



Title I Program *December Book List*



2011 Choice Awards

The booklist this month features “Choice” Books recommended by children, teachers and librarians around the country. Each year “Choice” Booklists are compiled by the International Reading Association and these are a few favorites from the various lists. For information on past years’ booklists, visit International Reading Association.org.

Title	<u>Grades Pre-K - 2</u>	Author
Chalk An incredible wordless picture book comes to life when children find a bag of chalk at the park and begin to draw. Each illustration is meticulously painted by hand. The magic chalk will surprise all “readers” who can create their own words with the story.		Bill Thomson, Marshall Cavendish
Seed Soil Sun This book has vibrant photographs with lots of details for children to see. It opens with hands showing a wide variety of seeds. We then watch corn grow. This book complements science curricula and demonstrates where food actually comes from rather than just the grocery store.		Cris Peterson
How Rocket Learned to Read A little, yellow bird is determined to get a dog named Rocket to read. This story allows the readers to see and hear the progress of reading. It reminds us that everything takes time. This book makes learning to read very appealing.		Tad Hills
Banana Comical illustrations paired with two keywords, <i>banana</i> and <i>please</i> , provide a message about sharing. The banana-colored cover featuring a bug-eyed, all-arms-and-tail monkey provides a humorous, attractive backdrop for exploring appropriate times to shout and to use kind words.		Ed Vere
City Dog, Country Frog A country frog befriends a city dog that is new to the country. They go through the seasons together sharing each other’s games. In winter, country frog doesn’t return. City dog carries on the tradition with a new country friend.		Mo Williems, III, Jon J. Muth
If You’re A Monster and You Know It This is a delightful parody of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” in which children are invited to snort, growl, smack, stomp, twitch, wiggle, and roar.		Rebecca and Ed Emberley
Let’s Save the Animals The semi-elliptical shape of this book and gorgeous collages of animals in their habitat, interspersed with facts and action-oriented text, perfectly combine to present animal protection and activism to young children. Several child-centered activism activities found at the end of the book are helpful for exploring the interconnectedness of our world.		Frances Barry
Taking Care of Mama A raccoon family tells the sick mother to stay in bed while they take care of the house. They realize taking care of a family is hard work. Children will enjoy the story’s humor and simple rhymes.		Mitra Modarressi
	<u>Grades 3-5</u>	
The Buffalo Are Back Incorporating history and environmental awareness, we learn what happens when the prairie environment is decimated and nearly all buffalo are killed. A herd of 300 buffalo survive to begin the renewal of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, a protected patch of land, in Kansas. Thanks to this assertive effort, there are more than 200,000 buffalo in existence today. Brilliant watercolor illustrations illustrate this story.		Jean Craighead George
Stand Straight, Ella Kate This fictionalized picture book, told in first person, shows how one lady deals with being 8 feet tall. At a time when many young women had no opportunities to travel, Ella embraced her height and appeared in museums, exhibitions, traveling circus shows, and even a world’s fair. This is an excellent choice for students who have to deal with being “different.”		Kate Klise



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Adrian Peterson

Football-loving children will tackle the colorful photos, captions, and text to learn about NFL star Adrian Peterson. Be inspired by Peterson's work ethic, big dreams, and service projects while reading from the series Football Heroes Making a Difference.

Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters

Hang on tight as you imagine yourself on the best roller coaster rides in the world. This engaging book in the World's Biggest series offers photos, statistics, a brief narrative, and suggested books and websites for further exploring amusement parks and roller coaster rides.

The Odious Ogre

Ogre has a terrible reputation. He easily devours anything or anyone in his path, until he meets someone who is kind to him. Children will enjoy the Ogre's adventures and will respond to the surprising way this bully is stopped.

Young Zeus

With a splash of humor, Karas simplifies volumes of Greek mythology surrounding the life of Zeus and his family into an interesting and captivating picture book. This book serves as a great place to begin exploration into the Greek gods.

Older Than the Stars

Children will explore atoms, stars, planets, and the development of sea creatures and animal life on Earth while reading this cumulative rhyme. Fascinating illustrations enrich the text and help children understand the "big bang theory."

Grades 6-8

Henry's Aaron Dream

Lavish illustrations accompany this biography of baseball legend, Hank Aaron, from his days of playing sandlot ball to the Negro Leagues to the Atlanta Braves.

Lafayette and the American Revolution

The Marquis de Lafayette was just 19 years old when he defied his family and the king of France to come to the United States to join the patriots.

Shooting Kabul

Fadi's family flees to California from Taliban-ruled Afghanistan just prior to the September 11th attacks in New York City. Fadi must adapt to his new home and find a way to return to Afghanistan to retrieve his sister, who was accidentally left behind.

Palace Beautiful

Two sisters and their new friend learn about the influenza epidemic of 1918 after they find a diary written by a girl who experienced it firsthand.

Blindsided

Fourteen-year-old Natalie faces many hurdles as she deals with the fact that she is going blind. The book raises awareness about a population that is often overlooked. Students can relate to Natalie's situations and will be inspired by her courage.

The Dreamer

The Dreamer is a fictional story based on the childhood of the poet Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Peace prize winner. Just like the real Neruda, the main character in the story spends his days dreaming of the world.

The Grimm Legacy

Elizabeth gets a job at a library that houses the magical Grimm collection. When objects from the library's collection start to disappear, Elizabeth and her coworkers must solve the crime. Magic combs, boots, and carpets alight in this fantasy novel.

The Red Pyramid

Sadie and her brother Carter accompany their dad to the British Museum. Dad destroys the Rosetta Stone and disappears. Landing in a world of Egyptian gods, the kids learn to read hieroglyphics and find out that their task is to save humanity.

Michael Sandler

Meish Goldish

Norton Juster

G. Brian Karas

Karen C. Fox

Matt Tavares

Russell Freedman

N.H. Senzai

Sarah DeFord Williams

Priscilla Cummings

Pam Muñoz Ryan

Polly Shulman

Rick Riordan