Too-Good-to-Miss Books: 3rd Grade
Staff recommendations for children at a third grade reading level.

Compiled by:
Children's Services Staff

Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall Thin Tale (introducing his forgotten frontier friend)
Deborah Hopkinson
(Juvenile Fiction - J Hopkins)
In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher.

All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912, the Day the Titanic Sank
Don Brown
(Juvenile Nonfiction - J 910.453 Bro)
This is the captivating story of an amazing vessel, the people who built it, and its tragic demise during its maiden voyage across the Atlantic. Told through first-hand accounts and detailed illustrations of the events as they happened.

Babymouse: Queen of the World
Jennifer Holm
(Juvenile Graphic Novels - J Holm)
Series: Babymouse; #1
An imaginative mouse dreams of being queen of the world, but will settle for an invitation to the most popular girl's slumber party.
The Bad Guys

Aaron Blabey
(Juvenile Fiction - J Blabey)
Series: Bad Guys; 1
The Bad Guys - Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha - want to be heroes, and they decide that the way to do it is to free the 200 dogs in the city dog pound--but their plan soon goes awry.

Big Foot and Little Foot

Ellen Potter
(Juvenile Fiction - J Potter)
Series: Big Foot and Little Foot; 1
Hugo is a young Sasquatch who longs for adventure. Boone is young boy who longs to see a Sasquatch. When their worlds collide, they become the unlikeliest pair of best friends.

The Buddy Files - Case of the Lost Boy

Dori Butler
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Butler)
While searching for his mysteriously lost human family, Buddy the dog is adopted by another family and helps solve the mystery of their missing boy. Look for more Buddy File titles.

The Creature of the Pines

Adam Gidwitz
(Juvenile Fiction - J Gidwitz)
Along with a new friend--brave, outspoken Uchenna Devereaux—the new kid at school, Elliot Eisner, gets caught up in a secret group of adventurers, The Unicorn Rescue Society, whose goal is to protect and defend the world's mythical creatures.

**Deep-Sea Disaster**

**Davy Ocean**  
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Ocean)  
Series: Shark School; 1  
Harry the hammerhead shark wishes he could be any other type of shark, but when a class trip to a famous shipwreck almost ends in disaster, Harry realizes the importance of being exactly who he is.

**Drum Dream Girl**

**Margarita Engle**  
(Juvenile Picture Books - Ej Eng)  
Based on the story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums and that Cuba has never had a female drummer.

**The Field Guide**

**Tony DiTerlizzi**  
(Juvenile Fiction - J DiTerli)  
Series: The Spiderwick Chronicles; 1  
When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences.
**Freckle Juice**

**Judy Blume**  
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Blume)  
Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents.

**Ginger**

**Kate Klimo**  
(Juvenile Fiction - J Klimo)  
Series: Klimo, Kate. Dog diaries  
Ginger the golden retriever narrates the story of her life, from her birth in a puppy mill through the various people who have "owned" her.

**Harriet the Invincible**

**Ursula Vernon**  
(Juvenile Fiction - J Vernon)  
Series: Hamster Princess; 1.  
Harriet becomes an adventurer after learning she is cursed to fall into a deep sleep on her twelfth birthday, but after two years of exploits with her riding quail, things go awry at home and she must seek a prince to set things right.

**How Oliver Olson Changed the World**

**Claudia Mills**  
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Mills)
Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class studies the solar system.

The Hundred Dresses

Eleanor Estes
(Juvenile Fiction - J Estes)
Wanda Petronski, a little Polish girl in an American school, is laughed at because she always wears a faded blue dress, until her classmates learn a lesson.

I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871

Lauren Tarshis
Series: I Survived; 11
Originally not wanting to come to Chicago, young Oscar Starling finds himself not only in the middle of the city, but trying to survive when the town is ablaze.

In Aunt Lucy’s Kitchen

Cynthia Rylant
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Rylant)
Series: Cobble Street Cousins
While staying with their aunt for a year, three nine-year-old cousins keep busy baking and selling cookies, putting on a poetry and singing performance, and more. First in the Cobble Street Cousins series.

Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen

Debbi Michiko Florence
Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, eight, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's.

Jasmin Toguchi; 1

Juana & Lucas

Juana Medina
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Medina)
A spunky young girl from Columbia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place.

Just Joking: Jumbo—100 Giant Jokes & 1,000 Funny Photos Add Up to Big Laughs

Kelley Miller
(Juvenile Nonfiction - J 793.7 Mil)
Get hundreds of fun facts about all the coolest creatures and some of the craziest info about the history of funny business. It's the right formula for laughing, learning, and maybe even launching your stand-up comedy career!

Knights of the Kitchen Table

Jon Scieszka
(Juvenile Fiction - J Sciesz)
Series: Time Warp Trio; 1
Joe receives a magic book for his birthday present from his uncle. Joe, Fred and Sam are transported to a time when evil knights, fire-breathing dragons and vile-smelling giants roamed the land. First in the Time Warp Trio series.
Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye

Geronimo Stilton
(Juvenile Fiction - J Geronim)
Series: Geronimo Stilton; 1
Geronimo Stilton--editor of "The Rodent's Gazette"--his adventurous sister Thea, a correspondent for the paper, and their cousin Trap travel to a distant island to search for the treasure shown on an old map Thea discovers.

Lunch Walks Among Us

Jim Benton
(Juvenile Fiction - J Benton)
Series: Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist; 1
Franny K. Stein is a mad scientist who prefers all things spooky and creepy, but when she has trouble making friends at her new school she experiments with fitting in--which works until a monster erupts from the trashcan.

The Mouse and the Motorcycle

Beverly Cleary
(Juvenile Fiction - J Cle)
A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling. Read more Ralph stories in Runaway Ralph and Ralph S. Mouse.

The New Kid

Karen English
Third-grader Gavin and his friends aren’t sure what to make of the new boy in their class, Khufu. He sure doesn’t look or act like the other kids . . . and they suspect that he stole Gavin's bike!

Poison Island

H.I. Larry

Separated from his parents and older brother, twelve-year-old Zac, a secret agent of the Government Investigation Bureau, must rely on his own skills to obtain the formula for Dr. Drastic's secret Solution X.

The Quiet Place

Sarah Stewart

A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.

Sideways Stories from Wayside School

Louis Sachar

Thirty wacky stories describe the strange things that happen at Wayside School, an architectural accident that was built sideways, thirty stories high with one classroom on each floor.

The Sound of Silence

Katrina Goldsaito
Living in the bustling, splashing, whooshing, beeping and laughing city of Tokyo, a little boy tries to experience ma, or silence, when a musician tells him it is the most beautiful sound in the world.

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin

Jennifer Bryant
(Juvenile Nonfiction - J 759.13 Pippin Bry)
Presents an illustrated introduction to the life and work of artist Horace Pippin, describing his childhood love for drawing and the World War I injury that challenged his career.

Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic

Emily Jenkins
(Juvenile Fiction - J Jenkins)
Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.

Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom

Joan Holub, Suzanne Williams
(Juvenile First Chapter Books - J Holub)
Series: Heroes in Training; 1
When ten-year-old Zeus is kidnapped, he discovers he can defend himself with a magical thunderbolt.