

## Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

### *Interactive Read Aloud With Accountable Talk*

The interactive read aloud with accountable talk is a powerful teaching component in balanced literacy classrooms. Research confirms the importance and value of reading aloud to students of all ages. Teachers read aloud several times a day, and at least three times a week create opportunities for accountable talk around the read aloud. This component is generally outside the reading workshop (which centers around a minilesson and independent reading) but the read aloud often supports the reading workshop.

It's important that teachers plan for the interactive read aloud. The choice of text is the first important decision. Teachers need to consider how the text can support or lead the reading work students do independently. For example, if the class is engaged in the unit of study on character (and students are thinking about the characters as they read independently) the teacher might be wise to read aloud a chapter book which contains strong characters who change over the course of the text. This would offer the class opportunities for deep talk about characters. If the class is working on nonfiction, and some or most of children's independent reading involves non-fiction texts, the teacher would definitely want to read aloud some nonfiction texts to support the children's independent work.

In addition to planning what book to read aloud, teachers need to plan the work they'll do within the book. We suggest that as teachers, you put post-its in the text ahead of time to remind yourself where you plan to pause and think aloud and where you want to nudge your students to turn and talk about the text.

Let me explain. When we say that you may want to plan places in the text where you will think aloud, we are imagining that these 'think alouds' are opportunities for you to model that strong readers don't just read the words but also think about the story. For example, if you stop in the middle of a chapter and say, "I can't believe the character is acting this way. I wonder why she's being like this..." you demonstrate to your students that readers question the characters and wonder about their motivations. If you think aloud by saying, "I bet she's going to lose the bracelet," you model that readers make predictions as they read. When you say to your class, "I want just to reread that part again. I was daydreaming and lost the story," you teach that rereading is a strategy, readers reread to regain comprehension.

Besides thinking aloud, you will provide opportunities throughout the book for children to turn and talk to each other about the text. Prompt the class by saying something like, "Turn and tell your neighbor what you think will happen next," or "Let's think about what's going on here. Turn and talk to your neighbor about what you think (so and so) is thinking right now."

To prepare for the interactive read aloud, reread the text in a really thoughtful way. Spy on yourself as you read in order to notice a few places in each chapter where your brain does a lot of reading-work. Note those sections. Later, review each one. Ask, "Was I doing a lot of thinking here because the text is written in such a way that lots of readers will be thinking at this section? (or was your response totally idiosyncratic?) If the section of the text seems to *ask for* a thoughtful response, you may decide use this as an opportunity to teach:

- You may "think aloud." This means you'll pause at this section of the text and be pensive *aloud*. "Hmmm... something weird is going on. It's giving me the creeps!" you might say. Or "Why's he so mad? I'm going to read to find out." Don't say a lot... a line or two is usually enough.

*The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.*

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

### Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

By doing this you will demonstrate that readers predict, envision, question, develop theories about characters, monitor for sense... but you won't be talking to kids about these reading skills. You'll simply read in a way that demonstrates the thinking readers do.

- Alternately, you may recruit kids to join you (and then to continue without you) in the thinking that good readers do at this section. You'll usually start them off by naming *your* thinking, but then you'll set them up to continue that line of thought with two minutes of talk with a neighbor. "Hmm, I have a feeling he's not going to stay silent for long...I wonder what he'll say, don't you? Tell your neighbor what you think he'll say."

When you pause after a few pages of reading to let kids talk with a neighbor, don't engineer things so the whole class reports back after these one to one talks. Don't ask kids to report on what they said. Just read on. At the end of the chapter, you may have a bigger book talk.

For reading aloud, select a book or text that you love and believe your children will love too. *Be sure* you read it first. You might try starting with some of the briefer ones. But most of all, select texts you know and love.

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
	<i>Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart</i> Vera B. Williams 9780060571825 Chapter Book	A funny book that makes you cry. A sad book that makes you laugh. A book about two sisters and their family that makes you wish you were part of it-- and grateful that you are not. In short, this book is one surprise after another. Open the book. You will never be the same again.
	<i>Best Christmas Pageant Ever, The</i> Barbara Robinson 9780380007691 Chapter Book	Called one of America's favorite Christmas stories, and now a classic television movie, <i>The Best Christmas Pageant Ever</i> has been a favorite of young readers the world over since 1972. It is the story of a family of incorrigible children who discover the Christmas story for the first time and help everyone else rediscover its true meaning.
	<i>Birdsongs</i> Betsy Franco 9780689877773 NF Picture Book	This text introduces readers to many different kinds of birds, each of which makes its own unique sound. Readers and listeners are also introduced to bird names and interesting facts, but the theme of the book is that birds make different sounds.
	<i>But That's Another Story</i> Sandy Asher 9780802775702 Short story collection	Sandy Asher introduces each story with a description of the special rules and rewards of its genre and follows each with a biography of the author and an interview with him or her about the piece.
	<i>Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes</i> Floyd Cooper 9780698116122 Picture Book	Writer Langston Hughes is an inspiration for youth everywhere. Now children can discover the young Langston and the events and circumstances that shaped his extraordinary life. Floyd's stunning illustrations and colorful text capture the special moments in Langston's life and invite young readers to learn about the power of hope.
	<i>Exploding Ants</i> Joanne Settel 9780439669351 NF Picture Book	Readers will enjoy this interesting book about various animals and insects that have unusual and sometimes disgusting ways of finding food and shelter and surviving in the world.
	<i>Falling Down the Page</i> Georgia Heard 9781596432208	A book of list poems to inspire young writers to write their own poems.

*The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.*

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
	<i>Flush</i> Carl Hiaasen 9780375841859 Chapter Book	Carl Hiaasen's ecological concerns focus on illegal dumping of raw sewage from a floating casino. Noah Underwood's dad has sunk the gambling ship, the <i>Coal Queen</i> , in protest. Now the elder Underwood is launching a media campaign from his jail cell to raise public awareness since the sewage-spewing ship will soon be back in operation.
	<i>Flying Bed, The: A Magical Adventure</i> Nancy Willard 9780590256100 (Hardcover) Picture Book	This is the story of Guido, an unsuccessful baker, whose wife wants a bed. He goes to an unusual shop where he buys a beautiful and most unusual bed, a bed that flies over the rooftops of Florence. The bed takes Guido and his wife to a town where he meets a master baker who gives Guido a special sample of yeast. They experience success but then a twist of fate turns the experience negative.
	<i>Grandmama's Pride</i> Becky Birtha 080753028X Picture Book	Set in 1956, <i>Grandmama's Pride</i> is the story of two African American sisters, Sarah Marie and Sister, who visit their grandmother in the South. Knowing little about Jim Crow laws, they slowly begin to notice the differences between themselves and white passengers on the bus and in the station waiting room.
	<i>Hiromi's Hands</i> Lynne Barasch 9781584302759 Picture Book	The true story of a young Japanese girl's determination to follow her dreams. The help of her father and support from her family help this girl to accomplish her dreams.
	<i>Librarian of Basra, The: A True Story from Iraq</i> Jeanette Winter 0152054456 Biography	Jeanette Winter has written and illustrated the biographical story of Alia Muhammad Baker, the librarian in Basra, Iraq. This story reveals the perspectives and quiet heroism of ordinary people who are forced by war to do unusual things.
	<i>Little Louie the Baby Bloomer</i> 978-0439148290 Robert Kraus Picture Book	Leo learns patience while teaching his little brother, Louie, to throw, pull, and rattle. Leo allows Louie to learn in his own way.
	<i>One Green Apple</i> Eve Bunting 9780618434770 – Hardcover Picture Book	Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. As she helps the class make apple cider on a field trip, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.
	<i>Sacagawea</i> Liselotte Erdrich 0876146469 Nonfiction—Biography	This exciting picture book biography of Sacagawea follows the young Shoshone woman from her capture by the Hidatsa at age 11 through her journey with Lewis and Clark through the vast wilderness of the West.
	<i>This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort</i> Georgia Heard	This anthology of beautiful and powerful poems and illustrations will help children all over the world get through difficult times and continue "to live," "to laugh," and "to sing."
	<i>Those Shoes</i> Maribeth Boelts 9780763624996 Picture Book	All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. But Jeremy's grandma tells him they don't have room for "want," just "need," and what Jeremy needs are new boots for winter. But all the kids are wearing them! Any child who has ever craved something out of reach will relate to this warm, refreshingly realistic story.
	<i>While No One Was Watching</i> Jane Leslie Conly 978-0805039344 Chapter Book	Frankie, Earl, and Angela never expected to enjoy spending the summer with their Aunt Lula. But they had no idea just how bad it would be. When Lula disappears, the kids have no food, no money -- and no one to take care of them. Someone has to take charge, and since Earl is the oldest, he feels responsible. He needs money, and stealing bikes might be the only way to get it. Stealing feels wrong, but no one is watching....

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
I	<i>Dark, The</i> Robert Munsch 9781550374506 Picture Book	Jule Ann pounds on the bottom of a cookie jar, and a small dark lump bounces out. The Dark quickly gobbles up every shadow in sight, growing bigger with each one. Munsch's plucky heroine resolves the perplexing problem with brilliant, spirited logic.
I	<i>Henny Penny</i> Paul Galdone 9780899192253 Picture Book	Convinced the sky is falling, Henny Penny and a band of gullible friends march off to tell the king, only to meet their end at the hands of a wily fox.
I	<i>How I Spent My Summer Vacation</i> Mark Teague 9780517885567 Picture Book	Some kids spend their summer vacation at camp. Some kids spend it at Grandma's house. Wallace Bleff spent his out west . . . on a ride, a rope, and a roundup he'll never forget.
I	<i>How to Lose All Your Friends</i> Nancy Carlson 9780140558623 Picture Book	This book offers advice on the kinds of things to do if you don't want to have any friends.
I	<i>Knuffle Bunny</i> Mo Willems 9781844280599 Picture Book	Trixie, Daddy, and Knuffle Bunny take a trip to the neighborhood Laundromat. But the exciting adventure takes a dramatic turn when Trixie realizes some bunny was left behind . . . This stunning book tells a brilliantly true-to-life tale about what happens when Daddy's in charge and things go terribly, hilariously wrong.
I	<i>Leo The Late Bloomer</i> Robert Kraus 9780064433488 Picture Book	Poor Leo, a young tiger, is having a really rough time — all of his friends can read, write, draw, eat neatly, and speak clearly; and Leo can't do any of those things very well. Worried and sad, Leo wonders if he'll ever catch up to his friends.
I	<i>Little Engine That Could, The</i> Watty Piper 9780448405209 Picture Book	When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain. This classic story about the Little Blue Engine who says, "I think I can, I think I can," continues to be a popular favorite.
I	<i>Trouble in the Barkers' Class</i> Tomie dePaola 9780142405857 Picture Book	A new classmate means trouble for the Barker twins. But when Morgie discovers why the girl is so unhappy, he introduces her as his new friend at school.
J	<i>Bippity Bop Barbershop</i> Natasha Anastasia Tarpley 9780316033824 Picture Book	Miles makes his first trip to the barbershop with his father. Like most little boys, he is afraid of the sharp scissors, the buzzing razor, and the prospect of picking a new hairstyle. But with support, Miles bravely sits through his first haircut. Written in a reassuring tone with a jazzy beat and illustrated with graceful, this book captures an important rite of passage for boys and celebrates African-American identity.
J	<i>Circus Family Dog</i> Andrew Clements 9780547016399 Picture Book	Grumps is a circus dog who loves to make people laugh--all he has to do is lie down on the ground with his feet in the air and the crowds cheer. One day a new dog joins the circus who can do it all. How can Grump going to keep up with Sparks?
J	<i>Coyote: A Trickster Tale from the American Southwest</i> Gerald McDermott 9780152019587 Picture Book	Coyote finds trouble wherever he goes. Now he wants to sing, dance, and fly like the crows, so he begs them to teach him how. The crows, however, decide to teach Coyote a lesson instead.
J	<i>I Have A Sister My Sister Is Deaf</i> Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson 9780064430593 Picture Book	A young deaf child who loves to run and jump and play is affectionately described by her older sister. This story gives young children an understanding of the fact that deaf children share all the interests of children with normal hearing.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellveledebooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
<b>J</b>	<i>Ish</i> Peter Reynolds 9780763623449 – Hardcover Picture Book	Ramon loves to draw, but he quits after his brother laughs at some pictures. Then Ramon's sister helps Ramon to see his drawings through different eyes, thus inspiring him to draw once again.
<b>K</b>	<i>Day's Work, A</i> Eve Bunting 9780395845189 Picture Book	Francisco, a young Mexican-American boy, helps his grandfather find work as a gardener, even though the old man cannot speak English and knows nothing about gardening.
<b>K</b>	<i>Fireflies</i> Julie Brinkloe 978-0689710551 Picture Book	A young boy is proud of having caught a jar full of fireflies, which seems to him like owning a piece of moonlight, but as the light begins to dim he realizes he must set the insects free or they will die.
<b>K</b>	<i>Jamaica's Find</i> Jaunita Havill 9780395453575 Picture Book	Jamaica finds a stuffed dog at the playground and after taking him home without trying to find the owner discovers her conscience as well. Jamaica's honest and appealing character inspired five more books, each about a childhood ethical dilemma.
<b>K</b>	<i>Letter to Amy, A</i> Ezra Jack Keats 9780140564426 Picture Book	Peter wants to invite Amy to his birthday party but he wants it to be a surprise. Peter goes through obstacles to invite Amy and it doesn't stop there. Will Amy go to Peter's party?
<b>K</b>	<i>Wednesday Surprise, The</i> Eve Bunting 9780395547762 Picture Book	Anna and Grandma are planning a surprise for Dad's birthday. Dad thinks he has received all his presents, but Grandma stands up and gives him the best one of all: she reads aloud the stories that Anna has taught her.
<b>L</b>	<i>Chrysanthemum</i> Kevin Henkes 9780688147327 Picture Book	Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it.
<b>L</b>	<i>Creatures of Earth, Sea, and Sky: Animal Poems</i> Georgia Heard 9781563976353	A collection of poems for young children, illustrated in dramatic detail that celebrates wildlife and the natural world around us. Full color.
<b>L</b>	<i>Dancing in the Wings</i> Debbie Allen 9780439329422 Picture Book	Sassy is a long-legged girl who always has something to say. She wants to be a ballerina more than anything, but she worries that her too-large feet, too-long legs, and even her big mouth will keep her from her dream. With Sassy's persistence, she just might be able to win over the famous director who comes to her dance class.
<b>L</b>	<i>Hurricane!</i> Jonathan London Picture Book	A young boy describes the experiences of his family when a hurricane hits their home on the island of Puerto Rico.
<b>L</b>	<i>Making the World</i> Douglas Wood 9781416985969 Picture Book	Wood offers wisdom about how all aspects of nature, including people, work together to remake the world every day. The world is shown from the perspectives of several children: at the beach, lying under a baobab tree in North Africa, peering into a pond in a Japanese garden, hiking down a snow-capped mountain in Central America, or being tucked into bed with a good night kiss.
<b>M</b>	<i>Fly Away Home</i> Eve Bunting 9780395664155 Picture Book	A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom.
<b>M</b>	<i>freedom summer</i> Deborah Wiles 9780689878299 Picture Book	Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different: Joe is white and John Henry is black and in the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

### Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
<b>M</b>	<i>Hip Cat</i> Jonathan London 978-0811814898 Picture Book	A rhythmic text and brilliant illustrations bring alive a magical world where cool cats dig hot jazz and where, if you try hard enough, no dream is out of reach.
<b>M</b>	<i>Knots on a Counting Rope</i> Bill Martin 9780805054798 Picture Book	A blind Native American boy named Boy-Strength-of-Blue-Horses begs Grandfather to tell the stories of the night he was born and of a great race. In this poignant story, the counting rope is a metaphor for the passage of time and for a boy's emerging confidence facing his greatest challenge: blindness.
<b>M</b>	<i>Old Woman Who Named Things, The</i> Cynthia Rylant 9780152021023 Picture Book	An old woman who has outlived all her friends is reluctant to become too attached to the stray dog that visits her each day.
<b>M</b>	<i>One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo, The</i> Judy Blume 9780440467311 Picture Book	Lately second-grader Freddy Dissel has that left-out kind of feeling. Life can be lonely when you're the middle kid in the family and you feel like "the peanut butter part of a sandwich," squeezed between an older brother and a little sister. But now for the first time it's Freddy's chance to show everyone how special he is and, most of all, prove it to himself!
<b>M</b>	<i>Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam</i> Walter Dean Myers 0060283637 Poetry	This long narrative poem reveals the emotions of a young soldier on patrol in Vietnam. It is a glimpse into the Vietnam experience, both interesting and sobering. In the voice of the soldier, the poem details every action taken by the squad of nine men in the forest, including securing a village and coming face-to-face with the enemy.
<b>M</b>	<i>Rats on the Roof and Other Stories</i> James Marshall 9780140386462 Short Stories	In this collection of seven stories, animals that are the would-be victims of others are able to out-wit their not-so-intelligent adversaries.
<b>M</b>	<i>Saturdays and Teacakes</i> Lester Laminack 978-1561453030 - Hardcover Picture Book	A young boy remembers the Saturdays when he was nine or ten and he would ride his bicycle to his Ma'am-maw's house, where they spent the day together mowing the lawn, picking vegetables, eating lunch, and making delicious, sweet teacakes.
<b>N</b>	<i>Amber Brown Is Not a Crayon</i> Paula Danziger 9780142406199 Chapter Book	Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They've known each other for practically forever, sit next to each other in class, help each other with homework, and always stick up for each other. Justin has to move away, and now the best friends are fighting. Will they be able to work it out before it's too late?
<b>N</b>	<i>Chalk Box Kid, The</i> Clyde Robert Bulla 978039489106 Chapter Book	When nine-year-old Gregory experiences several upsets in his life, he responds by creating a fantastic chalk garden on the charred walls of a burned-out factory behind his house. As his garden grows and flourishes, Gregory finds a voice through his art and, for the first time, is able to find his own place in the world.
<b>N</b>	<i>Donovan's Word Jar</i> Monalisa Degross 9780064420891 Chapter Book	When the jar that Donovan keeps his word collection in fills up, he finds a special way to give his words away and get something wonderful in return.
<b>N</b>	<i>Flight</i> Robert Burleigh 978-0698114258 NF Picture Book	This picture book describes how Charles Lindbergh achieved the remarkable feat of flying nonstop and solo from New York to Paris in 1927.
<b>N</b>	<i>My Name is Maria Isabel</i> Alma Flor Ada 978-0689802171 Chapter Book	When Maria Lopez moves to the United States from Puerto Rico and faces her first day at school, she finds herself in a classroom with two other Marias. Her teacher renames her Mary and she is lost. Not until she writes a paper on My Greatest Wish does she become Maria again in this story about the value of heritage and its impact on the individual self.

*The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellveledebooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.*

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
N	<i>Sidewalk Story</i> Sharon Bell Mathias 9780140321654 Chapter Book	When her best friend's family is evicted from their apartment, Lilly Etta decides to help her friend, even if it means giving up on a new pair of gold earrings.
N	<i>Stories Julian Tells, The</i> Ann Cameron 9780394828923 Chapter Book	Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend.
O	<i>Almost Starring Skinny Bones</i> Barbara Parks 9780679805540 Chapter Book	Alex "Skinnybones" Frankovitch is about to become a huge star—in his very own TV commercial! But Alex's big plans for stardom go terribly wrong. Are Alex's days as a Big Celebrity over?
O	<i>Amber Brown Goes Fourth</i> Paula Danziger 9780142409015 Chapter Book	Entering fourth grade, Amber faces some changes in her life as her best friend moves away and her parents divorce.
O	<i>Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds</i> Cynthia Rylant 9780152018931 Picture Book	Lyrical prose and warm watercolor illustrations bring a "certain part of the country called Appalachia" alive for young readers. Two award-winning artists, forever touched by their experiences growing up in this unique landscape, have teamed to create a quietly powerful and beautifully crafted portrait of life in a timeless place.
O	<i>Lavender</i> Karen Hesse 9780753822500 Chapter Book	When Codie's favorite aunt is having a baby, Codie has lots of worries: will the baby and her aunt be all right, will Codie's baby quilt be done on time, and will her aunt still have time for her?
O	<i>Most Beautiful Place in the World, The</i> Ann Cameron 9780440835837 Chapter Book	Abandoned by his mother, Juan lives with his grandmother and shines shoes. He passionately wants to attend school, but fears Grandmother will say no. Finally gathering his courage, he is surprised when she not only agrees to send him to school but also chides him about the importance of standing up for himself.
O	<i>Rats!</i> Paul Zindel 9780786812257 Chapter Book	When mutant rats threaten to take over Staten Island, which has become a huge landfill, fourteen-year-old Sarah and her younger brother Mike try to figure out how to stop them.
O	<i>Seven Kisses in a Row</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064402316 Chapter Book	Emma learns to accept "different strokes for different folks" when her aunt and uncle come to take care of her and her brother.
O	<i>Skinnybones</i> Leo Lionni and Barbara Park 978067987895 Chapter Book	When sixth grader Alex Frankovitch boasts about his curve ball, he ends up humiliating himself in front of several classmates during a pitching contest with star pitcher T.J. Stoner. Will Alex ever be able to gain back his dignity?
O	<i>Story of Ruby Bridges</i> Robert Coles 9780439598446 Picture Book	For months six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of white parents when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.
O	<i>Under the Sunday Tree</i> Eloise Greenfield 978-0064432573 Anthology of Poems	A collection of poems and paintings evoke life in the Bahamas.
O	<i>Wings</i> Christopher Meyers 9780590033770 Chapter Book	Ikarus Jackson, the new boy in school, is outcast because he has wings, but his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
P	<i>Brown Angles: An Album of Pictures and Verse</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780064434553	The distinguished novelist has culled his personal collection of turn-of-the-century photographs of African-American children and composed the verses that accompany this enchanting selection of youngsters.
P	<i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i> Roald Dahl 9780142410349 Chapter Book	Mr. Fox is surrounded! He's going to have to come up with a truly fantastic plan to dig himself out of trouble this time.
P	<i>Hundred Dresses, The</i> Eleanor Estes 9780152052607 Chapter Book	A young girl comes to terms with the effects that the teasing of her friends has had on a shy classmate. Though Maddie feels increasingly uncomfortable with the way the other girls — led by her best friend, Peggy — joke with Wanda, she doesn't have the courage to do anything about it. Then one day Wanda stops coming to school. Wanda's absence has everyone thinking twice about the way she was treated.
P	<i>Hundred Penny Box, The</i> Sharon Mathis 9780142407028 Picture Book	Michael's love for his great-great-aunt who lives with them leads him to intercede with his mother, who wants to toss out all her old things.
P	<i>Smoky Night</i> Eve Bunting 9780152018849 Picture Book	Smoky Night is a story about cats — and people — who couldn't get along until a night of rioting brings them together.
P	<i>Songs of Myself: An Anthology of Poems and Art</i> Georgia Heard 9781572557239	This anthology brings together twelve poems and one traditional song about identity and the self with a variety of original art as illustrations.
P	<i>Who Stole The Wizard of Oz?</i> Avi 9780394849928 Chapter Book	The mystery revolves around a rare edition of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> missing from the local library. When Becky is accused of stealing it, she and her twin brother Toby set out to catch the <i>real</i> thief and prove her innocence. Clues cleverly hidden in four other books lead to a hidden treasure — and a gripping adventure.
P	<i>Wilma Unlimited</i> Kathleen Krull 9780152020989 NF Picture Book	This is the dramatic and inspiring true story of runner Wilma Rudolph, who overcame childhood polio and eventually went on to win three gold medals in a single Olympics.
Q	<i>Fourth Grade Rats</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780590442442 Chapter Book	Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown up fourth grader.
Q	<i>Fudge-a-Mania</i> Judy Blume 9780142408773 Chapter Book	Peter describes the family vacation in Maine with the Tubmans, highlighted by the antics of his younger brother Fudge.
Q	<i>Just Juice</i> Karen Hesse 9780590033831 Chapter Book	Realizing that her father's lack of work has endangered her family, nine-year-old Juice decides that she must return to school and learn to read in order to help their chances of surviving and keeping their house. Stereotypes are explored in this book.
Q	<i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i> Richard Atwater and Florence Atwater 9780316058438 Chapter Book	The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions.
Q	<i>Sunsets of Miss Olivia Wiggins, The</i> Lester Laminack 9781561451395 - Hardcover Picture Book	Even though Miss Olivia seems unaware of the world around her, when her daughter and her great-grandson come to the nursing home to visit, they awaken happy memories of her past.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

## Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

### Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
<b>R</b>	<i>America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories</i> Anne Mazer 9780892551910 Short Stories	This collection of fourteen stories shows several slices of American life through the past century. The characters, many in their teens, represent a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.
<b>R</b>	<i>Bat Boy and His Violin</i> Gavin Curtis 978-0689841156 Historical Fiction Picture Book	Reginald is more interested in practicing his violin than in his father's job managing the worst team in the Negro Leagues, but when Papa makes him the bat boy and his music begins to lead the team to victory, Papa realizes the value of his son's passion.
<b>R</b>	<i>Because of Winn Dixie</i> Kate DiCamillo 9780763616052 Chapter Book	Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.
<b>R</b>	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> E.B. White 9780064400558 Chapter Book	This is the story of a little girl named Fern who loves a little pig named Wilbur—and of Wilbur's dear friend Charlotte, a beautiful large grey spider who lives with Wilbur in the barn. With the help of Templeton, the rat who never does anything for anybody unless there is something in it for him, and by a wonderfully clever plan of her own, Charlotte saves the life of Wilbur, who is quite some pig.
<b>R</b>	<i>Fig Pudding</i> Ralph Fletcher 9780440412038 Chapter Book	Cliff describes the excitement, conflict, and sudden tragedy experienced by his large and boisterous family during his eleventh year.
<b>R</b>	<i>Frindle</i> Andrew Clements 9780689818769 Chapter Book	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.
<b>R</b>	<i>Hatchet</i> Gary Paulsen 9781416936473 Chapter Book	Hatchet is the first of five books in the <i>Brian's Saga Series</i> . This is story of a plane crash and how Brian survives, taking all his know-how and determination, and more courage than he knew he possessed, to survive.
<b>R</b>	<i>Landry News, The</i> Andrew Clements 9780689828683 Chapter Book	Fifth-grader Cara Landry has a passion for journalism and publishes "The Landry News" in her new school. When Cara publishes a searing editorial about her teacher's inability to teach, changes are inevitable. When "The Landry News" is expanded to a class
<b>R</b>	<i>Rules</i> Cynthia Lord	Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability.
<b>R</b>	<i>Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes</i> Eleanor Coerr 9780698118027 Chapter Book	Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.
<b>R</b>	<i>Sarah, Plain and Tall</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064402057 Chapter Book	When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay.
<b>R</b>	<i>Secret Soldier, The</i> Ann McGovern 9780590430524 Chapter Book	Deborah Sampson wanted to travel and have adventures, but since she had no money, the best way to do that was to join the army. This is the exciting true story of a woman who became a soldier during the American Revolutionary War, by dressing and acting like a man.

*The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.*

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
<b>R</b>	<i>Shiloh</i> Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 978-0689015250 Chapter Book	When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.
<b>R</b>	<i>Sun and Spoon</i> Kevin Henkes 9780141300955 Chapter Book	After the death of his grandmother, ten-year-old Spoon tries to find the perfect artifact to preserve his memories of her.
<b>S</b>	<i>Amelia to Zora: Twenty-Six Women Who Changed the World</i> Jacqueline Woodson 0399237496 Picture Book	Biographical sketches of 26 women who have made important contributions in history. The women come from a wide variety of fields—flight, sports, literature, politics, art, music, science, architecture, entertainment, religion, and social movements. The text is accompanied by a bibliography, which may help students learn more about their favorites.
<b>S</b>	<i>Gift Giver, The</i> Joyce Hansen 9780618611232 Chapter Book	The year she is in fifth grade, Doris meets a special friend in her Bronx neighborhood.
<b>S</b>	<i>Great Gilly Hopkins, The</i> Katherine Paterson 978038045963 Chapter Book	An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly.
<b>S</b>	<i>Journey</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780099107514 Picture Book	Left by their mother with their grandparents, two children feel as if their past has been erased until Grandfather finds a way to restore it to them.
<b>S</b>	<i>Mick Harte was Here</i> Barbara Park 9780679882039 Chapter Book	How could someone like Mick die? This is the hilarious kid who freaked his mom out by putting a ceramic eye in a defrosted chicken, who did a wild solo dance in front of the whole school because the music got in his pants, and the kid who, if he'd only worn his bicycle helmet, would still be alive now. Phoebe has great memories of her brother, but cannot see how her family will ever pick up the pieces and move on.
<b>S</b>	<i>Pink and Say</i> Patricia Polacco 978-0590630993 Picture Book	Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather.
<b>S</b>	<i>Taste of Blackberries</i> Doris Buchanan Smith 978-0064402385 Chapter Book	For a young boy, summer means endless days spent with his best friend, Jamie. Together, these two boys are in constant motion. But summer is interrupted when Jamie is stung by a bee and dies. The young boy who is the narrator of the story learns how Jamie is the victim of a severe allergy.
<b>S</b>	<i>Yellow Bird and Me</i> Joyce Hansen 9780618611164 Chapter Book	In a sequel to THE GIFT-GIVER, Doris reluctantly starts helping Yellow Bird, the class clown, with his reading problem. To her surprise, Doris finds that in caring for and helping Bird, she develops a new friend.
<b>T</b>	<i>Baby</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780440411451 Chapter Book	Taking care of a baby left with them at the end of the tourist season helps a family come to terms with the death of their own infant.
<b>T</b>	<i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> Katherine Paterson 9780060734015 Chapter Book	The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.
<b>T</b>	<i>Cassie Binegar</i> Patricia MacLachlan 9780064401951 Chapter Book	During her family's first summer in a weathered old house by the sea, Cassie learns to accept change and to find her own space.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
T	<i>Danny, The Champion of the World</i> Roald Dahl 9780142410332 Chapter Book	Ten-year-old Danny lives in a gypsy caravan, works on cars all day, and has a best friend who never runs out of surprises and inventions—his father. When Danny's dad shares the secret passion he's been hiding, the two embark on a unique adventure involving a can't-lose plan sure to make Danny the "champion of the world."
T	<i>I've Seen the Promise Land</i> Walter Dean Myers 9780060277031 Picture Book	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the most celebrated figures of the twentieth century. A crusader for nonviolent social justice, he led African Americans in their demands for equality through peaceful protests during one of the most tumultuous times in recent history.
T	<i>Islander, The</i> Cynthia Rylant 9780440415428 Chapter Book	When Daniel's parents die, he goes to live a lonely life with his grandfather on a remote gray island off British Columbia. The loneliness lifts from Daniel when he meets a mermaid. He returns to the shore hoping to find her again, but instead sees a sea otter, which tosses him a shell. Daniel discovers a very old key inside the shell and is certain it's a gift from the mermaid. What will this magical key unlock?
T	<i>Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The</i> C.S. Lewis 9780064471046 Chapter Book	Four English school children enter the magic land of Narnia through the back of a wardrobe and assist Aslan, the golden lion, in defeating the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.
T	<i>Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief</i> Wendelin Van Draanen 9780679892649 Chapter Book	Thirteen-year-old Sammy's penchant for speaking her mind gets her in trouble when she involves herself in the investigation of a robbery at the "seedy" hotel across the street from the seniors' building where she is living with her grandmother.
T	<i>Sing Down the Moon</i> Scott O'Dell 978-0440979753 Chapter Book	The Navajo tribe's forced march from their homeland to Fort Sumner by white soldiers and settlers is dramatically and courageously told by young Bright Morning.
T	<i>Tiger Rising</i> Kate DiCamillo 9780763618988 Chapter Book	After Rob's mother dies, and he and his father move to a new town to get a fresh start, he discovers a caged tiger in the woods. An emotionally rich story about a boy caught in the powerful grip of grief.
U	<i>Boy Who Owned the School, The</i> Gary Paulsen 9780440405245 Chapter Book	Jacob Freisten, often in a fog, tries to ease through high school unnoticed; but a beautiful classmate takes notice of him and his life begins to change.
U	<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> Christopher Curtis 9780440413288 Chapter Book	Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.
U	<i>Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, The</i> Kate DiCamillo 9780763639877 Chapter Book	Once, in a house on Egypt Street, there lived a china rabbit named Edward Tulane. The rabbit was very pleased with himself, and for good reason: he was owned by a girl named Abilene, who treated him with the utmost care and adored him completely. And then, one day, he was lost.
U	<i>View From Saturday, The</i> E.L. Konigsburg 978-0689817212 Chapter Book	Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.
U	<i>Wringer</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780064405782 Chapter Book	As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it. Newbery Medal winner Jerry Spinelli's most powerful novel yet is a gripping tale of how one boy learns how not to be afraid.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
V	<i>Birthday Room, The</i> Kevin Henkes 9780064438285 Chapter Book	Ben was just two years old when he and his uncle, Ian, were last together, so Ben didn't remember him. And no one in Ben's family ever talked about the man. Then the letter arrived, changing Ben's life, and changing his family in unexpected ways. And there was the birthday room...
V	<i>Crash</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780679885504 Chapter Book	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.
V	<i>Holes</i> Lois Sachar 978-0440414803 Chapter Book	Stanley Yelnats has had awful luck his whole life — he's overweight, kids tease him, his family is poor, and now he's accused of a crime he didn't commit! Stanley blames his great-great grandfather, Elya Yelnats, who stole a pig from a gypsy. According to legend, the gypsy put a curse on Elya and all his descendants.
V	<i>Locomotion</i> Jacqueline Woodson 978-0439636155 Novel in Verse	In a series of poems, eleven-year-old Lonnie writes about his life, after the death of his parents, separated from his younger sister, living in a foster home, and finding his poetic voice at school.
V	<i>Long Way From Chicago, A</i> Richard Peck 978-0142401101 A Novel in Stories	A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.
V	<i>Music of Dolphins, The</i> Karen Hesse 9780590897983 Chapter Book	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.
V	<i>Stargirl</i> Jerry Spinelli 9780440416777 Chapter Book	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.
V	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> Natalie Babbitt 9780312369811 Chapter Book	The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing older.
V	<i>Year Down Yonder, A</i> Richard Peck 9780142300701 Chapter Book	The worst part of the "Roosevelt Recession" in 1937 is that Mary Alice has to spend a year in a rural town with her feisty and conniving Grandma Dowdel. After enduring many outrageous schemes, Mary Alice eventually learns to appreciate her grandmother's wisdom and her ways. This Newbery Medal winner is the hilarious sequel to Peck's celebrated <i>A Long Way From Chicago</i> .
V	<i>Yolanda's Genius</i> Carol Fenner 9780689813276 Chapter Book	After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader Yolonda, big and strong for her age, determines to prove that her younger brother is not a slow learner but a true musical genius. (Please Note: Excerpt from this book used in TCRWP assessment Set 1.Level V)
W	<i>Freak the Mighty</i> Rodman Philbrick 9780439286060 Chapter Book	A brilliant, emotionally charged novel about two boys. One is a slow learner, too large for his age, and the other is a tiny, disabled genius. The two pair up to create one formidable human force known as "Freak the Mighty".
W	<i>Home of the Brave</i> Katherine Applegate 9780312535636 Novel in Verse	A deeply poetic and affecting novel about the contemporary immigrant experience.

The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

Suggested Read Aloud Titles – Grades K-8

Level	Title/Author/ISBN #/Book Type	Summary
W	<i>Hoot</i> Carl Hiaasen 978-0375829161 Chapter Book	Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
W	<i>Missing May</i> Cynthia Rylant 9780439613835 Chapter Book	After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.
W	<i>Through My Eyes</i> Ruby Bridges 978-0590189231 Picture Book	Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960.
W	<i>Walk Two Moons</i> Sharon Creech 9780060233341 Chapter Book	On a long car trip from Ohio to Idaho, 13-year-old Salamanca Tree Hiddle tells her grandparents about her friend Phoebe, who is coping with the disappearance of her mother. Beneath Phoebe's story is Sal's search for her own mother — who left one sunny morning and never returned.
X	<i>13 : Thirteen Stories That Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen</i> James Howe 9781416926849 Short Stories	This collection of thirteen stories reveals the best and worst of this tender and impressionable age. From a girl's first experience with babysitting to a boy's utter kindness at his bar mitzvah, the stories display the heroism and humility of thirteen-year olds.
X	<i>Devil's Arithmetic, The</i> Jane Yolen 9780142401095 Chapter Book	Hannah is tired of hearing about the Nazis during the Holocaust, but when she opens the door for Elijah at the Passover Seder, she is transported in time to 1940s Poland, where she is captured and put in a death camp. A girl named Rivka befriends her, teaching her how to fight the dehumanization of the camp and hold onto her identity.
X	<i>Out of the Dust</i> Karen Hesse 9780590371254 Novel in Verse	A poem cycle that reads as a novel, <i>Out of the Dust</i> tells the story of a girl named Billie Jo, who struggles to help her family survive the dust-bowl years of the Depression. Fighting against the elements on her Oklahoma farm, Billie Jo takes on even more responsibilities when her mother dies in a tragic accident. A testament to the American spirit, this novel is an instant classic.
X	<i>Where The Red Fern Grows</i> Wilson Rawls 9780440412670 Chapter Book	A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.
Y	<i>Becoming Naomi Leon</i> Pam M. Ryan 9780439269971 Chapter Book	When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.
Y	<i>Burning Up</i> Caroline Cooney 9780440226871 Chapter Book	When a girl she had met at an inner-city church is murdered, fifteen-year-old Macey channels her grief into a school project that leads her to uncover prejudice she had not imagined in her grandparents and their wealthy Connecticut community.
Y	<i>Giver, The</i> Lois Lowry 9780440237686 Chapter Book	Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives.
Y	<i>Monument, The</i> Gary Paulsen 9780440407829 Chapter Book	Thirteen-year-old Rocky, self-conscious about the braces on her leg, has her life changed by the remarkable artist who comes to her small Kansas town to design a war memorial.
Y	<i>Slake's Limbo</i> Felice Holman 978-0689710667 Chapter Book	The story of a homeless 13-year-old boy and how he survives in a niche under Grand Central Station.

*The levels of these books were proposed by teachers, literacy coaches and staff developers, and a few of those levels may, in fact, be wrong. Send us your observations and we'll refine the levels. The summaries come from Amazon.com, scholastic.com, fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com, and barnesandnoble.com.*