

TITLES FOR ADVANCED 3RD & 4TH GRADERS

These titles are good suggestions for 3rd and 4th graders reading at a more advanced level, with higher vocabulary and critical thinking skills involved, but still age appropriate.

***Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate**

J APPLGATE

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save his family from losing everything?

***Gertie's Leap to Greatness* by Kate Beasley**

J BEASLEY

Gertie Reece Foy is 100% Not-from-Concentrate awesome. She has a daddy who works on an oil rig, a great-aunt who always finds the lowest prices at the Piggly Wiggly, and two loyal best friends. So when her absent mother decides to move away from their small town, Gertie sets out on her greatest mission yet: becoming the best fifth grader in the universe to show her mother exactly what she'll be leaving behind. There's just one problem: Seat-stealing new girl Mary Sue Spivey wants to be the best fifth grader, too. And there is simply not enough room at the top for the two of them.

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

J BRADLEY

Ada and her younger brother Jamie have spent all their life in London, living with their abusive mother. Ada is not even let out of their apartment because her mother is ashamed of her - Ada has a club foot and Mam doesn't want anyone to see her disability. So Ada stays in the flat for the first 10 years of her life, never going to school and getting locked away in the cupboard under the sink when she misbehaves. However, when WWII begins and London seems a likely target for bombs, all the children are sent away to the countryside - and here Ada and Jamie have a new chance to experience life.

***See You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng**

J CHENG

11-year-old Alex Petroski loves space and rockets, his mom, his brother, and his dog Carl Sagan - named for his hero, the real life astronomer. All he wants is to launch his golden iPod into space the way Carl Sagan launched his Golden Record on the Voyager spacecraft in 1977. From Colorado to New Mexico, Las Vegas to LA, Alex records a journey on his iPod to show other lifeforms what life on earth is like. The funny, lost, remarkable people he meets along the way can only partially prepare him for the secrets he'll uncover - from the truth about his long-dead dad to the fact that, for a kid with a troubled mom and a mostly not around brother, he has way more family than he ever knew.

***Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo**

J DICAMILLO

Raymie Clarke has come to realize that everything, absolutely everything, depends on her. And she has a plan. If Raymie can win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition, then her father, who left town two days ago with a dental hygienist, will see Raymie's picture in the paper and (maybe) come home. To win, not only does Raymie have to do good deeds and learn how to twirl a baton; she also has to contend with the frequently fainting Louisiana Elefante, who has a show-business background, and the fiery Beverly Tapinski, who's determined to sabotage the contest. But as the competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw the three girls into an unlikely friendship – and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

***Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper**

J DRAPER

Melody is not like most people. She cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.

***Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff**

J GRAFF

Albie has never been the smartest kid in his class. He has never been the tallest. Or the best at gym. Or the greatest artist. Or the most musical. In fact, Albie has a long list of the things he's not very good at. But then Albie gets a new babysitter, Calista, who helps him figure out all of the things he *is* good at and how he can take pride in himself.

***The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L. Holm**

J HOLM

Eleven-year-old Ellie has never liked change. She misses fifth grade. She misses her old best friend. She even misses her dearly departed goldfish. Then one day a strange boy shows up. He's bossy. He's cranky. And weirdly enough... he looks a lot like Ellie's grandfather, a scientist who's always been slightly obsessed with immortality. Could this pimply boy really be Grandpa Melvin? Has he finally found the secret to eternal youth?

***Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin**

J FANTASY LIN

In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli spends her days working hard in the fields and her nights listening to her father spin fantastic tales about the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon. Minli's mother, tired of their poor life, chides him for filling her head with nonsense. But Minli believes these enchanting stories and embarks on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man of the Moon and ask him how her family can change their fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest.

***The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin**

NEWBERY J RASKIN

A bizarre chain of events begins when 16 unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. Though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger - and a possible murderer - to inherit his fortune, one thing's for sure: Westing may be dead... but that won't stop him from playing one last game!