Best Books For Boys in 4th and 5th Grade

Adventure

**jFIC**  Bauer, Marion Dane
**BAU**  *On My Honor*
Joel promised his dad he and Tony would ride their bikes straight to Starved Rock State Park. So how did Tony wind up in the river?  
750L  90 pages

**jPBK SER**  Knife & Parker
**CAPTAIN**  *Captain Fact: Space Adventure*
Whenever disaster strikes, mild-mannered weatherman Cliff Thornhill and his dog are transformed into Captain Fact and Knowledge!  *Captain Fact Book One*  800L  102 pages

**jFIC**  Carbone, Elisa
**CARBONE E.**  *Storm Warriors*
Nathan, a fisherman’s son, assists the crew of a life-saving station as they drag survivors from shipwrecks and he dreams of someday being one of them.  
890L  168 pages

**jFIC**  Clements, Andrew
**CLEMENTS A.**  *A Week in the Woods*
Can Mark survive a week in the woods with a teacher who’s out to get him?  
820L  190 pages

**jFIC**  Evans, Douglas
**EVANS D.**  *MVP*: *Magellan Voyage Project*
Adam unwittingly becomes a player in the Great Global Game, a race around the world in which twelve-year-olds are the pawns.  
690L  231 pages

**jPBK**  Fields, T. S.
**FIE**  *Missing in the Mountains*
When Jarod and his asthmatic sister run into bully trouble while skiing, they decide to take off into uncharted territory.  660L  108 pages
George, Jean Craighead

**My Side of the Mountain**

After running away, Sam struggles to survive in the Catskill Mountains.

Also: **On the Far Side of the Mountain**  810L  177 pages

Peg Kehret

**Earthquake Terror**

When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family had been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives. 690L  132 pages

Gordon Korman

**Shipwreck**

Six totally different kids must learn to work together to survive a vicious storm, and a shipwreck that leaves them stranded in the middle of the ocean with no food, no water, and almost no hope for survival.  *Island Book One*  620L  129 pages

Michael Morpurgo

**Kensuke’s Kingdom**

Shipwrecked on a not quite deserted island, Michael and his dog survive with the help of the island’s only other human inhabitant.  730L  164 pages

Edward Myers

**Climb or Die**

After a car accident in a snowy Colorado pass seriously injures their parents, Jake and Danielle must scale a mountain to find help.  740L  180 pages

Peggy Nolan

**The Spy Who Came in From the Sea**

Frank, who is always embellishing his stories, gets in trouble when no one believes he really saw a spy.  590L  129 pages

Gary Soto

**Crazy Weekend**

After their photograph of a robbery is published in the newspaper, Hector and Mando find themselves pursued by two goofy thieves.  730L  144 pages
Joe is just having a few friends over to watch wrestling when a fugitive murderer shows up at the door. 202 pages

When their ship is torpedoed, Philip is marooned on an island with an elderly West Indian who shows him how to survive and helps him to acquire a new kind of vision. Also: Timothy of the Cay 860L 137 pages

When their adventures lead them to explore the biggest and scariest villain of all, Harry and George realize that they are not brave, only reckless and foolish. Also: Harry the Poisonous Centipede Goes to Sea and Harry the Poisonous Centipede’s Big Adventure 620L 153 pages

When their playful dog comes home with a dead rabbit, Philip and Kooch are afraid it is their gruff old neighbor’s prize pet. 730L 47 pages

Jack, the dog, tells about his everyday life, and how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves in next door. 178 pages

Hank the Cowdog, Head of Ranch Security, is framed for the murder of a chicken and becomes an outlaw with the coyotes. Hank the Cowdog Book One 760L 127 pages
jFIC Howe, James

HOWE J.  *Bunnicula*

Though mocked at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat tries to warn his human family that their baby bunny must be a vampire.

Also: *Howliday Inn, Celery Stalks at Midnight, Nighty-Nightmare, and Bunnicula Strikes Again*  700L  98 pages

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jFIC Kadohata, Cynthia

KADOHATA C.  *Cracker, the Best Dog in Vietnam*

Cracker is one of the United States Army's most valuable weapons: a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed. That was nice, too.  730L  312 pages

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jFIC Myers, Laurie

MYERS L.  *Lewis and Clark and Me*

Seaman, Meriwether Lewis' dog, describes the expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean.

470L  64 pages

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jFIC Nolan, Lucy

NOLAN L.  *Down Girl and Sit: Smarter than Squirrels*

Recounts the adventures of a rambunctious dog who thinks her name is Down Girl and her next door neighbor, Sit, as they try to keep the world safe from dangerous squirrels, the paper boy, and a frightening creature named Here Kitty Kitty.

Also: *On the Road*  380L  64 pages

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jFIC Spearman, Andy

SPEARMAN A.  *Barry Boyhound*

Barry, the boy, is turned overnight into a dog. Barry thinks, feels, and behaves exactly as a dog would. However, his body is still Barry, the boy. This leads to extra gross scenes as licking his arm pit ('yum, salty') and, after spilling his milk and cereal onto the kitchen floor, licking it up along with leftover spaghetti spots and some brown bits that may have once been meat.

230 pages
Fantasy & Sci Fi

jFIC   Bailey, Len
BAILEY L.  "The Clabbernappers"
Rodeo champ Danny Ray is transported across the checkered sea to rescue the kidnapped queen. 224 pages

jFIC   Base, Graham
BASE G.  "TruckDogs"
Two gangs of canine-like motor vehicles, the Rott Wheelers and the Mongrel Pack, have a showdown in the town of Hubcap. 145 pages

jFIC   Buckingham, Royce
BUCKINGHAM R.  "The Demonkeeper"
Nate was told never to leave the house and never, ever to get involved with girls. But what could it hurt to go on just one date? Now the beast has escaped and everyone is in danger. 216 pages

jFIC   Coville, Bruce
COVILLE B.  "Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher"
Jeremy Thatcher unknowingly buys a dragon's egg. 710L 148 pages

jFIC   Coville, Bruce
COVILLE B.  "The Monster's Ring"
Russell, who's always being picked on, purchases a ring with the power to turn him into a monster. 550L 87 pages

jFIC   Dale, Anna
DALE A.  "Whispering to Witches"
On his way to spend Christmas at his mother's house in Canterbury, England, Joe meets a young witch named Twiggy and becomes part of a mystery involving a missing page from an ancient book of magic. 850L 296 pages

jFIC   DeTerlizzi, Tony
DETERLIZ T.  "The Field Guide"
When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. 87 pages
Milo travels to "The Lands Beyond" when he drives his miniature car through a mysterious tollbooth.

**The Phantom Tollbooth**

Darek finds a baby dragon and risks his life to return this enemy of his people to its family.

**The Dragonling**

Charlie goes to a special school where many are gifted but some are endowed. If you like Harry Potter you will like Charlie Bone.

**Charlie Bone Book One**

Gifts from Gwyn's grandmother on his ninth birthday open up a whole new world to him, as he discovers he has magical powers that help him heal the breach with his father that has existed ever since his sister's mysterious disappearance four years before.

**Snow Spider**

The Boov have come to colonize Earth, but generously offer Florida as a new home for all the current Earth residents – no wait, Boov really like oranges. Well, there must be someplace to relocate these savage natives.

**The True Meaning of Smekday**

Scott records his experiences in a journal as his regiment takes part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and subsequent battles to liberate France.

**The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins**
ARMSTRONG A.  Raleigh’s Page
At eleven years of age, Andrew is finished with his schooling and apprenticed to Sir Walter Raleigh as a page. The trades he learns include herbology, map making, spying, and the judicious use of poison, as he helps Raleigh to curry the queen’s favor and get to America.    328 pages

AVI  Iron Thunder: The Battle Between the Monitor & the Merrimac: A Civil War Story
Tom gets a job as a boy of all trades helping to build the Monitor, the Union’s first ironclad fighting vessel. There are many skeptics as to its seaworthiness and a confederate spy is also trying to get information from Tom. 203 pages

CURTIS C.  Bud, Not Buddy
Bud escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father. 950L 245 pages

FLEISCHM S.  The Giant Rat of Sumatra: Or Pirates Galore
Plucked from the sea by the most notorious pirate in the Pacific, Shipwreck discovers his adventure is only beginning. 750L 194 pages

GIBLIN J.  The Boy Who Saved Cleveland
There were only three houses in Cleveland at the end of the 18th century and it was a two mile hike uphill to Cleveland Heights where the mill was located. Without 10 year-old Seth to haul the corn to the mill each day there would be no food for the families all struck down with malaria. (based on a true story) 740L 64 pages

KARR K.  Skullduggery
Matthew throws in his lot with a phrenologist, little knowing grave-robbing and body-snatching would be chief among his duties. 630L 227 pages
**Humor**

**A Single Shard**

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.

920L 152 pages

**Humor**

**A House Called Awful End**

When Eddie Dickens' parents become ill, he is taken by Mad Uncle Jack and Even Madder Aunt Maude. A strange little offering that will appeal the readers of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

_Eddie Dickens Trilogy Book One_ 980L 119 pages

**Frindle**

Nick invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

830L 105 pages

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**

Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his or her own way.

Also: *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* 810L 161 pages

**The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5th Grade**

Tony Baloney will do anything to get on the David Letterman Show.

690L 165 pages

**The Facttracker**

Traäkerfaxx is the town that generates and sells all the facts in the world; it is the town’s economy. When the factory explodes a stranger appears saying lies sell better than facts and the liebrary is born. It seems the stranger is right; people do seem to prefer lies to facts. Can “just small enough boy” find the Facttracker and save Traäkerfaxx before it is too late? A great choice for fans of Lemony Snicket. 260 pages
jFIC Gantos, Jack
GANTOS J. **Joey Pigza Swallows the Key**
Joey has trouble paying attention and controlling his mood swings. When his meds wear off, he starts getting worked up and acting wired. Also: **Joey Pigza Loses Control,** and **I’m Not Joey Pigza** 970L 153 pages

jFIC Korman, Gordon
KORMAN G. **The Chicken Doesn’t Skate**
Wild things happen at the South Middle School when Milo's science project, Henrietta the chicken, becomes the hockey team's mascot and their only chance for a winning season. 710L 197 pages

jFIC Manes, Stephen.
MANES S. **Be a Perfect Person in Just Three Days**
Milo finds a book in the library which promises to make him perfect in just three days. 720L 76 pages

jFIC Sachar, Louis
SACHAR L. **Sideways Stories from Wayside School**
There was a terrible mistake. Wayside School was built with one classroom on top of another, thirty stories high! (The builder said he was sorry.) Maybe that's why all kinds of funny things happened at Wayside. Also: **Wayside School is Falling Down,** **Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger,** and **Sideways Arithmetic From Wayside School** 460L 124 pages

jFIC Snicket, Lemony
SNICKET L. **The Bad Beginning**
The three Baudelaire children must depend on each other when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. **A Series of Unfortunate Events Book One** 1010L 162 pages
Help! I’m Trapped in a Vampire’s Body

Jake’s nervous when the DITS malfunctions near Vlad, a creepy new custodian. There’s no way he wants this guy’s body. At nighttime, Jake finds he’s been turned into a vampire. It looks like there’s no way he can get Vlad to take back his body. And if Vlad won’t, who will?

Also: Help! I’m Trapped My Teacher’s Body and Help! I’m Trapped in a Professional Wrestler’s Body.

500L  128 pages

Niagara Falls, or Doesn’t It

Hank always has good intentions but difficulty with follow through. The results are disastrous, but funny.

Hank Zipzer Book One  610L  133 pages

The Puzzling World of Winston Breen

Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring. Puzzles for the reader to solve are included throughout the text. If you like Encyclopedia Brown, you’ll love Winston Breen.

215 pages

Room One

When the paperboy finds a family living in an abandon house and tries to help them without telling any grownups, things spiral out of control.

840L  162 pages

Farewell My Lunchbag: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko

When Chet is called to catch someone who is stealing food from the school cafeteria, he finds himself framed for the crime.

A Chet Gecko Mystery  520L  107 pages
HOROWITZ A.  The Falcon’s Malteser
Nick and his older brother Tim must figure out what to do with a box of candy that’s been entrusted to them. The right answer could be worth 5 million dollars. The wrong answer and they will be as dead as the dwarf who gave them the candy. Also: Public Enemy Number Two and Three of Diamonds 640L 191 pages

SENSEL J.  Reality Leak
Bryan and his friend Spot (a girl who thinks she’s a dog) try to unravel the mystery of the new factory in town. Bryan get a job there planting popped popcorn. It comes up as dandelions the following day. Money turns to bats, tea bags turn to mice. What’s going on in this town? 218 pages

DOWD S.  The London Eye Mystery
Salim went up in the London Eye, a giant Ferris wheel, but he never came back down. His cousins, Ted and Kate try to solve the mystery of Salim’s disappearance and find him before it is too late. After all, they had been watching him. 322 pages

Sports
AUCH M.  One-Handed Catch
12 year-old Norman loses his left hand to a meat grinder while helping out in his dad’s butcher shop. In the year following the accident, he struggles to come to terms with his loss and overcome his disability in order to fulfill his dream of being a baseball player. Based on the true story of the author’s husband. 710L 248 pages

CHRISTOP M.  Center Court Sting
Daren’s tendency to blame everyone but himself when anything goes wrong causes problems with his friends. 570L 140 pages

CORBETT S.  Free Baseball
Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder. 800L 152 pages
jFIC Gutman, Dan
GUTMAN D. **Honus and Me:**
* A Baseball Card Adventure
Joey, who loves baseball but is not very good at it, finds a valuable 1909 Honus Wagner card and travels back in time to meet Honus. Also: *Shoeless Joe & Me, Abner & Me, Babe & Me, Satch & Me, Jackie & Me,* and *Mickey & Me*

690L 140 pages

jFIC Hale, Daniel
HALE D. **Red Card: A Zeke Armstrong Mystery**
Zeke Armstrong thought he would lead the life of a "normal" 13-year-old when he moved to Dallas and joined the Sun Dogs soccer team. Instead, he finds himself in the middle of another adventure when someone tries to take his coach out of the picture. Will Zeke solve the mystery and help his team win the tournament, or will he be the next victim? 170 pages

jFIC Hicks, Betty
HICKS B. **Busted**
After his mother yanks him off the soccer team, Stuart and his best friend, Mack, try to distract her by to fixing her up with Mack's Uncle Joe. 660L 168 pages

jFIC Korman, Gordon
KORMAN G. **Swindle**
After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle's compound and recapture the card. There are many things standing in their way -- a menacing guard dog, a high-tech security system, a very secret hiding place, and their general inability to drive -- but Griffin and his team are going to get back what's rightfully his . . . even if hijinks ensue.
252 pages

jFIC Long, Loren
LONG L. **Game 1: Porkopolis**
In the late 1800s, a baseball with strange powers, belonging to their late father, works wonders for three children and a travelling baseball team which must raise $10,000.
*Barnstormers Book 1* 133 pages

jFIC Spinnelli, Jerry
SPINNELL J. **Maniac Magee**
Following the death of his parents, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes feats which awe his friends. 820L 184 pages
### Biographies

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Enraptured by the wonders of the natural world, Wes was determined to study science. Even after losing his right arm below the elbow during the Civil War, Wes would not be deterred from his dream of leading the first scientific expedition through the Grand Canyon. Braving treacherous rapids and perilous waterfalls, Major Powell would surpass all expectations and return home a national hero. unpaged

Follow Paul Revere from his humble beginnings as the son of French immigrants to his work as a silversmith and a horse messenger amid the mounting pressures of the American Revolution. 85 pages

Traces the adventurous life of the South Pole explorer whose ship, the Endurance, was frozen in ice and crushed, leaving the captain and crew to fight for survival. 980L 64 pages

What unusual people the Wright brothers were! Despite a four year age difference, they grew up to be as close as twins; a patient pair who set out to prove the possibility of powered, controlled human flight. 1160L 129pages
Nonfiction

j031.02  Igguleden, Conn
IGG  *The Dangerous Book for Boys*
Browse to items of particular interest or read it from cover to cover. This book includes everything boys want to know from famous battles to famous baseball players; from dinosaurs to tree houses. 270 pages

j133.1  Teitelbaum, Michael
TEI  *Ghosts and Real-Life Ghost Hunters*
It’s late at night, and you’re home alone. You hear chains being dragged across the attic floor. Eerie lights appear outside your window. Your house is definitely haunted! Or maybe not. Ghost hunters claim they can tell what’s going on. *24/7: Science Behind the Scenes* 64 pages

j363.3492  Boskey, Madeline
BOS  *Natural Disasters: A Chapter Book*
Fly a plane into a hurricane. Chase tornadoes in a truck. Visit a volcano that could explode at any time. 570L 48 pages

j398.25  Schwartz, Alvin
SCH  *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*
Tales of eerie horror and dark revenge that will make you jump with fright. Also: *More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,* and *Scary Stories 3: More Tales to Chill Your Bones* 640L 110 pages

j597.3  Benchley, Peter
BEN  *Shark Life: True Stories About Sharks and the Sea*
From the author of *Jaws* come exciting, sometimes terrifying, accounts of his own encounters with sharks. 1020L 193 pages

j597.3  Simon, Seymour
SIM  *Incredible Sharks*
Some sharks can bite 300 times harder than a person and can hear prey in the water from 3,000 feet away. Do you dare to read more?  SeeMore Readers 670L unpaged
The Man-Eating Tigers of the Sundarbans

In the flooded forest of the Sundarbans (India), the tigers prey on people--and most of their victims are men. 890L 57 pages

The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle: And Other Surprising Stories About Inventions

Discover the origins of many everyday objects, from Animal Crackers to Zippers. 1080L 114 pages

Gut-Eating Bugs: Maggots Reveal the Time of Death!

Buzz through this book and read about: exactly what kinds of bugs show up on a corpse; how a forensic entomologist used bugs to help solve a six-year-old murder case; a place in Tennessee where scientists study how dead bodies decompose; and whether forensic entomology might be in your future! 24/7: Science Behind the Scenes 650L 64 pages

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science

Phineas was working on the railroad in 1848 when a three foot long iron rod accidentally exploded into his brain. Surprisingly, he lived for over ten more years. 1030L 86 pages

Toilets, Bathtubs, Sinks and Sewers: A History of the Bathroom

Find out who bathed, who didn’t, and what people do when there isn’t any toilet paper. 70 pages

The Titanic: An Interactive History Adventure

Describes the events surrounding the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The reader's choices reveal the historical details from the perspective of a first-class passenger, a third-class passenger, and a crewmember. 650L 112 pages
j917.73 Taylor, Troy
TAY Weird Illinois:
Your Travel Guide to Illinois’
Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets
Enjoy a vicarious journey through Illinois’ most mysterious oddities. 252 pages

j940.5485 Shapiro, Stephen
SHA Ultra Hush-Hush: Espionage and Special Missions
19 tales of spies and double dealing during World War II.
Also: Hoodwinked: Deception and Resistance 96 pages

j973 Sandler, Martin W.
SAN America’s Great Disasters
Think you’ve got it bad, think again. 95 pages

j977.311 Murphy, Jim
MUR The Great Fire
Murphy traces the Chicago fire through its three horror-filled days. 1130L 144 pages

Lexile Reading Levels are provided when available. Lexile Levels are a tool to aid in judging the ease of reading for each book. The lower the number, the easier the book. Lexile Levels do not correspond directly to grade levels. Not all children in the same grade read at the same level. For more information: www.lexile.com.

Grade levels listed are merely a suggestion of average reading abilities. Always feel free to read above or below your current grade.