

Chapter Books to Read Aloud

For Older Kids (Ages 8-11)

Alston, B.B. *Amari and the Night Brothers* (series). Amari Peters has never stopped believing her missing brother, Quinton, is alive. So when she finds a ticking briefcase in his closet, containing a nomination for a tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs, she's certain the secret group holds the key to locating Quinton—if only she can wrap her head around the idea of magicians, fairies, aliens, and other supernatural creatures all being real.

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids. Native families from Nations across the continent gather at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In a high school gym full of color and song, people dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. Young protagonists will meet relatives from faraway, mysterious strangers, and sometimes one another.

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale Of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, And A Very Interesting Boy* (series). This summer, the Penderwick sisters have a wonderful surprise: a holiday on the grounds of a beautiful estate called Arundel with sprawling gardens, a treasure-filled attic, tame rabbits, and the cook who makes the best gingerbread around.

Bosch, Pseudonymous. *The Name of This Book Is Secret* (series). Two 11-year-old misfits try to solve the mystery of a dead magician and stop the evil Dr. L and Ms. Mauvais, who are searching for the secret of immortality.

Cervantes, Angela. *Lety Out Loud*. Lety Muñoz's first language is Spanish, and she likes to take her time putting her words together. She loves volunteering at the Furry Friends Animal Shelter because the dogs and cats there don't care if she can't always find the right word.

Córdova, Zoraida. *The Way to Rio Luna*. Eleven-year-old Danny Monteverde believes in magic, especially that his older sister, Pili, is waiting for him somewhere in Rio Luna, the enchanted land in their favorite book of fairy tales. Just when he begins to lose faith, he finds a mysterious book in the library: a map to Rio Luna.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Mr. Chickee's Funny Money* (series). Flint Future Detective Club members Steven Carter, his friend Russell, and Russell's dog Zoopy solve the mystery of a quadrillion-dollar bill with the image of James Brown on it.

Darraj, Susan Muaddi. *Farah Rocks Fifth Grade* (series). Fifth-grader Farah Hajjar and her best friend Allie Liu are hoping to go to the Magnet Academy for their middle school years, but when a new girl starts tormenting Farah and her younger brother, Samir, she decides she cannot leave Samir to face the bully alone.

Dilloway, Margaret. *Five Things About Ava Andrews*. Ava bubbles with ideas and plans, but only on the inside. On the outside, everyone except her best friend, Zelia, thinks she doesn't talk or, worse, is stuck-up. What nobody knows is that Ava has invisible disabilities: anxiety and a heart condition.

Eager, Edward. *Half Magic* (series). Four children suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary, hilarious adventures after one discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House* (series). Omakayas, a girl from the Ojibwa tribe, nurses her family during a horrible smallpox epidemic and discovers a mysterious secret from her past.

Frazier, Sundee Tucker. *Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire* (series). Cleo Edison Oliver is full of money-making ideas, but things get complicated when she has to keep her business running, be there for her friends, and deal with teasing about being adopted.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. Bod is the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by the ghosts, werewolves, and other cemetery denizens, Bod has learned the customs of his guardians' time as well as their ghostly teachings - such as the ability to Fade so mere mortals cannot see him.

Giles, Lamar. *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* (series). As summer winds down, Otto and Sheed are craving just a little more time for fun. When a mysterious man appears with a camera that literally freezes time, they will have to work to save their town—and each other.

Glaser, Karina Yan. *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* (series). Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.



Jones, Kelly. *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* (series). Through a series of letters, Sophie tells of her family's move to a farm, where she begins taking care of some unusual chickens with help from neighbors.

Kapit, Sarah. *Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen! Vivy's been perfecting her pitch like her Major League hero VJ*. She writes to him about how she wants to play but her mom says she can't because she's a girl and because she has autism. Then, to her amazement, a Little League coach invites her to join his team, and VJ starts writing back!

Kane, Karen. *Charlie and Frog: A Mystery* (series). Charlie heads into his grandparents' local village where a frightened old woman gives him a desperate message in American Sign Language. Charlie better learn ASL fast to keep up with quick-witted detective Frog!

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*. The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Having run away with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time* (series). Meg and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers during a search for her father, who has disappeared while engaged in secret government work.



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Levy, Dana. *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher* (series). A family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets make their way through a school year—kindergarten through sixth grade—and deal with a grumpy new neighbor.

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (series). Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish and joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain.

Littler, Jamie. *Voyage of the Frostheart* (series). In a land where monsters rule the icy tundra, only song weavers hold the power to control the giants. Ever since his parents were lost on an expedition, Ash, a budding song weaver, has spent his life as an outcast, even though all he wants to do is protect his village.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone*. Caleb and Bobby Gene's new neighbor Styx Malone oozes cool, promising the brothers that together they can pull off the Great Escalator Trade—exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream.

Marciano, Johnny. *Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat* (series). Lots of people think their cats are aliens—but Klawde really is one. Once the High Commander of the planet Lyttrboks, he's lost his throne and been exiled to earth, so he has something in common with Raj Banerjee, who's been exiled to rural Oregon because of his mom's new job.

Méndez, Yamile Saied. *Shaking up the House*. The outgoing First Daughters play a prank on their incoming counterparts, sparking an epic prank war.

Meriano, Anna. *Love Sugar Magic: A Dash of Trouble* (series). Wanting to be a part of her family's Día de Muertos preparations, Leonora sneaks out of school to discover her mother, aunt, and older sisters have been keeping a secret.

Newman, Catherine. *One Mixed Up Night*. Frankie and Walter have been obsessed with the Ikea catalog for years. So they make a plan, pack their backpacks, give their parents the sleepover switcheroo . . . and they're in. One unforgettable night in Ikea with couch jumping, pillow forts, and unlimited soda refills.

O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. A widowed field mouse must enlist the help of a pack of ex-lab rats to save her home from a farmer's plow. In exchange, she helps the rats, as they look to cast off the yoke of human dominance.

Oppel, Kenneth. *The Boundless*. Aboard "The Boundless," the greatest train ever built, teenaged Will enlists the aid of a traveling circus to save the train from villains.

Oshiro, Mark. *The Insiders*. Twelve-year-old Héctor Muñoz, fleeing from bullies, discovers a magical closet that not only provides him sanctuary, but also unites him with two other LGBTQ+ kids facing similar problems at their schools, helping them find friendship and strength in each other.

Pérez, Celia C. *Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers*. After four friends fail to persuade a local girls club to change an outdated tradition, they form an alternative group that shakes up their Florida town.

Park, Linda Sue. *Prairie Lotus*. Hanna, a mixed-race girl growing up in the Dakota territory in 1880 is determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend.

Paasewe-Valchev, Mayonn. *The Leopard Behind the Moon*. Ezomo chases after the leopard he believes killed his father, which leads him and his two friends to open the forbidden magical door that protects their village.

Pasternack, Sofiya. *Anya and the Dragon* (series). In an alternate ninth century Russia, Jewish twelve-year-old Anya and a new friend face a Viking and a Tsar to protect the water dragon that saved her life, putting her family's home at risk.

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago* (series). A boy recounts his annual summer trips to rural Illinois with his sister during the Great Depression to visit their larger-than-life grandmother.

Piñeiro, Victor. *Time Villains*. When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, including the bloodthirsty pirate Blackbeard, sixth-grader Javi, his brawny younger sister Brady, and his brainy best friend Wiki join forces to save the world.

Patchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men* (series). A young witch-to-be named Tiffany Aching teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of rowdy, 6-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*. The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Reed, Dwayne. *Simon B. Rhyming!*. Chicago fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

Reynolds, Aaron. *The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter* (series). Cursed by an old carnival game, sixth-grader Rex Dexter uses his new ability to communicate with dead animals to investigate the mysterious deaths of endangered zoo animals.

Robinson, Sharon. *The Hero Two Doors Down: Based on the True Story of Friendship Between a Boy and a Baseball Legend*. Eight-year-old Steve Satlow is thrilled when Jackie Robinson moves into his Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn in 1948, although some neighbors are not.

Selfors, Suzanne. *Imaginary Veterinary: The Sasquatch Escape* (series). Spending the summer in his grandfather's rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town's veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. *Sisters of the Neversea*. In this modern twist on *Peter Pan*, stepsisters Lily and Wendy are spirited away to Neverland by a mysterious boy and must find a way back to their family.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. In the 1980s, as her mother prepares to be a contestant on a television game show, Miranda tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space.

Swanson, Mark. *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom* (series). Eight-year-old Ben takes a fortune cookie literally, and believing he has only one day left to live, tries to do everything he has always wanted to before nightfall.

Teague, David. *How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe (And Put it Back Together Again)*. Oscar is nervous when he has to fill in for his team's injured all-star, Lourdes. So he uses a mysterious gold watch to stop time and fake a game-winning home run...but you can't just steal time without any consequences.

Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan. *Save Me a Seat*. The story of Ravi, an Indian immigrant adjusting to middle school and Joe, a boy who recently lost his best friend due to a move, is told in alternating voices. The two boys become friends when they unite against a school bully and one seriously wild week full of laugh-out-loud humor ensues.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer* (series). In the tumultuous summer of 1968, Delphine and her two sisters travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, Calif., to spend a month with their mother, a radical poet who sends them to the local Black Panther center for summer camp. There, they begin to learn about the fraught relationship between race and power.

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (series). English is not Mia Tang's first language, but she wants to be a writer. That's not her only secret either—her family lives and works in a motel where they are hiding other immigrant families like theirs in the empty rooms under the nose of the mean motel owner.