# Adapted From: THE KEYSTONE STATE READING ASSOCIATION

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## TIPS FOR SELECTING AND USING LITERATURE WITH CHILDREN

Families often ask teachers for help with book selections and about the development of reading skills. Many families are looking for a quick method to determine a book's appropriateness for their child's independent reading level. Comprehension checks and ways to enhance oral reading are also key areas of interest. May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family!

- Select books that appeal to your child's interest level.
- Use the five-finger test to help your child select books appropriate for his/her reading level by encouraging your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is probably too difficult for independent reading. Save the book to use at a later time or include it as a read aloud selection.
- Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. Don't overlook chapter books! Primary grade children enjoy them as much as intermediate grade children.
- Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child.
- Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling or friend.
- Use repeated readings with your son or daughter. Allow your child to practice the story as many times as needed for the development of fluency with oral reading.
- Record your child reading a favorite selection. Mail the tape to a distant relative or friend. The recorded story could also become a wonderful addition to a childhood memory box.
- Use echo reading. Read a short passage from a favorite selection and ask your child to reread it matching your fluency and expression.
- Read paragraphs alternately with your child. Provide guide questions for the paragraphs read aloud. Allow your child to ask questions also.
- Help your child summarize a story using these five questions:
  - o Who or what is the story about?
  - When or where does the story take place?
  - O What happens first?
  - O What happens next?
  - O How does the story end?
- Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a story. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about it. Ask your child to read it to you.
- Encourage your child to create an advertisement for a favorite book.
- Invite your child to recommend three favorite books for you to enjoy!

# PRIMARY GRADES K-2

#### **Classics:**

The Mitten by Jan Brett

Are You My Mother? by Phillip D. Eastman

Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

The Complete Tales of Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne

Love You Forever by Robert N. Munsch

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

The Napping House by Audrey Wood

#### **Newer Fiction Books:**

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Fly Guy by Ted Arnold

Creaky Old House: A Topsy Turvy Tale of a Real Fixer-Upper by Linda Ashman

A Seed is Sleepy by D. Ashton

In a Blue Room by Jim Averbeck

Mirror by Jeannine Baker

Max's Dragon by Kate Banks

Sally and the Purple Socks by Lisze Bechtold

Over in the Jungle: A Rainforest Rhyme by Marianne Berks

You Can't Go to School Naked! by Diane Billstrom

Luke on the Loose by Harry Bliss

Pete & Pickles by Berkeley Breathed

Hedgie Blasts Off by Jan Brett

The Umbrella Queen by Shirin Yim Bridges

The Practically Perfect Pajamas by Erik Brooks

Curious Garden by Peter Brown

Little Beauty by Anthony Browne

Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel

Abe's Fish: A Boyhood Tale of Abraham Lincoln by Jen Bryant

Shin-chi's Canoe by Nicola Campbell

Stellaluna by Janell Cannon

Kitty Princess and the Newspaper Dress by Emma Carlow and Trevor Dickinson

First Grade, Here I Come by Nancy Carlson

Magda's Tortillas by Becky Chavarria-Chairez

Magic Box by Katie Cleminson

Willie and the All Stars by Floyd Cooper

Dog Biscuit by Helen Cooper

Where's My Mummy? by Carolyn Crimi

Titanicat by Marty Crisp

Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type by Doreen Cronin

Bartleby Speaks! by Robin Cruise

Thunder-Boomer! by Shutta Crum

Where Do Balloons Go? by Jamie Lee Curtis

Willy's Silly Grandma by Cynthia DeFelice

The Girl Who Drew a Phoenix by Demi

Louise, the Adventures of a Chicken by Kate DiCamillo

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio

No Hugs till Saturday by Julie Downing

Whoo Goes There? by Jennifer Ericsson

Snowball Fight by Jimmy Fallon

Buffalo Music by Tracey Fern

The Sandman by Ralph Fletcher

The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney

Don't Worry Bear by Greg Foley

Star of the Week: A Story of Love, Adoption, and Brownies with Sprinkles by Darlene

Friedman

The Perfect Nest by Catherine Friend

Let's Do Nothing! by Tony Fucile

Crazy Hair by Neil Gaiman

When Stella Was Very, Very Small by Marie-Louise Gay

The Three Little Fish and the Big Bad Shark by Ken Geist

Minifred Goes to School by Mordicai Gerstein

The Hermit Crab by Carter Goodrich

Spells by Emily Gravett

Ain't Nobody Stranger Than Me by Ann Grifalconi

Red Truck by Kerstin Hamilton

Maybe a Bear Ate It! by Robie Harris

Most Loved in All the World by Tonya Hegamin

Old Bear by Kevin Henkes

That Book Woman by Heather Henson

Louie by Will Hillenbrand

Katie Loves the Kittens by John Himmelman

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman

Dogs Night by Meredith Hooper

'Twas the Night before Zoo Day by Catherine Ipcizade

The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers

Twelve Terrible Things by Marty Kelley

Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch by Mona Kirby

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester

First Dog by J. Patrick Lewis and Beth Zappitello

Bats at the Library by Brian Lies

Ming Lo Loves the Mountain by Arnold Lobel

How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long

Henry the Impatient Heron by Donna Love

Crow Call by Lois Lowry

Lion's Share by Matthew McElligott

Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day by Kate McMullan Chippy Chipmunk Parties in the Garden by Kathy Miller

One Hen: How One Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway

Mister Rabbit's Wish by Colleen Monroe Stephanie's Ponytail by Robert Munch The Orange Shoes by Trinka Hakes Noble

Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes by Margie Palantini

Amelia Bedelia's First Day of School by Peggy Parish

Not Afraid of Dogs by S. Pitzer Pajama Day by Lynn Plourde

Thank You, Miss Doover by Robin Pulver

The Wheat Doll by Alison Randall

Hip Hop Dog by Chris Raschka

Peter and the Wolf by Chris Raschka

Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody by Michael Rex

Chicks and Salsa by Aaron Reynolds

A Kitten Tale by Eric Rohmann

Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld

Little Oink by Amy Rosenthal

Bandit by Karen Rostoker-Gruber

Those Darn Squirrels! by Adam Rubin

All the World by Liz Scanlon

My Corner Grocery Store by Joanne Schwartz.

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss

Sneaky Weasel by Hannah Shaw

I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean by Kevin Sherry

Bus-a-Saurus Bop by Diane Shore

Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors by Joyce Sidman

Little Mouse Gets Ready by Jeff Smith

13 Words by Lemony Snicket

A Walk with Grandpa by Sharon Soloman

Ladybug Girl and Bumblebee Boy by David Somar and Jackie Davis

The Best Story by Eileen Spinelli

The Donut Chef by Bob Staake

The House in the Night by Susan Marie Swanson

Little Quack by Lauren Thompson

Rosie and Buttercup by Chieri Uegaki

A Isn't for Fox: An Isn't Alphabet by Wendy Ulmer

Probudit! by Chris Van Allsburg

Yoko Writes Her Name by Rosemary Wells

Art & Max by David Wiesner

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems

My Name is Sangoel by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed

Cottonball Colin by Jeanne Wilis

Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends by Wong Yee

What a Trip! by Arthur Yorinks

Hook by Ed Young

## **Newer Nonfiction Books:**

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau by Jennifer Berne

Frogs by Nic Bishop

Teedie by Don Brown

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh

Teeth by Sneed Collard

Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle by Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, & Mary Nethery

My Brother Martin: A Sister Remembers Growing Up with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. by Christine King Farris

Lincoln and Douglass by Nikki Giovanni

Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Gift of Hope by Nikki Grimes Birds by Kevin Henkes

A Home for Dixie by Emma Jackson

Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea by Steve Jenkins

Pennies for Elephants by Lita Judge

What Bluebirds Do by Pamela Kirby

Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet by David McLimans

Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival by Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine

Metamorphoses: Butterfly by Arthur John L'Hommedieu

How Many Baby Pandas by Sandra Markle

Astronaut Handbook by Meghan McCarthy

Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai by Claire Nivola

Mr. Lincoln's Boys by Staton Rabin

Looking Closely Along the Shore by Frank Serafini

A Place for Birds by Melissa Sewart

About Penguins by Cathryn Sill

Cathy Williams, Buffalo Soldier by Sharon Soloman

First Dog Fala by Elizabeth Van Steenwyk

When Rain Falls by Melissa Stewart

Building Manhattan by Laura Vila

Louis Sockalexis: Native American Baseball Pioneer by Bill Wise

Teeth, Tails, & Tentacles: An Animal Counting *Book by Christopher Wormell* Old Abe, Eagle Hero: The Civil War's Most Famous Mascot *by Patrick Young* 

## **Poetry Books:**

Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue by Jon Agee

Dogku by Andrew Clements

The Bug in the Teacher's Coffee and Other School Poems by Kalli Dakos

You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fables by Mary Ann Hoberman

A Family of Poems by Caroline Kennedy

Sometimes I Wonder If Poodles Like Noodles by Laura Nummeroff

Good Sports: Rhymes About Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More by Jack Prelutsky

A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems by Deborah Ruddell

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silversein

William Wegeman's Mother Goose by William Wegeman

Barefoot: Poems for Naked Feet by Steifi Weisburd

Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem about China by Ed Young

#### **Series Books:**

Cam Jansen by David Adler

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans

Clifford, the Big Red Dog by Normal Bridwell

Arthur by Marc Brown

Cork & Fuzz by D. Chaconas

I Wonder by Dorling Kindersley

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Duck & Goose by T. Hills

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Conner

The Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne

Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Curious George by H. A. Rey

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

# **INTERMEDIATE GRADES 3-5**

#### **Classic Books:**

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume

The Watson's Go to Burmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

Bunnicula by James Howe

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan

Chocolate Fever by Robery Kimmel Smith

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

#### **Newer Fiction Books:**

Return to Sender by Julia Alvarez

The Moon over Star by Dianna Hutts Aston

Murder at Midnight by Avi

Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall by Emily Bearn

Tango: The Tale of an Island Dog by Eileen Beha

Just for Elephants by Carol Berkley

The Remarkable & Very True Story of Lucy & Snowcap by H. M. Bouwman

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

Stuck in the Mud by Jane Clark

Extra Credit by Andrew Clements

The Goodbye Time by Celeste Conway

The Worst Name in Third Grade by Debbie Dadley

Toby Alone *by Timothee de Fombelle* 

The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo

The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzig and Holly Black

The Big Splash by Jack D. Ferraiolo

Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale by Vivian French

Odd and the Frost Giants by Neil Gaiman

Did Fleming Rescue Churchill? by James Giblin

Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff

Umbrella Summer by Lisa Graf

Sir Reginald's Logbook by Matt Hammill

Well Itched by Frances Hardinge

Night of the Spadefoot Toads by Bill Harley

George's Secret Key to the Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking

Jack and the Beanstalk: A Graphic Novel by Blake Hoena

Tsunami! by Kimiko Kajikawa

Night of the Moon: A Muslim Story by Hena Khan

Melonhead by Katy Kelly Itch by Michelle Kwasney

Nana Cracks the Case by Kathleen Lane

Savvy by Ingrid Law

Also Known as Harper by Ann Haywood Leal

The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had by Kristin Levine

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

Punished! by David Lubar

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass

Book Fiesta! Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day by Pat Mora

Looking Like Me by Walter Dean Myers

Mogo, the Third Warthog by Donna Jo Napoli

Willow by Denise Brennan-Nelson and Rosemarie Brennan

The Learnin' Dog by K. A. Nuzum

A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts by Richard Peck

The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by Rodman Philbrick

Epossumondas Plays Possum by Coleen Salley

The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School by Judy Sierra

The Georges and the Jewels by Jane Smiley

Keeping the Night Watch by Hope Anita Smith

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith

Binky the Space Cat by Ashley Spires

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Riding to Washington by Gwenyth Swain

Doom Machine by Mark Teague

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson

The Listeners by Gloria Whelan

City Mouse, Country Frog by Mo Willems

A Chair for Always by Vera Williams

Bobby versus Girls (Accidentally) by Lisa Yee

Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story by Judy Young

#### **Newer Nonfiction Books:**

A Horse in the House and Other Strange but True Animal Stories by Gail Ablow

Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving by Laurie Anderson

River Boy: The Story of Mark Twain by William Anderson

The First Americans: The Story of Where They Came From and Who They Became by Anthony Aveni

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob & Joe Switzer's ... by Chris Barton

Bubble Homes and Fish Farts by Fiona Bayrock

The Raucous Royals by Carlyn Becciav

Diego: Bigger Than Life by Carmen Bernier-Grand

Nic Bishop Marsupials by Nic Bishop

The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook by David Borgenicht

A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams by Jen Bryant

Florida Panthers: Struggle for Survival by William Caper

Mission Control, This is Apollo by Andrew Chaikin and Victoria Kohl

DK State by State Atlas: A Kids' Guide to the People and Places of America by Justine Ciovacco,

Kathleen Feeley, and Kristin Behrens

Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman by Louise Borden and Mary Kay Kroeger

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges

14 Cows for America by Carmen Deedy

50 American Heroes Every Child Should Meet by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe

One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia by DK Publishing

March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changes the World by Christine King Farris

Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best Kept Secrets by John Farndon

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca

Let It Begin Here! Lexington and Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution by Dennis Fradin

Lincoln and Douglas: An American Friendship by Nikki Giovanni

Extreme Pets by Jane Harrington

See What You Can Be: Explore Careers that Could Be for You by Diane Heiman and Liz Suneby

John Brown: His Fight for Freedom by John Hendrix

How Strong Is It? A Mighty Book All About Strength by Ben Hillman

Howard Thurman's Great Hope by Kai Jackson Issa

Real-Life Sea Monsters by Judith Jango-Cohen

How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly? by Steve Jenkins

Never Smile at a Monkey: And 17 Other Important Things to Remember by Steve Jenkins

One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II by Lita Judge

Animals in the House: A History of Pets and People by Sheila Keenan

My Senator and Me: A Dog's Eye View of Washington, D.C. by Edward Kennedy

The Boy Who Invented TV by Kathleen Krull

Big Cats: Hunters of the Night by Elaine Landau

A Voice of Her Own: The Story of Phyllis Wheatley, Slave Poet by Kathryn Laskey

Queen of the Scene by Queen Latifah

Southern Sea Otters: Fur-tastrophe Avoided by Jeanette Leardi

Ann Frank and the Children of the Holocaust by Carol Ann Lee

Easy Earth-Friendly Crafts in 5 Steps by Anna Llimos

Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories by Sandra Markle

Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy

Listen to the Wind" The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson & Susan Roth

The Legend of the Teddy Bear by Frank Murphy

Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts that Happen Every 60 Seconds by Steve and Matthew Murrie

Tiger Math: Learning to Graph from a Baby Tiger by Ann Whitehead Nagda and Cindy Bickel

Bad News for Outlaws by Vaunda Nelson

When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride by Marjorie Priceman

Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln by Doreen Rappaport

Lady Liberty: A Biography by Doreen Rappaport

Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody by Michael Rex

Always Remember Me: How One Family Survived World War II by Marisabine Russo

Manny Ramirez and the Boston Red Sox: 2004 World Series by Michael Sandler

When's a Planet Not a Planet? The Story of Pluto by Elaine Scott

Wolves by Duncan Seari

Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange

I, Vivaldi by Janice Shefelman

If America Were a Village: A Book about the People of the United States by David Smith

Explorer: A Daring Guide for Young Adventurers by Dugald Steer

Underwear: What We Wear Under There by Ruth Freeman Swain

Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas

Alfred Nobel: The Man Behind the Peace Prize by Kathy-Jo Wargin

I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer by Carole Weatherford

Lincoln and His Boys by Rosemary Wells

How to Speak Cat by Sarah Whitehead

How to Speak Dog by Sarah Whitehead

Spooky Cemeteries by Dinah Williams

You Never Heard of Sandy Kaufax? by Jonah Winter

#### **Series Books:**

**American Girls** 

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron

Sports by Matt Christopher

Ramona by Beverly Cleary

The Bailey School Kids by Debbie Dadley

Amber Brown by Paula Danziger

Dear America

The Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon

The Polk Street Kids by Patricia Reilly Giff

My Weird School by Dan Gutman

Russell Sprouts by Johanna Hurwitz

Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Clementine by S. Pennypacker

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar

The Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

Goosebumps by R. L. Stine

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

## Poetry:

Swing Around the Sun by Barbara Juster Esbensen

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings by Douglas Florian

Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems by Douglas Florian

Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems by Kristine O'Connell George

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits

Thanks a Million by Nikki Grimes

The Monarch's Progress: Poems with Wings by Avis Harley

Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers: a Collection of Family Poems by Mary Ann Hoberman

My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States by Lee Bennett Hopkins

A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout compiled by Paul Janeczko

Birds on a Wire: A Renga 'Round Town by J. Patrick Lewis

The Bill Martin, Jr. Big Book of Poetry Edited by Bill Martin, Jr.

Yum! MMMM! Que Rico: America's Sproutings by Pat Mora

Slam Dunk: Basketball Poems by Lillian Morrison (Ed.)

The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System by Jack Prelutsky

Words with Wings: A Treasury of African- American Poetry and Art by Belinda Rochelle (Ed.)

Today at the Blue Bird Café: A Branchful of Birds by Deborah Ruddell

A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk by Deborah Ruddell and Joan Rankin

Toad by the Road: A Year in the Life of These Amazing Amphibians by Joanne Ryder

Button up! by Alice Schertle

Lunch Money and Other Poems about School by Carol Diggory Shields

This is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness by Joyce Sidman

Tour America: A Journey through Poems and Art by Diane Siebert

A Pocketful of Stars: Poems about the Night by Nikki Siegen-Smith

Summerhouse Time by Eileen Spinelli

Nature's Paintbox: A Seasonal Gallery of Art and Verse by Patricia Thomas

Yuki and the One Thousand Carriers by Gloria Whelan

Holiday Stew by Jenny Whitehead

Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak by Kay Winters

Animal Poems by Valerie Worth