



Grade	Month	Title	Author
Pre-K/K	October	Pig the Pug	Aaron Blabey
	November	A Gold Star for Zog	Julia Donaldson
	December	Pout Pout Fish and the Bully Bully Shark	Deborah Diesen
	January	Thelma the Unicorn	Aaron Blabey
	February	Jamaica's Find	Juanita Havill
Grade 1	October	The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School	Laura Murray
	November	The Adventures of Beekle, the Unimaginary Friend	Dan Santat
	December	Be Kind	Danielle Villano
	January	The Most Magnificent Thing	Ashley Spires
	February	Ada Twist, Scientist	Andrea Beaty
Grade 2	October	Iggly Peck, Architect	Andrea Beaty
	November	Pickles to Pittsburgh	Judy Barrett
	December	My Teacher	James Ransome
	January	Jabari Jumps	Gaia Cornwall
	February	Too Loud Lily	Sofie Laguna
Grade 3	October	The Princess and the Pizza	Mary Jane Auch
	November	Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch	Eileen Spinelli
	December	Ruby the Copycat	Peggy Rathmann
	January	Happy Birdday, Tacky	Helen Lester
	February	Islandborn	Junot Diaz
Grade 4	October	Mrs. Smith's Incredible Storybook	Michael Garland
	November	Those Shoes	Maribeth Boelts
	December	Hey, That's MY Monster!	Amanda Noll
	January	What Do You Do With Problem?	Kobi Yamada
	February	Malala's Magic Pencil	Malala Yousafzai
Grade 5	October	Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black & White America	Carole Boston Weatherford
	November	The Memory Coat	Elvira Woodruff
	December	Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote	Tanya Lee Stone
	January	Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra	Andrea Davis Pinkney
	February	The Day of Ahmed's Secret	Florence Perry Heide

Pre-K - K

Pig the Pug – This story teaches a lesson about sharing. Pig the Pug is not nice to his housemate and keeps his toys all to himself. His selfish behavior will lead to a painful lesson...literally. Will Pig learn to share or continue to be unreasonable? **Before reading, ask:** *What does it mean to be greedy and selfish?* (Explain) **During reading,** explain what 'Pig flipped his wig' means. **After reading, ask:** *Do you think Pig learned his lesson? Who should we be more like, Pig or Trevor? Why?*

A Gold Star for Zog - Zog is eager to learn but is always hurting himself. What he really wants is to earn a gold star, but all his accidents make it seem impossible. Zog's biggest challenge might be his way to victory! **Before reading, ask:** *Do you know what rhyming words are?* Explain that this book has many rhyming words. **During reading,** stop a couple of times to see if students noticed what words rhymed on the page. **After reading, ask:** *What is one thing you liked about Zog?*

Pout Pout Fish and the Bully Bully Shark - Mr. Fish and his friends are having fun at the park until shark bully comes along. Mr. Fish wants to stand up for himself and his friends but isn't sure he has what it takes. Fortunately, Pout Fish teaches that mean old shark a lesson about kindness and friendship. **Before reading, ask:** *Do you know what a bully is? Is it nice to be a bully?* **During reading, ask:** *What is respect?* Explain unfamiliar words. **After reading, ask:** *Why is it good to be like Mr. Fish?*

Thelma the Unicorn - Thelma dreams of being a glamorous unicorn. Her wish comes true at an unexpected cost. In time, Thelma realizes she was happier as her sparkle-free self. **Before reading, ask:** *Have you ever played dress up/make believe?* **During reading,** define *forlorn (sad and lonely)*; explain that the sign calling unicorns dumb was very wrong; discuss Otis's importance (*He accepts Thelma for who she is.*); **After reading, ask:** *How does Thelma change over the course of the story?*

Jamaica's Find - Jamaica finds a stuffed dog at the playground. After taking him home she discovers her conscience as well. Jamaica is an honest and appealing character who deals with an ethical dilemma. **Before reading, ask:** *What would you do if you found something and didn't know who it belonged to?* **During reading, ask:** *Why do you think Jamaica returned the red hat but not the dog?* **After reading, ask:** *Would you give back something that belonged to someone else? Why or why not?*

Grade 1

The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School - When the kids in his class left for recess, Gingerbread set off through the school to find them. His first stop is the gym, where he loses a toe. His next stop is the nurse's office, where he's fixed up like new. In the art class he found himself in quite a dilemma. Once rescued, he's sent to the principal's office and finds that the kids had been looking for him. His class promised to never leave their Gingerbread friend behind again. **Before reading, ask:** *What would you do if you were separated from your class?* **During reading, ask** *where they think his next stops will be.*

The Adventures of Beekle, The Unimaginary Friend – Night after night, Beekle patiently waits to be chosen by a real child. Sadly, his turn never comes, so rather than wait to be imagined, he braves an unimaginable journey where he finally meets his perfect match. **Before reading, ask:** *Do any of you have an imaginary friend?* **During reading, ask:** *Why do you think the real world was so strange to Beekle at first?* **After reading, ask:** *What fun things might you do with their imaginary friend?*

Be Kind - Standing up for others isn't always easy, but when Tanisha spills grape juice all over her dress, her classmate tries her best to make her feel better. She thinks of many different things one can do to be kind. This story is an exploration into what kindness is and exactly how kindness can make a difference in someone's life. **Before reading, ask:** *What does it mean to be kind?* **During reading, ask:** *Do you think being kind is easy?* **After reading, ask:** *What are some ways you can be kind?*

The Most Magnificent Thing - This book has important lessons about the rewards of perseverance and creativity and the value of friendship. When the main character decides she is going to make "the most MAGNIFICENT thing" she thinks she has it all figured out, but it isn't as easy as she expected. She is ready to quit when her best friend takes her on a walk to clear her mind. She returns with a renewed sense of enthusiasm. **Before reading ask:** *Have you ever wanted to make something, but weren't sure how to do it?* **During reading ask:** *Why do you think the little girl got so upset when trying to make her magnificent thing?* **After reading ask:** *If something doesn't go the way you planned should you give up or keep trying?*

Ada Twist, Scientist – Little Ada's parents are worried about their little girl, who "said not a word till the day she was three." Finally, she spoke her first word... why quickly followed by what, how and when. Relentlessly curious, Ada is not afraid of failure and when faced with challenges she begins to research and experiment to get to the bottom of the problem. **Before reading ask:** *Have you ever had a question no one could answer. Did you ever find an answer?* **During reading** explain some of the unfamiliar vocabulary (*Hypothesis, Quiver, etc.*) **After reading ask:** *What do you think makes Ada a good scientist?*

Grade 2

Iggy Peck, Architect – Since age two Iggy’s passion has been building things. His parents are proud of his amazing creations but puzzled by the unconventional materials he uses. Iggy’s teacher tells him his passion for architecture has “no place in grade two.” For a while Iggy’s “interest was killed” but on a field trip a mishap occurred that gave Iggy an opportunity to use his building skills and convinced his teacher that grade two is just the place “to spend your time building a dream.” **Before reading ask:** What is the boy on the cover doing? **During reading:** Explain unfamiliar vocabulary such as *architect*, *lecture*, *collapse*, etc. **After reading ask:** How did things change in Miss Greer’s class after she crossed the bridge the kids had built?

Pickles to Pittsburgh - Kate and Henry eagerly await Grandpa’s return from a trip his postcard says has been one of the best and most unusual ever. Kate goes to bed one night and drifts off to dream land where she and Henry visit a strange island with a sign that reads “Welcome to Chew and Swallow.” They discover that the town provides free food for people in need. **Before reading ask:** Has anyone ever read *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*? This story is its sequel. **During reading ask:** Do you think the Falling Food Company did good work? **After reading ask:** Where do you think Grandpa went on his trip?

My Teacher – The narrator, a student, helps us to appreciate that a teacher who cares about her students can be one of the best gifts of all. She recognizes that her teacher could be working in a nicer school or even retire, after all she taught the little girl’s mother and grandmother! But when the teacher reveals that she was a student in that very class, it becomes clear why she continues teaching and encouraging her students. This story shows what a little encouragement from a great teacher can do for a student. **Before reading ask:** Do you think it is important to have a good teacher? **During reading ask:** What made the teacher in this story a good teacher? **After reading ask:** What makes your teacher a good teacher?

Jabari Jumps - Jabari has completed his swimming lessons, passed his swim test and is about to jump off the diving board. He procrastinates with stretches and lets other kids dive before him...after all he needs to figure out what special jump to do. His dad lets him know it’s ok to feel a bit afraid so after a little breathing, Jabari makes his way to the top of the ladder. With his arms spread he flew through the air and hit the water with a SPLASH! **Before reading ask:** How many of you have jumped off of a diving board? **During reading ask:** When Jabari squeezes his dad’s hand back what do you think he’s trying to say? **After reading ask:** What are some reasons you’ve had to use your bravery?

Too Loud Lily – Everyone in Lily’s family thinks she’s too loud. Even Lily’s best friends get mad at her because she gets them into trouble with her loud ways. As hard as Lily tries to be quiet, she can’t help but be loud. One day a new teacher comes to school to teach music and drama, and Lily discovers there’s a time and place for her high-volume gift. When Lily heard about the school play she decided to try out and was pleasantly surprised when Miss Loopiola gave her all the loudest jobs. On the night of the play everyone loved her! **Before reading ask:** Have you ever been told you were too loud? **During reading ask:** Why do you think Lily’s friend were mad at her? **After reading ask:** Why was the play a good thing for Lily to do?

Grade 3

The Princess and the Pizza - When Princess Paulina’s father gives up his throne, she finds herself out of the palace and in need of a job. Wanting very much to be a princess again, when she hears that Prince Drupert is looking for a princess, she doesn’t shy away from the competition. She passes each test, but her final task - cooking a feast fit for a prince – seems like it’s going to be a challenge when her competition leaves behind some unpleasant ingredients, but Paulina wins the contest and Princess Paulina’s Pizza Palace is born! **Before reading ask:** What do you think this story is going to be about? **During reading ask:** What did Paulina miss about being a princess? **After reading ask:** What kind of pizza do you like?

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch – One morning Mr. Hatch received a package with a note reading “Somebody loves you.” Mr. Hatch never smiled and usually kept to himself, but this particular day he was smiling, wearing a new outfit and even held a neighborhood picnic. Weeks passed then one day the postman came and told him the package had been delivered to the wrong address. Mr. Hatch sighed “Nobody loves me after all.” But that night he learned that not only did somebody love him, EVERYONE did! **Before reading ask:** Do you think it is important to feel loved? **During reading** encourage the children to predict what will happen next in the story. **After reading ask:** What does this story tells us about how to make friends?

Ruby the Copycat – Ruby is a new student. The first person she meets is Angela. Ruby wants very much to fit in so when the class is asked to share about their weekend Ruby and Angela “coincidentally” did the same thing. When Ruby hops home for lunch she returns wearing a red bow like Angela’s; the next day she returns with a sweater just like Angela’s. At first Angela is flattered, but soon it becomes annoying and Angela tells Ruby how she feels. Ruby’s feelings are hurt, but the teacher shows Ruby a better way to fit in. **Before reading ask:** Do you like when someone copies you? **During reading ask:** Why do you think Ruby keeps copying everything Angela does? **After reading ask:** How do you think Ruby felt at the end of the story?

Grade 3 (continued)

Happy Birthday, Tacky! - Tacky's friends are planning a surprise party for him. With presents, surprise entertainment, cake, and fishy ice cream how could anything go wrong? Unfortunately, nothing is going the way his friends planned, but Tacky's dance moves save the day and it's the perfect party after all! **Before reading ask:** How many of you have ever had a party? **During reading ask:** Do you think Tacky has good friends? **After reading ask:** How do you know Tacky appreciated his party?

Islandborn - When Lola's teacher asks students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited except Lola. She was just a baby when she left the island and can't remember it at all. Her family and friends share memories with her and Lola's imagination takes her on an extraordinary journey back to The Island. Lola now understands her abuela's words: "Just because you don't remember a place doesn't mean it's not in you." **Before reading ask:** Was anyone born in another country? **During reading ask:** Do you think Lola will be able to come up with a good drawing even though she can't remember the island? **After reading ask:** What do you think the monster on their island might have been?

Grade 4

Mrs. Smith's Incredible Storybook - The first day of school "went along like every school day that Zack could remember" - until story time. While Mrs. Smith is stuck in traffic Principal Rittenrotten reads from her storybook and the characters begin to leap out of the pages. As the principal runs for help students begin to fight over the book, beginning new stories before ending old ones and not allowing characters to return to their pages. Mrs. Smith's arrives and finishes each story, returning the characters to their pages. Principal Rittenrotten is dumbfounded as he returns to an "ordinary" classroom with the fire department. **Before reading ask:** What do you think is unique about Mrs. Smith? **During reading ask:** Why do you think the characters aren't going back into the book? **After reading ask:** How can you make stories "come to life" when you read?

Those Shoes - Jeremy dreams about "those shoes" that everyone at school seems to have, but in Jeremy's life there's no room for *want*, just *need*. When Jeremy's old shoes fall apart, a teacher gives him a pair of shoes with a cartoon character on the side and Velcro straps. Now he is more determined than ever to have "those shoes" and settles for a thrift-shop pair that are too small. Jeremy notices that one of his classmates with smaller feet than his has a beat-up pair of sneakers and eventually realizes that helping someone in need is more important than having what he wants. **Before reading ask:** Is it hard not having something that everyone else has? **During reading ask:** What do you think Grandma meant when she said: "There's no room for *want* around here - just *need*."? **After reading ask:** Why do you think Jeremy decided to give "those shoes" to Antonio?

Hey, That's MY Monster! - When Ethan looks under the bed for his monster, he finds this note instead: "*So long, kid. Gotta go. Someone needs me more than you do. -Gabe*" How will Ethan ever get to sleep without his monster's familiar snorts? And who could need Gabe more than Ethan does? Is it Ethan's little sister who has been climbing out of bed every night to play, and obviously needs a monster to help her get to sleep - but not HIS monster! Ethan has three tries to help his sister find her own monster. **Before reading ask:** Why do you think they are looking under the bed? **During reading ask:** Why does Ethan think he's going to lose Gabe forever? **After reading ask:** Is there anything that keeps you in bed at night?

What Do You Do With a Problem? - This is the story of a persistent problem and the child who isn't so sure what to make of it. Worrying about it just seems to make it worse. The longer the problem is avoided, the bigger it seems to get. But when the child finally musters up the courage to face it, the problem turns out to be something quite different than it appeared. In fact, "it had something beautiful inside." **Before reading ask:** How many of you have ever had a problem? **During reading ask:** Why do you think he was afraid to face his problem? **After reading ask:** What is a problem you've had that gave you an opportunity to do something good?

Malala's Magic Pencil - Malala used to watch a show about a boy with a magic pencil and wished she had one of her own. She would use it to make a lock on her door, stop time, erase the smell of trash, and make others happy. It made her sad to learn that some kids couldn't go to school, but rather had to work to support their families. As Malala grew older, she saw that there were more important things to wish for, like the end of war, poverty, hunger and equality between boys and girls. Instead of wishing for the magic pencil she decided to work hard in school to make her wishes come true. Eventually girls in her country were banned from attending school. When wishing wasn't enough Malala began speaking for all the girls who couldn't speak for themselves. Dangerous men tried to silence her but failed. She continues to stand up for her beliefs and she still believes in magic. **Before reading ask:** If you had a magic pencil that could make things happen, what would you use it to draw? **During reading ask:** Why do you think Malala began speaking out about the bad thing in her country? **After reading ask:** What things could you speak up about to try to make a difference in your city, school, state, etc....?

Grade 5

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America – Gordon Parks is most famous for being the first black director in Hollywood. When he was a child his white teacher told her all-black class, “You’ll all wind up porters and waiters,” but when Gordon bought a camera, his life changed forever. He taught himself how to take pictures and before long, people noticed. His success as a fashion photographer landed him a job working for the government. In Washington DC, Gordon found that he and others were treated differently because of the color of their skin. He wanted to take a stand against the racism he observed and with his camera in hand, he found a way. **Before reading ask:** Do you think it’s fair to tell someone what they can or cannot do because of the color of their skin? **During reading ask:** How did Gordon take a stand against racism? **After reading ask:** Do you think it is important to try to change things that aren’t right?

The Memory Coat – Rachel and Grisha grew up in a big happy family in Russia. They became the best of friends when Grisha came to live with Rachel’s family when he was orphaned. When the Cossacks raid the country, their Jewish family must leave Russia. Grandma Bubba tries to convince Grisha to leave behind his old coat fearing that if things aren’t perfect they will be separated in America. Grisha refuses since the coat is lined with wool from his deceased mother’s coat. When they arrive at Ellis Island, Grisha falls injuring his eye, and is threatened with deportation until his cousin Rachel comes up with a plan to save him. **Before reading ask:** What do you know about Ellis Island? How would you feel if you had to leave your home and move to a new country? **During reading** explain unfamiliar terms (Cossacks - a mounted soldier; “*Kibbud av v’em!*”- honor your parents etc.) **After reading ask:** What would you have done to make sure everyone in your family got to stay together?

Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote – This is the inspiring story of an extraordinary woman who changed America forever. Elizabeth Cady Stanton “was only four years old the first time she heard someone say life was better for boys. At thirteen she learned that “without a husband the law stated nothing belonged to her.” After learning that only men could change laws she decided to fight for what she believed in. Rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote. **Before reading ask:** Have you ever been told you couldn’t do something because of who you are? **During reading ask:** What was life like for women during this time? **After reading ask:** Why do you think what Elizabeth Cady Stanton did was important?

The Day of Ahmed’s Secret - All day long Ahmed maneuvers his donkey cart through the bustling, colorful streets of Cairo - streets crowded with cars and camels, down alleys filled with merchants' stalls, and past buildings a thousand years old. As he delivers butane gas to his customers he thinks to himself, “I have a secret.” The secret is so special, so wonderful, that he can reveal it only to his family when he returns home at the end of the day. **Before reading ask:** What do you think Ahmed’s secret will be? **During reading ask:** How is the way Ahmed lived different from how you live? **After reading ask:** What is something new you’re learning that you could share with others?

Duke Ellington The Piano Prince and His Orchestra – Duke Ellington didn’t always have a passion for piano; his first love was baseball. Years after quitting the piano lessons his parents had signed him up for he heard “ragtime” music and this set his “fingers to wiggling.” With practice Duke “started to play his own made up melodies.” Duke formed his own band called the *Washingtonians*. They traveled to Harlem “where jazz ruled” and soon people were traveling to hear them perform. In 1927 they landed a gig at *The Cotton Club*, “New York’s swankiest hang out.” Each member of the band played “kicking solos” and soon the “whole country swung to Duke’s beat.” While many referred to his music as jazz, he called it “the music of my people” and in 1943, being one of very few African Americans to ever take the stage at Carnegie Hall, he and his orchestra introduced the audience to “Black, Brown and Beige” - a glorious, prideful and triumphant tribute to African Americans. **Before reading ask:** Who has taken music lessons before? **During reading ask:** What changed Duke’s mind about the piano? **After reading ask:** Do you think Duke Ellington was an important part of history? Why?