Back to School Booklist

K–2

*Amanda Pig, School Girl* by Jean Van Leeuwen
Outgoing Amanda befriends a shy girl pig on the first day of school.

*Alice Ann Gets Ready for School* by Cynthia Jabar
Alice Anne experiences both fun and anxiety as she gets ready for the biggest event in her life.

*Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner* by Amy Schwartz
Although some of the things her older sister taught her at home seem a little unusual at school, other lessons help make Annabelle’s first day in school a success.

*Arthur’s Back to School Day* by Lillian Hoban
While hurrying to get on the bus, Arthur and his friend unknowingly switch their lunch boxes; later Arthur finds out what surprise his sister had put in hers.

*Back to School for Rotten Ralph* by Jack Gantos,
When Sarah starts school in the fall, her famously rotten feline, Ralph, is left at home, all alone by the telephone. But not for long!

*Billy and the Big New School* by C. Anholt & L. Anholt
Billy is nervous about starting school, but as he cares for a sparrow that eventually learns to fly on its own, he realizes that he too can look after himself.

*Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts school and the other children make fun of it.

*David Goes to School* by D. Shannon
David’s high-energy antics fill each school day with trouble.

*The Feet in the Gym* by Teri Daniels
This story will delight children as they see their school day through the eyes of the school custodian who cleans up after them.

*First Day, Hooray!* by Nancy Poydar
Ivy Green can’t wait for school to start tomorrow. But she is also a little worried. What if she misses the bus? How will she find Mrs. Bell’s room?

*First Grade Can Wait* by L. Aseltine
Luke does not feel ready to move on from kindergarten to the first grade, and he is relieved when his parents and teacher decide he can stay in kindergarten for another year.

*Franklin’s Class Trip* by P. Bourgeois
Franklin’s class had been on trips to the bakery, the fire station, and the pet store. Today Franklin was so excited that he could hardly eat his breakfast... the class was going to the museum!
Froggy Goes to School by J. London
Froggy is nervous about his first day of school, but even though it’s hard to sit still, he has a wonderful time.

I Don’t Want to go Back to School by Marisabina Russo
Despite his sister’s dire warnings of all the terrible things that could go wrong on his first day in 2nd grade, Ben has a wonderful time.

I Started School Today by Karen G. Frandsen
A young child reports on the first day at school fraught with both anxiety and pleasant surprises.

It’s Going to be Perfect! by Nancy Carlson
A mother and her young daughter reflect on the daughter’s growing up and starting school.

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus by Barbara Park
A young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and what happens when she decides not to ride the bus home.

Lionel in the Fall by Stephen Krensky
Lionel sure has more than his share of problems. To start there’s the new teacher. She makes him stand up in front of the whole class and talk about himself. UGH!

Minerva Louise at School by Janet Morgan Stoike
Out for an early morning walk, a chicken wanders into a school that she mistakes for a fancy barn.

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate
Introduces the letters of the alphabet as Miss Bindergarten and her students get ready for kindergarten.

Miss Malarkey Doesn’t Live in Room 10 by Judy Finchler
A first-grade boy is shocked, then pleased, when he discovers that his teacher has a life away from school.

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard
The kids in room 207 take advantage of their teacher’s good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute.

My Teacher Sleeps in School by Leattie Weiss
Mollie and her friends are convinced that their teacher lives in their classroom, and feeling sorry for her, leave a bedtime snack to surprise her.

The Night Before Kindergarten by Natash Wing
“Twas the night before kindergarten, and as they prepared, kids were excited and a little bit scared. They tossed and they turned about in their beds, while visions of school supplies danced in their heads.”
Rachel Parker, Kindergarten Show Off by Ann M. Martin
Five-year-old Olivia’s new neighbor Rachel is in her kindergarten class and they must overcome feelings of jealousy and competitiveness to be friends.

Recess Mess by Grace Maccarone
While playing during recess Sam has to go to to the Boy’s Room; but he can’t read yet! How will he figure out which door leads to the Boys Room.

The Shortest Kid in the World by Corinne Demas Bliss
Emily hates being the shortest kid in her class. Everyone calls her names. When a new girl moves to town, Emily is puzzled. How come nobody’s calling her any names?

When Will I Read? by Miriam Cohen
Impatient to begin reading, a first grader doesn’t realize that there is more to reading than books.

Will I Have a Friend? by Miriam Cohen
Every child has a first day at school, and this is the story of Jim’s. The day begins with a worried question: “Will I have a friend?”

3–5
Amelia’s Notebook by Marissa Moss
The hand-lettered contents of a nine-year-old girl’s notebook, in which she records her thoughts and feelings about moving and starting a new school.

Arthur’s Teacher Trouble by Marc Brown
Third-grader Arthur is amazed when he is chosen to be in the school spellathon.

Bonaparte by Marsha Chall
When a young French boy goes away to school, he and his dog are sad to be separated until they find a way to change the school’s rules about dogs.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg
There is a surprise protagonist in this back to school story.

Fourth Grade Weirdo by Martha Freeman
Mr. Ditzwinkle is a “spontaneous” teacher who does magic tricks and gives all kinds of crazy assignments that Dexter doesn’t understand.

How to Be Cool in Third Grade by Betsy Duffey
Robbie’s excited, but he’s also worried. If this year is going to be as great as he wants it to be, he’ll have to find the answer to that vital question- What is cool in the third grade?
How to Survive Third Grade by Laurie Lawlor
Ernest, an unpopular third grader, has a difficult adjustment to make until he finds a friend.

Kirby Kelvin and the Not-Laughing Lessons by Ivon Cecil
When Kirby gets the giggles during a spelling test, his teacher sends him to Mr. Gloomsmith for Not-Laughing Lessons.

Marianthe’s Story: Painted Words and Marianthe’s Story: Spoken Memories by Aliki
Two separate stories in one book, the first telling of Mari’s starting school in a new land, and the second describing village life in her country before she and her family left in search of a better life.

Mean, Mean Maureen Green by Judy Cox
She’s big and mean. She puts tarantulas on third graders’ heads and stuffs them into garbage cans—all before lunchtime.

Moses Goes to School by Isaac Millner
Moses and his classmates, all of whom are deaf or hard of hearing, head back to their special school after summer break. The book combines the words with American Sign Language.

Smartypants: Pete in School by Maira Kalman
Pete, the shaggy dog, goes to school with his owner, Poppy Wise, and her brother, Mookie. Pete gobbles up, among other things, an encyclopedia!

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.

Third Grade Pet by Judy Cox
Fearing for the safety of the third grade’s class pet, Cheese the rat, Rosemary takes him home in her backpack and creates chaos in the household.

Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys by Elizabeth Howard
In the post-Civil War South, a young African American girl is determined to prove that she can go to school just like her older brothers.