
Easy Readers

Old Favorites Made New

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. *Biscuit and the Lost Teddy Bear*. New York: Haper, 2011. 978-0-06-117751-4. RL 1.7 Biscuit locates a lost teddy bear and soon they are off to find the owner.

Day, Alexandra. *Carl and the Puppies*. New York: Square Fish, 2011. 978-0-312-62482-8. RL 1.6. Carl takes puppies Polly, Pete, and Molly for the afternoon so Mama Dog can nap. After they romp for a while Carl needs a nap, too. Also available in this series *Carl and the Baby Duck*.

Feldman, Thea. *Harry Cat and Tucker Mouse: Starring Harry*. New York: Square Fish, 2011. 978-0-312-68168-5. RL 1.6. These books are based on the characters from *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden and Garth Williams. In this one, Harry becomes the star of a play but when he realizes that he isn't seeing his best friend Tucker anymore he decides to give up the life of a star. Also in the series, *Harry Cat and Tucker Mouse: Harry to the Rescue* and *Harry Cat and Tucker Mouse: Tucker's Beetle Band*.

Gantos, Jack. *Three Strikes for Rotten Ralph*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011. 978-0-374-36354-3. RL 3.1. Rotten Ralph and Sarah are trying out for the baseball team. As usual, Ralph doesn't practice or work hard, but Sarah does. Sarah makes the team. Ralph doesn't, but he is able to become Cat Boy thanks to Sarah's recommendation. Ralph still dreams of being a superstar, but since he only dreams he might miss his chance.

Parish, Herman. *Go West, Amelia Bedelia!* New York: Greenwillow Books, 2011. 978-0-06-084361-8. RL 2.3 Amelia Bedelia is still at it. This time she goes West to visit her Uncle Buck who owns the Double B Dude Ranch. Of course, Amelia has her own take on all the cowboy talk she hears, but in the end she saves the day.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter and Tabby Ring the Bell*. New York: Harcourt Children's Books, 2011. 978-0-15-205071-9. RL 1.4. Mr. Putter wants to go back to school for just one day, but it doesn't work out as he had planned.

I Can Read

Gilman, Grace. *Dixie*. New York: Harper, 2011. 978-0-06-171914-1. RL 1.5. Dixie is Emma's puppy and she waits for Emma to come home every day after school so they can play and eat snacks. One day Emma comes home excited. She wants to be Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, so instead of playing and snacking she studies. Dixie becomes bored and gets a little naughty, but everything works out in the end.

Mozelle, Shirley. *Zack's Alligator and the First Snow*. New York: Harper, 2011. 978-0-06-147370-8. RL 1.6. Zack's uncle gave him an alligator keychain from Florida that grows and comes to life when it gets wet. Zack has fun explaining snow and all things wintery and cold to Bridget when she gets wet in his pocket.

Schaefer, Lola M. *Mittens, Where is Max?* New York, Harper, 2011. 978-0-06-170227-3. RL .7. Mitten and Max are friends. Mittens wants to play with Max, but when the kitten goes to look for the puppy he is nowhere to be found.

Strathearn, Chris. *Splat the Cat Sings Flat.* New York, Harper, 2011. 978-0-06-197854-8. RL 1.5. Splat the Cat's class at Cat School is going to be singing for Parent's Night. Splat is worried that he can't sing or that he will forget how, but he manages to pull it off.

Yorinks, Arthur. *Flappy and Scrappy.* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2011. 978-0-06-205117-2. RL 1.5. This book contains three short stories of two dog friends, Flappy and Scrappy. The stories are simple and predictable, but good for this level of book.

Step Into Reading

Harrison, David L. *A Monster is Coming.* New York: Random House, 2011. 978-0-375-86677-7. RL 1.6. This book is a re-telling of the old story where someone misunderstands and starts a rumor. *Gossip* by Jan Pienkowski is very similar.

Hayes, Geoffrey. *A Poor Excuse for a Dragon.* New York: Random House, 2011. 978-0-375-87180-1. RL 2.5. Fred's parents send Fred off into the world with a list of how to be a good dragon. 1. Run amok, 2. Eat people, 3. Breathe fire, 4. Roar, 5. Act scary. Fred does his best, but running amok makes him dizzy, eating people makes his tummy hurt, his fire is like a birthday candle and he's not scary. Luckily he finds some people that help him find a job anyway.

Kohuth, Jane. *Ducks Go Vroom.* New York: Random House, 2011. 978-0-375-86560-2. RL 2.3??? Ducks come to visit, make a mess and have to clean it up before they leave. The story is told through onomatopoeia and rhyme.

Newer Series

Arnold, Tedd. *Fly Guy Vs. the Flyswatter.* New York: Cartwheel Books, 2011. 978-0-545-31286-8. RL 2.2. Fly Guy accidentally goes to school with Buzz on a field trip day. The class is off to a fly swatter factory. When the factory starts testing a new fly swatter, Fly Guy comes to the rescue and the class proclaims it the best field trip ever!

Blackford, Andy. *Bill's Bike.* New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2011. 978-0-7787-0575-8. RL .8, DRA 2, GR B. Bill learns to ride his bike with training wheels and slowly masters it without. Also available *The Hungry Little Monkey* by the same author.

Bunting, Eve. *Frog and Friends.* Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2011. 978-1-58536-548-7. RL 1.8, GR K, DRA 18. Eve Bunting tries her hand at early readers in this sweet book about a frog, rabbit, squirrel, possum, and raccoon that are friends. Three short stories about their adventures are included in this book. There are 2 more available in this series right now.

Catrow, David. *Best in Show*. New York: Orchard Books, 2011. 978-0-545-12277-1. RL 1.6. Max Spaniel is in a crazy dog show where the dogs do more than parade around the ring to win best in show. There are 2 more Max Spaniel books, *Dinosaur Hunt*, and *Funny Lunch*.

Chaconas, Dori. *Cork and Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson*. New York: Viking, 2011. 978-0-670-01281-7. RL 1.4. Cork and Fuzz are back in this sweet book about being different, but still being friends and learning from and about each other.

Hooks, Gwendolyn. *Pet Costume Party*. Mankato, MN: Stone Arch Books, 2011. 978-1-43422513-9. RL 1.6, GR G, DRA 12 Lucy, Jake, Kayla, and Andy are best friends and they all have pets so together they are the Pet Club. Andy decides to have a Halloween party in this installment, but he can't figure out a costume for his pet Nibbles who is a fish. Other books in the Pet Club series are: *The Cat Food Mystery*, *The Pet Wash*, and *The Lucky Charm*.

Mack, Jeff. *Hippo and Rabbit in Three Short Tales*. New York: Cartwheel Books, 2011. 978-0-545-27445-6. RL .7, GR J, DRA 16. Much like Elephant and Piggie, Hippo and Rabbit use humor and word bubbles to tell short stories. Also in the series *Hippo and Rabbit in Three More Tales: Brave Like Me*.

Sazaklis, John. *Royal Rodent Rescue*. Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2011. 978-1-4048-6307-1 RL 2.8, GR J, DRA 16. Streaky the Super-Cat is Supergirl's pet cat who during an experiment gone bad (or good?) is given the same super-powers as his owner. He uses these powers to help fight crime in Meteropolis, but what he really likes to do is nap. I think some knowledge of super heroes would be needed to really understand this book. Also in the same DC Super-Pets series *Midway Monkey Madness* by Sarah Hines Stephens.

Willems, Mo. *Should I Share My Ice Cream?* New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2011. 978-1-4231-4343-7. RL 0.9 Elephant and Piggie are back in a story that will warm our hearts and make us crazy at the same time! Elephant gets an ice cream cone, but before he can eat it, he is struck with guilt about sharing it with Piggie (who is not around). As he vacillates, the ice cream melts, but Piggie saves the day by sharing her ice cream with Elephant. Other new Elephant and Piggie books include: *I Broke My Trunk* and *Happy Pig Day*.

Unique Additions

Czekaj, Jef. *A Call for a New Alphabet*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011. 978-1-58089-228-5. RL 2.8 X has decided that he doesn't want to be the 3rd to the last letter anymore and calls for the alphabet to reorganize. After thinking about how the English language works, he changes his mind at the last minute. Would be a cute addition to grammar lessons or daily language lessons.

Schneider, Josh. *Tales for Very Picky Eaters*. New York: Clarion Books, 2011. 978-0-547-14956-1. RL 2.3. James is a very picky eater. He won't eat broccoli, lumpy oatmeal, mushroom lasagna, milk, or eggs. Fortunately, his father is very savvy about coming up with ways to convince James to try what he is serving.