

First Novels

FIRST NOVELS

Note to parents: This is the fifth in a sequence of six lists designed to guide a child's independent reading. Children learn to read at different ages and develop proficiency at different rates. Used in progression the lists may help you choose appropriate books to suit your child's individual needs.

First Novels continue to provide the simpler sentences and vocabulary but the stories are longer and involve a larger cast of characters. All of these books on this list are kept in the fiction section of the Children's Department.

- Adler, David **Andy Russell (Series)**
Is Andy Russell just a pest or are there some very suspicious things happening to the Perlman's empty house next door. CONTEMPORARY/HUMOUR.
- Bailey, Linda **Stevie Diamond (Series)**
Fast paced mysteries set in Canada are tackled by the Diamond And Kulniki Detective Agency. CONTEMPORARY/MYSTERY.
- Blume, Judy **Superfudge**
Hatcher Family mayhem continues-they are moving, mom is expecting. Peter's brothers and sisters are driving him nuts and he just can't take it anymore. One of five books about the Hatchers. CONTEMPORARY/HUMOUR.
- Cleary, Beverly **The Mouse And The Motorcycle**
Ralph, an adventurous mouse, learns to ride a toy motorcycle. First in a trilogy. ANIMALS/FANTASY.
- Coville, Bruce **Jennifer Murdley's Toad**
A magic toad and Jennifer who is sworn to silence about her new talking friend. Book Two in "The Magic shop quartet. FANTASY/HUMOUR.
- Crilley, Mark **Akiko (Series)**
Space travel. Robots! Fire-breathing Jaggarsaurs! Join Akiko and her alien sidekicks on their intergalactic adventures. SCIENCE FICTION.
- Dahl, Roald **James And The Giant Peach**
A magic potion rescues James from two cruel aunts. By the author of "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory." ADVENTURE/FANTASY.
- Fitzgerald, John D. **The Great Brain (Series)**
Get to know "The Great Brain" through the eyes of his younger brother J.D. as he tells the story of the magic water closet that "doesn't stink". HUMOUR
- Fitzgerald, Louise **Harriet The Spy**
Having her secret notebook stolen by her classmates gets Harriet into big trouble. Will her passion for spying remain, especially when her classmates form their own spy-catcher club. HUMOUR
- Hale, Bruce **Chet Gecko (Series)**
"My jaw dropped. I didn't pick it up." Puns and bad jokes abound in these hard-boiled mysteries starring the best lizard gumshoe around. HUMOUR/MYSTERY.
- Horvath, Polly **Everything On A Waffle**
Primrose just knows that her parents didn't really drown. Waiting for their return, she hangs out with the eccentric owner of a restaurant where everything is served, from lasagna to fish, on a waffle.
- Howe, Deborah **Bunnacula (Series)**
Chester the cat is convinced that the baby rabbit found at a Dracula movie is really a vampire. ANIMALS/HUMOUR.

- King-Smith, Dick **Harry's Mad**
Harry, the great-nephew of Uncle George is bequeathed an African Grey parrot answering to the name of Madison. Adventure follows with Mad's loss and recovery. ANIMALS/ADVENTURE.
- Lingren, Astrid **Pippi Longstocking (Series)**
A very strong, red-headed girl, who lives in her own house with a pet monkey and a horse, has some funny adventures. ADVENTURE/HUMOUR.
- Little, Jean **From Anna**
A kind doctor discovers Anna's secret when her family moves from Nazi Germany to Canada in the 1930's. Anna's story continues in "Listen To The Singing." HISTORICAL
- Mazer, Anne **Abby Hayes (Series)**
Abby attempts to shine in her family of overachievers. While documenting her efforts in her dairy, her purple pen reveals her true gifts. A fun, upbeat series. CONTEMPORARY/HUMOUR
- McNamee, Graham **Nothing Wrong With A Three Legged Dog**
Keath learns a lot about happiness when he befriends Leftovers, a three-legged, one eared dog. HUMOUR,
- Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds **The Boys Start The War (Series)**
The war starts when the three Malloy sisters move across the river from the four Hatford brothers. The Hatfords figure if they play enough tricks on the Malloys, the girls will move away. Little do they know what the girls have in store. HUMOUR
- Norton, Mary **The Borrowers (Series)**
Enter the secret and sometimes treacherous world of the Borrowers, tiny people who borrow life's necessities from "human beans".
- Park, Barbara **Skinnybones**
The laugh-aloud misadventures of Alex "Skinnybones" Frankovich are baseball stories with a difference. Don't miss the sequel, "Almost Starring Skinnybones". HUMOUR/SPORTS
- Pilkey, Dav, **Captain Underpants (Series)**
This is a super hero never to be forgotten! You won't be able to stop laughing. If you like Captain Underpants, try the author's "Ricky Ricotta series". HUMOUR
- Pullman, Philip **I Was A Rat!**
"I was a rat!" insists Roger. Maybe it's true-he certainly can't resist gnawing on the bedpost! But what is he now? A low-down thief? Or just an ordinary small boy, though a little ratty in his habits? FANTASY/HUMOUR
- Richler, Mordecai **Jacob Two-Two Meet The Hooded Fang (Series)**
Jacob Two-Two is sent to the children's prison for insulting an adult . Can he outwit the dreaded Hooded Fang? FANTASY/HUMOUR
- Sachar, Louis **Sideways Stories From Wayside School (Series)**
The classrooms in wacky Wayside School are stacked one atop the other, thirty floors tall. HUMOUR
- Scieszka, Jon **The Time Warp Trio (Series)**
Joe and his friends travel through time, and have outrageous adventures. ADVENTURE/FANTASY
- Scrimger, Richard **The Nose From Jupiter**
Alan likes Norbert, the tiny alien who lives up his nose, until Norbert starts speaking his mind and mouthing off to school bullies. First in a fast-paced and funny trilogy. HUMOUR/SCIENCE
- FICTION**
- Selden, George **The Cricket In Times Square (Series)**
A virtuoso cricket and his friends, a fast talking Broadway mouse and a cat of real character spend an adventurous summer in New York City. FANTASY
- Snicket, Lemony **A Bad Beginning (A Series Of Unfortunate Events)**
Follow the misfortunes of tragic Baudelaire orphans as they attempt to evade the clutches of the villainous Count Olaf. HUMOUR
- White, E.B. **Charlotte's Web**
Animals on the Zuckman farm conspire to save the life of Wilbur, a young pig. ANIMALS/FANTASY

- Weibe, Trina **Max The Movie Director (Max-A-Million Series)**
Max and Sid get together in hopes of making millions if the blockbuster space film that Max hopes to direct pans out. Read and find out if Max is meant to be rich. HUMOUR
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls **Little House (Series)**
Follow the adventures of Ma, Pa, Mary and Laura from their homestead in the Wisconsin woods to the Dakotas. HISTORICAL

MIDDLE INTERMEDIATE READING

Note to parents: This is the sixth in a sequence of six lists designed to guide a child's reading. Children learn to read at different ages and develop proficiency at different rates. Used in progression the lists may help you to choose appropriate books to suit your child's individual needs.

MIDDLE INTERMEDIATE READING lists novels with exciting plots and memorable characters-incentives to keep newly proficient readers reading. All of the books on this list are kept in the FICTION section of the Children's Department.

- Alexander, Lloyd **The Prydain Chronicles**
The series starts with "The Book Of Three" in which Taran, a pig keeper by trade, joins with Gwydion, a warrior, to battle the Horned King. ADVENTURE/FANTASY
- Avi **Poppy (Series)**
Poppy, a deer mouse, urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. ANIMALS/FANTASY
- Boston, L.M. **A Stranger At Green Knowe (Series)**
When Hanno, the giant gorilla at the London zoo escapes and ends up in Green Knowe, Ping a little refugee boy who is staying there with Mrs. Oldknow has the surprise of his life. ANIMALS/ADVENTURE
- Bellairs, John **The House With A Clock In Its Walls (Series)**
Lewis races to find the doomsday clock hidden by an evil sorcerer in the walls of his uncle's house. Gothic chillers for graduates of Harry Potter. FANTASY/SCARY
- Colfer, Eoin **Artemis Fowl (Series)**
Artemis, a twelve-year-old genius from a notorious crime family, tries to restore the family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold. When the fairies fight back the action begins. FANTASY/HUMOUR
- Cooper, Susan **The Boggart**
An old desk unleashes the boggart, a mischievous spirit who has lived in a Scottish castle for centuries. Sequel: The Boggart And The Monster. CONTEMPORARY/FANTASY
- Curtis, Christopher Paul **Bud, Not Buddy**
No Mother, no money and nothing left to lose-Bud runs from his foster home in search of his famous and long lost father. ADVENTURE/HISTORICAL
- Ellis, Deborah **The Breadwinner**
After her father is imprisoned, Parvana disguises herself as a boy and ventures into town to earn money so her family can eat. A compelling look at women's roles in Afghanistan under the Taliban HISTORICAL
- Gantos, Jack **Joey Pigza (Series)**
Joey has ADD and he sometimes makes bad choices-like the time he stuck his finger in the pencil sharpener. Non-stop "tragicomedies" told from the point of view of a good kid who knows the special-ed program is his last chance. CONTEMPORARY/HUMOUR
- Hahn, Mary Downing **Wait Till Helen Comes**
Things go from bad to worse for Molly, Michael and their stepsister Heather, when Heather becomes involved in a frightening relationship with the ghost of a dead child. ADVENTURE/MYSTERY

Walters, Eric

Trapped In Ice

While on an Arctic expedition, the ship Helen and her younger brother are on gets trapped in ice. ADVENTURE/HISTORY

Winthrop, Elizabeth

The Castle In The Attic

In an effort to keep his beloved nanny from returning to England, William miniaturizes her and then must find a way to undo t he deed. Sequel: The Battle For The Castle. ANTASY/ADVENTURE

Yolen, Jane

The Dragon's Boy

Artos stumbles into the cave of an old and lonely dragon who offers to teach him the game of wisdom. He becomes Pendragon, the son of the dragon and sets out on a journey to a remarkable destiny. FANTASY