Chapter Books to Read Aloud
For Older Kids (Ages 8-11)

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids. Native families gather at the Powwow to dance, sell beadwork, celebrate friendship and heritage.

Araujo, Mia. ***Afia in the Land of Wonders.*** Afia leaves her beloved twin sister to embark on a journey of self-discovery in a magical land with a beguiling queen and dangers untold.

Arden, Katherine. ***Small Spaces*** (series). After Ollie's bus breaks down on a field trip, her broken digital wristwatch begins a startling countdown and delivers a terrifying message: RUN.

Arnold, Elana K. ***Just Harriet*** (Early Chapters, series). Harriet loves visiting her nana, but for two whole months? Things get more interesting when she finds a hidden key linked to a mystery.

Brosgol, Vera. ***Return to Sender***. Oliver discovers that the wish-granting mailbox in his new apartment makes his dreams come true, but it is at a cost.

Cervantes, Angela. ***Lety Out Loud.*** Lety loves volunteering at the animal shelter: animals don't care if she can't always find the right word in English.

Day, Nicholas. ***A World Without Summer: A Volcano Erupts, A Creature Awakens, and the Sun Goes Out*** (363.34 DAY). An 1815 eruption affected global climate, caused snow in summer, and inspired Mary Shelley.

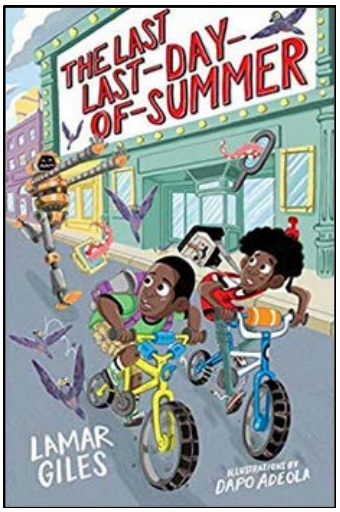
Donovan, Gail. ***Sparrow Being Sparrow*** (Early Chapters, series). Sparrow blames herself for her neighbor's accident, so she promises to take care of Mrs. LaRose's seven cats, all while trying to adjust to a new school.

Giles, Lamar. ***The Last Last-Day-of-Summer*** (series). Otto and Sheed are craving just a little more summer 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 Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli.*** Two eleven-year-olds, one in the China of 731 and the other in Manhattan's Chinatown in 1931, embark on challenging journeys to save their families.

Greenwald, Liza. ***Absolutely, Positively Natty.*** Her mom is taking a break from the family, but Natty's doing great! What's the point of dwelling on stuff that stinks when there's good stuff to think about? It'll all be fine as long as she stays positive!

Higuera, Donna Barba. ***The Last Cuentista.*** Petra Peña wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller like her abuelita. But Earth has been destroyed and only a few hundred scientists and their children have escaped.



Jones, Kelly. ***Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer.*** In a series of letters, Sophie tells stories about caring for her unusual chickens with help from neighbors.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. ***The First State of Being.*** A strange teen shows up outside 12-year-old Michael's home in 1999, and it turns out he's from the future.

Kennedy, Katie. ***Did You Hear what Happened in Salem? The Witch Trials of 1692*** (133.43 KEN). Who were the witches? The unprotected residents—poor, elderly, ones who were a little bit strange.

Konigsburg, E.L. ***From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.*** Claudia runs away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to teach her parents a lesson in Claudia appreciation, and becmes a heroine.

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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Lincoln, Beth. ***The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels*** (series). Meet Shenanigan Swift: Risk-taker. Mischief-maker. But could she also be a detective and solve her aunt's murder?

Martin, Emily B. ***Nell O'Dell Hates Quests.*** As the daughter of famous questers, Nell is determined to have a quiet life. Unfortunately, no matter how hard she tries, a "business trip" becomes the quest she never wanted.

Mbalia, Kwame. ***Jax Freeman and the Phantom Shriek*** (series). Jax finds himself in a Chicago with talking glasses and clocks, magical inheritance, and daredevil train porters in a fight against a terrifying evil.

McKinnon, Kate. ***The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science*** (series). Three orphan siblings become the pupils of the mysterious Professor Millicent Quibb and enter the world of mad science.

McNicoll, Elle. ***Like a Charm.*** As she is pulled into her family's world of secrets and spells, Ramya sets out to discover the truth behind the Hidden Folk with only three words of warning: Beware the Sirens.

Miller, Chanel. ***Magnolia Wu Unfolds it All*** (Early Chapters). Magnolia and her new friend Iris set off across New York City to solve the mystery of each missing sock from her parents' laundromat.

O'Brien, Robert C. ***Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH.*** A widowed field mouse enlists the help 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.

Noel, Kaela. ***The Cats of Silver Crescent***. Elsby discovers there are talking, clothes-wearing cats living in the empty house next door who need help to maintain their magical existence.

Park, Linda Sue. ***Prairie Lotus.*** Hanna, a mixed-race girl growing up in 1880 Dakota Territory, is determined to realize her dreams: be educated, become a dressmaker, and make at least one friend.

Perkins, Mitali. ***Hope in the Valley***. When her town announces an old home will be bulldozed in favor of new, maybe affordable housing, Pandita's family are on opposing sides of the issue, and she must find her voice to speak up.

Piñeiro, Victor. ***Time Villains*** (series). When a homework assignment and a magic table summon real and fictional people from history, Javi, his sister Brady, and his friend Wiki join forces to save the world.

Reed, Dwayne. ***Simon B. Rhymin'*** (series). Chicago fifth-grader Simon, an aspiring rapper who lacks self-confidence, uses his rhymes to help bring his community together.

Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. ***Operation Sisterhood*** (series). Bo is used to it being just her and her mom, but now must adjust to a music-minded blended family that is much larger, louder, and complex than she ever imagined.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. ***The Winter of the Dollhouse.*** Eleven-year-old Tiph doesn't feel like she fits in with her blended family or her school until she meets an old lady, her dog, and a dollhouse.

Stead, Rebecca. ***The Lost Library.*** When a mysterious little free library (guarded by a large orange cat) appears overnight, Evan plucks two books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

Warga, Jasmine. ***A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall.*** When Rami sees a floating girl in the museum where his mom works, he knows he has seen her somewhere before—she looks just like the girl in a painting that has gone missing.

Yee, Lisa. ***The Misfits*** (series). An elite group of underdogs trained to fight crime must save their unique school from shutting down.

Yang, Kelly. ***Front Desk*** (series). English isn't 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 under the nose of the mean motel owner.