

***Titles with an asterisk (\*) are also available as audio books!***

**\*Avi - Windcatcher**

While learning to sail during a visit to his grandmother's at the Connecticut shore, eleven-year-old Tony becomes excited about the rumors of sunken treasure in the area and starts following a couple who seem to be making a strange search.

**\*Birdsall, Jeanne - The Penderwicks: A summer tale of four sisters, two rabbits, and a very interesting boy**

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

**Bulla, Clyde Robert - Shoeshine Girl**

Ten-year-old Sarah Ida--hostile and uncooperative at home--becomes less self-centered and more self-reliant after a summer job at her aunt's.

**\*Clements, Andrew - Frindle**

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

**\*Codell, Esme Raji - Sahara Special (series)**

Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

**Colfer, Eoin -The Legend of Spud Murphy**

When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

**\*Cottrell, Frank Boyce - Millions**

It was a one-in-a-million chance. A bag crammed with cash comes tumbling out of the air and lands right at Damian's feet. Suddenly the Cunningham brothers are rich. Very rich. They can buy anything they want. There's just one problem -- they have only seventeen days to spend all the money before it becomes worthless. And the crooks who stole the cash in the first place are closing in -- fast.

**\*Creech, Sharon - Love That Dog**

Jack finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a pencil, some yellow paper, and, of course, a dog.

**\*DiCamillo, Kate - Because of Winn-Dixie**

Ten-year-old Opal moves with her preacher father to a small Florida town. Lonely at first, she meets and adopts an unusual dog, Winn-Dixie, who helps her make unusual friends and let go of her sadness.

**Dowell, Frances O'Roarke - Phineas L. MacGuire Erupts: The First Experiment**

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas Macguire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning.

**\*Estes, Eleanor - The Hundred Dresses**

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson.

**\*Gantos, Jack - Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (series)**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention when his medications wear off and he starts acting weird.

**Gutman, Dan - The Homework Machine**

When three other kids in his fifth-grade class discover that Brenton has invented a machine that does homework, they soon become caught in a secret that spins out of control.

**\*Hannigan, Katherine - Ida B - and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world**

Ida B is a feisty fourth- grader who must face her mother getting cancer, having to forego home-schooling, and getting new neighbors all in one year.

**Jacobson, Jennifer - Truly Winnie (series)**

It's off to summer camp for Winnie, with lots of fun in store. Winnie discovers how complicated life can get, too, as she watches one fib tumble mysteriously and rapidly into the next not-so-little lie.

**Kerrin, Jessica Scott - Martin Bridge, Ready for Takeoff! (series)**

Meet Martin Bridge, a boy whose plans for a brilliant rocket, a substitute bus driver, and a very old hamster go terribly wrong.

**\*Lin, Grace - The Year of the Dog**

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

**Lombard, Jenny - Drita, My Homegirl**

When Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well. Then a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, and the girls become friends.

**Lord, Cynthia - Rules**

Catherine, in an attempt to better interact with her autistic brother, devises a set of rules to regulate his behavior. It is only after meeting another autistic boy at her brother's clinic that she realizes her rules may be flawed.

**\*McKay, Hillary - Saffy's Angel (series)**

When Saffron discovers that she was adopted by her family after her mother died, she is deeply upset. All she remembers of her former life is a stone garden angel. With help from a newfound friend, she sets out on a search for her angel.

**Morgenstern, Susie - Secret Letters From 0 to 10**

Ten-year-old Ernest doesn't know much about his own life. His mother is dead and he lives with his grandmother in an old house with no TV or telephone. Then he meets Victoria and is introduced to a whole new world (and his father, too).

**\*Park, Linda Sue - Project Mulberry**

While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn not just about silkworms, but also about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, patience, and more.

**\*Patron, Susan - The Higher Power of Lucky**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble is determined to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

**Pennypacker, Sara - Clementine (series)**

Third-grader Clementine is a charmingly flawed, quirky character who also happens to be the inventor of the world's first pair of bologna eye-glasses.

**\*Ryan, Pam Munoz - Becoming Naomi Leon**

Naomi's life with her Gram and her little brother is happy until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover her own true identity.

**\*Spinelli, Jerry - Wringer**

As Palmer comes of age, he must either accept the violence of being a wringer at his town's annual Pigeon Day or find the courage to oppose it.

**\*Tolan, Stephanie - Surviving the Applewhites**

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home-schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

**\*VanDraanen, Wendelin - Shredderman: Secret Identity (series)**

Creating a secret identity for himself when he exposes a bully in the school newspaper, Nolan Byrd launches Shredderman.com, a place where truth and justice prevail--and bullies get what's coming to them.

**\*Weeks, Sarah - So Be It**

After spending her life with her mentally handicapped mother and agoraphobic neighbor, 12-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

**\*Williams, Vera B. - Amber was Brave, Essie was Smart**

Amber and Essie are sisters and best friends. To cope with their families hard times, the girls help each other with encouragement and support. Amber and Essie's story is told through 28 free-verse poems.

Real People + Real Problems +  
Real Settings + Real Friendships +  
Real Adventure + Real Solutions =

# REALISTIC FICTION



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**A Suggested  
Reading List For  
Grades 3-5**