

ULMA 2009

Books to Intrigue Doubtful Minds



BUILDING A COLLECTION TO APPEAL TO THE RELUCTANT READER

DISCLAIMER: The following book lists are by no means comprehensive, nor will every title be appropriate for every community. As time allowed I tried to include publishers, but was far from complete success. The spelling and typing errors are my own, I fully and completely take responsibility, and hope they in no way will cause distress, or the accidental ordering of books that will in some way lead your students into debauchery.

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Beginning Readers

Let's get them hooked from the start

❖ Picture Books – With An Attitude

- ***The Story of the Little Mole who went in search of Whodunit*** by Werner Holzwarth
- **DUMB BUNNIES** by Dav Pilky
- **THE STUPIDS** by Harry Allard
- **FANCY NANCY** by Jane O'Conner
- ***Captain Raptor and the Space Pirates*** by Kevin O'Malley
- ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude*** by Kevin O'Malley
- **Don't let the Pigeon . . .** by Mo Willems
- ***Underwear*** by Mary Elise Monsell
- ***Alice the Fairy*** by David Shannon
- ***No, David*** by David Shannon
- **FROGGY** by Jonathan London

❖ Beginning Readers

- Fiction
 - **ELEPHANT & PIGGIE** by Mo Willems
 - ***Not a Box & Not a Stick*** by Antoinette Portis
 - **FANCY NANCY** (I can read books) by Jane O'Conner
 - ***One Boy*** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
 - ***Chicken Said, 'Cluck!'*** by Judyann Ackerman Grant
 - ***Goose and Duck*** by Jean Craighead George
- **Chapter Books – Heavier on the Art than the Text**
 - **FLY GUY** by Tedd Arnold
 - **CORK AND FUZZ** by Dori Chaconas
 - **HOUNDSLY AND CATINA** by James Howe
 - **HENRY AND MUDGE** by Cynthia Rylant
 - **ANNIE AND SNOWBALL** by Cynthia Rylant
 - **NATE THE GREAT** by Marjorie Sharmat
 - **DOG AND BEAR** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
 - **COWGIRL KATE AND COCOA** by Erica Sliverman
 - **ZELDA AND IVY** by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

- **MERCY WATSON** by Kate DiCamillo
- **AMANDA PIG** by Jean Van Leeuwen
- **TOON BOOKS** – a new series of graphic books for beginning readers. More titles coming all the time.

<http://www.toon-books.com>

- ***Stinky*** by Eleanor Davis
 - ***Jack And The Box*** by Art Spiegelman
 - ***Benny And Penny*** In Just Pretend by Geoffrey Hayes
 - ***Otto's Orange Day*** by Frank Cammuso & Jay Lynch
 - ***Silly Lilly And The Four Seasons*** by Agnes Rosenstiehl
 - ***Mo And Jo Fighting Together Forever*** by Dean Haspiel and Jay Lynch
- **Non-fiction**
- ***First the Egg*** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
 - ***Wolfsnail*** by Sarah C. Campbell
 - ***Hello, Bumblebee Bat*** by Darrin Lunde
 - ***Vulture View*** by April Pulley Sayre
 - ***Actual Size*** by Steve Jenkins
 - ***Nic Bishop's Spiders*** by Nic Bishop
 - ***Nic Bishop's Frogs*** by Nic Bishop
 - **ANIMAL CLUES (set)**. Powerkids
 - **FIRST FACTS. WHY IN THE WORLD? (set)**. Capstone
 - **GROSS-OUT DEFENSES (set)**. Bearport
 - **PEBBLE PLUS SERIES** from Capstone
 - DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC ANIMALS
 - AFRICAN ANIMALS
 - BUG, BUGS, BUGS
 - UNDER THE SEA
 - WEIRD ANIMALS
 - MIGHTY MACHINES
 - FIGHTING FIRE
 - SHARKS

Just the Facts Ma'am

Non-Fiction that will Keep them Riveted

- FACT BOOKS -
 - **GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS**
 - **COOL STUFF AND HOW IT WORKS** by Chris Woodford. DK
 - ***Dangerous Book for Boys*** by Conn Iggulden. Collins
 - ***Pick Me Up*** by David Roberts. DK
 - **THE WORLD'S TOP TEN (set)**. Edge books. Capstone
 - **TOP 10 (set)**. Bearport
- GROSS - MENTIONING THE UNMENTIONABLE
 - **EXTREME LIFE (set)**. Capstone
 - **SANITATION INVESTIGATION (set)**. Capstone
 - **EXTREME CUISINE (set)**. Bearport
 - ***Flush: The Scoop on Poop Throughout the Ages*** by Charise Mericle Harper. Little Brown
 - ***The Truth about Poop*** by Susan E. Goodman. Viking
 - ***Gee Whiz! It's all about Pee*** by Susan E Goodman. Viking
 - ***Poop: A Natural History of the Unmentionable*** by Nicola Davies. Candlewick
 - ***Oh, yuck! : the encyclopedia of everything nasty*** by Joy Masoff. Workman
 - ***Oh, yikes! : history's grossest, wackiest moments*** by Joy Masoff. Workman
 - ***Fartiste*** by Kathleen Krull
- ANIMALS
 - ***Oh, Rats! : the story of rats and people*** by Albert Marrin
 - **ANIMAL ATTACKS (set)**. Enslow
 - **SMART ANIMALS (set)**. Bearport
 - **UNCOMMON ANIMALS (set)**. Bearport
 - **PAWS AND CLAWS (set)**. Powerkids
- VEHICLES
 - **DIRT BIKES (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
 - **WILD RIDES (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
 - **ULTIMATE SPEED (set)** - Bearport
- SPORTS
 - ***We Are The Ship*** by Kadir Nelson
 - **SPORTS RECORDS (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
 - **FOOTBALL HEROES MAKING A DIFFERENCE (set)** - Bearport. Hi-Lo
 - **DEFINING MOMENTS SUPER ATHLETES (set)** - Bearport
 - **ALL-STAR PLAYERS** - Powerkids Press
 - **AMAZING ATHLETES** - Lerner
- HISTORY
 - ***Duel!: Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War Of Words*** by Dennis Brindell Fradin. Walker
 - ***The wicked history of the world: history with the nasty bits left in!*** by Terry Deary. Scholastic
 - **CHOOSE YOUR OWN HISTORY (set)** by assorted authors. Capstone
 - **WEIRD HISTORY (set)** by Richard Platt. Two-Can
 - **ANCIENT EGYPT (set)**. Capstone
 - **SPIES (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
- BIOGRAPHY - It's no surprise that the best autobiographies are the ones children's authors write about themselves
 - **KNUCKELHEAD** by Jon Scieszka
 - **BILL PEET AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**
 - **BOY** by Roald Dahl. Puffin
 - **KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING : THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A KID** by Jerry Spinelli
 - **HOW ANGEL PETERSON GOT HIS NAME: AND OTHER OUTRAGEOUS TALES ABOUT EXTREME SPORTS** by Gary Paulson
 - **GUYS READS** edited by Jon Scieszka. Viking
- NOT AFRAID TO BE CREEPY
 - **HORRIBLE THINGS (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
 - **THE UNEXPLAINED (set)** - Edge Books. Capstone
 - **SCARY PLACES (set)** - Bearport
- BLAZERS SETS from Capstone - Books designed to appeal to 3 to 9 graders that read on a very low (1-2) reading level: **MONSTERS, EXTINCT MONSTERS, HORSEPOWER, FAST CARS, X GAMES, THE WORLD OF NASCAR, STARS OF NASCAR, WEAPONS OF WAR**

FICTION FREE-FOR-ALL

Beginnings, Middles, Ends, Characters, Plots, Settings, A Little Magic, A Talking Animal or Two, A Super-Power Now And Then - But Let's Take It Easy On Those Lengthy Descriptions And Didactic Platitudes

❖ EARLY CHAPTER SERIES

➤ Gender Neutral

- **MOOSE AND HILDY** by Stephanie Greene
- **A TO Z MYSTERIES** by Ron Roy
- **ANDREW LOST** by J C Greenburg
- **JUNIE B JONES** by Barbara Park
- **CLEMENTINE** by Sara Pennypacker
- **HORRIBLE HARRY** by Suzy Kline
- **SECRETS OF DROON** by Tony Abbott
- **MAGIC TREE HOUSE** by Mary Pope Osborne
- **JIGSAW JONES** by James Preller
- **READY FREDDY** by Abby Kline
- **SHREDDERMAN** by Wendelin Van Draanen

➤ Kinda Girly

- **RAINBOW FAIRIES** by Daisy Meadows
- **DISNEY FAIRIES** by assorted authors
- **MALLORY** by Laurie Friedman
- **IVY AND BEAN** by Annie Barrows
- **JUDY MOODY** by Megan McDonald
- **RUBY LU** by Lenore Look

➤ Kinda Stinky-Sticky-Icky

- **CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS** by Dav Pilky
- **RICKY RICOTTA'S MIGHTY ROBOTS** by Dav Pilky
- **STINK** by Megan McDonald
- **WILEY AND GRAMPA** by Kirk Scroggs
- **MARTIN BRIDGE** by Jessica Scott Kerrin
- **EOIN COLFER'S LEGENDS OF** by Eoin Colfer
- **HANK ZIPZER** by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver
- **WEIRD PLANET** by Dan Greenburg. Random House
- **SECRETS OF DRIPPING FANG** by Dan Greenburg. Harcourt
- **JAKE MADDOX** Sports Books. Stone Arch
- **TIME WARP TRIO** by Jon Scieszka
- **THE RIOT BROTHERS** by Mary Amato
- **MELVIN BEEDERMAN, SUPERHERO** by Greg Trine

❖ Graphic Novels

- **Bone** by Jeff Smith. Scholastic
- **Babymouse** by Jennifer and Matthew Holm. Random House

- **Twisted Journeys** by Assorted Authors. Graphic Universe – A Choose your own adventure series with plenty of disturbing characters and lurid drawings.
- **Sardine in Outer Space** by Emmanuel Guibert. First Second
- **Rapunzel's Revenge** by Shannon and Dean Hale. Bloomsbury
- **Jellaby** by Kean Soo. Hyperion
- **Baby-sitter Club** by Raina Telgemeier. Graphix
- **Owly** by Andy Runton. Top Shelf
- **Magic Pickle** by Scott Morse. Graphix
- **Into the Volcano** by Don Wood. Blue Sky Press
- **Amulet** by Kazu Kibishi. Scholastic
- **Marvel Age**. Spotlight. Abdo
 - **Spiderman**
 - **Fantastic Four**
 - **Iron Man**
 - **Transformers**
 - **The Incredible Hulk**
 - **X-Men**
 - **Gus Beezer**
- **Stone Arch Graphics**
 - **Graphic Revolve** - The Classics done up comic book style
 - **Batman** (New 2009) - yeah baby!
 - **Superman** (New 2009) – ditto
 - **Graphic Spin** – fairy tells with speech bubbles

❖ Short Story Collections

- **INVASION OF THE ROAD WEENIES AND OTHER WARPED AND CREEPY TALES** by David Lubar. Starscape
- **HOROWITZ HORROR: STORIES YOU'LL WISH YOU'D NEVER READ** by Anthony Horowitz. Philomel Books
- ❖ **A Little Romance** - for those not quite ready for the obsessive world of *Twilight*
 - **Confessions of a Serial Kisser** by Wendelin Van Draanen
 - **Flipped** by Wendelin Van Draanen
 - **No More Dead Dogs** by Gordon Korman
 - **Stargirl & Love Stargirl** by Jerry Spinelli
 - **Absolutely Normal Chaos** by Sharon Creech

FICTION FREE-FOR-ALL - CONTINUED

❖ Sports Fiction

- **JAKE MADDOX**. Stone Arch
- **BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURES** by Dan Gutman
- **MILLION DOLLAR SERIES** by Dan Gutman
- **FINAL FOUR MYSTERIES** by John Feinstein
- **Football Genius** by Tim Green
- **Football Hero** by Time Green
- **Go Long!** by Tiki and Ronde Barber with Paul Mantell
- **Kickoff!** by Tiki and Ronde Barber with Paul Mantell
- **COMEBACK KIDS** by Mike Lupica
- Other titles by Mike Lupica
 - **Heat**
 - **Travel Team**
 - **Summer Ball**
 - **Miracle on 49th Street**
 - **The Big Field**

❖ Series – Sometime it's not lack of reading ability, but lack of interest that keep kids from books. This is where series books make an impact, having characters and worlds that can be visited over and over again will bring readers back to see what happens next.

- **DIARY OF A WIMPY KID** by Jeff Kinney. Abrams
- **JOEY PIGZA** by Jack Gantos
- **KIDNAPPED** by Gordon Korman
- **ON THE RUN** by Gordon Korman
- **SHADOW CHILDREN** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- **SISTER'S GRIMM** by Michael Buckley
- **SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS** by Lemony Snicket
- **ALEX RIDER** by Anthony Horowitz
- **ARTEMIS FOWL** by Eoin Colfer
- **FABLEHAVEN** by Brandon Mull
- **PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS** by Rick Riordan
- **39 CLUES** by various authors. Scholastic. Interactive series using trading cards, contests, video games and the internet.
- **WARRIORS** by Erin Hunter
- **SAMMY KEYES MYSTERIES** by Wendelin Van Draanen
- **CHILDREN OF THE RED KING (Charlie Bone)** by Jenny Nimmo
- **SEPTIMUS HEAP** by Angie Sage

❖ MULTI-FORMAT

- **STAR WARS** – Most are published exclusively in paperback, but library bounds can be purchased through rebinding companies' i.e. Perma-bound, Follett, etc
 - **DK READERS**. Dorling Kindersley
 - **STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVELS** - 8 vol. episodes I&II coming in 2009. Spotlight. Abdo (sold with library binding)
 - **STAR WARS: BOBA FETT** – assorted authors. Scholastic
 - **STAR WARS: JEDI APPRENTICE** by Wolverton/Watson. Scholastic
 - **STAR WARS: JEDI QUEST** by Jude Watson. Scholastic
 - **STAR WARS: REBEL FORCE**. Scholastic (new 2009)
 - **STAR WARS: THE LAST OF THE JEDI** by Jude Watson. Scholastic
- The proliferation of **R. L. Stine** brought to you from the world of Scholastic
 - **GOOSEBUMPS**
 - **GOOSEBUMPS GRAPHIX** adapted by assorted authors/illustrators
 - **GOOSEBUMPS HORRORLAND** (on-going)
 - **MOSTLY GHOSTLY**
 - **ROTTEN SCHOOL**

❖ BOOK TALKS - ON STAND ALONES

- **Middle-School is Worse than Meatloaf** by Jennifer Holm. Life's most challenging year told in debris.
- **Masterpiece** by Elise Broach. Holt. A Beetle and a Boy bond over art, only to become involved in saving a stolen Masterpiece.
- **Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman. An Orphan raised and protected by loving ghosts.
- **Coraline** by Neil Gaiman. Creepy Perfection.
- **Savvy** by Ingrid Law. 5 kids, a Bible salesman, a waitress, and a super-power or two, set off on a road trip in a pink bus.
- **The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick. Guaranteed at 500+ pages, mostly graphic, to make a hesitant reader feel like a champ.
- **Airman** by Eoin Colfer. In the race to manned flight, young Conner Broekhart faces treachery and injustice, with iron-willed integrity.

Strategies to Ensnare Reluctant Readers

- **Be a reader** – Read what your students are reading. Read the new stuff. Read outside of your comfort zone. Show your students that what you have on the shelves is as exciting to you and you think it should be for them.
 - Talk about what you are reading. You might consider having a “**What I’m reading**” display up in the library. I have a magnet board with pictures of my “currently reading” covers for all to see.
 - Let them see you reading for fun: if you have a class that is contently reading while they wait for their teacher to arrive, have a book of your own handy for you to do the same.
- **Be aware of what is coming out, and when.** Create excitement for the next installment of latest series craze. Advertise the release date and ensure your students that you will get it the day it comes out. You might even pull aside a possible reluctant reader and whisper that you will give him/her first crack at the new book.
- **Provide a large variety** – there is no one book, (outside of possibly *Calvin and Hobbes*, *Captain Underpants* and the *Wimpy Kid*), that will appeal to all.
 - Make sure you have a large selection of non-fiction in high-interest subjects such as: Really cool things with wheels, creatures that can kill you, sports and the latest sports icons (preferably without felony convictions), the unexplained or the unverified, jokes, puzzles books, world records, etc. . . .
- **Let them choose what they want to read** – if your school is shackled to a medieval reading program, please, PLEASE, allow your students to have one or two choices from the library outside the dictatorial narrowness of “levels” and “points”.
 - **A truth:** children develop reading proficiency when they are allowed to read **below** their level and **re-read** their favorites.
 - **Another truth:** they will read above their level if they are motivated by the subject matter.
 - **Let them read “junk”** – Keep value judgments to yourself. DO NOT impose your taste and aversions on your students. Magazines, *Ripley’s*, *Spiderman*, *Captain Underpants*, even the internet, are all legitimate reading. What magazines do you subscribe to? Do you spend time in the plunging bodice section of the bookstore? Do some of those salacious supermarket headlines make it in your shopping basket? We all read junk; kids should get the opportunity as well.
- **Provide role models** – Besides yourself, make sure your students are connecting to others who find satisfaction with the printed word.
 - Boys particularly respond to male role models – invite fathers, high school boys, local dignitaries, and the custodian, anyone with an Adam’s apple and a book, to participate in reading events.
 - Have older kids read with younger kids. We have cross-age tutoring at our school which matches a 6th and a 2nd (5th with 1st, 4th with K) grade class as “reading buddies”. High readers are matched with high readers, low with low. This is outside of my domain but has school-wide benefit.
 - Allow parents to check out books for themselves from your library. This shows their children that they value the same books.
- **Network with teachers and parents** – Oddly enough no kid walks in and announces that he is a reluctant reader. I have found the most effective way for me to help individual students is to be alerted first by their teacher or parent. I find out what their interests and abilities are, and then I’m prepared to offer suggestions when their class visits the library. I have tried to make it clear to teachers that they can send a student down any time I don’t have a class if they need my assistance in finding a book that will capture their interest.
- **Create excitement over new books** – I don’t know about you but Christmas morning pales in comparison to opening a crate of new arrivals for the library. The last time I got a big shipment of non-fiction in I had a teacher send a couple of strugglers down to help me unpack. I gave them first dibs. Who would have thought the *Mosquito* book would be the most sought after.
 - Display new books - either out in the open, or consider scanning the covers and making a power-point that can run while they are browsing.
 - Check out bins to teachers to keep temporarily in their rooms, slip in titles that might get overlooked.