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 Maria 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 Judes  
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 Hillary 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, Abble 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 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 8 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.