

# Kid's books: Hook your kids on reading!

## Gift Books 2008

**List compiled by Everett Public Library staff – ask us for more great recommendations!**

The gift of an exciting, high-quality book can hook kids on the joys of reading! Make sure to read out loud to your kids and set aside time for quiet reading as a family as well. For older kids and teens, find books that match their interests. Ask them for the title of book they enjoyed and then ask a librarian to recommend other “read-alikes” that will appeal to them.

### **Picture Books (preschool through grade 1)**

With playful rhythmic language, delightful illustrations, and emotionally vivid stories, picture books can be touch points in a young child's life. Sure to become read out loud favorites, picture books reassure and comfort a child, and the humor in the stories encourages them to laugh. And remember that reading to a child stimulates brain development! Make sure to hold the book at your side so the child can see the pictures as you turn pages and read the story out loud.

#### **1. *All Aboard the Dinotrain* by Deb Lund**

A crew of dinosaurs loads a train and then starts on a wild ride filled with hilarious mishaps and lots of action.

#### **2. *Baby Dragon* by Amy Ehrlich**

Waiting for his mother to return, Baby Dragon knows that he must remain by the red fern in this comforting story of learning to obey parental instructions.

#### **3. *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies**

When some bats sneak into the library at night through an open window, they find endless fun with the photocopier and drinking fountain, and they discover the joys of books as they make their own story time.

#### **4. *Bear Wants More* by Karma Wilson**

Bear wakes up in spring with a huge appetite. His animal friends help him find food in the forest, but he wants more and more...until he can't fit through his cave door.

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### 5. ***Fancy Nancy*** by Jane O'Connor

This first book grew into the much-loved series about the adventures of "Fancy Nancy," a spirited little girl who loves glittery things and to play dress-up, while her family prefers to be definitely less "fancy."

### 6. ***If You Give A Cat a Cupcake*** by Laura Numeroff

A chain of events starts when you give a cat a cupcake and "he'll ask for sprinkles to go with it." A book filled with laughs and absurd situations.

### 7. ***Knuffle Bunny Too*** by Mo Willems

Trixie can't wait to bring her toy bunny to school to show and is upset when another little girl has the same toy. After the teacher puts the toys away, Trixie ends up going home with the wrong bunny...but Daddy knows just how to handle the situation!

### 8. ***Owen and Mzee: the True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*** by Isabella and Craig Hatkoff

After a tsunami, baby hippo Owen is orphaned and lonely. At a wildlife refuge, he is placed in an area with a grouchy, old giant tortoise that prefers to be alone. They form a friendship that grows into a deep bond. Large colorful photos show the animals as they nurture each other in this amazing true story.

### 9. ***Two Bobbies: a True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival*** by Kirby Larson

Bobbi the Dog and Bob Cat have a very special friendship, and when Hurricane Katrina strikes their home they survive by helping each other in some truly surprising ways. But will they ever find a home of their own again?

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### Children's Fiction (Grades 2-3)

#### 1. *Clementine's Letter* by Sara Pennypacker

Spunky, restless, and funny, Clementine is a character with whom kids will identify. When she finds out that her beloved teacher is going leaving, Clementine vows to do anything to stop him, with some hilarious results.

#### 2. *Dinosaur Trouble* by Dick King-Smith

Nosy, a young Pterodactyl, and Banty, an Apatosaurus, listen to their parents tell them that they are too different to play together. But then they discover what fun they can have, they team up in a terrific friendship and even outwit a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

#### 3. *Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society* by Betsy Byars

The WOOF Society is a secret club for dogs where they get together to tell their own stories. All kinds of dogs tell stories about heroic dogs, strange dogs, funny dogs, dogs in trouble, and even a dog that captures a bank robber...by accident!

#### 4. *Judy Moody* by Megan McDonald

Lots of things make Judy "moody," and she is always getting into comical mishaps at school and at home with her younger brother, Stink. These popular books about Judy also come as a boxed set of paperbacks: "The Judy Moody Totally Awesome Collection," a great gift for lower-grade girls.

#### 5. *Kenny and the Dragon* by Tony DiTerlizzi

A brave young rabbit named Kenny makes friends with a huge dragon. All the other animals in the village are terrified, but Kenny shows them that the dragon is really great to have in the neighborhood.

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### **6. *Stink and the Great Guinea Pig Express* by Megan McDonald**

When three guinea pigs escape from the local pet shop, Stink and his friends Webster and Sophie try to help and wind up with 101 homeless guinea pigs. This title and the other books in the series about Stink's adventures are great choices for early elementary school boys.

### **7. *The World's Greatest Elephant* by Ralph Helfer**

An amazing true story of an orphan boy and a circus elephant who develop a deep and lifelong friendship that survives many separations. After living in different parts of the world, they finally end up together again in America. The author owned this famous elephant in the last years of its life and was there to witness the reunion.

## **Children's Fiction (Grades 3 to 6)**

### **1. *Deep and Dark and Dangerous* by Mary Downing Hahn**

A thrilling ghost story that girls will love to share. Thirteen-year-old Ali spends the summer with her aunt and cousin at a cabin on a lake and finds that her mother has been hiding a family secret from her for many years. A strange girl keeps following Ali, and when she finds a photo of three girls with the head of one torn off, a mystery unfolds.

### **2. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney (Book 1 of a series of 3 books)**

A comic look at middle school life from the point of view of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade boy, this book shot to the top of popularity lists, and kids eagerly ask for numbers 2 and 3 in this series. Give the set of three books, and kids will be laughing endlessly at these keen observations about nerdy friends, embarrassing moments, bullying, and popularity.

### **3. *Dragon Rider* by Cornelia Funke**

Firedrake, a silver dragon who can absorb moonlight as flight fuel, is on a desperate search for a place safe from humans. Legend tells of a dragon refuge high in the mountains, and he sets off with help from an orphan boy destined to be a "dragon rider."

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### 4. ***City of Ember*** by Jeanne Duprau (Book 1 of a series of 4 books)

In a future society on a dark, desolate earth, the domed city of Ember is barely surviving as supplies are low and electricity fails. Two 12-year-olds find an old document that hints at a passageway to another civilization, and they set off on a quest that is both terrifying and wonderful.

### 5. ***Erec Rex: The Dragon's Eye*** by Kaza Kingsley

Twelve-year-old Erec has been yanked into a parallel world called Aल्पium, where the King has been overthrown and everything is in chaos. He must learn to master dangerous magic, complex tools, and face strange beasts as he takes on the role of warrior and leader. The story continues in a second book of superb fantasy, "Erec Rex and the Monsters of Otherness."

### 6. ***Found*** by Margaret Peterson Haddix

A mysterious plane is abandoned at an airport, empty except for 36 babies strapped into their seats. All of the abandoned babies are adopted, and the government chooses to keep this strange event a secret. But years later, two boys decide to investigate their own adoptions, uncovering danger and mystery far beyond what they expected.

### 7. ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*** by Brian Selznick

A magical mystery book, with half of the story told in pictures that read like a flip-book, this is the story of a 12-year-old orphan boy living hidden in the walls of a train station. He struggles to survive and to solve the puzzle of an "automaton," a mechanical man that his dead father left him. A strange girl and an old man seem menacing but they may have what he needs—but what do they want in return?

### 8. ***The London Eye Mystery*** by Siobhan Dowd

Ted and Kat can't wait to take their visiting cousin Salim on their favorite ride, "the London Eye," a huge observation wheel that towers over the city. After a stranger offers a free ticket to Salim, they watch him board the ride alone, but he never returns. Ted, with his Asperser's Syndrome (he describes it as his "differently wired brain"), is able to pursue hidden clues in this amazing, intelligent mystery that critics are calling one of the best mysteries written for kids in years.

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### **9. *Monsterology: The Complete Book of Monstrous Beasts*** by Dr. Ernest Drake

An interactive book full of pop-ups, ancient-looking “manuscripts,” and even an envelope containing “the ashes of a phoenix.” Kids love the feeling of discovery as they learn about all sorts of monsters from mythology and legends.

### **10. *Philippa Fisher's Fairy Godsister*** by Liz Kessler

When Philippa meets her fairy “godsister,” she gets to choose three wishes and she creates a load of problems she never anticipated.

### **11. *Swindle*** by Gordon Korman

Eleven-year-old Griffin could have become a millionaire when he finds an old baseball card, but he sells it to help his father's failing business. Cheated by an unscrupulous dealer who tells him it's worth only \$120, Griffin and his friends hatch a wild plan to get the card back.

### **12. *Tales of the Cryptids: Mysterious Creatures That May Or May Not Exist*** by Kelly Milner Halls

Kids will marvel at the idea of “cryptids,” legendary creatures that some people claim to have encountered. With drawings, photos, and descriptions of sightings of such creatures as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, this book brings these creatures to life. The book includes the cryptids of many other cultures too, like the chupacabra of Mexico, the bunyip of Australia, and the Mongolian Death Worm.

### **13. *Waggit's Tale*** by Peter Howe

A survival tale, told by an abandoned dog that joins a gang of homeless dogs living in a city park. Tazar, the pack leader, teaches Waggit survival skills and how to mistrust humans: “We are our own masters; we owe obedience to no-one.” But finally this tough dog is captured, adopted, and finds many surprises as he begins living with people.