

**Books to Read Aloud**  
**Adapted from a list prepared by Multnomah, OR County**  
**Library**

**Younger Listeners**

Crews - The Neighborhood Mother Goose

Photographs of young children romping in an urban setting interpret well-known and less familiar Mother Goose rhymes.

Cleary - Ramona the Pest

Ramona meets a lot of interesting people in kindergarten, including Davy, whom she wants to kiss, and Susan, whose springy curls beg to be pulled.

DiCamillo - The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread

When Despereaux, a small mouse of unusual talents, falls in love with a human princess, he is banished to the rat-filled dungeon.

Ehrlich - The Random House Book of Fairy Tales

This collection includes 19 of the greatest fairy tales of all time.

Gannett - Three Tales of My Father's Dragon

A compilation of tales that relates the fantastic adventures of Elmer Elevator and a baby flying dragon named Boris.

Hort - The Seals on the Bus

It's going to be a wild trip when some very interesting passengers board the bus.

Horvath - The Pepins and Their Problems

The Pepins are helpless when it comes to solving problems and they need you, the reader, to provide solutions!

Katz - Take Me Out of the Bathtub and Other Silly Dilly Songs

Sing these funny poems to the tunes of well-known songs.

Kimmel - Anansi and the Magic Stick

Anansi the Spider steals Hyena's magic stick so he won't have to do the chores, but when the magic stick won't stop, Anansi gets more than he bargained for.

Lobel - Frog and Toad Are Friends

Funny, simply-told stories reflect Frog and Toad's warm friendship.

Paul - Mañana Iguana

In a Mexican-themed twist on the Little Red Hen story, Iguana can't get any help with the fiesta she's planning.

Paye - Mrs. Chicken and the Hungry Crocodile

A Liberian folktale describes how Mrs. Chicken cleverly convinces a hungry crocodile not to eat her.

Seeger - Abiyoyo: Based on a South African Lullaby and Folk Story

Villagers realize they need a troublemaking father and son to defeat a fierce monster that is threatening the village.

Shannon - Duck on a Bike

Duck starts a bike-riding trend on the farm.

Sierra - Tasty Baby Belly Buttons

In a retelling of a Japanese folktale, little Uriko saves the village babies from a gang of terrible giants whose favorite treat is baby belly buttons.

Stevens - Tops and Bottoms

Bear is too lazy to work during planting season so Hare develops a clever scheme to work Bear's land and get the best of his crops.

Wilcox - Falling for Rapunzel

In a takeoff on the fairy tale, Rapunzel's hearing problem stymies the Prince when he asks her to let down her hair.

Willems - Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus

Please help the bus driver keep the pigeon from driving his bus!

## **Intermediate Listeners**

Babbitt

Tuck Everlasting

Ten-year-old Winnie Foster befriends a family that accidentally finds the secret to living forever. Winnie realizes she must protect their secret from an intrusive stranger.

Clements - Frindle

Is it possible for a boy to make up a word out of thin air and convince the whole world to use it in conversation?

Codell - Sahara Special

Sahara has struggled in school but gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who recognizes the individuality of all her students.

Dahl - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

The classic adventure story of a boy's visit to a magical chocolate factory celebrates its 40th anniversary of publication.

Fleischman - Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices

A collection of poems about insects designed to be read aloud in duet.

Funke - The Thief Lord

A crew of homeless kids in Venice, Italy, is headed by a young man whose elusive identity as the Thief Lord isn't exactly what people believe it is.

Juster - The Phantom Tollbooth

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom.

Lester - The Tales of Uncle Remus: The Adventures of Brer Rabbit

Master storyteller Julius Lester tells hair-raising and hilarious tales in a voice that is at once contemporary and timeless.

Lowry - Number the Stars

When Nazi soldiers begin evacuating Jewish families from Copenhagen, 10-year-old Annemarie Johansen wonders how she can keep her best friend Ellen Rosen from being captured.

Martin - The Doll People

Adventures abound when the 100-year-old Doll family meets the new and plastic Funcraft doll family.

Robinson - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

To everyone's dismay, the worst-behaved kids in town take over all the main roles of the church Christmas pageant.

Rodda - Rowan of Rin

Young Rowan, neither brave nor strong, finds he must be a key member of a search party to find out why the village's mountain stream has stopped flowing.

Selden - The Cricket in Times Square

A cricket's uniquely melodious chirp gains him fame beyond anyone's dreams.

Silverstein - Where the Sidewalk Ends: The Poems and Drawings of Shel Silverstein

A zesty collection of humorous light verse that delights listeners and readers.

Steig - Abel's Island

A castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel (a very civilized mouse) finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Winthrop - The Castle in the Attic

A gift of a toy castle, complete with silver knight, sets William on an adventure involving magic and a personal quest.

Yep - Rainbow People

Early Chinese-Americans shared stories for entertainment. These retellings include stories about tricksters, fools, virtues and vices, Chinese America and love.

## **Older Listeners**

Avi - Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Choldenko - Al Capone Does My Shirts

When his father takes a job at the Alcatraz Island prison in 1935, 12-year-old Moose has to contend with an extraordinary new environment in addition to the challenges of life with an autistic sister.

Creech - Walk Two Moons

After her mother leaves home suddenly, 13-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Curtis - The Watsons Go to Birmingham — 1963

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Freedman - The Voice That Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights

Despite Marian Anderson's acceptance in Europe as an extraordinary vocalist, she struggled against racial discrimination to share her gift with her fellow Americans.

Giff - Nory Ryan's Song

When a terrible blight attacks Ireland's potato crop in 1845, 12-year-old Nory Ryan's courage and ingenuity help her family and neighbors survive.

Gilbreth - Cheaper by the Dozen

Set in the early 20th century, this classic family comedy follows the efforts of a husband and wife as they try to maintain control in a home with 12 children.

Hiaasen - Hoot

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

Holt - Spiders in the Hairdo: Modern Urban Legends

These modern-day folktales with a twist are funny, scary and down right weird.

Konigsburg - The View From Saturday

Four students develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

Korman - No More Dead Dogs

Eighth-grader Wallace Wallace becomes locked in a terrible struggle with his English teacher and his football team when he gives his honest opinion in a book report.

Levine - Hana's Suitcase: A True Story

This is the true account of two brave children caught in the Holocaust and a young Japanese woman's determination to tell their story.

Namioka - Ties That Bind, Ties That Break: A Novel

Ailin's life takes a different turn when she defies the traditions of upper class Chinese society by refusing to have her feet bound.

Paulsen - How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports

Author Gary Paulsen relates tales from his youth in a northwestern Minnesota small town during the late 1940s and early 1950s, such as skiing behind a souped-up car and imitating daredevil Evel Knievel.

Rawls - Summer of the Monkeys

In the late 1800s, a 12-year-old boy spends a summer trying to capture four runaway circus monkeys.

Ryan - Becoming Naomi Leon

When Naomi's alcoholic mother resurfaces to claim her and collect the welfare check, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

Sachar - Holes

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune, which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a horrendous correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure and a new sense of himself.

San Souci - Dare to Be Scared: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill

Choose from ghost stories, supernatural thrillers, science fiction and dark fantasy to read under the blankets at sleepovers, around the campfire or under an ominous moon.

Spinelli - Stargirl

In a story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

Tolkien - The Hobbit: Or There and Back Again

Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to share in an adventure from which he may never return.

Wolff - Probably Still Nick Swansen

Sixteen-year-old Nick finds joy in life despite his learning disability, the taunting of other kids and the death of his sister.