The Core Knowledge Classroom Libraries contain books that support the major categories of the Core Knowledge Sequence. Occasionally a book becomes unavailable and another book is substituted. The books and annotations listed here are possible substitutions for books listed in the Teacher’s Guides.

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Table of Contents

I. PreK 2
II. Kindergarten 6
III. Grade 1 11
IV. Grade 2 16
V. Grade 3 21
VI. Grade 4 27
VII. Grade 5 32
VIII. Grades 6–8 37
FAMILY

Buzz
by Janet S. Wong, illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine
Core Knowledge Domain: Language Arts/English
Buzz! Everything sounds like a busy bee, from Daddy’s razor, to the lawn mower outside, to the blender Mommy’s using in the kitchen. A morning routine is transformed into a noisy buzz-fest for the curious little boy in this story.

Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Phonological Awareness When you read the book’s title, model saying buzz to help children become aware of the sounds associated with the letters b and z. Track the print as you read the story, pointing out the special print used for the word buzz. Invite children to “buzz” each time you point to that word in dark type. Follow up by discussing more words that include the sounds /b/ and /z/.

Peter’s Chair
written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats
Core Knowledge Domain: Language Arts/English
An enduring classic, this story taps into a very common event—an older child learning to share with a new sibling. Peter loves the chair he got when he was very small. The problem is that Peter has grown, and now he is too big for the chair, but he still he rebels when his parents want to give the chair to his baby sister.

Extension Activity: Concept Development Pause several times while reading the story to ask children to reflect on what Peter is feeling and to predict what they think Peter, or his parents, might do next. After he takes the chair, for instance, consider asking, “What do you think Peter will do now?” Link story events to children’s own experiences. Ask if they have younger siblings and if they have ever felt like Peter. Ask them what they might do if they were in Peter’s situation.

SCHOOL

Froggy Goes to School
by Jonathan London, illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz
Core Knowledge Domain: Language Arts/English
Froggy is so nervous about starting school that he dreams about an embarrassing first day that finds him wearing nothing but his underwear! On the real first day of school, Froggy gets embarrassed again during show-and-tell, when the principal catches him singing a silly song. To Froggy’s surprise, the principal joins in the fun!

Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Phonological Awareness The humor in this story is supported by the way in which the author uses the sounds of language. Point out the placement, size and color of the text, each time a character calls out “Frrrrooggy!” Invite children to join in. This book also includes compound words (e.g. underwear, flowerpot, flagpole) that children can attempt to segment and great examples of beginning sounds in phrases such as zip! zoop! zup!
Yoko
written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells
Core Knowledge Domain: Orientation in Time & Space/History & Geography
Yoko is happy to find her favorite sushi in a willow-covered cooler at lunchtime, but her classmates aren’t quite so sure: “Ick! It’s green! It’s seaweed!” When Yoko’s inventive teacher plans an International Food Day requiring each student to try everything, only hungry Timothy is brave enough to taste Yoko’s sushi, and a great friendship begins.
Extension Activity: Concept Development Pause frequently while reading to ask questions about how Yoko feels, how her classmates treat her, how Mrs. Jenkins attempts to solves the problem, and why people are sometimes reluctant to try new things. Invite children to share their understanding of international food day and talk about their own favorite foods.

COMMUNITY

At the Firehouse
written and illustrated by Anne Rockwell
Core Knowledge Domain: Orientation in Time & Space/History & Geography
Jason wants to be a firefighter when he grows up, just like Captain Jack. On Visitor’s Day, he goes to the firehouse and learns what it’s like to live and work there. The firefighters explain all about their fireproof clothes and the shiny red fire engine. The best part of the day is when Jason gets to sit in the engine’s driver’s seat!
Extension Activity: Vocabulary Development Use the illustrations in the book to help you better explain words from the story such as rescue, siren, and hose. Model how to use the labels on the diagram to identify the parts of a fire engine. Follow up by discussing things your class might expect to see if they visited a firehouse. Discuss how each of these items helps firefighters do their jobs.

The Rain Came Down
written and illustrated by David Shannon
Core Knowledge Domain: Orientation in Time & Space/History & Geography
In a community, everyone is connected. A rainstorm sets off a chain reaction of events causing the chickens to squawk, the cat to yowl, the dog to bark and so on until all the people from the policeman to the baker get into the act as well. When the rain suddenly stops, so does the strife. This book’s vibrant illustrations and healthy dose of humor celebrate community unity.
Extension Activity: Concept Development Ask children to explain how and why the characters’ moods changed so suddenly when the rain stopped. Emphasizing this turning point, ask what it was like before the rain stopped and what it was like after. Have they ever experienced something similar? Choose some events from the school day or children’s personal lives that serve as major turning points and generate a series of questions and answers about how they felt and what they did before and after.

FARMS

Apples
by Melvin and Gilda Berger
Core Knowledge Domain: Science
Fall is the perfect time to pick apples! This book pairs colorful photographs and simple sentences to describe how apples grow and how they are eventually picked and used by people.

**Extension Activity: Concept/Vocabulary Development** Help children understand how the photographs and the words work together to provide information. You may wish to make picture cards that children can place in sequence to show what happens to apples in the winter, spring, summer, and fall. You may also wish to bring in some real apples (and even apple snacks) for hands-on learning.

**Big Red Barn**
*by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Felicia Bond*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Science**
Gentle rhymes explore the life of animals that live on a farm and sleep at night in a big red barn. Roosters crow, mice are born, and all the animals live and play together “in the grass and in the hay.” When the sun sets, cows and pigs and dogs all creep back to the big red barn together to sleep while only the little mice stay awake all night.

**Extension Activity: Concept Development** Draw children’s attention to the various places in the text that refer to a big and a little hen, cow, etc. and point out that the pictures match the words. Find sets of big and little things in the classroom and continue to use these words to compare things throughout the day.

**Duck on a Bike**
*written and illustrated by David Shannon*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Language Arts/English**
Each animal has a different opinion about the mischievous duck who tools around the farm on a shiny red bicycle, saying hello to everyone he passes. What they really want, though, is to join in on the fun. When a group of kids leave their bikes and go into the house, the farm animals get their chance!

**Extension Activity: Phonological Awareness** Each time Duck rides past another animal friend, he calls out to that friend by name (e.g. “Hello, Horse! Hello, Chicken!”). Invite children to listen carefully and segment these short greeting sentences—one clap for each word. You may wish to follow up by pretending that Duck rides his bike past the children in your classroom and greets each child by name. Again, have children clap for each word they hear (e.g. “Hello [clap], Akilah [clap]! “Hello [clap], Jake [clap]!”).

**PONDS & LAKES**

**A Frog in the Bog**
*by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Joan Rankin*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Mathematics**
A hungry frog “on a half-sunk log in the middle of the bog” indulges in an array of tasty prey, but finds himself in quite a predicament when his new weight causes the “log”—actually a gator—to try and eat him! In the end, the gator goes away as frog makes a lucky escape and learns his lesson. Following along with bouncy rhymes and counting the tiny creatures that the frog swallows but that later escape are all part of the fun.

**Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Phonological Awareness** Track the print as you read, pointing out the way in which the number words one, two, three, etc. appear in larger, dark type. You may wish to pause to have children count the items the frog eats.
You may also wish to point out the similarities in the ending letters and sounds in the words frog, log and bog. Encourage children to identify more words (such as dog) that rhyme with frog.

**Have You Seen My Duckling?**
*written and illustrated by Nancy Tafuri*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Orientation in Time & Space/History & Geography**
“Have you seen my duckling?” asks a mother duck as she leads her brood around the pond in search of a missing little one. The duckling isn’t actually lost, but cleverly concealed in each picture. This reassuring story of emerging independence and family love is a Caldecott Honor Book.

**Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Concept Development** Point out the question that repeats again and again in this book. Invite children to ‘read’ along with you as you point to each word. Encourage children to study the pictures. What do they see? Can they can think of anything to add that might help tell the story. For example, what might the other ducklings say to alert their mother that someone is missing? How do the bird, beaver, and frog respond to mother duck’s question?

**WILD ANIMALS**

**Let’s Talk Tigers**
*by Hannah Gerrard, illustrated by Chris Brunskill*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Science**
Often 8 or 9 feet long, tigers are the largest cats in the world! This book pairs interesting facts and impressive photos to present information about tigers and their habitats.

**Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Vocabulary Development** This book includes several features that are worth noting as you read. The information is presented in the form of mini chapters, each with its own heading. Also included are captions that relate to photographs and a map that shows where in the world tigers live. You may wish to point out the vocabulary words that appear in dark print as you read and model how the glossary may be used to help readers better understand these words. Talk more about why people might want to protect tigers, other wild animals and their habitats.

**Night-time Animals**
*by Angela Royston, photographs by Dave King*

**Core Knowledge Domain: Science**
This book features an array of nocturnal animals including owls, bushbabies, fieldmice, and scorpions. Pictures and illustrations add depth to the creatively presented scientific information and include useful vocabulary diagrams that highlight animal body parts that help each animal survive in the wild.

**Extension Activity: Print Referencing/Concept Development** Track the print as you read about each animal. Explain that some science books, like this one, have diagrams or vocabulary words set apart from the main text, and show how the words correspond to the pictures. Some of these words might not be new (nose, ear), but others probably are (antennae, talons). Challenge children to use what you taught them about print and picture relationships to explain what these new words mean in language they know (a paw is a fox’s hand or foot).
KINDERGARTEN

LANGUAGE ARTS

My Lucky Day
by Keiko Kasza
Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud
When a delicious-looking piglet knocks on Mr. Fox’s door, the fox can hardly believe his good luck. But before Mr. Fox can enjoy his good fortune, the piglet has tricked him into providing a tasty meal, a full spa treatment, and freedom. This tale will keep readers guessing until the surprise ending—where they realize it was actually piglet’s lucky day all along. This book makes a terrific read aloud, and children may want to create their own versions of the story.

Pigsty
by Mark Teague
Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud
Wendell Fultz’s room is so full of clutter that his Mom calls it a “pigsty.” But Wendell doesn’t mind the mess—not even when he finds a real pig reading a comic book on his bed. It is only when an entire herd of pigs appear, causing more mess and damaging his favorite comic books and baseball cards, that Wendell finally decides it is time to clean up. The well-paced text with bright illustrations make this humorous story perfect for reading aloud.

This Is the House that Jack Built
by Simms Taback
Genre: Fiction, Rhyme; Use: Read aloud
Caldecott Medal-winner Simms Taback showcases his trademark mixed-media illustrations and jovial style in this hilarious retelling of a classic rhyme. Each page of verse is packed with hand-drawn typeface and clever extras, including labels indicating how smelly various cheeses are and descriptions of different breeds of cats. At the end of the book readers are asked to guess which nineteenth century artist first illustrated this timeless story.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Dear Juno
by Soyung Pak
Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud
When Juno receives a letter from his grandmother in Seoul, he finds that even though he can’t read it, he can understand what the letter says because of the picture and dried flower included. He begins to try to think of ways to “write” back to his grandmother. With simple text, complemented by beautiful oil paintings of Juno’s American home and faraway Korea, this tale is a perfect introduction to the concept of languages and different ways of communicating. It is a wonderful vehicle for inspiring children to “write” their own letters.

Hush! A Thai Lullaby
by Minfing Ho
Genre: Fiction, Rhyme; Use: Read aloud
This story of one mother’s efforts to quiet animals—from the smallest mosquito to a great big elephant—before their sounds wake her baby, is told through verse and bold, whimsical pictures. Particularly imaginative elements in the book include a reassuringly predictable rhyming text, animals and their sounds, a mischievous subplot in the pictures, and an ever-so-slightly naughty child who fools everyone in the end.

Me on the Map
by Joan Sweeney
Genre: Reference; Use: Read aloud
In this introduction to maps and geography, a young girl points out to readers a picture of herself on a map of her room, her room on a map of her house, her house on a map of her street—all the way up to her country on a map of the world. Easy-to-read text, bright artwork, and charming details give children a lot to search for and will have them eager to replicate the effort with their own basic maps.

The Seven Continents: Rookie Read-About Geography
by Wil Mara
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud
Colorful photos and clear text combine in this book to describe basic characteristics of the seven continents. This offers a great introduction to geography on a global scale. Each of the seven landmasses has one feature to set it apart from the rest—“Asia is the largest continent” while Antarctica “has the coldest climate.” Highlighting these features helps children understand superlatives and teaches them to compare and contrast places. The book also provides examples of countries from each continent, names one fact that makes the place unique, and asks children questions to make learning jump right off the page.

MATHEMATICS

Farm Life
by Elizabeth Spurr
Genre: Fiction, Numbers, Counting, Rhyme; Use: Read aloud
In this rhyming concept book, young readers will be entertained while learning numbers, colors, and animals. As Farmer Dan goes about his daily chores, barns of different colors hold surprises for children learning to count from one to ten. Readers get a special look inside each barn and the creatures, crops, or equipment it holds. Upon arriving at the white farmhouse, the reader finds a “family to love,” which links all the parts of the farm together.

Icky Bug Shapes
by Jerry Pallotta
Genre: Nonfiction, Math; Use: Read aloud
Children will get the chance to learn their shapes with help from these icky bugs! All the most common shapes, such as squares, rectangles, circles and more, are covered in this picture book. On top of learning how to look for and identify shapes in nature, readers will also learn about many different kids of bugs, from leafcutter ants to weevils.

Lots and Lots of Zebra Stripes: Patterns in Nature
by Stephen R. Swinburne
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud
On the first page of this gorgeous photo-essay, Swinburne defines patterns as “lines and shapes that repeat.” This definition establishes that patterns can be found everywhere—from striped watermelons to ridged pumpkins, in spider webs or on scaly snakes. He also shows how some patterns, such as the rings of a tree, can give information. Using a variety of simple questions, he encourages readers to look for patterns in likely places, such as on flowers and insects, as well as in unlikely places, such as the inside of a lunch sack.

Spending and Saving: Welcome Books (Money Matters)
by Mary Hill
Genre: Nonfiction, Numbers, Counting; Use: Read with help
Part of “Money Matters” in the Welcome Books series, this book introduces readers to the concepts of earning, saving, and spending money. Photos and simple explanations show various kinds of jobs people have, how anyone (including children) can save money in a bank or a piggy bank, and how people spend money to buy big items like a house. References for further reading, an index, and a list of new words and their definitions complete the text.

What Is Round?
by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
Genre: Nonfiction, Rhyme; Use: Read with help
With a snappy rhythm, Rebecca Kai Dotlich’s simple poem points out some familiar and less obvious examples of round things found in a child’s world. Filled with bright, clear photographs of objects like cookies, balloons, and blueberries, the concept of round becomes clear. The final spread is interactive, challenging the reader to practice his or her newly acquired skills by sorting through a menagerie of objects in search of what’s round.

What Is Square?
by Rebecca Kai Dotlich
Genre: Nonfiction, Rhyme; Use: Read with help
In a follow-up to What Is Round?, this book builds a whole world around a common shape. Strong, catchy rhythms, rhymes and alliteration, and bold color photographs encourage young readers to recognize squares and cubes in everyday life. At the end, the book presents readers with a page full of shapes, from square candies to a round marble, and challenges them to find all the squares.

SCIENCE

Animal Action ABC
by Karen Pandell
Genre: Nonfiction, Rhyme, Science; Use: Read aloud
In this book, young readers are offered a wholly original approach to the alphabet. Dramatic photographs of wildlife in action and easy, rhyming text provide facts about animals and their movements for each letter of the alphabet, from the Arch of a humpback whale’s tail to the Zapping tongue of a chameleon. Photographs of young children imitating the animals’ movements will inspire them to experiment and participate.

Busy, Buzzy Bees
by Allan Fowler
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
With large, simple text and close-up photographs of honeybees in action, this *Rookie Read-About Science* book gives meaning to the saying “a beehive of activity.” Readers will learn about hives, the structure of bee society, pollination, and honey production. The book closes with an index and a picture list entitled Words You Know.

**Castles, Caves and Honeycombs**  
*by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Lauren Stringer*  
**Genre: Poetry; Use: Read alone**  
This gentle rhyming book looks at all the different places and habitats that can be called home to people, animals, and insects. Snails’ homes are their shells, which are “carried place to place” while a starfish calls “a tidal pool beside the sea” home. Great for early readers, there are many rhyming word sets to help build phonology: two/view, mound/ground, nest/rest etc. The illustrations help make clear why certain animals live where they do.

**The Emperor’s Egg**  
*by Martin Jenkins*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
With adorable illustrations and clear, humorous text, this picture book tells the fascinating story of the male Emperor penguin. While the female Emperor penguin swims and feeds in the ocean, the devoted Emperor penguin dad braves the Antarctic cold to keep the eggs warm until they hatch. This book is at once an engrossing tale of love and endurance, and a terrific source of penguin facts.

**From Eye to Potato: Scholastic News Nonfiction Reader**  
*by Ellen Weiss*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud**  
Not only does this book clearly explain through words and photos the life cycle of a potato, it also includes many features—such as a vocabulary word list, index, and numerous diagrams—that can initiate even the earliest readers to book conventions they will encounter in science classes throughout school. Bolded key words within the text and arrows pointing out pictures that match these words are helpful ways to teach children to connect pictures and text.

**George Washington Carver: Scholastic News Nonfiction Reader**  
*by Jo S. Kittinger*  
**Genre: Biography; Use: Read with help**  
How does a peanut grow? What are all the different things you can do with a peanut? This early biography explains how George Washington Carver, the man behind these and more questions, went from slave to scientist. Key vocabulary words are introduced at the beginning and then bolded throughout the story for children to recognize and learn. A particularly useful spread shows the life cycle of a peanut, which may be helpful for discussing the life cycle of plants in a more general way.

**The Salamander Room**  
*by Anne Mazer*  
**Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
Brian finds an orange salamander in the woods and imagines the many things he can do to turn his room into the perfect salamander home. The realistic paintings, full of warm dappled sunlight, show Brian’s cozy room being transformed into a green forest as he imagines...
bringing in moss and leaves, crickets and frogs, insects and birds, and, finally, planting trees and removing the roof to let in rain for his salamander. A valuable lesson about animal needs, delivered with sensitivity to both the child and his salamander.

**Stella, Queen of the Snow**  
*by Mary-Louise Gay*  
**Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
It is Sam’s first snowfall, and he has a lot of questions. Stella patiently answers them in a sisterly way as the pair spends the day discovering the wonders of winter together. Playing in the snow, they explore the white-draped forest, pelt each other with snowballs, and make snow angels. The author’s evocative watercolors bring alive the magic of a winter day while illustrating the season.

**Wonderful Worms**  
*by Linda Glaser*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
Writing from a young boy’s point of view, Glaser takes a peek at the wriggly world of earthworms. In easy-to-understand language, the book describes their physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle, and fosters an appreciation for this small but helpful creature. Softly colored cutaway illustrations show the worms in their tunnels below ground, and plants and other wildlife above ground. The book concludes with a question-and-answer section filled with facts about earthworms not covered in the text.

**You Can't Taste a Pickle With Your Ear: A Book About the Five Senses**  
*by Harriet Ziefert, pictures by Amanda Haley*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud**  
“What’s that sound behind the door? I think it’s Granny starting to snore.” Playful rhymes and informational text and pictures are charmingly integrated in this book about the five senses. Sense verbs and nouns are introduced and explained through a three-part format that includes explanation bullet points, silly poems, and follow-up questions to get readers involved.
GRADE ONE

LANGUAGE ARTS

1001 Animals to Spot
by Ruth Brocklehurst

Genre: Nonfiction, Activities; Use: Read alone

Teeming with animals to find, count and talk about, this picture book provides hours of puzzle-solving fun while developing basic word and number skills. The busy scenes bring to life different habitats from around the world, from the farm to the rainforest. Children will delight in finding—and counting—all kinds of familiar and exotic animals.

The Car Washing Street
by Denise Lewis Patrick

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud

Every Saturday morning, Matthew and his father sit outside on their stoop and watch their neighbors wash their cars in the city street. On this particularly hot Saturday, Matthew and his father join in when a good-natured water fight breaks out amongst their neighbors. The simple story and acrylic illustrations capture the friendliness and humor of the ethnically diverse community.

How Many Spots Does a Leopard Have? And Other Tales
by Julius Lester

Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read aloud

Acts of vanity, trickery, courage and loyalty make for a great read aloud in this award-winning collection of twelve African and Jewish folktales. From Why Dogs Chase Cats to The Town Where Sleeping Was Not Allowed, each story comes to life through graceful and simple language and beautiful, richly detailed painting. This book will be treasured at story time.

How Many Stars in the Sky?
by Lenny Hort

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud

With his mother away for the night, a young boy is unable to sleep. Staring out his window, he wonders, “How many stars in the sky?” Attempting to count them, he goes outside in his pajamas for a better view. Soon his father joins him, and the sleepless pair set out on a stargazing journey that brings them through the city and into the country. The lyrical text and rich paintings create a heartwarming father and son story.

Jack and the Beanstalk
by Matt Faulkner

Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read aloud

The timeless tale of Jack’s visit to the Giant’s kingdom is brought to life with easy-to-read text and enchanting, full-color illustrations. Children will delight as Jack climbs to the top of the beanstalk, uses his wits to outsmart the hungry giant, and wins a fortune.
HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Let’s Make Tacos: Welcome Books
by Mary Hill

Genre: Reference; Use: Read alone
In this title from the Welcome Books series, Dean and his mother demonstrate the steps involved in making tacos, a popular Mexican dish. The photographs of Dean and his mother in the kitchen and the large, simple text are warm and inviting. References for further reading, an index, and a list of new words and their definitions complete the text.

Living Near a River
by Allan Fowler

Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read with help
This fact-filled Rookie Read-About Geography book brings young readers on an exciting trip to areas that have been settled along major rivers. Readers will learn what rivers look like on maps, why rivers were good places to establish towns, how people use rivers to make their living, and how rivers provide power to homes and factories.

Straight to the Pole
by Kevin O’Malley

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read with help
Bundled from head to toe and carrying a backpack, a young traveler sets out across a frozen landscape. The child bravely pushes on through swirling snowflakes, slipping and sliding through the knee-deep drifts, before finally falling to the ground with a theatrical, “Can’t go on.” When two “rescuers” appear to announce that “school has been closed for the day!” our hero abandons his backpack at the pole—the bus stop—and joins his friends. Large print, simple language, vivid artwork, and funny speech bubbles will appeal to young readers.

MATHEMATICS

Eating Fractions
by Bruce McMillan

Genre: Numbers, Fractions; Use: Read alone
In this mouth-watering introduction to fractions, two friends divide food into halves, thirds, and quarters to illustrate how parts make a whole. After each division, the children happily devour bananas, pizza, and pie, sometimes with the help of a hungry dog. The bright color photographs are an absolute delight. Recipes and suggestions for how children can use their new math skills to measure ingredients and prepare these kid-tested treats are included.

SCIENCE

Bears: Usborne Beginners
by Emma Helbrough

Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help
Filled with solid information supplemented by fun fact boxes, this book explains the lives, habits, and habitats of all kinds of bears. It covers bears’ winter births in warm dens to their daily routines including lunch and playtime. A glossary highlights important words to use.
when learning about bears such as cub, den, claws, and prey. There is also a list of websites to visit for more bear fun!

**Brrr! A Book About Polar Animals: Berger Science Reader**  
*by Melvin & Gilda Berger*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help**  
From the tiniest krill to the greatest whale, from hibernating lemmings to lumbering polar bears, each Artic and Antarctic animal has found its own way of adapting to the extreme cold of the north and south poles. This photo chapter book offers a wealth of information about the lands of ice and snow, and the incredible creatures of land, sea, and sky who live there. Children can compare and contrast Artic and Antarctic animals and habitats.

**The Great Barrier Reef, An Undersea Adventure: Innovative Kids Reader**  
*by Susan Ring*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud**  
Rich factual information about the creatures who live together in Australia’s Great Barrier Reef is broken up by a fictional journal in which the child of a marine biologist chronicles the search for a missing family heirloom, and the natural treasures that take its place. Coral, turtles, eels, and starfish are just a few of the colorful creatures the young explorer learns about on scuba dives and reef visits.

**Hot Numbers, Cool Math: Rookie Read-About Math**  
*by Brian Sargent*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help**  
This book uses photos to introduce children to temperature. After a thermometer is explained, both Fahrenheit and Celsius scales are used to describe temperatures in contexts that range from bathtime to baking. This allows children to see how hot and cold affect their own lives and encourages them to apply what they’ve learned the next time they build a snowman or put a carton of milk in a refrigerator.

**Is It a Dinosaur? Scholastic News Nonfiction Reader**  
*by Susan H. Gray*  
**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help**  
This book focuses on something that most dinosaur books don’t—comparing and contrasting dinosaurs to other prehistoric creatures. Set up in a question and answer format that takes readers on a hunt for dinosaur bones, the book explains why certain features—like hollow bones belonging to animals that could fly—aren’t those of dinosaurs. As in all *Scholastic News Readers*, there is a word hunt to help children identify and learn key vocabulary words.

**Jurassic Shark**  
*by Deborah Diffily*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
This fascinating book introduces young readers to the deadly and fearless *Hybodus*, ancestor to the Great White Shark, as she swims alone through the dangerous Jurassic seas. She bravely and carefully searches for food, attacks her prey, and seeks a safe place to give birth. The well-written text and realistic paintings will draw readers into this ancient, watery world.
Lands of Grass: Rookie Read-About Science
by Allan Fowler
Genre: Nonfiction, Environment; Use: Read aloud
This fact-filled Rookie Read-About Science book describes for young readers different kinds of grasslands, where they are located, and what varieties of animals can be found there. The large, simple text and striking photographs showcase grasslands from around the world and highlight the importance of conservation. The book closes with an index and a picture list entitled Words You Know.

Living on a Space Shuttle: Rookie Read-About Science
by Carmen Bredeson
Genre: Nonfiction, Earth Science; Use: Read with help
This Rookie Read-About Science book provides a description of how astronauts aboard a space shuttle perform everyday activities. Children will love looking at the bold color photographs of astronauts eating, sleeping, working and playing as they float around the shuttle. The simple yet informative text is printed in large type with only a few words to a page. The book closes with an index and a picture list entitled Words You Know.

Sun, Moon and Stars: Usborne Beginners
by Stephanie Turnbull
Genre: Nonfiction, Earth Science; Use: Read aloud
With simple text, engaging illustrations, and vivid photographs, this book provides a fascinating introduction to the wonders of our solar system, from basic facts about the sun, moon and stars to exciting accounts of moon landings and eclipses. The illustrations and photographs will both inform and entertain, while the easy-to-read text, written with the help of a reading expert, will encourage beginners to read and discover more about the universe.

Surprising Sharks
by Nicola Davies
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
With playful text, colorful illustrations and diagrams, and captivating facts, this humorous and informative book reveals that sharks come in all shapes and sizes. From black lantern sharks that have light-making organs on their tummies to swell sharks that puff up like balloons to protect themselves, young readers will learn how different kinds of sharks breathe, hunt, and give birth. This book also teaches about the importance of sharks and why they should probably be more afraid of humans than vice versa.

What Is Mass? Rookie Read-About Science
by Don L. Curry
Genre: Nonfiction, Physical Science; Use: Read with help
This Rookie Read-About Science book clearly explains mass to young readers. Colorful photographs and simple text encourage children to read on their own as they learn that everything has mass, and that mass is the amount of matter that something is made of. In the book children in a classroom setting move chairs and lift bunnies to illustrate that things with more mass are harder to move. The book closes with an index and a picture list entitled Words You Know.
What Is Matter? Rookie Read-About Science  
*by Don L. Curry*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Physical Science; **Use:** Read with help  
This *Rookie Read-About Science* book explains matter to young readers. Colorful photographs and simple text encourage children to read on their own as they learn that matter is everywhere and comes in three states. Pictures taken at a baseball game illustrate the differences between solids, liquids, and gases and introduce readers to their unique properties. An index and Words You Know section help children review.

What Is the World Made Of? All About Solids, Liquids, and Gases  
*by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Physical Science; **Use:** Read aloud  
Using familiar scenarios and everyday objects, and in clear terms that every child will be able to understand, this *Let’s-Read-And-Find-Out Science* book teaches young readers about the three states of matter and describes their properties. The humorous illustrations and speech bubbles will both inform and entertain readers. The book concludes with a list of activities that children can do to learn more about matter.

What Magnets Can Do: Rookie Read-About Science  
*by Allan Fowler*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction; **Use:** Read aloud  
This book makes a scientific phenomenon as advanced as magnetism easily understandable for children by introducing topics like poles, metals, and compasses in clear language accompanied by helpful photos. Children can apply what they learn about magnets and magnetic forces by doing the activities and experiments suggested in the book.

VISUAL ARTS

Look! Look! Look!  
*by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace with Linda K. Friedlaender*  
**Genre:** Fiction; **Use:** Read with help  
When three artistic mice borrow a postcard of a British portrait from the 1600s, they discover that if they take a closer *look*, there are loads of interesting things to see and play with! Kiki, Kat, and Alexander, the three mice, explore colors, lines, patterns, and shapes—all of which are explained in the glossary—in showing how details make a piece of art come to life. The mice are inspired to use cut outs to create their own masterpiece. Readers can do the same by following the instructions at the end of the book on how to make a self-portrait postcard.
Grande TWO

Language Arts

American Tall Tales
by Mary Pope Osborne

Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read aloud

Paul Bunyan’s ox weighed “more than the combined weight of all the fish that ever got away.” Some say that Pecos Bill’s rope was exactly as long as the equator; some argue it was two feet shorter. Meet these and other larger-than-life heroes in this entertaining collection of nine American folk tales. History and legend merge to create these tales, and the author’s introduction and notes discuss how she adapted her sources to create each story. Michael McCurdy’s elaborate, full-color wood engravings portray the rugged grandeur of these tall tales.

Eats, Shoots, and Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!
by Lynne Truss, illustrated by Bonnie Timmons

Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read aloud

As useful and necessary as they are to language, commas can be terrifically confusing to readers and writers of all ages. This book uses cartoon-like illustrations to show the hilarious misunderstandings that can arise from confusing two seemingly similar sentences, like “Look at that huge hot dog!” and “Look at that huge, hot dog!” Specific explanations of the grammar rules used in the examples from the book are offered at the end.

Leola and the Honeybears: An African-American Retelling of Goldilocks and the Three Bears
by Melodye Benson Rosales

Genre: Fiction, Fantasy; Use: Read aloud

In this retelling of the classic tale, Leola disobeys her grandmother and wanders away from their cottage, only to find herself lost in the Pine Hollow Woods. After coming face to face with hungry Ol’ Mr. Weasel, she finds refuge in an inn run by the Honeybears. There Leola sets aside her grandmother’s teachings, and samples pies, chairs, and beds before she is discovered by the kind bear family and escorted home by a blackbird. The illustrations add to the adventure and place the story in the rural South.

The Magic of Spider Woman
by Lois Duncan

Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read aloud

This is the powerful story of the legendary Navajo Spider Woman, who taught Wandering Girl to weave woolen blankets so that the Navajo people could survive the cold winter. Despite her promise to Spider Woman that she would live a balanced life and not weave too long, Wandering Girl, who became known as Weaving Woman, wove all through the night to create the most beautiful blanket in the world, and in doing so, wove her spirit into the blanket. Loosening a thread from the blanket, Spider Woman creates a path for Weaving Woman’s spirit to escape. The story teaches the reader to take pride in his or her work, but not to allow that pride to take over their spirit.
**HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY**

**Granddaddy’s Gift**  
_by Margaree King Mitchell_  
**Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read aloud**  
This warmly illustrated story of determination and courage explains a complex social and political situation in a manner that children can understand. The narrator, Little Joe, describes how her Granddaddy overcame racism and a lack of education to become the first black registered voter in their small Mississippi town. Neighbors shun Granddaddy, and Little Joe finds herself ignored by friends, but when their church is set on fire, the black community unifies and joins Granddaddy in registering. A simple yet powerful look at an important chapter in American history.

**Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
_by Doreen Rappaport_  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read aloud**  
This captivating, award-winning picture book weaves together Dr. King’s own words, the author’s simple text, and collage art to create an accessible and unforgettable biography and tribute. Beginning with Dr. King’s childhood experience of seeing “White Only” signs in his hometown and going all the way through his crusade as a civil rights leader, the critical events of King’s life are presented in a straightforward yet moving style. Outstanding in design and content, this book is a perfect introduction to the man and the movement.

**Talkin’ About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman**  
_by Nikki Grimes_  
**Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read aloud**  
A Coretta Scott King Award-winner, this innovative book brings Elizabeth “Bessie” Coleman’s story to life through a series of monologues from family, friends, and associates. These poetic testimonials join with beautiful illustrations to tell how Bessie overcame the obstacles of poverty, racism and sexual discrimination to become the world’s first licensed female pilot of African descent. Her story of faith and determination will encourage readers to pursue their own dreams. The author separates fact from fiction through introductory comments on the historical period and the setting, concluding observations about Coleman, and source notes.

**Trail of Tears: Step Into Reading**  
_by Joseph Bruhac_  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read with help**  
Part of the Step into Reading series, which present exciting stories and information while reinforcing them with colorful illustrations, this book recounts the bitter journey known as the Trail of Tears. In 1838, American settlers moving west forced the great Cherokee Nation, and their chief John Ross, to leave the land they loved and travel 1,200 miles to a new settlement in Oklahoma. In this epic tale of friendship, war, hope, and loss, new readers will discover that nonfiction can tell a powerful story.
MATHEMATICS

The 512 Ants on Sullivan Street
by Carol A. Losi
Genre: Fiction, Rhyme, Numbers, Counting; Use: Read with help
This fun, cumulative rhyme about a steadily growing number of very hungry ants at a picnic will help children develop number sense by giving them the opportunity to think about what happens when numbers double over and over again. Games and activities extend the story and will engage children as they look at the relationships among numbers. The warning on the book’s cover should not be underestimated: “This book contains Math—and it’s FUN!”

Even Steven and Odd Todd: A Hello Math Reader
by Kathryn Cristaldi
Genre: Fiction, Numbers, Activities; Use: Read with help
Part of the Hello Math Reader series, this funny story about a mismatched pair makes learning about math fun. The arrival of Odd Todd, who likes everything in odd numbers, greatly upsets his cousin Even Steven, who likes everything—his pets, his library books, even his pancakes—to come in even numbers. Through their differing number preferences, this book teaches basic number concepts in a way that children will enjoy. The book includes full color illustrations and an activities and games section.

Giraffe Graphs: Rookie Read-About Math
by Melissa Stewart
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help
Making and understanding graphs can be fun, especially when organizing information is part of a class field trip to the zoo! The student narrator in this book explains how to use tally sheets and bar graphs. Turning numbers into pictures in this way makes it easier to compare people’s answers to questions such as “Which zoo animal is your favorite?”

Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes
by Roseanne Thong
Genre: Fiction, Rhyme; Use: Read with help
In this lively introduction to shapes, a little girl discovers things round, square, and rectangular in her urban neighborhood, many of them an integral part of her Chinese-American culture. The simple, rhyming text and bright illustrations present both new and familiar objects: “Square is the box that pizza comes in/And dim sum made by Mrs. Chin.” A glossary explains the cultural significance of the objects featured in the book. Perfect for reading aloud and one-on-one sharing.

SCIENCE

The Cloud Book
by Tomie de Paola
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
This playful and informative book introduces ten common types of clouds and their unique characteristics, often using familiar objects like boa constrictors and cauliflower to describe their appearance. The book also discusses several myths that have been inspired by clouds.
and what clouds can tell us about coming weather changes. The illustrations, along with the
text, are a delightful blend of facts and humor. An index of cloud names is included.

Days with Frog and Toad
by Arnold Lobel
Genre: Fiction, Life Science; Use: Read alone
In this easy reader, Toad dreads tomorrow when he has so much work to do, so Frog
reasonably suggests they do it today. And while all of the animals tell Toad that his kite will
not fly, Frog persuades him to just try one more time. The two friends enjoy a scary story
beside the fire, Frog adjusts a hat that is too big for Toad, and they rejoice in their friendship
in spite of a wet picnic.

Diary of a Worm
by Doreen Cronin
Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read with help
A worm’s wriggly life is never dull. In this original book from Caldecott Honor–winning
author Doreen Cronin and illustrator Harry Bliss, one little critter talks about his highs and
lows in a series of hilarious diary entries. From March to August, the baseball cap–wearing
worm records his thoughts and feelings about friends, family, digging, and eating, allowing
young readers to see worms in a whole new light. And while the little worm says life is
tough, because sometimes people forget worms exist, his mother reminds him that “the earth
never forgets we’re here.”

Egg to Bird: Cycles of Life
by Carolyn Scrace
Genre: Nonfiction, Life Science; Use: Read aloud
This captivating book follows a pair of long-eared owls as they mate, build a nest, and raise a
family. Children will learn how baby owls are fed and kept safe and warm until they are big
enough to fly and protect themselves against predators. Beautifully detailed time-lapse
illustrations show a sequence in the cycle of life by using a unique split-page format. A
glossary and an index are included.

Forces Around Us: It’s Science!
by Sally Hewitt
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
This book uses an interactive approach to introduce the concept of force and discuss a variety
of forces that children encounter in their everyday world—such as gravity, magnetism, and
weight. Each two-page spread focuses on one topic and includes different kinds of activities
that encourage young readers to think, talk about, and explore new ideas for themselves.
Nonfiction elements include a glossary and an index. This is a great book to use in discussing
students’ observations about the physical world.

Frog and Toad Together
by Arnold Lobel
Genre: Fiction, Life Science; Use: Read alone
Join the inseparable Frog and Toad on five silly adventures. The two amphibians demonstrate
the true meaning of friendship as they share cookies, plant a garden, and test their bravery.
From the first enchanting story to the last, these marvelous tales are filled with humor and
tender affection. The simple, engaging text and illustrations make this a great choice for newly independent readers.

**Insect Invaders: Magic School Bus Chapter Book**  
*by Anne Capeci*  
**Genre:** Fiction, Science; **Use:** Read with help  
Wanda brings her ladybugs to school so that Ms. Frizzle can give her some hints on caring for her insect pets. But of course Ms. Frizzle does not just *tell* her students about insects, she *shows* them on another zany field trip aboard the Magic School Bus. When the bus sprouts wings and legs and shrinks to the size of a beetle, the class learns some amazing facts about insects and spiders—particularly those that like to eat other insects for lunch!

**Pond Life: Cycles of Life**  
*by David Stewart*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Life Science; **Use:** Read aloud  
This engaging book follows the life cycle of the frog. Following the frog from egg to tadpole to froglet to frog, spanning the seasons, and examining the food chain in and around a pond, clear language and time-lapse illustrations show the yearly cycle of pond life. Nonfiction elements include an index and glossary.

**MUSIC**

**Ah! Music**  
*by Aliki*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction; **Use:** Read aloud  
Aliki offers a multicultural introduction to every facet of music—from oboe to orchestra, drums to dance, and feelings to flourishes. A valuable reference book outlining what music is—rhythm, melody, pitch, tone, volume, and feeling—as well as its history and diversity, this text explores an art form to which each and every one of us has some kind of connection. More than anything else, “music is for everybody.”

**Johann Sebastian Bach: Getting to Know the World’s Greatest Composers**  
*by Mike Venezia*  
**Genre:** Biography; **Use:** Read aloud  
Mike Venezia’s characteristic style makes this informative account of Bach’s life and introduction to the power of music an engaging trip into the past. Because of its advanced vocabulary and rich text, this book is great for an interactive read-aloud. Colorful, witty cartoons and Baroque period paintings add to the experience.
GRADE THREE

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses
by Paul Goble
Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read with help
This Caldecott Medal book tells the story of a Native American girl who understands horses in a special way. One day a thunderstorm drives the girl far from home, where a stallion welcomes her. When her people find her living among the horses and bring her home, she wants to go back. After being allowed to return to the horses, the girl returns to visit her people year after year. Eventually, she disappears. According to legend, she has become a beautiful mare, galloping beside a mighty stallion. The text closes with two Native American songs celebrating horses.

Lewis Carroll: Poetry for Young People
edited by Edward Mendelson
Genre: Poetry; Use: Read aloud
This book introduces young readers to the magical world of Lewis Carroll through 26 poems with fantastic characters and enchanting language including selections from Alice in Wonderland. Children will learn how Carroll often mocked the popular poems of his day, which were intended to teach children to be hard working and obedient, by using similar poetic devices and structures to write about silliness and nonsense. Each selection is accompanied by commentary and definitions of difficult words and a brief but informative biography is also included.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Ancient Rome and Pompeii: A Magic Tree House Research Guide
by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read alone
This Magic Tree House Research Guide takes readers back more than 2,000 years to the time of ancient Rome. Ranging from religion, dress, and daily life in The Eternal City to the powerful formation of an early military empire, the book spotlights key historical figures and ends with Rome’s eventual downfall. A history of Pompeii, the famously buried Roman city, and its treasured re-discovery is included. In addition to the friendly factoids offered by Magic Tree House characters throughout the book, a particularly useful feature is the section on how to do research.

Colonial Life: A True Book
by Brendan January
Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read aloud
In 1607, a ship filled with people landed on the coast of what we now call Virginia. These people had set out to start a new life in a new land. This True Book describes various aspects of life in Colonial America including farming practices, housing, food, medicine, slavery, and recreational activities. The simple text and beautiful illustrations shed light on this formative time in American history.
Early American Villages: American Community

*by Raymond Bial*

**Genre:** Nonfiction, Social Studies; **Use:** Read with help

Beginning with the settlement of the Jamestown colony in 1607, this attractive nonfiction text describes how colonists and early Americans worked tirelessly to establish new communities for their families. Readers will learn how the colonists built houses and established villages, raised and harvested crops, became craftsmen, and established schools for future generations. Wonderful photographs from Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts complement the text. Nonfiction text features include a table of contents and an index, a timeline (1492-1790), a glossary, and a bibliography of additional sources. A valuable social studies reference book, this title is part of a five book series called *American Community.*

Missions and Presidios: American Community

*by Raymond Bial*

**Genre:** Nonfiction, Social Studies; **Use:** Read with help

Part of the *American Community* series, this attractive and colorful nonfiction text examines the time in American history when mission life thrived for more than two hundred and fifty years in the Spanish settlements of North America. This well organized book describes the years between 1500 and 1850, when Spanish missionaries established themselves among the Indians in present-day Arizona, Florida, New Mexico, Texas, and California, in an effort to convert the native people to Christianity. Complete with wonderful illustrations, maps, and photographs, this book focuses on the development, daily life, and heritage of the Spanish missions. Nonfiction text features in this valuable social studies reference book include a table of contents and index, a timeline (1492-1853), a glossary, bibliography of additional sources, and a page that lists places to visit and selected websites.

N.C. Wyeth’s Pilgrims

*by Robert San Souci*

**Genre:** Nonfiction; **Use:** Read aloud

This is the story of the voyage on the *Mayflower* and the Pilgrims’ settlement of Plymouth Colony. Tracing the early history of the settlement, the book ends with the first Thanksgiving—a three-day feast for both the settlers and Native Americans. With beautiful color paintings by the American artist, N.C. Wyeth, this is a wonderful book to use in a discussion about the Pilgrims’ achievements and about how illustrations enhance a text.

North American Explorers

*by Yannick Oney*

**Genre:** Nonfiction; **Use:** Read aloud

Journey back to a time when the lakes, rivers and mountains of North American had not been mapped, when the oceans stretching between Europe and the United States had not been crossed. This *World Discovery History Readers* book highlights the amazing expeditions of Christopher Columbus, Juan Ponce de León, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, and Matthew Henson and Robert E. Peary. Engaging photographs, maps and illustrations complement the large, clear, captivating text. The book includes an extensive glossary and index.
Roanoke: The Lost Colony: An Unsolved Mystery from History
by Jane Yolen and Heidi Elisabet Yolen Stemple, illustrated by Roger Roth
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help
Colorful illustrations and a variety of text features help support this well told narrative. The book explores the mysterious story of John White and the lost colony of Roanoke, one of the earliest English settlements in America in the late 1500s. In addition to the main historical thread, the book includes useful vocabulary boxes and notes gathered by the young detective trying to uncover the truth behind the mystery. Were the colonists killed by Spanish explorers? Assimilated by native peoples? Lost at sea? No one knows for sure...

MATHEMATICS

Ben Franklin and the Magic Squares
by Frank Murphy
Genre: Nonfiction, Numbers, Counting; Use: Read alone
This funny, easy-to-understand book explains the mathematical concept behind Ben Franklin’s magic squares, which he devised in 1736 and 1737. He invented them to help keep himself awake during meetings of the Pennsylvania Colonial Assembly. Concluding with a two-page activity where students can make their own magic squares, this text is a terrific introduction to Franklin’s life and accomplishments. It includes colorful illustrations and an Author’s Note.

SCIENCE

Astronomy: Usborne Discovery Internet-Link
by Rachel Firth
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
This lively, full-color book is filled with facts about the night sky, from stars and planets to meteor showers and eclipses. This book also offers practical advice about how to find these objects with telescopes and binoculars. Seasonal star maps make it easy to look for constellations any time of the year. Recommended websites take children further into space with activities like taking a virtual tour of the sun. With simple text and amazing photographs and illustrations, this is a terrific resource for learning about the solar system, with or without the use of the Internet.

Broken Bones: My Health
by Dr. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read alone
The My Health series teaches young readers about minor health problems people face from time to time, the importance of staying healthy, and how body parts work together. In Broken Bones, readers will discover what bones are made of, how they move, how they grow throughout life, and how to take care of them. The book also discusses broken bones, and how doctors and the body work to repair them. The text is extremely informative yet easy to read, and is enhanced by colorful photographs, cartoons, and diagrams. The book also includes fun activities, and nonfiction text features like a glossary and an index.
Build a Room Alarm and 16 More Electrifying Projects: Science Dares You!
by Sandra Markle
Genre: non-fiction; Use: Read with help
Can you imagine making paper jump? Electricity is electrifying with these sixteen experiments designed to inspire young scientists to “get charged up” and test their knowledge about what electricity is and how it works. A part of the Science Dares You series, each experiment in this book challenges students to brainstorm ways to tackle a problem, test their own ideas, and then follow the guidelines in the book to arrive at an answer to the crucial questions behind the fun: What happened? Why?

First Encyclopedia of Science: Usborne Internet-Linked
by Rachel Firth
Genre: Nonfiction, Reference; Use: Read alone/Reference
This lively, full-color book introduces young readers to the wonders of science. With simple text, amazing photographs and illustrations, fun science activities, and recommended Web sites, this book makes learning all about science exciting and enjoyable. Children will find answers to their questions about space, nature, the body, electricity and much more. Complete with glossary and index, this accessible book makes a wonderful classroom reference tool, with or without the use of the Internet.

Galaxies, Galaxies!
by Gail Gibbons
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help
Gibbons’ characteristic illustrations and carefully placed text features make scientific concepts about stars and galaxies accessible to young readers. Offering a brief and helpful history of astronomy, the book explains how telescopes have led scientists to the discovery of billions of galaxies—each of which has one of five distinct shapes—that are billions of light years away. Explanations of key scientific terms and other useful factoids are spread throughout.

Great Estimations
by Bruce Goldstone
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read alone
Any scientist will tell you that one of the most useful—and important—skills is estimation. This book helps young children train their eyes and minds to learn estimation skills and get used to working with large numbers. Packed with colorful photographs and helpful hints, Great Estimations is more than just an indispensable science skill—it’s also great fun!

Life in the Rainforests
by Lucy Baker
Genre: Nonfiction, Environment; Use: Read with help
Stunning color photographs, bright illustrations, and fact-filled text offer an exciting introduction to the rainforests of the world. Readers will learn about the animals, people, and plants that live in this unique environment, how they have been threatened by deforestation, and what people are doing to try to preserve rainforests. This book also includes a beautifully illustrated folktale from the African Congo about not harming monkeys, true-or-false questions, a glossary, and an index.
The Nervous System: A True Book
by Darlene R. Stille
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read alone
Part of the True Book series about the human body, this book describes the different parts of the nervous system and explains how sensory messages travel through nerves between the brain and the body. There are chapters on the brain, the spinal cord, nerve cells and nerves and muscles. Nonfiction elements include full-color photographs and captions, diagrams, an index, and a list of important words. Students can refer to the list of books, organizations, and online sites to find out more information about topics that interest them.

A Place for Butterflies
by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Higgins Bond
Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help
When humans respect the natural world, “butterflies can live and grow.” This book makes a direct connection between butterflies, their habitats, and what human beings can do or not do to ensure that various species of butterflies continue to have a garden, forest, or other safe place to call home. Rich in its description of the wide range of butterflies, their specific habitat needs, and a selection of man’s historical interferences, this read will have a particular resonance for budding ecologists or entomologists.

Recycle Every Day!
by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace Genre: Fiction, Environment; Use: Read alone
When Minna has a homework assignment to make a poster about recycling, her rabbit family offers much inspiration throughout the week. They recycle in different ways every day, including composting and donating used clothing and books. The winning posters will appear in the Community Recycling Calendar. Minna’s poster is not selected to be in the calendar…but on the cover! From the bright paper cut-out illustrations made from recycled materials to games, activities, and recycling suggestions galore, children will appreciate this resource on a number of levels.

Stargazers
by Gail Gibbons
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud
This informative picture book provides readers with lots of information about stars, including why they twinkle, the patterns stars make in their constellations, and even different ways to view these stars. Students can learn about the history of stargazing as each two-page spread includes a few sentences of text and large, informative, cartoon-like illustrations. There’s also a handy summary of Stargazing History and a fact sheet about the stars.

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids
by Gail Gibbons
Genre: Nonfiction, Life Science; Use: Read alone
This simple yet informative book provides children with a basic guide to trees, including the different parts of a tree and their functions, types of fruits and seeds that come from trees, and an explanation of photosynthesis and why trees are so useful. Gibbons describes different kinds of trees and how to identify them, and includes a special section on how children can make their own tree identification book. Bright watercolor illustrations with cutaways and labels will encourage children to observe, enjoy, and learn about all kinds of trees.
Thomas Edison: In Their Own Words  
*by George Sullivan*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
Although Thomas Edison is most famous for inventing the lightbulb, he is also credited with hundreds of inventions and received more patents than any other individual. This book tells the exciting story of Edison’s life using laboratory notes, business records, and personal recollections. The short chapters, large print, simple vocabulary, straightforward narrative, and nearly 40 black-and-white illustrations, historic prints, and photographs will keep readers engaged and offer a terrific introduction to primary resources.

A Whale is Not a Fish and Other Animal Mix-ups  
*by Melvin Berger*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read aloud**  
What’s the difference between hares and rabbits, anyway? Alligators and crocodiles? Frogs and toads? Monkeys and apes? This clever book teaches readers just what makes these animal look-alikes so very different. With clear text and colorful, detailed illustrations, this book is both fun and informative.
GRADE 4

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Apple and the Arrow: The Legend of William Tell
by Mary and Conrad Buff

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read with help
This Newbery Honor book tells the stirring legend of William Tell through his son Walter’s eyes. Walter and his father are struggling for the freedom of their family, their village, and their country when William Tell commits an act of treason—he refuses to bow to a tyrant’s hat on top of a pole. When William, a great Bowman, is forced to shoot an arrow through an apple on top of his son’s head, he actually hits his mark. In doing this, Tell becomes a hero and helps empower the people toward an independent republic. Illustrations highlight key points in the drama and accurately depict the countryside and clothing of Switzerland in the late 13th century.

A Cricket in Times Square
by George Selden

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read with help
After Chester, a cricket, ends up in a Times Square subway station via a picnic basket, he takes up residence in a nearby newsstand. There, Chester has the good fortune to find three good friends: Mario, a little boy whose parents run the unsuccessful newsstand, Tucker, a fast-talking Broadway mouse, and Tucker’s buddy, Harry the Cat. This book chronicles the escapades of these four friends in bustling New York City. Beautiful illustrations add to the Newberry honor book’s whimsical appeal.

Dear Mr. Henshaw
by Beverly Cleary

Genre: Fiction; Use: Read alone
This Newbery award-winning book tells the story of ten-year-old Leigh Botts. Leigh has been his second grade teacher’s biggest fan ever since Mr. Henshaw read aloud his Ways to Amuse a Dog. Now in sixth grade, Leigh is given an assignment to write to an author. Naturally, Leigh chooses Mr. Henshaw. Told through a series of letters and diary entries in which Leigh reveals his problems coping with his parents’ divorce, being the new boy in school, and finding his own place in the world, this book is written with the humor and compassion readers have come to expect from Beverly Cleary.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson
by Bette Boa Lord

Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read aloud
Shirley Temple Wong, otherwise known as Bandit, sails from China to Brooklyn with hope and happiness in her heart. But Shirley does not know any English and has difficulty making friends. Then a miracle occurs: baseball. The year is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone’s hero, proving that dreams really do come true in America. As Shirley takes right field, America becomes a land of opportunity for her as well. Told through the eyes of a ten-year-old immigrant girl, this book is funny, poignant, and warm.
Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears: A West African Tale
*by Verna Aardema*

**Genre: Fiction, Folktale; Use: Read alone**

In this humorous folktale from West Africa, a mosquito annoys an iguana with her nonsensical chatter and sets off a chain reaction that affects all the animals in the village. It is the mosquito’s guilty conscience for her part in this mayhem that has her buzzing in people’s ears to this day as she asks, “Is everyone still angry at me?” A wonderful story to compare with other folktales that explain natural phenomenon, this book was awarded the Caldecott Medal. Students will enjoy the repetition of phrases as well as the colorful, highly stylized illustrations.

**HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY**

The Adventures of Marco Polo
*by Russell Freedman, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline*

**Genre: Biography; Use: Read aloud**

This biography explores the facts about the controversial historical figure who claimed to have traveled to China and served the great Kublai Khan in thirteenth century China. The author encourages readers to judge for themselves the truth of Polo’s claims, introducing readers to the debate of historical fact v. fabrication. Archival, period artwork, and original illustrations support the text.

Anansi Does the Impossible: An Ashanti Tale
*retold by Verna Aardema Genre: Fiction, Legends and Myths; Use: Read with help*

This is the story of how the folk stories of West Africa came to be called Anansi Tales. Long ago, “when the earth was set down and the sky was lifted up,” all folktales were owned by the Sky God. Anansi the Spider decided that he wanted to buy the tales back for the people of earth. When the Sky God named an impossible price—a python, a fairy, and 47 stinging hornets—Anansi and his clever wife, Aso, decided to outsmart the Sky God instead. Extraordinary, vibrant collage illustrations complement the lively text. A glossary of West African terms and pronunciations is included.

George Washington: Getting to Know the U.S. Presidents
*by Mike Venezia*

**Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read alone**

Author/illustrator Mike Venezia lends his trademark blend of humor and history to military leader and first U.S. president George Washington. In keeping with the format established in his previous series about artists and composers, this delightful book is abundantly illustrated with cartoons that are often a laugh-out-loud departure from history. However, the main body paragraphs stick to the facts, and readers will gain a basic knowledge of Washington and the events that shaped his life and our nation from the well-written text. The book also includes reproductions of historical paintings.

George Washington: A Picture Book Biography
*by James Cross Giblin*

**Genre: Nonfiction; Use: Read with help**

This is the story, in words and pictures, of the first president of the United States—a gentle man whose strength as a leader in the American Revolution, and then as the country’s first
president, helped to shape a democracy. From his childhood on Ferry Farm to his final years in Mount Vernon, this book brings Washington to life. The informal text and beautifully textured oil paintings will captivate young readers as they highlight the dramatic and formative events in Washington’s life. An appendix includes a map, important dates, discussions of the cherry tree myth, and an index.

**Thomas Jefferson: Voice of Liberty**  
*by Andrew Santella*

**Genre:** Nonfiction, Social Studies; **Use:** Read alone  
This biography presents the life and times of the third president of the United States, covering his early life in Virginia, his authorship of the Declaration of Independence, his political career, his retirement to Monticello, and his founding of the University of Virginia. Reproductions of artwork and early documents, bold print, and a highly readable biography show the local, national and even global impact of Thomas Jefferson’s work and achievements. This book will encourage readers to become active members in their own communities. Includes a timeline, bibliographical references and an index.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday**  
*by Judith Viorst*  
**Genre:** Fiction, Numbers, Counting; **Use:** Read alone  
Alexander was going to save the dollar he got from his grandparents to buy a walkie-talkie, but then he bought some gum, lost a couple bets with his brothers, rented his friend’s pet snake, and soon he was no longer rich! Alexander’s day of spending can become a fun math problem for the classroom. Children will be delighted by Alexander’s story and the humorous illustrations, all while learning the value of dollars and cents.

**How Much Is a Million?**  
*by David M. Schwartz*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Numbers; **Use:** Read alone  
This jubilant, original book uses simple concepts to help readers conceptualize astronomical numbers. With the help of Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician, children learn that a goldfish bowl big enough to hold one million goldfish would be large enough for a whale, and that if one billion kids made a human tower standing on each other’s shoulders, they would stand up past the moon. In example after example, author and illustrator team up to assist children in understanding a million, a billion, and a trillion. A note from the author explains the calculations used to arrive at these statements.

**Roman Numerals I-MM**  
*by Arthur Geisert*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction; **Use:** Read alone  
Richly detailed illustrations featuring droves of active pigs support readers as they learn how to describe number concepts using the seven Roman numerals: I, V, X, L, C, D, M. The book explains how order works for Roman numerals and dedicates the last few pages to challenging readers to apply what they’ve learned, since “the best way to learn Roman numerals is to use them.”
SCIENCE

Allergies: My Health
by Dr. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read with help
The My Health series teaches young readers about minor health problems they may face from time to time, the importance of staying healthy, and how all body parts work together. In Allergies, children will learn the causes and effects of various types of allergies, who gets them, how they develop, and how they are tested and treated. Children will also come to understand the mechanics of an allergic reaction. The book includes fun activities, and nonfiction text features like a glossary, an index, and suggestions for learning more.

Earthquakes: A True Book
by Paul P. Sipiera
Genre: Nonfiction, Earth Science; Use: Read alone
This informative True Book teaches readers about the layers of the Earth, plates and faults, and the natural phenomena that cause earthquakes and tsunamis. The devastating effects of earthquakes as well as ways they might be predicted are also discussed. Clear color photographs with appropriate captions are well matched to the large, simple text. Fun facts, an index and glossary, and a bibliography of additional resources are also included.

Eat Your Vegetables! Drink Your Milk!: My Health
by Dr. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read with help
This entry in the My Health series describes the components of a healthful diet and explains why eating these foods is important for maintaining overall good health. Nutrients found in different foods, how bodies break down food, and tips for healthy eating are discussed in detail. The text is extremely informative yet easy to read, and is enhanced by colorful photographs, cartoons, and diagrams. The book also includes fun activities and nonfiction text features like a glossary, an index, and suggestions for learning more.

Fossils
by Trudi Strain Trueit
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read with help
From fossils found in Patagonia, Argentina, home to some of the largest dinosaurs in the world, to those found in the United States, this book explores how paleontologists use the fossils they dig up to understand what Earth was like millions of years ago. Information about different types of fossils, how they were formed, and how they are used to study Earth’s history is presented through simple text. A glossary, an index and a list of text and Internet sources are also included.

Light, Sound & Electricity: The Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science
edited by Laura Howell
Genre: Reference; Use: Read with help
Energy, carried by waves, comes in many forms. This searchable, user-friendly physics reference text uses photos, illustrations, graphs, maps, charts, trees, webs, diagrams, and, most importantly, web links, that hit on the most salient facets of three types of energy: light,
sound, and electricity. As with all *Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science* books, an index, A–Z list of terms, and “test yourself” page are all featured.

**The Magic School Bus and the Electric Field Trip**  
*by Joanna Cole*  
**Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read alone**  
Ms. Frizzle’s class is learning firsthand about how electricity works—by traveling through the town’s power lines! Jumping from atom to atom, the kids ride the electrical current within many familiar appliances. Readers who go along for the ride will learn about how electricity is generated in power plants and how transformers function. They will also find out how electricity makes heat and light. Informative text and the colorful artwork continue the series’ unbeatable combination of clearly presented information and pure fun.

**Silver: A True Book**  
*by Salvatore Tocci*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read alone**  
As part of a six-book series on the elements, this *True Book* explores silver. Many common uses for silver, from coinage to photographic film and mirrors, are discussed, as well as the use of silver in jewelry-making throughout history and in modern times. With this well-designed book, readers will not only learn fun facts about silver, but they will also gain a general understanding of the properties of metals. Activities, a glossary and an index, and a bibliography of additional resources are also included.

**You’re Tall in the Morning, but Shorter at Night and Other Amazing Facts About the Human Body**  
*by Melvin and Gilda Berger*  
**Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read with help**  
Bestselling and critically acclaimed authors of the *Scholastic Q&A* series, Melvin and Gilda Berger present this photographic exploration into the human body. Topics and fun fast facts cover respiration, circulation, digestion, and the senses.
GRADE 5

LANGUAGE ARTS

After the Rain: Virginia’s Civil War Diary, Book Two: Dear America
by Mary Pope Osborne
Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read alone
In her second diary, ten-year-old Virginia Dickens writes about her family’s experiences during 1864-65. In the final months of the Civil War, Virginia and her family move to Washington, D.C., where the cold winter brings uncertainty and hardship. Virginia takes a job as a servant in a wealthy home to help her family. Just as things start to improve—her father gets a job in the orchestra at Ford’s Theater and the war finally comes to an end—President Lincoln is assassinated. Throughout, Ginny faces life with hope and courage. Historical notes and pictures place the work firmly in context.

Becoming Naomi León
by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Genre: Fiction; Use: Read alone
Fifth grader Naomi and her little brother Owen were happily living with their Gram in a trailer park in Lemon Tree, California, when their mother unexpectedly returns to reclaim them. Now on a mission, Naomi journeys to her father’s house in Mexico, then back to California, before she is finally able to convince a judge to keep her family together. Along the way, she learns about her Mexican heritage and realizes “I was becoming who I was meant to be.” This book includes supplementary material, including an interview with the author.

I’m Nobody! Who Are You?
by Emily Dickinson
Genre: Fiction, Poetry; Use: Read with help
This collection is an introduction to the writing of Emily Dickinson, the nineteenth century American poet. Although only a few of her verses were published during her lifetime, today all of her poems are available worldwide. This volume includes an introduction by Virginia Euwer Wolff, who explains that in each of her poems, Dickenson was “Like all of us, trying very hard to understand what it means to be alive.” In this volume, students have a great starting point for discussing their reactions to the poetry and finding examples of figurative language.

Little Women: Scholastic Classic
by Louisa May Alcott
Genre: Fiction; Use: Read aloud
Little Women follows the March sisters—the talented and tomboyish Jo, the beautiful Meg, the frail Beth, and the spoiled Amy—as they pass between girlhood and womanhood in New England during the Civil War. As the years go by, the sisters share their joys and sorrows, their secrets and loves. A portrait of growing up in the nineteenth century, Little Women is recognized as one of the best-loved classic children’s stories of all time.
Orphan Train Rider: One Boy’s True Story
by Andrea Warren
Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read alone
This book is the true story of Lee Nailing, one of more than 200,000 children in the United States, who rode “orphan trains” between 1854 to 1930. These young riders, most of whom were from New York or other eastern cities, were part of a program designed to find families for orphans or abandoned children. Each chapter includes photographs and memorabilia of the period. Other nonfiction elements include captions, a bibliography, and an index. This book can be used in a discussion of character traits, American culture, and biography.

Standing in the Light: The Captive Diary of Catherine Carey Logan: Dear America
by Mary Pope Osborne
Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read alone
This title in the Dear America series offers a glimpse into the diary of Catharine Carey Logan. A 13-year-old Quaker girl, Catherine reflects upon her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763. At first intolerant of her captors, Catherine eventually embraces a new culture. Appended with a historical note, period artwork, maps, and drawings, this book is an example of historical fiction as well as a portrayal of a young girl’s coming of age.

A Time to Dance: Virginia’s Civil War Diary, Book Three: Dear America
by Mary Pope Osborne
Genre: Historical Fiction; Use: Read alone
Eleven-year-old Virginia Dickens chronicles the aftermath of the Civil War, as she and her father, her brother Jed, and Jed’s wife and baby move their lives from Washington, D.C. to New York City. When Virginia takes a job as a dresser for the actresses at a theater, a world of plays and words is opened up to her, and she is able to help support her family. A historical note, which includes black-and-white illustrations, offers further information about such topics as Reconstruction, New York, and Edwin Booth.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Around the World in a Hundred Years: From Henry the Navigator to Magellan
by Jean Fritz
Genre: Nonfiction, Social Studies; Use: Read with help
The famous explorers of the past not only went in search of the Unknown, as the empty space on maps were called in 1400, but they did so when so many were afraid to do the same. They were cruel, brave, and ambitious. This book tells their stories, beginning with Prince Henry of Portugal’s obsession with the African coastline and ending with Magellan’s efforts to circumnavigate the globe. This book includes line drawings, maps, notes, and a bibliography.

Daniel Boone and the Cumberland Gap: Cornerstones of Freedom
by Andrew Santella
Genre: Biography; Use: Read alone
This biography employs text, photos, paintings, and maps to chronicle the extraordinary life of iconic American legend Daniel Boone. Most famous for his exploration and settlement of Kentucky, Boone blazed the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap and founded Boonesborough, which extended the American colonies beyond the Appalachian Mountains.
and made him an American legend. Part of the *Cornerstones of Freedom* series, this book also includes a timeline, glossary, index, and list of resources.

**Don’t Know Much About Abraham Lincoln**  
*by Kenneth C. Davis*  
**Genre:** Biography; **Use:** Read with help  
Best-selling author Kenneth C. Davis tells the story of a poor, self-educated boy from Kentucky who became president of a country soon torn apart by war. In this biography, Davis weaves a narrative into his trademark question-and-answer format, peppering the text with informational sidebars and compelling quotes. Maps, reproductions from the period, and striking black-and-white illustrations help capture Lincoln’s character and the fervor of the Civil War era.

**Henry VIII and His Chopping Block: Famous Dead People**  
*by Alan MacDonald, illustrated by Philip Reeve*  
**Genre:** Biography; **Use:** Read alone  
One of England’s most famous kings, Henry VIII made the chopping block famous by sending two of his six wives to their deaths for not bearing him an heir. This book conveys historical information through inventive features such as cartoons, “diary” entries, and newspaper-style fact boxes to reveal a thrilling and unusual perspective on the famous Tudor king.

**Sitting Bull: In Their Own Words**  
*by Peter and Connie Roop*  
**Genre:** Biography; **Use:** Read alone  
Part of the *In Their Own Words* series, this biography of the Lakota Sioux leader whose prophetic insight helped him defeat General Custer in the Battle of Little Bighorn pays tribute to an enduring Native American hero, head chief, and holy man. Sitting Bull’s brave battles to preserve Native American freedom, his tours with Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, and the ultimate tragedy of his death are outlined here, through real life drawings, letters, and speeches from Sitting Bull and his family and friends.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Count to a Million**  
*by Jerry Pallotta*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Numbers, Counting; **Use:** Read alone  
Using full-color illustrations, this text teaches readers how to “count to a million.” The book explains basic mathematical concepts—such as the decimal, or base ten system, and place value—by relating them to familiar objects like gumballs and ants. Students might even enjoy creating their own word problems using some of the concepts from the book.
Animal World: The Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science
edited by Laura Howell
Genre: Reference; Use: Read alone
A searchable, user-friendly science reference text, this book uses photos, illustrations, graphs, maps, charts, trees, webs, diagrams, and, most importantly, web links, to hit on the most important salient of animal life. Students can learn fresh facts about common animals and discover new creatures and concepts within the Animal Kingdom. As with all Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science books, an index, A–Z list of terms, and a “test yourself” page are all featured.

Birds: Usborne Discovery Internet-Linked
by Gillian Doherty
Genre: Nonfiction, Science, Reference; Use: Read alone
Packed with information about birds from around the world, this book looks at the life of these animals and their powers of flight, elaborate courtship displays and incredible nest-building abilities. Photographs provide close-up views of birds in their natural habitats, while illustrations and diagrams provide insight into their habits. Carefully chosen web sites have been included to enrich the book’s content, allowing children to listen to sound clips of birdsongs or track the course of migrating birds.

Land Predators of North America: Animals in Order
by Erin Pembrey Swan
Genre: Nonfiction, Science; Use: Read with help
This book identifies fourteen North American land predators, including bears, skunks, and weasels. Beginning with a general discussion of North American land predators and how these creatures fit into the animal kingdom, double-page spreads then examine the habits of a number of familiar creatures. Family, genus and species, and size are noted for each one at the top of the page. Full-color photographs show each animal in its natural habitat. This book even includes some tips on how to track these mammals in the wild.

The Magic School Bus Gets Baked in a Cake
by Linda Beech
Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read alone
It’s Ms. Frizzle’s birthday, and when the class tries to bake a cake, they wind up inside of it. Once there, they learn about mixtures and reactions that occur when ingredients are put together and combined with heat. Colorful artwork and informative text present the information clearly while making it fun. Children will learn about kitchen chemistry while reading this fictional account.

The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body
by Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen
Genre: Fiction, Science; Use: Read alone
What starts out as a typical class trip to the science museum turns into another magical ride with Ms. Fizzle, this time through the human body. Beginning in the esophagus, the children and their teacher go through the stomach, blood vessels, heart, and lungs before they are sneezed out into the air again. Another easy-to-read and informational Magic School Bus
book; the illustrations and diagrams included help to illustrate the scientific concepts being explained.

**Mysteries and Marvels of Science: Usborne Internet-Linked**  
*by Phillip Clarke*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Science; **Use:** Read alone  
Detailed photographs and informative digital illustrations reveal the surprising science behind events in the everyday world. From the deep mysteries of the atom to the futuristic marvels of technology, the breadth of this subject is conveyed. Recommended websites help readers to delve deeper into different topics of their choice.

**Owls: The Silent Hunters**  
*by Sara Swan Miller*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Science; **Use:** Read with help  
This book describes the general physical characteristics and behavior of owls and takes an in-depth look at fourteen different species from around the world. After putting owls in their appropriate place in the animal kingdom, each species of owl is covered in a two-page spread that contains basic facts, special characteristics, food sources, habitat, and a full-color photograph. A glossary, index, and bibliography of additional resources are also included.

**Tin: A True Book**  
*by Salvatore Tocci*  
**Genre:** Nonfiction, Science; **Use:** Read alone  
This entry in the *True Book* series is about tin, a ductile metal that has been in use since ancient times. Topics discussed in the book include properties of tin and its use in producing alloys and compounds. Students can perform the easy-to-follow experiments and report on their results. The bibliographical references include both books and Web sites. Other nonfiction elements include a table of contents, glossary, and an index.

**World of Plants: The Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science**  
*edited by Laura Howell*  
**Genre:** Reference; **Use:** Read alone  
Without plants, no other life could exist on Earth. Plants, unlike animals and human beings, get their energy directly from the sun, through the process of photosynthesis. A searchable, user-friendly science reference text, this book uses photos, illustrations, graphs, maps, charts, trees, webs, diagrams, and, most importantly, web links, that hit on the most salient facets of plant life. As with all *Usborne Internet-Linked Library of Science* books, an index, A–Z list of terms, and “test yourself” page are all featured.
HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Black Eagles: African-Americans in Aviation
by Jim Haskins
Genre: Biography; Use: Read alone
Since the early days of American aviation, African Americans have had to go to extreme lengths to earn their wings. A comprehensive account shares this heroic history from the first days of flight to the space program. The focus on what it was like to live during years of active discrimination against African American pilots is highlighted through stories of individual heroes that include Bessie Coleman, Benjamin Davis, Jr., and Guion Bluford. A useful chronology is appended.

Let it Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters
by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Genre: Biography; Use: Read alone
Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, this book tells the stories of ten great African-America women—extraordinary leaders whose fearlessness and dedication to achieving a better world “let their lights shine on the darkness of inequality.” From abolitionist and early feminist Sojourner Truth through Congresswoman and Presidential hopeful Shirley Chisholm, Pinkney hits on celebrated sheroes as well as lesser-known black women in history whose lives attest to change in America.

Witness
by Karen Hesse
Genre: Historical Fiction Use: Read alone
Written entirely in free verse, this book by Newberry Medal-winning author Karen Hesse tells the story of a Vermont town besieged by the Ku Klux Klan in 1924. Two of the group’s targets—a 12-year-old African-American girl named Leanora and a six-year-old Jewish girl named Esther—are among the eleven town members whose unique voices bear witness to a troubling time in the American past.