

1st Grade Book Titles	Criteria
<b>Three Little Javelinas by Susan Lowell</b>	Fairytale, Cultural
Everyone knows the story of the three little pigs, but now you're going to meet the three little javelinas (pronounced ha-ve-LEE-nas)-loveable, wild, southwestern cousins of pigs. Living in homes built out of tumbleweeds and saguaro ribs (from the fallen giant cacti), the first two javelinas are soon running from the hungry coyote, who had hoped to eat them with red chile sauce. And where do they go for shelter? Why, to their wise sister's house, made strong with adobe bricks. This clever and humorous tale is sure to delight children of all ages, especially those familiar with the Southwest. Dressed in cowboy duds and prepared for life in the rugged desert, these characters are more than any coyote bargained for.	Lexile: 740
<b>Cora Cooks Pancit by Dorina K. Lazo</b>	Realistic Fiction, Cultural
Cora loves being in the kitchen, but she always gets stuck doing the kid jobs like licking the spoon. One day, however, when her older sisters and brother head out, Cora finally gets the chance to be Mama's assistant chef. And of all the delicious Filipino dishes that dance through Cora's head, she and Mama decide to make pancit, her favorite noodle dish. With Mama's help, Cora does the grown-up jobs like shredding the chicken and soaking the noodles (perhaps Mama won't notice if she takes a nibble of chicken or sloshes a little water on the floor). Cora even gets to stir the noodles in the pot—carefully-- while Mama supervises. When dinner is finally served, her siblings find out that Cora did all their grown-up tasks, and Cora waits anxiously to see what everyone thinks of her cooking.	Lexile: N/A
<b>Dusty Locks &amp; 3 Bears by Susan Lowell</b>	Fairytale, Humor
A Western-style retelling of the traditional tale about a little girl who finds the house of a bear family and makes herself at home. Dusty Locks makes her dirty self at home in the three bears' cabin.	Lexile: 490
<b>Starfish by Edith Thatcher Hurd</b>	Nonfiction, Science
Starfish have arms, but no legs. They have feet, but no toes. Starfish aren't fish, but they are living animals. Kids learn how starfish move, eat, and grow in Edith Hurd's poetic text, illustrated with Robin Brickman's vivid watercolor collage.	Lexile: 70 CC Exemplar
<b>A Grand Old Tree by Mary Newell Depalma</b>	Nonfiction, Science
Once there was a grand old tree, whose roots sank deep into the earth and whose arms reached high into the sky. Every spring the grand old tree flowered and bore cherries for the squirrels and birds that made their homes in her leafy branches. And every year, seeds from the tree scattered in the wind, along with many millions of leaves. Mary Newell DePalma creates an emotional tale of life and renewal, of nature's bounty and quiet balance, illustrated with simple images made powerful with vivid colors and moving compositions.	Lexile: 460

<b>Little Bear by Elsa Holmelund Minark</b>	Fiction, Readable
Meet Little Bear, a friend to millions of children. And meet Mother Bear, who is there whenever Little Bear needs her. When it is cold and snowy outside, she finds just the right outfit for Little Bear to play in. When he goes to the moon, she has a hot lunch waiting for him on his return. And, of course, she never forgets his birthday.	Lexile: 370 CC Exemplar
<b>A Chair For My Mother by Vera Williams</b>	Realistic Fiction, Cultural
Acclaimed author/illustrator Vera Williams tells of a young girl, who along with her waitress mother, saves coins in a big jar in hopes that they can someday buy a big, new, comfortable chair for their apartment, the kind of chair her mother deserves after being on her feet all day in the Blue Tile Diner. Into the jar also goes the money Grandma saves whenever she gets a bargain at the market. There hasn't been a comfortable place to sit in the apartment since a fire in their previous apartment burned everything to "charcoal and ashes." Friends and neighbors brought furniture to their new apartment downstairs, but no one brought anything big or soft or comfortable. Finally the jar is full, the coins are rolled, and in the book's crowning moment mother, daughter, and Grandma search four different furniture stores, and after carefully trying several chairs, like Goldilocks, they find the chair they've been dreaming of at last.	Lexile: 640
<b>Carlos &amp; the Squash Plant by Jan Romero Stevens</b>	Literature, Cultural
Funny things have happened to Carlos before, but nothing as funny as when Carlos' ear starts to itch and he comes to realize that something is growing in there: A squash dangles out of his ear. A squash! Could this be from not bathing? Carlos hates to take a bath. He refused to take a bath, despite his mother's warnings about what would happen if he does not bathe after working on his family's New Mexican farm. The story of Carlos, a Mexican-American boy, is a riveting read-aloud for young children. The warm colors of Jeanne Arnold's illustrations evoke the Southwestern setting. Includes Spanish and English text side by side, as well as a recipe for a yummy squash dish!	Lexile: 850
<b>Zin!, Zin! Zin! A Violin by Lloyd Moss</b>	Poetry, Counting
When this book begins, the trombone is playing all by itself. But soon a trumpet makes a duet, a french horn a trio, and so on until the entire orchestra is assembled on stage. Written in elegant and rhythmic verse and illustrated with playful and flowing artwork, this unique counting book is the perfect introduction to musical groups. Readers of all ages are sure to shout "Encore!" when they reach the final page of this joyous celebration of classical music	Lexile: 730 CC Exemplar

<b>Frog and Toad Series by Arnold Lobel</b>	Fiction, Readability
Each book contains five simple, often humorous, sometimes poignant, short stories chronicling the exploits of a frog and his friend, a toad. Some of their adventures include: attempting to fly a kite, cleaning Toad's messy house as opposed to waiting until "Tomorrow" to do so, and figuring out the ethics of being "Alone". Frog is taller, with a green shade, and is more friendly and relaxed than Toad; Toad is shorter and stout, with a brown shade and also the more serious and uptight of the duo. Each book seems to end with a story that shows how much Toad is dependent upon Frog's friendship.	Lexile: 300-400 CC Exemplar
<b>DK Readers Series</b>	Nonfiction, Science
DK Readers is a multi-level learning-to-read program combining DK's highly visual style with appealing stories at four graduated levels. Stunning photographs and engaging, age-appropriate stories are guaranteed to capture a child's interest while developing reading skills and general knowledge. DK Readers allow progression from stories for beginning readers with simple sentences and word repetition through to stories with rich vocabulary and more challenging sentence structure for proficient readers. The topics range from animals to historical figures and from transportation to career descriptions.	Lexile: 170-540
<b>The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles</b>	Nonfiction, biography
The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. Ruby's story of courage, faith, and hope is told with Robert Coles' powerful narrative and dramatically illustrated by George Ford.	Lexile: 730 CC Exemplar