

Back to School Booklist, Grades K - 5

Grades 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.

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.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation by Mark Teague

This endearing romp with an appealingly old-fashioned young hero quickly dispels any comparisons to that drearily familiar back-to-school exercise we all know so well.

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 Stoeke

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.

Back to School Booklist (continued)

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.

Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade by Stephanie Greene

First-grade teacher Miss Lee compliments Posey on her tutu, which Posey's mom won't let her wear to school. The next day Miss Lee invites students to wear their favorite clothes to express their individuality.

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 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?"

Grades 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.

Call Me Oklahoma! by Miriam Glassman

Paige, determined to put a humiliating third-grade experience behind her for the new school year, decides that renaming herself Oklahoma — “a name with guts” — will help make her the bold person she wants to be

The Fabled Fifth Graders of Aesop Elementary School by Candace Fleming

Adventurer-turned-teacher Mr. Jupiter has agreed to stay on to teach the most dreaded students at Aesop Elementary. The escapade is told in connected short stories, each of which ends with a moral.

First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

There is a surprise protagonist in this back to school story.

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.