

## **A Short Suggested Reading List**

### **4- to 6-year-olds**

\* **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!** and others

By Mo Willems

Simple line-drawing genius: a bird tries to convince his reader to let him drive a bus that the bus driver has entrusted to the reader. If you like hearing kids laugh out loud, try this one on for size.

\* **Trucktown** picture books series (**Smash, Crash**)

Created by Jon Scieszka, with David Shannon, Loren Long, David Gordon

**Agent A to Agent Z**

By Andy Rash

A rhyming book that features the alphabet as a central theme. Refreshing, actually! Readers must help Secret Agent A round up all of the other lettered agents.

\* **Dr. Seuss books**, of course! (Not the ones with the big sociopolitical statements, though—Star-bellied sneeches and timber-cutting creatures are not as fun as dogs wearing funny hats).

\* **Are You My Mother**, by P. D. Eastman

If you don't know this one already, then, for heaven's sake, get yourself a copy!

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\* **Pirates Don't Change Diapers**

By Melinda Long, ill. by David Shannon

You DID know that pirates are still hot, right?

### **5- to 8-year-olds**

\* **The Alphazeds**

By Shirley and Milton Glazer

Angry A, Bashful B, Confused C and Dynamic D (who only says, "Ta-Da!") enter a room one by one, along with the rest of the alphazeds. Chaos ensues as each vies for their understanding and/or supremacy. Then, something amazing happens.

**Ker-splash!**

By George O'Connor

A picture book illustrated in comic book style, where the kids play Super Hero games at the beach. Sees life through the minds of the children, a quality that many of the greatest children's books share. -SB

\* **Black Lagoon** series (ages 6+)

By Mike Thaler, Jared Lee

A kid's worries about school that never come to fruition. Hyperbole abounds!

**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, and sequel(s)

By Judi and Ron Barrett

A clever book that few kids chose to read on their own, but loved when handed to them. And today, kids are more likely to read movie and TV tie-in books than not.

**Nate the Great** series

By Marjorie Sharmat

Beginning mysteries in economical style. Told in real hard-boiled narrative style by Nate himself.

\* **Arthur** series

By Marc Brown

\* **Clifford** series

By Norman Bridwell

Again, the TV tie-ins play a big role, but they are well-written, unlike many books connected to visual media.

## **The Conquerors**

By David McKee

Imagine an army treated so well by the country it invades that it loses its will to conquer. This is the kind of story that parents can refer back to during difficult conversations for years. The message is timeless: love is always more fun than war.

## **Ages 8-12**

### **\* Time Warp Trio series**

By Jon Scieszka

*Magic Treehouse* for boys who don't like to read. As founder of GuysRead.com, a literacy organization for boys, Scieszka wrote these books with boys in mind. Funny & action-packed, they serve a teaching function similar to other historical series. Start with *Summer Reading is Killing Me* if you want to get insight into how boys who don't like to read feel about reading.

### **\* Diary of a Wimpy Kid series**

By Jeff Kinney

A book for kids, with a kid mindset. Comical & graphical, it follows the daily events of Greg Heffley, the 52nd most popular kid in his middle school. Most teachers/parents won't get why kids adore this book, and that's exactly why they do.

### **\* Fudge series (ages 9+)**

By Judy Blume

Twelve-year-old Peter Hatcher has to endure being big brother to typically bratty sibling Fudge, and deal with the attentions of his neighbor Sheila. Real-life circumstances (e.g. divorce) dealt with in the most realistic fashion of any writer I've ever read. Blume knows kids, and hers are spot-on faithful to reality.

### **\* Series of Unfortunate Events, all 13 of them (ages 9+)**

Lemony Snicket

I've seen my share of kids who read almost nothing until third grade suddenly pick these up and become reading addicts.

### **\* John, Paul, George and Ben (ages 7+)**

By Lane Smith

John Hancock, Paul Revere, George Washington, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson re-imagined as kids. Hilarious picture book reads like a tall-tale. Great read-aloud. One of the best books to illustrate (no pun intended) that learning occurs best when a book spends 99% of its time trying to entertain.

### **\* Judy Moody and Stink series (ages 6+)**

By Megan McDonald

Third grade boys like **Judy Moody** as much as the girls, if not more. Judy tries to find her place in the world, and make some kind of indelible mark. She's an original thinker with some abilities to turn a cool phrase.

Stink, Judy's little brother, can seemingly do no wrong, where Judy can do no right. Interestingly enough, **Judy** seems more attuned to boys' thinking, and **Stink's** appeal *may* be more feminine.

### **Clarice Bean series**

By Lauren Child

Another series that appeals to boys as well as girls, because Clarice is always in trouble, always opinionated, and fiercely loyal to her convictions; shows boys that not all girls are so different. Bridges the gender gap almost as well as Judy Moody.

### **Magic Tree House series (ages 6+)**

By Mary Pope Osborne

Only the most successful series of chapter books ever. So popular they now are standard fodder in elementary school curricula. *Good Morning, Gorillas* (#26) is the high point of the series. They start losing the magic around #30...

### **\* My Weird School and My Weird School Daze series (ages 7+), The Homework Machine, and others**

By Dan Gutman

"My name is A.J. and I hate school," each *Weird School* episode begins. Even though it's a boilerplate series, there's lots of laughs and boy vs. girl conflicts. Or rather, it's a success *because* it's a boilerplate—boys get to predict what's going to happen next, and it's very empowering to them to realize they can decode where a text is going!

### **A to Z Mysteries series (ages 6+)**

By Ron Roy

Great mysteries that follow 3 friends as they uncover clues that lead them to save the day. A great bonus: these books have a map at the beginning to graphically display where the kids are hunting for their clues, so map-reading gets taught.

**\* Franny K Stein series (ages 6+)**

By Jim Benton

A mad scientist with a lab assistant who's actually part Lab, part beagle, part shepherd, part poodle . . . and part weasely thing. Hilarity ensues when she goes back in time to change her middle name from Kissypie to Kaboom.

**\* Dragon series (ages 5-8); Dogzilla and Kat Kong (ages 6-9); Captain Underpants (ages 7-10)**

By Dav Pilkey

*Captain Underpants*: Comic books meet bathroom humor. Many teachers hate the *Underpants* books, and, to be honest, strong readers don't find much in them, either.

*Dogzilla* and *Kat Kong*, on the other hand, are silly and playful, but not so irreverent. In each, Pilkey superimposes real dog/cat photos on top of his dynamic comic-book drawings to tell his stories.

*Dragon* is a cute, friendly little guy who evokes the newspaper comics of yesteryear.

**Bone: One Volume Edition**

By Jeff Smith

The tale of three cousins, exiled from their home by angry neighbors. Humor, mythology, brilliant artwork, and a touching story that adults and kids can enjoy. There are monsters in the book so fourth grade on up should be about right for most kids.

**Heat**

By Mike Lupica

For baseball fans mostly. Fireballing Little League pitcher Michael Arroyo's father died recently, and he is worried he will be sent to live in foster care. Arroyo is so good that other coaches wrongfully and jealously accuse him of being older than the league limit. Michael is suspended from playing, until his original birth certificate from Cuba can be located and verified.

**Matt Christopher's sports series**

These confront some socio-athletic dilemma and celebrate the value of perseverance. Some may find them didactic.

**Oggie Cooder**

By Sarah Weeks

Original, left-out kid with idiosyncratic habits and plaid pants finds that he has a talent for charving—chewing cheese into shapes. Suddenly, he's a hot commodity and must deal with that fact. Will he change, or remain true to himself?

**Billy Bones**

By Christopher Lincoln

Humorous supernatural story about a boy who is a skeleton in the afterlife. —CH

**MVP (Magellan Voyage Project)**

**By Douglas Evans**

A brilliant 12 year old named Adam Story has been challenged by a mysterious prince to cross the earth by land and sea in forty days. If he is successful, he wins 4 million dollars! For boys who like to be immersed in a far reaching adventure. —BB

**\* Lawn Boy, The Transall Saga, Hatchet, Brian's Winter**

By Gary Paulsen

The lawn boy receives a riding lawnmower for his 12th birthday. Then he is approached by one neighbor after another, to mow their lawns for money. Lawn boy meets Arnold, a hippie type stockbroker, who helps him expand his lawn business, hire employees, invest his money in the stock market, and even buy a piece of a boxer!

The Transall Saga combines futuristic science fiction, mystery, adventure and survival themes, and a thought provoking ending. 13 year old Mark loves camping, but his first solo trip ends with a blinding blue light transporting him to another reality, in another time: A planet filled with strange animals, and creatures that are not quite human.

In Hatchet, 13-year-old Brian must survive alone in the Canadian wilderness with only a hatchet as a tool, until he can find help. The pilot of the two seater plane taking him to see his Dad dies of a heart attack. Brian's Winter is the sequel. —BB

**Frindle, Lunch Money and Others**

By Andrew Clements

Nick Allen is a 5th grader who takes a stand against his strict teacher. After learning about the origins of words, Nick decides to rename pens as frindles. The use of the word Frindle spreads quickly through the school, and sets off a string of events. Nick and the students refuse to stop using the word, resulting in opportunities and trouble.

In *Lunch Money*, young would-be tycoon Greg teams up with his female archenemy, Maura, to sell comic books to kids. They discover the hilarious ups and downs of business, as well as devising creative strategies to outmaneuver their principal.

**Something Upstairs**

By Avi

Combination of the supernatural, time travel, and history. The ghost of a young slave, Caleb, appears before 12-year-old Kenny. Caleb explains that he had been murdered in cold blood, 200 years ago. Some elements of the book are challenging.

### **The Day my Butt Went Psycho, and others**

By Andy Griffiths

The kind of book that many boys love to read behind their teachers' backs. Butts go crazy, with all the associated butt biological activities. Zack, whose butt has run away, discovers an evil plot of the butts to unite, and erupt a special volcano on mankind. Make no mistake, Griffiths does not write literature, but he might be just the guy for the kid who won't read anything.

### **How to Eat Fried Worms**

By Thomas Rockwell

Ten year old Billy must eat 15 worms in 15 days, or he loses a fifty dollar bet. In addition to the gross-out parts, the book does a great job of describing the rivalry between two groups of friends. Boys will enjoy and connect to this story.

## **Ages 10+ (Middle and High School)**

### **\* Holes**

**\* Wayside School** series (both ages 9+)

By Louis Sachar

Holes—think "curse, desert correctional camp treasure and friends." This is very different from the surreal, humorous tales that occur on the 30th floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with a classroom on each floor.

### **\* Percy Jackson and the Olympians**

By Rick Riordan

Harry Potter but instead of magic as backdrop for a bildungsroman, this has mythology, which has carryover impact on curriculum. Also, more intelligent and better written. Very popular with fourth graders who miss Potter...

### **\* The Hoboken Chicken Emergency (and its sequel)**

By M. Daniel Pinkwater

A heartwarming mystery about boy and his 260-pound pet chicken. What else do you need to know? For clever kids. Pinkwater also has many other books worth checking into.

### **\* The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series**

By Douglas Adams

Enormously clever sci-fi—very British, filled with wordplay, misunderstandings, science, computers, philosophy and lots of tea. Earth is going to be demolished to make way for an interstellar freeway, and Arthur Dent needs his towel to hitch a ride on a passing spaceship. If you saw the movie, you'll be surprised how much more thoughtful, brilliant and hilarious the books are.

### **\* Maniac Magee, Stargirl, Loser, Eggs, Wringer, Smiles to Go, Crash...**

By Jerry Spinelli

The kind of writer other writers wish they were. So completely effortless, yet so completely insightful, Spinelli paces his books so perfectly, has his characters speak so honestly, that kids don't realize they are getting the deepest kind of life lessons of all. Pick his books thoughtfully, because he rarely repeats a theme; this is not a one-size-fits-all writer.

### **Halloween Party, and many other horror stories**

By R.L. Stine

This is a well paced horror story. Nine high school students get invited to a Halloween party they will never forget. Stine does a masterful job of building the suspense, and continually catching the reader by surprise.

### **Evil Genius**

By Catherine Jinks

A very intelligent, but not difficult to read, tome about geniuses recruited to the Axis Institute, where they study things like Ecosurvival Techniques, Contagion, Misinformation and Embezzlement. Fun and engrossing and thought-provoking for kids. Perhaps downright frightening for adults who know how little our education system provides for intelligent kids.

### **Snow Treasure**

By Marie McSwigan

Twelve year old Peter Lundstrom enjoys sledding down the mountains of Norway with his friends in 1940. Then the German army invades, and Peter's family fears the Nazis will steal millions of dollars of gold from Norway, and use the money to wreck more evil on Europe. They devise a plan to smuggle the gold out of Norway, but Peter and his friends must do it. —BB

### **Artemis Fowl series**

By Eoin Colfer

Paramilitary fairies, a 12-year-old criminal genius and all the fantasy and action a turned-off reader could want. Because

there are battles and futuristic weaponry in here, parents with concerned about violence may want to look at this one first. -SB

**Darkwing, Silverwing** and Other Bat Books

By Kenneth Oppel

Fascinating, thoughtful YA fiction that will appeal to thoughtful boys geared toward any branches of science. -SB

**The Boys From Brooklyn: The Great Robbery.**

By Salvatore Tomasi

Nicky and his friends are typical young teens. The summertime living is easy and filled with fun: until Tommy dares the boys to do something risky, something that can screw them up for the rest of their lives. Friendship, competing, father-son relations, mom's guiding hand, ratting on your friends, and "doing the right thing" unfold in a real life and boy-friendly style. -BB

**\* Nathan Abercrombie, Accidental Zombie** series, and Short Story Collections

By David Lubar

Nathan is a half-dead zombie who tries to come to terms with his new problems, and make the best of it. Lots of fun, adventure, humor. Lubar is an extremely enjoyable writer for reluctant readers.

**The Thing About Georgie**

By Lisa Graff

People are different. That rarely comes across any better than in this book, about a boy in school who is a little person. Many kids are going to read this and say, "That was a lot better than I thought it would be!" -SB

**The Name of this Book is Secret**

By Pseudonymous Bosch

A smart, quirky adventure filled with puzzles and riddles.

**Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life**

By Wendy Mass

This one really stands out for me. Its premise is quiet, but it's heartfelt and honest. -CS

**The Big Splash**

By Jack D. Ferraiolo

Seventh grade life/mafia/comic book. What else need be said? -SB

**Ignatius MacFarland: Frequent**

By Paul Feig

Sci-fi with a humorous twist. Written by the creator of Freaks & Geeks. -CH

**\* Freak the Mighty**

By Rodman Philbrick

Not a lot to say that can do justice to this book. Max is huge, hulking, and for his whole life he's been called stupid; Freak is all brain with a decrepit body. They forge a transcendent symbiotic relationship and become Freak the Mighty, sticking up for each other, living for each other. A riveting, poignant, sad but ultimately rewarding book.

**Stormbreaker**

By Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex' uncle and caregiver has just been killed, supposedly in a car crash. Strange people come to the funeral, Alex sees some things he shouldn't, and he is thrust into the nonstop danger. Fortunately for Alex, he has been unwittingly trained in self defense and outdoor survival techniques. That's when the spy stuff comes in... -BB

**\* Warriors** series (20 books and counting)

By Erin Hunter

Feral cats in their clans form alliances, break them, raise kits, teach them to fight, and as the titles suggest, wage war dogs, badgers, and each other. Do not underestimate the immense popularity of realistic fantasy for boys 8-15! Which is why I suggest the following:

Almost any **Dragon** book, like **\*Chris D'Lacey's** series, **Christopher Paolini's** Eragon, or **Cornelia Funke's** Dragon Rider.

**Tangerine**

By Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul has just moved to Tangerine County, Florida. Paul starts to have flashbacks of something painful that happened to him when he was five, resulting in near blindness. Paul's eyesight has improved since then, and he has become a great soccer goalie. Then, a sinkhole swallows part of his middle school, and Paul is transferred into a nearby middle school, populated with rougher kids. Paul continues to have painful flashbacks, finally remembering what happened to him. -BB

\* **The 39 Clues** series (eventually 10 books)

By Rick Riordan, Gordon Korman, et al.

Adventure, mystery, espionage, with games, codes and an online component. Very good books that could replace half the MS/HS curriculum, with science, literature, geography, and more. Dan and Amy find they are part of the world's most powerful family, but don't really know what that means. A worldwide scavenger hunt ensues...

\* **No More Dead Dogs, Schooled, Swindle, Losing Joe's Place, Son of the Mob** and just about anything else:

By Gordon Korman.

Korman is often funny, always entertaining, deceptively creative—and yet the kind of writer adults can learn from as well. *Dead Dogs* features Wallace Wallace, an 8th grade football star who can't help but be totally honest. In a book report, Wallace tells his teacher that the assigned book is boring, predictable and sad, which starts a mini-war that eventually involves the whole school in a number of venues. *Schooled* features Cap Anderson, a home-schooled boy who has to go to a real Middle School for the first time in his life. You can imagine what happens from there. *Swindle* is filled with mischief, fun and adventure, when kids are swindled out of a Babe Ruth baseball card and try to steal it back. Oh, yes, and Korman's adventure series are well-written and fast-paced.

\* **Dairy Queen**

By Catherine Gilbert Murdock

The little sister from a locally famous football-playing family decides to join the high school football team. Murdock's prose gives the "Oh, not that theme again" concept such life and drama, that kids will feel like they're reading nonfiction. Probably an excellent book to get boys and girls thinking about identity, and doing what they really enjoy.

**Tunnels**

By Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams

Will Burrows is obsessed with archeology, and when he and his father dig up an abandoned tunnel, strange things start happening. First Will's Dad disappears, then he starts on a quest with his only friend Chester, to uncover the cruel, deadly truth. Not a book for fun, but for adventure.

**Canned**

By Alex Shearer

Also a disturbing book, *Canned* is a black comedy about two quirky kids who collect label-less cans, and discover a dark truth about what's really in those cans. Hint: if they're not careful, they're going to wind up on the other side of the tin.

**The Babe Ruth Story**

By Babe Ruth

"I was a bad kid," the story begins, and throughout Ruth conveys the feeling that he's talking directly to his reader. Throughout, Ruth's sense of pride shines through. -BB

**Rats**

By Paul Zindel

Flesh tearing rats go berserk in this fast paced story! Perfect for lovers of blood and gory action. Methane gas in the Staten Island, N.Y., landfill has turned the rats into horrible, killer mutants! One gruesome, graphic scene follows another. Michael and his sister Sarah narrowly escape one ambush after another. Can they figure out a way to stop the rats? -BB

**The Chocolate War**

By Robert Cormier

Jerry Renault refuses to sell chocolates for his school fund-raiser because each student's quota is double last year's because the school controller mismanaged the budget, and was trying to cover it up. When the school controller manipulates the school's secret society against Jerry, a real psychological thriller unfolds. A provocative, sometimes dark, thriller.

\* **Ender's Game**

By Orson Scott Card

An imaginative sci-fi page turner. Earth has barely survived two alien invasions. The military command is preparing to invade the alien world in space before they can attack Earth again. Ender Wiggin is believed to be Earth's best chance at leading the attack against the aliens. But he first has to survive intense mental and physical battle exercises, attacks by jealous rivals, and psychological attacks by the military command.

**The Postcard**

By Tony Abbott

A fun boy adventure set in Florida with themes about family secrets and old pulp crime stories. -CH

**Vampirates**

By Justin Somper

Vampires who are also... pirates. Combining two boy favorites! -CH

**The Mousehunter**

By Alex Milway

Boy adventure, with pirates and tiny rodents. -CH

**Roald Dahl...**

is back, especially the darker stories like *The Magic Finger*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

*Don't discount classic adventures like:*

**Treasure Island**, **Journey to the Center of the Earth** (any Jules Verne work), or **Call of the Wild**.

**ONLY HIGH SCHOOL (Mature or Intense Themes)****Into Thin Air**

By Jon Krakauer

A harrowing account of the disastrous 1996 Mount Everest climbing expedition. Of the eleven members of the expedition that started the climb, only six came back alive. Krakauer vividly recounts the harrowing experiences he and others endured. Acts of heroism, selfishness and cowardice reveal the heights and depths of the human condition. -BB

**Band of Brothers**

By Steven Ambrose

A gritty and awe inspiring account of a group of men who parachuted into France prior to the D-Day invasion, and fought their way across France, Belgium and Germany, right into Hitler's mountaintop residence. The horrors of war, as well as soldiers' heroic actions, unfold throughout. Direct commentary by the men who survived makes this saga even more meaningful.

**The Death Collector**

By Justin Richards

Graveyards, mysteries and dinosaurs make this very attractive. The setting, Victorian England, does not. (Be wary of how a setting too far from their own time can frustrate male readers!)

**On the Devil's Court**

By Carl Deuker

Seventeen-year-old Joe Faust has just moved to Seattle, and he wants to play on the public high school's top notch basketball team. His parents overrule, and send him to the private school. Alone one night in the gym, Joe makes a pact with the Devil. His life is transformed. He becomes a superstar, friendships are going well, and does great in school, until... -BB

**\* One Fat Summer**

By Robert Lipsyte

Fat 14 year old Bobby is friend with Joanie, who has a crooked nose. They bond together, trying to ignore the hurtful insults thrown at them. When Joanie goes away for the summer, Bobby indulges his job, cutting and maintaining the large lawn of Dr. Kahn, who treats him like a slave. Eventually, Bobby keeps his dreams alive, deals with Dr. Kahn, and also starts noticing some changes about his body and his strength. -BB

**\* Ghost Soldiers**

By Hampton Sides

A heroic WW II rescue mission set in the Philippines, Jan, 1945. American forces are starting to push the Japanese army back into Japan. As the Japanese retreat, there are fears they will kill American POW's, held in Japanese camps. These fears are realized, after US commanders learn of the murder of American POW's at Palawan. There are another 513 POW's at the Cabanatuan camp that may be massacred imminently. The decision is made to launch a rescue mission behind enemy lines. -BB

**Snow Bound**

By Harry Mazer

Stubborn 15-year-old Tony Laporte has a fight with his parents, and drives off in one of his their cars. He picks up a hitchhiker named Cindy, and they find themselves driving into a blizzard. Tony recklessly crashes the car in a deserted area. Tony and Cindy are now up against a blinding snowstorm, injuries and wild dog attacks. They must learn to forget their petty grievances against the world, and rely on each other to survive. -BB

**Great American Warriors**

By Sal Tomasi

Stories of the real Supermen from American History: Army Rangers, sea captains and wartime generals. -BB

**The Last Mission**

By Harry Mazer

Jack Raab is a 15 year old boy, who hates what Hitler is doing to the Jews in Europe. His older looks, and a fake I.D., get

him into the Air Force. He trains with a bombing crew in England. On their 14th bombing mission, their plane is shot down, and the survivors, including Jack, are taken prisoner. The language is hard hitting and real. The ending is thought provoking. -BB

### **Heart of a Champion**

By Carl Deuker

This is an unusually intense baseball book with compelling teenage themes: competing, drinking, friendships, loss, family. This is the story of two teenage boys, and how their experiences change each one of them forever. Seth first meets Jimmy in a park, watching Jimmy's father put him through one difficult baseball drill after another. Jimmy's competitive spirit to play baseball rubs off on Seth, who also becomes a good ball player. Both boys struggle desperately with their inner demons. Great baseball descriptions, compelling, intense character development, important real life teenage issues. -BB

### **\* Endurance**

By Alfred Lansing

One of the greatest survival stories known to man. In 1914, Ernest Shackleton commanded an expedition of 27 men to cross the South Pole. The crew's ship gets trapped by ice, and the men have to abandon it. The men endure hardships such as near starvation and gangrene. Sea monsters rise from the oceans, hunting them across the ice. They must resort to eating their beloved sled dogs to survive, and perform an amputation to save a man's life. An intense account of man's will to survive.

### **\* We Were Here, Ball Don't Lie, and Mexican White Boy**

By Matt de la Peña

Gritty urban stories that explore real life, blending street life, sports and the search for self-identity. de la Peña is masterful at bringing real worlds to life, and while much of his writing is not "fun," it is often inspirational and empowering.

### **\* Last Night I Sang to the Monster**

By Benjamine Alire Saenz

Mesmerizing writing about friendship, self-discovery, and addiction. Hard to pick up, but harder to put down.

### **\* Music of the Swamp**

By Lewis Nordan

"The summer I turned eleven years old, I had a secret—it was a small collapsible military shovel, an entrenching tool, it was called." Sugar Mecklin deals with being poor white trash growing up in Mississippi, and learning how much a part of place we all are. Delightful writing overflowing with imagery and similes.

### **The Catcher in the Rye**

By J. D. Salinger

There's a reason this book has been so popular for so long. I suspect if you can figure out why, you can begin to understand how to choose books for boys.

## **NON-FICTION SERIES/AUTHORS for younger kids...**

**1001 Things to Spot in the Sea** (& others in the series)

**David MacCaulay**

Pyramid

**Walter Wick**

I Spy Gold Challenger: A Book of Picture Riddles

**Seymour Simon**

Whales, Big Cats, Danger! Volcanoes, Animals Nobody Loves (Ages 4 – 8)

**Richard Platt**

Eyewitness: Pirate and/or Spy: all Eyewitness books are created in easily digestible parts.

**Phenomena**

By Donna M. Jackson

Explores extrasensory abilities, such as telepathy, mind reading, etc. -CH

## **...and for MS/HS KIDS**

\*\*\* *Anything* that has the word "**List**" or "**Top 10/20/50**" in it or "**1000 Things to X Before You Die.**" Honestly, **Nothing** is more utilitarian.



## **MAGAZINES**

**Popular Science**  
**Kids Discover**

**National Geographic for Kids**  
**Sports Illustrated for Kids**

## **POETRY**

There are very many good ones, and Jack Prelutsky and Shel Silverstein are still popular. One to note is:

**Jeff Moss:** Bone Poems (which are all about dinosaurs, still a popular boy subject)

\* "BB" are Booksforboys.com exclusive selections; "SB" are Stephen Barbara's; "CH" are Connie Hsu's