Literary Genre Bibliography: Fantasy

Grades K-2


**Summary**: There is a wall in the middle of the book. A knight believes he is on the safe side and the other side is dangerous. As the water starts to rise on the knight’s side of the wall, it turns out that there are many dangerous creatures there. He is saved by a not-bad ogre from the other side of the wall, which is a nice place after all.

**Curricular use**: Preconceived notions are often wrong; look on the inside of a person, not the outside; friendship

**Audience**: The book would appeal K-2nd grade students.


**Summary**: Super cheerful Stick and grumpy bunny Huggie are thrown from a backpack and have adventures on every continent. Each writes a letter every day about their adventure, and their perspectives are wildly and hilariously different.

**Curricular use**: point of view; perspective; positive outlook

**Audience**: The book would appeal to K-3rd grade students.

Grades 3-4


**Summary**: The knights of the round table, who are men and women, have nothing to do. When Merlin tells them about a cave full of dinosaurs, they are off to vanquish the ‘terrible lizards’, with exciting consequences. The novel is highly illustrated and extremely engaging.

**Curricular use**: Reluctant readers; graphic novel fans

**Audience**: The book would appeal to 2nd-4th grade students.


**Summary**: Lily, age ten, goes to stay with her grandma in Australia and encounters Bob in her closet. Bob, a short green creature, has been waiting five years for Lily to come back and help him figure out where he came from and where his family is. Clue by clue, Lily and Bob try to solve the mystery. The story is sweet, humorous, and filled with magic.

**Curricular use**: power of friendship; endurance

**Audience**: The book would appeal to 2nd-5th grade students.

Grades 5-6


**Summary**: First book in a fantasy trilogy. In this fantasy world, Byx, a doglike creature who walks erect and can glide like a squirrel. The human emperor is trying to kill off all of the doglike creatures, so Byx teams up with a wobbyk and a human girl to try and save his species from extinction. Adventure abounds in this great story of friendship.

**Curricular use**: Friendship; conservation; genocide
Audience: The book would appeal to 4th-7th grade students.


Summary: An elfin historian, Brangwain, is entrusted to take a rare jewel from Elfland to the goblins to forge peace between the two kingdoms. Brangwain is not excited about his mission, but his goblin host is thrilled to show him goblin culture. Circumstances forge an unlikely friendship between the two as they eventually run into trouble with both kingdoms. Pen-and-ink drawings illustrate the text and capture the humor and fantastic details of the story.

Curricular use: Friendship

Audience: The book would appeal to 4th - 6th grade students, especially graphic novel fans and those who love Brian Selznick's illustrated novels.

A few more great choices

Grades K-2


Summary: Penelope, a young t-rex, starts school and has trouble controlling her appetite for her classmates. How will she learn to control her appetite and make friends?

Curricular use: Kindness; teamwork; friendship

Audience: The book would appeal to K-2nd grade students.


Summary: A boy visits an art museum and one of the paintings comes to life. He joins the characters from the painting on an adventure around the city. Wordless, with stunning artwork.

Curricular use: Artwork; music; imagination; museums

Audience: The book would appeal to K-2nd grade students.

Grades 3-4


Summary: Marinka’s grandma is a Yaga who guides people to the afterlife. Therefore, their house has chicken legs and travels around the globe to find those who have died. Marinka just wants a true, live friend - someone she can talk to and play with. When Marinka has the chance to make a real friend, she breaks the rules, with terrible consequences. Delightful, creative story.

Curricular use: Friendship; family; afterlife

Audience: The book would appeal to 3-6th grade students.


Summary: This diverse, young urban fantasy involves a young boy spending the day with his Ma, who is a witch. She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they will be safe, but when things go wrong, will the dragons be safe or lost on Brooklyn forever?
Curricular use: African-American fiction; adventure; family

Audience: The book would appeal to 3-4th grade students.

Grades 5-6


Summary: Horror-buff Alex decides he wants to fit in with the high school crowd, so he heads to his apartment’s furnace to burn the horror stories that he writes. On the way, however, he is magically drawn to another apartment where he is trapped by a witch. The only way to survive is to tell her a new horror story each night. How will he survive and escape?

Curricular use: Storytelling; fantasy

Audience: The book would appeal to 5-7th grade students who appreciate dark fantasy.

This year there were an amazing number of books for older readers based on mythology from around the world:


Summary: Based on Hispanic and Latino mythology. Charlie has been taught about the monsters from mythology his whole life; now his family has disappeared and Charlie is thrust into an adventure with these same mythical monsters.


Summary: Based on Mayan mythology. When a plane crashes into the volcano in Zane's backyard, a mysterious girl appears and opens Zane’s eyes to the truth that Mayan magic, gods, and monsters are real. Zane, who is an awkward teen, is forced to embark on a quest to save the world.


Summary: Based on Bengali folk stories. On her twelfth birthday, Kirmala’s parents are kidnapped by a rakkhosh demon and two warrior princes appear at her doorstep. It turns out she is an Indian princess, and she will have to embrace her heritage to save her parents.


Summary: Based on Korean mythology. Space Opera. Min discovers that her brother has deserted the Space Force in search of the legendary Dragon Pearl. Min, who is a shape-sifter, sets out to prove his innocence and will run into mercenaries, ghosts, goblins, dragons, and more.