What Kids Are Reading:

The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools

With contributions by:
Mary Pope Osborne, S.E. Hinton, Daniel Handler, & Christopher Paul Curtis

Renaissance
Learning™

Make Teaching Exciting and Learning Fun™

What Kids Are Reading:

The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools

CONTENTS

Read, Read, Read

A foreword by Mary Pope Osborne

Children often ask me: When you were a child, did you plan to become an author? I always answer no, because I never even thought about being an author when I was growing up. But I always knew one thing about myself: I loved living in my imagination. As children growing up on Army posts, my brothers, sister, and I spent much of our free time reveling in imaginative play. From pretending that we were performers in the circus to turning our green picnic table into a ship to believing we were living on a horse ranch—we slipped in and out of magical realms that seemed more real than our real lives. In fact, to this day the magic of the imagination has left me with the hazy impression that my brothers and I actually sailed the seas on a green ship my seventh summer, and that my sister and I performed a tumbling act for thousands. When we weren't playing games of pretend, the children in our family were often curled up somewhere reading. Wherever we lived, we made frequent bicycle visits to the local library to check out books. On the ride home, our wire baskets would be filled with Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries, the Little House on the Prairie books, and my brothers' beloved stories of Tarzan.
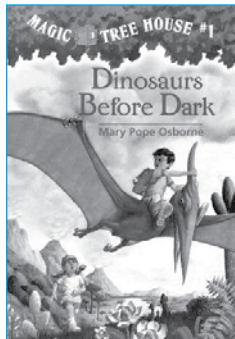
Reading perfectly complemented our imaginative play. A Little House on the Prairie book prompted us to lug giant cardboard boxes across the parade field near our house, pretending we were traveling west. A Tarzan tale sent us swinging from ropes in the woods. I'm certain that it was this combination of childhood reading and imaginative play that led to my becoming an author. It was so much fun I could never give it up.
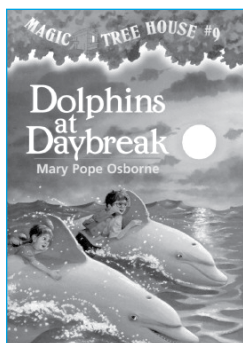
Researchers in child development believe that imaginative play performs an important role in a child's acquiring a sense of self and independence. It helps children learn how to manage their emotions and overcome obstacles. But today most children no longer bicycle freely around their neighborhoods, climb trees, or play in the woods. Toys come with given names and complete personalities. Video games require no more than quick reflexes. DVDs, computers, and television programs devour a child's free hours.

For this reason, I believe reading plays a more important role in the lives of children today than ever before. Among all its other rewards, reading provides the last safe haven for a child's imagination to flourish. In *The Gutenberg Elegies*, Sven Birkerts writes about how he first fell in love with reading as a child. He beautifully extols the miracle of discovering how "a page covered with black markings could, with a slight mental exertion, be converted into an environment, an inward depth populated by characters and animated by diverse excitements." He goes on to tell how such pages of print awakened his inner life.

I have a fantasy that one day a young adult will remember how he or she enjoyed Magic Tree House books as a child. But when they pick up one of the stories, they'll be surprised to discover how thin the book is, how simple the writing. The adult will realize that the rich, full adventures they remember were a product of their collaboration with me. Their own imagination and inner life filled out the text.

A mysterious alchemy all the child's own converts the black markings on a page into precious friends and takes him or her on journeys around the world. As a reader, a child can be an adventurer, an explorer—and most importantly, a creator. *Read, read, read*, that's what I always tell children. Reading is magic.
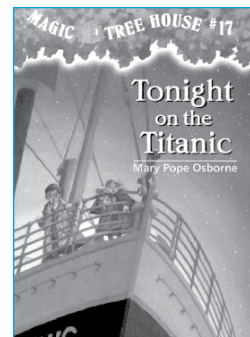
Mary Pope Osborne is an award-winning author of more than one hundred books for children and young adults, including the best-selling Magic Tree House book series. She has received several writing awards from organizations such as the International Reading Association/ Children's Book Council, Parents' Magazine, and the School Library Journal, and several of her titles have appeared on best-books lists.

Photo by Georgia Sheron Photography

Introduction

What Kids Are Reading: The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools is the first comprehensive report to provide detailed information about books school children are actually reading. While Amazon.com and other online booksellers boast lists of best sellers and a local librarian can advise on which books are in frequent circulation, neither can tell you if any of these books were ever opened, much less if they were read cover to cover. Renaissance Learning *has unique insight into the books kids are reading,* and we are pleased to share this information with you for the first time.

On the following pages you will find lists of the top 20 books read in 2007 by students in grades 1–12—overall, by gender, by U.S. region, and by reading achievement level.

How do we know?

At Renaissance Learning, we are in the unique position of having arguably the world's largest single database of student book-reading behavior, captured via Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader (AR) software. For 2007 alone, our database contains a sample of reading records for more than 3 million K–12 students in more than 9,800 schools nationwide who read more than 78 million books.

When I first came to Renaissance Learning, I was astonished to find that the AR database housed such a wealth of information on student reading practice. Having worked on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), I know what a large database looks like, but what I found at Renaissance Learning was truly breathtaking.

Accelerated Reader and other Renaissance Learning reading programs are used in more than 63,000 U.S. schools. Students read books, and then take AR computer quizzes to check if they understand what they have read. AR offers these quizzes for more than 115,000 books—covering virtually every title in a school's library. Accelerated Reader software keeps track of all aspects of student book reading—titles of the books read, quiz scores, number of words read, book readability levels—and provides reports for students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Immediate quiz results help teachers shape subsequent reading instruction and motivate students to continue reading.

Because many schools that use Accelerated Reader also use Renaissance Learning's standardized, computer-adaptive test of general reading achievement, STAR Reading, we also know the reading achievement scores for more than 2 million of the students in the AR database—before and after they gain that valuable book reading practice.

Roy Truby is senior vice president of state and federal programs for Renaissance Learning. He most recently advised on NAEP and assessment issues as an ambassador for the National Center for Education Statistics and Westat to chief state school officers and large urban school district superintendents.

From 1989–2002, Truby was the executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board, which has policy direction over NAEP. Truby has held positions as state school superintendent for Idaho and West Virginia and served as district superintendent in Greenville County, South Carolina. He holds a doctorate in education from the University of Idaho and has taught students in junior high through graduate school.

Why do we care?

To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence,[1] the recently published omnibus report by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) that documents the many negative effects of our nation's reading trends, has put reading—or rather the lack thereof—back in the national spotlight. Not since the National Institute of Education's 1985 publication, *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, has there been such a clarion call for increasing student time spent reading at school and at home.

The NEA report draws three conclusions:
1. Americans are spending less time reading.
2. Reading comprehension skills are eroding.
3. These declines have serious civic, social, cultural, and economic implications.

The NEA's findings, as well as those of NAEP and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), have been strikingly similar for more than a decade.

The NAEP 2000 (4th-grade) report stated, "As with the acquisition of many skills, practice is important to reading development….it is generally agreed that practice in reading develops better readers." The same report went on to say, "Students' reports in 2000 indicate a consistent relationship between the daily amount of reading done in school and for homework and reading performance."

Also in 2000, the international (PISA) study[2] reported that in examining the reading habits of 15-year-old students in 30 countries, "All students who are highly engaged in reading achieve reading scores that are significantly above the national mean, whatever their family background." The study concluded that, "Engagement in reading has the largest median correlation with achievement."

For nearly 13 years, I had the honor of serving as executive director of the National Assessment Governing Board for NAEP. During this time, I actually advised the Board to stop using student and teacher background questions on reading practice, wondering why we needed even more evidence explaining what we already knew. That may have been a mistake, as it is clear that still not everyone is convinced by the overwhelming evidence of the importance of reading practice—including some officials in the U.S. Department of Education who told Reading First educators to not dedicate time for independent book reading in school. Recently, an evaluation of the multibillion dollar Reading First program found that it did not impact students' reading comprehension scores.[3] One wonders whether the program's approach to reading, in which little to no time was dedicated to student reading practice, contributed to its failure.

It is no wonder Dr. Linda Gambrell, president of the International Reading Association, has recently called for more time for independent reading during school. In an article in *Reading Today*,[4] she cited recently published experimental research showing what common sense has already told us: "Practice helps students become *better* readers." Indeed, research has shown that to develop expertise in anything requires both instruction and many, many hours of practice.

It is encouraging to see that school leaders have recently been promoting reading practice. Initiatives such as Denver Public Schools' "Million Words Campaign" and Seattle Public Schools' "Read a Million Words, Seattle" promote book reading and set annual reading volume goals. And the state of California has suggested grade-level benchmarks for the amount of reading students should be doing.

---

[1] National Endowment for the Arts. (2007). *To read or not to read: A question of national consequence* (Research Report #47). Washington, DC: Author. Available online from http://www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf

[2] Kirsch, I., de Jong, J., Lafontaine, D., McQueen, J., Mendelovits, J., & Monseur, C. (2002). *Reading for change: Performance and engagement across countries: Results from PISA 2000*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Available online from http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/43/54/33690904.pdf

[3] Gamse, B. C., Bloom, H. S., Kemple, J. J., & Jacob, R. T. (2008). *Reading First impact study: Interim report* (NCEE 2008-4016). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

[4] Gambrell, L. B. (2007). Reading: Does practice make perfect? *Reading Today, 24*(6), 16. Available online from http://www.reading.org/publications/reading_today/samples/RTY-0706-president.html

Twenty-two years ago, at the kitchen table of her home in central Wisconsin, Judi Paul developed a quizzing system to help motivate her children to read. Little did she realize then that what would become Accelerated Reader would not only help thousands of teachers manage and motivate book reading, but also become an amazing research tool making it possible to produce reports like this one that would be so telling about the reading habits of more than 3 million American students.

Having worked for years with state and national leaders creating high-stakes tests, I have been surprised and pleased to see firsthand at Renaissance Learning that students enjoy taking AR tests. The right kind of test—one that is non-threatening and provides immediate feedback—can actually be motivating and inspire a love of reading in students.

I believe *What Kids Are Reading* provides an important contribution to the research on reading practice. Although we are concerned as many are that school children—and Americans, overall, for that matter—are not spending enough time developing the critical skill of reading, we offer this report as a step in the right direction.

Teachers and Parents: Please use the bonafide lists within to guide your students and children to a new book that may whet their reading appetites! I find it reassuring, as I'm sure you will, that students are still reading the classics I read as a child, and exciting that many new titles appear on these lists as well. However, in my opinion, notably missing are the historical novels and biographical works so integral to understanding our past and contemporary books that help us understand our world. Delve in and see what you discover.

And stay tuned. We plan to keep you informed of student book-reading trends in the years to come by providing periodic updates of this information.

Roy Truby
Senior Vice President, State and Federal Programs
Renaissance Learning, Inc.

Overview

What Kids Are Reading: The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools answers the following questions about student reading behavior:

• What books do students in each grade read most often, overall and by gender?

• What books do students in each grade in each U.S. census region[5] read most often?

• What books do students in the top 10% of reading achievement read most often?

The report draws on the only source available to determine the books students are truly reading—Renaissance Learning's Accelerated Reader (AR) database. Unlike other booklists, publisher book-sale data, or individual library-circulation information, this database provides information about the books that students have read and how well they comprehended what they read.

Accelerated Reader Software

Renaissance Learning, Inc., developed the Accelerated Reader software to solve a problem with the management of book reading in schools. All reading curricula include recommendations that students read books both in and out of school. However, the traditional methods to account for and manage book reading, such as reading logs, reading journals, parent reports of their child's reading, and oral and written book reports, are burdensome to teachers and often highly unreliable. Accelerated Reader was designed to make the job of managing book reading, often called reading practice, easier, less burdensome, and more reliable.[6]

Accelerated Reader is a progress-monitoring system. It helps teachers accurately and efficiently monitor student progress in the quantity and quality (comprehension) of their book reading. Introduced in 1986, Accelerated Reader has become one of the most popular educational software programs, used by an estimated 15 to 20 million students in the US. AR software is evaluated on the basis of reliability, validity, and usability, and has been positively reviewed by the National Center on Student Progress Monitoring. Reliability refers to the consistency of scores and validity is the degree to which the assessment measures what it claims to measure. Usability takes into account the value of the information that the assessments generate versus the time and money spent to obtain the information.

While AR has become increasingly sophisticated over the years, its basic three-step approach has not changed: First, a student reads a book either at school or at home. Next, the student takes a computerized quiz of 5, 10, or 20 items depending on the length of the book. Then, the student and teacher receive immediate feedback and reports detailing books read, number of words read, book reading level, and comprehension (percent correct on the quiz).

There are currently quizzes on more than 115,000 books, so students can read and quiz on just about any book available in a school or public library. AR also includes quizzes to assess vocabulary and literacy skills, as well as quizzes on leading reading textbooks and content-area leveled readers.

Accelerated Reader Best Classroom Practices

Accelerated Reader is used by millions of teachers throughout the US because it saves teachers time, motivates students to read more, and is more reliable and accurate than traditional methods of tracking student book reading. Accelerated Reader best classroom practices are a set of research-based implementation recommendations that are used if educators want to take AR a step beyond merely replacing traditional tracking systems. Best practices include

---

[5] U.S. census regions defined per http://www.census.biz/geo/www/geo_defn.html#AttachmentC: **West Region:** AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY; **Midwest Region:** IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI; **South Region:** AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV; **Northeast Region:** CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

[6] Renaissance Learning. (2006). *Accelerated Reader: Understanding reliability and validity.* Wisconsin Rapids, WI: Author. Available online from http://research.renlearn.com/research/pdfs/212.pdf

methods to accelerate reading achievement and require changes in teacher, classroom, and even school practices, such as allocating more time for in-school reading, and establishing individualized goal setting and careful monitoring of student reading comprehension.

Renaissance Learning strongly recommends implementing AR using best classroom practices to ensure students benefit from reading practice to the greatest extent possible. Extensive research has shown it is not just the quantity of reading or time spent reading that helps students read well and become well read, but also the quality, or how carefully—at what comprehension level—they read. The more carefully students read the more they comprehend and the more their practice leads to improved reading achievement.

Approximately 50,000 teachers nationwide have chosen to adopt the AR best practices program, and many of them have subsequently achieved model or master implementer certification.[7] Students in classrooms where teachers have implemented best practices find their students read more books and improve their reading achievement at a faster rate. The research base on AR best practices has been favorably reviewed by groups such as the Florida Center for Reading Research and the What Works Clearinghouse. And to date, dozens of research studies and independent reviews have been published on AR,[8] with at least 16 articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals.

The Accelerated Reader Hosted Database

Five years ago, a web-based version of Accelerated Reader was introduced with the option for schools to have Renaissance Learning host their AR program at the Renaissance data center in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. Hosting is often seen as an attractive alternative to having AR software run on school servers because of cost savings and the additional security and data protection provided by Renaissance Learning. For 2007, the Renaissance hosted database contained the AR book-reading records for more than 3 million K–12 students in more than 9,800 schools nationwide who read more than 78 million books.

Each student reading record includes, among other things, the title of each book on which the student took a quiz, the percent correct achieved on each quiz, the number of words in each book quizzed on, and the readability level of each book based on the ATOS readability formula. Schools may optionally record demographic information about students such as gender, free-lunch status, ethnicity, and other attributes.

Renaissance Learning also has developed a computer-adaptive reading test called STAR Reading,[9] which has become the most widely used reading assessment in U.S. schools. STAR Reading can be administered up to 10 times per year, and reports a wide variety of scores, including National Percentile Rank and Grade Equivalent, that help teachers monitor student progress in reading achievement. If students using AR have been tested using STAR Reading, this information is also stored in the student record.

The Data for *What Kids Are Reading*

The source of the data used to answer the questions in Sections 1 and 2 of this report is a database consisting of Accelerated Reader data collected from January to December 2007. The database includes 3 million students in grades 1–12[10] who read more than 78 million books and then took an AR quiz on each book (see Table 1). The students came from 9,898 schools, a group covering all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Although 2007 spans halves of two school years (spring 2007 and fall 2007), care was taken in reporting the number of students to ensure that no students were double counted.

---

[7] Renaissance Certification is a professional recognition program for educators implementing Renaissance Learning's research-based best practices.

[8] For more information about the research base behind Accelerated Reader, please contact research@renlearn.com

[9] For more information, see:
Renaissance Learning. (2006). *STAR Reading: Technical manual*. Wisconsin Rapids, WI: Author. An abridged version of this manual entitled *STAR Reading: Understanding Reliability and Validity* is available online from http://research.renlearn.com/research/pdfs/133.pdf

[10] Some schools also use AR in kindergarten, but we have limited this report to grades 1–12.

Table 1. Number of Students and Books Read by Grade, Accelerated Reader Database (2007 Calendar Year)

Grade	Number of Students	Total Books Read	Average Books Read Per Student
1	244,441	9,444,001	38.6
2	411,181	19,007,574	46.2
3	449,857	18,085,211	40.2
4	449,403	13,122,955	29.2
5	470,823	9,012,813	19.1
6	351,681	4,528,878	12.9
7	238,519	2,547,401	10.7
8	258,261	1,823,149	7.1
9	58,067	376,758	6.5
10	42,652	269,624	6.3
11	34,221	199,555	5.8
12	27,883	126,372	4.5
Total	3,036,989	78,544,291	25.9

Book reading data by gender is reported in Section 1. It should be noted that gender data was unavailable for approximately 40% of students. Thus, in that section the Overall category compiles student records for boys, girls, and unknown gender, whereas when information is reported for the boy and girl categories individually, records for students of unknown gender were excluded.

The data used to answer the question in Section 3 of this report originate from a database that includes Accelerated Reader and STAR Reading scores from the 2006–07 school year. Relative to the database used to answer the questions in Sections 1 and 2, this database is smaller because fewer schools were hosted by Renaissance Learning in 2006–07, and the data presented take into account student reading-achievement scores on STAR Reading from spring 2007; therefore, only students with scores from that period are included. As noted in Table 2, the 2006–07 database includes 2.1 million students in grades 1–12 from 7,658 schools. Section 3 investigates which books students in the top 10% of reading achievement read, further reducing the number of students to about 90,000.

Table 2. Number of Students by Grade, Accelerated Reader Database (2006–07 School Year)

Grade	Total Number of Students	Number of Students in Top 10%*
1	225,688	14,208
2	309,122	23,292
3	332,176	16,285
4	326,596	15,255
5	279,852	10,681
6	216,120	4,930
7	175,145	3,076
8	120,472	1,793
9	41,086	246
10	31,717	206
11	25,223	119
12	14,694	21
Total	**2,097,891**	**90,112**

* Students with final STAR Reading National Percentile Rank scores between 90 and 99.

Please note: Renaissance Learning recognizes, of course, that not all book reading that happens in or outside of the classroom is captured through the Accelerated Reader software. However, it is reasonable to assume that for users of Accelerated Reader much book reading is captured in this way. AR quizzes number more than 115,000, which allows students a wide range of book selection; nearly every book found in a school, classroom, or local library has a quiz available.

Also, the sample of data from the AR database, upon which this report is written, is a sample of convenience rather than truly representative of U.S. schools, so care should be taken when interpreting the results. However, what cannot be disputed is that with records for more than 3 million students at more than 9,800 American schools, this sample is significant. What's more, the AR database is one of a kind. We are unaware of any other database that has captured student reading behavior on this scale.

The ATOS Book Readability Level

As mentioned earlier, Accelerated Reader uses the ATOS readability formula to measure the text difficulty of each book for which a quiz is available. The ATOS readability level, available in an easy-to-understand grade-level score, helps students, teachers, and parents with the book selection process. Using ATOS, students can find books to read within their reading achievement range—books that are neither too easy nor too hard that will challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation.

Renaissance Learning and Touchstone Applied Science Associates jointly developed the ATOS readability formula. ATOS uses four factors to measure a book's readability score: average sentence length, average word length in

number of letters, word difficulty level, and total number of words in the book.[11] To calculate a book's ATOS score the entire book is scanned into a computer so the readability level is based on the entire book rather than a 100-word sample sometimes used to measure readability by makers of other formulas.

ATOS has proven to be a reliable and valid measure of book difficulty. An interesting way to provide a frame of reference for ATOS is to show scores for a selection of popular publications. We selected a sample of four popular newspapers: *The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times*, and *USA Today*. From each paper, we selected the five most recent issues. And from each issue, we applied the ATOS formula to the full text of all stories that began on page one. In addition, we selected three feature stories from each of three recent issues of *People*. A total of 113 articles were scanned. The average ATOS scores are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Average ATOS Readability Levels of Articles From Five Popular Publications

Publication	Number of Articles Scanned	ATOS Readability Level		
		Average	Minimum	Maximum
The New York Times	32	7.8	6.3	9.7
The Washington Post	30	7.8	5.7	9.3
Los Angeles Times	28	7.3	4.9	8.6
USA Today	14	6.6	5.1	8.6
People	9	5.4	4.0	6.1

Reading Practice Is Essential

Guided independent reading is at the heart of Accelerated Reader. To improve student reading achievement, it has been shown that initially students need to comprehend more than 85% of what they read independently, and after about the fourth grade, students need to comprehend more than 90%.[12] Students can read a very broad range of books to accomplish this, especially after achieving about a fourth-grade reading level. In fact, for older students and better readers, it is more important to read a lot of books at a high comprehension level than to read at the maximum readability level. The lists of frequently read books in this report reflect this pattern, with students in the middle and upper grades reading books representing an increasingly wider range of readability levels.[13]

We hope the publication of *What Kids Are Reading: The Book-Reading Habits of Students in American Schools* will help to promote more high-quality book reading in schools. Reading is a skill that must be practiced, and reading books is the best way to practice this skill. Like any other skill, we cannot expect to see improvements in reading without the essential ingredient of high-quality practice.

As Vince Lombardi was reported to have said, "It's not practice that makes perfect, it's perfect practice that makes perfect."

---

[11] For more information about ATOS, see:

Renaissance Learning. (2006). *Matching books to students: How to use readability formulas and continuous monitoring to ensure reading success*. Wisconsin Rapids, WI: Author. Available online from http://research.renlearn.com/research/pdfs/62.pdf

[12] For discussion of the role of high comprehension, see the following:

Topping, K. J., & Sanders, W. L. (2000). Teacher effectiveness and computer assessment of reading: Relating value-added and learning information systems data. *School Effectiveness and School Improvement, 11*(3), 305–337.

Borman, G. D., & Dowling, N. M. (2004). *Testing the Reading Renaissance program theory: A multilevel analysis of student and classroom effects on reading achievement*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin. Available online from http://www.education.wisc.edu/elpa/people/faculty/Borman/BormanDowling2004_RdgRenProg.pdf

Topping, K. J., Samuels, J., & Paul, T. (2007). Does practice make perfect? Independent reading quantity, quality and student achievement. *Learning and Instruction, 17*, 253–264.

[13] Note that the average book level reported with every table in Sections 1, 2, and 3 is a weighted average that takes into account the number of times each of the top 20 books was read and the number of words in each book.

Section One:

Reflections on Reading by S.E. Hinton

What Books Do Students in Each Grade Read Most Often, Overall and by Gender?

Reflections on Reading

by S.E. Hinton

There are a lot of good writers out there, so it is always flattering to get a letter from a kid who says, "I read all the time and your books are the best." But nothing compares to one who says, "I never read a book in my life until I read your book. And now I like to read." That is the most satisfying thing a writer can hear; that you've helped others to enjoy the biggest influence in your life—reading.
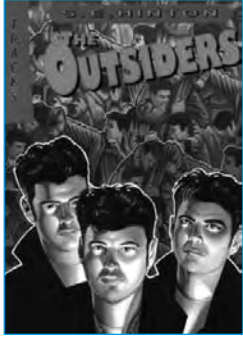
It's been said that if you don't read you're not any better off than if you can't read. That doesn't begin to cover it. Reading is the closest thing we'll have to a mind-meld until we discover the planet Vulcan. There will never be a computer as interactive as a book.

With a book, you can enter a mind that existed a thousand years ago. Use someone's imagination to bungee-jump a thousand years into the future. Experience more lifetimes than the most intrepid adventurer.

I know what it's like to grow up in poverty in Brooklyn. I've been a bull-dancer in ancient Crete. I've experienced an entire life in fourteenth-century Norway. Rode on a cattle drive; grew up with Alexander the Great.

Learning not how to do something but how to feel something; recognizing self in the most foreign other. Reading has been one of the biggest influences in my life—not only in my profession, but my thoughts, actions, values. Knowing I've opened this door for others will always be my most rewarding accomplishment.

S.E. Hinton is best known for her novels *The Outsiders; That Was Then, This Is Now; Rumble Fish,* and *Tex.* In 1988, she became the first recipient of the Margaret E. Edwards Award from the School Library Journal for these contributions to young adult literature. She has also written two books for children, *Big David, Little David* and *The Puppy Sister*, as well as a novel, *Hawkes Harbor*, and collection of short stories, *Some of Tim's Stories*, for adults.

What Books Do Students in Each Grade Read Most Often, Overall and by Gender?

FIRST GRADE:

Includes data from 244,441 students in first grade who read a total of 9,444,001 books. Overall, approximately 18% of the books were *read to* the student, 12% were *read with* the student, and 70% were *read independently*.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
2	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)
3	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)
4	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
5	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)
6	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)
7	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)
8	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)
9	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)
10	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)
11	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**David Goes to School**, David Shannon (0.9)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
12	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)
13	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Biscuit Goes to School**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.9)
14	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
15	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
16	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**Go, Dog. Go!**, P.D. Eastman (1.2)	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)
17	**Biscuit Goes to School**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.9)	**Just Me and My Dad**, Mercer Mayer (1.4)	**Biscuit's New Trick**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.0)
18	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)
19	**David Goes to School**, David Shannon (0.9)	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)	**David Goes to School**, David Shannon (0.9)
20	**Biscuit's New Trick**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.0)	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)	**Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox**, Grace Maccarone (0.7)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by first-grade students was 1.7 overall, 1.7 for boys, and 1.7 for girls.

SECOND GRADE:

Includes data from 411,181 students in second grade who read a total of 19,007,574 books. Overall, approximately 10% of the books were *read to* the student, 6% were *read with* the student, and 84% were *read independently.*

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
2	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
3	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
4	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
5	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)
6	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)
7	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)
8	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Amelia Bedelia**, Peggy Parish (2.5)
9	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
10	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)
11	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)	**Corduroy**, Don Freeman (3.5)
12	**Corduroy**, Don Freeman (3.5)	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)
13	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Danny and the Dinosaur**, Syd Hoff (2.3)	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)
14	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)	**The Giving Tree**, Shel Silverstein (2.6)
15	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)
16	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)
17	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)	**If You Take a Mouse to the Movies**, Laura Numeroff (2.1)
18	**The Giving Tree**, Shel Silverstein (2.6)	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
19	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)
20	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Principal from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**Arthur's Birthday**, Marc Brown (2.3)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by second-grade students was 2.4 overall, 2.3 for boys, and 2.4 for girls.

THIRD GRADE:
Includes data from 449,857 students in third grade who read a total of 18,085,211 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
2	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)
3	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Dogzilla**, Dav Pilkey (4.2)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)
4	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)
5	**Dogzilla**, Dav Pilkey (4.2)	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
6	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)
7	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Dogzilla**, Dav Pilkey (4.2)
8	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**Junie B. Jones and Her Big Fat Mouth**, Barbara Park (3.0)
9	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)
10	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)	**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday**, Judith Viorst (3.4)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)
11	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)	**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday**, Judith Viorst (3.4)
12	**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday**, Judith Viorst (3.4)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook**, Barbara Park (3.0)
13	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
14	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)
15	**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst (3.7)	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)	**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst (3.7)
16	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business**, Barbara Park (2.9)
17	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	**The Giving Tree**, Shel Silverstein (2.6)
18	**The Keeping Quilt**, Patricia Polacco (4.4)	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
19	**Dolphins at Daybreak**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**The Keeping Quilt**, Patricia Polacco (4.4)
20	**Freckle Juice**, Judy Blume (3.1)	**The Keeping Quilt**, Patricia Polacco (4.4)	**Amelia Bedelia**, Peggy Parish (2.5)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by third-grade students was 4.0 overall, 4.1 for boys, and 4.0 for girls.

FOURTH GRADE:
Includes data from 449,403 students in fourth grade who read a total of 13,122,955 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Judy Blume (3.3)	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Judy Blume (3.3)	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Judy Blume (3.3)
2	Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
3	Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	Charlotte's Web, E.B. White (4.4)	Charlotte's Web, E.B. White (4.4)
4	Charlotte's Web, E.B. White (4.4)	Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)
5	Stone Fox, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	Stone Fox, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)
6	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	Stone Fox, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
7	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	The Adventures of Captain Underpants, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson (5.1)
8	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl (4.8)
9	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say (3.6)
10	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)
11	Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
12	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl (4.8)	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)
13	The Adventures of Captain Underpants, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod, Robert J. Blake (3.3)
14	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	The Stranger, Chris Van Allsburg (3.7)
15	Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy, Part I: The Night of the Nasty Nostril Nuggets, Dav Pilkey (5.2)	Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary (4.9)
16	Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say (3.6)	Captain Underpants and the Preposterous Plight of the Purple Potty People, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	Junie B. Jones and Her Big Fat Mouth, Barbara Park (3.0)
17	Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say (3.6)	Shiloh, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4)
18	Shiloh, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4)	Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy, Part 2: The Revenge of the Ridiculous Robo-Boogers, Dav Pilkey (4.9)	Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell (5.4)
19	Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)	Finding the Titanic, Robert D. Ballard (4.0)
20	Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod, Robert J. Blake (3.3)	Tomás and the Library Lady, Pat Mora (2.7)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by fourth-grade students was 4.8 overall, 4.9 for boys, and 4.5 for girls.

FIFTH GRADE:

Includes data from 470,823 students in fifth grade who read a total of 9,012,813 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
2	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
3	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)
4	The Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Number the Stars, Lois Lowry (4.5)
5	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)
6	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	The Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
7	Number the Stars, Lois Lowry (4.5)	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	The Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)
8	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)	Frindle, Andrew Clements (5.4)	Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
9	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged), C.S. Lewis (5.7)	Charlotte's Web, E.B. White (4.4)
10	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged), C.S. Lewis (5.7)	Number the Stars, Lois Lowry (4.5)	Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell (5.4)
11	Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged), C.S. Lewis (5.7)
12	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
13	Because of Winn-Dixie, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary (4.9)
14	Dear Mr. Henshaw, Beverly Cleary (4.9)	Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
15	Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	The Adventures of Captain Underpants, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson (5.1)
16	The Wide Window, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
17	Charlotte's Web, E.B. White (4.4)	Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	The Wide Window, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
18	Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl (4.8)
19	The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)
20	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	Captain Underpants and the Big, Bad Battle of the Bionic Booger Boy, Part I: The Night of the Nasty Nostril Nuggets, Dav Pilkey (5.2)	Matilda, Roald Dahl (5.0)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by fifth-grade students was 5.6 overall, 5.8 for boys, and 5.3 for girls.

SIXTH GRADE:

Includes data from 351,681 students in sixth grade who read a total of 4,528,878 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)		
1	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
2	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
3	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)
4	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
5	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)
6	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
7	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)
8	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)
9	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
10	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
11	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
12	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
13	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)
14	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
15	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)
16	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)
17	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)
18	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)
19	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
20	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Ersatz Elevator**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by sixth-grade students was 5.9 overall, 6.1 for boys, and 5.4 for girls.

SEVENTH GRADE:
Includes data from 238,519 students in seventh grade who read a total of 2,547,401 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	The Outsiders, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
2	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)	The Giver, Lois Lowry (5.7)
3	The Giver, Lois Lowry (5.7)	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Holes, Louis Sachar (4.6)
4	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	A Child Called "It", Dave Pelzer (5.8)
5	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	The Giver, Lois Lowry (5.7)	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
6	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	The Clique, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
7	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
8	Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	Eragon, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
9	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
10	Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	The Bad Beginning, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls (4.9)
11	The End, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
12	Eragon, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	The End, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
13	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	Where the Red Fern Grows, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, Kipling/Pinkney (4.4)
14	Bridge to Terabithia, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	The End, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)
15	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	The Reptile Room, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)
16	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)	Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	Freak the Mighty/The Mighty, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)
17	The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, Kipling/Pinkney (4.4)	Hatchet, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
18	Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, Kipling/Pinkney (4.4)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged), C.S. Lewis (5.7)	Best Friends for Never: A Clique Novel, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
19	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	Freak the Mighty/The Mighty, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)	The Wide Window, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
20	Freak the Mighty/The Mighty, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)	The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged), C.S. Lewis (5.7)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by seventh-grade students was 6.2 overall, 6.3 for boys, and 5.6 for girls.

EIGHTH GRADE:
Includes data from 258,261 students in eighth grade who read a total of 1,823,149 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
2	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
3	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)
4	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)
5	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)
6	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
7	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
8	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**The Clique**, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
9	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
10	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Uglies**, Scott Westerfeld (5.2)
11	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)
12	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
13	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)
14	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**New Moon: A Novel**, Stephenie Meyer (4.7)
15	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)	**Best Friends for Never: A Clique Novel**, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
16	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)	**Eldest**, Christopher Paolini (7.0)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)
17	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)
18	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**The Call of the Wild**, Jack London (8.0)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
19	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**The Tell-Tale Heart**, Edgar Allan Poe (7.3)
20	**The Tell-Tale Heart**, Edgar Allan Poe (7.3)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants**, Ann Brashares (4.5)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by eighth-grade students was 6.2 overall, 6.4 for boys, and 5.8 for girls.

NINTH–TWELFTH GRADE:
Includes data from 162,823 students in ninth through twelfth grades who read a total of 972,309 books.

	Overall	Boys	Girls
	Title, Author (Book Level)*		
1	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)
2	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)
3	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)
4	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)
5	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)
6	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Notebook**, Nicholas Sparks (5.5)
7	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)
8	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Speak**, Laurie Halse Anderson (4.5)
9	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)
10	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**New Moon: A Novel**, Stephenie Meyer (4.7)
11	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)
12	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
13	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)
14	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)	**A Walk to Remember**, Nicholas Sparks (5.8)
15	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
16	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)
17	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
18	**Speak**, Laurie Halse Anderson (4.5)	**Romeo and Juliet**, William Shakespeare (8.6)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
19	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**The Scarlet Letter (Unabridged)**, Nathaniel Hawthorne (11.7)
20	**Romeo and Juliet**, William Shakespeare (8.6)	**Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury (5.2)	**Romeo and Juliet**, William Shakespeare (8.6)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by ninth- through twelfth-grade students was 6.1 overall, 6.4 for boys, and 5.7 for girls.
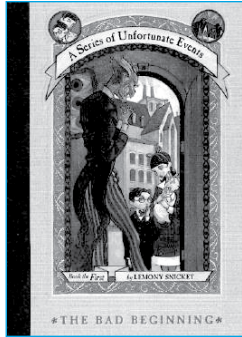
Section Two:

Reflections on Reading by Daniel Handler

What Books Do Students in Each Grade in Each U.S. Census Region Read Most Often?
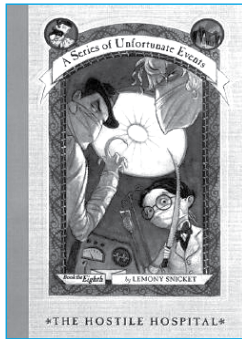
Reflections on Reading

by Daniel Handler

As I write this, at my desk on a fairly ordinary working day, I have a number of books within reach. I have the book I'm reading. I have the other book I'm reading. I have two of my all-time favorite books, which I'm keeping as sort of touchstones to aid in the book I'm writing. I have another book it was suggested I read in another book I was reading. In a pile to one side I have seven books I have agreed to read in order to write about them, two books I have agreed to read for other reasons, two excerpts of books I have agreed to read for still other reasons, a book I wrote, and a publication devoted to books.

Behind me, within reach on a shelf, I have twenty volumes of a reference book and one other reference book I might need, and in a cupboard, also, I swear to you, well within reach, I have seven books I will read next, ten books I will read sometime, and one book I just like to have around. If I were to cheat, and move my chair, then within reach would be an untidy arrangement of—I just counted—eighteen additional books, huddled there because I'm still thinking about them with such frequency that it makes no sense to put them on a shelf.

You can see that I'm entirely unsuitable for contributing to an informed and sober study of what young people are reading, in the same way that Captain Ahab would be unsuitable to introduce an informed and sober study of marine life. I am obsessed. It has been this way since childhood. Reading has haunted and hypnotized me, provided escape when reality was uncooperative, and reality when escape was insufficient. It has nurtured me in ways no other thing could provide and it has showed me ways in which I need to be nurtured I would not have otherwise imagined. It has brought me close and swept me away, tickled my fancy and shattered my heart, tucked me into bed and kept me up all night, and showed me that the world, like all seventy-five books I have just mentioned, was within reach.

None of these results are immediately detectable. Reading is largely a private activity, and thus its effects are largely private. When you walk around you can't identify the readers straightaway, but eventually you can identify the readers, who tend to be thoughtful, which means they're often innovative, which means they're often successful, which means they're often happy, and a world of happy people is the whole point of walking around in the first place. It is often said that reading is a gift, but to my mind that is an insufficient description, for the size of the gift of reading is so vast that it is difficult to see what is outside its wrapping. I wish every child could have this gift, but every child is different and so the gift must be wrapped differently for each one.

This is exhausting to think about, but I am grateful to the people compiling this study for thinking about it, and for making it easier for all of us to wrap this gift properly. I hope you will read this report, and that you will keep it well within reach on your desk. Even if your desk is like mine, there should be room for it, if you move one of those other books just slightly to the left.
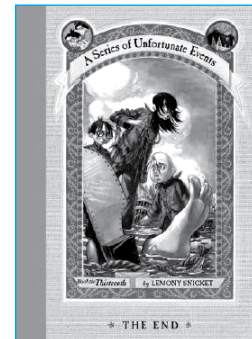
Daniel Handler is author of the Series of Unfortunate Events books, among other titles. His writing has garnered awards including the Quill Award for *The Penultimate Peril*, and the Academy of American Poets Prize.

What Books Do Students in Each Grade in Each U.S. Census Region Read Most Often?

FIRST GRADE:

Includes data from 244,441 students in first grade who read a total of 9,444,001 books. Overall, approximately 18% of the books were *read to* the student, 12% were *read with* the student, and 70% were *read independently*.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)
2	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)
3	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
4	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
5	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
6	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish**, Blue Fish, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)
7	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)
8	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
9	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**Biscuit Finds a Friend**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.8)	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)
10	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish**, Blue Fish, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
11	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)	**Leo the Late Bloomer**, Robert Kraus (1.2)
12	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Biscuit's New Trick**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.0)	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)
13	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)
14	**David Goes to School**, David Shannon (0.9)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)
15	**Biscuit's New Trick**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.0)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Biscuit Goes to School**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.9)	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)
16	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)	**Just Me and My Dad**, Mercer Mayer (1.4)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**The Snowy Day**, Ezra Jack Keats (2.5)
17	**Go, Dog. Go!**, P.D. Eastman (1.2)	**Biscuit Goes to School**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (0.9)	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)
18	**All by Myself**, Mercer Mayer (1.3)	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)	**David Goes to School**, David Shannon (0.9)	**More Spaghetti, I Say!**, Rita Golden Gelman (1.2)
19	**Bathtime for Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.1)	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)	**Just Me and My Dad**, Mercer Mayer (1.4)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)
20	**Sleepy Dog**, Harriet Ziefert (0.8)	**More Spaghetti, I Say!**, Rita Golden Gelman (1.2)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**Danny and the Dinosaur**, Syd Hoff (2.3)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by first-grade students was 1.7 in the West, 1.6 in the Midwest, 1.7 in the South, and 1.8 in the Northeast.

SECOND GRADE:

Includes data from 411,181 students in second grade who read a total of 19,007,574 books. Overall, approximately 10% of the books were *read to* the student, 6% were *read with* the student, and 84% were *read independently*.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)
2	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
3	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures**, Cynthia Rylant (2.7)
4	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)
5	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)
6	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
7	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Henry and Mudge and the Bedtime Thumps**, Cynthia Rylant (2.6)
8	**Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night**, Cynthia Rylant (2.2)	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
9	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures**, Cynthia Rylant (2.7)	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)	**Henry and Mudge Under the Yellow Moon**, Cynthia Rylant (2.3)
10	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Corduroy**, Don Freeman (3.5)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
11	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)	**The Giving Tree**, Shel Silverstein (2.6)	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)
12	**Corduroy**, Don Freeman (3.5)	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)
13	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**Frog and Toad Together**, Arnold Lobel (2.9)
14	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)	**Henry and Mudge in Puddle Trouble**, Cynthia Rylant (2.5)
15	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**Amelia Bedelia**, Peggy Parish (2.5)
16	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)	**The Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)
17	**Julius**, Angela Johnson (3.0)	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**If You Take a Mouse to the Movies**, Laura Numeroff (2.1)	**The Gym Teacher from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.2)
18	**Mrs. Brown Went to Town**, Wong Yee (3.3)	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**Amelia Bedelia**, Peggy Parish (2.5)	**Henry and Mudge and the Best Day of All**, Cynthia Rylant (2.6)
19	**Amelia Bedelia**, Peggy Parish (2.5)	**The Principal from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (2.4)	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)	**A Chair for My Mother**, Vera B. Williams (3.4)
20	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Henry and Mudge and the Bedtime Thumps**, Cynthia Rylant (2.6)	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Danny and the Dinosaur**, Syd Hoff (2.3)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by second-grade students was 2.3 in the West, 2.4 in the Midwest, 2.3 in the South, and 2.5 in the Northeast.

THIRD GRADE:

Includes data from 449,857 students in third grade who read a total of 18,085,211 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Dogzilla**, Dav Pilkey (4.2)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)
2	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)
3	**The Lost and Found**, Mark Teague (2.7)	**Dolphins at Daybreak**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
4	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)	**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale**, Verna Aardema (4.0)
5	**The Keeping Quilt**, Patricia Polacco (4.4)	**Tonight on the Titanic**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)
6	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
7	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)
8	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday**, Judith Viorst (3.4)	**Balto, the Dog Who Saved Nome**, Margaret Davidson (3.3)
9	**Raising Dragons**, Jerdine Nolen (4.2)	**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst (3.7)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Turtle Bay**, Saviour Pirotta (3.6)
10	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)
11	**The Waterfall**, Jonathan London (3.2)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)	**Allie's Basketball Dream**, Barbara E. Barber (2.8)
12	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**Little Grunt and the Big Egg: A Prehistoric Fairy Tale**, Tomie De Paola (2.9)
13	**The Garden of Abdul Gasazi**, Chris Van Allsburg (4.0)	**Dogzilla**, Dav Pilkey (4.2)	**Freckle Juice**, Judy Blume (3.1)	**Pepita Talks Twice**, Ofelia Dumas Lachtman (3.0)
14	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)	**Ramona Quimby, Age 8**, Beverly Cleary (5.6)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Nate the Great, San Francisco Detective**, Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (2.6)
15	**Two Days in May**, Harriet Peck Taylor (4.0)	**Flat Stanley**, Jeff Brown (3.2)	**Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale**, Verna Aardema (4.0)	**If You Made a Million**, David M. Schwartz (4.1)
16	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)
17	**Dog Breath: The Horrible Trouble with Hally Tosis**, Dav Pilkey (3.4)	**Twister on Tuesday**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.2)	**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst (3.7)	**Afternoon on the Amazon**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)
18	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)	**Two Bad Ants**, Chris Van Allsburg (4.7)	**Rosie, a Visiting Dog's Story**, Stephanie Calmenson (3.2)
19	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)	**Arthur Writes a Story**, Marc Brown (2.6)	**Dolphins at Daybreak**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)
20	**Dolphins at Daybreak**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by third-grade students was 4.1 in the West, 4.1 in the Midwest, 4.1 in the South, and 3.8 in the Northeast.

FOURTH GRADE:
Includes data from 449,403 students in fourth grade who read a total of 13,122,955 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)
2	**Island of the Blue Dolphins**, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)
3	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
4	**Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod**, Robert J. Blake (3.3)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
5	**Grandfather's Journey**, Allen Say (3.6)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)
6	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Shiloh**, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4)
7	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Superfudge**, Judy Blume (3.4)
8	**Finding the Titanic**, Robert D. Ballard (4.0)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)
9	**The Stranger**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, by J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Frindle**, by Andrew Clements (5.4)	**Frindle**, by Andrew Clements (5.4)
10	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Shiloh**, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4)	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)
11	**Tomás and the Library Lady**, Pat Mora (2.7)	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**Lou Gehrig: The Luckiest Man**, David A. Adler (4.6)
12	**Boss of the Plains: The Hat That Won the West**, Laurie Carlson (4.9)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
13	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
14	**By the Great Horn Spoon!**, Sid Fleischman (5.1)	**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	**The Polar Express**, Chris Van Allsburg (3.8)	**The Gardener**, Sarah Stewart (3.9)
15	**Heat Wave!**, Helen Ketteman (4.2)	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)	**Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
16	**Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella**, Robert D. San Souci (3.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman**, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	**The Cricket in Times Square**, George Selden (4.9)
17	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**Dear Mr. Henshaw**, Beverly Cleary (4.9)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
18	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space**, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	**How to Eat Fried Worms**, Thomas Rockwell (3.5)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
19	**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**, Dav Pilkey (4.3)	**Captain Underpants and the Wrath of the Wicked Wedgie Woman**, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	**George Crum and the Saratoga Chip**, Gaylia Taylor (5.3)	**Skylark**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.2)
20	**Tanya's Reunion**, Valerie Flournoy (4.1)	**Superfudge**, Judy Blume (3.4)	**Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space**, Dav Pilkey (4.4)	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by fourth-grade students was 4.8 in the West, 4.8 in the Midwest, 4.5 in the South, and 4.6 in the Northeast.

FIFTH GRADE:
Includes data from 470,823 students in fifth grade who read a total of 9,012,813 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
2	**The Sign of the Beaver**, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
3	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)
4	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**The Sign of the Beaver**, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
5	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)	**Island of the Blue Dolphins**, Scott O'Dell (5.4)
6	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
7	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
8	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
9	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Sign of the Beaver**, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)	**Dear Mr. Henshaw**, Beverly Cleary (4.9)
10	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Island of the Blue Dolphins**, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
11	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Sign of the Beaver**, Elizabeth George Speare (4.9)
12	**Island of the Blue Dolphins**, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)
13	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Dear Mr. Henshaw**, Beverly Cleary (4.9)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	**Bud, Not Buddy**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)
14	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)
15	**Dear Mr. Henshaw**, Beverly Cleary (4.9)	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
16	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)
17	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)	**From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**, E.L. Konigsburg (4.7)	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)	**From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler**, E.L. Konigsburg (4.7)
18	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)	**Island of the Blue Dolphins**, Scott O'Dell (5.4)	**Dear Mr. Henshaw**, Beverly Cleary (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
19	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)	**Shiloh**, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (4.4)
20	**And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?**, Jean Fritz (5.3)	**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, Barbara Robinson (5.1)	**George Crum and the Saratoga Chip**, Gaylia Taylor (5.3)	**The Kid in the Red Jacket**, Barbara Park (3.9)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by fifth-grade students was 5.8 in the West, 5.5 in the Midwest, 5.6 in the South, and 5.4 in the Northeast.

SIXTH GRADE:
Includes data from 351,681 students in sixth grade who read a total of 4,528,878 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
2	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)
3	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)
4	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
5	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
6	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)
7	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
8	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Maniac Magee**, Jerry Spinelli (4.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
9	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
10	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)
11	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)
12	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)
13	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
14	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
15	**The Ersatz Elevator**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)	**Among the Hidden**, Margaret Haddix (4.8)	**Freak the Mighty/The Mighty**, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)	**The Pinballs**, Betsy Byars (3.8)
16	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**The Egypt Game**, Zilpha Keatley Snyder (6.4)
17	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
18	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**The Gold Cadillac**, Mildred D. Taylor (4.1)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)
19	**The Carnivorous Carnival**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
20	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by sixth-grade students was 6.2 in the West, 5.7 in the Midwest, 5.7 in the South, and 5.9 in the Northeast.

SEVENTH GRADE:
Includes data from 238,519 students in seventh grade who read a total of 2,547,401 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
2	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
3	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
4	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
5	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
6	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
7	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
8	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**A Christmas Carol (Unabridged)**, Charles Dickens (6.7)
9	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Freak the Mighty/The Mighty**, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
10	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
11	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)	**Rikki-Tikki-Tavi**, Kipling/Pinkney (4.4)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
12	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (Unabridged)**, Mark Twain (8.1)
13	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Freak the Mighty/The Mighty**, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)
14	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
15	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)
16	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963**, Christopher Paul Curtis (5.0)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Clique**, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
17	**Where the Red Fern Grows**, Wilson Rawls (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Hoot**, Carl Hiaasen (5.2)	**The Call of the Wild**, Jack London (8.0)
18	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Treasure Island (Unabridged)**, Robert Louis Stevenson (8.3)
19	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
20	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**The Cay**, Theodore Taylor (5.3)	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by seventh-grade students was 6.3 in the West, 6.2 in the Midwest, 6.1 in the South, and 6.2 in the Northeast.

EIGHTH GRADE:
Includes data from 258,261 students in eighth grade who read a total of 1,823,149 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
2	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
3	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**That Was Then, This Is Now**, S.E. Hinton (4.6)
4	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
5	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
6	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
7	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**The Tell-Tale Heart**, Edgar Allan Poe (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)
8	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)
9	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
10	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**The Call of the Wild**, Jack London (8.0)
11	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
12	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
13	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
14	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
15	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**The Clique**, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
16	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)	**Touching Spirit Bear**, Ben Mikaelsen (5.3)
17	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)	**The Necklace**, Guy de Maupassant (5.5)
18	**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Mildred D. Taylor (5.7)	**The Call of the Wild**, Jack London (8.0)	**The Diary of Anne Frank**, Frances Goodrich (3.1)	**The Pigman**, Paul Zindel (5.5)
19	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)	**The Pearl**, John Steinbeck (7.1)	**Best Friends for Never: A Clique Novel**, Lisi Harrison (4.9)
20	**My Brother Sam Is Dead**, James Lincoln Collier (4.9)	**Uglies**, Scott Westerfeld (5.2)	**The Pigman**, Paul Zindel (5.5)	**Freak the Mighty/The Mighty**, Rodman Philbrick (5.5)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by eighth-grade students was 6.3 in the West, 6.3 in the Midwest, 6.2 in the South, and 6.3 in the Northeast.

NINTH–TWELFTH GRADE:
Includes data from 162,823 students in ninth through twelfth grades who read a total of 972,309 books.

	West	Midwest	South	Northeast
	Title, Author (Book Level)*			
1	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)
2	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)
3	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)
4	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**A Child Called "It"**, Dave Pelzer (5.8)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Speak**, Laurie Halse Anderson (4.5)
5	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)	**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**, Stephen Chbosky (4.8)
6	**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows**, J.K. Rowling (6.9)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)
7	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
8	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
9	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
10	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
11	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)	**Julius Caesar**, William Shakespeare (10.8)	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)
12	**Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury (5.2)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Animal Farm**, George Orwell (7.3)	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)
13	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)	**Speak**, Laurie Halse Anderson (4.5)	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)
14	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Romeo and Juliet**, William Shakespeare (8.6)
15	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
16	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)	**The Notebook**, Nicholas Sparks (5.5)	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
17	**Romeo and Juliet**, William Shakespeare (8.6)	**A Walk to Remember**, Nicholas Sparks (5.8)	**The Pearl**, John Steinbeck (7.1)	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
18	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)	**The Scarlet Letter (Unabridged)**, Nathaniel Hawthorne (11.7)	**Monster**, Walter Dean Myers (5.1)
19	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)	**The Great Gatsby**, F. Scott Fitzgerald (7.3)	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)
20	**The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family**, Dave Pelzer (5.1)	**The Crucible**, Arthur Miller (4.9)	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)	**A Separate Peace**, John Knowles (6.9)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by ninth- through twelfth-grade students was 6.2 in the West, 6.2 in the Midwest, 6.2 in the South, and 6.2 in the Northeast.
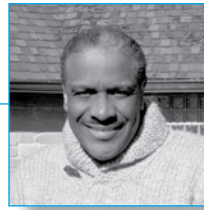
Section Three:

Reflections on Reading by Christopher Paul Curtis

**What Books Do Students in the Top 10%
of Reading Achievement Read Most Often?**

Reflections on Reading

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Writers who do school visits learn very quickly that during the Q & A period after your speech you will be asked the same questions over and over. Aside from the queries on shoe size, income, and favorite color, one of the most common questions I get is, "What's the coolest thing about being a writer?" I love this question because it allows me to explain the joy I feel when it comes to my profession. I revel in letting the youngsters know my official title is Holder of the Best Job in the World! I break this down to them by explaining how I'm pretty much my own boss, I set my own hours, I'm paid more than I'd ever dreamed I'd make, I get to travel all over the world, I meet hundreds of smart, interesting people, and I make a living doing something I love. While the youngsters sweetly feign being impressed by this list, I accidentally discovered an aspect of my job that really leaves them agog.

It was during an autographing session after one of my talks that I signed a book for a fifth grader and handed it back to him. He thanked me, pointed at my inscription and, with an overly dramatic look of bewilderment, asked his teacher, "What does *that* say?" His teacher smiled at me and quickly shooed the little brat on his way. (In the child's defense I have to admit that one seller of rare books listed an advance reading copy of my first novel, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham–1963*, as "Slightly shelf-worn but otherwise in excellent condition; indecipherable scrawl on title page is allegedly author's signature.) Yowch!
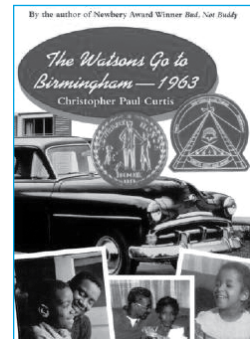
In light of that little interaction, the next time I was asked what was the coolest part of being a writer I gave the usual list and added, "Plus, I get to scribble my name in books in front of teachers and librarians. And I do it with ink. And they don't slap me or complain; they just smile and pretend it doesn't bother them. They even say thank you!" Now how cool is that?

Something else I'm frequently asked is, "Did you learn to write books in college?" This is another one of my favorite questions because it allows me to talk about two of the most important parts of my life: reading and the library. No, I didn't learn to write while in college; in fact, I took only one writing class while a student at the University of Michigan-Flint.
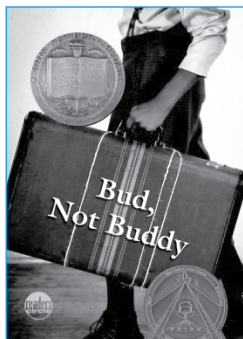
I firmly believe I learned to write in the same magical way that many other authors did, by going down an old and mysterious path that remains open for your students to follow as well. What is this path? Under what staircase or down what rabbit hole or through what wardrobe can the beginning of this path be found? None of the above—the path instead begins at the library and is followed one book at a time. I tell students that I learned to be a writer by first becoming a reader. Reading is the natural parent of writing.

The magic of the library is that Christopher Paul Curtis or Jerry Spinelli or Ms. Johnson or little Ashley from Room C can go in, check out a book, and go home and commune with any number of the greatest writers in history. We can read these authors' books in two different ways and with two different motives. We can pick up *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers, enjoy being caught up in the story, feel the suspense of the trial, and grow more and more involved with each turned page. But we can also analyze Mr. Myers's craft and try to figure out what he does to make the story so emotional.

We can recognize and emulate his pacing, his set up, and his effort to produce tension. We can ask, "Now what did he do to make me feel the way I felt at this particular point? How did he make me cry here and laugh there?" And the great thing is that we can get these same lessons from authors as diverse as Toni Morrison and Mark Twain, Robert Cormier and Virginia Hamilton, and Patricia Reilly Giff and Jacqueline Woodson. All of this is available to us through the magic of books.

Another wonderful aspect of this whole reading/learning dichotomy is that often we aren't even conscious of the many levels of learning that are going on while we read. We soak up what the author is doing and, without completely understanding how, we can gain writing lessons from the simple act of reading.

This is why I love books so much; they are a tremendous gateway to a multitude of pleasures. And whether we gain entry to books in places as mysterious as under the staircase or through a rabbit hole or through a wardrobe, or in places as magical as the library, books all lead to the same wonderful destination: knowledge.

Christopher Paul Curtis is the award-winning author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* (Coretta Scott King Award, Newberry Honor); *Bud, Not Buddy* (Coretta Scott King Award, Newberry Medal); and *Elijah of Buxton* (Coretta Scott King Award, Newberry Honor), among other titles.

What Books Do Students in the Top 10% of Reading Achievement Read Most Often?

What books are read by the strongest readers in each grade? This section lists the top 20 books read during the 2006–07 school year by students that had a National Percentile Rank score between 90 and 99 on their final STAR Reading assessment. (Percentile Rank is a norm-referenced score that indicates the percentage of students in the same grade and at the same point in time in the school year who obtained scores lower than the score of a particular student. In other words, Percentile Ranks show how an individual student's performance compares to that of his or her same-grade peers on the national level. The range of Percentile Ranks is 1 to 99.) It is interesting to see that these students read many of the same books that all students read (see Section 1) with the exception of a few different titles and some books that are at a higher readability level. This explains why, in nearly all cases, average book readability levels for these students are higher than those read by all students.

	FIRST GRADE
	Includes data from 14,208 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for first grade who read a total of 1,054,643 books.
	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Green Eggs and Ham**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
2	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
3	**If You Give a Moose a Muffin**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
4	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
5	**The Foot Book**, Dr. Seuss (0.6)
6	**If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, Laura Numeroff (2.5)
7	**Are You My Mother?**, P.D. Eastman (1.6)
8	**Hop on Pop**, Dr. Seuss (1.5)
9	**The Cat in the Hat**, Dr. Seuss (2.1)
10	**One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish**, Dr. Seuss (1.7)
11	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)
12	**Danny and the Dinosaur**, Syd Hoff (2.3)
13	**If You Take a Mouse to School**, Laura Numeroff (2.4)
14	**Clifford the Big Red Dog**, Norman Bridwell (1.2)
15	**Goodnight Moon**, Margaret Wise Brown (1.8)
16	**Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type**, Doreen Cronin (2.3)
17	**If You Take a Mouse to the Movies**, Laura Numeroff (2.1)
18	**I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!**, Dr. Seuss (2.2)
19	**Biscuit**, Alyssa Satin Capucilli (1.4)
20	**The Snowy Day**, Ezra Jack Keats (2.5)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of first-grade students was 2.0.

SECOND GRADE

Includes data from 23,292 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for second grade who read a total of 1,974,578 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Where the Wild Things Are**, Maurice Sendak (3.4)
2	**Corduroy**, Don Freeman (3.5)
3	**Officer Buckle and Gloria**, Peggy Rathmann (3.4)
4	**Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**, Judith Viorst (3.7)
5	**Dinosaurs Before Dark**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)
6	**Dolphins at Daybreak**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)
7	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)
8	**Miss Nelson Is Missing!**, Harry Allard (2.7)
9	**The Librarian from the Black Lagoon**, Mike Thaler (3.2)
10	**Arthur Meets the President**, Marc Brown (3.2)
11	**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**, Laura Numeroff (2.7)
12	**Tonight on the Titanic**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.1)
13	**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs**, Jon Scieszka (3.0)
14	**Sunset of the Sabertooth**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.0)
15	**Afternoon on the Amazon**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.6)
16	**Mummies in the Morning**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.7)
17	**The Very Hungry Caterpillar**, Eric Carle (2.9)
18	**The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash**, Trinka Hakes Noble (2.2)
19	**Polar Bears Past Bedtime**, Mary Pope Osborne (3.3)
20	**Pirates Past Noon**, Mary Pope Osborne (2.8)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of second-grade students was 3.0.

THIRD GRADE

Includes data from 16,285 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for third grade who read a total of 991,692 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
2	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)
3	**Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs**, Judi Barrett (4.3)
4	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
5	**Stone Fox**, John Reynolds Gardiner (4.0)
6	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
7	**Ramona Quimby, Age 8**, Beverly Cleary (5.6)
8	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
9	**How to Eat Fried Worms**, Thomas Rockwell (3.5)
10	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)
11	**The Mouse and the Motorcycle**, Beverly Cleary (5.1)
12	**Captain Underpants and the Attack of the Talking Toilets**, Dav Pilkey (4.7)
13	**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**, Ed Young (3.5)
14	**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**, Roald Dahl (4.8)
15	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)
16	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
17	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)
18	**The Adventures of Captain Underpants**, Dav Pilkey (4.3)
19	**Captain Underpants and the Invasion … Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space**, Dav Pilkey (4.4)
20	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of third-grade students was 5.4.

FOURTH GRADE

Includes data from 15,255 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for fourth grade who read a total of 632,975 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
2	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
3	**Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing**, Judy Blume (3.3)
4	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
5	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
6	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
7	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
8	**Charlotte's Web**, E.B. White (4.4)
9	**Holes**, Louis Sachar (4.6)
10	**Sarah, Plain and Tall**, Patricia MacLachlan (3.4)
11	**Frindle**, Andrew Clements (5.4)
12	**The Miserable Mill**, Lemony Snicket (6.2)
13	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
14	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)
15	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
16	**The Ersatz Elevator**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
17	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)
18	**The Hostile Hospital**, Lemony Snicket (6.9)
19	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
20	**Because of Winn-Dixie**, Kate DiCamillo (3.9)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of fourth-grade students was 6.2.

FIFTH GRADE

Includes data from 10,681 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for fifth grade who read a total of 338,769 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
2	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
3	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
4	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
5	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
6	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
7	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
8	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)
9	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)
10	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
11	**The Ersatz Elevator**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
12	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
13	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
14	**The Hostile Hospital**, Lemony Snicket (6.9)
15	**The Carnivorous Carnival**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
16	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
17	**The Penultimate Peril**, Lemony Snicket (7.4)
18	**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Unabridged)**, C.S. Lewis (5.7)
19	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
20	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)

The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of fifth-grade students was 6.5.

SIXTH GRADE

Includes data from 4,930 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for sixth grade who read a total of 131,914 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
2	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
3	**Hatchet**, Gary Paulsen (5.7)
4	**Eldest**, Christopher Paolini (7.0)
5	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
6	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
7	**Bridge to Terabithia**, Katherine Paterson (4.6)
8	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
9	**The Penultimate Peril**, Lemony Snicket (7.4)
10	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
11	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
12	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
13	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
14	**Number the Stars**, Lois Lowry (4.5)
15	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
16	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)
17	**The Carnivorous Carnival**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
18	**Tuck Everlasting**, Natalie Babbitt (5.0)
19	**The Ersatz Elevator**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
20	**The Grim Grotto**, Lemony Snicket (6.5)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of sixth-grade students was 6.6.

SEVENTH GRADE

Includes data from 3,076 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for seventh grade who read a total of 71,945 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
2	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
3	**Eldest**, Christopher Paolini (7.0)
4	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
5	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
6	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
7	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
8	**The Penultimate Peril**, Lemony Snicket (7.4)
9	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
10	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
11	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
12	**The Bad Beginning**, Lemony Snicket (6.4)
13	**The Grim Grotto**, Lemony Snicket (6.5)
14	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
15	**The Slippery Slope**, Lemony Snicket (7.1)
16	**The Carnivorous Carnival**, Lemony Snicket (6.6)
17	**The Reptile Room**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)
18	**The Austere Academy**, Lemony Snicket (6.7)
19	**Inkheart**, Cornelia Funke (5.4)
20	**The Wide Window**, Lemony Snicket (6.3)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of seventh-grade students was 6.6.

EIGHTH GRADE

Includes data from 1,793 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for eighth grade who read a total of 36,286 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
2	**The End**, Lemony Snicket (7.3)
3	**Eldest**, Christopher Paolini (7.0)
4	**The Giver**, Lois Lowry (5.7)
5	**The Outsiders**, S.E. Hinton (4.7)
6	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
7	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
8	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
9	**Uglies**, Scott Westerfeld (5.2)
10	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
11	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
12	**The Penultimate Peril**, Lemony Snicket (7.4)
13	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)
14	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)
15	**The Call of the Wild**, Jack London (8.0)
16	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
17	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)
18	**Artemis Fowl: The Lost Colony**, Eoin Colfer (5.3)
19	**Artemis Fowl: The Opal Deception**, Eoin Colfer (5.7)
20	**Pretties**, Scott Westerfeld (5.7)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of eighth-grade students was 6.4.

NINTH–TWELFTH GRADE

Includes data from 592 students in the top 10% of reading achievement for the ninth through twelfth grades who read a total of 15,083 books.

	Title, Author (Book Level)*
1	**To Kill a Mockingbird**, Harper Lee (5.6)
2	**Night**, Elie Wiesel (4.8)
3	**Eragon**, Christopher Paolini (5.6)
4	**Eldest**, Christopher Paolini (7.0)
5	**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
6	**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**, J.K. Rowling (6.8)
7	**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**, J.K. Rowling (5.5)
8	**Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
9	**Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury (5.2)
10	**Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban**, J.K. Rowling (6.7)
11	**Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**, J.K. Rowling (7.2)
12	**Angels & Demons**, Dan Brown (5.6)
13	**Of Mice and Men**, John Steinbeck (4.5)
14	**The Chosen**, Chaim Potok (6.6)
15	**Lord of the Flies**, William Golding (5.0)
16	**The Da Vinci Code**, Dan Brown (6.4)
17	**Twilight**, Stephenie Meyer (4.9)
18	**Oliver Twist (Unabridged)**, Charles Dickens (11.3)
19	**Ender's Game**, Orson Card (5.5)
20	**The Fellowship of the Ring**, J.R.R. Tolkien (6.1)

*The average book readability level of the top 20 books read by the top 10% of ninth- through twelfth-grade students was 6.5.