

Book Recommendation Bonanza!

“A book is a dream you hold in your hands.”

- author Neil Gaiman

Right now is a terrific time to explore new books, topics, and genres. If you try something and don't love it, try something else! And if it's comforting to read something you've already read, or something you loved in third grade or as a young child, go for it. You are the boss!

Is it OK to re-read a book? YES!

Is it OK to start a book and not finish it? YES!

It is OK to read comics, graphic novels, or the back of the cereal box? YES!

Even though we're stuck at home, books can take us so many places—we can be “armchair travelers” through space and time, right from the comfort of our very own couches, beds, hammocks, forts, etc.... We can experience other times and places and meet people, real and imagined, that we wouldn't otherwise have met. Isn't it interesting to discover how others' lives are similar to and different from our own?

Below I'll list some of my favorite books and series. I hope you will add to the list and make recommendations to classmates, friends, and teachers. Happy reading!

Your friend,
April Jones Prince

Contemporary and Historical Fiction:

A Soft Place to Land by Janae Marks

How to Find What You're Not Looking For by Veera Hiranandani

Efren Divided by Ernesto Cisneros

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

Front Desk trilogy by Kelly Yang

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate (economic diversity)

Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca

Genesis Begins Again by Alicia D. Williams

The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga

Flight of the Puffin by Ann Braden

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks

Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani
The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
The Sky at Our Feet by Nadia Hashimi
The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle by Christina Uss
As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds
Track series by Jason Reynolds
Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan
Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
Fish in a Tree by Linda Mullay Hunt
Love That Dog by Sharon Creech
Moo by Sharon Creech
Louisiana's Way Home (+ Raymie Nightingale and Beverly, Right Here) by Kate DiCamillo
Chirp by Kate Messner
Finding Perfect by Ellie Swartz
The Art of the Swap by Kristine Asselin and Jen Malone
May B. by Caroline Starr Rose
A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck
Small as an Elephant by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
One for the Murphys by Linda Mullay Hunt
The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Adventure:

Breakout by Kate Messner
Escape Under the Forever Sky by Eve Yohalem
The Explorers by Katherine Rundell
Hatchet, Brian's Winter, Brian's Return by Gary Paulsen
Swindle series by Gordon Korman
Island trilogy by Gordon Korman
Masterminds series by Gordon Korman
Pax by Sara Pennypacker
The Graystone Secrets by Margaret Peterson Haddix
I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis

Fantasy:

The Emerald Atlas trilogy by John Stephens
The Bookwanders series by Anna James
Nevermoor series by Jessica Townsend
Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Graphic Novels:

When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Mohamed Omar

Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

Guts by Raina Telgemeier

Smile by Raina Telgemeier

Invisible Emmie by Terri Libenson

Nonfiction:

Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People: Maya Angelou by Bethany Hegedus

Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh

Some Writer! the Story of E.B. White by Melissa Sweet

Kids Fight Plastic by Martin Dorey

Who Was/Where Was/What Was series

From an Idea to... series by Lowey Bundy Sichol

Frenemies in the Family by Kathleen Krull

Lives of the... series by Kathleen Krull

Dog Days of History by Sarah Albee

Poison by Sarah Albee

Life on Surtsey, Iceland's Upstart Island by Loree Griffin Burns

Strange But True by Kathryn Hulick

Lost Cities by Giles Laroche

Two Truths and a Lie series by Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson

Start Now! You Can Make a Difference by Chelsea Clinton

Atlas Obscura for Kids by Dylan Thuras and Rosemary Mosco

Girls Think of Everything by Catherine Thimmesh

Klutz how-to and activity books

Also: MAD LIBS are *great fun* to do with your family, in person or via FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom (or even just over the phone)!

"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray,

Go throw your TV set away!

And in its place you can install

A lovely bookshelf on the wall." 😊

- Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*