

KEY BENCHMARK BOOKS

PRECONVENTIONAL/EMERGING

Look! Look! Look! by Tana Hoban
Good Dog, Carl by Alexandra Day
School by Emily Arnold McCully
Dig, Dig by Leslie Wood
The Bath by Judy Nayer
A Party by Joy Cowley
A Toy Box by Andrea Butler
Look What I Can Do by Jose Aruego
A Zoo by Andrea Butler
Growing Colors by Bruce McMillan (NF)

EMERGING

Have You Seen My Cat? by Eric Carle
Have You Seen My Duckling? by Nancy Tafuri
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.
The Bicycle by Joy Cowley
I Went Walking by Sue Williams
The Chick and the Duckling by Mirra Ginsburg
I Like Books by Anthony Browne
Mary Wore Her Red Dress by Merle Peek
School Bus by Donald Crews
We Like the Sun by Ena Keo (NF)

DEVELOPING: EARLY

All By Myself by Mercer Mayer
Quick as a Cricket by Audrey Wood
Mrs. Wishy-Washy by Joy Cowley
Go, Dog, Go by P. D. Eastman
Where's Spot? by Eric Hill
Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
A Dark, Dark Tale by Ruth Brown
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
Our Sense by Brenda Parkes (NF)

DEVELOPING: LATER

Soccer Game! by Grace Maccarone
Cookie's Week by Cindy Ward
The Carrot Seed by Ruth Kraus
More Spaghetti, I Say! by Rita Gelman
Just Like Daddy by Frank Asch
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Shaw
I Like Me by Nancy Carlson
Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh
Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Bread, Bread, Bread by Ann Morris (NF)

BEGINNING: EARLY (EARLY-READER BOOKS)

Put Me In the Zoo by Robert Lopshire
Whose Mouse Are You? by Robert Kraus
Just Me and My Puppy by Mercer Mayer
The Napping House by Audrey Wood
There's a Nightmare in My Closet by Mercer Mayer
Are You My Mother? by P. D. Eastman
Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss
Mighty Spiders by Fay Robinson (NF)

BEGINNING: LATER (HARDER EARLY-READERS)

Mouse Soup by Arnold Lobel
Little Bear series by Else Holmelund Minarik
Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie de Paola
Poppleton series by Cynthia Rylant
Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
Frog and Toad series by Arnold Lobel
Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
Pinky and Rex series by James Howe
Dancing with the Manatees by Faith McNulty (NF)
Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie by Connie and Peter Roop (NF)

EXPANDING: EARLY (EASY CHAPTER BOOKS)

Polk Street series by Patricia Reilly Giff
Pee Wee Scouts series by Judy Denton
Cam Jansen series by David Adler
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
Arthur series by Marc Brown
Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne
Marvin Redpost series by Louis Sachar
Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
Bailey School Kids series by Marcia Thornton Jones and Debbie Dadey
Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express by Margaret Wetterer (NF)

EXPANDING: LATER (EASY CHAPTER BOOKS)

The Littles series by John Peterson
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla
Stories Julian Tells series by Ann Cameron
Pioneer Cat by William Hooks
Amber Brown series by Paula Danziger
All About Sam by Lois Lowry
Wayside School series by Louis Sachar
The Titanic: Lost . . . And Found by Judy Donnelly (NF)
Pompeii . . . Buried Alive! by Edith Kunhardt (NF)

BRIDGING: EARLY (MEDIUM LEVEL CHAPTER BOOKS)

Ramona series by Beverly Cleary
Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Goosebumps series by R. L. Stine
How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
Yang the Third series by Lensey Namioka
Baby-Sitter's Club series by Ann Martin
Superfudge series by Judy Blume
Koya DeLaney series by Eloise Greenfield
Bunnicula by Deborah and James Howe
Five Notable Inventors by Wade Hudson (NF)

BRIDGING: LATER (MEDIUM LEVEL CHAPTER BOOKS)

Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
Soup and Me series by Robert Newton Peck
Encyclopedia Brown series by Donald Sobol
Bingo Brown series by Betsy Byars
The Time Warp Trio series by Jon Scieszka
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Babe: The Gallant Pig by Dick King-Smith
Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
The Magic Schoolbus series by Joanna Cole (NF)
Amazing Poisonous Animals by Alexandra Parsons (Eyewitness Junior series) (NF)

FLUENT (CHALLENGING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE)

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Shiloh series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
Nancy Drew series by Carolyn Keene
Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
The War with Grandpa by Robert Kimmel Smith
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Bao Lord
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
Muscles: Our Muscular System series by Seymour Simon (NF)

PROFICIENT (COMPLEX CHILDREN'S LITERATURE)

The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
The Boggart by Susan Cooper
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Holes by Louis Sachar
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
You Want Women to Vote, Lizzie Stanton? by Jean Fritz (NF)
Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman (NF)

 **CONNECTING (COMPLEX CHILDREN'S LITERATURE/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE)**

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
Slave Dancer by Paula Fox
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
Redwall series by Brian Jacques
The Giver by Lois Lowry
The View from Saturday by E. L. Konigsburg
Nightjohn by Gary Paulsen
Children of the Dust Bowl by Jerry Stanley (NF)

 **INDEPENDENT (YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE)**

Shabanu by Suzanne Fisher Staples
Ironman by Chris Crutcher
The Hobbit series by J. R. Tolkien
The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen
The Golden Compass series by Philip Pullman
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton
The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (autobiography) by Anne Frank (NF)
Children of Topaz by Michael O. Tunnell and George Chilcoat (NF)
Lincoln: A Photobiography (biography) by Russell Freedman (NF)