

CONNECTING BOYS TO BOOKS

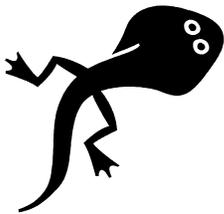
Kathleen Baxter www.kathleenbaxter.com kathybaxter@gmail.com 763-717-2581 Jan. 2010

1. Willems, Mo. *I Love My New Toy!* Hyperion, 2008.
2. Scieszka, Jon (ed.) *Guys Write for Guys Read*. Viking, 2005. The selection I read is by Gordon Korman. Many of these selections make for fine, brief, readalouds.
3. Websites: www.guysread.com www.readkiddoread.com www.booksforboys.com
4. Readathon materials: If you would like copies of these, please email me at kathybaxter@gmail.com and I will send them to you.
5. Lauber, Patricia. *What You Never Knew about Tubs, Toilets, and Showers*. (Around the House History). Simon and Schuster, 2001. Unpaged. Gr. 3-up The pictures we see are of men. What were Roman baths like? Could women use them? Research what the outsides of the baths looked like. Do we have any public buildings that look like this today? This book focuses on European and American cultures. What were the standards of cleanliness in other parts of the world 1000 years ago? 200 years ago? Working in groups, see what you can find out and report back to the class.
6. Harper, Charise Mericle. *Flush: The Scoop on Poop Throughout the Ages*. Little, Brown, 2007. 25 p. Gr. 2-6 The kids adore this and the Goodman books.
7. Colman, Penny. *Toilets, Bathtubs, Sinks and Sewers: a History of the Bathroom*. Atheneum, 1994. 70 p. Gr. 4-up O.P. Shown here to make a point!
8. Goodman, Susan E. *The Truth about Poop*. Viking, 2004. 40 p. Gr. 2-5 Kids adore this and the next one.
9. Goodman, Susan E. *Gee Whiz! It's all About Pee*. Viking, 2006. 40 p. Gr. 3-5
10. MacDonald, Fiona. *A Medieval Castle*. Peter Bedrick; 2001. 48 pages Do you know the difference between a castle and a palace? See if you can find out. This is a great book to show what a castle is like. What would be good about living in one? What would be not so great? Working in groups, design pictures models of castles. Make up your own or do some research and find one you want to copy.
11. Miller, Connie Colwell. *Getting to Know Your Toilet: the Disgusting Story Behind Your Home's Strangest Feature* (Edge Books). Capstone Press, 2009. 142961997x 32 p. Grades 3-9
12. Raum, Elizabeth. *The Story behind Toilets* (True Stories). Heinemann Library, 2009. 32 p. Grades 3-7 Photographs and illustrations explore the history and technology behind toilets. Boys would love an assignment on this.
13. Sierra, Judy. *Beastly Rhymes To Read After Dark*. Illustrated by Brian Biggs. Knopf, 2008. Unpaged Grades 3-6 A collection of funny rhymes accompanied by gruesome illustrations. Get the library edition; the trade edition is bound in green fur.
14. Prishmann, Deirdre A. *Poop-Eaters: Dung Beetles in the Food Chain* (Fact Finders). Capstone Press, 2008. 32 p. Grades 3-5 These are fascinating creatures that clean up the earth in a completely necessary way.
15. Thomas, Lyn. *100% Pure Fake*. With Photographs by Cheryl Powers and Illustrations by Brosi Zaytsev. Kids Can Press, 2009. 48 p. Grades 3-6 \$16.95. Features twenty-five recipes with step-by-step instructions to turn accessible and household items into disgusting fakes--which includes rotting skin and snot--and provides allergy warnings.
16. Singer, Marilyn. *What Stinks?* Darby Creek, 2006. 64 p. Gr. 3-7 A description of stinky things.
17. Bagert, Brod (Poems by). *Giant Children*. Dial, 2002. Unpaged. Gr. 1-5 This has some really silly poems. Do you have any favorite poems? Find one you really like, illustrate it and share it with the class.



18. Showers, Paul. *What Happens to a Hamburger* (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Stage 2). HarperCollins, 2001. 33p. Gr. 1-3. This whole simple series is just excellent, and this is a great beginning introduction to the digestive process.
 19. Hiaasen, Carl. *Flush*. Knopf, 2005. Gr. 4-up 261 pages Fine readaloud about two kids who vow to help their dad stop the boats that are illegally discharging their sewage directly in the ocean around the Florida Keys.
 20. Platt, Richard. *They Ate What?! The Weird History of Food* (Weird History). Two-Can Publishing, 2006. 48 p. Grades 4-8 These two books (see the next below) delight kids.
 21. Platt, Richard. *Doctors Did What? The Weird History of Medicine*. Two Can, 2006. 64 p. Grades 4-8
 22. Simon, Seymour. *Guts: Our Digestive System*. HarperCollins, 2005. Unpaged. Gr. 1-5 Read another of Simon's amazing books on the human body. What did you know already? What did you find out that you had not known before? Share your discoveries with the class.
 23. Snedden, Robert. *Yuck! A Big Book of Little Horrors*. Simon & Schuster, 1996. 30 p. All ages. This is so much fun to show kids. Make them guess what the microscopic photos show.
 24. Landstrom, Lee Ann, and Karen Shragg. *Nature's Yucky! 2 The Desert Southwest* Mountain Press, 2007. 48 p. Gr. 2-5 What do you know about animals in your own part of the world? Research an animal who lives in your area and find out if it has any yucky characteristics—the same or different as the ones in this book! Share the information you find out with your class.
 25. Prelutsky, Jack. *What a Day It Was at School!* Greenwillow, 2006. 40 p. Gr. 2-5 Every poem Jack Prelutsky writes can be sung. He does not tell us which song to use though! Let the students figure it out themselves if they want (it is a fun activity), or try some such as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *The Yellow Rose of Texas*, *On Top of Spaghetti*, *Yankee Doodle*, etc. Let the best singer or the most eager student sing it!
 26. Krull, Kathleen, and Paul Brewer. *Fartiste*. Illustrated by Boris Kulikov. Simon & Schuster, 2008. Unpaged. Grades 2-5 If we can handle it, they love it.
 27. Bolger, Kevin. *Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger*. Illus. by Stephen Gilpin. Razorbill, 2008. Grades 4-8 214 p. \$10.99. Tell a boy the name of this book and he wants it.
 28. Ichord, Loretta Frances. *Toothworms and Spider Juice: an Illustrated History of Dentistry*. Millbrook, 1999. 96 p. Gr. 4-8. How do you feel about going to the dentist? Have you ever had a cavity? If you did, did it hurt to get it filled? Compare and contrast going to the dentist today with getting your teeth fixed during anytime in history. When did braces start? When did professional dentistry begin as a profession? Find pictures of dentists at work 100 years ago. What has changed? What is the same?
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29. Masoff, Joy. *Oh, Yuck! The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty*. Workman, 2000. 212 p. Gr. 4-9
 - Masoff, Joy. *Oh, Yikes!: History's Grossest Moments*. Workman, 2006. 308 p. Beware of this book—but it, too, has something to teach us!
 30. Goldish, Meish. *Disgusting Hagfish* (Gross-Out Defenses). Bearport, 2008. Grades 1-3 24 p. This whole series just delights those boys. Make sure they know about it if you have it.
 31. Siy, Alexandra, and Dennis Kunkel. *Sneeze*. Charlesbridge, 2007. 45 p. Gr. 3-6 Sneezing is a reflex. What is a reflex? What other reflexes does the human body have?
 32. Romanek, Trudee. *Squirt!: The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read about Blood* (Mysterious You). Kids Can Press, 2006. 40 p. Gr. 4-7 This whole series is fun and excellent.
 33. Walker, Richard. *Ouch! How Your Body Makes it Through a Very Bad Day*. DK Children, 2007. 72 p. Grades 5-8
 34. Murphy, Glenn. *Why is Snot Green? And Other Extremely Important Questions (and Answers)*. Illustrated by Mike Phillips. Roaring Brook, 2009. 236 p. Grades 4-8 \$9.95. This is just filled with the kind of things boys like to read about. Many of the topics would make a starting place for a great report. Just out by the same team is *How Loud Can You Burp?*

35. Donovan, Sandy. *Hawk & Drool: Gross Stuff in Your Mouth* (Gross Body Science). Illustrated by Michael Slack. Millbrook Press, 2010. 48 p. Grades 4-8 Many photos illustrate this. Another fine report book—check out the whole Gross Body Science series.
36. Marrin, Albert. *Dr. Jenner and the Speckled Monster: The Search for the Smallpox Vaccine*. Dutton, 2002. 120 p. Gr. 4-8 Factstorm: What do you know about smallpox? What do you think you know? Do you believe it really is gone forever? Have any diseases from the past disappeared completely? Compare and contrast smallpox with another disease, such as polio.
37. Cooney, Caroline B. *Code Orange*. Delacorte, 2005. Gr. 5-up 200 p. Fiction, but oh does it work well with the above book.
38. DiClaudio, Dennis. *The Hypochondriac's Pocket Guide to Horrible Diseases You Probably Already Have*. Bloomsbury, 2006. 208 p. Great browsing for grades 5-up
39. McLafferty, Carla Killough. *The Head Bone's Connected to the Neck Bone: The Weird, Wacky and Wonderful X-Ray*. FSG, 2001. Gr. 4-up Compare different kinds of x rays. Look at animal x rays and compare them to human x-rays. What is similar? What is different? Have you ever had an x ray? What was it like?
40. Rosenberg, Pam. *Bleech! Icky, Sticky, Gross Stuff in Your School* (Icky, Sticky, Gross-Out Books). Child's World, 2007. 24 p. Gr. 2-5 The Icky, Sticky, Gross-Out Books is Another series kids love to examine.
41. Senior, Kathryn. *You Wouldn't Want to be Sick in the 16th Century: Diseases You'd Rather Not Catch*. Franklin Watts, 2002. 32 p. Gr. 4-8 The whole You Wouldn't Want to Be...series is a real winner for browsing and for assignments.
42. Szpirglas, Jeff. *Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun*. Maple Tree, 2004. 64 p. Gr. 4-7 Lots of fun stuff here.
43. DiPucchio, Kelly. *Sipping Spiders Through A Straw: Campfire Songs For Monsters*. Pictures by Gus Grimly. Scholastic, 2008. Unpaged. All ages.
44. Willis, Jeanne. *Tadpole's Promise*. Atheneum, 2005. Picture Book Prediction gets you nowhere with this one.
45. Consider starting a Book Buddies program in which older kids read to younger kids. It provides male reading models for the younger kids and improves the reading skills of both kids, for starters.
46. Have kids prepare a taped book for younger readers—have two or three kids work together, reading one part each and adding sound effects. Use picture books.
47. Consider starting a free exchange of popular magazines and comic books. Ask students to donate any they might own and ask anyone you know who might have some of the high interest items kids will pick up and read. If a student donates something, take a photo of him or her with the item and tape it inside the magazine or comic book. Put the exchange items in a basket or box and tell the students it is an experiment. If the items are taken and returned fairly quickly, the program will continue. If they are not, the experiment will be discontinued. Do not keep track of the items. This is for fun only.





ENCOURAGE THE READING OF SERIES BOOKS

When kids fall in love with a series, it's always easy to find their next book. And if they've loved one book in the series, they will most likely love them all.

Kids tear through series, picking up speed and vocabulary. By the time they've finished the series, they're reading a little better, and have begun to form the habit of reading.

Mary Leonhardt.

SERIES BOYS LIKE

Series come and go with astonishing speed. Frequently the author of a series which is not selling as well as it used to will start a new series. *Not all of these series continue to be published, but they are listed here because of their continuing popularity in school and library collections. These series, as of fall, 2009, are still adding new titles—or are so popular still that I am including them. If I could find a website, I included it, but not all these series have websites as of this writing. Many of the websites include lesson plans and activity sheets.*

48. **Arnold, Tedd.** *Fly Guy series*, Scholastic. Easy readers. Geisel Award Honor Winner A beautiful friendship begins when Buzz the boy, proves that a fly can be one smart pet. These slim, reader-friendly tales have a robust humor and wacky cartoon art featuring an eye-popping cover. Most people do not realize that a fly can make a really good—and helpful—pet. Boys love this super silly hero in easy reader books. *(There used to be a website for these, but I am not finding it.)*
49. **Applegate, Katherine.** *Roscoe Riley Rules series*. HarperCollins, grades 1-2 Every title begins and ends with the time-out chair. Good titles for kids transitioning from easy readers to chapter books.
50. **Park, Barbara.** *Junie B. Jones series*, Random House Gr. 1-4 www.randomhouse.com/kids/junieb/ What can we say? Some adults disapprove because of the grammar, mainly, but these are funny and kids love them.
51. **Osborne, Mary Pope.** *Magic Tree House series*, all Random House/ Stepping Stone Grades 2-4 www.randomhouse.com/kids/magictreehouse/ Delightful series, and several titles have nonfiction companions as well.
52. **Pilkey, Dav.** *Captain Underpants series* Scholastic *Younger Kids* www.scholastic.com/captainunderpants/books The boys adore these. These are filled with bathroom humor (obviously!)
53. **Scroggs, Kirk.** *Wiley and Grampa's Creature Features* Little, Brown grades 2-5 www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/wileyandgrampa/books/index.html Gross and silly. Dav Pilkey's testimonial makes sense, for this bears a definite resemblance to Captain Underwear!
54. **Stilton, Geronimo.** *Geronimo Stilton series* Scholastic *Younger Readers* www.scholastic.com/titles/geronimostilton Geronimo Stilton, mouse detective, is the editor of The Rodent's Gazette in New Mouse City. The pages are graphically lively.
55. **Kerrin, Jessica.** *Martin Bridge series* Kids Can. *Younger Kids* Gr. 1-4. These stories of young Martin are right on. Martin Bridge has parents who are functional and love him and he is a great role model (but you would never realize this if you were a kid!). This is a fine readaloud for second and third graders. *Have you ever had a fight with a good friend? What happened?*
56. **Abbott, Tony.** *The Secrets of Droon Series*, Scholastic *Younger Kids* www.tonyabbottbooks.com/secrets_of_droon.html Eric and his friends discover a secret, magical

staircase in the basement that into another land filled with danger and excitement. *Tip: Email or write your favorite author as my friend did. Getting a reply is really exciting, for other kids as well as the one who wrote the letter.*

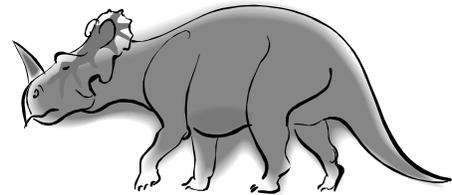
57. Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School* series HarperTrophy Grades 2-4 Dan Gutman himself says it: this is about a school in which all of the teachers are mentally ill. Very funny.

58. Pennypacker, Sara. *The Mount Rushmore Calamity* (Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures #1). Created by Jeff Brown. Pictures by Macky Pamintuan. **Harper, 2009. 9780061429910 Grades 2-4 71 p. \$15.99.** Flat Stanley sets off for Mount Rushmore, where he and his brother team up with cowgirl Calamity Jasper for an exciting adventure.



59. Stone, Rex. *Dinosaur Cove* series Scholastic Grades 2-5 www.scholastic.com/dinosaurcove/ Tom and Jamie find a secret entrance to a prehistoric world filled with dinosaurs!

60. Scieszka, Jon. *The Time Warp Trio* series, Viking Grades 3-6 Three boys travel through time, having all sorts of silly and scary but educational adventures. Fast-moving.. This whole series is a guaranteed boy-pleaser. *Tip: If you could go back to any time in history, what time would you pick? Where would you go? Why? What would you wear? Would you rather be visible or invisible? What if you could not come back? What would you do?*



61. Winkler, Henry, and Lin Oliver. *Hank Zipzer* series Grosset & Dunlap www.hankzipzer.com The actual writer of the books is Lin Oliver. Fourth grader Hank isn't the best student (the subtitle of the first book is *The Mostly True Confessions of the World's Best Underachiever*), but he realizes he has some learning differences and is an intelligent and capable kid. Supposedly semi-autobiographical.

62. Snicket, Lemony. *A Series of Unfortunate Events* series, al HarperCollins *Younger Kids* www.lemonymnicket.com Still popular, but I have never found stories about evil adults and abused children funny. But, again, what do I know?

63. Cowell, Cressida. *How to Train Your Dragon* (Heroic Misadventures of Hiccup the Viking series). Little, Brown. Grades 3-6 . www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/hiccup/index.html Hiccup is a Viking kid who, in spite of the fact that his dad is the chief, doesn't really quite cut it in the Viking World. Even the dragon he selects for his own is more than a bit of a wimp—until a terrible moment comes and the two of them working together manage to pull off and defeat two enormous dragons determined to kill them all. Filled with gross and funny bits, this series is a winner.

A few other new series:

63a. Simon, Francesca. *Horrid Henry*. Illustrated by Tony Ross. Jabberwocky, 2009. 9781402217753 Grades 2-4 \$4.99. First in the wildly popular British series. www.horridhenry.co.uk/ Horrid Henry causes his brother Perfect Peter all sorts of problems when he behaves properly for a change, upstages Peter at a dance recital, plays pirates, and goes on a camping trip.

63b. Kelly, Katy. *Melonhead*. Illustrated by Gillian Johnson. Delacorte, 2009. 9780385734097 224 p. Grades 3-5 \$12.99. In the Washington, D.C. neighborhood of Capitol Hill, Lucy Rose's friend Adam "Melonhead" Melon, a budding inventor with a knack for getting into trouble, enters a science contest that challenges students to recycle an older invention into a new invention.

63c. Barnett, Mac. *The Case Of The Case Of Mistaken Identity* (Brixton Brothers series). Illustrated by Adam Rex. S & S, 2009. 9781416978152 179 p. Grades 4-6 \$14.99. 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.

- 63d. **Buckley, Michael.** *NERDS: National Espionage, Rescue, And Defense Society.* Illustrations by Ethen Beavers. Amulet, 2009. 9780810943247 309 p. Grades 4-7 \$14.95. While running a spy network from their elementary school, five unpopular misfits combine their talents and use cutting-edge gadgetry to fight evil around the world.
- 63e. **Abbot, Tony.** *The Haunting of Derek Stone* (City of the Dead). Scholastic, 2009. 134 p. Grades 4-7 9780545034296 \$4.99. Fourteen-year-old Derek Stone's simple life with his father and older brother in New Orleans is thrown into a tailspin when the dead come back to life, and for unknown reasons begin to haunt Derek.
- 63f. **Lubar, David.** *My Rotten Life* (Nathan Abercombie, Accidental Zombie). Starscape, 2009. 978-0765316349 Grades 4-6 160 p. \$5.99. Tired of continually having his feelings hurt by popular students and bullies, fifth-grader Nathan agrees to try an experimental formula, Hurt-Be-Gone, and becomes a half-dead zombie, a condition which, he soon discovers, has some real advantages.
64. **Lasky, Kathryn.** *The Guardians of Ga'Hoole series.* Scholastic. Grades 4-7 www.scholastic.com/gahoole A barn owl named Soren, pushed from his nest by his creepy older brother, is captured and taken to a huge prison complex, where baby owls are brainwashed and made into slaves, all in the service of some unknown cause. This is a good read, with a lot of action and adventure.
65. **DiTerlizzi, Tony, and Holly Black.** *The Spiderwick Chronicles.* Simon & Schuster, Gr. 3-6 www.spiderwick.com This was made into a movie in 2008. Also *Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles.* The Grace children, Simon, Jared and Mallory, move into a decaying old house with their mother and find a field guide to fairyland—which seems to exist quite noticeably in that very house. Fun, and a little scary.
66. **Collins, Suzanne.** *The Underland Chronicles.* Grades 4-8 Scholastic www.suzannecollinsbooks.com/work1 Eleven year old Gregor follows his toddler sister through a vent in the laundry room into the Underland, where rats, spiders, insects, bats and human beings all live together in a unique and unusual kingdom underneath New York City. This is a real page turner and cliffhanger. A heck of a good read! First title is *Gregor the Overlander.*
67. **Collins, Suzanne.** *The Hunger Games.* Scholastic. Young adult. A three book series. Catching Fire is the second. It is a best-selling, amazingly good, can't-put-it-down read. Third and final book is due out in the fall of 2010.
68. **Smith, Jeff.** *Bone series* Scholastic, which took these hugely popular books over from another publisher. Grades 4-up www.boneville.com Graphic novels for younger kids.
69. **Various authors, including Rick Riordan, Gordon Korman and Patrick Carman.** *39 Clues Series* Scholastic Grades 3-8 or so. <http://www.the39clues.com/> Hugely promoted series in which kids, with clues from the books, cards and website, can win actual monetary prizes as they solve the mystery. Reminiscent of the da Vinci Code.
70. **Stine, R.L.** *Goosebumps (reissues)* Scholastic. Grades 4-7. www.scholastic.com/goosebumps/ They're baacckkk!! Scary stories continue to delight kids.
71. **Stine, R.L.** *Goosebumps Horrorland.* Scholastic. Grades 4-7. <http://enterhorrorland.com/More> scary stuff.
72. **Sage, Angie.** *Septimus Heap, HarperCollins* www.septimusheap.com Grades 5-up. These are long books for good readers about the family of a seventh son of a seventh son. The Lots of action and adventure, but pretty talky too.
73. **McHale, D.J.** *Pendragon series, Aladdin* Grades 5-up www.thependragonadventure.com 14-year-old Bobby Pendragon's mysterious uncle starts him on a series of adventures that involves traveling to other planets, battling with dangerous creatures and trying to save the universe. Bobby looks about eight years old on the cover and this was a tough read for me—no character development at all and completely boring in my opinion. But it's a hot selling series and the word is that the boys love it so what do I know?
74. **Gutman, Dan.** *Baseball Card Adventures Series, HarperTrophy* Grades 4-8 Joe Stoshack has the astounding ability to travel through time using baseball cards. He gets the year he wants to go to and

travels to that year and that team. In the process we learn a great deal about great players such as Satchel Paige, Jim Thorpe and Joe Jackson. Can our Joe change history? These are good reads.

75. Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Amulet* Grades 4-8 Best-selling and laugh-out-loud funny (even for us old people!), these are real winners.

76. Stone, Jeff. *The Five Ancestors series, Random House* Grades 4-9 www.randomhouse.com/kids/fiveancestors/ Five young Chinese warrior-monk brothers survive an insurrection and must use the ancient arts to avenge their Grandmaster.

77. Somper, Justin. *Vampirates series. Little, Brown* Grades 5-8 www.vampirates.co.uk Action and adventure combining pirates and vampires, an incredibly popular combo.

78. Schraff, Anne, et al. *Bluford series* Grades 5-up Townsend A series about African-Americans attending Bluford High School, named after Guion "Guy" Bluford, America's first African-American astronaut. "Set in contemporary urban America, each highly readable novel addresses complex topics relevant to the lives of today's students: family, friendship, trust, isolation, violence, and peer pressure." Available for \$1.00 each at www.townsendpress.com

79. Nimmo, Jenny. *Children of the Red King series, Orchard* Gr. 5-up <http://scholastic.com/charliebone> Charlie Bone, age 10, discovers he has magical powers: he can hear people in photographs talking. His control-freak grandmother insists on sending him to Bloor's Academy, which bears a passing resemblance to Hogwarts. A good read Harry Potter fans will enjoy.

80. Paver, Michelle. *Chronicles of Ancient Darkness HarperCollins* Grades 5-up www.harpercollinschildrens.com/HarperChildrens/Kids/GamesAndContests/features/chroniclesofancientdarkness/default.aspx 6,000 years ago, twelve-year-old Torak promises his dying father that he will go on a confusing quest—and the action begins on page 1 and never lets up. He bonds with first his guide, a wolf cub, and then a girl from a clan who captures him. This is catching on all over the country. A wonderful read.

81. Hunter, Erin. *Warriors, HarperCollins* Grades 4-8 www.warriorcats.com A young, orange house cat ventures outside the yard and realizes there is a world of wild cats out there. There are four clans in the area, and he joins the ThunderClan, becomes an apprentice warrior and is called Firepaw. Soon he learns that threats come not only from other clans, but from within his own.

82. Rand, Jonathan. *American Chillers series. All Audiocraft Publishing. Grades 4-7* These apparently are self-published, but teachers and librarians all over the country are saying boys absolutely love them. www.americanchillers.com started publishing in 2002 I read *Minnesota Mall Mannequins* and it is truly awful by my standards. But teachers tell me boys love this series and seek it out.

83. Horowitz, Anthony. *The Alex Rider Adventures, all Philomel* Gr. 5-8 www.alexrideradventures.com Fourteen-year-old Alex Rider discovers quickly that his beloved uncle and guardian was murdered, not just in a car accident. The question is why? But, in this fast-paced, page turning thriller, he finds out quickly enough—and is soon embroiled in the plot to try to find out what it was his uncle knew. Alex is James Bond, complete with fantastic gadgets, for middle schoolers.

84. Haddix, Margaret. *Shadow Children series, all Simon and Schuster, Grades 4-up* Twelve-year-Luke has lived his life in hiding on his family farm, but things get worse when the nearby woods are cut down and neighbors move in. Now Luke can never go outside, because the Population Police might find him. He is a third child in a society that only allows two children and he is in terrible danger. And then he begins to suspect that the new neighbors might have a third child too.

85. Haddix, Margaret. *The Missing series, all Simon and Schuster. Grades 5-up* A planeload full of babies arrives mysteriously, and 13 years later, a group of 13 year old adopted kids are summoned to a meeting. First book is *Found*, second is *Sent*. Great idea for a series, as we have come to expect from Haddix! Try using these two with the second book, *Sent*.



- **Beccia, Carolyn.** *The Raucous Royals: Test Your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Mysteries are True.* Houghton Mifflin, 2008. Grades 4-8 64 p. \$17.00.
- **MacLeod, Elizabeth.** *Royal Murder: the Deadly Intrigue of Ten Sovereigns.* Annick Press, 2008. 128 p. Grades 4-8

86. **Rowling, J.K.** *Harry Potter* series, published by Scholastic *Older Kids But everybody reads them! Many web sites* Last one in July 2007 What can I say? I had a grand time reading them all.

87. **Flanagan, John.** *The Ranger's Apprentice* series, Philomel www.rangersapprentice.com/ When fifteen-year-old Will is rejected by battleschool, he becomes the reluctant apprentice to the mysterious Ranger Halt, and winds up protecting the kingdom from danger. First published in Australia.

88. **Shan, Darren.** *Cirque du Freak: The Saga of Darren Shan* series, Little, Brown *Older Kids* darrenshan.com/vampires/index.html A boy voluntarily chooses to become a vampire, dies, is buried—but his best friend is suspicious and vows to hunt him down wherever he is and put a stake through his heart. Dark and scary. His newer series is *Demonata*, even darker and scarier.

89. **Nix, Garth.** *Keys to the Kingdom* series, Scholastic *Gr. 5-up* www.garthnix.co.uk/books_keys Asthmatic, adopted Arthur Penhaligon is given a mysterious object as he lies dying—and immediately stops dying and has the greatest adventure so far of his life, involving nonstop action and adventure and a promise of much more to come. Very well done.

90. **Riordan, Rick.** *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series, Hyperion, grades 5-up www.rickriordan.com/children.htm Much to his amazement, Percy Jackson, twelve-years-old, learns that his father was a Greek god, and that he is a half-blood god, and that the Greek gods are still around, but now centered in the heart of Western Civilization—the U.S.A. Starts out fast and keeps going fast! Soon to be a movie. *Tip: Would you like to be half Greek God? If a Greek god was your parent, which Greek god would you like it to be? And why?*



91. **Yancey, Rick.** *Alfred Kropp* series all Bloomsbury www.myspace.com/rickyancey *Gr. 5-up* Complete teenage-loser Alfred is sucked into a colossal, exciting battle between good and evil when he steals the sword Excalibur without knowing what it is and what it can do. Exciting page-turner.

92. **Paolini, Christopher.** *Eragon* series was a publishing phenomenon, originally self published by a home-schooled teenager and then purchased by Random House and ultimately made into a movie. It's about a boy and a dragon. Fifth grade and up. www.alagaesia.com/

93. **Patterson, James.** *Maximum Ride* series, Little, Brown *Older readers* www.maximumride.com/ Max is part of The Flock- humans genetically altered to be 2% bird and 98% human. Nonstop action and adventure. Short sentences, fast moving.

94. **Jacques, Brian.** *Redwall* series all Philomel. *Gr. 5-up* www.redwall.org Excellent books, full of detail, for proficient readers.

No longer publishing new titles, but still popular in many places.

- **Banks, Lynne Reid.** *The Indian in the Cupboard* series *Gr. 4-7* Old, controversial, and still wonderfully good reads.
- **Bellairs, John.** *The House with a Clock in its Walls.* Puffin, *Older Kids* Bellairs has many books, all mysteries with supernatural themes and satisfyingly scary. Although he died a few years ago, his series books have been continued by Brad Strickland. Check them out.
- **Buckley, Michael.** *The Sisters Grimm* series, all published by Magic Carpet Books. *Grades 4-6* www.sistersgrimm.com *The heroines are two girls but teachers swear to me that boys really like them and they are excellent read-alouds.* Sabrina and Daphne Grimm, in foster care since their parents disappeared two years earlier, go to the last person, a strange woman who claims to be their paternal grandmother. Is she, really? She also says fairy tales are true and that the whole Grimm family is descended from one of the Grimm brothers. Nonstop action and quite a bit of mystery make these good for reading aloud.

- **Cameron, Eleanor.** *Mushroom Planet series, all published by Little, Brown.* These have been reissued in the last few years and still have real appeal.
- **Christopher, Matt.** *Soccer Cats Series, Grades 2-5* Matt Christopher is the author of dozens of books on sports, all long beloved by younger kids. Many of his older books are being reissued. He is deceased, but they are still publishing new books under his name. **A lot of Matt Christopher books have been republished by Norwood House Press.**
- **Colfer, Eoin.** *Artemis Fowl series, published by Hyperion www.artemisfowl.com Grades 4-up* These are fast-paced, action-packed reads about a criminal mastermind who is only a kid—and who decides to go to battle with the fairy world.
- **Corder, Zizou,** *Lionboy series, Puffin.* Charlie Ashanti comes home to find that his parents have disappeared and he appears to be about to be kidnapped himself. Ingenious and resourceful, he manages to escape, and then his adventures really begin. Charlie has an extraordinary ability to speak cat, and when he finds himself on a circus ship complete with lions, he is able to use that ability to escape. A whee of an adventure.
- **Coville, Bruce.** *Alien Adventures series Younger Kids* They have been around for quite a while and the kids still love them.
- **Griffiths, Andy.** *The Day My Butt Went Psycho series, Scholastic, Older kids* *These are gross, as you can tell by looking at the titles. Boys love them!*
 - The Day my Butt went Psycho, 2003
 - Zombie Butts from Uranus. Scholastic, 2004.
 - Butt Wars: The Final Conflict. Scholastic, 2005.
- **Hale, Bruce.** *Chet Gecko, Private Eye series, published Harcourt Grades 3-5* Chet Gecko is not only a lizard (with a helpful ability to shed his tail whenever he needs to), but also a fourth grade detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary School with a real interest in girls. Silly.
- **McMullan, Kate.** *Dragon Slayer's Academy series, published by Grosset & Dunlap Younger Kids* This is a younger kid's version of Harry Potter.
- **Rodda, Emily.** *Deltora Quest series, Scholastic Apple Grades 4-up* www.scholastic.com/deltora A boy and a man quest together to find and reclaim the seven stones that belong in the magic Belt of Deltora and fight the evil Shadow Lord who has conquered the land.
- **Sachar, Louis.** *Wayside School Series. HarperCollins. Younger Kids* *They've been around for more than thirty years and the kids still love them.*
- **Stewart, Paul, and Chris Riddell.** *The Edge Chronicles, published by Fickling Books Grades 4-6* www.randomhouse.com/kids/edgechronicles This first title in this British series tells us the story of Twig, a human child raised by a family of wood trolls in a fantastic world called The Edge. Twig goes on a quest, really, learning at the end who he really is. There are some amazingly inventive creatures in this fast-moving story, with many excellent illustrations.
- **Van Draanen, Wendelin.** *Shredderman series published by Knopf. Grades 3-5* www.randomhouse.com/kids/vandraanen/shredderman/ Shredderman is a fifth grade superhero with his teacher as his sidekick! Great fun and actually plausible. In the first book he deals creatively with a bully.

95. **Movie and TV tie-in books, no matter how poorly produced, are always popular.**
Oliver And Andy's Book Company www.oabookco.com Andy says these are selling like hotcakes right now.

Movie tie-ins / Marvel Characters seem to be very popular - variety of levels -

- Spider-man
- Batman
- Transformers
- Iron Man

- Star Wars

“Series based on Disney / Nick shows sell too well - sounds stupid, but everything is other media driven.”

- Wizards of Waverly Place
- Camp Rock
- iCarly
- High School Musical “I know these are not true boy books, especially HSM, but boys are watching these shows.”

96. Stone Arch Books are a high interest, low vocabulary publisher of books aimed particularly at boys.
www.stonearchbooks.com

97. Ben Kemoun, Huber. *The Adventure of Sam X: the Tree with Eyes*. (Pathway Books) Stone Arch Books, 2008. Grades 4-8

98. Bowen, Carl. *Jules Verne’s 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.(Graphic Revolve). Stone Arch, 2008.

99. Nickel, Scott. *Back to the Ice Age* (Graphic Sparks). Stone Arch, 2008. 38 p. Grades 2-4

100.Maddox, Jake. *Backup Goalie* (Impact Books). Stone Arch, 2008. Grades 3-12 63 p.

101.Gunderson, J. *Ropes of Revolution: the Boston Tea Party* (Graphic Flash). Stone Arch, 2008. 49 p. Grades 4-up

102.Dahl, Michael. *The Book that Dripped Blood* (Library of Doom). Illustrated by Bradford Kendall. Stone Arch, 2007. 40 p. Grades 3-8

103.www.wiremancomics.com

104.Oppel, Kenneth. *Airborn*. EOS, Harper, 2004. Grades 5-up Go to www.google.com and type in create crossword puzzle

105.Go to www.google.com and type in Create crossword puzzle

106.Why should adults read to kids?

- Children need to see that reading is an important part of life. If an adult is seen reading regularly, then it is! If not, it isn’t.
- With boys in the tween years, the best book is not the issue. What is an issue is what books they will actually read.
- Do NOT tell a boy in any way, verbally or in body language, that the books he likes are bad and that the books girls like are good. Kids need our assurance and our permission to read easy books.

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107.www.graphicnovels.brodart.com

108.www.noflyingnotights.com/ sidekicks/index.html

109.Spiegelman, Art & Francoise Mouly (ed.). *It was a Dark and Silly Night* (Little Lit). HarperCollins, 2004.

110.Spiegelman, Art & Francoise Mouly (ed.). *Strange Stories for Strange Kids* (Little Lit). HarperCollins, 2001.

111.Spiegelman, Art & Francoise Mouly (ed.). *Folklore and Fairy Tale Funnies* (Little Lit). HarperCollins, 2000.

112.Spiegelman, Art, & Francoise Mouly. *Big Fat Little Lit*. Puffin, 2006.

113.Spiegelman, Art, & Francoise Mouly. *The Toon Treasury of Classic Comics*. Abrams, 2009. 0810957302 Grades 3-6 \$40.

114.Munro, Roxie. *Amazement Park* (others also in series) Chronicle, 2006.

115.Klutz books on how to do and play all sorts of things

116.Carle, Eric. *The Very Quiet Cricket*. Philomel, 1990.

117.Bowers, Sharon. *Ghoulish Goodies*. Workman, 2009.

118.Dahl, Michael. *The Everything Kids Joke Book*. Adams, 2001.

119.Lupton, Hugh, Reteller. *Riddle Me This!: Riddles and Stories to Challenge Your Mind!* Barefoot Books, 2003, 2007. Make up your own riddle. How about making one up about a story that you have just read aloud in class? Have the students work in groups to make up their own, based on the story.

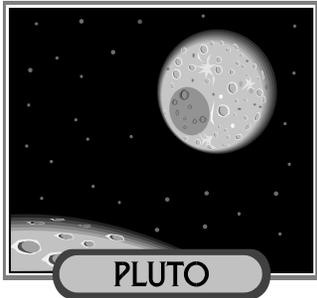
120. Sabuda, Robert. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Little Simon, 2001. All of his popup books are absolutely spectacular.
121. Ball, Johnny. *Go Figure! A Totally Cool Book about Numbers*. DK, 2005.
122. KIDSLABEL. *Spot 7 School (Spot7)*. Chronicle Books, 2006.
123. DiSpezio, Michael A. *How Bright is Your Brain? Amazing Games to Play with Your Mind*. Sterling, 2004.
124. Janeczko, Paul B. *Top Secret: a Handbook of Codes, Ciphers, and Secret Writing*. Candlewick, 2004.
125. Balliett, Blue. *Chasing Vermeer*. Illustrated by Brett Helquist. Scholastic, 2004. Sequels are *The Wright Three*, 2006, and *The Calder Game*, 2008.
126. Cushman, Doug. *Mystery of King Karfu*. HarperCollins, 1998.
127. Illusionworks. *Amazing Optical Illusions*. Firefly, 2004.
128. DiSpezio, Michael A. *Optical Illusion Magic: Visual Tricks and Illusions*. Sterling, 1999. 80 p. Grades 4-8
129. Obrist, Jurg. *Open and Shut Cases: 40 More Mini-Mysteries for You to Solve*. Millbrook, 2003, 2005.
130. Conrad, Hy. *Almost Perfect Crimes: Mini-Mysteries for You to Solve*. Sterling, 1995.
- What We Know about Boys
 - They need to move.
 - They need books that capture their attention immediately.
 - They love to act out their responses.
 - They dislike description.
 - Ask reluctant readers to sort through piles of likely books.
 - Which ones might they be interested in reading?
 - Which ones are maybes?
 - Which ones do not look interesting?
131. Create a PowerPoint show of high interest titles available in your school or public library. Make several copies and let students browse through the collection. Number each book and tell them to make a list of books that look interesting. You might want to do this by reading or interest level.
132. Bathroom Reader's Institute. *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader for Kids Only*. Bathroom Reader's Press, 2002.
133. Bathroom Reader's Institute. *Uncle John's Top Secret Bathroom Reader for Kids Only*. Bathroom Reader's Press, 2004.
134. Iggulden, Conn and Hal Iggulden. *The Dangerous Book for Boys*. Collins, 2007.
<http://dangerousbookforboys.com/school.html>
135. King, Bart. *The Big Book of Boy Stuff*. Gibbs Smith, 2004.
136. In a recent study, reluctant readers indicated that they only liked to read when they got to pick whatever they want to read. Teachers feel the same way!
137. Studies show that reading comprehension is related to reader's interest in the topic. Interested readers can comprehend materials normally considered to be beyond their reading level.
138. Involve the whole community in free voluntary reading!
- Administrators
 - Custodians
 - Coaches
 - Cool older kids
 - Sports players
 - Fathers
 - Community leaders
 - Grandfathers!
 - Get older kids to read to younger ones!

- Bring in college kids
139. Handford, Martin. *Where's Waldo?* series. Candlewick.
140. Wick, Walter. *Walter Wicks Optical Tricks*. Scholastic, Inc, 1998.
141. Steiner, Joan. *Look-Alikes* (several in this series). Little, Brown. 1998.
142. Wick, Walter. *Can You See What I See? Cool Collections: Picture Puzzles to Search and Solve*. Scholastic, 2004.
143. Nilsen, Anna. *Art Auction Mystery*. Kingfisher, 2005.
144. Frisch, Carlienne. *Everything You Need to Know about Getting a Job*. Rosen, 1999.
145. Coon, Nora. *Teen Dream Jobs*. Beyond Words, 2003.
146. Gravelle, Karen. *The Driving Book*. Walker, 2005. 170 pages Middle school and up.
147. Polacco, Patricia. *Pink and Say*. Philomel, 1994. Picture Book for Older Readers



- Use this as a way to research unanswered questions re the Civil war era:
 - What was it like to be a slave?
 - Why was it illegal to teach slaves to read?
 - What was the reason that Andersonville prison had no food and no shelter and no fresh water? Why was it so crowded? What happened to it when the war was over?
 - What was life like for the prisoners there?
 - Why was Pink hanged?
 - What were the prison camps like in the north?
 - Find out more about the guy who shook Say's hand.
 - Who were the marauders?
- Banfield, Susan. *The Andersonville Prison Civil War Crimes Trial: a Headline Court Case*. Enslow, 2000.
- Kamma, Anna. *If You Lived When There was Slavery in America*. Scholastic, 2004.
- Lester, Julius. *To Be a Slave*. Illustrated by Tom Feelings. Puffin, 1969. Young Adult
- Bial, Raymond. *The Strength of These Arms: Life in the Slave Quarters*. Houghton Mifflin, 1997.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Nightjohn*. Doubleday, 1993.
- Wade, Linda R. *Prison Camps of the Civil War*. Abdo, 1998.
- Rinaldi, Ann. *Numbering All the Bones*. Hyperion, 2002. 170 p. Grades 5-up
- Wisler, G. Clifton. *Red Cap*. Puffin, 1994. 170 p. Grades 5-9
148. Pink and Say activities:
- Write a different ending for the story.
 - Put butcher paper on the wall and let the whole group draw the scene or the general impression of the book. Start talking about it!
 - Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.
 - Design a museum exhibit of the book.
 - Create a tableaux of the book.
 - What would you do if you had special powers and could help the characters in any way?
 - Say wanted to run away from the army—not go back to his unit. Have you ever thought of running away? When and why? Did you do it? Why did you decide NOT to do it, or how did you end up coming back?
149. Stein, David Ezra. *Pouch!* Putnam, 2009. 9780399250514 \$15.99. A baby kangaroo takes his first tentative hops outside of his mama's pouch, meeting other creatures and growing bolder each time.
150. Swanson, James L. *Chasing Lincoln's Killer*. Scholastic, 2009. 0439903548 198 p. Grades 5-8 \$16.99.
151. Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*. Delacorte, 1999. Gr. 5-up Newbery Medal
152. Bartoletti, Susan. *Growing Up in Coal Country*. Houghton, 1996. Gr. 4-8

153. Coulter, Laurie. *Cowboys And Coffin Makers :--One Hundred 19th-Century Jobs You Might Have Feared Or Fancied*. Annick Press, 2007. 96 p. Grades 4-8
154. Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*. Lee & Low, 1993. Grades 2-4
155. Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*. Dial, 1976. Gr. 5-up
156. Wilhelm, Jeffrey. *Action Strategies for Deepening Comprehension*. Scholastic, 2002. Great ideas for doing things to help kids love and understand what they read.
157. To find photographs, just google photographs and the topic you are interested in—click on *Images* above the Google rectangle. The Smithsonian website or the Library of Congress website is also a good place to start.
158. Stevenson, James. *Popcorn*. Greenwillow, 1998. All ages 64 p.



159. Florian, Douglas. *Comets, Stars, The Moon, And Mars :--Space Poems And Paintings*. Harcourt, 2007. 48 p. Grades 1-5
160. Prelutsky, Jack. *My Dog May be a Genius*. Drawings by James Stevenson. Greenwillow, 2008. 160p. Grades 3-6
161. Katz, Alan. *Oops! II*. by Edward Koren. McElderry, 2008. 176 p. Grades 3-6
162. Prelutsky, Jack. *Read A Rhyme, Write A Rhyme*. Illustrated by Meilo So. Knopf, 2005. 25 p. Grades 1-5 Prelutsky gives examples and then starts a rhyme for you to finish.
163. Shulman, Mark. *Mom and Dad are Palindromes*. Illus. by Adam McCauley. Chronicle, 2006. Grades 2-5 Unpaged Look through the book and see how many palindromes you can find in the pictures. Who can find the most? Then make up some palindromes of your own. Who can think of some that are not in the book?

164. What to Look for in a “Guy” Novel

- **A male protagonist**
- **Action that begins quickly, continuing throughout the story**
- **Questions of “What would I do?” more important than “How do I feel?”**
- **Plot driven rather than character-driven stories**
- **An “edge” or an “attitude” in the protagonist**

Paul Kropp

165. Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*. Scwhartz and Wade, 2008. Grades 1-3 172 p. If Alvin were in your class, what would you do to try to help him be less afraid?
- What do you think of his friend Flea?
 - Would you like to have a friend like her?
166. Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*. Scholastic, 2008. Grades 3-6 251 p. After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palamino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.
167. Pitchford, Dean. *The Big One-Oh*. Putnam, 2007. Grades 3-5 181 p. Determined not to be weird all his life like his neighbor, Charley Maplewood decides to throw himself a tenth birthday party, complete with a "house of horrors" theme, but first he will have to make some friends to invite.
168. Selznick, Brian. *The Invention Of Hugo Cabret*. Scholastic, 2007. 531 p. Grades 5-up Newbery Medal 2008
- Have you ever received a present that you thought was useless—and it turned out to be a good one after all?
 - Have you ever had a hero or heroine who did something you wanted to copy? What did he or she do?
169. Selznick, Brian. *The Houdini Box*. Atheneum, 1991, 2008. Unpaged Grades 2-5 Victor idolizes the great magician Houdini and tries unsuccessfully to perform his tricks. When he runs into him on a

train platform and asks many questions, Houdini makes an appointment to meet with him—which it turns out he is unable to keep. But he gets a great consolation prize. Great fun.

170. Adler, David A. *A Picture Book of Harry Houdini*. Illustrated by Matt Collins. Holiday House, 2009. Unpaged. Grades 2-4 Simple version of his life, but excellent --with good illustrations.
171. Lutes, Jason, & Nick Bertozzi. *Houdini: The Handcuff King*. Hyperion, 2007. 078683902389 p. Grades 4-up Excellent graphic novel telling the story of Houdini's most famous jump.
172. Carlson, Laurie M. *Houdini for Kids: His Life and Adventures with 21 Magic Tricks and Illusions*. Chicago Review, 2009. 136 p. Grades 4-8 A biography of Harry Houdini that describes the escape artist's childhood and his path to become one of the world's greatest magicians; and includes instructions for twenty-one magic tricks.
173. Barnhart, Norm. *Amazing Magic Tricks Beginner Level* (Edge Books. Magic Tricks). Capstone, 2009. 32 p. Grades 3-5 A beginning guide to performing magic tricks, featuring step-by-step instructions for eleven illusions, including the fantastic flower and the magical sailor's knot, and featuring a glossary and sources of additional information. First in a series.
174. Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. HarperCollins, 2008. Grades 5-8 312 p. The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of 18 months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of 18 years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Medal 2009. Controversial.
175. Colfer, Eoin. *Airman*. Hyperion, 2008. Grades 5-up Falsely accused of murdering the king, Conor is slammed into a horrible prison, planning an escape.
176. Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*. Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, 2009. 312 p. YA Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.
177. Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. David Fickling, 2008. 323 p. Gr. 5-up Ted and Kat's cousin Samil wants to read the London Eye the first time he visits them—and he gets into the pod alone with 20 other people—and does not get out. Ted has a form of Asperger's disease. Great book.
178. Yang, Gene Luen & Derek Kirk Kim. *The Eternal Smile*. First Second, 2009. 170 p. Graphic Novel YA-Adult A collection of three graphic stories featuring Duncan, a charming prince hoping to win the princess's hand; Gran'pa Greenbax, a greedy old frog who longs to find true happiness; and Janet, a busy working woman who thinks she has found true love with a Nigerian prince who contacts her through an email asking for her help in liberating his family.
179. Doctorow, Cory. *Little Brother*. Tor, 2008. 382 p. Grades 8-up San Francisco is attacked by terrorists, and TSA takes over the cities. Who can fight Big Brother?
180. Kostick, Conor. *Epic*. Viking, 2007. 0670061794 364 p. YA In the future, how well your avatar does in computer games determines your life.
181. Myers, Walter Dean. *Sunrise over Fallujah*. Scholastic, 2008. 304 p. Gr.6-up Robin Perry, sent from Harlem to Iraq, has high hopes—and great disappointments, voiced in the letters he writes to his uncle, a Vietnam veteran.
182. Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little, Brown, 2007. 240 p. Grades 7-up Can your expectations narrow your opportunities or expand them? What can you do to make your expectations more positive?
183. Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *The Boy Who Dared*. Scholastic, 2008. 202 p. Grades 5-up Would you dare fight back against the Nazi government? How could you do that? True story.
184. Slier, Deborah. *Hidden Letters*. Star Bright Books, 2007. 160 p. True story of a Jewish teenager in Amsterdam sent to a Nazi work camp. A stunning Holocaust book with loads of photographs.



185. Fleischman, Paul. *Dunderheads*. Illustrated by David Roberts. Candlewick, 2009. When Miss Breakbone confiscates Junkyard's crucial find, Wheels, Pencil, Spider, and the rest of the Dunderheads plot to teach her a lesson.
186. Serling, Rod. Rod Serling's *The Twilight Zone* series. Different titles. Walker, 2008, 2009, etc. Grades 4-up Unpaged \$9.99.
187. Gantos, Jack. *Joey Pigza* books, all Farrar, Straus, Giroux, grades 4-7 Joey has some form of ADHD (never named) and these books delight kids.
188. Gantos, Jack. *A Hole in my Life*. FSG, 2002. 200 p. Grades 7-up 19 months in a federal prison is a horrifying experience.
189. Parker-Rock, Michelle. *Jack Gantos: an Author Kids Love* (Authors Kids Love). Enslow Elementary, 2008. 48 p. Grades 4-7
190. Napoli, Donna Jo. *North*. Greenwillow, 2004. Grades 4-up
- Write another chapter for the book explaining what happens when his mom sees him walking in the door.
 - Do you have a hero or heroine? Who is it? Why do you admire him or her? Would you like to do something that person did?
191. Johnson, Dolores. *Onward: a Photobiography of African-American Polar Explorer Matthew Henson*. National Geographic, 2006. 64 p. Grades 4-up
192. Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Clarion, 2001. Grades 5-up If a book starts slow, but you know kids will ultimately like it, skip the beginning and read a page or two of an exciting part, then tell the kids that you will begin at the beginning and see how the characters got there.
193. McLeod, Bob. *Superhero ABC*. HarperCollins, 2006. 0060745150 \$16.89.
194. Sherry, Kevin. *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean*. Dial, 2007.
195. Hillman, Ben. *How Big Is It?* Scholastic Reference, 2007. 48p. Grades 3-6
196. Katz, Alan. Every one of his *Silly Dilly Songs* books is a winner. All are illustrated by David Catrow and published by McElderry Books. All tell you which song to sing for the lyrics.
- *Take Me Out of the Bathtub.*
 - *I'm Still Here in the Bathtub: Brand-New Silly-Dilly Songs.*
 - *Where Did They Hide My Presents? Silly Dilly Christmas Songs.*
 - *Are You Quite Polite? Silly Dilly Manners Songs.*
 - *Going Going Gone! And Other Silly Dilly Sports Songs.*
 - *Smelly Locker: Silly Dilly School Songs*
 - *On Top of the Potty and other Get-Up-and-Go Songs.*
197. Lessac, Francine. *Camp Granada*. Holt, 2003. The camp songs we all love, including which songs to sing with them.
198. Jackson, Donna M. *The Wildlife Detectives: How Forensic Scientists Fight Crimes Against Nature*. Photographs by Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. 48 p. Grades 3-7. When you tell the story of Charger the elk, every kid in the room wants the book.
199. Settel, Joanne, Ph.D. *Exploding Ants: Amazing Facts about How Animals Adapt*. Atheneum, 1999. 40 p. Grades 4-6. One of my very favorites.
200. Hillman, Ben. *How Weird is It? A Freaky Book all about Strangeness*. Scholastic, 2009. 48 p. Grades 3-7
201. Editors of YES Magazine. *Hoaxed! Fakes & Mistakes in the World of Science*. Illustrated by Howie Woo. Kids Can Press, 2009. 47 p. Grades 4-8
202. Krull, Kathleen. *The Boy Who Invented TV*. Illustrated by Greg Couch. Knopf, 2009. Unpaged. Grades 3-5
203. Weston, Mark. *Honda: The Boy Who Dreamed of Cars*. Illustrated by Katie Yamasaki. Lee & Low Books, 2009. Unpaged. Grades 2-5



204. Barton, Christ. *The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors*. Illustrated by Tony Persiani. Charlesbridge, 2009. Picture Book for Older Readers.
205. Nobleman, Marc Tyler. *Boys of Steel: the Creators of Superman*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Unpaged Picture Book for Older Readers
206. Bruce, Julia. *Conquest! Can You Build a Roman City?* (Step into History). Illustrated by Peter Dennis. Enslow Elementary, 2009. 32 p. Grades 3-6
207. Bruce, Julia. *Siege! Can You Capture a Castle?* (Step into History). Illustrated by Peter Dennis. Enslow Elementary, 2009. 32 p. Grades 3-6
208. Zuckerman, Amy, and James Daly. *2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids*. Illustrated by John Manders. Dutton, 2009. Unpaged. Grades 2-5 What will life be like in 20 years?
209. Jackson, Tom. *Scholastic Zany Miscellany: A Mixed-Up Encyclopedia of Fun Facts!* Scholastic Reference, 2008. 112 p. Grades 4-8
210. Stewart, Melissa. *Snakes!* (Kids Level 2) National Geographic, 2009. 32 p. Grades 1-3
211. Bredeson, Carmen. *Hair-Shooting Tarantulas and Other Weird Spiders* (I Like Weird Animals). Enslow Elementary, 2009. 24 p. Grades K-3
212. Neuman, Pearl. *Bloodsucking Leeches* (No Backbone! The World of Invertebrates). Bearport Publishing, 2009. 24 p. Grades 1-4
213. Bishop, Nic. *Nic Bishop Butterflies and Moths*. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2009. 48 p. Grades 1-5
214. Turner, Pamela S. *The Frog Scientist* (Scientists in the Field). Photographs by Andy Comins. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. 58 p. Grades 4-8
215. Schwartz, David, and Yael M. Schy. *Where in the Wild?: Camouflaged Creatures Concealed ... and Revealed*. Tricycle Press, 2007. Unpaged Grades 2-5
216. Schwartz, David, and Yael M. Schy. *Where Else in the Wild?: More Camouflaged Creatures Concealed ... and Revealed*. Ear-Tickling Poems by David M. Schwartz and Yael Schy. Eye-tricking photos by Dwight Kuhn. Tricycle Press, 2009. 9781582462837 Unpaged Grades 2-5
217. Thomas, Jan. *Can You Make a Scary Face?* Beach Lane, 2009.
218. Gall, Chris. *Dinotrux*. Little, Brown, 2009.
219. Scieszka, Jon. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka*. Viking, 2008. 106 p. Grades 5-8
220. Floca, Brian. *Moonshot: the Flight of Apollo 11*. A Richard Jackson Book: Atheneum, 2009. Unpaged. Grades 1-4
221. Chaikin, Andrew, with Victoria Kohl. *Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*. Viking, 2009. 114 p. Grades 5-8
222. Agee, John. *Orangutan Tongues: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*. Disney Hyperion Books, 2009. 48 p. Grades 3-6
223. Sturm, James, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost. *Adventures in Cartooning*. First Second, 2009. 112 p. Grades 3-6
224. Murrie, Steve, and Matthew Murrie. *Every Minute on Earth: Fun Facts that Happen Every 60 Seconds*. Scholastic, 2007. 224 p. Grades 4-8
225. Deem, James M. *Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past*. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. 58 p. Grades 5-8
226. Salkeld, Audrey. *Mystery on Everest: a Photobiography of George Mallory*. National Geographic Society, 2000. Grades 4-8
227. Price, Sean. *Ivan the Terrible: Tsar of Death* (A Wicked History). Franklin Watts, 2008. 128 p. Grades 5-up \$30.00.
228. Walker, Sally M. *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley*. Carolrhoda, 2005. 112 p. Grades 4-up
229. *How to Get Rich on the Oregon Trail: My Adventures among Cows, Crooks & Heroes on the Road to Fame and Fortune*. National Geographic, 2009. 48 p. Grades 4-8



230. Hocking, Justin. *Taking Action: How To Get Your City To Build A Public Skatepark* (The Skateboarder's Guide to Skate Parks, Half-Pipes, Bowls, and Obstacles). Rosen Publishing Group, 2005. 48 p. Grades 5-up
231. Stewart, Mark. His *Team Spirit* series from Norwood House Press, about the series of the pro and now starting the college teams, is very good.
232. Series books—please try to make sure a reputable reviewer has reviewed this before you purchase.
233. Sturm, James, and Rich Tommaso. *Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow*. Jump At The Sun, 2007. Jump at the Sun/ Hyperion, 2007 90 p. Grades 5-9.
234. Farndon, John. *Do Not Open*. DK Children, 2007. 192 p.
235. Serling, Rod. *Rod Serling's The Twilight Zone series*. Different titles. Walker, 2008, 2009, etc. Grades 4-up Unpaged \$9.99.
236. Paulsen, Gary. *How Angel Peterson got his Name and Other Outrageous Tales about Extreme Sports*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2003. 0385900902 111 p. Grades 4-8
237. Paulsen, Gary. *Harris and Me*. Harcourt, 1993. 168 p. Gr. 4-up
- Write another chapter describing how these two friends get back together.
 - Ask the students if they could take three photographs of incidents in each chapter, which ones would they choose? They might want to act some out!



SOME WRITING QUESTIONS TO INTRIGUE BOYS (AND GIRLS)!

- How would your life change if you won the lottery? What would you do with the money?
- What was your most embarrassing moment?
- What have you done that you wish you had not done? Why?
- What was the happiest time in your life?
- What was the scariest thing that ever happened to you?
- What was your worst nightmare?
- What was the saddest time in your life?
- When were you angrier than you have ever been at any other time? Why?
- If you could have any three wishes you wanted, what would they be?
- What is the very first thing you remember from when you were little?
- What would your dream school be like?
- What would your dream best friend be like?
- Have you ever thought of running away? When and why? Did you do it? Why did you decide NOT to do it, or how did you end up coming back?
- If you could change only one thing about yourself, what would you like it to be?
- What was your most embarrassing moment?
- Have you ever mispronounced a word (said it wrong)? What was it? What happened?
- What's a big mistake you once made? (Share these with the class, so everyone gets more comfortable with the concept that we all make mistakes.)
- If you had a day off school, what would you do or where would you go?
- If you wrote a movie or tv show, what would it be about?
- If you had \$100 to spend only on someone else, who would you spend the money on and what would you buy them and why?
- If you could be any kind of animal at all, even an imaginary one, what would you choose to be?
- Is there anything that you would like to be really good at?
- Do you believe there are such things as ghosts?
 - Do you believe there *may* be such things as ghosts?
 - Do you think that there really are no ghosts at all?
 - Have you personally seen a ghost?
- If you were the principal of your school, what would you change?
- When reading a book:
 - Write a different ending for the story.
 - Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.
 - What would you do if you had special powers and could help the characters in any way?
- Design a museum exhibit about the book.
 - What would it look like?
 - What would you include?

IDEAS FOR LITERATURE CIRCLES AND BOOK REPORTS

1. Someone wants to make the book you read into a movie. Explain why the story would or would not make a good movie. You may only use books which have not been made into movies.
2. Pretend you are Oprah and interview the author of this book. Ask him/her 5 questions you think would be most interesting to the audience and give what you think the author's responses would be to your questions.
3. If the story takes place in another country, prepare a travel guide or create a travel brochure telling about the area. Be sure to include any specific places mentioned in the book as well as other features of the book's setting.
4. Read a book which was made into a movie. The book has to have been written first.. Compare and contrast which is better and give reasons why you feel that way.
5. Write and perform an original song that tells the story of the book.
6. Make a mini-comic book relating a chapter of the book.
7. Be a TV or radio reporter and give a report of a scene from the book as if it were happening live.
8. Write a different ending for the story. What if Jonas never left his home in *THE GIVER*?
9. Make a poster advertising the book.
10. Build a miniature stage setting of a scene from the book.
11. Retell the story as though you were a different character in the story.
12. Stories are made up of conflicts and resolutions. Choose one conflict in the story and give the author's solution. Now create a different solution that you think would have made the story even better. Is there one you wish had been resolved differently?
13. You must give your beloved pet to one of the characters in the book. To which character would you give it? Why? Write a short description about what happens to your pet when it goes to live with the character from the book.
14. If you could spend a day with one of the characters in the book, which one would you choose? Why? Or which one would you least want to spend the day with, and why?
15. Action strategy: design a theme park based on a book. Think *HOLES*, *HATCHET*, or a Roald Dahl book for starters. What would it look like? What kind of rides would there be?
16. Action strategy: design a museum exhibit about the book. What would it look like? What would you include?
17. Design a wax museum with living statues based on the book. Each student takes a role and visitors press construction paper buttons on the floor to get them to talk about their name, life and answer questions. Have the whole class do this one—it makes for a great exercise about the presidents, for instance.
18. Have the students make a living tableaux of an incident in the book.
19. Have students discuss if there is one thing in the character's past that might have changed this character's life and then enact or display it.
20. Pretend to have a day in the life of the magic school bus and visit the setting of the book you read.
21. Create a game show based on the book, exploring meaning and key details. Do this for a 30 minute game show.
22. Make MTV videos of songs based on the story.
23. Brainstorm what the lead character's life will be like 20 years from now.
24. What would you do if you had special powers and could help the character in any way?
25. Have students email each other as if they were characters in the book in role. Or email the author, played by another student. Start an online discussion.

Ideas to Take Away and Try Out Tomorrow

1. Ask each student in your class to select their favorite song and have each bring in a tape or CD—or a place to download it—to share with the entire class. Do one a day or one a week or more, but do as many as you can. Music is vital to kids, and tells us a great deal about who they are and what they like. Show them you care. They will be thrilled.
2. Get a copy of the Guinness Book of World Records every year and keep it in your classroom always.
3. Let kids read junk. We do, all the time. If they are interested in it, it has to be worthwhile. They are not only mastering skills, but also learning that reading can be fun.
4. Remember that every one of us is a reluctant reader at times. It all depends on what you have to read. How thrilled are you about having to read the manual that comes with your new software package? Be patient. Be creative. Stock your classroom with materials they won't be reluctant to read.
5. Beg, buy or borrow a selection of popular magazines and comic books to put in a "Great Reading" area in your room. Ask the students to bring in their own (marked, if they want to keep them) reading materials to put out and share.
6. Look for in-classroom guest speakers. What are your kids passionate about? Everyone is excited to share their enthusiasms. Ask for volunteers to give a five or ten minute information session on the topic they care about the most. Ask them to include any reading material, including the net, they use or used to find out more about it.
7. Respect kids' desire to surf the net. It's not a book or a magazine, but it is reading. How literate on the net are you? Here's a benchmark for the most basic level: do you know your own email address?
8. If you are in middle school, a sure (and free) title to capture their interest is the Driver's Examination Manual. Get a copy for your classroom—you can download it in most states. Just Google the name of your state plus the words "Driver's Manual".
9. Have older kids read to younger kids. Recommend good (and fun!) books for them to share one on one or to a small group, and watch them blossom.
10. Find any male reading models you can. Bring in any fathers who might be willing to read to the class. If you are in an elementary school, advise them on good books to read (if you need help, ask your school or local public library children's librarian). Bring in male teachers to read to them. Make sure the readers are reading books you know the kids will enjoy, or they won't want to do it again.
11. Talk about any books you are reading. Tell them how much you are enjoying the books you are reading, and tell them anything interesting you learn. Let them see you enjoy reading.
12. If you have any popular athletes in your school, or in the high school, get them to come in and read to your kids. Tell them to bring in their team play book which no one not on the team can look at. It will drive your students crazy.
13. Start acting on the fact that boys are more likely to be interested in informational, nonfiction materials. If you want kids to try books, look for ones that are ;
 - a. Colorful.
 - b. Not too heavy on the text.
 - c. With great photographs or illustrations, including lots of details.
14. Boys are more afraid of looking silly or stupid than anything. Tell them the best baseball hitters miss two shots out of three. If you don't make a lot of mistakes, you are not trying hard enough! You might to point out mistakes you have made in the past—maybe have everyone write about a mistake they have made and share it with the class in a mistake day. We all have to get used to the idea that we all make mistakes.

15. It's not a stereotype: boys really do prefer books written by male authors. Don't be fussy about it. Remember that our goal here is to get them reading.
16. Let them read all the series books they want, even if you don't like the series. They're practicing reading, and, sooner or later, they are going to get fussier.
17. Play reading games with anything available. If someone collects sport cards, take ten of those cards and ask them to figure out which player has had the longest career, who had the best year last year, who has had the most hits, etc. They'll have to read it to figure it all out.
18. Humor works! Humor rules! Boys love it. Let them have CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS and start looking for other books to read aloud. Ask them what the funniest story they've ever read is. Maybe some of them have never read a funny story. Now is the time to start.
19. Let them control what they read for pleasure. Control is everything. Give them that control and watch them blossom. Marc Aronson, a renowned writer and editor for young people, said *"Teenagers are both uniquely vulnerable to the assault (or siren call) of every form of media, and yet they have highly restricted access to books. Adults choose their school reading, select the books for their libraries, and stock their bookstores. And yet adults have much less control over every kind of art, information and culture teenagers experience daily. Under those conditions, why wouldn't books become marginal to teenagers?"*
20. Here's a quote from Michael Sullivan (see bibliography) *"If you want to encourage boys to read, than you must allow them to choose their own reading. Boys are more likely to become pleasure readers if you let them choose their own reading and give them plenty of the types of books they prefer. Get over the idea that what they are reading does not measure up to what they should be reading: the fact that they are reading at all is a plus, and the measuring stick is probably crooked. Once you have aligned yourself with the books boys read, and with all the other kinds of reading they do, then it is time to start programming in ways that will encourage boys to read with you."*
21. Use social interaction to make reading a group activity. If you are reading a book aloud to the class, try this—put butcher paper on the wall and let the whole group draw a scene or the general impression of the book. Start talking about it.
22. Let kids read below their level, and stop worrying about it. Again, they are reading, and many educators feel that kids need to relax and consolidate what they have already learned before they can move on to the next phase. *"At crucial moments of change and growth, children often need to fall back temporarily, as though to test the firmness of their former ground before stepping forward into the unknown."* Michelle Landsberg, *READING FOR THE LOVE OF IT*.
23. Check out this website, <http://www.battleofthebooks.org/> Divide the kids into groups, have each group read a book and answer trivia questions about it. Make it into a competition or a game. Boys love it!
24. Consider adding illustrating to your story-writing contests. Use wordless books as examples, or digital cameras to photograph 3-D objects. Post stories on your library web page.
25. Let kids act out the story! They'll love it, and look at it in a new way. Check out Reader's Theater—e.g. Aaron Shepard's website, or let them make up their own reader's theater.
26. Here's a great storytelling exercise from Michael Sullivan (see above)
 - *Have everyone in the room tell the story of their name.*
 - *What is the nationality of the family name?*
 - *Where do the ancestors of the same name come from?*
 - *What does the family name mean in the original language?*
 - *What language is the given name from?*
 - *What does it mean?*
 - *Why did your parents choose the name?*
 - *Was there a namesake, someone for whom the person was named?*
 - *What qualities that the namesake possessed led the parents to honor him or her?*

- *Are there siblings whose names are related in some way?*
 - *Was there some circumstance surrounding the birth that suggested the given name?*
 - *Tell the story of your own name first.*
 - *Start slow. For some kids, just saying their name may be all they can do at first. For a small group go person by person, for a large group ask for volunteers.*
 - *If the exercise may pose a problem for one of your students, make the exercise be the name of someone in their household.*
27. When you choose stories for boys:
- Look for action and humor
 - Accept a little gore
 - Avoid internal, contemplative stories
 - Choose mythology rather than fairy tales
 - Choose real folktales rather than fairy tales
28. Ask students to tell the story of a song. Start with one they all know, such as Yankee Doodle.
29. Remember: *“There’s no such thing as a kid who doesn’t want to read; there is only a kid who hasn’t met the right book.”* Sari, teacher
30. Don’t force kids to read an assigned book that they hate.
31. Establish an SSR program in your classroom if you do not have one. ALWAYS read yourself during that time.
32. Have kids write their own brief book reviews. Post them with a digital picture of the kid holding the book.
33. Use reading buddies. Have stronger readers pair with weaker readers, and, together, do a book report on a topic that interests them both.
34. Here’s a quote from another great children’s book author, Robert Lipsyte: *“ So, you say, we have to change society first, and then boys will read good books. This is true. But if we can get just a few boys to read a few good books, we will have started the change. Cajole, coerce, do whatever needs to be done to get one book into one boy’s hands, or back pocket. A book that he can make into a cave he can crawl into, roll around in, explore, for what’s in there and what’s in himself, you can do all by yourself, where no one can see you laughing or crying.”*
35. Be aware that literacy is an intensely social thing. Boys are more likely to read books that contain information which can be easily exported to conversation with their friends.
36. Boys love comic books. It’s ok. You probably read more than a few yourself when you were a kid, and, apparently, it didn’t do you any harm.
37. Boys prefer active responses to reading in which they physically act out responses, do, or make something. Use this. Ask them to do a book report in rap! Or in art! Or drama!
38. Ask your students to do a person report on themselves. Get to know them better!
- a. Create a hypermedia stack on the computer or in physical note cards.
 - b. Cards describe appearance, interests, favorite quotes, quotes from friend about them and so forth
 - c. Use scanner and software to edit a photograph
 - d. Use audio file to download a favorite song
 - e. Provide hotlinks to favorite net sites
 - f. Used the draw tools to create a floor plan of their favorite place
39. Ask students to take turns being the class officer—starting the day and sharing something about what the class is learning with them—perhaps an observation or a related piece of information.
40. When giving writing assignments, let kids choose their own topics. Perhaps you can give a broad guideline, but let them choose something that really interests them.
41. Every morning, ask yourself “What is the quality of the experience I want my students to have today?”

42. Be sure to ascertain whether the material you give students to master is over-whelming for them or boring for them. If it is either one, for any kid, change it.
43. Do everything you can to make your students feel competent and respected and valued.
44. Be the kind of teacher described by a student in Michael Smith's book in the bibliography: *"I like the way he teaches more than any other teacher. He likes to get our opinion on what we do in class. All my other teachers—they don't care what we say. They just do their own thing."*
45. Remember that if boys are not challenged in school, they make up their own challenges (e.g. create behavior problems to us).
46. Let your students know the purpose of specific drills and lessons. We all like to know why we are doing something.
47. In reading books aloud, or in assigning them, help the students develop relationships with the characters. How are they like me? How are they different? What would I do in his shoes?
48. Here is a brilliant quote from Ron Jobe's RELUCTANT READERS: *It must appear to reluctant readers that the point of what they are doing is just for fun or for finding out something they want to know. They must feel that the point is not to practice the skills of reading.*

With these children, the best way to approach reading instruction is to sideswipe them—to teach laterally rather than directly. To reluctant readers, learning to read must look as if it is an incidental task, as if reading is only a tool to help in learning about such things as frogs, comets or dirt-bikes.

For years they have sat and plodded through books, word-by-word, and through phonics lessons, sound-by-sound. They have endured too many lessons with too little to show. When faced with the same direct instruction again, they believe it will not help this time either. Many reluctant readers quit before they begin.

49. Have someone videotape your interaction with an underperforming reader and then watch yourself and the way you relate to him or her. Is there something you could do to improve the interaction and the learning opportunity?
50. Form your students into groups and have a competition. Have them make the book or story you just read aloud into a game! Have real prizes, even just doughnuts.
51. When spending time with a student, let them do the physical work of holding the book and turning the pages. Let them do the interaction.
52. Let boys move. They need to, they want to, they must. Arrange for that to happen and to be acceptable.
53. In giving readers choice, make sure that they have a lot of it! --

Let readers decide:

- a. How much of the book they want to read
- b. Maybe they want to read only one chapter, the most interesting one.
- c. Maybe deciding they are not interested enough to continue after the first page
- d. Which parts to read and in what order
- e. Maybe just the photo captions?
- f. Maybe not starting at the beginning?
- g. What kinds of books to read?
- h. Maybe a magazine, a comic or a game instead of a book?
- i. What reading level to tackle?
- j. Maybe something really easy today?
- k. Maybe something pretty hard, but very interesting?
- l. When and where to read
- m. What position to read in: Standing? Lying? Sitting?
- n. Who to read with?
- o. If they'll even read today at all!

Giving choice to a kid does not mean that teachers and parents abdicate theirs. Choice for adults just becomes more hidden. It moves to a different level in that it is centered around questions such as

- How can I introduce choice into whatever activity we will do
 - How many books can I find about this topic for my reluctant readers to choose from?
 - Where does the instruction need to go next?
 - How can I slip instruction in so the reluctant kid doesn't balk?
54. Pick a pile of books on interesting topics and let the reader choose which one he wants to sample. Give him the control.
 55. Anything that interests or excites it, we don't see as work, even though it is! Use this!
 56. Read aloud to your students every single day. Always.
 57. Read a poem every day. Start with funny ones. Stick to funny ones as long as you need—and, every now and then, ask for requests for one you've read before that everyone enjoyed.
 58. Always be willing to put play into reading. Reading is fun! Reading is interesting! Make it so.
 59. And that's just the beginning...add your own great ideas to this list!

