

Selecting Books for Elementary School Children

Many books can span age levels. If you ask a child what books he/she likes, you will get an idea of what to read aloud.

Kindergarten to Second Grade

Characteristics: Ability to listen to stories; learning to share; learning to read; developing a sense of humor; interest the world outside the family and neighborhood; establishing friendships.

Books to choose:

Picture Books
Folktales and Fairytales
“I Can Read” books (controlled vocabulary, large typeface)
Beginning chapter books
Easy mysteries
Jokes and riddles
Easy non-fiction

Third to Fifth Grade

Characteristics: Listening and problem-solving skills; establishing identity; peer influence; interest in social issues; hero/heroine interest; liking to collect and build; interested in time – past, present, future; seeks information

Books to Choose:

Biographies	Crafts and Hobby Books
Realistic Fiction	Mythology
Historical Fiction	Science Fiction and Fantasy
Folk and Fairy Tales	Non-Fiction

**Library cards are available to all California residents.
Get one for yourself and your child!**

Thanks to the San Jose Public Library’s Grandparents and Books Program for providing much of this information.

