

---

## Type of Literature: Science Fiction and Fantasy

---

K-2

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **AMANDA PIG AND THE REALLY HOT DAY.** Dial Books, 2005.

A dachshund who is "a very good eater" competes to earn a spot in a television commercial for Doggy Yums, even though his favorite food is ice cream. After a series of mishaps at the studio, the pup is chosen to represent a new product, Doggy Yums ice cream. This book is divided into four different stories. The Pig family swelters in the heat, Amanda and her father cool off with the garden hose; Oliver and his friends shun Amanda and Lollipop until they get thirsty; the girls set up a lemonade stand; and, finally, the entire family gathers outside to stargaze and listen to stories while waiting for a breeze. This will be popular with young readers.

Arnold, Tedd. **HI, FLY GUY.** Scholastic, 2005.

A boy goes out searching for a smart animal to take to "The Amazing Pet Show" and bumps into a fly that is intelligent enough to say the child's name, "Buzz." Although his parents and the judges feel at first that a fly is only a pest, not a pet, the insect puts on a performance that astounds them all and wins an award. The cartoon illustrations carry the story.

Dicamillo, Kate. **MERCY WATSON TO THE RESCUE.** Candlewick Press, 2005.

Mr. and Mrs. Watson have a charming pig named Mercy. Believe it or not, Mercy has her own bedroom in the house. And each night, the Watsons tuck her into bed and sing her to sleep. Well, one night, Mercy gets really scared after the lights go out. So, she decides to jump into bed with the Watsons. All three are rudely awakened from their lovely dreams with a "BOOM" as their bed falls into a hole that has opened in the floor beneath their bed. Frantic happenings occur as they go to find help and save the day.

Rylant, Cynthia. **HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE GREAT GRANDPAS.** Simon&Schuster, 2005.

Henry and his lovable dog visit Great-Grandpa Bill in the house where he lives with lots of other grandpas. The two friends go exploring and come across a pond that looks like a great place for a swim. Knowing that they should not go in the water alone, they return to the house in search of a buddy. All of the grandpas head off to the pond with the boy and the dog. They rest on Mudge whenever they get tired. They all have a great time swimming in their "skivvies" and telling old stories. This is a Junior Library Guild Selection.

### 3-4

Pope, Mary Osborn. **THE NIGHT OF THE NEW MAGICIANS**. Random House, 2006.

Jack and Annie visit the Paris World's Fair of 1889. Their mission is to find four 'new magicians' and protect them from an evil sorcerer who plans to kidnap them and steal their magic. This is another Merlin filled with mystery, history and surprises.

Birney, Betty. **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY**. Putnam, 2004. The narrator of this book is a hamster, Humphrey. A substitute teacher brings him to school for a class pet. When the regular teacher returns, she does not want to take care of the hamster. Humphrey makes good things happen to people that he meets. The morale: know the full story before making judgments. Humphrey's presence always makes a positive difference in the lives of people he meets.

Coville, Bruce. **JULIET DOVE, QUEEN OF LOVE**. Harcourt, 2005. Juliet, a shy middle school girl, is lured into the mysterious shop, 'Elives Magic shop'. She gets an amulet and it cannot be removed til the end of the story. With the help of two talking rats she learns that the necklace given her is from Eris, the Goddess of Discord, and is the same amulet as worn by Helen of Troy. This makes the wearer irresistible to the opposite sex. Juliet's journey through the tale enables herself to achieve a greater appreciation for herself and her friends. This may be the beginning of a new series.

### 5-6

Bailey, Len. **CLABBERNAPPERS**. Starscape Books, 2006

Danny Ray, rodeo champion steps through a mysterious door at an amusement park. He finds himself in the strangest place he's ever seen: an enormous checkered sea, populated by characters both good and evil. Danny, who is only 11 years old, sets off to find King Krystal's kidnapped queen, where he meets many exotic characters, including Cole-trolls, a giant wasp, and red bats.

Brand, Christianna. **NURSE MATILDA**. Bloomsbury, 2005.

A combination of Mary Poppins, Mrs. Piggie Wiggle and TV's Super Nanny. The three tales of Nurse Matilda's entanglements with the Brown family has led to a movie "Nanny McPhee". The Brown children are always up to mischief and a bit of violence. The children are too numerous to be counted and there are new ones arriving continually. A British flavor.

Carman, Patrick. **THE LAND OF ELYON BOOK 1, 2 AND 3.** Orchard Books, 2006

“The Dark Hills Divide” is the first of this series, “Beyond the Valley of Thorns” is the second and “The Tenth City is the third. This entertaining trilogy is about Alexa, 12 who longs for adventure. In the first of the series the elderly founder of the Bridewell kingdom dies unexpectedly. She uses his secret key to unlock a hidden passage leading outside the barriers of the kingdom. In these tunnels she meets many animals and is able to speak to them. She also meets her sidekick Yipes who is with her in all of the books and her adventures. The stories move along at a fine clip, with plenty of suspense and action to hold readers’ interest. Double identities, mysterious codes, and Alexa’s magical gift of speaking with animals all enliven the plot. When you get to the end of Book 3 she is sailing off to a new adventure. There may be a Book 4 coming your way.