the star!

Dicamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*. Candlewick Press, 2005. Mercy is the adored pet pig of the Watsons. One night Mercy climbs into bed with her masters seeking that toasty feeling, but she overloads the bed and it begins to fall through the floor.

Florian, Douglas. *Bow Wow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs*. Harcourt, 2003. It's rhyming cats and dogs in Douglas Florian's furr-ocious collection of twenty-one original poems and paintings about our favorite animal friends.

Gibbons, Gail. *Dinosaur Discoveries*. Holiday House, 2005. Fabulous, concise and clear dinosaur information is in this book. It also includes pronunciations, maps of fossil discoveries, and author's notes.

Golenbock, Peter. *Hank Aaron: Brave in Every Way*. Harcourt, 2001. This is a biography of the Hall of Fame baseball player who broke Babe Ruth's career home run record.

*Guest, Elissa Haden. *Iris and Walter and Cousin Howie*. Harcourt, 2003. Walter's visiting cousin, Howie, has exciting plans, but none of them include Walter's friend, Iris. Iris and Walter Series

Harper, Charise Mericle. *There was a Bold Lady who Wanted a Star*. Little, Brown, 2002. In this variation on the traditional cumulative rhyme, a feisty woman tries roller skates, a bicycle and even a rocket to reach a star.

*Helmer, Marilyn. *Yummy Riddles*. Kids Can Press, 2003. These riddles will provide budding comedians with a fresh batch of food-related material to try out on their friends and family.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together*. Little, Brown, 2004. This title presents short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices designed especially for young children and adults to read together.

*Hoff, Syd. *Danny and the Dinosaur Go To Camp*. HarperCollins, 1996. When Danny brings his favorite dinosaur to camp, they enjoy boating, hiking, and roasting marshmallows.

*Holub, Joan. *Why Do Birds Sing?* Dial Books, 2004. A colorful book that explains why birds sing by examining several facts that look at their behavior and characteristics.

*Howe, James. *Pinky and Rex and the Just-Right Pet*. Simon & Schuster, 2001. Seven-year-old Pinky, a confirmed dog lover, has a change of heart after his family's new pet kitten pounces on his foot in the middle of the night.

Hughes, Shirley. *Ella's Big Chance: a Jazz-Age Cinderella*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. Ella, a seamstress in her father's dress shop, surprises her sisters, Ruby and Pearl, at the ball honoring the Duke of Arc – a wonderful variation of the Cinderella story with an unusual ending.

Isadora, Rachel. *Nick Plays Baseball*. G.P. Putnam's, 2001. The story of Nick and his teammates' championship baseball game provides an introduction to the aspects of the game of baseball including equipment, player positions and rules.

Isadora, Rachel. *Sophie Skates*. Puffin, 1999. A young girl who loves to ice skate introduces the sport: the parts and care of skates, the techniques of different skating moves and ice-skating competitions.

Karas, G. Brian. *On Earth*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. The earth and its cycles are simply but beautifully illustrated in this poetic text. Difficult concepts are explained through children's real life experiences.

Katz, Alan. *Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs*. McElderry, 2001. Comedy writer Katz provides ludicrous lyrics to 14 traditional tunes, offering playful parodies on some familiar routines.

Kimmel, Eric A. *Anansi and the Magic Stick*. Holiday House, 2001. Part trickster tale, part sorcerer's apprentice story, this cheerful picture book about Anansi the Spider is loosely based on the West African story "The Magic Hoe."

*Krensky, Stephen. *Arthur and the 1,001 Dads*. Little, Brown, 2003. Arthur and his friends try to find a substitute to attend the Father's Day picnic with Buster, whose father isn't around much since his parent's divorce.

*Krensky, Stephen. *Lionel's Birthday*. Dial, 2003. It's a time of questions, wishes, and a search for hidden presents as Lionel prepares to celebrate his birthday.

Kuskin, Karla. *Toots the Cat*. Henry Holt, 2005. In this series of simple but vivid poems we meet Toots, the calico cat who has adopted the poet's family. Toots is charming, frustrating, quirky and totally cat. This is for all cat lovers.

*Labatt, Mary. *Sam Gets Lost*. Kids Can Press, 2004. Sam's fun trip downtown turns scary after he hops out of the car and gets lost in the city.

Landry, Leo. *Sea Surprise*. Henry Holt, 2005. Kate, a mermaid, and her best friend Dave, a shark, have planned a special surprise for their best friend Ed who has lost his zap. A funny story with silly illustrations makes this a delightful tale of friendship.

Leedy, Loreen. *The Great Graph Contest*. Holiday House, 2005. Gonk and Chester,

two amphibian friends, hold a contest to see who can make better graphs. This is an entertaining and easy to follow introduction to various types of graphs. It includes instructions for children to make their own.

Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999. All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he can't pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's speech impediment that drives away the class bully.

*Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. HarperCollins, 1970. Be entertained by the classic, short, delightful tales about best friends Frog and Toad. Series

Markle, Sandra. *Spiders Biggest! Littlest!* Boyds Mills Press, 2004. From the Goliath Bird Spider to the Crab Spider amazing photographs show how spiders benefit from their size. Includes a map of where spiders live.

*Marshall, James. *Fox on the Job*. Puffin Books, 1988. Fox tries several different jobs to earn money

McBrier, Page. *Beatrice's Goat*. Atheneum Books, 2001. A young girl's dream of attending school in her small Ugandan village is fulfilled after her family is given an income producing goat. Based on a true story about the work of the Heifer Project.

McCall, Francis. *A Huge Hog is a Big Pig: A Rhyming Word Game*. Greenwillow, 2002. A variety of mostly farm animals are introduced with such phrases as a granny nanny, a soggy doggy, and a loose goose.

McDermott, Gerald. *Jabuti the Tortoise: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon*.

Harcourt, 2001. All the birds enjoy the song-like flute music of Jabuti, the tortoise, except Vulture who, jealous because he cannot sing, tricks Jabuti into riding his back toward a festival planned by the King of Heaven.

McDonald, Megan. *Stink! The Incredible Shrinking Kid*. Candlewick Press, 2005. Is Stink really shrinking? He is already the shortest kid in second grade. Will his big sister help him get taller?

McKissack, Patricia. *The Honest-To-Goodness Truth*. Atheneum, 2000. After promising never to lie, Libby learns that it's not always necessary to blurt out the whole truth.

McNulty, Faith. *If you Decide to Go to the Moon*. Scholastic Press, 2005. This book tells you how to get to the moon, what to do after you land, and most importantly how to get back home.

*Miller, Sara Swan. *Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear*. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. If your teddy bear seems quiet and just sits on your bed staring, maybe he is bored and needs to be entertained. This book has perfect stories for teddy bears to hear.

Muth, Jon. *Zen Shorts*. Scholastic Press, 2005. Stillwater, a talking panda, shares Zen stories with three children. Each story matches the mood and character of the child.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Albert*. Harcourt, 2001. Albert seems to have opted out of life until a pair of cardinals builds a nest in his hand and deposit four eggs in it.

*Nixon, Joan Lowery. *Gus and Gertie and the Lucky Charms*. SeaStar Books, 2002.

The fine-feathered heroes Gus and Gertie return for another slapstick easy-toread mystery as they arrive at the Animals' Winter Olympics with dreams of winning gold as Antarctica's first synchronized swimming team.

O Flatharta, Antoine. *Hurry and the Monarch*. Knopf, 2005. On her way from Canada a monarch butterfly lands on Hurry the tortoise in Wichita Falls, Texas. Through their friendship Hurry witnesses the life cycle of a monarch. This story has strong Texas connections and the illustrations depict the beauty of the Monarch and Texas springtime.

*Parish, Herman. *Amelia Bedelia Rocket Scientist*. Greenwillow Books, 2005. Another fun story about Amelia Bedelia and this time she volunteers at a school science fair where all sorts of things happen in solving several science experiments.

Polacco, Patricia. *John Philip Duck*. Philomel, 2004. Set in the Depression, a young boy from Memphis, who works at the Peabody Hotel, trains his pet duck to do tricks and performances set to the music of John Philip Sousa marches.

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name is Yoon*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

Reynolds, Peter. *The Dot*. Candlewick, 2003. "Just make a mark and see where it takes you." This sage advice, offered by her teacher, sets the young heroine on a journey of self-expression, artistic experimentation, and success.

*Roberts, Bethany. *Ogre Eats Everything*. Dutton, 2005. A sequel to Maybelle and Ogre, this humorous easy to read chapter book tells a story about friendship, especially when Maybelle tries to teach Ogre to read.

Rodman, Mary Ann. *My Best Friend*. Viking, 2005. At the local swimming pool six year old Lily is doing her best to impress seven year old Tamika because she wants to be best friends. No matter how hard Lily tries, Tamika either ignores her or teases her. Could there be another best friend?

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas*. Simon and Schuster, 2005. When Henry and Mudge go with Henry's parents to visit Great Grandpa Bill in the home with lots of other grandpas, they lead them on a wonderful adventure. Henry and Mudge Series.

*Rylant, Cynthia. *The High-Rise Private Eyes: the Case of the Baffled Bear*. Greenwillow, 2004. Bunny and Jack, animal detectives, take a break from playing cards to look for Bernard Bear's missing messenger whistle. High Rise Private Eye Series
Sams, Carl R. and Jean Stoick. *Lost in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy*. Carl R. Sams II Photography, 2004. In this photographic story, a fawn is discovered sleeping alone in the tall grass at the edge of the forest, which raises the concerns of the animal community.

Sayre, April Pulley. *Army Ant Parade*. Holt, 2002. The animals in the forest prepare for the army ants to swarm over the ground in a thick stream, searching for food.

Schwartz, David. *If You Hopped Like a Frog*. Scholastic, 1999. David Schwartz introduces the concept of ratio by comparing what humans would be able to do if they had bodies like different animals

*Sharmat, Marjorie. *Nate the Great on the Owl Express*. Dell Yearling, 2003. Nate investigates when an owl named Hoot disappears on board the Owl Express. Series

Sis, Peter. *Train of States*. Greenwillow, 2004. An imaginative look at the fifty states using circus trains to display the information. State facts are presented in intricate detail.

Smothers, Ethel Footman. *Hard-Times Jar*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Emma, the daughter of poor migrant workers, longs to own a real book. When she turns eight and must attend school for the first time, she is amazed to discover a whole library in her classroom

Stanley, Diane. *Goldie and the Three Bears*. HarperCollins, 2003. In this fractured Goldilocks tale, Goldie, who has yet to find a friend to love with all her heart, makes an unplanned visit to the house of some bears.

Steig, William. *The Amazing Bone*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976. On her way home from school, Pearl finds an unusual bone that has unexpected powers.

Stevens, Janet and Susan Stevens Crummel. *The Great Fuzz Frenzy*. Harcourt, 2005. Violet, a Golden Retriever, loses her tennis ball down a prairie dog hole. The prairie dogs have a frenzy with the fuzz.

Stowell, Penelope. *The Greatest Potatoes*. Hyperion Books for Children, 2005. George Crum, son of a former slave and a Native American was a chef in Saratoga, New York in 1853. As a practical joke, George created the worst fried potatoes in the world. The Saratoga flaky fried potatoes became an instant hit.

Sturges, Philemon. *She'll be Comin' Round the Mountain*. Little, Brown, 2004. New words to the traditional tune describe a camper-driving, "hooting" and shouting" guest and the party that will begin when she arrives.

*Sutcliffe, Jane. *Jesse Owens*. Carolrhoda Books, 2001. This is a biography of track and-field athlete Jesse Owens, from his childhood in Alabama to his athletic career, which culminated in his winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany.

Swope, Sam. *Gotta Go! Gotta Go!* Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2000. Although she doesn't know how or why, a small creepy-crawly bug is certain that she must make her way to Mexico.

Tavares, Matt. *Mudball*. Candlewick Press, 2005. The year is 1903. Andy Oyler, the shortest player in his baseball league is batting with two outs and rain is falling hard. Andy's bat connects with the ball, but will it be hard enough to bring in the runs and win the game?

Teague, Mark. *Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation*. Scholastic, 2004. While on vacation, Mrs. LaRue receives letters from her dog, Ike, who has been falsely accused of harming the neighbor's cats and is trying to clear his name.

*Thomas, Shelley Moore. *Get Well, Good Knight*. Dutton, 2002. The much-heralded Good Knight is back—only this time his three little dragon friends are sick in bed.

Uhlberg, Myron. *Dad, Jackie and Me*. Peachtree Publisher, 2005. In 1947, Jackie Robinson is playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first black man to play in major league baseball. The author and his deaf father become fans and share the thrill of Jackie's incredible season.

*Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Oliver the Mighty Pig*. Dial, 2004. Oliver feels like the superhero Mighty Pig when he wears his Mighty Pig cape, but he finds that being a superhero in the real world has some complications.

Ward, Jennifer. *The Seed and the Giant Saguaro*. Rising Moon, 2003. A packrat, carrying fruit from the giant saguaro, is chased by various desert animals and inadvertently helps spread the cactus's seeds. Information on saguaros is included.

Weatherby, Brenda. *The Trucker*. Scholastic, 2004. Wesley dreams his toy semi flatbed truck grows big enough for him to have a trucking adventure but wakes to find he is in the back of his father's truck.

Whatley, Bruce. *Wait! No Paint!* HarperCollins, 2001. Full of surprises, interaction between the illustrator and the characters, and hilarious wordplay, this quirky retelling of "The Three Little Pigs" encourages readers to look at this favorite story in a whole new way.

Whybrow, Ian *Badness for Beginners: A little Wolf and Smellybreff Adventure*.

Carolrhoda Books, 2005. Little Wolf and his brother Smellybreff get lessons in badness from their Mom and Dad. They just can't be naughty enough to suit Mom and Dad.

Willems, Mo. *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog*. Hyperion, 2004. Pigeon learns about sharing when a curious duckling keeps asking questions about the hot dog pigeon has found.

Winter, Jonah. *Roberto Clemente Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates*. Atheneum Books, 2005. This is the story of Roberto Clemente, a young Puerto Rican who followed his baseball dream to the big leagues and went on to help the poor in his homeland.

Wong, Janet. *Alex and the Wednesday Chess Club*. Margaret McElderry Books, 2004. Alex tries lots of different activities, swim team, football, piano lessons, but the Wednesday chess club is his favorite. At the tournament, he tries very hard to win but discovers having fun is more important.

Wood, Don. *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear*. Child's Play International, 1984. Little Mouse worries that the big hungry bear will take his freshly picked red, ripe strawberry for himself.

Yolen, Jane. *A Sip of Aesop*. Scholastic, 1995. The author retells, in verse, thirteen fables from the Greek slave, Aesop, including "The Hare and the Tortoise," "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," and "The Fox and the Stork."

Young, Ed. *What About Me?* Philomel, 2002. In this Sufi tale, a young boy follows the instructions of the Grand Master in the hope of gaining knowledge, only to be surprised as to how he acquires it.

Zoehfeld, Kathleen Weidner. *Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?* HarperCollins, 2004. This book discusses the discovery and analysis of Archaeopteryx, a feathered dinosaur which may have been an ancestor of modern birds.

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