Grades K-2


Summary: A lying warthog becomes king with devastating results. The lies start off small, and are startling enough that most animals just dismiss him outright. Claiming night is day and rain is dry, the warthog continues to lie to anyone who listens to him. Eventually his lying begins to have the other animals questioning what is right and what they all thought they knew. Slowly some of the other animals begin to question the warthog, and soon they realize that warthog was never what he claimed to be.

Curricular use: RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.

Audience: The book makes a nice read aloud and pairs well with other fables and folktales (i.e. The Boy Who Cried Wolf).


Summary: A graphic novel about two tiny friends who live in an enchanted garden where they make homes out of hollowed-out pumpkins and gourds. When their pal Basil finds that his leaves have been nibbled overnight, the two friends set out to solve the mystery. After a few failed attempts at a solution the two are able to solve the mystery and resolve the problem of Basil’s leaves being eaten.

Curricular use: RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

Audience: A great addition to any graphic novel collection and a wonderful read aloud as well.

Grades 3-4


Summary: When Candice’s parents divorce she and her mother move to a small town in South Carolina, and move into her late grandmother’s house. As Candice begins to settle into her grandmother’s home she discovers a mysterious letter in the attic that promises a treasure to the city if the reader is able to solve a puzzle. Intrigued, Candice begins to investigate the mystery and learns; her grandmother already tried to solve the puzzle with disastrous results, her new neighbor is actually turning out to be a great friend, and the puzzle is much more complicated than she imagined. The story shifts between modern day Lambert South Carolina and the same city in the 1950s. One storyline sets up the beginning of the mystery and the other brings about the final conclusion.

Curricular use: RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character’s thoughts, words, or actions).

Audience: An excellent choice for readers interested in complex mysteries, historical fiction, and/or puzzles/riddles.

**Summary:** Fourth grader Moxie McCoy is the self described world’s greatest fourth grade detective, which is important because the crime of the century just went down at school. Unfortunately for Moxie she is normally part of a crime fighting duo, but her best friend moved away and now she is on her own with this mystery. Drawing on lessons she learned from her role model Annabelle Adams, a fictional detective in her favorite book series, Moxie attacks the mystery with, well, moxie. Along the way she discovers that her brother maybe more than he appears and there might be more than one best friend out there for her.

**Curricular use:** RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

**Audience:** A great choice for reluctant readers, this book includes lots of hilarious illustrations that add to the story and give clues to the mystery.

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**Grades 5-6**


**Summary:** A very unique story with well developed characters. 13-year-old twins Lee and Felix Vickery live at opposite ends of the same house. One lives with his mother and the other lives with their father. Each parent works for a shade and therefore their children are automatically apprenticed to that shade. Unfortunately for the Vickerys the two shades are feuding and therefore forbid the parents to interact with each other or the other shade’s apprentice. This means Lee is not allowed to see his father and Felix is forbidden from seeing his mother, despite living under the same roof. The entire delicate balance is toppled with the death of a local girl; which looks like a murder despite all the authorities saying otherwise.

**Curricular use:** RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story’s or drama’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

**Audience:** A great choice for readers that like mystery, fantasy, or books that are just a bit creepy.


**Summary:** Endearing Mason Buttle is a seventh grader who just can’t catch a break. He is routinely and savagely bullied at school and on the bus, his family life is in shambles, and despite how hard he tries he just can’t make sense of his school work; especially writing. Things are bleak for Mason and are made worse because he is facing all of this alone, because his best friend recently died. The death is mysterious and in fact there is strong evidence that someone intentionally caused the accident. Unfortunately for Mason local law enforcement is convinced that Mason had something to do with it. Things do take a turn for the better when Mason meets Calvin, another seventh grader, and the two heroically face off against the bullies and build an incredible friendship. It’s just too bad that as soon as things start to look up they take another horrible turn, this time it’s Calvin and again the evidence points to Mason.

**Curricular use:** RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

**Audience:** Everyone. This is simply a great book, and would make a wonderful read aloud as well.