What Is the Children’s Choices Project?

Each year 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children’s and young adults’ trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children’s Choices, selected from more than 500 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. This list, a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and The Children’s Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.
Bandit

Moving can be stressful for anyone, but Bandit the family cat is totally confused. Written through the eyes of a cat, this book can offer children some useful insights on how to make moving easier for their pets. (Team 4)

Bats at the Library

The combination of pictures and story add to the fun of reading about bats that take on human qualities and actions. The addition of characters from other books makes this library adventure even more enjoyable. (Team 1)

Cottonball Colin

Colin, the smallest mouse child in the family, is not allowed to go outside to explore. Mother is too worried he might get hurt until Grandma suggests wrapping him in cotton. Children with overprotective parents can immediately relate to Colin. This story could generate a discussion on self-esteem, independence, and natural curiosity. (Team 4)

Doctor Meow’s Big Emergency

Dr. Meow, who works at Kiss-it-Better Hospital, is a busy feline doctor making her patient rounds and responding to an emergency call. Students can relate to her thoughtful message on bullying and friendship. This book could fit an occupation theme in social studies and generate rich imaginative role-playing among kindergarten students. (Team 4)

Don’t Worry Bear

This predictable text follows a friendship between a bear and a caterpillar. With each page turn, Bear worries about his friend out in the world and then is happy to see his friend transformed into a beautiful silk moth. (Team 2)

The Donut Chef

A creative donut chef tries to outbake his new neighbor. One day, a little girl comes into the shop looking for a plain glazed donut. The reader is left with the comfort of having listened to a sweet story. (Team 2)

Goodnight Goon: A Petrifying Parody

This book is a parody of a classic tale familiar to many children. It twists the classic story with the use of rhyme and creatures such as mummies, werewolves, and one naughty goon who is sent to sleep under the bed. (Team 3)

I’m the Best Artist in the Ocean
Kevin Sherry. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers.

Beautifully illustrated with watercolors, cut paper, and squid ink, children are immediately drawn to this picture book. Children love the large poster-sized last pages and the easy-to-read text. (Team 2)

Katie Loves the Kittens

Katie’s exuberance for the three new kittens at home is almost too much to handle. Being a dog gets her into trouble as she howls and chases the kittens. She even lets them sleep on her. (Team 1)

A Kitten Tale

This is the story of kittens discovering snow for the first time. Three kittens worry as they wait, but the positive attitude of the kitten that “can’t wait” shows the others how wonderful life with snow can be. (Team 1)
**Maybe a Bear Ate It!**

Imagine you’ve lost your favorite book and then discover that a bear ate it. Characters who are portrayed by young animals add to the story. This book is cleverly written and illustrated to engage the young reader. (Team 1)

**No Hugs Till Saturday**

Felix the dragon is reprimanded by his mama for misbehaving. He decides that his mama will not receive any hugs for a whole week! But a week is a long time for mama and Felix. Can they last that long? (Team 3)

**The Pigeon Wants a Puppy**

This fourth installment about Pigeon has him begging the reader for a puppy and promising to take care of it. When a puppy arrives, he changes his mind and asks for a walrus. (Team 2)

**Princess Baby**

This baby does not like the nicknames that her family has given her. She wants to be called Princess Baby, and for good reasons. After all, she dances with princes and has her own kingdom. (Team 3)

**Red Truck**

Red truck saves the day when a school bus full of children spins out and is unable to climb the hill. Like *The Little Engine that Could*, this story sends a message of triumph through hard work and determination. Stories that teach messages of self-esteem through encouragement and determination should always have a place in libraries and children’s lives. (Team 4)

**Sally and the Purple Socks**

Sally has ordered a pair of purple socks. She wears them everywhere, but they begin to stretch and take over her yard. Once it rains, however, the socks are the perfect socks to wear for the upcoming winter. (Team 3)

**The Sandman**

This fantasy tale reveals who the Sandman is and what is sprinkled into your eyes to help you sleep. Tor, the Sandman, grinds down dragon scales and travels the town sprinkling it into the eyes of the wakeful young. (Team 3)
Sort It Out!

Packy the Pack Rat needs to sort out his large collection. Children are motivated to participate in the reading through the use of realistic illustrations and rhyme. Categorizing is modeled and alternative sorting is encouraged through a humorous story ending. (Team 3)

Those Darn Squirrels!

Children are mesmerized and laugh out loud at the antics these contriving squirrels go through to reach birdfeeders. Whimsical and entertaining are two words that describe the illustrations and story that put man and squirrel at battle over feeders. Students are inspired to share squirrel stories after reading this book. (Team 4)

'Twas the Day Before Zoo Day

In this clever adaptation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, all the animals are preparing for Zoo Day—they burp, they spit, and they act like animals. What will Zoo Day bring? (Team 1)

Twelve Terrible Things

This book is filled with 12 terrible things. Each one is sure to make little children moan, groan, or stutter with fear. Every child can relate to terrible things. This is a great book for engaging children in conversations. (Team 2)

Twenty-six Princesses

The blend of humorous rhymes, unique princess names, and colorful illustrations makes this rhyming alphabet book one of this year’s favorites. (Team 2)

The Way Back Home

The concept of aliens lives in the minds of many children. In this delightful book, one boy and one alien both crash land on the moon. A friendship begins as they figure out ways to get back to their homelands. This book is a good catalyst for conversations about friendship and the power of working together when problem solving. (Team 4)

We’re Going on a Lion Hunt

In this book, the teacher takes kids on an imaginary safari. The illustrations are wonderful and add to the adventure of the lion hunt. It is a
perfect story to engage new readers. Imagine coming face to face with a lion! (Team 1)

What a Trip!

As Mel is walking, he trips and lands in another dimension where everything is pointy. When he returns, no one will believe his story. Clever illustrations add to the silly premise. Imagine everything different! (Team 1)

What Does Mrs. Claus Do?

Ever wonder what Mrs. Claus does while Santa is away on Christmas Eve? Several suggestions for what she does are shared in this book. Possibly she hosts a ball, or organizes the business of Christmas, or watches Santa’s back on his journey? (Team 3)

Where’s My Mummy?

Unusual bedtime companions—skeleton, swamp monster, and vampire—help Baby Mummy ease into his bedtime routine. Children will recognize that Baby’s bedtime tactics get him some extra snuggles from Mummy. (Team 2)

Who Ate All the Cookie Dough?

Rhyming, repetitive text makes this book an instant favorite among young readers. Mother kangaroo is trying to make cookies, but someone ate all the cookie dough. She asks all the animals only to discover that it was Baby Kangaroo. A good book for guided and choral reading. Beginning independent readers also like the repetitive structure of language. (Team 4)

You Can’t Go to School Naked!

Naturally the idea of someone going to school naked attracts a lot of attention. In this wildly funny story, the author puts forth all the pros and cons of going to school without clothes. Many times adults just say no without an explanation to a child’s request. This book can work as a model for discussing concrete reasons why we cannot or should not do certain things. (Team 4)
Children’s Choices (Grades 3–4)

Babymouse #8: Puppy Love
Babymouse has had her challenges with pets, but she is certain getting a dog will be different. Pet owners and other readers will laugh themselves silly with her rationalization and side comments about owning a pet. The graphic novel format in this book works well for beginning readers who are in transition to chapter books. The book naturally generates many pet stories, too. (Team 4)

Babymouse #9: Monster Mash
This book, in the popular Babymouse series, takes place prior to and during Halloween. In this episode, Babymouse feels forced to give into some bullies who expect her to do as they tell her—a situation that many children find familiar. The graphic format of this book series is attractive to reluctant readers. It is a good book for discussing bully behavior and alternative ways of problem solving when faced with bad situations. (Team 4)

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness
Colin Thompson. La Jolla, CA: Kane/Miller Book Publishers.
The detailed illustrations and story involving a three-legged dog, a boy, and his grandmother lead to an understanding of what is important in life—a sense of belonging. (Team 3)

Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman
This fascinating biography chronicles the events before and after the creation of Superman comics. One lesson the creators of Superman convey to young people in this book is getting legal advice before you sell rights to the characters you create. The book serves as an inspiration for young authors and illustrators and as a starting point for a discussion on plagiarism and copyright issues. (Team 4)

Car Science: An Under-the-Hood, Behind-the-Dash Look at How Cars Work
Get ready to create a waiting list for this fascinating nonfiction book on cars that attracts boys like a candy store. From auto parts to driving and everything in between, this book is great for inspiring boys and reluctant readers. The book generates some timely discussion on an industry that is in serious financial trouble. (Team 4)

Dr. Frankenstein’s Human Body Book
In this book, the reader becomes the assistant to Dr. Frankenstein, helping to create a human being. Interesting photos and illustrations show how the body works, and the well-written text adds to the importance of this book. (Team 1)

Easy Earth-Friendly Crafts in 5 Steps
Children can easily follow the five-step directions and colorful photographs in this book as they transform everyday objects such as cardboard juice containers and egg cartons into crafty hippos, helicopters, and more. (Team 2)

Florida Panthers: Struggle for Survival
The Florida Panther is considered one of the most endangered animals in the world. This informational book explains their struggle for survival through meaningful text and striking color photos. (Team 3)

How Strong Is It? A Mighty Book All About Strength
This nonfiction book features amazing digital images and compares the strength of 22 different objects or animals, included such wonders as hair strength, a shark bite, a martial arts kick, glue, an icebreaker and many more. From math to science,
this book offers possibilities and projections for science projects, math extrapolations, and discussion about the popular television show, MythBusters. (Team 4)

**How to Speak Cat!**

Young readers of this book can find answers about adopting, growing up with, and living with a cat. Bright photos and interesting text add to the value of this book—a fun read for the cat owner and the soon-to-be cat owner alike. (Team 1)

**How to Speak Dog!**

This is a must-read for every child who owns a dog. Colorful photographs, dog facts, top tips, quick quizzes, step-by-step directions, and checklists engage the reader in learning all about caring for their favorite canine. (Team 2)

**I, Vivaldi**

In this story, readers are taught about Antonio Vivaldi by Antonio Vivaldi. The biography starts from his birth. The illustrations along with the text tell the story of the famous classical musician who lived and wrote in Venice. (Team 1)

**Magic Tree House #40: Eve of the Emperor Penguin**

Readers of this book are magically taken to Antarctica and learn about the majestic penguins and the search for the secrets that are needed to return to Camelot. Reality, fiction, and fantasy keep the reader engaged. (Team 1)

**Manny Ramirez and the Boston Red Sox: 2004 World Series**

The perfect story for the young sports enthusiast, this book touches on ethnic pride and talent. It is filled with action photos and good, strong text that will encourage boys to read. (Team 1)

**One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference**

An inspiring multicultural story about a West African boy who makes a difference for his family and his community using microfinance loans. The strength of one person and one hen can make a difference. (Team 3)
One Million Things: A Visual Encyclopedia
New York: DK Publishing.
With 1,000,000 things to choose from in this nonfiction book, a great deal of information holds readers’ attention over multiple sittings. The photos and information packed in this book are an excellent resource for any classroom or library. This is a quick reference book for inquisitive students seeking information for reports, further study, or plain curiosity. (Team 4)

Pararescuemen in Action
Pararescuemen appeals to students who are interested in the military and adventure. The author uses photos of a recent event (Hurricane Katrina) to show how these specially trained people can help in a crisis situation anywhere in the world. (Team 2)

Puppy Power
What happens when you discover that you possess bully-like behavior? This book provides such a scenario in which Fran must learn self-control to maintain the lead role in the school play and keep her pet puppy. This book works as a good read-aloud and for discussing the consequences of bullying in the classroom. (Team 4)

Singing to the Sun: A Fairy Tale
Lords, ladies, a prince, princesses, a jester, and a tabby cat share the conflict between power, wealth, and love. Readers are surprised by the ending of this book when the value of wisdom is revealed. (Team 3)

Sir Reginald’s Logbook
Matt Hammill. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press.
Sir Reginald writes about his hunt for the elusive “Lost Tablet of Illusion.” Comparing the color illustrations of the fantasy tale with the black-and-white illustrations of the reality tale causes humor and laughter for children and adults. (Team 3)

Spooky Cemeteries
The presence of a glossary and a world map add geography and history lessons to this spooky book. It is filled with facts about the chosen cemeteries and enough eeriness to keep young readers on the edge of their seats. (Team 2)

Southern Sea Otters: Fur-tastrophe Avoided
Who could resist these photos intermingled with relevant text on the history of the survival of the
Southern Sea Otters? The cycle of life is presented in an easily understood format showing the interdependence of man and nature. (Team 3)

**Stuck in the Mud**
Jane Clarke. Ill. Garry Parsons. New York: Bloomsbury USA.

Baby chick gets stuck in the mud and so begins a chain reaction of helpers. Kids enjoy the muddy tug of war as the farm animals lend a hand to one of their own. (Team 2)

**Titanicat**

Realistic illustrations and the voice of a young adolescent boy enable children to visualize this story of the Titanic. The historical fiction tale comes to a happy ending for the boy and the cat and kittens he befriends. (Team 3)

**Tom Brady and the New England Patriots: Super Bowl XXXVIII**

Brady’s journey as a football player, from childhood until the 38th Super Bowl, reveals his struggle to play professional football and the importance of teamwork. This informational book uses simple text and colorful action photos to motivate the reader. (Team 3)

**Toy Dance Party**

Six intertwining stories make this a fun read. A toy stingray, a stuffed buffalo, and a plastic rubber ball are best friends. You care about them and their story. (Team 1)

**Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival**
Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery. Ill. Jean Cassels. New York: Bloomsbury USA.

This is the story of an abandoned dog and a blind cat struggling to stay alive in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Young readers show empathy for the two animal characters. (Team 1)

**Underwear: What We Wear Under There**

Although children find the title silly, they are interested and amused to discover the history of undergarments. This book explores types and uses of underwear from loincloths to shirts with SPF protection. A little history is an added bonus! (Team 2)
Welcome to Kit’s World, 1934: Growing Up During American’s Great Depression

This combined historical narrative and nonfiction interactive book provides an excellent look at United States life during the Depression. Initially, students are attracted to the format and then are amazed to learn something about their great grandparent’s childhood. This book is a natural fit for social studies and collecting oral histories from grandparents or others who grew up during the Depression. (Team 4)

Willow

What happens when you let your imagination take over? The art teacher in this book finds out when one of her least favorite students becomes her inspiration and shows her how to lighten up and have fun again. (Team 2)

The Worst Case Scenario Survival Handbook (Junior Edition)

Written with humor and pathos, this book engages the reader while answering basic questions on how to survive growing up. The variety of subjects presented keeps young readers wanting more. Sympathy allows for understanding as youngsters cope with everyday life. (Team 1)

Amulet, Book One: The Stonekeeper
Kazu Kibuishi. New York: Graphix.

In this graphic novel, Emily and Navin search for their mother who has been kidnapped by a beast after the family moves into a creepy mansion. This adventure leaves the reader in suspense waiting for the sequel. (Team 2)

As If Being 13½ Isn’t Bad Enough, My Mother Is Running for President

The honest relationship between Vanessa and her mother, who is running for president of the United States, keeps young readers interested and involved with the lives of the characters. The story helps readers understand that anything is possible. (Team 1)
**Barnaby Grimes: Curse of the Night Wolf**  
This dark story about a young courier in old London takes the reader into a world of mystery, adventure, intrigue, and even horror. The black-and-white illustrations add to the chilling effect of the story. (Team 3)

**The Big Field**  
Hutch, a 14-year-old baseball player must decide what is important in life. Being a team player means giving up his lifetime goal of being a shortstop and playing second base—and watching his father coach the new shortstop. (Team 1)

**Bronte’s Book Club**  
Readers of this book can relate to the group dynamics Bronte Bella, an avid reader and new kid in town, encountered when she tried making new friends by forming a summer book club. The author weaves in the steps and potential problems with running a book club. Reading this book before you start a middle school or neighborhood book club is highly recommended. (Team 4)

**Dance: No Matter What Kind of Dance You Like to Do, This Book Is for You**  
Reading this book allows girls to discover that dance can encourage self-confidence. Readers learn to let go and enjoy the freedom of dancing in school, as a performer, or just for the fun of making it all up. (Team 1)

**Duel! Burr and Hamilton’s Deadly War of Words**  
Dennis Brindell Fradin. Ill. Larry Day. New York: Bloomsbury USA.  
Students are often surprised to learn the details behind the death of the man portrayed on the US$10-dollar bill. Packed into one picture book are brief backgrounds of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr and the events that lead to the most famous duel in U.S. history. This book makes an easy connection with any study of 19th-century history in the United States. (Team 4)

**The Crossroads**  
The past meets the present when Zach, his father, and new stepmother move to his father’s childhood town in Connecticut. Family, ghosts, and friendships are involved in the solving of a 50-year-old mystery. (Team 3)

**The Diamond of Darkhold**  
Lina and Doon have escaped from their underground city and are challenged to live above ground. Children love the adventure and suspense as the characters go back underground to retrieve a device that will bring light to their new world. (Team 2)

**Gods of Manhattan**  
A mysterious magician gives Rory, 13, power to see a fantasy world ruled by Manhattan immortals, such as baseball great Babe Ruth. Children’s interest is peaked as Rory reveals the city to others and deals with dangerous quests and historical fantasy characters. (Team 2)

**It’s Only Temporary**  
Empathy for Skye puts the reader in the middle of her family upheaval, including being sent away to California, having her sketchbook stolen, and trying to retrieve it. A good book for the young female reader. (Team 1)

**Jimmy’s Stars**  
A young girl experiences the perils of war when her older brother Jimmy is drafted. This story of sacrifice and undying devotion keeps readers engaged. The importance of family is emphasized as Ellie continues to believe in Jimmy. (Team 1)

**The Magician (The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel)**  
Traveling through time portals from the United States to Paris, France, 15-year-old twins Sophie and Josh pair up with friendly immortals to combat the Dark Elders and their comrades as they attempt to take over the world. (Team 3)

**My Letter to the World and Other Poems**  
The book size and illustrations attract a great deal of attention from adolescent readers. Isabelle Arsenault’s illustrated interpretations of Emily Dickinson’s poetry create a sense of solemnity and curiosity among readers. This poetry book is a nice addition to the celebration of poetry in schools and also serves as an inspiration for combining visual art and poetry. (Team 4)

**My One Hundred Adventures**  

> Jane breaks out of the mundane and embarks on her summer of adventure. Readers will identify with her as she goes from adventure to adventure. This book is fun and witty but also serious. Jane learns that real life can be painful. (Team 1)

**The Mystery of the Fool and the Vanisher**  

> Students who read this book will want to know if the tale is true. David and Ruth Ellwand magnificently blend photographic art and folklore into a mystery about fairies that will have you scratching your head over the possibility. This book will generate online searches and a platform for fantasy lovers to make a case for the underworld. A good opportunity for a unit of study on folklore is a natural offspring after sharing this book with students. (Team 4)

**Peeled**  

> Young readers are drawn into this story of a strong-willed high school reporter. Ghosts! Mystery! Eerie newspaper headlines! Does “Truth” win out? Written with humor and wit, the book includes believable dialogue and some very interesting characters. (Team 1)

**Pigling: A Cinderella Story**  

> In this Korean version of Cinderella, Pear Blossom’s wicked stepmother and stepsister make her life miserable, but, just as in the classic Cinderella, they are outsmarted in the end. The appealing graphic novel format teaches the reader about Korean customs and culture. (Team 2)

**The Savage**  

> David Almond provides an insider’s view of using writing to deal with feelings of anger in this graphic novel. Blue, the main character finds a way
to face Hopper, the town bully. This book is a good example of using writing as a tool to express your feelings. The main character in this story has a lot of frustration and anger, but dealing with it through writing proves to be a better alternative than physical violence. (Team 4)

**Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger**  
A prince and two knights are on a quest to rid the world of the elusive Foul West Wind and the dastardly Booger. Their journey leads to hilarious encounters with a dragon, princesses, ogres, giants, and an enchanted forest. (Team 3)

**Stolen Children**  
The possibility of kidnapping lures readers to this book. Amy Nordland takes a new babysitting job that ends with the kidnapping of her and a 3-year-old. Amy’s composed and intelligent thinking help the story end on a positive note. The lessons in this book might encourage readers to enroll in babysitting classes. (Team 4)

**Swords: An Artist’s Devotion**  
This beautifully illustrated book shows the history of men and women and the swords they used. From warriors, war maidens, and sultans, details of the types of swords used and why they are used are presented in this informational text. (Team 3)

**Thirteen**  
Thirteen explores a year in the life of a new teen who copes with a bossy older sister, a lonely summer, a high-energy younger brother, plus her mother’s hidden secret. Everything works out, at least until her 14th birthday. (Team 2)

**A Thousand Never Evers**  
This is a beautifully written story of the struggle for racial justice in Mississippi in 1963. The author makes references to significant events in the civil rights movement while developing a suspenseful courtroom drama involving black and white members of a small town. (Team 2)
Totally Crushed (Candy Apple #7)
Seventh graders Annabelle, Phoebe, and Sam survive Spirit Week at middle school. Life is not simple as a middle schooler, and this story exemplifies the difficulty. Friendships, crushes, and family conflicts abound. (Team 3)

The Willoughbys
Lowry weaves folklore and literary heroes and heroines into a whimsical read. Readers are intrigued by the notion of parents outwardly disinterested in their offspring and siblings who agree they might be better off as orphans. Looking for evidence of literary heroes and heroines in this story provides some rich opportunities for literary analysis in a classroom. Comparing this book to the books from A Series of Unfortunate Events adds another level of discussion. (Team 4)

Winning Words: Sports Stories and Photographs
Six short stories about six different sports involving males or females written in the first person allow athlete readers to relate to these stories. Photos enhance the theme of challenging yourself as an athlete. (Team 3)

Zorgamazoo
Written in verse, this delightful and sometimes frightful 280 pages of suspense follows Katrina and a zorgle named Mortimer on an adventure of exploration that takes them into imaginary worlds underground, in hidden cities, and even to the moon. (Team 2)

More About Children’s Choices
Thank you to the 2008–2009 IRA–CBC Joint Committee and Review Teams. Representing IRA on the committee were Jan L. LaBonty, Debra Conroy, Jill Caton Johnson, Diane M. Mallett, Jeanne Swafford, and Mary Cash; those representing CBC were Anamika Bhatnagar, Lee German, Eileen Kreit, Rebecca Miller, and Jeff Reynolds. CBC administrative staff coordinated the teams’ work. The following review teams were responsible for the annotations:

Team 1: California—Jesús Cortez (team leader), Gerry Staab, Anthony Gheller, Lynne Jacobs
Team 2: Connecticut—Susannah Richards (team leader), Carol Barry, Kelly Gelineau, Jo Ellen Devlin, Lucinda Harrington, Carol Faustman, LuAnn Hardacker, Jane Cook, Emily Hebert
Team 3: Tennessee—Deborah Setliff (team leader), Stacey Fisher, Katie Bryant, Hannah Maltby
Team 4: Idaho—Stan F. Steiner (team leader)
Team 5: Illinois—Kelly Place (team leader)

For more information on the CBC and IRA, or on how to become involved in the Children’s Choices project, visit www.cbcbooks.org or www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx.
Tips for Parents, Primary Caregivers, and Educators

**Initial Book Activities**

One of the easiest ways to begin telling the story of a book is through the use of illustrations. Most books for young children are illustrated in great detail, and noting important details related to the characters, plot, and setting will provide a wholesome first literacy activity.

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading books becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- Browse through books to help the child become familiar with books and how they are handled.
- Read the story while the child points to the pictures. Adult and child can repeat interesting sounds, repetitive word patterns, and distinctive word features to the delight of both.
- Have the child tell the story using the illustrations while the adult reinforces the telling. The two can predict outcomes, discuss how the characters feel, and relate the events to their own experiences.
- Read the book to the child and enjoy it together. Retell the story together and talk about the characters, setting, plot, and life experiences.
- Compare the similarities and differences of children’s books available as video productions.
- Have children make responses to the books read through art reproductions such as drawings, or by using clay, papier-mâché, dioramas, or fingerpaints.
- Make regular trips to the library and attend storytelling sessions. Visit bookstores together to begin a personal library for a child.

**Beginning Reading-Level Activities**

Children at this level should be encouraged to browse through books and pretend to read the story—an initial step toward becoming an independent reader. Children may tell the story to themselves or attempt to read frequently highlighted words.

- Read the story as the child points to the pictures on each page.
- Let the child pretend to read the story as the adult points to the pictures.
- Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. The adult models what he or she thinks of when reading the page so the child gets a variety of perspectives on the ways words have different meanings.
- Use computer programs to expand a child’s interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- Compare and contrast video adaptations of children’s books for this and more advanced literacy levels.

**Primary-Grade Book Activities**

- Continue to spend time reading with the child; set aside a specific time and place.
- Be familiar with Children’s Choices books and other high-quality children’s literature.
- Become aware of the interests of your children and books that extend life experiences so they know what happens in the world around them.
- Encourage children to share books read in school with parents and caregivers at home. Parents and caregivers should encourage children to share books they’ve read at home with their teachers and schoolmates.
- Continue to extend the information and knowledge bases through computer programs and other technology that capitalize on topics initiated through reading.

(continued)
Independent Reader Activities

• Challenge readers to compare and contrast books.
• Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction, and poetry.
• Encourage children to read books related to beginning career and vocational choices.
• Seek a balance between school book activities; home and school literature activities; and familiarity with newspapers, magazines, and other text media that address contemporary social, cultural, and civic issues.

Develop the Desire to Be a Lifelong Reader

• Have students bring what is read to bear on what is viewed on film, television, and computer and other media technologies.
• View technology in the reflection of the literature.
• Keep in mind that the most memorable conversations are often filled with anecdotes from literature.
• Relate what has been read to the solution of problems. By internalizing what has been read, we use knowledge and wisdom to solve personal problems, to make significant decisions related to career choices, to find solutions to community and social problems, and to develop healthy attitudes toward a positive world environment.

IRA/CBC Liaison Committee
Jan L. LaBonty, 2007–2008 Cochair
Jeff Reynolds, 2007–2008 Cochair