

## **Mrs. Armstrong's Recommended List of Read Aloud Books**

### **Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin** by Liesl Shurtiff (Fantasy)

Relates the tale of Rumpelstiltskin's childhood and youth, explaining why his name is so important, how he is able to spin straw into gold, and why a first-born child is his reward for helping the miller's daughter-turned-queen.

### **Jinx** by Sage Blackwood (Fantasy)

A young boy named Jinx encounters magic and danger as he grows up in the deep, dark forest known as the Urwald and discovers that the world beyond--and within--the Urwald is more complex than he could imagine.

### **Capture the Flag** by Kate Messner (Mystery / Adventure)

When the original Star Spangled Banner is stolen, seventh-graders Anne, Jose, and Henry, all descendants of the Silver Jaguar Society, pursue suspects on airport carts and through baggage handling tunnels while stranded at a Washington, D.C., airport during a snowstorm.

### **The Real Boy** by Anne Ursu (Fantasy)

A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster.

### **One Dog and His Boy** by Eva Ibbotson (Animal / Realistic Fiction)

A tale of a boy and dog who were meant to be together.

### **The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity** by Mac Barnett (Mystery / Adventure)

Twelve-year-old Steve Brixton, a fan of Bailey Brothers detective novels, is mistaken for a real detective and must elude librarians, police, and the mysterious Mr. E as he seeks a missing quilt containing coded information.

### **The Secret of Platform 13** by Eva Ibbotson (Fantasy)

Edge Gribble, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their Island to London to rescue their king and queen's son who had been stolen as an infant.

### **Island of the Aunts** by Eva Ibbotson (Fantasy)

As they get older, several sisters decide that they must kidnap children and bring them to their secluded island home to help with the work of caring for an assortment of unusual sea creatures.

**From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg (Mystery)  
Claudia Kincaid and her brother run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in order to teach their parents a lesson and embark upon a mystery involving a priceless work of art and the strange old woman who sold the piece to the museum.

**Emerald Atlas** by John Stephens (Fantasy)

Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers--and a fearsome enemy--and embark on a prophesied quest to find a magical book.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein (Mystery, Adventure)

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous game maker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

**Mr. and Mrs. Bunny Detectives Extraordinaire** by Polly Hovath (Mystery / Animals)

Middle-schooler Madeline's hippy parents have been kidnapped from Hornby Island, Canada, by foxes and Madeline, upon discovering that she can understand animal languages, hires two rabbit detectives to find them.

**Harry Potter Series** by J. K. Rowling

**Redwall Series** by Brian Jaques (Fantasy)

The thrilling adventures of young Matthias as he discovers the hero within.

**Invisible Inkling** by Emily Jenkins

When Hank Wolowitz runs into trouble in the form of a lunch-stealing bully, he finds an unlikely ally in an invisible refugee pumpkin-loving bandapat named Inkling.

**The Year of Billy Miller** by Kevin Henkes (Realistic Fiction)

Seven-year-old Billy Miller starts second grade with a bump on his head and a lot of worries, but by the end of the year he has developed good relationships with his teacher, his little sister, and his parents and learned many important lessons.

**Elvis and the Underdogs** by Jenny Lee

All his life Benji, now ten, has been sickly and he has long been targeted by the school bully, but after a seizure Benji gets a therapy dog that is not only big enough to protect him, it can also talk.

**Peter and the Starcatchers** by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson (Fantasy / Adventure)  
Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly fight off thieves and pirates in order to keep the secret safe away from the diabolical Black Stache and his evil associate Mister Grin.

**Molly Moon Series** by Georgia Byng

Unlucky and unloved, Molly Moon, living in a dreary orphanage in a small English town, discovers a hidden talent for hypnotism and hypnotizes her way to stardom in New York City.

**Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat** by Lynn Jonell (Fantasy)

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

**The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo (Animal / Fantasy)

The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin.

**Anne of Green Gables** by Lucy Maud Montgomery (Classic / Historical / Realistic)

**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again** by Frank Cottrell Boyce

The Tooting family fits an old engine they find into their camper van, unaware that the engine once belonged to an extraordinary car and sends the family on an adventure across the world to rebuild the original Chitty.

**Castle in the Attic** by Elizabeth Winthrop

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

**Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Patterson

**Mama's Bank Account** by Kathryn Forbes (Local) (not available in our library)

A series of adventures about an immigrant Norwegian family living in San Francisco in the early 1900s.

**Series of Unfortunate Events** by Lemony Snicket

**Spindlers** by Lauren Oliver (Fantasy)

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the vilest of creatures--the spider-like spindlers.

**Emily's Fortune** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Historical Fiction)

While traveling to her aunt's home in Redbud by train and stagecoach, quiet young Emily and her turtle, Rufus, team up with Jackson, fellow orphan and troublemaker extraordinaire, to outsmart mean Uncle Victor, who is after Emily's inheritance.

**The Water Castle** by Megan Frazer Blakemore (Mystery / Adventure)

Moving into an inherited mansion in Maine with their mother and stroke-afflicted father, three siblings uncover a mystery involving hidden passageways, family rivalries, and healing waters.

**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate (Animals) / Newbery Award)

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

**Magyk Series** by Angie Sage (Fantasy)

Jenna learns that she is a princess found as a baby by the man she believed was her father and now she and Septimus, who was taken at birth by the midwife, are being threatened by the evil wizard, DomDaniel who intends to finish off the entire royal line.

**Pie** by Sarah Weeks

Alice's Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice's care, and as everyone, including Alice, tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family.

**The Borrowers** by Mary Norton

Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock.

**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeline L'Engle (Science Fiction / Newbery Award)

Meg Murry, her brother Charles, and their friend Calvin, embark on a journey through space and time, assisted by three otherworldly women, to find Meg's father, a physicist who disappeared while experimenting with time travel.

**Narnia Series** by C.S. Lewis (Fantasy)

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

**The Friendship Doll** by Kirby Lawson (Historical Fiction / Fantasy)

Follows the adventures of Miss Kanagawa, a doll made to serve as an ambassadors from Japan to the United States, as she makes friends and learns about love during the twentieth century.

**The Great Wall of Lucy Lu** by Wendy Wang-Long Shan (Realistic Fiction)

Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months, shattering her plans for a perfect sixth-grade year.

**The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester** by Barbara O'Connor

After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the Carter, Georgia, pond it came from, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola.

**Tuesdays in the Castle** by Jessica Day George (Fantasy)

Princess Celie loves Tuesdays at Castle Glower, because every Tuesday the castle adds a new room, a turret, or sometimes a whole new wing, and Celie likes to map the changes to the castle, but when her parents, King and Queen Glower are taken captive, it falls to Celie and her knowledge of the castle to defend their home and save the kingdom.

**Hothead** by Cal Ripken (Sports / Realistic)

All-Star third baseman on his Babe Ruth League team, has a terrible temper and problems at home, but when the sports editor of the school paper threatens to publish an embarrassing story about his tantrums, Connor must make a change.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick (Historical Fiction)

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Where The Mountain Meets the Moon** by Grace Lin (Fantasy)

Minli an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing live to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

**Nanny McPhee: the Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda** by Christianna Brand

The incorrigible Brown children, who devour nannies, nurse-maids, and governesses, finally meet their match.

**Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper (Realistic Fiction)

Considered by many to be challenged, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.