



## **STEPPING STONES**

Books just right for newly independent readers

### **FICTION**

#### **Fortunately, the Milk**

*by Neil Gaimin*

**J F GAI**

While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space.

#### **The Wolves in the Walls**

*by Neil Gaiman*

**J F GAI**

Lucy is sure there are wolves living in the walls of her house, although others in her family disagree, and when the wolves come out, the adventure begins.

### **GENRE FICTION**

#### **Tales for Very Picky Eaters**

*by Josh Schneider*

**Humor J F SCH**

James is a very picky eater. His dad has to get creative-very creative-in order to get James to eat foods he thinks he doesn't like. But it is eventually James himself who discovers that some foods are not so bad, after all, if you're willing to give them a try.

#### **Stuart Goes to School**

*by Sarah Pennypacker*

**Humor J F PEN**

Stuart is about to start third grade. As he makes his way to the first day of school, wearing the worst outfit ever, what could a first-rate worrier do but worry? Stuart worries about getting stuck in the boys' bathroom, about not having anything to show for show-and-tell, but most of all, about not making any friends. With his cape, though, Stuart is bound to have a day full of wacky adventures.

#### **Marty Frye, Private Eye**

*by Janet Tashjian*

**Mystery J F TAS**

Marty Frye, a seven-year-old who likes to read poetry and talk in rhymes, solves three separate mysteries for a classmate, a toy store owner, and his younger sister.

#### **The Children Who Smelled a Rat**

*by Allan Ahlberg*

**Humor J F AHL**

All the Gaskitts have a bad day when the baby rolls away in a shopping cart, the twins' teacher acts peculiar, and a lost bird tries to hypnotize the cat.

#### **The Blue Ghost**

*by Marion Dane Bauer*

**Scary/Spooky J F BAU**

Liz is staying with her grandmother in her old house in the woods of northern Minnesota when one night a noise awakens her. Liz opens her eyes. There is a blue ghost in her room! What does the ghost want from her? This exciting series - full of suspense and shivers- is perfect for first time chapter-book readers.

## SERIES

### After Happily Ever After

*by Tony Bradman*

**J SER AFT**

"...And they lived happily ever after." Or did they? After years of speculation, the answer is finally exposed in the After Happily Ever After series. It's time to find out the truth about Cinderella, Rapunzel, Goldilocks, and many more fairy tale legends. What really happened AFTER the happily ever after?

### Amber Brown

*by Paula Danzinger*

**J SER AMB**

As if divorce and geographical separation from one parent aren't enough for a third grader to handle, Amber's lifelong best friend, Justin Daniels, finds out that he is moving to Alabama. This series strikes a good balance between humor and real life troubles.

### Bad Kitty

*by Nick Bruel*

**J SER BAD**

The day-to-day adventures of Bad Kitty, who always seems to be getting into some kind of trouble.

### The Bailey School Kids

*by Debbie Dadey*

**J SER BAI**

There are some pretty weird grown-ups living in Bailey City--and a lot of strange happenings. The Bailey School Kids take it upon themselves to investigate.

### Barbie & Friends Book Club

*by Rita Balducci*

**J SER BAR**

Barbie and her sisters learn about friendship, sharing, and trust while having adventures and meeting new friends.

### Big Nate

*by Lincoln Peirce*

**J SER BIG**

How would you like to be 11 years old, 4-1/2 feet tall, and the all-time record holder for detentions in school history? Where there's Nate, there's trouble. But he knows he's destined for greatness. A fortune cookie told him so.

### BITES

*by Philip Gwynne and others*

**J SER BIT**

When you dish up just the books kids are ready for, they'll bite, and grow into voracious readers. The Bites series gives a larger helping of more advanced reading to kids who are ready to move beyond basic readers to chapter books.

### The Black Lagoon Adventures

*by Mike Thaler*

**J SER BLA**

These fun-filled chapter books mix school, monsters, and common kid problems with hilarious results.

### Boris

*by Andrew Joyner*

**J SER BOR**

Meet Boris, a warthog who dreams of adventure. He longs to travel and perform acts of derring-do, just like Captain Clive, the hero of his favorite book. He lives in a bus with his parents in Greater Hogg Bay, but the bus never goes anywhere, and neither does Boris. Until one day, it does.

### Butterfly Meadow

*by Olivia Moss*

**J SER BUT**

In Butterfly Meadow, colorful butterflies dance through the air, glowworms inch through the grass, and bumblebees buzz around every flower. It's a place where friendships and adventures take flight.

**The Cam Jansen Mysteries***by David Adler***J SER CAM**

Cam is a spunky young heroine whom readers have loved for over two decades. Follow along as she solves mysteries and makes startling discoveries. The Cam Jansen books are perfect for young readers who are making the transition to chapter books.

**The Capital Mysteries***by Ron Roy***J SER CAP**

The Capital mysteries feature K.C. Corcoran and her pal, Marshall Li, who live near the White House, and are friends with the President of The United States. They investigate mysteries in and around Washington DC.

**Critter Club***by Callie Barkley***J SER CRI**

Introducing the Critter Club! This new series is about four best friends who save lots of animals and have tons of fun along the way.

**Dyamonde Daniel***by Nikki Grimes***J SER DYA**

Spunky third-grader Dyamonde Daniel misses her old neighborhood, but when she befriends a boy named Free, another new student at school, she finally starts to feel at home.

**Elliot's Park***by Partrick Garman***J SER ELI**

Elliot is a very smart squirrel who loves to solve any problem he finds. His best friend Chip is a hilarious klutz. Crash is the only flying squirrel in the park. Twitch, Elliot's sister is good at finding things, especially soda pop. Join them as they rescue Mr. Nibbles, solve mysteries and recover stolen soccer balls.

**Flat Stanley***by Jeff Brown***J SER FLA**

Stanley Lambchop is a nice, average boy. He leads a nice, ordinary life. Then one day a bulletin board falls on him and suddenly Stanley is flat.

**Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures *by various authors*****J SER FLA**

Join Flat Stanley and his family as they travel around the world. Educational and fun, this travel-themed series is a great choice for early-chapter-book.

**George Brown Class Clown***by Nancy Krulik***J SER GEO**

When fourth-grader George starts at a new school, he vows to become a model student instead of the class clown he has always been. But just as his plan is going really well, he is overtaken by a magic burp that turns him back into a mischief-maker.

**Horrible Harry and Song Lee***by Suzy Kline***J SER HOR**

Horrible Harry and Song Lee are classmates in Ms. Mackle's third grade. Song Lee is as nice as Harry is horrible! These stories tell about their everyday adventures as elementary school students. Each book explores realistic conflict between kids and shows how they overcome it.

**Ivy & Bean***by Annie Barrows***J SER IVY**

Ivy & Bean are very different. Bean is loud, wild and goofy. Ivy is quiet and full of ideas. Each girl thinks the other one is weird. Each girl thinks they could never be friends. But sometimes opposites can become best friends because they are opposites. Read all about the adventures and disasters created by this unlikely team.

**Judy Moody***by Megan McDonald***J SER JUD**

This series follows the humorous adventures of third-grader, Judy Moody. Boys and girls can relate to Judy's many moods and laugh at her hilarious adventures.

**Junie B. Jones***by Barbara Park***J SER JUN**

Laugh yourself silly with the world's funniest kid!

**Kung Pow Chicken***by Cyndi Marko***J SER KUN**

Finally - the superhero everyone has been waiting for! Gordon Blue transforms into Kung Pow Chicken, an avian superhero who fights crime in the city of Fowladelphia. Follow him as he hops into his Beakmobile to save the day!

**Kylie Jean***by Marci Peschke***J SER KYL**

From blueberries to beauty pageants, second grader Kylie Jean wants to be the queen of everything! But in her quest to be the best, this young southern belle from Jacksonville, Texas learns a few lessons of her own. Mischievous, delightful, and fun, this series will be at the top of every young girl's list!

**Lotus Lane***by Kyla May***J SER LOT**

Kiki, Coco, and Lulu are the BEST of friends. They all live on Lotus Lane, attend Amber Acres Elementary School, and even have their very own club. But when Mika, the new girl, moves in next door things are shaken up on Lotus Lane.

**Martha Speaks***by Jamie White***J SER MAR**

These humorous and educational chapter books are based on the PBS KIDS show "Martha Speaks".

**Maybelle***by Kate Speck***J SER MAY**

Maybelle is a lovely, plump cockroach. She lives in her own cozy little home under the refrigerator of Mr. and Mrs. Peabody. Maybelle knows it's best to stay hidden away, but she simply adores food..... The entertaining, easy text in this series will delight young readers.

**Mercy Watson***by Kate DiCamillo***J SER MER**

Mr. and Mrs. Watson have adopted a pig named Mercy who enjoys driving cars, going trick-or-treating, and a good chase. But more than anything else, Mercy loves hot buttered toast. Her search for toast often lands Mercy in the middle of hilarious trouble in this series of chapter books for beginning readers.

**My Weird School***by Dan Gutman***J SER MYW**

Ella Mentry School sure is a peculiar place! Weirdness and fun are all part of the routine. Wise-cracking second grader A.J.; crybaby Emily; and goody-two-shoes Andrea are the stars of this outrageously funny series. The action moves to third grade in companion series My Weird School Daze and My Weirder School.

**Nancy Clancy***by Jane O'Connor***J SER NAN**

Fans of Fancy Nancy will love joining Nancy Clancy in third grade as she and her friend Bree fancy themselves detectives, like their fictional hero, Nancy Drew. The central theme of all the Nancy Clancy books shines through, showing the power of positive thinking and the will to never give up.

**Owl Diaries***by Rebecca Elliott***J SER OWL**

Eva the owl stars in this owl-dorable series which will appeal to kids who love stories about animals and friendship.

**Perfectly Princess***by Alyssa Crowne***J SER PER**

Pink, green, yellow, orange, purple, blue—what color princess are you? Meet a different princess-loving girl in every book. Short, easy-to-read chapters help teach valuable lessons.

**Pet Rescue Adventures***by Holly Webb***J SER PET**

If you're looking for heart-warming animal stories, look no further than Holly Webb's brilliant collection of books. These beautifully told stories feature a host of lost and lonely puppies and kittens guaranteed to melt your heart!

**Pony Tales***by Bernadette Kelly***J SER PON**

Norton is a naughty pony. Everyone thinks so. Well, everyone except his owner, Molly. She thinks Norton is the most perfect pony in the whole world, no matter what kind of trouble he causes!

**Princess Pink & The Land Of Fake-Believe by Noah Z. Jones****J SER PRI**

Fairy tales go hilariously off course as Princess Pink meets wacky characters in the land of Fake-Believe. As Princess says, "This land of Fake-Believe is crazy-cakes!" – the perfect series to help your young reader build reading confidence!

**Princess Posey***by Stephanie Greene***J SER POS**

Make reading sparkle with all of the Princess Posey chapter books! Featuring dilemmas and solutions that will ring true for first-graders, Princess Posey is sure to charm every newly independent reader.

**Ready Freddy***by Abby Klein***J SER REA**

Watch out, Junie, there's a new kid on the block! It's Freddy Thresher, a first grader who knows it's a jungle out there. A new chapter book series written by an elementary teacher who has seen it all!

**Roscoe Riley Rules***by Katherine Applegate***J SER ROS**

Roscoe Riley is a good-hearted first grader who gets into all sorts of mishaps with his teachers and friends. These fun and thoughtful stories are a great choice for first & second graders who are ready to read a chapter book but still need the support of plenty of pictures and a controlled vocabulary.

**Sports Illustrated Kids***by various authors***J SER SPO**

Follow the stories and adventures of the hilarious and relatable characters as they race BMX bikes, break into gymnastics camp, attempt to run one-man relays, and more!

**Super Pets***by various authors***J SER SUP**

Introducing the pets of the World's Greatest Super Heroes. They, too, are working night and day to fight crime and evil in the DC Universe. Unleash the power of Super-Pets!



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