

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS ADULTS WILL ENJOY

As of January 1, 2010, The books listed below are available for checkout through the Union County Public Library. Visit them online at: <http://www.union.lib.nc.us/>

### Picture Books (preschool - grade 3)

- Boulton, Jane            ONLY OPAL (This is the diary of a young orphan in a 19th century Oregon lumber camp.) E WHIT
- Bunting, Eve            BUTTERFLY HOUSE (A little girl and her grandfather work together to hatch butterfly larvae.) E BUNT  
SMOKY NIGHT (During the L.A. riots, a young boy and his mother discover new friends and realize that background and nationality do not matter.)  
E BUNT
- Cooney, Barbara        MISS RUMPHIUS (The story follows the life of Miss Rumphius from childhood to old age. Miss Rumphius decides what she wants to do with her life, and then achieves her goals.) E COON
- Cowen-Fletcher, J      IT TAKES a VILLAGE (On market day in a small Benin village, Yemi tries to watch her energetic little brother and finds that the entire village is watching out for him too.) E COW
- Edwards, Pamela      BAREFOOT: ESCAPE on the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD [A group of forest animals help a runaway slave escape his pursuers.] E EDWA
- Falconer, Ian           OLIVIA (Olivia is a feisty piglet with too much energy for her own good.)  
E FALC
- Isaacs, Anne           SWAMP ANGEL (This is an original tall tale. Words and pictures blend together to tell a wonderful tale of mythical proportions.) E ISAA
- Johnson, Angela      THOSE BUILDING MEN (This tale recalls the unheralded men whose labors served to build the canals, roads, railroads, bridges, and towering buildings of the United States.) E JOHN
- Lawson, Julie          EMMA and the SILK TRAIN (The story is based on an actual silk train derailment in 1927 along the Fraser River in British Columbia; Emma's adventure is the fiction part of the story.) E LAWS
- Leedy, Lauren          MEASURING PENNY (Lisa learns about the mathematics of measurement by measuring her dog Penny with all sorts of units, including inches, dog biscuits, cotton swabs, and other dogs.) E LEED
- Lionni, Leo              ALEXANDER and the WIND-UP MOUSE (Alexander, a despised house mouse, meets a child's beloved wind-up toy mouse. The contrast between Alexander's unhappy life and the life of the pampered toy mouse makes Alexander feel sorry for himself. When he learns about a way to earn a magic wish, Alexander uses his wish to turn the wind-up mouse into a real mouse.) E LION

Littlesugar, Amy	FREEDOM SCHOOL, YES! (Tells the story, through the eyes of Jolie, of one brave teacher, nineteen-year-old Annie, and the courageous family who take her in.) E LITT
McBrier, Page	BEATRICE'S GOAT (A young girl's dream of attending school in her small Ugandan village is fulfilled after her family is given an income-producing goat; based on a true story about the work of Project Heifer.) E MCBR
Millman, Isaac	MOSES GOES to a CONCERT (Moses and his schoolmates, all deaf, attend a concert where the orchestra's percussionist is also deaf; includes illustrations in sign language and a page with the manual alphabet.) E MILL
Mitchell, Margaree	UNCLE JED'S BARBERSHOP (This book teaches about perseverance. If you are trying to reach a goal and have a difficult time attaining it, this book will keep you going forward.) E MITZ
Polacco, Patricia	The KEEPING QUILT (A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family.) E POLA THANK YOU, MR FALKER (Trish loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb until, in fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem.) E POLA THUNDERCAKE (Grandma finds a way to dispel her grandchild's fear of thunderstorms.) E POLA
Rylant, Cynthia	AN ANGEL FOR SOLOMON SINGER (This is a story about the life of a man who travels around the city where he lives, looking for things that are special to him.) E RYLA
San Souci, Robert D.	The SNOW WIFE (When a Japanese woodcutter breaks his promise and describes his encounter with a terrifying snow woman, he loses his wife and must make a dangerous journey to win her back.) E SAN
Say, Allen	GRANDFATHER'S JOURNEY (This is a sensitive and poignant story of a Japanese man who came to explore America around the turn of the century. It demonstrates the strong emotions evoked by one man's love for two countries and two cultures. It shows that it is possible to love two countries equally well and to discover that as soon as you are in one, you long for the other. The book raises an awareness of the immigrant experience in a tone that is both simple and subtle.) E SAY
Schachner, Judith	The GRANNYMAN (Simon the cat is so old that most of his parts have stopped working, but just when he is ready to breathe his last breath, his family brings home a kitten for him to raise.) E SCHA
Scieszka, Jon	The FROG PRINCE CONTINUED (After the Princess kissed the frog, he turned into a handsome prince and they lived happily ever after...or did they?) E SCIE The STINKY CHEESE MAN (A humorous collection of traditional fairy tales with a wicked twist.) E SCIE The TRUE STORY of the THREE LITTLE PIGS (This book tries to show that the Wolf from The Three Little Pigs does not necessarily have to be "Big" and "Bad.") E SCI
Sendak, Maurice	WHERE the WILD THINGS ARE (The adventure of a boy named Max whose imagination comes alive when he is sent to his room.) E SEND
Step toe, John	MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS (A beautiful African tale that has been compared to the familiar story of Cinderella.) E STEP

Thomas, Joyce	I HAVE HEARD of a LAND (The book describes the joys and hardships experienced by an African-American pioneer woman who staked a claim for free land in the Oklahoma territory.) E THOM
Thompson, Lauren	ONE RIDDLE, ONE ANSWER (A sultan's daughter who loves numbers and riddles devises a plan to find the man who is best suited to be her husband.) E THOM
Young, Ed	LON PO PO (A Chinese variation of the familiar Little Red Riding Hood story.) E YOUN
Zemach, Margot	IT COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE: a YIDDISH FOLK TALE (Unable to stand his overcrowded, noisy home any longer, a poor man seeks advice from the Rabbi.) E ZEMA

**Juvenile Fiction (grades 4 - 6 reading level)**

Avi	ABIGAIL TAKES the WHEEL (When the first mate of the freight boat Neptune falls ill, Abigail, the captain's daughter, steers the ship up the Hudson River from New Jersey to New York City.) JF AVI
Base, Graeme	The ELEVENTH HOUR (When Horace turns 11, he celebrates in grand style by inviting his friends to a splendid party. When the time comes for the birthday banquet, a most curious mystery will be revealed.) JF BASE
Bruchac, Joseph	HEART of a CHIEF (An eleven-year-old Penacook Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father's alcoholism, a controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, and insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school and nearby town.) JF BRUC
Clements, Andrew	FRINDLE (Clever 5th grader Nick invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.) JF CLEM
Curtis, Christopher	BUD, NOT BUDDY (10-year-old orphaned Bud sets out during the Depression to find the man he believes is his father, a famous bandleader.) JF CURT
Dadey, Debbie	CHEROKEE SISTER (Because she is mistaken for an Indian, 12-year-old Allie, a white girl, is forced to travel the Trail of Tears with her best friend, a young Cherokee.) JF DADE
Dahl, Roald	CHARLIE and the CHOCOLATE FACTORY (Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory is opening at last, and only five lucky children will be allowed inside. What they find is even wilder than any of the wild rumors they've heard!) JF DAHL
Gantos, Jack	JOEY PIGZA SERIES (Joey is a troubled kid with a solid center of goodness. He tells his own story, and it reads like a ride in a car without brakes.) JF GANT
Gutman, Dan	BASEBALL CARD ADVENTURES SERIES (Joe has an ability to travel back in time through vintage baseball cards and encounters various adventures.) JF GUTM

- Hale, Marian            The TRUTH ABOUT SPARROWS (Twelve-year-old Sadie promises that she will always be Wilma's best friend when their families leave drought-stricken Missouri in 1933, but, once in Texas, Sadie learns that she must try to make a new home—and friends, too.) JF HALE
- Hest, Amy                WHEN JESSIE CAME ACROSS the SEA (Jessie is a Jewish girl who gets a chance to come to America. She uses her lace making ability to earn money to bring her grandmother to America also. This story of immigration is filled with hope and happiness.) JF HEST
- Hopkinson, Deborah    A BAND of ANGELS (This is a true story about the preservation of many of the old African American spirituals that were on the verge of being forgotten. It is a great book for sharing a story about one strong woman and human beings who find a way to triumph in the face of adversity.) JF HOPK
- Hunter, Sara             The UNBREAKABLE CODE (This story portrays the quiet pride of a Navajo code talker as he explains to his grandson how the Navajo language, faith, and ingenuity helped win World War II.) JF HUNT
- Kalman, Esther         TCHAIKOVSKY DISCOVERS AMERICA (Eleven-year-old Jenny, whose family came from Russia to America to start a new life, meets the famous Russian composer on his 1891 trip to the New World and writes about it in her diary.) JF KALM
- Mochizuki, Ken         BASEBALL SAVED US (During World War II, a young Japanese-American boy and his family are sent to an internment camp after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Despondent in their desolate surroundings, father and son pull the camp together to build a baseball diamond and form a league.) JF MOCH
- Polacco, Patricia       The BUTTERFLY (This story pays homage to those who have stood up against oppression, those who have shown courage, and those who know the joy of true friendship.) JF POLA  
PINK and SAY (This story highlights the brief but intimate friendship of two young boys during the Civil War.) JF POLA
- Silverstein, Shel        The GIVING TREE (This book tells the story of a boy and a tree that are friends.) JF SILV
- Springer, Nancy        ENOLA HOLMES SERIES (In late nineteenth-century London, fourteen-year-old Enola Holmes, much younger sister of detective Sherlock Holmes, encounters various mysteries to solve.) JF SPRIN
- Van Allsburg, Chris    The STRANGER (The enigmatic origins of the stranger that farmer Bailey hits with his truck and brings home to recuperate seem to have a mysterious relation to the weather. Could he be Jack Frost?) JF VAN AL
- Various Authors        AMERICAN GIRL SERIES (These books aim to teach aspects of American history through a six book series from the perspective of a nine-year-old girl living in that time period. Although written for the eight to thirteen-year-old target market, they endeavor to cover significant topics such as poverty, racism, slavery, animal abuse, and war in manners appropriate for the understanding and sensibilities of young girls.)

Wiles, Deborah      EACH LITTLE BIRD THAT SINGS (Down-home characters, a loyal dog, and wonderfully touching messages concerning love and loss give this book a feel that will bring to mind "Because of Winn Dixie.") JF WILE  
 FREEDOM SUMMER (In this fictional story, friends Joe and John Henry learn firsthand the hard and true facts about racism. But they also learn the importance of sticking together as friends, even when times are hard. These boys express emotion and anger but know that together they can overcome the issues of racism in their town.) JF WILE

Yin      COOLIES (A young Chinese-American boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather who came to the U.S. to make a better life for himself by helping to build the transcontinental railroad.) JF YIN

**Juvenile Nonfiction**

Bjork, Christina      LINNEA in MONET'S GARDEN (This realistic fiction, in which a young girl travels to Paris, was mainly written to tell about the life and work of Claude Monet.) J 759.4 BJOR

Borden, Louise      FLY HIGH: The STORY of BESSIE COLEMAN (Discusses the life of the determined African American woman who went all the way to France in order to earn her pilot's license in 1921.) J 921 COLE

Coerr, Eleanor      SADAKO (A book about the spirit and bravery of a young Japanese girl.) J 921 SADA

Cooney, Barbara      ELEANOR (The privileged though painful childhood of First Lady and humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt (1844-1962) is chronicled with tenderness and care in Cooney's memorable picture book biography.) J 921 ROOS

Lauber, Patricia      WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT FINGERS, FORKS, AND CHOPSTICKS (The book discusses changes in eating customs throughout the centuries and the origins of table manners.) J 394.12 LAUB

McCully, Emily      The PIRATE QUEEN (Born to a seafaring family, Grania O'Malley was born with the mark of a sailor. She captained her own ship and was robbed of her ships, her wealth, and most of her land, before turning to a woman more powerful and more dangerous than herself - Queen Elizabeth I.) J 921 OMAL

Ryder, Joanne      LITTLE PANDA: The WORLD WELCOMES HUA MEI at the SAN DIEGO ZOO (The story chronicles the adorable panda's first year as she grows from a four-ounce newborn to a curious, playful cub.) J 599.789 RYDE

San Souci, Robert D.      CENDRILLON (A Creole variant of the familiar Cinderella tale set in the Caribbean and narrated by the godmother who helps Cendrillon find true love.) J 398.2 SAN  
 The FAITHFUL FRIEND (A retelling of the traditional tale from the French West Indies in which two friends encounter love, zombies, and danger on the island of Martinique.) J 398.21 SAN

Sandburg, Carl      POETRY for YOUNG PEOPLE (This book displays the range of everyday topics in which Sandburg found beauty, humor, or pathos. Unfamiliar words are helpfully defined in footnotes...and an introductory biographical essay establishes a context for the poems.) J 811.52 SAND

- Stanley, Diane      BARD of AVON (A brief biography of the world's most famous playwright, using only historically correct information.) J 921 SHAK
- Schwarz, David      IF YOU HOPPED LIKE a FROG (This book introduces the concept of ratio by comparing what humans could do if they had bodies like different animals.) J 513.24 SCHW
- Zelinsky, Paul O.      RAPUNZEL (A retelling of the German folktale in which a beautiful girl with long golden hair is kept imprisoned in lonely tower by a sorceress.) J 398.2 ZELI

**Books on Grammar**

- Heller, Ruth      BEHIND the MASK: a BOOK about PREPOSITIONS (Explores through rhyming text the subject of prepositions and how they're used.) J 428.220 HELL
- A CACHE of JEWELS and OTHER COLLECTIVE NOUNS (Rhyming text and illustrations introduce a variety of collective nouns such as a "drift" of swans a "clutch" of eggs.) J 428.1 HELL
- KITES SAIL HIGH: A BOOK about VERBS (This book is a fun way to introduce or review verbs. The rhyming text makes this book fun to read aloud.) J 415 HELL
- MANY LUSCIOUS LOLLIPOPS: A BOOK about ADJECTIVES (This book on adjectives even covers the demonstrative and possessive adjectives in our language and is a must have for foreign language teachers who wish to sneak in English grammar in a cute, fun way.) J 428.220 HELL
- MERRY-GO-ROUND: A BOOK about NOUNS (Rhyming text and illustrations present explanations of the various types of nouns and rules for their usage.) J 425 HELL
- MINE, ALL MINE (This book introduces various types of pronouns, explains how and when to use them, and provides whimsical glimpses of what our language would be without them.) J 428.2 HELL

**This list is a good general guide, but please feel free to ask UCPL's children's staff for specific recommendations. We are happy to help you find the perfect book at just the right level for your student!**

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