

RENAISSANCE



What
**Kids Are
Reading**
2022 edition



**Authentic Spanish
Literature**



**Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Themes**



**Social and Emotional
Learning Topics**

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RENAISSANCE®

Foreword

What Do Reading and Writing Mean to You in 2022?

By Jacqueline Woodson

I've been contemplating the question of my work. The work of being an intentional reader and writer. I would love to be a passive reader, one who can devour many books in succession and take from those narratives what they will. But I've learned in my many years on this earth how short life is. How those we love move on to the next place more quickly than we could ever have imagined, and the conversations we could have had move on with them. I've learned that opportunities for connections close, that the world becomes louder, that our voices can seem smaller, and that our bookshelves grow heavy with the books we've promised ourselves to read. Our minds begin to blur with the undone things: unfinished books, unanswered emails, un-"loved" social media posts, and unchecked texts. And the guilt of the many UNs can weigh us down, sometimes to the point of silencing and stilling us.

This is what I know now. And with this knowing comes a promise to myself to read in 2022 as I always have—slowly. To savor the moments inside the stories and each word the author has thoughtfully chosen to move the narrative to the next place, a place I have committed to traveling to with the author. As a writer, it means knowing that the words will be there waiting to be written when I get back from having coffee with the elders, and drinks with old friends. The words will be there at the end of my walks through Prospect Park with my dogs, and after the hours spent listening to my fourteen-year-old when he's finally ready to share his day with me. The words will be there to read, to write, and to speak out loud. Every year of my life leading up to 2022 has taught me this: to savor... all of it.



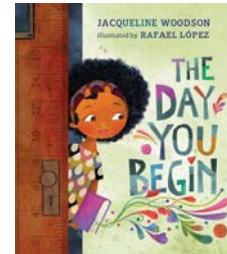
Jacqueline Woodson

author of *The Day You Begin*,
published by Nancy Paulsen Books

Jacqueline Woodson is the recipient of a 2020 MacArthur Fellowship, the 2020 Hans Christian Andersen Award, and the 2018 Astrid Lindgren Memorial and Children's Literature Legacy awards, and was the 2018–2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Her *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming*, won the National Book Award, the Coretta Scott King Award, a Newbery Honor, and the NAACP Image Award. Her books for young readers include *Before the Ever After* (Coretta Scott King Award, NAACP Image Award); *Feathers*, *Show Way*, and *After Tupac and D Foster* (Newbery Honor Books); *The Year We Learned to Fly*, *The Day You Begin*, and *Harbor Me* (NYT bestsellers); and the picture book *Each Kindness* (Jane Addams Children's Book Award).

PHOTO CREDIT: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

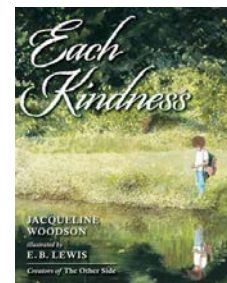
More from Jacqueline Woodson



The Day You Begin ^{SP}
Jacqueline Woodson
(4.0, LG, 980L)



**The Year We Learned
to Fly**
Jacqueline Woodson



Each Kindness
Jacqueline Woodson
(3.4, LG, 530L)



Brown Girl Dreaming ^{NF}
Jacqueline Woodson
(5.3, MG, 990L)



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Author Essayists

What Do Reading and Writing Mean to You in 2022?



Yangsook Choi

author of *The Name Jar*,
published by Dragonfly Books

Yangsook Choi grew up in Korea. She started drawing at age four and loved telling her grandma scary stories. After moving to New York to pursue her art, she has written and illustrated many books for young readers. Her books have been acclaimed as “Best of the Best” by the Chicago Public Library, included on the American Library Association Notable Books List, and have received the International Reading Association’s Children’s Book Award. Her past jobs include waiting tables at a Korean BBQ restaurant, flying as a flight attendant, handwriting a message on a life preserver, and drawing tiny pictures on fake nails.

Essay, p. 45



Francisco X. Stork

author of *Marcelo in the Real World*,
published by Scholastic

Francisco X. Stork emigrated from Mexico at the age of nine with his mother and adoptive father. He is the author of nine novels, including *Marcelo in the Real World* (Schneider Family Book Award), *The Last Summer of the Death Warriors* (Elizabeth Walden Award), *The Memory of Light* (Tomás Rivera Award), *Disappeared* (Young Adult Award from the Texas Institute of Letters, Walter Dean Myers Award Honor Book), and *Illegal* (In the Margins Award, Young Adult Award from the Texas Institute of Letters, International Latino Book Award). *On the Hook*, published in May 2021, has received starred reviews from Booklist, Kirkus, and Publisher’s Weekly.

Essay, p. 47



Dr. Padma Venkatraman

author of *A Time to Dance*,
published by Nancy Paulsen Books

Padma Venkatraman is the author of *Born Behind Bars* (Parents Magazine Book Club Pick, 100scopenotes Top 5 2021 Book), *The Bridge Home*, *A Time to Dance*, *Island’s End*, and *Climbing the Stairs*. Her books have been released to starred reviews, won multiple awards (e.g., Walter Award, Golden Kite, South Asia Book Award), secured numerous honors (e.g., ALA Notable, Boston Globe, SLJ, Kirkus, ALA Booklist Best Book), and been shortlisted for several state and international awards. Before becoming an author, Venkatraman was an oceanographer and diversity director. Visit her on www.padmavenkatraman.com, twitter (@padmatv), or Ig/Fb (venkatraman.padma).

Essay, p. 49

Introduction

Access Granted: How Reading Unlocks the Door to Unlimited Possibilities

By Dr. Kymyona Burk

Reading grants access to the world and allows us to explore a space and time beyond anything we can imagine. While reading fiction may boost imagination and creativity, nonfiction books may spark curiosity in learning more about the world around us and broaden our knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Prioritizing time to read for pleasure has given me a much-needed escape from the anxiety that may come from discussing world events that span from the pandemic to politics. I have enjoyed book discussions with my teenage daughter who has taught me that “judging a book by its cover” is sometimes what piques her interest the most.

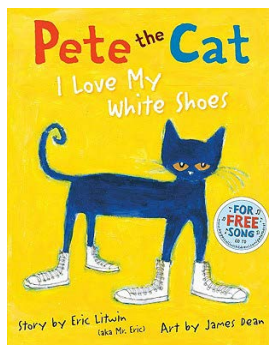
Books have never been more accessible than they are today. Visiting the local library or bookstore is still a treasured option by some, but we now have alternatives such as purchasing books from online bookstores, downloading digital copies, and even listening to our favorite text being read aloud through audiobooks. This year's *What Kids Are Reading* highlights not only *what* kids are reading, but also *how* they are reading. In some grades, students were five times more likely to read books digitally than in print!

My work and passion for supporting the effective implementation of early literacy policies is to ensure that all students have the support needed to become skilled readers and to remove any barriers to experiencing the joy of reading. This is why I am excited to see that the first list in *What Kids Are Reading: 2022 Edition* is a list of decodable books that can be used to support our youngest learners as they begin their reading journey. As children grow as readers and as individuals, it is important for them to find engaging books that they can connect with and that motivate them to read. The report shows

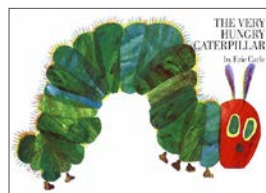
The implications of being a skilled reader go far beyond the classroom. Sometimes, it only takes one character, one book, or one shared experience to change the trajectory of a child's life.

Dr. Burk's Picks

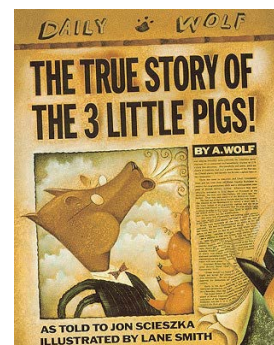
Dr. Burk underscores the importance of connection and motivation in keeping readers engaged and recommends titles like these to help students find joy in reading.



Pete the Cat Series
James Dean
(1.5, LG, 460L)



The Very Hungry Caterpillar SP
Eric Carle
(2.9, LG, 460L)



The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs SP
Jon Scieszka
(3.0, LG, 510L)

that students continued to read classic series such as *Pete the Cat*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and *Hunger Games*. Other selections included for students to explore are books with diversity, equity, and inclusion themes and those that celebrate individuality, self-love, and social and emotional health such as *Hair Love*, *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*, and *Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts*. Another unique feature of *What Kids Are Reading* is the list of “new and now” books that students read first in Fall 2021. With these fresh titles included for each grade, educators can share a broader range of options with students for choosing their next book.

What does it take to keep kids reading? As a former middle and high school English teacher, each year I chose books for my students that not only strengthened their content knowledge, but also built their vocabulary and background knowledge. It was also important that the books included characters that represented their experiences and topics that were relevant and connected with what was happening in our communities and in the world. To keep kids reading, educators must also allow students to choose books that are interesting and engaging to them.

The implications of being a skilled reader go far beyond the classroom. Sometimes, it only takes one character, one book, or one shared experience to change the trajectory of a child’s life.

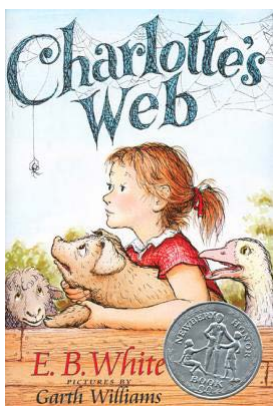


Dr. Kymyona Burk

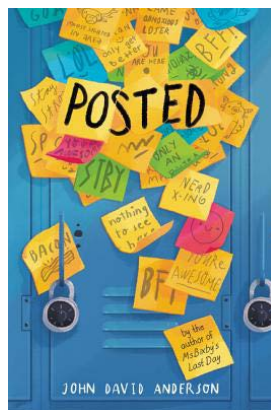
Senior Policy Fellow at ExcelinEd

Kymyona Burk is a Senior Policy Fellow at ExcelinEd. In this role, she supports states pursuing a comprehensive approach to K–3 reading policy by assisting state leaders in building new or improving existing K–3 reading policies, with a heavy focus on supporting successful policy implementation. Burk recently served as the State Literacy Director at the Mississippi Department of Education, where she led the implementation of Mississippi’s Literacy-Based Promotion Act. She began her career as an elementary reading teacher and has also taught middle and high school English. At Jackson State University, she earned a B.A. in Political Science, M.A. in Teaching English, M.S. in Education Administration and Supervision, and Ed.D. in Early Childhood Education.

PHOTO CREDIT: ImageInfinityPhotog.com



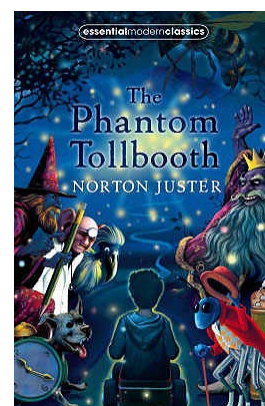
Charlotte’s Web ^{SP}
E.B. White
(4.4, MG, 680L)



Posted
John David Anderson
(5.1, MG, 750L)



Masterminds
Gordon Korman
(5.2, MG, 730L)



The Phantom Tollbooth ^{SP}
Norton Juster
(6.7, MG, 1000L)



Grades K-2

In the early grades, enthusiasm for reading runs high as letters shift from merely fun shapes to specific sounds that, when strung together, form words and meaning. Consider these five titles to support your new readers' decoding practice and foster their sense of wonder at this newly attained skill:

Highly Decodable

- **Stick and Stone**
Beth Ferry (1.2, LG, 250L)
- **They All Saw A Cat**
Brendan Wenzel (1.9, LG, 310L)
- **The Word Collector**
Peter H. Reynolds (2.4, LG, 490L)
- **Most Marshmallows**
Rowboat Watkins (2.4, LG, 310L)
- **Do Not Bring Your Dragon to the Library** ^{SP}
Julie Gassman (2.6, LG, 560L)

Signature Books, State by State

Of the top 100 books read in Grades K–2, covers shown in the map represent signature books where reading popularity in the state was in greatest contrast to the book's nationwide ranking.



Source: Accelerated Reader, 2020–2021 school year

What Are Kids Reading?

Cultivate students' newfound reading delight with lists for Grades K–2 of New and Now Reads; Top Print Titles; Popular Digital Books; Authentic Spanish Titles; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes; and Social and Emotional Learning Topics. As you examine these

books, note the readability information included for each title including ATOS level, interest level, and Lexile measure, as well as nonfiction and Spanish tags. To learn more about the data that tells us what kids are reading, see *About the Report*, p. 43.

Grade K

During the 2020–2021 school year, 119,886 kindergarteners read about 24 print books and 9,510 words each. Overall, 50% of these books were read to kids, 21% were read with kids, and 29% were read independently. Over 360,000 kindergartners spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Pete the Kitty and the Unicorn's Missing Colors**
Kimberly Dean (1.4, LG, 440L)
- **Fly Guy & Fly Girl: Night Fright**
Tedd Arnold (1.7, LG, 440L)
- **Homes NF**
Daniel Nunn (1.3, LG, 220L)
- **Frog Meets Dog SP**
Janeé Trasler (0.6, LG, 50L)
- **Stop! Bot!**
James Yang (1.0, LG, 250L)

Top Print Titles

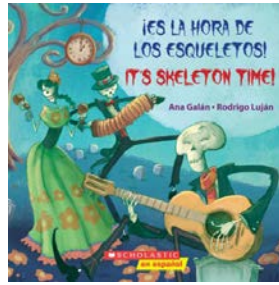
- 1 **Biscuit Series SP**
Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.7–1.6, LG, 140L–500L)
- 2 **Dr. Seuss Collection SP**
Dr. Seuss (0.6–5.2, LG, 180L–1000L)
- 3 **The Very Hungry Caterpillar SP**
Eric Carle (2.9, LG, 460L)
- 4 **Pete the Cat Series**
James Dean (1.2–4.3, LG, 160L–640L)
- 5 **The Pigeon Series SP**
Mo Willems (0.7–1.5, LG, 280L–470L)
- 6 **David Series SP**
David Shannon (0.9, LG, 210L)
- 7 **Elephant and Piggie Series SP**
Mo Willems (0.5–1.4, LG, 40L–330L)
- 8 **Big Egg**
Molly Coxe (0.4, LG, 220L)
- 9 **Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox SP**
Grace Maccarone (0.7, LG, 280L)
- 10 **Jump, Pup! NF SP**
Susan B. Neuman (0.5, LG)

Popular Digital Books

- 1 **Christmas Chaos: Hidden Picture Puzzles NF**
Jill Kalz
- 2 **Dogs NF**
Lisa J. Amstutz (0.9, LG, 280L)
- 3 **Megalodon NF**
Janet Riehecky (1.6, LG, 450L)
- 4 **First Day, No Way!**
Lori Mortensen (1.9, LG, 170L)
- 5 **Katie Goes Camping**
Fran Manushkin (1.8, LG, 240L)
- 6 **Cats NF**
Lisa J. Amstutz (1.0, LG, 300L)
- 7 **Little Lizard's First Day**
Melinda Melton Crow (0.9, LG, 10L)
- 8 **This Is Spiderman**
Marvel Press (110L)
- 9 **Part of Their World**
Disney Book Group (470L)
- 10 **These Are The Avengers**
Marvel Press (150L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

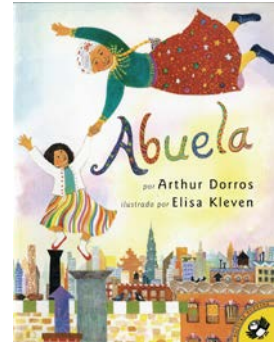
Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



¡Es la hora de los esqueletos! **SP**
Ana Galán
(1.1, LG, 430L)



Alma y cómo obtuvo su nombre **SP**
Juana Martínez-Neal
(1.9, LG, 480L)



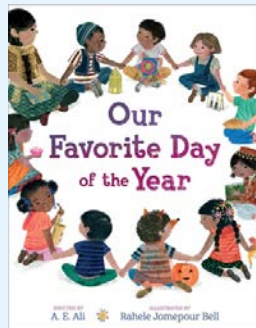
Abuela **SP**
Arthur Dorros
(2.5, LG, 510L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



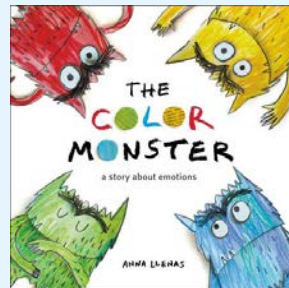
Your Name Is a Song
Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
(2.5, LG)



Our Favorite Day of the Year
A.E. Ali (3.6, LG, 580L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



The Color Monster **NF**
Anna Llenas (2.1, LG)



Niko Draws a Feeling **SP**
Bob Raczka (2.6, LG, 530L)



A Storied 35 Years

Judi Paul, creator of Accelerated Reader, speaks to Renaissance employees past and present to discuss its continued impact on student learning.

Grade 1

During the 2020–2021 school year, 474,446 first graders read about 40 print books and 29,578 words each. Overall, 26% of these books were read to kids, 16% were read with kids, and 58% were read independently. Nearly 400,000 first graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Pete the Cat: Super Pete**
Kimberly Dean (1.9, LG, 420L)
- **The Little Butterfly That Could** ^{SP}
Ross Burach (1.9, LG, 360L)
- **How to Catch a Yeti**
Adam Wallace (1.9, LG, 510L)
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** ^{NF}
Clara Cella (1.9, LG, 570L)
- **What About Worms!?**
Ryan Higgins (1.6, LG, 310L)

Top Print Titles

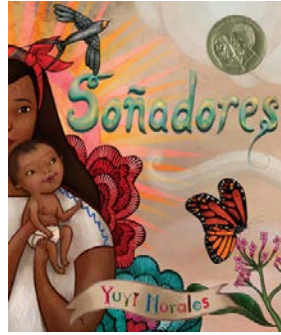
- 1 **Dr. Seuss Collection** ^{SP}
Dr. Seuss (0.6–5.2, LG, 180L–1000L)
- 2 **Pete the Cat Series**
James Dean (1.2–4.3, LG, 160L–640L)
- 3 **Fly Guy Series** ^{SP}
Tedd Arnold (1.2–2.7, LG, 270L–530L)
- 4 **Biscuit Series** ^{SP}
Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.7–1.6, LG, 140L–500L)
- 5 **Elephant and Piggie Series** ^{SP}
Mo Willems (0.5–1.4, LG, 40L–330L)
- 6 **The Pigeon Series** ^{SP}
Mo Willems (0.7–1.5, LG, 280L–470L)
- 7 **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** ^{SP}
Eric Carle (2.9, LG, 460L)
- 8 **There Was an Old Lady... Series** ^{SP}
Lucille Colandro (2.1–3.8, LG, 240L–540L)
- 9 **David Series** ^{SP}
David Shannon (0.9, LG, 210L)
- 10 **Click, Clack... Series** ^{SP}
Doreen Cronin (1.0–2.7, LG, 290L–490L)

Popular Digital Books

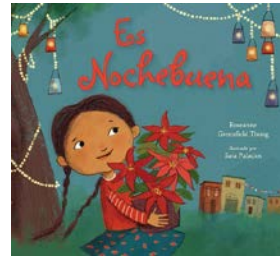
- 1 **Harrison P. Spader, Personal Space Invader**
Christianne C. Jones (3.4, LG, 580L)
- 2 **A Nervous Night**
Fran Manushkin (2.3, LG, 400L)
- 3 **No More Teasing**
Fran Manushkin (2.2, LG, 400L)
- 4 **Cat Behavior** ^{NF}
Christina Mia Gardeski (2.1, LG, 530L)
- 5 **Bus Ride Bully**
Cari Meister (1.8, LG, 230L)
- 6 **I Know Sasquatch**
Jess Bradley (2.3, LG, 530L)
- 7 **The Lost Lunch**
Lori Mortensen (1.8, LG, 140L)
- 8 **Beauty and the Beast**
Disney Book Group
- 9 **Tom and Jerry: Babysitting Laughs**
Annie Auerbach (540L)
- 10 **Scooby-Doo: Chocolate Phantom**
Victoria Selover (350L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Soñadores **NF SP**
Yuyi Morales
(2.7, LG, 260L)



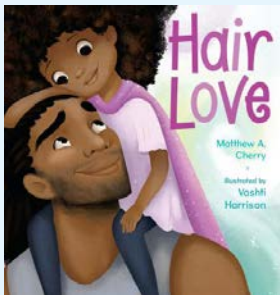
Es Nochebuena **SP**
Roseanne Greenfield
Thong (3.2, LG, 1120L)



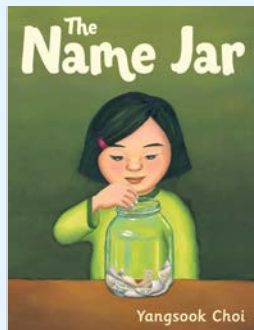
Última parada de la Calle Market **SP**
Matt de la Peña (3.4, LG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

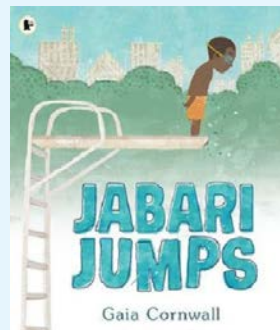
Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



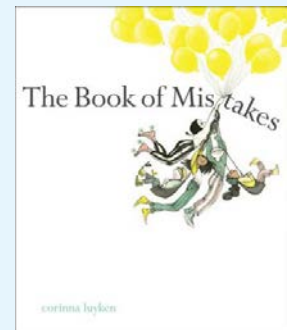
Hair Love
Matthew A. Cherry
(2.1, LG, 480L)



The Name Jar
Yangsook Choi
(3.1, LG, 590L)



Jabari Jumps
Gaia Cornwall
(2.3, LG, 490L)



The Book of Mistakes
Corinna Luyken
(2.4, LG, 520L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



How a Quiz Is Made

Ever wondered how we choose the books that receive an Accelerated Reader Quiz, and what the quiz-writing process entails?

Grade 2

During the 2020–2021 school year, 668,377 second graders read about 47 print books and 67,419 words each. Overall, 18% of these books were read to kids, 9% were read with kids, and 73% were read independently. Nearly 400,000 second graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Cat Kid Comic Club**
Dav Pilkey (2.9, MG, 520L)
- **Superbuns! Kindness Is Her Superpower**
Diane Kredensor (2.5, LG, 530L)
- **T-Bone the Drone**
Shandra McCloskey (2.1, LG, 480L)
- **I Am Perfectly Designed**
Karamo Brown (2.2, LG)
- **Mae Jemison: Doctor, Scientist, and Astronaut** **NF**
Rachel Rose (2.1, LG, 460L)

Top Print Titles

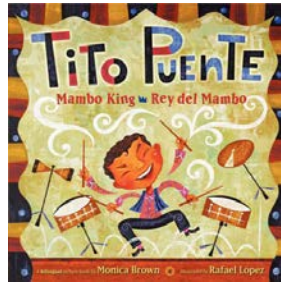
- 1 **Dr. Seuss Collection** **SP**
Dr. Seuss (0.6–5.2, LG, 180L–1000L)
- 2 **The Bad Seed**
Jory John (2.0, LG, 390L)
- 3 **The Very Hungry Caterpillar** **SP**
Eric Carle (2.9, LG, 460L)
- 4 **Click, Clack... Series** **SP**
Doreen Cronin (1.0–2.7, LG, 290L–490L)
- 5 **If You Give... Series** **SP**
Laura Numeroff (1.0–2.7, LG, 170L–590L)
- 6 **Pete the Cat Series**
James Dean (1.2–4.3, LG, 160L–640L)
- 7 **There Was an Old Lady... Series** **SP**
Lucille Colandro (2.1–3.8, LG, 240L–540L)
- 8 **A Bad Case of Stripes** **SP**
David Shannon (3.8, LG, 610L)
- 9 **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs** **SP**
Jon Scieszka (3.0, LG, 510L)
- 10 **Dog Man Series** **SP**
Dav Pilkey (2.3–2.7, LG, 280L–390L)

Popular Digital Books

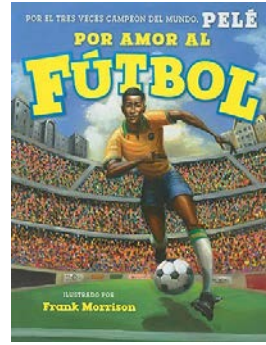
- 1 **Zeke Meeks vs the Horrifying TV-Turnoff Week**
D.L. Green (3.3, LG, 490L)
- 2 **The Amazing Life of Azaleah Lane**
Nikki Shannon Smith (3.5, LG, 610L)
- 3 **Trust Me, Hansel and Gretel Are Sweet!** **NF**
Nancy Loewen (3.0, LG, 580L)
- 4 **Germs!**
Alan MacDonald (3.1, LG, 460L)
- 5 **Pacho Nacho**
Silvia López (3.1, LG, 530L)
- 6 **Monster Maze!: A Monster Truck Myth**
Blake Hoena (3.8, LG, 660L)
- 7 **Zoo Hideout: Hidden Picture Puzzles** **NF**
Jill Kalz
- 8 **Coco**
Disney Book Group (550L)
- 9 **Cinderella: A Favorite Story in Rhythm and Rhyme**
Susan Sandvig Walker (2.7, LG, 400L)
- 10 **Ariel's Royal Wedding**
Disney Book Group (660L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Tito Puente, rey del mambo **NF SP**
Monica Brown
(3.7, LG, 760L)



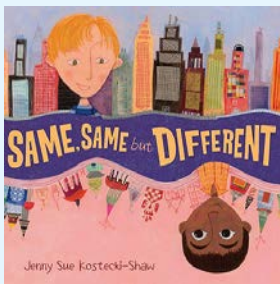
Por amor al fútbol **NF SP**
Pelé (3.7, LG)



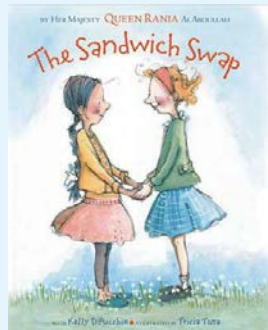
Chumba la cachumba **SP**
Elena Iribarren
(3.8, LG, 980L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



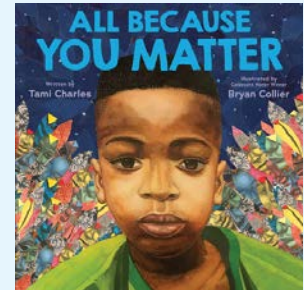
Same, Same but Different
Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
(1.9, LG, 460L)



The Sandwich Swap
Queen Rania Al Abdullah
(2.9, LG, 570L)



The Magical Yet
Angela DiTerlizzi (3.2, LG)



All Because You Matter
Tami Charles
(3.9, LG, 810L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Create a Custom Report

Use *What Kids Are Reading* data to create custom lists for individual students or groups. Filter by state, grade, reading level, and more.



Grades 3–5

Readers in the upper elementary grades are learning new vocabulary and developing greater automaticity, while connecting deeply with characters, authors, and topics, all of which help them to extract further meaning from text. Consider these five titles to support students' vocabulary practice and continue building excitement around reading:

Vocabulary Practice

- **A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee**
Chris Van Dusen (3.8, LG)
- **Gooney Bird and the Room Mother**
Lois Lowry (3.8, LG, 600L)
- **Giraffes Can't Dance** ^{SP}
Giles Andreae (3.8, LG, 570L)
- **A Ticket Around the World** ^{NF}
Natalia Diaz (5.3, LG, 840L)
- **Miss Alaineus: A Vocabulary Disaster**
Debra Frasier (5.3, LG, 820L)

Signature Books, State by State

Of the top 100 books read in Grades 3–5, covers shown in the map represent signature books where reading popularity in the state was in greatest contrast to the book's nationwide ranking.



Source: Accelerated Reader, 2020–2021 school year

What Are Kids Reading?

Cement students' strong reading foundation with lists for Grades 3–5 of New and Now Reads; Top Print Titles; Popular Digital Books; Authentic Spanish Titles; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes; and Social and Emotional Learning Topics. As you examine these

books, note the readability information included for each title including ATOS level, interest level, and Lexile measure, as well as nonfiction and Spanish tags. To learn more about the data that tells us what kids are reading, see *About the Report*, p. 43.

Grade 3

During the 2020–2021 school year, 743,718 third graders read about 39 print books and 140,557 words each. Over 400,000 third graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **The Couch Potato**
Jory John (2.8, LG, 550L)
- **Pig the Slob**
Aaron Blabey (2.7, LG, 640L)
- **I Survived: The Nazi Invasion, 1944 (Graphic Novel)**
Lauren Tarshis (3.3, MG, 520L)
- **The World Needs More Purple People**
Kristen Bell (3.0, LG, 520L)
- **All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything** **NF**
Annette Pimentel (3.9, LG, 680L)

Top Print Titles

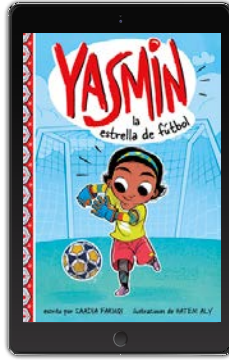
- 1 **Charlotte's Web** **SP**
E.B. White (4.4, MG, 680L)
- 2 **Dog Man Series** **SP**
Dav Pilkey (2.3–2.7, LG, 280L–390L)
- 3 **Because of Winn–Dixie** **SP**
Kate DiCamillo (3.9, MG, 670L)
- 4 **I Need My Monster Series**
Amanda Noll (2.6–3.2, LG, 530L–600L)
- 5 **Harry the Dirty Dog** **SP**
Gene Zion (3.1, LG, 520L)
- 6 **A Bad Case of Stripes** **SP**
David Shannon (3.8, LG, 610L)
- 7 **The One and Only Ivan** **SP**
Katherine Applegate (3.6, MG, 570L)
- 8 **The Bad Seed**
Jory John (2.0, LG, 390L)
- 9 **The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs** **SP**
Jon Scieszka (3.0, LG, 510L)
- 10 **Scaredy Squirrel Series** **SP**
Mélanie Watt (3.0–3.6, LG, 580L–680L)

Popular Digital Books

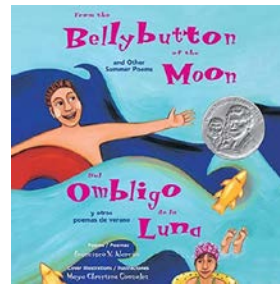
- 1 **Zeke Meeks vs. the No-Fun Fund-Raiser**
D.L. Green (3.3, LG, 520L)
- 2 **Sugar Hero**
Michael Dahl (2.0, LG, 520L)
- 3 **Night of the Homework Zombies**
Scott Nickel (2.3, LG, 350L)
- 4 **Cool Crosby**
Shelley Swanson Saterén (3.4, LG, 600L)
- 5 **Fangs!**
Alan MacDonald (3.1, LG, 420L)
- 6 **Really, Rapunzel Needed a Haircut!: The Story of Rapunzel as Told by Dame Gothel** **NF**
Jessica Gunderson (2.8, LG, 480L)
- 7 **The Boy Who Was It: And Other Scary Tales**
Michael Dahl (3.7, LG, 510L)
- 8 **Ariel's Dolphin Adventure**
Disney Book Group
- 9 **The Story of Iron Man**
Catherine Hapka (2.0, LG, 400L)
- 10 **My Father's Dragon**
Ruth Stiles Gannett (5.6, LG, 990L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Yasmin la estrella de fútbol **SP**
Saadia Faruqi
(2.9, LG, 370L)



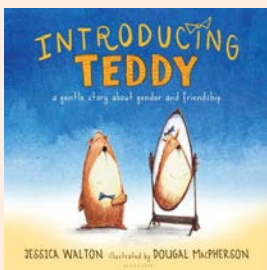
Del ombligo de la Luna y otros poemas de verano **SP**
Francisco X. Alarcón
(3.5, LG)



Pasando páginas: La historia de mi vida **NF SP**
Sonia Sotomayor
(6.0, LG, 940L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story About Gender and Friendship
Jessica Walton (2.1, LG)



Mariah Finds a Way
Teens of Reach Incorporated (600L)



Sulwe
Lupita Nyong'o
(3.4, LG, 580L)



Because of Mr. Terupt
Bob Buyea (3.7, MG, 560L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Reading at Home

With only so much time in the school day, these effective, research-driven tips help support reading at home and on the go.

Grade 4

During the 2020–2021 school year, 734,692 fourth graders read about 29 print books and 216,806 words each. Over 500,000 fourth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **I Survived: The California Wildfires, 2018**
Lauren Tarshis (4.5, MG, 610L)
- **The Last Kids on Earth and the Skeleton Road**
Max Brallier (4.4, MG, 630L)
- **Act**
Kayla Miller (3.8, MG, 540L)
- **Beautiful Shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring** **NF**
Nancy Churnin (4.8, LG, 940L)
- **Three Keys**
Kelly Yang (4.8, MG, 710L)

Top Print Titles

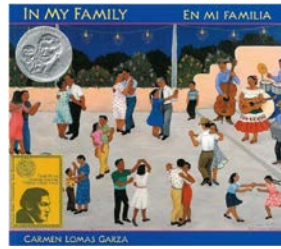
- 1 **Fudge Series**
Judy Blume (3.3–3.6, LG/MG, 470L–560L)
- 2 **Because of Winn–Dixie** **SP**
Kate DiCamillo (3.9, MG, 670L)
- 3 **Dog Man Series** **SP**
Dav Pilkey (2.3–2.7, LG, 280L–390L)
- 4 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series** **SP**
Jeff Kinney (5.2–6.5, MG, 910L–1060L)
- 5 **The One and Only Ivan** **SP**
Katherine Applegate (3.6, MG, 570L)
- 6 **Frindle** **SP**
Andrew Clements (5.4, MG, 830L)
- 7 **Wonder Series** **SP**
R.J. Palacio (3.5–4.8, MG, 370L–790L)
- 8 **A Bad Case of Stripes** **SP**
David Shannon (3.8, LG, 610L)
- 9 **Holes** **SP**
Louis Sachar (4.2–4.7, MG, 660L–690L)
- 10 **I Need My Monster Series**
Amanda Noll (2.6–3.2, LG)

Popular Digital Books

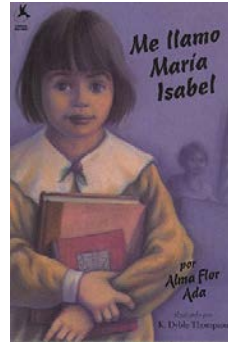
- 1 **Zeke Meeks vs. the Big Blah-rific Birthday**
D.L. Green (3.4, LG, 510L)
- 2 **Attack of the Mutant Lunch Lady: A Buzz Beaker Brainstorm**
Scott Nickel (2.7, LG, 370L)
- 3 **Longboard Letdown**
Jake Maddox (3.4, MG, 510L)
- 4 **Alice, Secret Agent of Wonderland: A Graphic Novel**
Katie Schenkel (2.8, MG, 320L)
- 5 **Invasion of the Gym Class Zombies**
Scott Nickel (2.6, LG, 300L)
- 6 **Paintball Punk**
Sean Tulien (2.5, MG, 520L)
- 7 **Zeke Meeks vs. the Gruesome Girls**
D.L. Green (3.1, LG, 570L)
- 8 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**
Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG, 950L)
- 9 **Darth Paper Strikes Back: An Origami Yoda Book**
Tom Angleberger (4.6, MG, 720L)
- 10 **Strange Case of Origami Yoda**
Tom Angleberger (4.7, MG, 760L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



En mi familia **NF SP**
Carmen Lomas Garza
(4.7, MG)



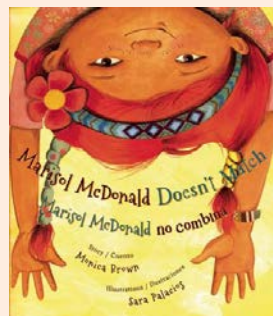
Me llamo María Isabel **SP**
Alma Flor Ada (4.9, LG)



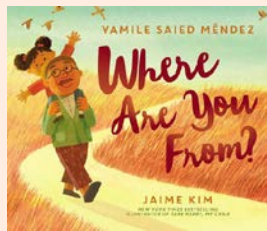
Con cariño, Amalia **SP**
Alma Flor Ada (5.8, LG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



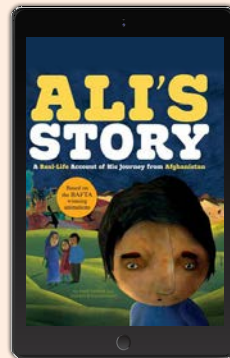
Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match **SP**
Monica Brown
(2.8, LG, 580L)



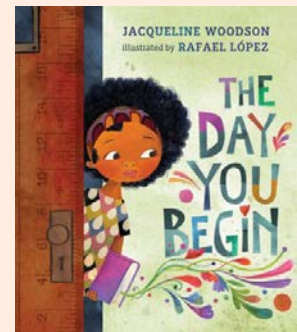
Where Are You From?
Yamile Saied Méndez
(3.0, LG, 640L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Ali's Story: A Real-Life Account of His Journey from Afghanistan **NF**
Andy Glynn (3.0, LG, 550L)



The Day You Begin **SP**
Jacqueline Woodson
(4.0, LG, 980L)



Best of Both Worlds

To keep readers engaged during the pandemic, educators at a Texas elementary school have paired myON with Accelerated Reader to allow easy access to books.

Grade 5

During the 2020–2021 school year, 691,487 fifth graders read about 21 print books and 276,426 words each. Over 425,000 fifth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Ground Zero**
Alan Gratz (4.8, MG, 690L)
- **Who Was Kobe Bryant?** **NF**
Ellen Labrecque (5.7, MG, 910L)
- **Spy School Revolution**
Stuart Gibbs (5.9, MG, 820L)
- **Out of Hiding: A Holocaust Survivor's Journey to America** **NF**
Ruth Gruener (5.7, MG, 840L)
- **War Stories**
Gordon Korman (5.7, MG, 770L)

Top Print Titles

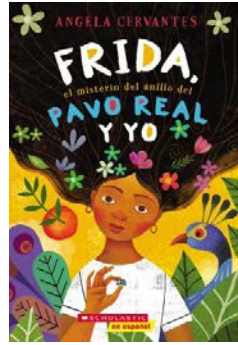
- 1 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series** **SP**
Jeff Kinney (5.2–6.5, MG, 910L–1060L)
- 2 **Wonder Series** **SP**
R.J. Palacio (3.5–4.8, MG, 370L–790L)
- 3 **Number the Stars** **SP**
Lois Lowry (4.5, MG, 670L)
- 4 **Brian's Saga Series** **SP**
Gary Paulsen (5.5–5.9, MG/MG+, 960L–1140L)
- 5 **Esperanza Rising** **SP**
Pam Muñoz Ryan (5.3, MG, 750L)
- 6 **Holes** **SP**
Louis Sachar (4.2–4.7, MG, 660L–690L)
- 7 **Dog Man Series** **SP**
Dav Pilkey (2.3–2.7, LG, 280L–390L)
- 8 **Chronicles of Narnia Series** **SP**
C.S. Lewis (2.8–5.9, LG/MG, 790L–970L)
- 9 **Frindle** **SP**
Andrew Clements (5.4, MG, 830L)
- 10 **Tuck Everlasting** **SP**
Natalie Babbitt (5.0, MG, 770L)

Popular Digital Books

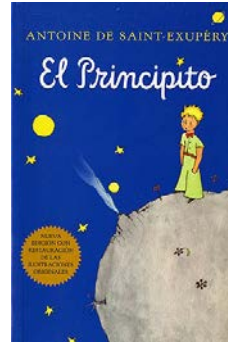
- 1 **Ann Fights for Freedom: An Underground Railroad Survival Story**
Nikki Shannon Smith (4.0, MG, 600L)
- 2 **Have a Hot Time, Hades!**
Kate McMullan (3.8, MG, 610L)
- 3 **Say Cheese, Medusa!**
Kate McMullan (3.8, MG, 540L)
- 4 **The Evil Echo**
Michael Dahl (2.2, LG, 210L)
- 5 **Snow White and the Seven Robots: A Graphic Novel**
Louise Simonson (3.2, MG, 310L)
- 6 **Haunted Objects From Around the World** **NF**
Megan Cooley Peterson (4.8, MG, 710L)
- 7 **Emmi in the City: A Great Chicago Fire Survival Story**
Salima Ali Khan (4.3, MG, 640L)
- 8 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever**
Jeff Kinney (5.8, MG, 1060L)
- 9 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School**
Jeff Kinney (5.6, MG, 1020L)
- 10 **The Terrible Two**
Mac Barnett (4.5, MG, 620L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Frida, el misterio del anillo del pavo real y yo **SP**
Angela Cervantes
(4.0, MG, 670L)



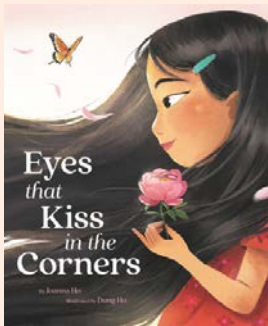
El principito **SP**
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
(5.0, MG, 530L)



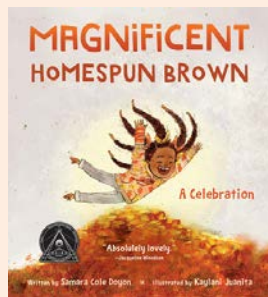
La casa imaginaria **SP**
Pilar Mateos (5.2, MG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



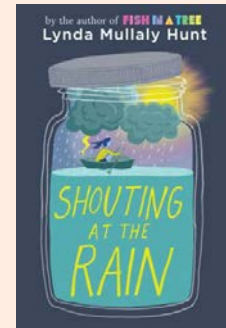
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners
Johanna Ho
(3.7, LG, 610L)



Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration
Samara Cole Doyon
(5.4, LG, 1100L)



What's the Matter with Jayden Jackson?
Charley Pickle
(2.8, MG, 520L)



Shouting at the Rain
Lynda Mullaly Hunt
(3.7, MG, 560L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Create a Custom Report

Use *What Kids Are Reading* data to create custom lists for individual students or groups. Filter by state, grade, reading level, and more.



Grades 6–8

In middle school, readers are tackling longer novels and informational texts. Reading volume can peak early but may shift downward as grade-level expectations rise. Middle schoolers should read broadly, in all subjects, to learn about the wider world and develop empathy for others. Consider these five titles to support your students' background knowledge development and fuel their reading stamina:

Background Knowledge Builders

- **We Dream of Space**
Erin Entrada Kelly (4.6, MG)
- **Inside Out & Back Again**
Thanh Hà Lạ (4.8, MG, 800L)
- **The Seventh Most Important Thing**
Shelley Pearsall (5.1, MG, 760L)
- **The Color of My Words** ^{SP}
Lynn Joseph (5.1, MG, 840L)
- **Red Cloud: A Lakota Story of War and Surrender** ^{NF}
S.D. Nelson (5.7, MG, 880L)

Signature Books, State by State

Of the top 100 books read in Grades 6–8, covers shown in the map represent signature books where reading popularity in the state was in greatest contrast to the book's nationwide ranking.



Source: Accelerated Reader, 2020–2021 school year

What Are Kids Reading?

Reignite students' desire to read with lists for Grades 6–8 of New and Now Reads; Top Print Titles; Popular Digital Books; Authentic Spanish Titles; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes; and Social and Emotional Learning Topics. As you examine these

books, note the readability information included for each title including ATOS level, interest level, and Lexile measure, as well as nonfiction and Spanish tags. To learn more about the data that tells us what kids are reading, see *About the Report*, p. 43.

Grade 6

During the 2020–2021 school year, 424,112 sixth graders read about 13 print books and 301,780 words each. Over 325,000 sixth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **When Stars Are Scattered** **NF**
Victoria Jamieson (3.7, MG, 530L)
- **Trapped in Hitler's Web**
Marsha Skrypuch (5.6, MG, 850L)
- **Allergic**
Megan Lloyd (2.5, MG, 230L)
- **Becoming Muhammad Ali**
James Patterson (5.4, MG, 1010L)
- **Keep It Together, Keiko Carter**
Debbi Michiko Florance (3.8, MG, 560L)

Top Print Titles

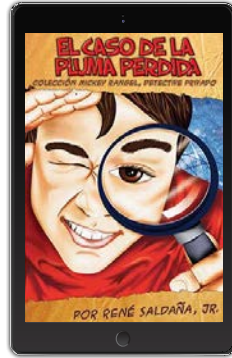
- 1 **Brian's Saga Series** **SP**
Gary Paulsen (5.5–5.9, MG/MG+, 960L–1140L)
- 2 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series** **SP**
Jeff Kinney (5.2–6.5, MG, 910L–1060L)
- 3 **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series** **SP**
Rick Riordan (4.1–4.7, MG, 590L–790L)
- 4 **Number the Stars** **SP**
Lois Lowry (4.5, MG, 670L)
- 5 **Freak the Mighty Series**
Rodman Philbrick (5.0–5.5, MG/UG, 870L–930L)
- 6 **Wonder Series** **SP**
R.J. Palacio (3.5–4.8, MG, 370L–790L)
- 7 **Tuck Everlasting** **SP**
Natalie Babbitt (5.0, MG, 770L)
- 8 **Bud, Not Buddy** **SP**
Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0, MG, 950L)
- 9 **Harry Potter Series** **SP**
J.K. Rowling (3.9–8.8, MG/MG+, 500L–1230L)
- 10 **Holes** **SP**
Louis Sachar (4.2–4.7, MG, 660L–690L)

Popular Digital Books

- 1 **The Grin in the Dark**
J.A. Darke (4.3, MG, 700L)
- 2 **Get to Work, Hercules!**
Kate McMullan (3.7, MG, 530L)
- 3 **Do Not Watch**
J.A. Darke (4.8, MG, 710L)
- 4 **Jellaby: Monster in the City**
Kean Soo (2.0, MG, 560L)
- 5 **Ninja-rella: A Graphic Novel**
Joey Comeau (3.0, MG, 530L)
- 6 **Noelle at Sea: A Titanic Survival Story**
Nikki Shannon Smith (4.1, MG, 590L)
- 7 **Jellaby**
Kean Soo (2.0, MG, 540L)
- 8 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Long Haul**
Jeff Kinney (5.4, MG, 1000L)
- 9 **Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes**
Jonathan Auxier (5.7, MG, 790L)
- 10 **The Terrible Two Get Worse**
Mac Barnett (4.5, MG, 650L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



El caso de la pluma perdida: Colección Mickey Rangel, detective privado SP
René Saldaña Jr.
(4.9, MG, 710L)



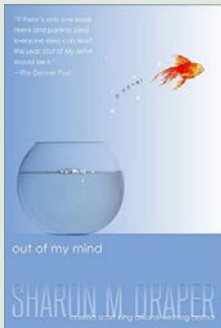
El príncipe de la niebla SP
Carlos Ruiz Zafón
(4.9, MG)



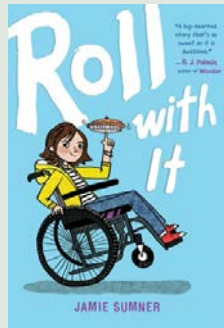
El único destino SP
Alexandra Diaz
(5.2, MG, 790L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



Out of My Mind
Sharon M. Draper
(4.3, MG, 700L)



Roll With It
Jamie Sumner
(4.6, MG, 740L)



Fish in a Tree SP
Lynda Mullaly Hunt
(3.7, MG, 550L)



What to Say Next
Julie Buxbaum
(5.2, UG, 760L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Access Spells Success

Learn how a district in California is using myON to provide all students—including English Learners—with anytime, anywhere access to engaging books.

Grade 7

During the 2020–2021 school year, 276,799 seventh graders read about 9 print books and 292,431 words each. Over 280,000 seventh graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Class Act**
Jerry Craft (2.8, MG)
- **Prairie Lotus**
Linda Sue Park (5.2, MG, 730L)
- **Deepfake**
Sarah Littman (4.6, MG+, 710L)
- **Dress Coded**
Carrie Firestone (4.8, MG+, 760L)
- **Black Brother, Black Brother**
Jewell Parker Rhodes
(3.4, MG, 400L)

Top Print Titles

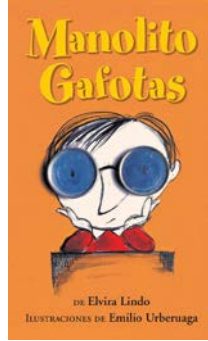
- 1 **The Outsiders** ^{SP}
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG, 750L)
- 2 **Giver Quartet** ^{SP}
Lois Lowry (4.9–5.7, MG/MG+, 680L–760L)
- 3 **Hunger Games Series** ^{SP}
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 4 **Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series** ^{SP}
Jeff Kinney (5.2–6.5, MG, 910L–1060L)
- 5 **A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story**
Linda Sue Park (5.0, MG+, 720L)
- 6 **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series** ^{SP}
Rick Riordan (4.1–4.7, MG, 590L–790L)
- 7 **Freak the Mighty Series**
Rodman Philbrick (5.0–5.5, MG/UG, 870L–930L)
- 8 **Harry Potter Series** ^{SP}
J.K. Rowling (3.9–8.8, MG/MG+, 500L–1230L)
- 9 **Wonder Series** ^{SP}
R.J. Palacio (3.5–4.8, MG, 370L–790L)
- 10 **Rikki-Tikki-Tavi**
Rudyard Kipling (5.0, LG, 810L)

Popular Digital Books

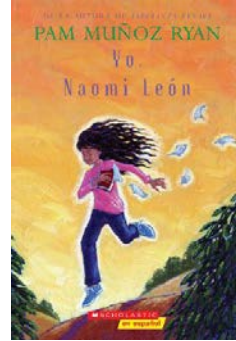
- 1 **Bone-Chilling Ghost Stories** ^{NF}
Jen Jones (4.8, MG, 760L)
- 2 **Nice Shot, Cupid!**
Kate McMullan (4.2, MG, 590L)
- 3 **Hansel & Gretel & Zombies: A Graphic Novel**
Benjamin Harper (2.8, MG, 560L)
- 4 **Peter Pan (Graphic Revolve)**
Blake Hoena (3.0, MG, 520L)
- 5 **Alice on the Island: A Pearl Harbor Survival Story**
Mayumi Shimose Poe (4.5, MG, 680L)
- 6 **Scooby-Doo! A Science of Sound Mystery: A Song for Zombies** ^{NF}
Megan Cooley Peterson (3.7, MG, 590L)
- 7 **Encountering Chupacabra and Other Cryptids: Eyewitness Accounts** ^{NF}
Megan Cooley Peterson (4.5, MG, 700L)
- 8 **The Call of the Wild**
Jack London (8.0, MG, 1010L)
- 9 **Because of Winn-Dixie**
Kate DiCamillo (3.9, MG, 670L)
- 10 **Every Soul A Star**
Wendy Mass (4.7, MG, 740L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Manolito Gafotas SP
Elvira Lindo
(5.3, MG, 970L)



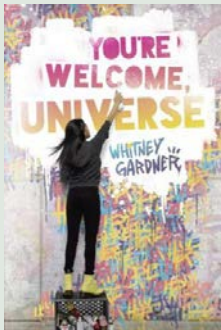
Yo, Naomi León SP
Pam Muñoz Ryan
(5.4, MG, 750L)



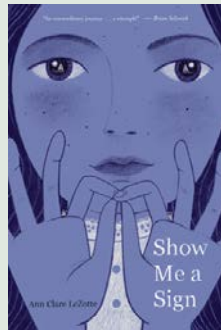
De cómo Tía Lola salvó el verano SP
Julia Alvarez
(5.8, MG, 880L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



You're Welcome, Universe
Whitney Gardner
(4.2, UG, 610L)



Show Me a Sign
Ann Clare LeZotte
(5.1, MG, 730L)



When You Trap a Tiger
Tae Keller (4.1, MG, 590L)



The Thing About Jellyfish
Ali Benjamin
(5.0, MG, 740L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Connection Is Key

By giving students a first taste of success, Accelerated Reader plays an important role in engaging struggling and reluctant readers.

Grade 8

During the 2020–2021 school year, 241,578 eighth graders read about 7 print books and 295,902 words each. Over 315,000 eighth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **The Inheritance Games**
Jennifer Barnes (4.7, UG, 640L)
- **Concrete Rose**
Angie Thomas (3.4, UG, 500L)
- **Clap When You Land**
Elizabeth Acevedo (5.3, UG, 800L)
- **Long Way Down (Graphic Novel)**
Jason Reynolds (3.3, UG, 630L)
- **All This Time**
Mikki Daughtry (4.9, UG, 730L)

Top Print Titles

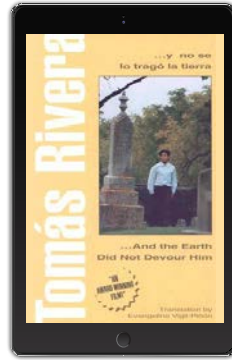
- 1 **The Outsiders** ^{SP}
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG, 750L)
- 2 **Giver Quartet** ^{SP}
Lois Lowry (4.9–5.7, MG/MG+, 680L–760L)
- 3 **The Tell–Tale Heart**
Edgar Allan Poe (7.3, UG, 1350L)
- 4 **Hunger Games Series** ^{SP}
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 5 **The Diary of Anne Frank**
Frances Goodrich (3.1, MG, 1020L)
- 6 **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** ^{SP}
John Boyne (5.8, UG, 1000L)
- 7 **To Kill a Mockingbird** ^{SP}
Harper Lee (5.6, UG, 790L)
- 8 **Harry Potter Series** ^{SP}
J.K. Rowling (3.9–8.8, MG/MG+, 500L–1230L)
- 9 **The Monkey's Paw**
W.W. Jacobs (6.5, UG, 420L)
- 10 **Percy Jackson and the Olympians Series** ^{SP}
Rick Riordan (4.1–4.7, MG, 590L–790L)

Popular Digital Books

- 1 **Haunting Urban Legends** ^{NF}
Megan Cooley Peterson (3.9, MG, 570L)
- 2 **A Christmas Carol (Graphic Revolve)**
Benjamin Harper (3.6, MG, 420L)
- 3 **Encountering Ghosts: Eyewitness Accounts** ^{NF}
Mari Bolte (3.9, MG, 630L)
- 4 **Fire and Ice: A Mermaid's Journey**
Julie Gilbert (3.4, MG, 490L)
- 5 **King of Pop: The Story of Michael Jackson** ^{NF}
Terry Collins (4.4, MG, 590L)
- 6 **Aladdin and the Magic Lamp**
Carl Bowen (2.8, MG, 340L)
- 7 **Point-Blank Paintball**
Scott Ciencin (2.9, MG, 480L)
- 8 **The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy Wills**
Cheryl Wills (880L)
- 9 **Welcome to Dog Beach: The Seagate Summers Series**
Lisa Greenwald (4.8, MG)
- 10 **Splintered**
A.G. Howard (5.2, UG, 780L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



... y no se lo tragó la Tierra SP
Tomás Rivera (4.8, UG)



Cajas de cartón SP
Francisco Jiménez
(5.3, MG)



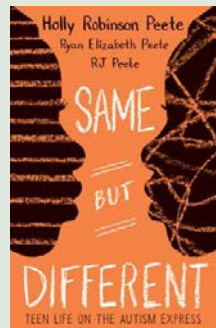
Devolver al remitente SP
Julia Alvarez (5.9, MG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



Marcelo in the Real World
Francisco X. Stork
(4.6, UG, 700L)



Same But Different: Teen Life on the Autism Express NF
Holly Robinson Peete
(4.9, MG+, 780L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Everything All at Once
Katrina Leno
(5.0, MG+, 730L)



The Unteachables
Gordon Korman
(5.1, MG, 740L)



Create a Custom Report

Use *What Kids Are Reading* data to create custom lists for individual students or groups. Filter by state, grade, reading level, and more.



Grades 9–12

In high school, students develop the skills and knowledge they need to meet challenges in the next phase of their lives, whether they plan to enter higher education, technical training, military service, or the workforce. Leisure reading may lessen as their interests and responsibilities pull them in various directions. Consider these five high-interest, yet accessible, titles to help high schoolers rediscover the desire to read:

High-Interest and Accessible

- **Pitch Black** ^{NF}
Youme Landowne (3.1, UG)
- **Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood** ^{NF}
Marjane Satrapi (3.3, UG, 380L)
- **The Border**
Steve Schafer (3.5, UG, 540L)
- **The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir** ^{NF}
Thi Bui (4.4, UG, 600L)
- **If I Ever Get Out of Here**
Eric Gansworth (5.6, MG+, 870L)

Grade 9

During the 2020–2021 school year, 38,775 ninth graders read about 5 print books and 224,805 words each. Nearly 175,000 ninth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson, NASA Mathematician** **NF**
Lesa Cline-Ransome (5.9, LG, 1030L)
- **Dear Justyce**
Nic Stone (5.3, UG, 780L)
- **Circe**
Madeline Miller (5.0, UG, 660L)
- **96 Miles**
J.L. Esplin (5.2, MG, 760L)
- **Punching the Air**
Ibi Zoboi (5.7, UG)

Top Print Titles

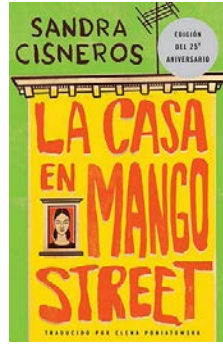
- 1 **To Kill a Mockingbird** **SP**
Harper Lee (5.6, UG, 790L)
- 2 **Romeo and Juliet** **SP**
William Shakespeare (8.6, UG)
- 3 **Night** **NF**
Elie Wiesel (4.8, UG, 590L)
- 4 **The Most Dangerous Game**
Richard Connell (5.3, UG)
- 5 **Of Mice and Men** **SP**
John Steinbeck (4.5, UG, 630L)
- 6 **The Outsiders** **SP**
S.E. Hinton (4.7, UG, 750L)
- 7 **Lord of the Flies** **SP**
William Golding (5.0, UG, 770L)
- 8 **Animal Farm** **SP**
George Orwell (7.3, UG, 1730L)
- 9 **Hunger Games Series** **SP**
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 10 **Divergent Series** **SP**
Veronica Roth (4.8–5.8, UG, 700L–850L)

Popular Digital Books

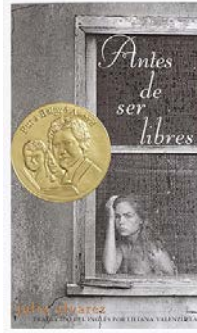
- 1 **Creepy Urban Legends** **NF**
Tim Ohei (4.0, MG, 640L)
- 2 **Dracula (Graphic Revolve)**
Michael Burgan (2.6, MG, 540L)
- 3 **Take Your Pick of Monster Encounters** **NF**
G.G. Lake (3.8, MG, 590L)
- 4 **Zombie Winter**
Jason Strange (3.7, MG, 520L)
- 5 **Pro Football's All-Time Greatest Comebacks** **NF**
Drew Lyon (5.7, MG, 970L)
- 6 **Handbook to Ghosts, Poltergeists, and Haunted Houses** **NF**
Sean McCollum (5.6, MG, 830L)
- 7 **Haunted Hotels Around the World** **NF**
Megan Cooley Peterson (5.0, MG, 750L)
- 8 **Full Moon Horror**
Jason Strange (3.0, MG, 380L)
- 9 **Pride and Prejudice**
Jane Austen (12.0, UG, 1430L)
- 10 **The Canterville Ghost**
Oscar Wilde (12.6, MG, 1430L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



La casa en Mango Street **SP**
Sandra Cisneros
(4.5, UG, 890L)



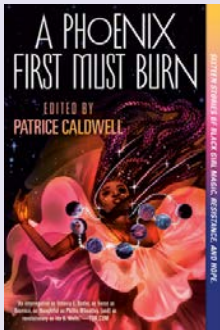
Antes de ser libres **SP**
Julia Alvarez (5.6, MG)



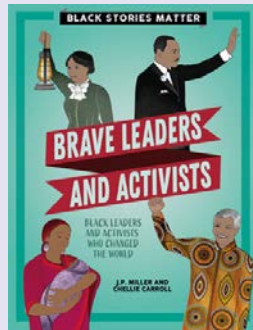
Me llaman héroe: Recuerdos de mi juventud **NF SP**
Daniel Hernández
(7.2, MG+)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope
Patrice Caldwell
(5.4, MG+)



Brave Leaders and Activists **NF**
J.P. Miller
(6.9, MG, 1010L)



Starfish
Akemi Dawn Bowman
(4.5, UG, 670L)



The Astonishing Color of After
Emily X.R. Pan
(4.8, UG, 670L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Ensuring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In choosing books for Accelerated Reader quizzes, we strive to ensure that students of all backgrounds see their lives and experiences reflected in what they are reading.

Grade 10

During the 2020–2021 school year, 28,669 tenth graders read about 5 print books and 214,651 words each. Over 165,000 tenth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **The Grace Year**
Kim Liggett (5.5, UG, 810L)
- **The How & the Why**
Cynthia Hand (4.2, UG, 590L)
- **Immigration in America: Asylum, Borders, and Conflicts** **NF**
Danielle Smith-Llera (7.0, MG, 950L)
- **Grown**
Tiffany Jackson (3.9, UG, 560L)
- **The Bone Houses**
Emily Lloyd-Jones (5.2, MG+, 710L)

Top Print Titles

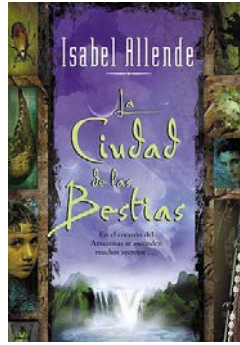
- 1 **To Kill a Mockingbird** **SP**
Harper Lee (5.6, UG, 790L)
- 2 **Night** **NF**
Elie Wiesel (4.8, UG, 590L)
- 3 **Of Mice and Men** **SP**
John Steinbeck (4.5, UG, 630L)
- 4 **Lord of the Flies** **SP**
William Golding (5.0, UG, 770L)
- 5 **Animal Farm** **SP**
George Orwell (7.3, UG, 1730L)
- 6 **Tuesdays with Morrie** **NF**
Mitch Albom (5.5, UG, 830L)
- 7 **Hunger Games Series** **SP**
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 8 **Divergent Series** **SP**
Veronica Roth (4.8–5.8, UG, 700L–850L)
- 9 **Fahrenheit 451** **SP**
Ray Bradbury (5.2, UG, 890L)
- 10 **The Great Gatsby** **SP**
F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3, UG, 1010L)

Popular Digital Books

- 1 **The Picture of Dorian Gray: A Graphic Novel**
Jorge C. Morhain (3.2, MG, 360L)
- 2 **Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard**
Jonathan Auxier (5.8, MG)
- 3 **What Do We Know About the Solar System? (Freestyle)** **NF**
Ian Graham (4.9, MG, 700L)
- 4 **What Do We Know About Stars and Galaxies? (Freestyle)** **NF**
John Farndon (5.1, MG, 730L)
- 5 **The Mexican-American War** **NF**
John DiConsiglio (7.3, MG, 920L)
- 6 **Adaptation and Survival** **NF**
Robert Snedden (5.0, MG, 1030L)
- 7 **A World After an Asteroid Strike** **NF**
Alex Woolf (7.5, MG+, 1140L)
- 8 **How Do Scientists Explore Space? (Freestyle)** **NF**
Robert Snedden (7.5, MG, 1070L)
- 9 **Around the World in Eighty Days**
Jules Verne (9.6, MG, 1070L)
- 10 **RoseBlood**
A.G. Howard (6.8, UG, 940L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

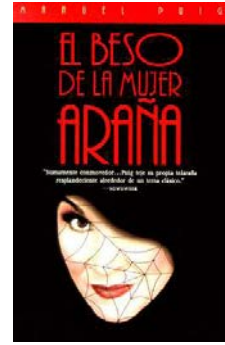
Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



La ciudad de las bestias SP
Isabel Allende
(5.0, UG, 1010L)



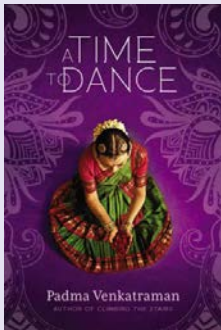
La travesía de Enrique: La arriesgada odisea de un niño en busca de su madre NF SP
Sonia Nazario
(5.6, UG, 750L)



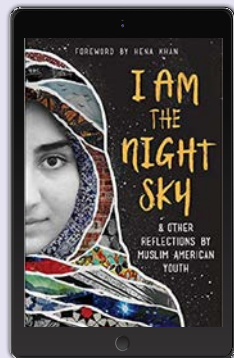
El beso de la mujer araña SP
Manuel Puig
(5.9, UG, 1300L)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



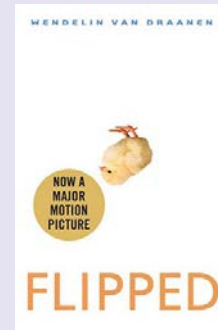
A Time to Dance
Padma Venkatraman
(4.8, MG, 720L)



I Am the Night Sky NF
Next Wave Muslim Initiative (830L)



A Step Toward Falling
Cammie McGovern
(4.8, UG, 730L)



Flipped
Wendelin Van Draanen
(4.8, UG, 720L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Keeping Kids Reading

Use Accelerated Reader to increase reading motivation for high school students with these 4 steps.

Grade 11

During the 2020–2021 school year, 20,984 eleventh graders read about 4 print books and 222,798 words each. Nearly 160,000 eleventh graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Three Things I Know Are True**
Betty Culley (4.9, UG, 780L)
- **Skyhunter**
Marie Lu (6.1, MG+, 870L)
- **Legendborn**
Tracy Deonn (5.2, UG, 730L)
- **They Went Left**
Monica Hesse (5.1, UG, 730L)
- **Games of Deception: The True Story of the First U.S. Olympic Basketball Team at the 1936 Olympics in Hitler's Germany** **NF**
Andrew Maraniss (8.8, UG, 1230L)

Top Print Titles

- 1 **The Great Gatsby** **SP**
F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3, UG, 1010L)
- 2 **The Crucible**
Arthur Miller (4.9, UG)
- 3 **Of Mice and Men** **SP**
John Steinbeck (4.5, UG, 630L)
- 4 **To Kill a Mockingbird** **SP**
Harper Lee (5.6, UG, 790L)
- 5 **Divergent Series** **SP**
Veronica Roth (4.8–5.8, UG, 700L–850L)
- 6 **The Scarlet Letter (Unabridged)** **SP**
Nathaniel Hawthorne (11.7, UG, 1280L)
- 7 **Fahrenheit 451** **SP**
Ray Bradbury (5.2, UG, 890L)
- 8 **Hunger Games Series** **SP**
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 9 **The Catcher in the Rye** **SP**
J.D. Salinger (4.7, UG, 790L)
- 10 **Harry Potter Series** **SP**
J.K. Rowling (3.9–8.8, MG/MG+, 500L–1230L)

Popular Digital Books

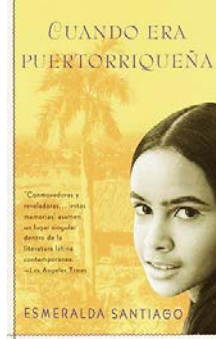
- 1 **Treasure Island (Unabridged)**
Robert Louis Stevenson (8.3, MG, 980L)
- 2 **All About the Green: The Teens' Guide to Finding Work and Making Money** **NF**
Kara McGuire (1000L)
- 3 **Stories of Women in the 1960s: Fighting for Freedom** **NF**
Cath Senker (7.4, MG, 1050L)
- 4 **Stories of Women in World War II: We Can Do It!** **NF**
Andrew Langley (6.5, MG, 940L)
- 5 **Smart Spending: The Teens' Guide to Cash, Credit, and Life's Costs** **NF**
Kara McGuire (1050L)
- 6 **Little Women**
Louisa May Alcott (7.4, MG, 1300L)
- 7 **A World After Nuclear Disaster** **NF**
Alex Woolf (7.7, MG+, 1120L)
- 8 **A World After Fossil Fuels** **NF**
Liz Gogerly (7.4, MG+, 1040L)
- 9 **Macbeth**
William Shakespeare (10.9, UG, 820L)
- 10 **Ensnared**
A.G. Howard (5.6, UG, 800L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



La casa de la laguna **SP**
Rosario Ferré (6.1, UG)



Quando era puertorriqueña **NF SP**
Esmeralda Santiago (6.8, UG)



El bosque de los pigmeos **SP**
Isabel Allende (7.1, UG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



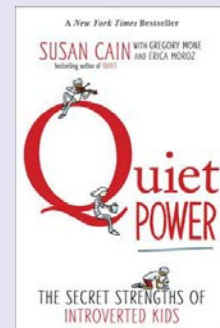
Love from A to Z
S.K. Ali (5.0, UG, 740L)



Laughing at My Nightmare **NF**
Shane Burcaw (7.0, UG, 1110L)



Bronx Masquerade
Nikki Grimes (4.5 UG, 670L)



Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts **NF**
Susan Cain (7.7, MG, 1020L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Digital Literacy Matters

Digital literacy has taken on new meaning as students are being asked to create, collaborate, and share digital content responsibly.

Grade 12

During the 2020–2021 school year, 15,209 twelfth graders read about 5 print books and 218,906 words each. Nearly 200,000 twelfth graders spent time reading digitally.

New and Now Reads

Newly discovered titles offer fresh reading options for students searching for that next great read. Students read and quizzed on these books for the first time in Fall 2021.

- **Ordinary Hazards: A Memoir** ^{NF}
Nikki Grimes (5.5, UG, 840L)
- **I Wish You All the Best**
Mason Deaver (4.0, UG, 570L)
- **When You Were Everything**
Ashley Woodfolk (5.5, UG, 820L)
- **Rules for Being a Girl**
Candace Bushnell (5.6, UG)
- **We Speak in Storms**
Natalie Lund (5.5, UG, 810L)

Top Print Titles

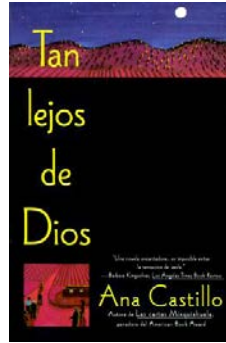
- 1 **Macbeth**
William Shakespeare (10.9, UG)
- 2 **Frankenstein (Unabridged)**
Mary Shelley (12.4, UG, 1040L)
- 3 **Hamlet**
William Shakespeare (10.5, UG)
- 4 **1984** ^{SP}
George Orwell (8.9, UG, 1090L)
- 5 **Animal Farm** ^{SP}
George Orwell (7.3, UG, 1730L)
- 6 **Divergent Series** ^{SP}
Veronica Roth (4.8–5.8, UG, 700L–850L)
- 7 **Harry Potter Series** ^{SP}
J.K. Rowling (3.9–8.8, MG/MG+, 500L–1230L)
- 8 **Hunger Games Series** ^{SP}
Suzanne Collins (5.3–6.1, MG+, 800L–860L)
- 9 **Lord of the Flies** ^{SP}
William Golding (5.0, UG, 770L)
- 10 **Of Mice and Men** ^{SP}
John Steinbeck (4.5, UG, 630L)

Popular Digital Books

- 1 **Frankenstein (Unabridged)**
Mary Shelley (12.4, UG, 1040L)
- 2 **Dracula**
Bram Stoker (6.6, UG, 1060L)
- 3 **Cover Your Assets: The Teens' Guide to Protecting Their Money and Their Stuff** ^{NF} Kara McGuire (1090L)
- 4 **Twilight**
Stephenie Meyer (4.9, UG, 720L)
- 5 **l8r, g8r**
Lauren Myracle (4.2, UG)
- 6 **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian**
Sherman Alexie (4.0, UG, 600L)
- 7 **Bliss**
Lauren Myracle (4.2, UG, 640L)
- 8 **yolo**
Lauren Myracle (5.2, UG)
- 9 **Untamed: A Splintered Companion**
A.G. Howard (6.2, UG, 900L)
- 10 **Blaze**
Saddleback Educational Publishing (110L)

Authentic Spanish Titles

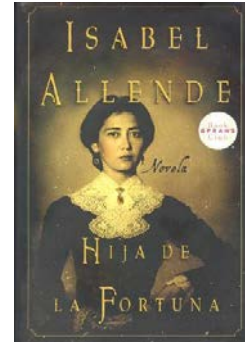
Authentic Spanish texts written for native speakers help students make real-life connections, develop deeper vocabulary and linguistic understanding, and grow cultural appreciation.



Tan lejos de Dios ^{SP}
Ana Castillo (7.4, UG)



Platero y yo ^{SP}
Juan Ramón Jiménez
(7.8, MG, 640L)



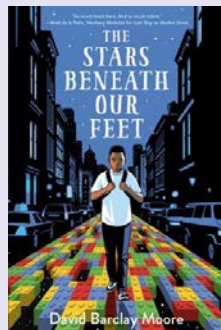
Hija de la fortuna ^{SP}
Isabel Allende (8.8, UG)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes

Each of us is a unique blend of characteristics and traits that matter implicitly. Consider these titles to begin conversations about our diverse makeup and how inclusion allows us all to thrive.



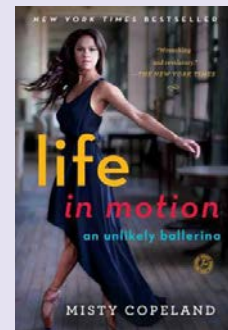
On the Come Up
Angie Thomas
(3.8, UG, 550L)



The Stars Beneath Our Feet
David Barclay Moore
(4.4, MG, 650L)



Patron Saints of Nothing
Randy Ribay (5.3, UG, 840L)



Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina ^{NF}
Misty Copeland
(7.3, MG+, 1040L)

Social and Emotional Learning Topics

Safe and healthy communities exist when people accept themselves as well as understand and care for those around them. The following titles cover topics that may support social and emotional learning.



Create a Custom Report

Use *What Kids Are Reading* data to create custom lists for individual students or groups. Filter by state, grade, reading level, and more.



About the Report

Reading is everything. It is a way to relax, to gather information, to escape, to open minds, to entertain, to transport ourselves to another time or place or into another's shoes. But with so very many reading options available—in schools, libraries, bookstores, and online—how do we find that next great read?

Renaissance publishes the *What Kids Are Reading* report annually to share our data on student reading habits—including the books kids are reading most—from two sources: **Accelerated Reader**, which tracks students' reading comprehension for virtually any available book, and **myON**, which delivers titles right into their laps virtually via a massive digital library. Together, these programs personalize reading for students by providing easy access to books and sharing actionable data with educators.

The more kids read, the more vocabulary they learn, and these new words open doors to new ideas. New connections fill kids' eager minds with background knowledge, which then encourages more reading and learning and vocabulary growth. Read. Learn. Repeat.

No other study captures student reading behavior on this scale.

The benefits of reading are lifelong. And the act of simply reading is time spent practicing and honing this important skill. Reading practice is most effective when students are engaged in what they are reading because they are interested or inspired by the topic.

What Kids Are Reading by the Numbers



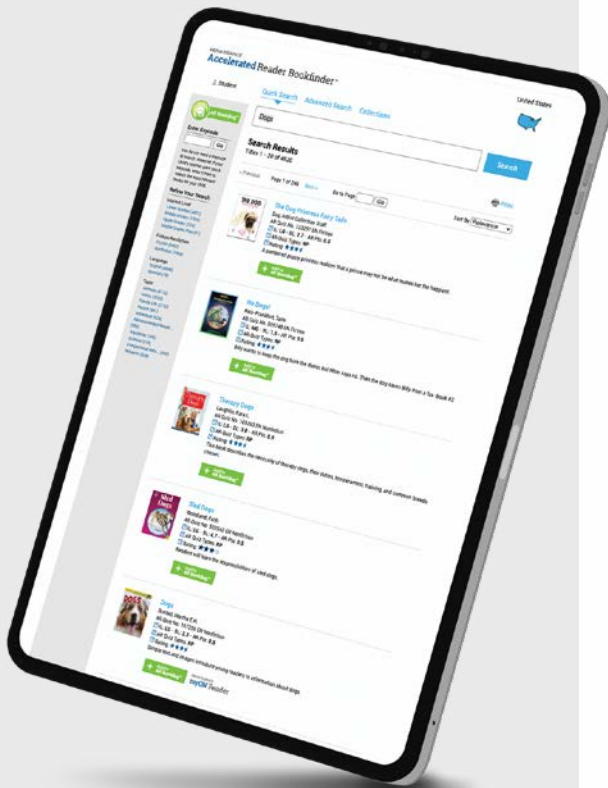
128 million
books



4.5 million
students



22,749
US schools



RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader Publisher Partner

More than 150 publishers, imprints, brands, and divisions regularly provide titles to Renaissance to produce Accelerated Reader Reading Practice Quizzes. Of those, we work especially closely with the following, our Accelerated Reader Publisher Partners:

- Amicus
- Bellwether Media
- Black Rabbit Books
- Bookstaves
- The Creative Company
- Kane Miller, A Division of EDC Publishing

What's Inside

What Kids Are Reading is full of ideas to inspire readers based on our unique insight into the books we know kids are truly reading—cover to cover—as well as additional selections to pique their interests. No other study captures student reading behavior on this scale.

For each grade, find New and Now Reads; Top Print Titles; Popular Digital Books; Authentic Spanish Titles; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Themes; and Social and Emotional Learning Topics, annotated with title, author, and book readability information (ATOS level, interest level, and Lexile measure, as well as nonfiction and Spanish tags). Sections are divided by grade-range groupings, where you can see the signature book for each state and a list of helpful titles for that grade range: Highly Decodable (K–2), Vocabulary Practice (3–5), Background Knowledge Builders (6–8), and High Interest and Accessible (9–12).

The Introduction to the report was written by Kymyona Burk, Senior Policy Fellow at ExcelinEd. Jacqueline Woodson (author of *The Day You Begin*) wrote the Foreword in response to the question, “What do reading and writing mean to you in 2022?” and three more authors whose books appear in the report answered this question in essays found sprinkled throughout this section: Yangsook Choi (*The Name Jar*), Francisco X. Stork (*Marcelo in the Real World*), and Padma Venkatraman (*A Time to Dance*).

Matching Books to Kids

What Kids Are Reading has book selections for all students, whether they are avid readers or reluctant to get started. As you peruse the books in the report, consider the noted text complexity measures and interest level as well as other factors like content, structure, and your reader’s motivation and level of background knowledge.

The ATOS Readability Formula and the Lexile Framework® for Reading are two popular ways to estimate the text complexity of books or other reading materials. Both ATOS and Lexile put readers and texts on the same scale to help in matching students to text at individualized difficulty levels.

ATOS considers three key predictors of text difficulty: average sentence length, average word length, and average word-difficulty level, and reports reading levels on a grade-level scale. For example, an ATOS level of 5.4 indicates text a typically performing fifth-grade student could likely read and understand by about the middle of the school year. Visit www.arbookfind.com to find ATOS levels for virtually any book in your school’s library or analyze other text for free at www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader/atos-and-text-complexity/.

Author Essay

What Do Reading and Writing Mean to You in 2022?



By Yangsook Choi

author of *The Name Jar*,
published by Dragonfly Books

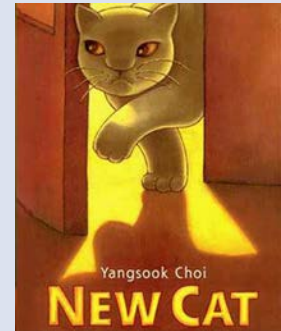
Growing up in Korea, I was only encouraged to read textbooks. I was asked to copy text, not write my own words. I felt like a human paper scanner. So I was a relatively new reader and writer when I came to the US, went to art school, and started my illustration career.



One day my editor took me out to lunch and asked me to write a story. Write, not just draw. And in English! English is the biggest monster I've ever encountered. Imagine the double panic I had. I wanted to eat a gallon of ice cream right then and there to ease my anxiety. It was kind of hard to say no to someone who picked up the bill at a nice restaurant, so I said, "Why not?" She offered me full freedom in what to write about. Without her invitation, I wouldn't have written *The Name Jar*. I wouldn't have become an author. (Teachers: you might have some of those future authors, disguised as reluctant writers, sitting in your class.)

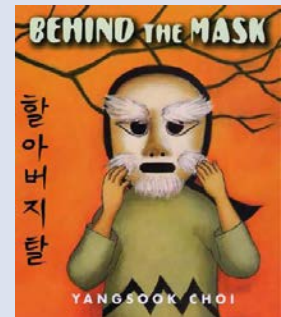
Reading to me is a feeling of rest beside quiet waters. I can see old and new stories flowing together and inviting me to reflect my own self in them. Reading is like devouring chocolate—but even better, because I can do it for hours at a time! The last two years have pointed out that we all need emotional warmth in our core to become better together. Writing is a place where I have the freedom to think of words for our living narratives. Words to lift up voices that are silenced and suppressed. Words to mend emotional scars from being left out and hated. Words to fire up the imagination and actively visualize healing and hope.

More from Yangsook Choi



New Cat

Yangsook Choi
(600L)



Behind the Mask

Yangsook Choi
(3.7, LG, 610L)



This Next New Year

Yangsook Choi

Renaissance pairs ATOS level with **interest level** guidelines based on publisher recommendations for the sophistication and maturity level of a text's content, ideas, and themes: LG for lower grades (K–3), MG for middle grades (4–8), MG+ for middle grades plus (6 and up), and UG for upper grades (9–12). Interest levels provide information about content, but ultimately, whether a text is appropriate for a student is a local decision best made by educators, parents, caregivers, and students.

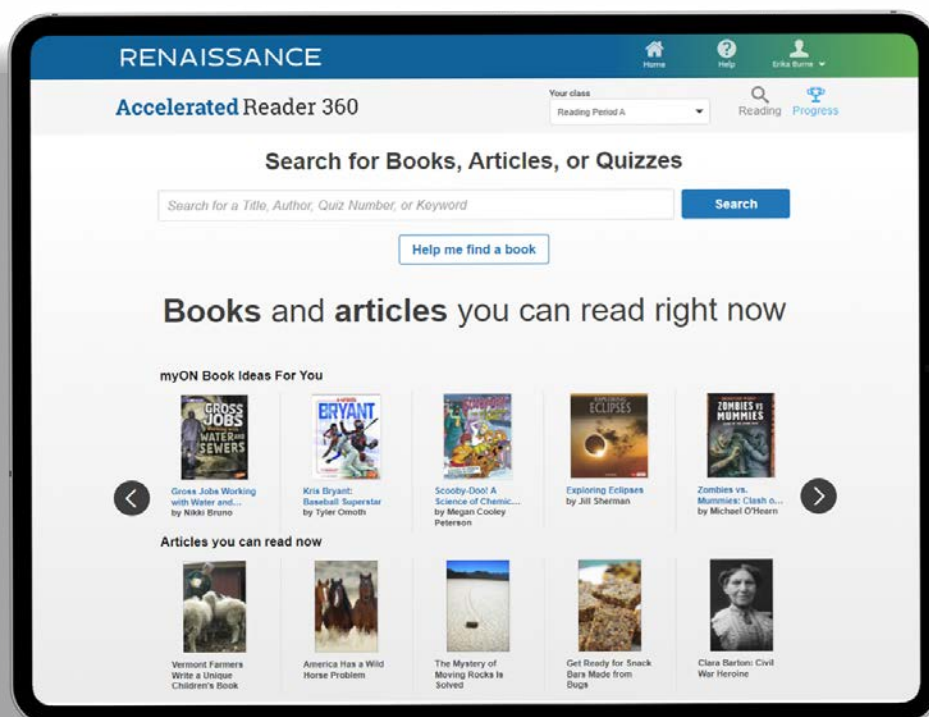
The Lexile Text Analyzer evaluates the reading level by measuring text characteristics, such as sentence length and word difficulty, to determine a **Lexile measure**—which can range from below 0L for beginning readers to above 1600L for advanced texts. A chart with Lexile ranges by grade level is available at hub.lexile.com/lexile-glc. For more information and to analyze texts for free, visit hub.lexile.com/la. Lexile measures in this report were provided by MetaMetrics®, Inc.

About Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader equips teachers with key insights into independent reading practice, personalized goal-setting, and a worldwide community of support.

How it works: A teacher sets personalized goals for independent reading for each student, focusing on key factors for successful reading practice: quantity (time spent reading), quality (comprehension), and difficulty (text complexity level). Next, students each select and read books, completing a brief Accelerated Reader online quiz after reading each one. Students receive immediate feedback, which is shared with the teacher, about comprehension level and number of words read for each quiz completed.

With quizzes for more than 216,000 books and new quizzes constantly added, Accelerated Reader offers vast reading options. The program's Discovery Bookshelf (pictured) provides personalized reading suggestions, and any book with an Accelerated Reader quiz can be found at www.arbookfind.com.



Accelerated Reader Discovery Bookshelf

Motivate students with tailored reading recommendations and endless choice. Accelerated Reader matches students with books aligned to their unique interests and reading levels.

Author Essay

What Do Reading and Writing Mean to You in 2022?



By Francisco X. Stork

author of *Marcelo in the Real World*,
published by Scholastic

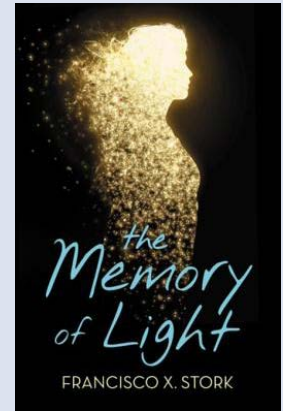
Reading and writing have always been for me a way of connecting with other places and other lives. Reading has also been a way to find comfort and company in times of loneliness. In reading, I sometimes encounter authors who share my hopes, my values, my pain. When I read books written by kindred souls, I know that I am not alone.

Similarly, writing for me is a reaching out, a giving. I write about concerns that are important to me, and then I try to transform these concerns into the kind of art that will touch the hearts of my readers. If in reading I receive the solace of a friend, in writing I seek to become a friend to others. The way that this sharing happens is by creating a world of description, plot, and characters that is real to the readers' imagination and meaningful to their lives.

The receiving and giving that is at the heart of good reading and writing is particularly important to me during this time of fear and isolation. During these past two years, I have seen in myself, in my family, and in others a decrease in that ability to balance the good and the bad in our lives that we commonly refer to as mental health. I have seen normal fear become anxiety and the common frustrations of ordinary life sink into depression. The only way for me to counter the extremes of anxiety and depression is to seek out and find hope in reading. In 2022, I will choose to read books where I sense the presence of an author who cares about the privilege and basic goodness of life, despite all the suffering. And I will write to convey the same sense of light and hope to my readers.

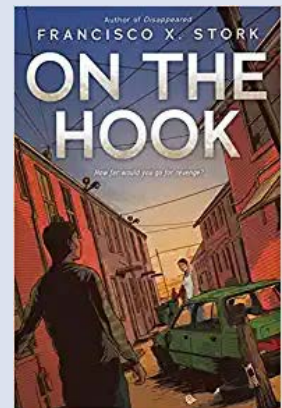


More from Francisco X. Stork



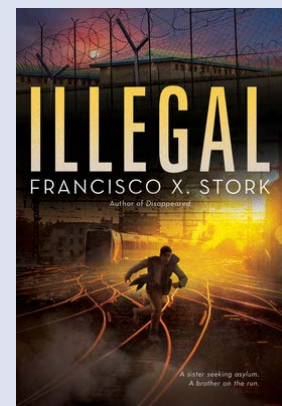
The Memory of Light

Francisco X. Stork
(4.4, UG, 680L)



On the Hook

Francisco X. Stork
(4.7, UG)



Illegal

Francisco X. Stork
(4.7, UG, 680L)

The data in this report: We studied Accelerated Reader records for 4.5 million US students in grades K–12 at 22,749 schools, across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, who read 128 million books during the 2020–2021 school year (see table). Although the Accelerated Reader report sample is large and diverse, note that it is a convenience sample and thus may not represent all K–12 students and schools in the US.

Students, Books, Words, and Average ATOS by Grade

Accelerated Reader database, 2020–2021 school year

Grade	Students	Books read	Average books read per student	Average words read by students	Average ATOS
K	119,886	2,813,076	23.5	9,510	1.5
1	474,446	18,734,439	39.5	29,578	1.8
2	668,377	31,549,254	47.2	67,419	2.5
3	743,718	29,178,260	39.2	140,557	3.0
4	734,692	20,939,538	28.5	216,806	3.5
5	691,487	14,687,236	21.2	276,426	3.8
6	424,112	5,645,429	13.3	301,780	4.2
7	276,799	2,490,429	9.0	292,431	4.5
8	241,578	1,794,199	7.4	295,902	4.7
9	38,775	208,780	5.4	224,805	4.8
10	28,669	129,533	4.5	214,651	5.0
11	20,984	92,844	4.4	222,798	5.2
12	15,209	72,395	4.8	218,906	5.1
K–12	4,478,732	128,335,412			



What Is ATOS?

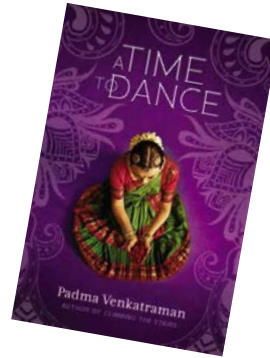
Learn more about the ATOS Readability Formula, which takes into account the most important predictors of text complexity—average sentence length, average word length, and word difficulty level.

Author Essay

What Do Reading and Writing Mean to You in 2022?



By Padma Venkatraman
author of *A Time to Dance*,
published by Nancy Paulsen Books



When 2021 began, I was personally targeted by cyberbullies because I spoke about the need to amplify underrepresented and marginalized voices in kidlit. As the year wore on, an alarming number of books by BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ authors were challenged. Public outrage sometimes resulted in these challenges being revoked. But the root cause of the problem remains: fear, which incites people to suppress other-ed voices.

"Fear is a lock. Courage is a key," says a character in my novel *Born Behind Bars*. Banning representations of diversity is like locking ourselves into a palace of mirrors, and refusing entry to those we view as "other."

Books can be keys that can unlock empathy—but only if we find the courage to pick them up. The courage to listen to every voice in the harmonious jazz symphony that America ought to be. The courage to let everyone's story shine, confident that our American constellation looks brightest when viewed together. The courage to read about current flaws in our society's architecture and past hatreds, so that we can create a hate-free future.

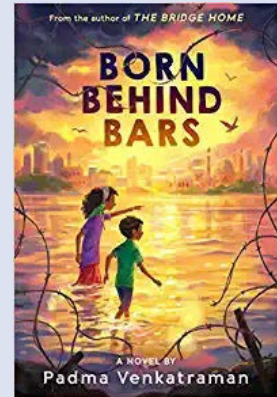
Entering 2022, I feel afraid whenever I raise my voice peacefully but passionately, as reader or writer. I left India alone in my late teens and witnessed racism firsthand while starting life on my own in America. Since then, I've worked for equity and inclusion.

I'm scared. I have no birthright to my citizenship. No right—except for a piece of hard-won paper. I'm aware paper can be easily shredded. I could write pieces that reflect model minority myths, or continue to pay a price, personally and professionally, for writing honestly about hate—and love.

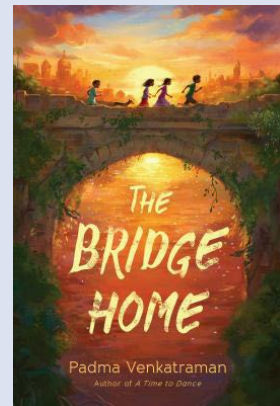
What helps me triumph over my fear is my love for our country. Love that abides despite awareness of another's limitations. Love that always imagines the best is possible. Love that is willing to risk reading and writing and speaking the truth when it sees the loved one losing its way in a mire of fear and hatred.

If there's one thing those who ban books and those who write them agree on, it's that words have power. Books can build bridges of compassion and break walls of ignorance and hatred. In 2022, more than ever before, I hope to read, write, and celebrate books that do both.

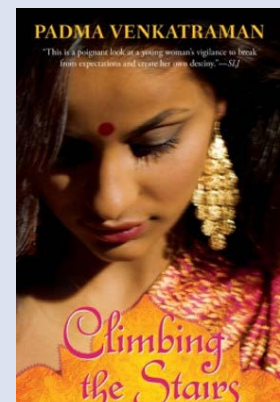
More from Padma Venkatraman



Born Behind Bars
Padma Venkatraman



The Bridge Home
Padma Venkatraman
(4.4, MG, 680L)



Climbing the Stairs
Padma Venkatraman
(4.8, MG+, 750L)



Accelerated Reader and myON Research

Keith Topping (Professor of Educational and Social Research, University of Dundee, Scotland) discusses his analysis of research on these programs and best practices for using assessment data, tailoring implementation in elementary vs. high schools, and working with disadvantaged students in *Improving Reading Comprehension of Self-Chosen Books Through Computer Assessment and Feedback: Best Practices from Research* (coming July 2022).

About myON

myON (www.myon.com) is a student-centered, personalized literacy platform that offers unlimited access to thousands of enhanced digital books. We also offer myON News, which gives students authentic, age-appropriate reporting on timely topics and current events.

How it works: On myON, students are matched to books based on reading level, grade-appropriateness, and interests. Teachers can assign books or encourage students to self-select independent reading materials from up to 18,000 digital books for grades pre-K–12, including multiple formats (such as graphic novels and picture books), various reading levels (including high-low and advanced-learner materials), popular fiction and series, nonfiction focused on curriculum-aligned topics, and Spanish language texts. With a robust set of interactive literacy tools, students interact deeply with myON's texts, while teachers easily monitor their engagement, growth, and literacy success. In addition to helpful reports for educators, myON includes a Student Profile snapshot (pictured onscreen above) with information on individual reading activity that can be easily accessed by students and shared with families.

The data in this report: We examined the 176,656,360 times that books were opened on myON throughout the 2020–2021 school year, combined with the 92 billion seconds that books were read on the program (a number equivalent to spending more than 2,914 years reading nonstop).

To explore our reading data and create custom book lists for individual students or groups, filtered by state, grade, reading level, and more, visit www.renaissance.com/wkar.





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Accelerated Reader **Star Assessments**

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