



# Children's Reading List

## Beginning level

Brighton, Catherine. *The Fossil Girl: Mary Anning's Dinosaur Discovery*. Brookfield, Connecticut: The Millbrook Press, 1999. [Zeta B A6152B](#).

In simple cartoon style, tells the story of a twelve-year-old English girl's discovery in 1811 of an ichthyosaurus skeleton.

Norworth, Jack. *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006. [Zeta 796.357 N8955T](#).

This book is about the historic song Take me Out to the Ball Game and the 1908 baseball game between the New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs. Includes baseball trivia including hand signals and how certain balls are pitched.

Kalman, Maira. *Fireboat: The Heroic Adventures of the John J. Harvey*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2002. [Zeta 974.7 K1457F](#).

A fireboat, launched in 1931, is retired after many years of fighting fires along the Hudson River, but is saved from being scrapped and then called into service again on September 11, 2001.

McCarthy, Meghan. *The Story of Charles Atlas, Strong Man*. New York: A. A. Knopf, 2007. [Zeta B A8813M](#).

Presents the life of fitness legend Charles Atlas.

Morris, Ann. *Karate Boy*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1996. [Zeta 796.815 M8753K](#).

Explains what the sport of karate is and shows what happens in a typical karate class.

Sampson, Michael. *The Football that Won--* New York: H. Holt and Co., 1996. [Zeta 796.2.332 S1925F](#).

A poem celebrating the football, the players, the team, the coach, the cheerleaders, and the fans who won the Super Bowl.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be President?* New York: Philomel Books, 2000.

[Zeta 973 S1395S.](#)

Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of U.S. presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton.

## Intermediate level

Barber, Tiki, Ronde Barber, and Robert Burleigh. *Teammates*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2006. [Zeta 920 B2346T.](#)

"A story of teamwork and perseverance based on the childhood of National Football League stars and twin brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber."

Bildner, Phil. *Shoeless Joe and Black Betsy*. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2002. [Zeta E B59525S.](#)

Shoeless Joe Jackson, said by some to be the greatest baseball player ever, goes into a hitting slump just before he is to start his minor league career, so he asks his friend to make him a special bat to help him hit.

Buckley, James. *Football*. New York: DK Publishing, 1999. [Zeta 796.332 B92435F.](#)

Provides an illustrated look at many varied aspects of the popular sport of professional football, including the history of the game, evolution of equipment, the playing field and modern stadiums, players, fans, and more.

Clements, Andrew. *Frindle*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996. [Zeta F C6264F.](#)

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. New York: Knopf, 1961. [Zeta F D1315J.](#)

After living 3 years with cruel relatives of his deceased parents, James finally gets to go out make friends, and travel on an amazing giant peach. This journey changes the future for James and those he lives with.

Frisch, Aaron. *The History of the Texas Rangers*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2003. [Zeta 920 F9172H.](#)

Highlights the key personalities and memorable games of the Texas Rangers, a baseball team that moved from Washington, D.C., to the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 1972.

## Older children and adolescents

*Choose just one chapter to read in these interesting, fun books.*

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone does My Shirts*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004.

[Zeta F C5474A.](#)

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

Christopher, Matt. *On the Court with--Michael Jordan*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1996.

[Zeta B J8252C.](#)

Examines the life and basketball career of the high-scoring player with the Chicago Bulls, who made a brief attempt to play minor league baseball in 1994.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2003. [Zeta F D5454Ta.](#)

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

Harrington, Geri. *Jackie Joyner-Kersey: Champion Athlete*. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1995. [Zeta B J896H.](#)

A biography of the Olympic gold medalist and world champion in both the long jump and the heptathlon.

Hesse, Karen. *The Music of Dolphins*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1996. [Zeta F H5874M.](#)

After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.

Kerley, Barbara. *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*. New York: Scholastic, 2001.

[Zeta 567.9 K394D.](#)

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 were like.

Kindl, Patrick. *Goose Chase*: a novel. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001. [Zeta F K516G](#).

Rather than marry a cruel king or a seemingly dim-witted prince, an enchanted goose girl endures imprisonment, capture by several ogresses, and other dangers, before learning exactly who she is.

Krensky, Stephen. *Nellie Bly: A Name to be Reckoned with*. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2003. [Zeta B B66145K](#).

"Nellie Bly wasn't always Nellie Bly. First she was Elizabeth Cochrane, a shy girl from Cochran's Mill, Pennsylvania. All her life Elizabeth had been told, 'girls can't do this' and 'girls can't do that.' But Elizabeth didn't believe it ... so one day she set out to prove it ..."

Littleton, Mark. *Summer Olympics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996. [Zeta 920 L7814S](#).

Athletes who have competed in different summer Olympics give their testimony to the power of faith in their lives.

Lovitt, Chip. *Michael Jordan*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1998. [Zeta B J8252L 1998](#).

Behind Michael Jordan's public life of fame and fortune is a private story of struggle and discipline. This biography contains photos and the highlights of Jordan's career.

Madden, John and Bill Gutman. *John Madden's heroes of football : the story of America's game*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2006. [Zeta 920 M1794J](#).

John Madden shares his knowledge and love of football, "America's game"

Park, Barbara. *Skinnybones*. New York: Knopf, 1982. [Zeta F P2353S](#).

Alex's active sense of humor helps him get along with the school braggart, make the most of his athletic talents, and simply get by in a hectic world.

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief*. New York: Miramax Books, 2005. [Zeta F R5856L](#).

After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.

Sachar, Louis. *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. [Zeta F S1212H](#).

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Sullivan, George. *Quarterbacks!: Eighteen of Football's Greatest*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1998. [Zeta 920 S9495Q](#).

Profiles some of the top-rated quarterbacks of all time, including Sammy Baugh, Bart Starr, Fran Tarkenton, Dan Marino, Steve Young, and Troy Aikman.

Sullivan, George. *Glovesmen: Twenty-Seven of Baseball's Greatest*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996. [Zeta 920 S9495G](#).

Profiles twenty-seven talented fielders in the history of baseball, including Barry Bonds, Nap Lajoie, and Joe DiMaggio.

Velde, Vivian V. *Tales from the Brothers Grimm and the Sisters Weird*. Orlando: Magic Carpet Books, 2005. [Zeta 398.2 V2445Ta](#).

Presents thirteen twisted versions of such familiar fairy tales as Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, Hansel and Gretel, and The Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Fuqua, Nell. *First Pets: Presidential Best Friends*. New York: Lemon Drop Press: Scholastic, 2004. [Zeta 920 F9967F](#)

Find out how hundreds of animals have brought love and devotion to our first families, from dogs to badgers and snakes to hippos.

Goodman, Michael E. *Kobe Bryant*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2004. [Zeta B B9154G](#).

Introduces the life and accomplishments of basketball guard Kobe Bryant, whose high scoring game helped bring the Los Angeles Lakers three straight world championships.

Hayhurst, Chris. *Bicycle stunt riding! : catch air*. New York: Rosen Central, 2000. [Zeta 796.6 H4194B](#).

Describes the sport of bicycle stunt riding, how to purchase equipment, practice stunts, ride safely, and enter competitions.

Kerley, Barbara. *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2001. [Zeta 567.9 K394D](#).

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 were like.

Kindl, Patrick. *Goose Chase: a novel*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001. [Zeta F K516G](#).

Rather than marry a cruel king or a seemingly dim-witted prince, an enchanted goose girl endures imprisonment, capture by several ogresses, and other dangers, before learning exactly who she is.

MacDonald, Betty. *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992. [Zeta F M1352M 1992](#)

From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle issues to parents her marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism, and Fighter-Quarrelitis.

Nichols, John. *Dallas Cowboys*. Mankato, MN: Creative Education, 2001. [Zeta 796.332 N6214D](#).

Traces the history of the Dallas Cowboys from the team's beginnings through 1999.

Rosen, Michael J. *Balls!* Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Publishing, 2006. [Zeta 796.3 R81323B](#).

Learn about the balls used in basketball, soccer, football, tennis, handball, golf, volleyball, and ping pong: how they're made, why they look the way they do, some amazing facts about their history...and a bit about the games that use them, too.

Scieszka, Jon and Lane Smith. *Squids Will be Squids: Fresh Morals, Beastly Fables*. New York: Viking., 1998 [Zeta E S4167Sq](#).

Contemporary fables with tongue-in-cheek morals address such topics as homework, curfews, and television commercials.

Strug, Kerri. *Heart of Gold*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, 1996. [Zeta B S9274](#).

The young woman who helped the U.S. women's gymnastics team win a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta describes her lifelong interest in the sport and the lessons it has taught her.

Wick, Walter. *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder*. New York: Scholastic, 1997. [Zeta 546 W6363D](#).

Describes the origins, characteristics, and uses of water.