

ZOO O D A W R S L I M E R



A book can lead you into the deepest, darkest jungle or lift you soaring into space. It can quiver with mystery or give you goose bumps. It can take you into the future or return you to the past. A book can show you the world or make your world more beautiful.

A book makes famous people your friends. A book is a friend that never dumps you.

And like basketball, or dancing, or singing, or painting — the more you do, the better you get. Reading just an extra 10 minutes every day can improve your reading level by one level every two months!

This special section of the newspaper is




an introduction to seven different kinds of books. Some you will already know. Some will be new to you. Some will teach you things. Some will just be fun. Some will be true to life. And some will be just plain weird!

Try out each kind of book so that you can learn which ones you like best. You can choose titles from the book lists provided, or ask your teacher or librarian for suggestions. When you finish a book, fill in the rating card.

You may not like every book you read — no one does. But, by the time you've read one of each type, you'll know that no matter what you like, you can find it in a book!

A HOT TOPICS NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT FROM

READING LEVELS:

-  = Primaryfor those reading at grade levels 1-3
-  = Intermediatefor readers at grade levels 3-4
-  = Advancedfor readers at grade levels 5-8

BIOGRAPHY



Do you want to meet the President? How about Thomas Edison? Would you like to know more about Sacagawea, Hilary Clinton or Harriet Tubman? Maybe you've always wanted to ask Martin Luther King, Jr. a thing or two.

You can get to know anyone who is famous—and some very interesting people who are not—in a special kind of book called biography (bi-OG-ra-fee).

A biography is the true story of a person's life. It gets its name from the Greek words for "life-writing." It can be told by an author who has studied a person, or it can be written by that person.

When a person writes his or her own life story, it is called an autobiography (OT-o-bi-OG-ra-fee). The *auto* in autobiography has nothing to do with cars—it comes from the Greek word *autos*, which means "self."

A biography tells what a person did in life and tries to show what the person was like. The goal is to explain *why* the person acted the way he or she did.

The author of a biography gets information from many sources. These may include letters or papers written by the subject, public records that show what the person did, newspaper or magazine stories about the person. The author may also talk with friends of the person and—if the person is still alive—interview him or her.

The first great biography writer was a Greek man named Plutarch (PLU-tark), who lived more than 1,900 years ago. One of the most famous autobiographies was written by a child, Anne Frank, while her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. Today libraries and bookstores are full of biographies—everyone from Alexander Graham Bell to Mother Teresa. Biographies are a ticket into famous lives.

BIOGRAPHY BOOK LIST



Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr

This is an age-appropriate pictorial biography of one of the world's greatest civil rights leaders.

Doreen Rappaport. Illustrated by Brian Collier.

A Picture Book of Simon Bolivar

Bolivar is known as the South American "George Washington." He led the people of his Venezuela to freedom from Spanish rule.

David Adler. Illustrated by Robert Casilla.

My Great Aunt Arizona

The author of this book always thought the adventures of her great aunt were fascinating, so she wrote them down. Aunt Arizona's life as a teacher and pioneer in the Blue Mountains is most interesting.

Gloria Houston. Illustrated by Susan Cindi Lamb.



Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Sadako, the young heroine whose statue guards the peace park in Hiroshima, Japan, contracted leukemia, the atom bomb disease. In this fictionalized account of her life, her bravery helps her friends and family cope with her disease.

Eleanor Coerr.

Lives of Presidents:

Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)

Take a walk beyond the politics and the accomplishments of our nation's chief executives. This collection of portraits takes a humorous look at what the Presidents did for fun, their attitudes about life and their family roles.

Kathleen Krull, Illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt.

Ben and Jerry: Ice Cream for Everyone

These partners make ice cream and do it with a heart! Discover what problems in the world their company is fighting as it makes ice cream people love.

Keith Elliot Greenberg.



Red Scarf Girl

Ji-Li Jiang writes of her life in the 1960's, growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China. She tells how it felt to burn her family's treasured possessions to protect them from oppression of Chairman Mao's reign. She is forced to make some difficult choices between her family and a brutal totalitarian government.

Ji-Li Jiang.

Sluggers! Twenty-Seven of Baseball's Greatest

Meet 27 of the greatest sluggers of all time and learn about their amazing athletic achievements in a book that really takes you out to the ballgame.

George Sullivan. Illustrated with photographs.

Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary

This young heroine created one of the most moving stories of World War II when she wrote how her family hid from the Nazis. This book sheds more light on the girl and the times that surrounded her murder.

R. Van Der Pol and R. Verhoeven.

ACTIVITIES



Write the name of your subject vertically down a paper—first letter of the name on the first line, second letter on the second line, etc. On each line write a sentence about this person. Start the sentence about your subject with the letter that is on each line. Keep the sentences short and to the point. Then select a newsmaker from today's paper. Use this technique to describe what you learned about the newsmaker from reading the article.



What will your biography be like 20 years from now? How would you like to be remembered? Find the obituaries in the newspaper. What information is included about each person? Make a list of all the types of facts included in an obituary. Review the list with your class. Now write your obituary about how things will end up for you.



Who will future biographers write about? Look through the National and International News, Metropolitan, Sports and Entertainment sections. Select one newsmaker. Write the person's name in the center of the page. Create a web like a spider's web around his or her name. "Threads" of the web can be information learned about this person from the article or other facts you already know. Biographies are about real people, but are there any story characters you can name that are like this person?

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I would rate this book as:

- Excellent – I loved it!
- Good – It was okay.
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MYSTERY



Whodunnit?

And why have they done it?

Everybody loves a mystery. It's a terrific challenge for the reader to solve the case before the hero does. It's like putting a 1000 piece puzzle together by carefully noting the details.

The mystery story is most often the story of crime—robbery, deception, murder and more. It is full of suspense, unexplained events, twists and turns, good and evil.

Mysteries are mind teasers that challenge you to find the truth. And the best mysteries celebrate what is best in humans. The hero shows that even when surrounded by wrongdoing, a man or woman can make things right by using bravery and brains and sticking to it.

Shakespeare's Hamlet was a mystery story, with the young prince playing detective to

reveal his evil uncle's plot. No wonder this 500 year old play is still popular today!

The most famous mysteries are the Sherlock Holmes stories, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 100 years ago. Holmes, and his assistant Watson, remain incredibly popular among readers of all ages, as are Agatha Christie (KRISTEE) and her brilliant heroine Miss Marple.

Some children's mysteries that have been popular for many years are the Nancy Drew books, Hardy Boys books and Boxcar Children books.

The Goosebumps books were best sellers because they combine the basics of mystery with the thrill of getting your wits scared out of you. It's a killer combination!

There's nothing better than a good mystery for pure enjoyment.

MYSTERY BOOK LIST



Aunt Eater Loves a Mystery

Aunt Eater loves mystery stories so much that she sees mysterious adventures wherever she looks.

Doug Cushman.

The High Rise Detectives: The Case of the Fidgety Fox

When the fluffy dice of Melvin the bus driver turn up missing, Bunny and Jack, two animal detectives, investigate the case.

Cynthia Rylant. Pictures by G. Brian Karas.

The Willow Pattern Story

This tale was first told to the author as a child. A picture of two people on an heirloom china plate provides the mystery. Who were they and why were they captured and punished on the dish?

Allan Drummond. Illustrated by the author.



Mummies and Their Mysteries

Mummies are found all over the world. The mysteries trapped in their bandages include many exciting stories.

Charlotte Wilcox. Illustrated with photographs.

The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limb: An Ecological Mystery

Liza has learned the hard way to survive in the tent city where she lives with her mother and other homeless in the Everglades. A large alligator helps protect them. When its life is threatened, it disappears. Liza sets out to find the creature.

Jean Craighead George.

The Mystery Hideout

Mick and Izzy stumble across thieves planning a heist. One of the boys is kidnapped and the other must solve the case.

Ken Follet.



Finding Buck McHenry

Is Mack Henry, school custodian, really Buck McHenry the famous Negro Leagues pitcher? Jason Ross collects the clues to find the truth.

Alfred Slote.

Unsolved Real Life Mysteries

This book probes the gory details of many unsolved murders, disappearances and other happenings

George Sullivan.

The Voice on the Radio

In the third book in this compelling trilogy, Janie struggles with her identity. Her boyfriend betrays her trust by revealing some of Janie's most private thoughts on a college radio station. How will Janie deal with her conflicting feelings of love?

Caroline B. Cooney.

ACTIVITIES



Think of a mystery you have read. Write down each key event in a complete sentence on a separate strip of paper. Include the solution as one event. Then write down a list of clues that would help someone who doesn't know the story figure the sequence of the jumbled sentenced strips. Give the strips to a group of classmates to put in order. If they need clues, give one at a time until they figure out the correct order.



Choose one interesting picture of a person in the newspaper. What mysteries do you think the person could be hiding? Divide into groups, with each group looking for clues in the same picture. What could the mystery person's clothing, location, etc. tell you? Let your imagination run wild as you make up a story about him or her. Then have each group present their mystery to the class. Did all the groups come up with different mysteries? Why do you think that is?



Every day, stories in the newspaper explore mysteries. Crimes, murders, missing people, weird things in nature. Look through today's paper, or if you can, papers from several days. Review the headlines in the news sections. How many of them tell about a mystery? Pick the one that makes you the most curious. Write a news story for tomorrow's paper that tells how the mystery was solved.

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NON-FICTION



Ever hear the saying, “The truth will set you free”?

That saying is true! And the truth is free for the taking in the interesting, oddball, inspiring or awesome world of writing called non-fiction.

Non-fiction books are true-to-life. The name is simple: “Fiction” is a story some author made up; “non-fiction” means “not made up.”

Non-fiction books inform and explain.

Biography is a kind of non-fiction. So is history.

So are the nature books that tell you everything you want to know about the wasp, or the water buffalo. So are books telling about the traditions of African Americans or other ethnic groups. So are books about the invention of rockets, or the history of art.

Non-fiction books can be as different as the different things that make up the world. David

Macaulay’s *Castle* takes readers inside the workings of a medieval castle. Peter Spier’s picture book *Rain* tells the story of a summer shower—and doesn’t even use words!

Stories of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad read like adventure, but actually tell the history of slaves’ escape from the South before the Civil War.

Books teaching you how to baby-sit, or become better at math, or throw a football, or cook dinner are non-fiction.

So are fun-fact books like those telling the stories behind baseball records, or rating the prices of basketball cards, or listing the top TV shows of all time.

Non-fiction can also try to get you to do something for the world: Save the environment, stop prejudice, say no to drugs.

Non-fiction books are full of life—real life!

NON-FICTION BOOK LIST

P

Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and aviator Amelia Earhart sneak away from a White House dinner to commandeer an airplane and see the magnificence of Washington D.C. at night. This is a true story of two friends and their desire for adventure.

Pam Munoz Ryan, Illustrated by Brian Selznick.

Breathtaking Noses

Use your best detective skills to distinguish which noses you know from the photographs in this beautiful book.

Hana Machtoka.

The Important Book

This is a timeless book about the basic nature of everyday things and why they are special. What's the most important thing about a spoon? You eat with it. What about a shoe? You put your foot in it. The important thing about this book is that you read it.

Margaret Wise Brown, Illustrated by Leonard Weisgard.

P

175 Amazing Nature Experiments

Try these simple science experiments to discover how nature works. Each can be done using common materials.

Rosie Harlow and Gareth Morgan, Illustrated by Ku Kany Chen and others.

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference

This is the perfect guide for anyone who wants to make a difference. There are ideas from simple projects to large-scale

commitments. Kids can choose from a variety of causes including: supporting animal rights, stopping violence, protecting the environment, fighting poverty, promoting literacy and working for political candidates. This book empowers kids to help their community and society.

Barbara A. Lewis, Pamela Espeland.

Where on Earth: A Geografunny Guide to the Globe

This humorous presentation offers a fun introduction to geography and the world.

Paul Rosenthal. Illustrated by Marc Rosenthal.



No Place to Be: Voices of Homeless Children

Descriptions, facts, and statistics revealing the extent of homelessness in America are made more powerful through the interviews and poems of homeless children who experience this hardship first hand.

Judith Breck.

The Uncertain Journey: Stories of Illegal Aliens in El Norte

Moving stories tell of the lives of illegal workers who leave their homes for menial, low paying jobs, determined to work hard and bring their families safely to America.

Margaret Pynter.

When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey From War to Peace

A child who grew up and survived the Vietnam war remembers and retells the experience.

Le Ly Hayslip.

ACTIVITIES

P

Find a globe, or map of the world. Then look through the newspaper for "datelines." They appear at the beginning of an article if it was written in another city or country. They show where the reporter was when he or she wrote the story. Mark your map or globe with a colored star each time a location is mentioned in a dateline. At the end of a week, graph the places featured. Which places are in the news most frequently? Why?

P

If a newspaper were a book, it would be non-fiction. Newspapers write about things that are true. A lot of the stories tell what is happening with words. But newspapers also tell a lot with numbers. Look through the different sections of the newspaper and list the many ways numbers help tell what is going on. Then list five things you know from math class that help you understand what the numbers are telling you. Use your math knowledge to write a word problem with number information you find in the newspaper. Trade problems with a classmate.

A

A famous newsman once said that newspapers are "the first rough draft of history." A rough draft is like a sloppy copy of a report you're writing. What events written about in today's paper might be a "rough draft" for future history books? Make a list of them. Then pretend you are a historian writing 20 years from now. Write a history of one event on your list. Predict how that event will be viewed two decades from now. Did it result in a lasting change?

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The best thing about it was:

- The way it was written.
- The main character.
- The plot.

I would rate this book as:

- Excellent – I loved it!
- Good – It was okay.
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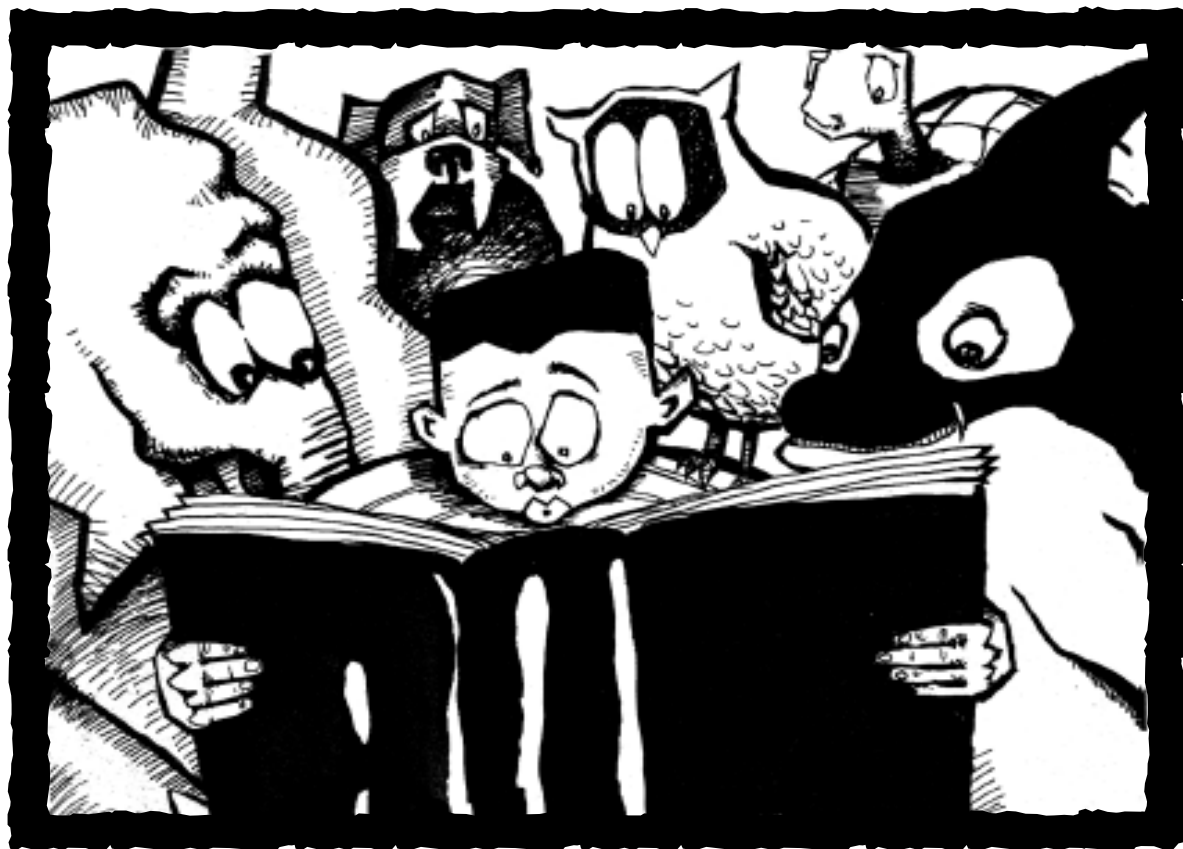
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ANIMALS



From Winnie the Pooh to the Black Stallion, animals have a special power over people.

They can be fuzzy or fierce, beautiful or brutal. They live by their own rules.

Animal books can be fiction or non-fiction—but either way, they usually follow the rules for the way real animals behave.

That's because animals are fascinating just the way they are. It's the reason so many beautiful animal books come to libraries each year.

In animal non-fiction you learn the complex habits of different species, often with great color photos. Apes, mustangs, birds of prey all have books telling all about their lives.

You can learn about animals in fiction as well, even if the animals “talk” or communicate in ways that they can't in real life.

Often, animal fiction uses animals to teach lessons or show the growth of human characters.

Marguerite Henry's *Misty* books, for example, are not only stories about the wild ponies of Chincoteague (CHING-ko-teeg), but are stories about children growing up. So are the *Black Stallion* books by Walter Farley.

One of the earliest animal books, *Aesop's Fables*, used animals to teach life lessons, or “morals.” And sometimes the lessons are very sad, as in *The Yearling* by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, when a young boy realizes that he cannot value an adopted deer over his family's needs.

Some animal stories deal with the hard problems facing children. Wilson Rawls' *Where the Red Fern Grows* deals with a boy's struggle to find happiness in a sad life while Nancy Springer's *Boy on a Black Horse* is about death and homelessness. Such animal tales ask the troubling question: Are humans really more advanced than the animals of the world?

ANIMALS BOOK LIST



Voices of the Wild

If animals could talk, they might send these messages about what is happening in our world. Included are suggestions about how to solve some of the problems.

Jonathan London. Illustrated by Wayne McLoughlin.

Easy to See Why

A strange pet show exhibits dogs and their look-alike owners.

Fred Gwynne. Illustrated by the author.

Bark George

What's wrong with George? When George "meows," his mother takes him for a hilarious visit to the vet. Enjoy this extremely funny picture book and find what surprises come out of George's mouth.

Jules Feiffer.



Bunnacula Strikes Again

Harold, the family dog, tells the tale of the Monroe family. He becomes suspicious that Bunnacula may be a vampire when he starts acting strangely. The plans go awry and nearly lead to oblivion.

James Howe, Illustrated by Alan Daniel.

Man and Mustang

Inmates from New Mexico's state prison help train the captured wild mustang and protect these animals from extinction.

Gorge Ancona.

Woodsong

Gary Paulsen gives a first-person account of his adventures preparing for the Iditarod dog sled race and competing successfully.

Gary Paulsen.



Where the Red Fern Grows

All the boy wants is a dog. In spite of his family's poverty, they agree to let him buy a pair of bloodhounds. The dogs are his only happiness in a sad life.

Wilson Rawls.

Bees Dance and Whales Sing: The Mysteries of Animals' Communication

Figure out the codes to unlock how animals communicate.

Margery Facklam.

Illustrated by Pamela Johnson.

Animal Dreams

Legends told by Native Americans use animals to explain and explore human life responsibilities. The story includes flashbacks, dreams, and a love story.

Barbara Kingsolver.

ACTIVITIES



Choose an animal you'd like to have for a pet from among those listed in the classified ad section's pet directory. What adventures would you and this pet have together? Either aloud or in writing, tell a short story about one of your adventures.



What would your parents say if you brought the animal in a favorite book home to stay? Imagine the incident. Then write a dialogue (Dy-a-log) between you and the adults in your family. What would they say? What would you say in return? If the animal presents a serious problem, see if you can include some funny things you or your parents might say to lighten things up. If your story is basically funny, try to give it a serious side, too. Read or play out the scene with some of your classmates.



Locate the comics in the newspaper. How many of them include animals? Recreate an event from an animal story you have read by making it into a three-panel comic strip. Now locate the cartoon on the editorial or opinion page. An editorial cartoon expresses an opinion. Often a cartoonist makes people into animals to say something about the way the people are behaving. Think of some animals you might use to criticize bad behavior in people.

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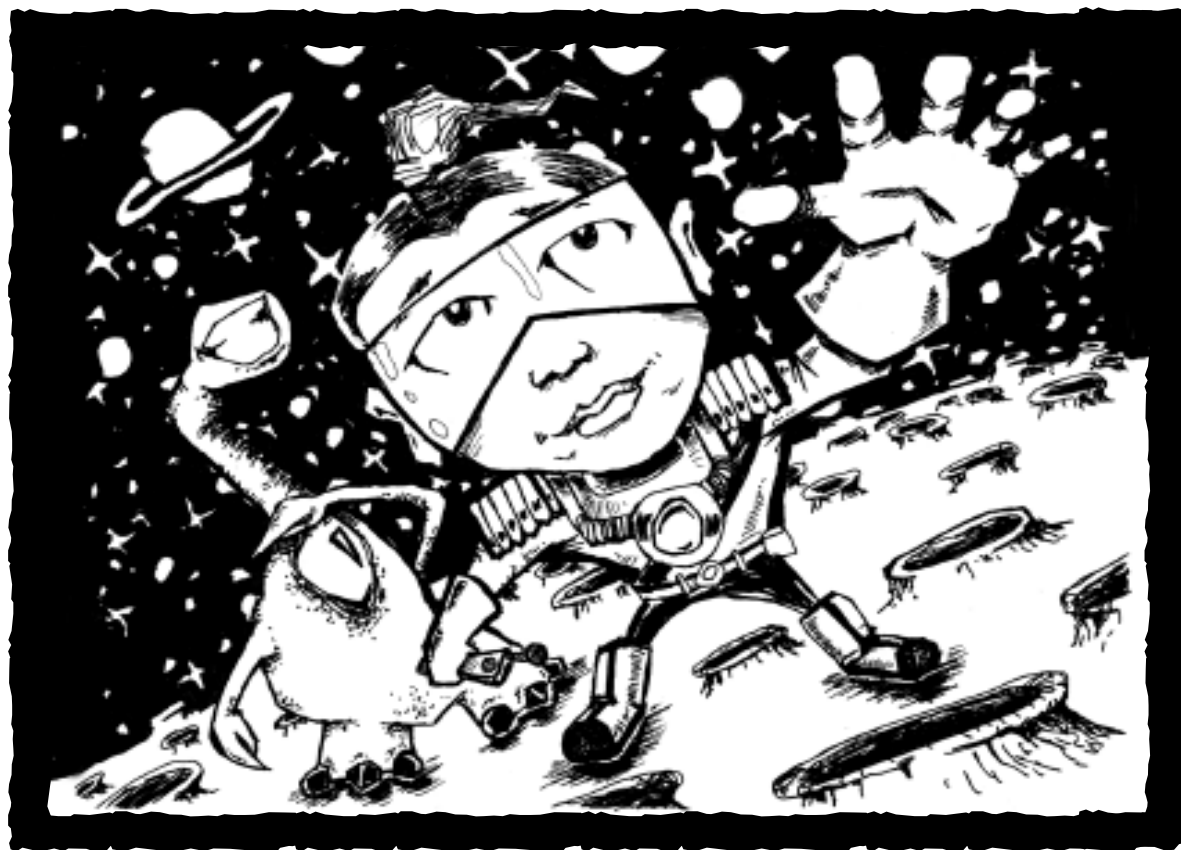
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SCIENCE FICTION



Star Wars. Jurassic Park. Frankenstein.

Space travel, dinosaurs, monsters and more make science fiction one of the most exciting—and entertaining—sections in the library. That's why so many science fiction books are made into movies.

Science fiction combines what you learn in science with the wildest parts of your imagination. It makes the impossible seem to be possible by creating new inventions or science that can change the world as we know it.

Science fiction is usually a dream of the future, but it can also go back to the past. Sometimes the “science” that makes the story possible goes terribly wrong, creating monsters or disasters. And sometimes science fiction can be used to warn us about things that are wrong with our world today.

People started writing science fiction after great advances were made in science during the Renaissance more than 500 years ago.

There had always been fantasy writing, but inventions such as telescopes made it possible to look into space and wonder about other worlds.

The first book that could be called science fiction was written nearly 200 years ago by Mary Shelley. It was called *Frankenstein*, and it has been subject of dozens of movies and TV shows over the years.

Science fiction was not thought of as serious writing in its early days. But the best science fiction raises issues that are always important.

Author Aldous Huxley (ALL-duss HUX-lee) used science fiction to question how powerful the government should be in *Brave New World*.

Michael Crichton's (CRY-ton's) book *Jurassic Park* not only became a huge movie, but also questioned whether it is right for science to try to create life.

Science fiction looks at worlds we have never seen. When it's good, it helps us see the world we know a lot better.

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK LIST



Frog Medicine

Elmo doesn't want to do his frog report. He slowly begins to turn into a frog and gets to learn about the amphibians first hand.

Mark Teague. Illustrated by the author.

Jumanji

Don't forget to read all the directions before you start a project or you might suffer the supernatural fate of these two children. They must play the board game they find or else be attacked by wild animals!

Chris Van Allsburg.

The Last Dinosaur

Research shows that the triceratops may have been the last surviving dinosaur. This fictional account tells what those last days could have been like.

Jim Murphy.



The Fungus that Ate My School

While the students are home for spring vacation, the fungus that they are growing in their classroom takes over the entire school!

Arthur Dorros. Illustrated by David Catrow.

James and the Giant Peach

How do you escape the mistreatments of two maniac aunts? James grows a giant peach and flies away to an enchanted world with life size insects. However, he must now find how to survive this world.

Roald Dahl.

Freddy and the Space Ship

Freddy the pig and some barnyard friends take off for Mars in Mr. Bean's space ship, but things go awry when Mrs. peppercorn fiddles with the controls and they wind up in a stranger place than they ever imagined.

Walter R. Brooks. Illustrated by Kurt Wiese.

Sleepers, Wake

Dody has awakened after a long sleep suspended in time. He finds his body has aged, but his mind is still 10.

Paul Samuel Jacobs.



The Giver

Jonas has been given his lifetime assignment. But as he learns his craft, all he wants to do is escape the world he used to think was wonderful.

Lois Lowry.

The Dark is Rising

On his eleventh birthday, Will Stanton discovers he has strange powers. He is the last of the Old Ones dedicated to stopping the forces of evil—the Dark. Will embarks on a journey of wonder, terror and delight.

Susan Cooper.

Whales on Stilts

Lily finds out that her dad's boss is a mad scientist who intends to rule the world using an army of cranky stilt-walking whales. What can Lily do to save the earth?

M.T. Anderson. Illustrated by Kurt Cyrus.

ACTIVITIES



The future is sooner than you think. Look through the advertisements in the newspaper. Select 10 items that you don't think were around 20 years ago. Find five more items and describe how they will change in the next 20 years. Choose from a science fiction book you have read one item that is uncommon. Draw a picture of how you think it might look. Add details to your picture to make an advertisement for the newspaper. Include information about size, color choices, and where the item can be bought. Then compare it to things you see advertised and come up with a fair price.



Science fiction uses scientific methods, either real or imaginary, to solve a story problem, or make it possible for the story action to take place. Organize a science fiction story you have read on a piece of paper folded into thirds. Label the first section Story Problem, the middle section Solution, and the final section Another Solution. In the final section think of a solution that uses scientific methods, either real or imaginary, to solve the problem. Then think of a story you know that is NOT science fiction. Come up with scientific methods, real or imaginary, to solve the problem of that story.



Scan the news sections of the newspaper. Which problems described in the paper need scientific means to solve? Working in teams of four or five students, choose one of the problems identified during your search. Brainstorm at least three scientific solutions. Share them with the whole class. Which of your solutions would make a good science fiction story?

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- The way it was written.
- The main character.
- The plot.

I would rate this book as:

- Excellent – I loved it!
- Good – It was okay.
- Poor – Yuk!

AFRICAN AMERICAN WRITING



From slave days to these days, African American lives have been like no others. And from the beginning, African American writing has been shaped by black history.

Brought to this country as slaves, faced with prejudice ever since, African Americans have created some of this country's most beautiful and outspoken stories and poems. And speaking out isn't easy when you're a black person trying to be accepted in a mostly-white society.

For example, early black writers worried about white opinions of African Americans. They faced hard choices about whether to have any black characters who were uneducated, or behaved badly. They worried that including such characters would give prejudiced white readers a chance to say 'see, even black writers say blacks behave badly.'

On top of that, black writers faced pressure from some blacks to write only books that aided the African American struggle to be treated fairly.

No other group of writers has faced those kinds of pressure.

The first African American writings to get a lot of attention were the journals of freed or run-away slaves that showed the cruelty of slave life. But, the freeing of slaves during the

Civil War did not end race bias. In fact, it created a new brand of prejudice that drove many blacks from the South to the cities of the north in the years around 1900.

This turned out to be important for black writing. From about 1917 to 1929 there was so much African American creativity in the Northern cities that the time was called the Harlem Renaissance.

Langston Hughes' poems and stories made him one of the most important writers of his time. He was especially skilled at using the rhythm of black speech and the power of blues music in his work.

Books by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin were widely popular with all races. More recently, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner Toni Morrison, Pulitzer winner Alice Walker and poet Maya Angelou have given women a powerful voice in African American literature.

Children's tales like William H. Hooks' *Ballad of Belle Dorcas* have brought history to life for new readers. And books like Walter Dean Myers' *Somewhere in the Darkness* give a kids'-eye view of today's problems.

African Americans have added a distinctive voice to the chorus of American writing.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITING BOOK LIST



Anansi Goes Fishing

Anansi tries to trick a turtle into fishing for his dinner for him.

Retold by Eric Kimmel. Illustrated by Janet Stevens.

Satchmo's Blues

Here is the story of a young Louis Armstrong growing up in poverty in New Orleans. Louis is haunted by the music he loves and performs any work he can find to earn money for the battered horn he wants to buy in a pawnshop. It's a tribute to a great musician.

Alan Schroeder, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper.

Rehema's Journey: A Visit to Tanzania

Pictures record a day in the life of a girl from the country of Tanzania in Africa. Compare the differences and similarities to your life.

Barbara A. Margolies.



Great Women in the Struggle

Angela Davis, Alice Walker and 80 other women are highlighted in this inspiring book that reveals how these women never stopped in their quest to make their marks as freedom fighters, writers, artists, educators.

Toyoma Iguis.

Bud, Not Buddy

Bud Caldwell is an orphan on the run during the Great Depression. He sets off to find his dad, whom he has never met, and not hunger,

fear or vampires will stop him. Wonderful characters and laugh-out-loud humor make an unforgettable journey.

Christopher Paul Curtis.

Somewhere in the Darkness

Fifteen-year-old Jimmy finally gets to see his father Crab, after his father escapes from prison. Crab broke out to see his son because he was dying of a terminal illness. This prolific author has many other excellent books.

Walter Dean Myers.



Having Our Say:

The Delaney Sisters' First Hundred Years

These remarkable women recount their 100-year lives and the history of their families.

Sarah L. Delaney and A. Elizabeth Delaney with Amy Hill Hearth.

Night John

The punishment for a slave learning to read is great, so only the bravest souls dare accept Night John's offers to teach them. Sarny can't believe the power that reading only a few words gives a person. The punishments given the slaves as a result are unbearable and Sarny is so sorry for the pain she causes her people.

Gary Paulsen. Illustrated by Jerry Pickney.

ACTIVITIES



If you look around you it is unlikely that you'll find anyone who looks exactly like you (unless you have an identical twin). Look at your classmates. How many things can you list that show you are the same as they are? How many things can you list that show you are different? Select one African American story you have read. Draw two large overlapping ovals. Label the left oval "Me," and fill this section with things that fit you but not the main character in the book. In the right oval, write the character's name and list things that fit the character and not you. In the overlapping center, write the ways you and the character are alike.



What noted African Americans are in the newspaper today? After reading aloud all the names on the list, select one person. Locate the article about this person and read it together. What information in this article describes this person: his or her job, interests, expertise, personality, character, place of residence, etc.? Keep a list on the blackboard. When the list is finished, take turns with classmates stating each item on the list aloud as a complete sentence.



Look through the television listings for a week. List the shows about families. How many are there? Note whether each family is African American or white. What percentage of the total is each? Pick two shows to discuss in class: one featuring an African American family and one featuring a white family.

MY BOOK RATINGS

Title/Author: _____

Reason I chose this book:

- It's a subject I like.
- It's an author I like.
- It was assigned.

The best thing about it was:

- The way it was written.
- The main character.
- The plot.

I would rate this book as:

- Excellent – I loved it!
- Good – It was okay.
- Poor – Yuk!

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ADVENTURE



Watch out! Danger ahead! And what happens next is the thrill of adventure stories.

Adventure stories existed even before people began to write them down with words and pictures. Griots (GREE-ots)—the storytellers of tribes—told and retold adventures of African peoples. Native Americans shared the adventures of warriors and hunters in words and songs around the campfire. Europeans thrilled to tales of King Arthur and his knights.

In adventure books, the characters are challenged by realistic events and problems. Most often, the problems are solved during or after some kind of journey in which the main characters grow stronger or wiser, or both.

Journeys are great symbols in books. A person who makes a journey on land or sea, also makes an inward journey—learning more about him or herself, gaining wisdom, growing to understand the spirit of the world or even God.

In fact, many stories told in the Bible could

be considered early “adventures”—such as the events surrounding Moses’ life, or the tale of David and Goliath.

In the early 1700s Daniel Defoe created a famous adventure around the shipwreck of Robinson Crusoe. That later inspired Johann Rudolf Wyss (WICE) to write his famous shipwreck story *Swiss Family Robinson*. That in turn inspired other shipwreck adventures, some as silly as the TV show *Gilligan’s Island*.

The American writer Ernest Hemingway wrote many books that were an advanced kind of adventure: war stories like *A Farewell to Arms*, the sad tale of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Adventures don’t need to be about people: *The Incredible Journey* was a story about three pets making their way home after being separated from their family.

Adventures have plenty of action. The best of them offer plenty to think about as well.

ADVENTURE BOOK LIST



Ezra in Pursuit: The Great Maze Chase

Ezra chases outlaws through the Old West, Central America and South America. Wonderful illustrations make the story come to life.

Rosalyn Schanzer. Illustrated by the author.

Just Us Women

Travel through the East Coast from Georgia to Washington, D.C., with a girl and her aunt. Try to identify the locations by the landmarks in the illustrations.

Jeannette Caines. Illustrated by Pat Cummings.

The Moon Clock

A timid girl can't cope with being teased at school. An enchanted captain enters her room from her toy chest and spurs her into doing good deeds.

Matt Faulkner. Illustrated by the author.



Walking the Rim

After an earthquake separates Rudy from his family, he gains a greater understanding of himself, his father and the changes in his life.

Susan Hart Lindquist.

The Battle of Lexington and Concord

This account of "the shot heard around the world," brings new excitement to America's war for independence. Fresh descriptions transport the reader on a personal adventure.

Neil Johnson. Illustrated with photographs by the author.

Piratica: Being a Daring Tale of a Singular Girl's Adventure Upon the High Seas

Sixteen-year-old Artemesia bumps her head and suddenly remembers her childhood on a pirate ship. She finds her mother's former crew and heads out to sea on a treasure hunt.

Tanith Lee.



Underrunners

Tristram Catt lives underground in a network of tunnels formed by soil erosion. As he shares his underground home with a runaway from a children's home, the reader discovers how some people cope with family abuse.

Margaret Mahy.

Williwaw!

Ivan and September Crane ignore their dad's instructions, sail across the bay, and are caught in a fierce storm. They use all their strength and courage waiting for help to arrive. Set in beautiful, rural Alaska, this suspense thriller keeps the reader turning the pages.

Tom Bodett.

Mariel of Redwall

The young heroine of this tale is a mouse maiden who seeks revenge against the dreadful pirate Gabol. Fourth in the fascinating Redwall series.

Brian Jacques. Illustrated by Gary Chalk.

ACTIVITIES



Look through the newspaper and find a story about an "adventure-some" experience. As you read it, list the questions you think the reporter asked to get information.



Would it be fun to spend a vacation as the main character in an adventure book you've read? Look for travel ads in your newspaper to see what they are like. Then create an ad selling your adventure as a tour that travelers can pay to go on. Describe where they'll go and what they'll do. Use the prices you see in the travel ads to estimate how much your tour will cost.



The world is a changing and often dangerous place. Scan the national and international news sections of the paper and target "hot spots" of danger. Write an outline for an adventure movie set in one of those areas. Pick some star actors and actresses to play the parts. Then cast members of your class in the same parts for a second version.

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CREDITS

This newspaper supplement was created by Hot Topics Publications, Inc.

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MAKE THE MOST OF READING

Before you read...

Here are some tricks to make reading easier and more fun. Try them before you start a new book!

- Read the book title and the chapter titles; look at the cover design and any pictures or illustrations.
- Read any notes about the author, plot summary, introduction or preface. These will give you clues about what the author wants to tell you.
- Think of other books that remind you of the one you're starting.
- Try to predict what will happen in the story.
- Think of questions you'd like answered.
- Find a comfortable spot to curl up in with your book.
- When you begin to read, listen to the sounds of the author's words. If you're tuned in, you can hear their song inside your head. As the popular Roald Dahl says in his book *Matilda* "... let the words wash around you like music."

While you are reading...

You might enjoy keeping a reader's journal.

There are many kinds of journals. A Dialogue Journal is easy to make and keep.

Get a notebook and write the name of the book you're reading on the first page. Then draw a line down the center of the next few pages. Label the left side of each page "Story." Label the other side "Thoughts." In the "Story" column write what happens in the book. In the "Thoughts" column write ideas the story gives you or connections between your own life and the events in the story.

When you've finished that book and are about to start another, just repeat the process on the pages that follow.

Reading Clubs

Reading clubs are becoming very popular with students. These clubs are being held in and out of school. If you would like to start one follow these steps:

1. Find five to six friends who like to read. If you have more than six friends who want to join, split the group into one more than one section. If the group is too big it is hard to manage.
2. Set up some simple guidelines: Where you'll meet; how often you'll meet; length of sessions; reading goals (two chapters of a book each week, for example, or character traits, or other books with the same theme).
3. Each group should have the following positions: A leader, who will give directions and keep the group moving; a recorder, who will take notes on the sessions; and a moderator, who will watch the clock to make sure one person doesn't have the floor too long, or doesn't take over the group. Before beginning, decide whether the reading club positions will be changed each week or with each book.
4. Books can be expensive, so at least three weeks before starting a book, ask the librarian at school or in your neighborhood to help you locate other copies from branches in the area.
5. Make sure everyone in the group has a copy of the book you are reading before starting.

6. Keep it fun. You don't all have to like the same types of stories. Read a variety of books. Enjoy.

A reader's survey

Before starting any reading project, it is important to get in touch with who you are as a reader. Take the reader's survey below.

- How do you rate your reading ability?

Excellent Very Good Good Need Help

- How do you feel when your teacher tells you to read a book?

Can't wait to start It's OK I'd rather not

- What are your favorite types of books?

- Where is your favorite place to read?

- How many books do you read each week?

- Is there anything you don't like about reading?

