

Books Mrs. Torres Recommends To 5th Graders

A Whole Nother Story FIC SOU

Ethan and his children hope to settle in a nice small town to complete work on a time machine, but spies and government agents have been pursuing them for two years and are about to catch up. Humor AR 5.6

Aliens on Vacation FIC SMI

Unhappy at being sent to stay with his grandmother at the inn she operates, The Intergalactic Bed & Breakfast, Scrub discovers that each room is actually a portal to space and the inn's visitors are aliens who are vacationing on Earth. General Fiction AR 5.1

Because of Mr. Terupt FIC BUY

Seven fifth-graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt. General Fiction AR 3.7

Belly Up FIC GIB

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered. Mystery AR 5.6

Captian Nobody FIC PIT

When ten-year-old Newton dresses up as an unusual superhero for Halloween, he decides to keep wearing the costume after the holiday to help save townspeople and eventually his injured brother. General Fiction AR 4.7

Choose Your Own Adventure (series) FIC MON

By allowing the reader to select what page to read next, these exciting, twisting books have surprises around every corner and a different outcome every time the book is read. Adventure AR 4.0-5.6

Chronicles of Narnia (series) FIC LEW

The series revolves around the adventures of children in the fictional world of Narnia, guided by Aslan, a talking lion and the true king of Narnia. Fantasy AR 5.4-5.9

Cosmic FIC COT

Twelve-year-old Liam poses as the adult chaperone on the first spaceship to take civilians into space, but when he ends up in outer space with a group of kids and no adult supervision, he must think fast to make things right. General Fiction AR 4.5

Crash FIC SPI

Seventh-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. General Fiction AR 3.6

Deep and Dark and Dangerous FIC HAH

While spending the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home in Maine, thirteen-year-old Ali stumbles upon the secret to the childhood tragedy that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years. Ghost Stories AR 4.0

Eleven FIC GIF

When Sam discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings forth memories and questions from his past. General Fiction AR 4.1

Esperanza Rising FIC

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. General Fiction AR 5.3

Fablehaven (series) FIC MUL

Fablehaven is a secret nature preserve protecting beings of myth and legend from the outside world. Those who live in this large sanctuary, mortal and magical, must abide by a treaty of rules. Fantasy AR 5.0-5.6

Flipped FIC VAN

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. Realistic Fiction AR 4.8

Freak the Mighty FIC PHI

At the beginning of eighth grade, Max, who has a learning disability, and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. General Fiction AR 5.5

Hardy Boys FIC DIX

The Hardy Boys are fictional teenage brothers and amateur detectives. The Hardy Boys are constantly involved in adventure and action. Mystery AR 4.9-6.3

Heroes of Olympus (series) FIC RIO

The series chronicles the adventures of seven demigods in their race against time to prevent the awakening of the earth goddess, Gaea. Mythology AR 4.5-4.8

Holes FIC SAC

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. Mystery AR 4.6

I Survived (series) FIC TAR

Each book in this series tells a terrifying and thrilling story from history, through the eyes of a boy who lived to tell the tale. Adventure and Historical Fiction AR 3.8-5.7

Jeremy Thatcher Dragon Hatcher FIC COV

In a dark and eerie magic shop, Jeremy finds a multicolored ball containing a dragon--a tiny thing that speaks through mental telepathy. Soon, it will begin to grow, and grow, and grow. General Fiction AR 4.9

Kane Chronicles (series) FIC RIO

Based on Egyptian mythology, the series follows characters Carter and Sadie Kane in their quest to discover the truth about their family, and save the world. Mythology AR 4.5-4.8

Leon and the Spitting Image FIC KUR

Leon, a fourth grader at The Ethical School, tries to outwit the school bully and learn to sew for fanatical teacher Miss Cronheim, with unexpected help from his final project-- a doll with magical powers. General Fiction AR 4.9

Level Thumps (series) FIC SKY

The series is about an orphaned 14-year old boy, Leven Thumps, who becomes involved in a battle between good and evil. Magic and Fantasy AR 4.6-5.6

N.E.R.D.S. (series) FIC BUC

(National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society) contains children with considerably "nerdy" upgrades. Each book is told from the point of view of a different secret agent. All N.E.R.D.S. are automatically retired when they turn eighteen. Humor AR 5.0-5.3

No Passengers Beyond This Point FIC CHO

With their house in foreclosure, three children are sent to stay with an uncle in Colorado until their mother can join them, but when the plane lands, the children are welcomed by cheering crowds to a strange place where each of them has a perfect house and a clock that is ticking down the time. Fantasy AR 3.9

Origami Yoda Books (series) FIC ANG

This series focuses on Dwight, a strange and mostly friendless sixth grader who manages to communicate with his classmates through an origami finger puppet of Yoda that he created. General Fiction AR 4.6-4.7

Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series) FIC RIO

Percy finds himself caught up in a mystery that could lead to disastrous consequences. Together with his friends—a satyr and other the demigod daughter of Athena—Percy sets out on a quest to reach the gates of the Underworld. Mythology AR 4.1-4.7

Pictures of Hollis Woods FIC GIF

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her. General Fiction AR 4.4

Pie FIC WEE

Alice's Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice's care. As everyone tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family. General Fiction AR 5.6

Ranger's Apprentice FIC FLA

The series follows the adventures of Will, an orphan who is taken as an apprentice Ranger, as he strives to keep the Kingdom of Araluen safe from invaders, traitors, and threats. Magic and Fantasy AR 5.8-7.0

Running Out of Time FIC HAD

When a diphtheria epidemic hits her 1840 village, thirteen-year-old Jessie discovers it is actually a 1995 tourist site under unseen observation by heartless scientists, and it's up to Jessie to escape the village and save the lives of the dying children. Mystery AR 4.8

The Name of this Book is Secret FIC BOS

Cassandra and Max find a missing magician's notebook and start to investigate the fire which burnt down his house and his mysterious "symphony of smells. Adventure AR 5.6

Shadow Children (series) FIC HAD

This series is about a dystopian country which suffers food shortages due to a drought and the effects of the government's totalitarian attempts to control resources as a way to solidify its power. Science Fiction AR 4.8-5.9

Stargirl FIC SPI

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. Realistic Fiction AR 4.2

Tale of Despereaux FIC DIC

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. Fairy Tales AR 4.7

The City of Ember FIC DUP

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions. Fantasy AR 5.0

The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom FIC HEA

Liam, Frederic, Duncan, and Gustav, all former princes who had been rejected by their princesses and cast out of their castles, encounter trolls, witches, and dragons during their quest to become heroes. Humor AR 5.0

The Invention of Hugo Cabret FIC SEL

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. Historical Fiction AR 5.1

The Magician's Elephant FIC DIC

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her. Adventure AR 5.0

The Mysterious Benedict Society FIC STE

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Adventure AR 5.6

The One and Only Ivan FIC APP

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. General Fiction AR 3.6

The Search for Wondla FIC DIT

Living in isolation with a robot on what appears to be an alien world populated with bizarre life forms, a twelve-year-old human girl called Eva Nine sets out on a journey to find others like her. Features "augmented reality" pages, in which readers with a webcam can access additional information about Eva Nine's world. Science Fiction AR 5.2

Waiting for Normal FIC CON

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. Realistic Fiction AR 5.8

Walk Two Moons Realistic FIC CRE

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left. Realistic Fiction AR 4.9

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town FIC HOL

During the summer of 1971 in a small Texas town, thirteen-year-old Toby and his best friend Cal meet the star of a sideshow act, 600-pound Zachary, the fattest boy in the world. Realistic Fiction AR 4.5

Wonder FIC PAL

Ten-year-old Auggie, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering a private middle school, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. General Fiction AR 4.8