

# Choosing Children's Books for a Reluctant Reader

**Inspire a love for reading with children's books that will interest your child and suit his skills.**

Does your child hate to read? Whether he is a proficient but disinterested reader or one who struggles with words, introducing the right type of children's books can spark his enthusiasm and turn him into a lifelong reader.

## Checklist

Before choosing a book, see how your selection rates by asking yourself:

- **Is it the right level?** Discuss your child's reading abilities with his teacher. Ask which level of children's books is best for him to read on his own: easy-to-read books such as *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; chapter books like *Encyclopedia Brown*; middle-grade books such as *The Giver*; or young adult books such as *Lord of the Rings*.
- **Is it age appropriate?** If your child is reading below grade level but does not have a reading disability, extra practice at home should help her progress. She may hate reading because it takes her a long time to figure words out. Building her vocabulary will improve her fluency. Use books that match her skill level to boost her vocabulary.
- **Will she read it?** If she likes what it is about, there is a better chance that she will read it. Anything that gets your child to read for pleasure and her own information will help her build her vocabulary and sharpen critical-reasoning skills. Let your child choose her own books as long as they are not offensive and don't cause nightmares. Encourage her to read comic books, graphic novels, entertainment news, or sports magazines if she's interested in them.

## The Developmental Edge

Interest in books may start to wane as your child grows. Use this guide to select reading material that reignite a love for children's books and words.

- **Elementary Schoolers: grades 1 – 5** Spend time every day partner-reading with your child. Amusing books with silly drawings and humor only a kid could love is a great way to turn reading into fun. The Captain Underpants series is good for ages 7 to 10. Try a book that was the basis for a movie he likes such as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
- **Middle Schoolers: grades 6 – 8** Be enthusiastic about books that suit her interests even if they are not what you would have chosen. *The Day My Butt Went Psycho* may make you cringe, but it will keep your child reading. If she has found a series of children's books she likes, let her keep reading the other titles.

# Funny Books for Funny Kids: Ages 6-7

Silly, gross, or just plain funny, these books will have you and your child giggling together as you flip the pages.

[Fox at School](#) by Edward Marshall

Fox finds that being a star in the school play means work.

Puffin Easy-to-Read — 3 series

[The Day My Butt Went Psycho](#) by Andy Griffiths

Twelve-year-old Zack must save the world from the butts that have gone berserk. After teaming up with some professional butt-fighters, Zack faces many life-threatening situations.

[The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs](#) by Jon Scieszka A. Wolf

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

[Horrible Harry in Room 2B](#) by Suzy Kline

Doug discovers that although being Harry's best friend in Miss Mackle's second grade class isn't always easy, it is often a lot of fun.

Horrible Harry series: book 1

[Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid](#) by Megan McDonald

Stink's sister Judy measures him every morning and it's always the same: 3 feet, 8 inches tall. Even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then one day, the ruler reads: 3 feet, 7 and three-quarter...

Stink series: book 1

# Books for Boys: Reluctant Readers Grades 3-5

These fun and entertaining stories are perfect for struggling boy readers.

[Aliens for Breakfast](#) by Stephanie Spinner Jonathan Etra

In his cereal box, Richard finds an intergalactic special agent. Richard joins the extraterrestrial in a fight to save Earth from the Dranes, one of whom is masquerading as a student in Richard's class.

Stepping Stone series

[Dudes, the School Is Haunted!](#) by R. L. Stine

If you believe fourth grader Bernie Bridges, Nyce House at Rotten School is haunted. Does the ghost really hate students named Joe, or is Bernie trying to get revenge for Joe's bullying? All is revealed...

Rotten School series: book 7

[The Hawk Bandits of Tarkoom](#) by Tony Abbott

The kids from the Upper World must travel back in time to save Droon from the most dangerous creatures they've met yet!

Secrets of Droon series: book 11

[Horrible Harry Cracks the Code](#) by Suzy Kline

In this book from the "Horrible Harry" series, nine-year-old Harry puts on his detective hat and tries to solve a mystery involving a special mathematical code.

Horrible Harry series

[Marco? Polo!](#) by Jon Scieszka

In the 16th adventure of the Time Warp Trio, if this explorer is Marco Polo, this must be 13th-century China. Illustrations.

Time Warp Trio series: book 16

# Books for Boys: Reluctant Readers Grades 3-5 (continued)

**Mrs. Kormel Is Not Normal!** by Dan Gutman

In the eleventh book of the "My Weird School" series, bus driver Mrs. Kormel has the worst day ever when Principal Klutz sends her to pick up the new boy.

My Weird School series: book 11

**Revolutionary War on Wednesday** by Mary Pope Osborne

When Jack and Annie go on their second mission to help save Camelot, the magic tree house takes them to a decisive moment in the Revolutionary War as George Washington is about to cross the Delaware River....

Magic Tree House series: book 22

**Three of Diamonds** by Anthony Horowitz

Fans of the "Diamond Brothers Mystery" series will enjoy this trio of stories. In "The Blurred Man," Nick and Tim Diamond must determine who killed philanthropist Lenny Smile. A trip to France becomes...

Diamond Brothers Mysteries series

**Double Team** by Amar'e Stoudemire

Eleven-year-old Amar'e Stoudemire starts competing in basketball tournaments with his two best friends, Deuce and Mike, and they are winning. After a few big wins, Amar'e starts getting attention...

STAT series: book 2