



Family Literacy Resource



MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum & Instruction

Family Literacy Resource

Dear Families,

We are excited to be able to continue to support you and your child with gaining meaningful literacy experiences inside and outside of school.

Please review these resources, which we hope will provide your family with valuable information about what your child is learning in school as well as good books to read and exciting things to do around the city of Madison that will support your children's literacy development. If you would like to access these resources electronically, go to www.mmsd.org/literacy.

We are pleased to work with you in building a family of readers and writers.

Sincerely,

Tamara Maxwell
Literacy Coordinator



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The District's Standards for Literacy

The district's standards for literacy provide a roadmap for what children need to know and be able to do, beginning in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The standards challenge children to think critically and solve complex problems to get them ready for college, career, and community. The standards clarify what it is that children need to know and be able to do at each grade level for reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. You can also look at the grade levels behind and ahead to see the progression of skills on the continuum. This can help you support your child in learning at home.

**This Year's Goals in
English Language Arts**

**Grade
K**

Reading

Answer questions about a book, like "What or who is this story about? What happens in the story? How does the story end?"

Writing

Use a combination of drawing, speaking and writing to state an opinion.

Use knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words the way they sound.

Capitalize the first word in a sentence and end each sentence with a period or question mark.

Listening & Speaking

Understand and use many new words.

Express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.

Listen to others and take turns speaking in a conversation.

Ways to help your child meet standards

Encourage drawing, labeling and writing. Writing every day, in whatever form, will help her gain confidence as a writer.

Have him "act out" the story of a book he enjoys. This helps him learn new vocabulary words and better understand plot and character development.

MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.mmsd.org/commoncore

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

A resource to help you support your child's learning

**Grade
K**

In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others and speaking about. Activities in these areas will include:

- Naming and writing upper- and lowercase letters
- Explaining letters to sounds and using other methods to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Learning and using new words
- Identifying words that rhyme
- Reading common words such as the, of, you, one, she, and my
- Asking and answering questions about a story the teacher reads out loud
- Identifying characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Recognizing the person, place, thing, or idea that an illustration shows
- Participating in discussions by listening and taking turns speaking
- Using a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- Taking part in shared reading, writing, and research projects
- Expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

In kindergarten, students will read stories and poems. They will read to learn about history, the world, science and other areas. Here are examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

Reading Literature		
Kindergarten Reading • With help from the teacher, students retell stories, including key details. • With help from the teacher, students name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.	Grade One Reading • Students retell stories, including key details, and show that they understand the lesson or moral of a story. • Students identify who is telling the story of various points in a text.	Grade Two Reading • Students retell stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral. • Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice when reading about.

Reading for Information		
Kindergarten Reading • With help from the teacher, students ask and answer questions about key details in a text. • With help from the teacher, students identify what person, place, thing, or idea a picture shows.	Grade One Reading • Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text. • Students use the illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas.	Grade Two Reading • Students ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. • Students explain how images or illustrations (such as how a machine works) are useful.

Also, the Read Up, Speak Out, Write On Resource provides grade-level questions you can ask your child that will support his or her understanding of the standards.

For more grade-level resources, go to <https://literacy.madison.k12.wi.us/family-resources>.

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MMSD Literacy Curriculum

Children in grades K-5 have a literacy block with a recommended 120-minutes of daily instruction. During this time, children are reading, writing, speaking, listening, and working with language within a workshop model, in which a skill or concept is introduced and practiced until children can do it independently.

Reading Instruction

During reading instruction, children learn what it means to be a reader - how readers apply their early reading skills and strategies to understand what they are reading. Children engage in shared reading experiences of grade-level texts where both the teacher and the children are reading the text together. Teachers also work with small groups of children with similar reading instructional needs. These groups are flexible and change as a result of how the children are doing. During independent reading, children self-select and practice reading texts on their own or with a partner in order to practice applying both known and developing skills and concepts. Children have the opportunity to read for pleasure, be independent problem solvers, and improve reading fluency. We use *Mondo Bookshop* as our core resource.



Writing Instruction

During writing instruction, children learn what it means to be a writer - how writers think, plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their work. Children use the writing process to develop and strengthen their writing when thinking about what it is they are writing, for whom they are writing, and what their purpose is for writing. Children engage in shared writing experiences where both the teacher and the children are writing together. Teachers also work with small groups of children with similar writing instructional needs. These groups are flexible and change as a result of student need. During independent writing, children self-select and practice writing on their own or with a partner in order to practice applying both known and developing skills and concepts. Children have the opportunity to write for multiple purposes, be independent problem solvers, and improve writing stamina. We use *The Common Core Writing Book* by

Gretchen Owocki and mentor texts as our core resource and *Units of Study for Writing* by Lucy Calkins as our supplemental resource.

Speaking, and Listening, and Language Instruction

Speaking, listening, and language use are essential parts of literacy learning, and they are integrated within reading and writing instruction. Teachers provide safe and nurturing environments in which children are encouraged to participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with multiple partners, using language to express their own ideas and build on the ideas of others. To support children's speaking and listening skills, we use *Mondo Bookshop* "Let's Talk About It" resource.

Early Literacy Skills Instruction

In Grades K-1, early literacy skills instruction is divided into small-group and whole-group instruction. During this time, teachers teach new skills and then provide opportunities for teacher guided and peer practice for skills mastery. Our core resource, *Mondo Bookshop Phonics*, follows a scope and sequence that introduces new skills along with reviewing cumulative skills in order to support children's early reading. For children who need continued support with early literacy skills in Grades 2-5, they receive small group instruction where teachers explicitly teach new skills and then provide opportunities for teacher guided and peer practice for skill mastery. We use either *Fountas and Pinnell* or *Mondo Phonics Intervention* based on the intensity of need.

Handwriting Instruction

Handwriting instruction is sequenced by first introducing letters that are easier to form followed by grouping letters that are formed in similar ways. Teachers provide children with immediate feedback through supported practice. Practice pages with models and visual prompts indicate how to form letters. Our core resource is Print Path.





How to Support Your Child with Homework

Homework is an opportunity for children to practice what they are learning in school. Here are practical ideas for helping your child to successfully complete homework.

- _____

Reading and Writing Around the House

Opportunities to strengthen your child's literacy development are all around the house!

Family Room

- Exchange Post-it® notes with your children. Put the notes on pillowcases or mirrors, or in lunch boxes, books, or any surprise location.
- Help children assemble photo albums of family events and write captions for the photos.
- Ask children to put their wishes and wants into writing and to suggest how they may work toward or contribute to getting what they want.
- Help children create a family newsletter or website to share with family members near and far.
- Create different ending to a television show you watch. Discuss it and act it out
- Look through the television guide of programs and movies; list all the programs or show that start with a particular letter, blend, consonant cluster, etc.
- One family member uses descriptive words about an object. Other family members guess what the object is.
- Write stories about family events from the photos in your home.
- Turn on the closed caption function of the television instead of the volume.
- Compare and contrast the different photos of family members and discuss how they have changed over time. Write about it.
- Turn the television on mute during commercials and practice sight word flash cards.
- Compare and contrast movies or shows to books.
- Read to, for, or with your child.
- Play games that emphasize word building skills, promote vocabulary skills, and include dramatization such as Scrabble, Boggle, Charades, Guesstures, Taboo, etc.
- Give your child an old telephone to dramatize scenarios. Talking with your child while playing develops oral language skills.
- Include your child when you read, write, or use numbers. Have your child help when you write a grocery list, use a recipe, or look up a number in the phone book.
- Have your child cut out coupons. This improves eye-hand coordination and enhances number recognition skills.
- Cut out large letters from newspaper and magazine headlines. See how many words you can make together by moving the letters around.
- Cut comic strips apart and have your child put them back together in order.
- Make a "deck" of cards using index cards. Cut them in half and write words on the cards that are appropriate for your child's level. Make two cards for each word. Play a memory game with the cards, placing all of them face down. Take turns to find pairs of words that match.

Dining Area/Kitchen

- Post messages on the refrigerator and around the kitchen for your child to practice reading.
- Make writing practical and useful by having children write grocery and task lists, reminders and phone messages, instructions for caring for pets, or directions for getting to the park.
- Make up words using the letters on the telephone keypad.
- Read recipes to help with following directions.
- Place magnetic letters on the refrigerator for letter recognition and making words.
- Read cereal and snack labels.
- Ask your child to find certain letters, words, and numbers on cereal boxes, clocks, stoves, etc.
- Ask your child to find words that rhyme.

Bedroom

- Read a bedtime story.
- Re-read a familiar bedtime story and ask your child to create a different ending.
- Write a bedtime story and recite it with your child every night.
- Leave a message or note for a family member on his/her mirror (e.g., “I love you very much!” or “Don’t forget to walk the dog.” or “Call me when you get home from school.”) to build fluent reading.
- Help your child make labels for things in his/her room and read the labels together.

Bathroom

- Read magazines and books while you are in the bathtub.
- Alphabetize, organize, and categorize toiletries.
- Label drawers according to contents.
- While your child is taking a bath, put different objects in the water—like a sponge or a ball—and guess whether it will sink or float.
- Use rubber or magnetic letters that stick to the tub walls to spell out names and words.
- Find objects or perform actions that rhyme around the bathroom, such as “floor” and “door,” or “brush” and “flush,” etc.
- Sing songs together during bath time. Children can sing their favorite songs and chants or recite poems or rhymes in the shower or bathtub.
- Write words with your finger(s) using shaving cream, bubble bath, foam, etc.

Neighborhood Walks

Opportunities to strengthen your child's literacy development are all around your neighborhood!

- Walk around your neighborhood, note the different signs, and discuss the meaning/importance of them.
- Look around the bus. What are people reading/writing?
- When shopping in the stores, pay attention to the print available.
- Go to street fairs and festivals. What signs or public texts do you see?
- Take your child on a literacy walk and note the print available. Take photos along the way to create a story or album.
- Create a nature journals (old notebooks, paper folded like a book) for your children to record their adventures outside. Have your children decorate the cover. Ask your children to write about what they think they'll find before they go out, draw pictures or write while exploring, or reflect on the trip when they get back home.
- Talk about the wildlife that is everywhere! You'll be surprised how much life you can find in our urban parks. Insects living complex lives in grass or landscaping, birds nesting in trees or on buildings, and bats hunting insects after dark are only some of the things you may find.
- Look for birds and talk to your children about what the birds are doing. Notice if the bird is flying, standing, or swimming. Then find a bird with some red on it, some yellow, and some black. No need to identify, just observe!
- Take an old blanket outside to sit on the dirt or grass and notice all that is outside - clouds, trees, people, flowers, other people.
- Remember to dress for the weather.



Happenings Around the Community

Madison has many fun places to visit. The Capitol, parks, and the zoo are just a few examples. You will surely enjoy the experience! During your visit, engage your children with the experience:

- Pretend that you (or your child) are the tour guide for the site and describe all of the important information that a tourist would want to know.
- Ask your child questions about what he/she is noticing and wondering while you are at the site.
- Do a scavenger hunt to find specific things while visiting.
- Ask your child what was most memorable about the visit. Share what was most memorable for you.
- When you get home, draw pictures and write about your visit. Share these with other family members.

Family Literacy Resource



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There are 8 libraries in Madison. Each library has children's programming. To find out more, go to

Family Literacy Resource





Great Books to Read in Kindergarten

All books can be found in the Picture Book section at Madison's Public Libraries in the category listed.

***Song and Dance Man* by Karen Ackerman**

Grandpa demonstrates his songs, dances and jokes he performed when he was a vaudeville entertainer. (FAVORITES)

***Old Black Fly* by Jim Aylesworth**

Follow a mischievous old black fly through the alphabet with rhymes and illustrations. (CONCEPTS)

***Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett**

With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself. (FAVORITES)

***Another Brother* by Matthew Cordell**

Davy the sheep wishes he had time alone with his parents, as he did before his twelve brothers came along and started imitating his every move, but when his wish comes true Davy misses playing with the youngsters. (FAVORITES)

***Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin**

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. Also see Giggle Giggle Quack for more barnyard antics. (FAVORITES)

***Rrralph* by Lois Ehlert**

The narrator describes discovering how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "bark," and "wolf." (FAVORITES)

***Pajamas Anytime* by Marsha Hayles**

Each month of the year presents a special occasion when pajamas are the perfect thing to wear. (STORIES)

***Olivia* by Ian Falconer**

Whether at home getting ready for the day, enjoying the beach, or at bedtime, Olivia is a feisty pig who has too much energy for her own good. (CHARACTERS)

***Bark, George* by Jules Feiffer**

"Bark, George," says George's mother, and George goes: "Meow," which definitely isn't right, because George is a dog. And so is his mother, who repeats, "Bark, George." And George goes, "Quack, quack." What's going on with George? (FAVORITES)

***A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever* by Marla Frazee**

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation. (FAVORITES)

***Corduroy* by Don Freeman**

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him, he finds what he has always wanted most of all. (FAVORITES)

***Say Hello to Zorro!* by Carter Goodrich**

Mister Bud, the family dog, has a satisfying routine to his life, but when another dog joins the family and disrupts his schedule, Mister Bud must learn to adapt. (ANIMALS)

***Monkey and Me* by Emily Gravett**

Excited about their trip to the zoo, a young girl and her stuffed monkey delight in mimicking all the animals they see, such as a hopping kangaroo and stomping elephant, during their wonderful outing together. (FAVORITES)

***So Happy!* by Kevin Henkes**

Brief text and illustrations tell the story of a boy, a rabbit, and a seed. (FAVORITES)

***Bedtime for Frances* by Russell Hoban**

Frances, the badger, finds it difficult to go to sleep with the strange noises and shapes that seem to fill her room after dark. See other books about Frances. (FAVORITES)

***Moo Cow Kaboom!* by Thacher Hurd**

Farmer George's Moo Cow is "cownapped" by a space cowboy and taken to Planet 246 to compete in the intergalactic rodeo. (FAVORITES)

***Max, the Stubborn Little Wolf* by Marie-Odile Jude**

Papa Wolf expects his son Max to be a hunter, like other wolves, but Max has different ideas about his future. (ADVANCED)

***This is Not My Hat* by J. Klassen**

A tiny minnow wearing a pale blue bowler hat has a thing or two up his fins in this underwater light-on-dark chase scene. (FAVORITES)

***Jeremy Draws a Monster* by Peter McCarty**

A young boy who spends most of his time alone in his bedroom makes new friends after the monster in his drawing becomes a monstrous nuisance. (FAVORITES)

***Molly and the Magic Wishbone* by Barbara McClintock**

Molly's fairy godmother gives her a magic fishbone that will grant one wish, which the resourceful girl saves until she really needs it. (ANIMALS)

***Elmer* by David McKee**

All of the elephants in the jungle are gray except Elmer, who is a patchwork of brilliant colors. Can Elmer and his friends learn to respect each other's differences? (CHARACTERS)

***SuperHero ABC* by Bob McLeod**

Humorous SuperHeroes such as Goo Girl and The Volcano represent the letters of the alphabet from A to Z. (FAVORITES)

***A Ball for Daisy* by Christopher Raschka**

A wordless picture book about all the fun a dog can have with her ball. (FAVORITES)

***Blackout* by John Rocco**

When a busy family's activities come to a halt because of a blackout, they find they enjoy spending time together and not being too busy for once. (FAVORITES)

***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka**

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. (FOLK)

***A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip Christian Stead**

Amos McGee, a friendly zookeeper, always made time to visit his good friends: the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the rhinoceros, and the owl. But one day--'Ah-choo!'--he woke with the sniffles and the sneezes. Though he didn't make it into the zoo that day, he did receive some unexpected guests. (FAVORITES)

***Bunny Cakes* by Rosemary Wells**

Max makes a cake and solves a grocery shopping dilemma. Look for other books about Max and Ruby. (CHARACTERS)

***The Duckling Gets a Cookie!* by Mo Willems**

Pigeon is very angry when the duckling gets a cookie just by asking politely. (FAVORITES)

***Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen**

On a winter's night under a full moon, a father and daughter trek into the woods to see the Great Horned Owl. (FAVORITES)

Great Books to Read in Grade 1

All books can be found in the Picture Book section at Madison's Public Libraries in the category listed or in the Easy Reader section (+ER).

***Artist Ted* by Andrea Beaty**

Ted decides that his bedroom, as well as his school, needs the touch of an artist and when he cannot find one, he becomes one for the day, to the dismay of his mother, principal, and a new classmate, Pierre. (CHARACTERS)

***Duck, Duck, Goose! (A Coyote's on the Loose!)* by Karen Beaumont**

Several farm animals try to evade a coyote that they think is dangerous. (ANIMALS)

***Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover* by Cece Bell**

Rabbit is excited about the sleepover he has carefully planned for his friend Robot, but Robot has some different ideas about how things should go. (+ER)

***Z is for Moose* by Kelly Bingham**

Moose, terribly eager to play his part in the alphabet book his friend Zebra is putting together, then awfully disappointed when his letter passes, behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him. (CONCEPTS)

***One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo**

Elliot, a very proper young man, feels a kinship with the penguins at the aquarium and wants to take one home with him. (FAVORITES)

***Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon**

After she falls into a bird's nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother. (FAVORITES)

***Cork and Fuzz: Swimming Lessons* by Dori Chaconas**

Cork the muskrat wants his best friend Fuzz, a possum, to visit his home, but first he must teach Fuzz to swim and not be afraid of the water. (+ER)

***Abuela* by Arthur Dorros**

Riding on a bus with her abuela (grandmother), a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City. Look for the sequel, *Isla*. (ADVANCED)

***Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French**

In his diary, a wombat describes his life of eating, sleeping, and getting to know some new human neighbors. (FAVORITES)

***Traction Man is Here!* by Mini Grey**

Traction Man, a boy's courageous action figure, has a variety of adventures with Scrubbing Brush and other objects in the house. (FAVORITES)

***Dino Riddles* by Katy Hall**

A collection of riddles relating to dinosaurs, such as "What do you get if you cross a dinosaur with a rabbit? Tricerahops!" and "What did dinosaur campers cook over the fire? Dino-s'mores!" (+ER)

***Penny and Her Song* by Kevin Henkes**

Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies. (FAVORITES)

***Come On, Rain!* by Karen Hesse**

A young girl eagerly awaits a coming rainstorm to bring relief from the oppressive summer heat. (STORIES)

***You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together* by Mary Ann Hoberman**

Designed with budding readers in mind, this collection features eight fairy tales, each given a new twist and set in three columns and three colors as a script for two voices to read separately or together. (FOLK)

***Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff**

A little boy is surprised when one of the dinosaurs from the museum agrees to play. See other books about Danny and the dinosaur. (+ER)

***The Pizza That We Made* by Joan Holub**

Three young cooks have fun making their own pizza, cleaning up their mess, and eating hot slices! (+ER)

***Tacky the Penguin* by Helen Lester**

Tacky, the penguin, does not fit in with his sleek companions. His odd behavior is handy when hunters arrive with maps and traps. See other books about Tacky the penguin. (CHARACTERS)

***Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!* by Grace Lin**

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different (+ER)

***Fox in Love* by Edward Marshall**

Fox falls in love with several girls and then enters a dance contest with his sister. See more books about Fox. (+ER)

***My Dog, Buddy* by David Milgrim**

Mom, Dad, and brother Pete all try to get Buddy to obey, but only one family member understands how to communicate with the mischievous canine. (+ER)

***A Friend for Dragon: Dragon's First Tale* by Dav Pilkey**

Dragon becomes such close friends with an apple that he deeply mourns its loss and is overjoyed when more grow to take its place. See more books about Dragon. (CHARACTERS)

***G is for Goat* by Patricia Polacco**

A rhyming celebration of goats and their antics, from A to Z. (CONCEPTS)

***Henry and Mudge* by Cynthia Rylant**

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without other children, finds friendship and love in the big dog Mudge. See other books about Henry and Mudge. (+ER)

***Baloney (Henry P.)* by Jon Scieszka**

A transmission received from outer space in a combination of different Earth languages tells of an alien schoolboy's fantastic excuse for being late to school again. (ADVANCED)

***Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Spring Babies* by Erica Silverman**

Cowgirl Kate and her horse Cocoa watch over the new calves, a puppy, and some baby barn owls. Look for more of Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa's adventures. (+ER)

***Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein**

Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story, but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale. (FAVORITES)

***Tales of Oliver Pig* by Jean Van Leeuwen**

Adventures of Oliver Pig and his family. See other books about Oliver and Amanda Pig. (+ER)

***The Three Pigs* by David Wiesner**

The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon. (FAVORITES)

***There is a Bird on Your Head!* by Mo Willems**

Gerald the elephant discovers that there is something worse than a bird on your head-- two birds on your head! Piggie will try to help her best friend. Look for more books about Elephant and Piggie. (+ER)

Great Books to Read in Grade 2

All books can be found in the following sections at Madison's Public Libraries: *Picture Books (+PB)*, *Easy Readers (+ER)*, *Young Fiction (+YF)*, or *Children's Graphic Novels (+GN)*.

***Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot* by Anna Branford**

When a creative seven-year-old girl spots a blue china bird that she desperately wants, she forms an imaginative plan for getting it. (+YF)

***Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad* by Henry Cole**

In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corn crib in the barn and decides to help him. (+PB ADVANCED)

***One Potato, Two Potato* by Cynthia DeFelice**

A very poor, humble couple live so simple a life they share everything, until the husband discovers a pot with magical powers buried under the very last potato in the garden. (FOLK)

***Bink & Gollie* by Kate DiCamillo**

Two roller-skating best friends--one tiny, one tall--share three comical adventures involving outrageously bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion. (+ER)

***Dude, Where's My Spaceship?* by Dan Greenburg**

When their spaceship crash lands on Earth, Ploo is captured by the Army and taken to the mysterious Area 51. While her brothers, Lek and Klatu, try to rescue her, Ploo uses her ESP to make a new friend. (+YF)

***Iris and Walter* by Elissa Haden Guest**

When Iris moves to the country, she misses the city where she formerly lived; but with the help of a new friend named Walter, she learns to adjust to her new home. Look for more stories about Iris and Walter. (+ER)

***Sadie and Ratz* by Sonya Hartnett**

Hannah and her hands, named Sadie and Ratz, regularly get into trouble, especially when younger brother Baby Boy is around. (+YF)

***Breakout at the Bug Lab* by Ruth Horowitz**

When a giant cockroach named Max escapes from their mother's bug laboratory, Leo and his brother receive help from a mysterious stranger who advises them to think like a bug in order to recapture the runaway roach. (+ER)

***The Best Seat in Second Grade* by Katharine Kenah**

Sam's favorite thing about second grade is the class pet, a hamster named George Washington, so when the class goes on a field trip to a science museum, Sam cannot resist bringing George along. (+ER)

***The Great Texas Hamster Drive* by Eric Kimmel**

When Pecos Bill's daughter gets two pet hamsters, they soon multiply into the hundreds, so Bill decides to take them all to Chicago where lots of boys and girls want pet hamsters. (ADVANCED)

***Snowshoe Thompson* by Nancy Smiler Levinson**

One winter John Thompson skis across the Sierra Nevada Mountains and creates a path upon which mail and people may travel, thus earning his nickname "Snowshoe Thompson." (+ER)

***Uncle Elephant* by Arnold Lobel**

Uncle Elephant comes to the rescue when his nephew's parents are lost at sea and cares for him until they are found again. (+ER)

***Stink and the Incredible Super-galactic Jawbreaker* by Megan McDonald**

Seven-year-old Stink Moody discovers that he can get free samples by writing letters to candy companies and plans a surprise for his best friend's birthday. (+YF)

***Lulu and the Duck in the Park* by Hilary McKay**

Lulu, who loves animals, brings an abandoned duck egg to school, even though her teacher has banned Lulu from bringing animals to school ever again. (+YF)

***Detective Blue* by Steve Metzger**

Little Boy Blue is all grown up, and he's a detective working to find Miss Muffet. Join in the fun as Detective Blue works to solve the mystery with the help of his nursery rhyme friends. (+PB)

***Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear* by Sara Swan Miller**

Bored with sitting on a shelf day after day, a teddy bear sets out on three adventures and inadvertently gets the family dog and cat in trouble. (+ER)

***Zen Shorts* by Jon J. Muth**

When Stillwater the bear moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways. (FAVORITES)

***Down Girl and Sit: Smarter than Squirrels* by Lucy Nolan**

Recounts the adventures of a rambunctious dog who thinks her name is Down Girl and her next door neighbor, Sit, as they try to keep the world safe from dangerous squirrels, the paper boy, and a frightening creature named Here Kitty Kitty. (+YF)

***Max and Jax in Second Grade* by Jerdine Nolen**

Second grade twins Max and Jax prepare to start the summer off right with a fishing trip and a slumber party. (+ER)

***May Belle and the Ogre* by Bethany Roberts**

May Belle knows just what to do with a pesky little Ogre. See also other books in this series. (+ER)

***Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* by Peter and Connie Roop**

In the winter of 1856, a storm delays the lighthouse keeper's return to an island off the coast of Maine, and his daughter Abbie must keep the lights burning by herself. (+ER)

***The Talking Eggs: A Folktale from the American South* by Robert D. San Souci**

A Southern folktale in which kind Blanche, following the instructions of an old witch, gains riches, while her greedy sister makes fun of the old woman and is duly rewarded. (FOLK)

***In a Dark, Dark Room, and Other Scary Stories* by Alvin Schwartz**

Easy-to-read scary stories based on traditional stories and folktales from around the world. (+ER)

***Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires**

Binky, a beloved house cat, tries to prepare a rocket ship so that he can explore outer space, but he has second thoughts about taking off as he wonders how his owners would protect themselves against aliens if he weren't there to help them. First in a series. (+GN 741.5971 Sp48b)

***Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg**

When nine-year-old Eleanor's beloved babysitter Bibi moves away to care for her ailing father, Eleanor must spend the summer adjusting to a new babysitter while mourning the loss of her old one. Also look for the sequel, ***Like Bug Juice on a Burger***. (+YF)

***Pirate Mom* by Deborah Underwood**

When a hypnotist convinces Pete's mother that she is a pirate, Pete tries to find a way to turn her back into a regular parent. (+ER)

Great Books to Read in Grade 3

All books can be found in the following sections at Madison's Public Libraries: Young Fiction (+YF), or Children's Graphic Novels (+GN).

***Star Jumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius* by Frank Asch**

Alex has had enough of his little brother, Jonathan. In order to escape Jonathan's weird questions and being a bother, Alex builds a cardboard spaceship to blast-off to a brother-free planet. (+YF)

***Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard and Florence Atwater**

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. (+F)

***The Magical Ms. Plum* by Bonny Becker**

The students in Ms Plum's third grade class soon learn that there is something very special about their teacher and her classroom's mysterious supply closet. (+YF)

***Tornado* by Betsy Byars**

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy. (+YF)

***Pigs Can Fly: The Adventures of Harriet Pig and Friends* by Debbi Chocolate**

In four stories, Harriet Pig realizes her dream to fly, helps a friend overcome a fear of heights, trains for a swim race against a boastful goose, and more than repays the mouse who saved her life. (+YF)

***Frindle* by Andrew Clements**

Nick Allen invents a new word, and sets off a chain of events beyond his control. (+F)

***The Dragon of Doom* by Bruce Coville**

Life in the village of Pigbone is boring until an aspiring magician and his talking toad come to town and ask Edward to help them slay the Dragon of Doom. (+F)

***Thomas and the Dragon Queen* by Shutta Crum**

When the princess is kidnapped by a dragon queen, thirteen-year-old Thomas, a new--and very small--squire-in-training boldly sets out on a quest to rescue her. (+YF)

***The Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl**

Three farmers stop at nothing to get rid of a fox and his family. (+F)

***Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* by Paula Danziger**

The year she is in the third grade is a sad time for Amber because her best friend Justin is getting ready to move to a distant state. See other books about Amber Brown. (+YF)

***The Gadget War* by Betsy Duffey**

Kelly's the undisputed gadget champ of the third grade until Albert Einstein Jones, an alumnus of Young Inventor's Camp, moves into her territory. (+F)

***Nikki & Deja* by Karen English**

When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected. First in a series. (+YF)

***The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes**

Classmates laugh at a poor Polish girl who says she has 100 dresses until they learn the truth. (+F)

***My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett**

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. First in a series. (+YF)

***Moose Crossing* by Stephanie Greene**

Moose is excited when the sign "Moose Crossing" is put up, but he finds that tourists and fans can be exhausting. (+YF)

***Runaway Radish* by Jessie Haas**

When Radish the pony grows too big for the girls who own him, he goes to live at a horse camp where there are always new children for him to train. (+YF)

***Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream* by Jenny Han**

Korean American fourth-grader Clara Lee longs to be Little Miss Apple Pie, and when her luck seems suddenly to change for the better, she overcomes her fear of public speaking and enters the competition. (+YF)

***Tua and the Elephant* by R. P. Harris**

In Chiang Mai, Thailand, nine-year-old Tua releases an abused elephant from its chains--can she complete the rescue by getting it to an elephant refuge without being caught herself? (+F)

***Zita the Spacegirl* by Ben Hatke** When young Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place, and her best friend is abducted, she is compelled to set out on a strange journey from star to star in order to get back home. (+GN 741.5973 H286z v1)

***Babe: The Gallant Pig* by Dick King-Smith**

A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success. (+F)

***John Henry* by Julius Lester** Retells the life of the legendary African American hero who raced against a steam drill to cut through a mountain. (+PB FOLK)

***Ruby Lu, Brave and True* by Lenore Look**

"Almost-eight-year-old" Ruby Lu spends time with her baby brother, goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive, and has adventures with both old and new friends. Look for more adventures starring Ruby Lu. (+YF)

***The Heart of Cool* by Jamie McEwan**

When Bobby moves to a new school, he tries to be the ultimate in cool by imitating Harry Haller, the coolest kid of all. (+ER)

***Rats on the Range and Other Stories* by James Marshall**

In eight animals stories the reader meets a rat family that vacations at a dude ranch, a pig who takes lessons in table manners, a mouse who keeps house for a tomcat, and a buzzard who leaves his money to the Society for Stray Cats--or does he? See also ***Rats on the Roof***. (+YF)

***Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker**

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. First in a series. (+YF)

***The Night Fairy* by Laura Amy Schlitz**

When Flory the night fairy's wings are accidentally broken and she cannot fly, she has to learn to do everything differently. (+F)

***Younguncle Comes to Town* by Vandana Singh**

In a small town in northern India, three siblings await their father's youngest brother, Younguncle, who is said to be somewhat eccentric. (+F)

***Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli**

George 'Suds' Morton competes with his third-grade classmates to earn the first 'halo' of the year for good behavior, but being good turns out to be more stressful than he anticipated. (+F)

Great Books to Read in Grade 4

All books can be found in the following sections at Madison's Public Libraries: Children's Fiction section (+F).

***Whittington* by Alan Armstrong**

Whittington, a feline descendant of Dick Whittington's famous cat of English folklore, appears at a rundown barnyard plagued by rats and restores harmony while telling his ancestor's story. (+F)

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume**

Hilarious stories about Peter and his younger brother, Fudge, the two-year-old terror. See other books about Fudge. (+F)

***Sylvia & Aki* by Winifred Conkling**

At the start of World War II, Japanese-American third-grader Aki and her family are sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona, while Mexican-American third-grader Sylvia's family leases their Orange County, California, farm and begins a fight to stop school segregation. (+F)

***Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech**

A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. Also check out ***Hate That Cat***. (+F)

***Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo**

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. (+F)

***The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo**

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. (+F)

***The Field Guide* by Tony DiTerlizzi & Holly Black**

When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. This is book one of the Spiderwick Chronicles. (+F)

***Phineas L. MacGuire Erupts* by Frances O'Roark Dowell**

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning. (+F)

***Ida B: ... and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan**

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parent must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school. (+F)

***Junonia* by Kevin Henkes**

The week of her tenth birthday, Alice and her parents go to Sanibel Island, Florida, just as they do every year, but this time some of the people who are always there are missing and some new people have come, which unsettles Alice, who wants things to be exactly the same as they always are. (+F)

***Invisible Inkling* by Emily Jenkins**

When Hank Wolowitz runs into trouble in the form of a lunch-stealing bully, he finds an unlikely ally in an invisible refugee pumpkin-loving bandapat named Inkling. First in a series. (+YF)

***Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat* by Lynne Jonell**

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal. First in a series. (+F)

Savvy* by Ingrid Law** Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. Also check out ***Scumble. (+F)

***Starry River of the Sky* by Grace Lin**

An innkeeper's chore boy discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky. (+F)

***The Year of the Dog: A Novel* by Grace Lin**

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life. Read more about Pacy Lin in ***The Year of the Rat*** and ***Dumpling Days***. (+F)

***The Hop* by Sharelle Byars Moranville**

The intertwining stories of a girl traveling to the Rock and Roll Extravaganza and a toad whose home is in danger of being paved over. (+F)

***Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

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. (+F)

***Molly McGinty Has a Really Good Day* by Gary Paulsen**

When supremely organized seventh-grader, Molly McGinty, loses the notebook she relies on to keep her life in order she spends the day in chaos. (+F)

***Secrets at Sea* by Richard Peck**

In 1887, the social-climbing Cranstons voyage from New York to London, where they hope to find a husband for their awkward older daughter, secretly accompanied by Helena and her mouse siblings, for whom the journey is both terrifying and wondrous as they meet an array of titled humans despite their best efforts at remaining hidden. (+F)

***I, Freddy: Book One in the Golden Hamster Saga* by Dietlof Reiche**

Freddy, a remarkably intelligent golden hamster, learns how to read and how to write on a computer and escapes captivity to become an independent and civilized creature. (First in the Golden Hamster saga). (+F)

***One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street* by Joanne Rocklin**

The last remaining orange tree on a Southern California street brings together neighbors of all ages as they face their problems and anxieties, including the possibility that a mysterious stranger is a threat to their tree. (+F)

***The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden**

Witness the adventures of a country cricket in New York City. See other books about Harry Cat, Tucker Mouse, and Chester Cricket. (+F)

***Aliens on Vacation* by Clete Barrett Smith**

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. (+F)

***Wingwalker* by Rosemary Wells**

During the Depression, Reuben and his out-of-work parents move from Oklahoma to Minnesota, where his father gets a job as a carnival wingwalker and Reuben has a chance to overcome his terror of flying. (+F)

Great Books to Read in Grade 5

All books can be found in the following sections at Madison's Public Libraries: Children's Fiction section (+F).

Keeper by Kathi Appelt On the night of the blue moon when mermaids are said to gather on a sandbar in the Gulf of Mexico, ten-year-old Keeper sets out in a small boat, with her dog BD and a seagull named Captain, determined to find her mother, a mermaid, as Keeper has always believed, who left long ago to return to the sea.

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate 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.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

Summer of the Swans by Betsy Byars A teenage girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.

Frindle by Andrew Clements 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.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis 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.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. First in a series.

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps a notebook with her observations about her friends, but when her classmates find out the results are unforgettable. Also look for the sequel, **The Long Secret**.

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Olive's Ocean by Kevin Henkes On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang by Amy Ignatow Two best friends embark on a project to study the behavior and taste of the popular girls at their elementary school so that by the time they get to middle school they too will be in the right crowd. First in a series.

***The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly**

In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.

***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg**

Running away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 12-year-old Claudia has an adventure that changes her forever.

***Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai**

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

***Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

***The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: A World War II Soldier* by Walter Dean Myers**

A seventeen-year-old soldier from central Virginia records his experiences in a journal as his regiment takes part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and subsequent battles to liberate France. See other books in the Dear America series. (Shelved under "Dear America")

***Liesl & Po* by Lauren Oliver**

A mix-up involving the greatest magic in the world has tremendous consequences for Liesl, an orphan who has been locked in an attic, Will, an alchemist's runaway apprentice, and Po, a ghost, as they are pursued by friend and foe while making an important journey.

***Wonder* by R. J. Palacio**

Ten-year-old

Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

***Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson**

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.

***Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick**

Having lost

his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City, and meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.

***The Mysterious Matter of I.M. Fine* by Diane Stanley**

Noticing that a popular series of horror novels is having a bizarre effect on the behavior of its readers, Franny and Beamer set out to find the mysterious author.

***Grab Hands and Run* by Frances Temple**

After his father disappears, twelve-year-old Felipe, his mother, and his younger sister set out on a difficult and dangerous journey, trying to make their way from their home in El Salvador to Canada.

Children's Digital Usage

Digital Citizenship is the idea that we should behave and interact just as responsibly in online spaces as we do in the real world. In our increasingly connected society, this means equipping students with the technology necessary for learning, while teaching them to use it in an appropriate and responsible manner.

For more information, visit the MMSD Instructional Technology Webpage:





Literacy Websites

Here are a few websites that can strengthen your child’s literacy development.



Adult Literacy Opportunities

Literacy opportunities are not just for our children! As adults, there are opportunities within our community that strengthen adults’ literacy development as well!
