

2nd Grade Book Titles	Criteria
Magic Tree House Series paired with Magic Tree House Fact Tracker Series by Mary Pope Osborne	Fantasy, Readable, Nonfiction
The first series consists of books 1-28, in which Morgan Le Fay sends Jack and Annie, two normal children who are siblings from Frog Creek, Pennsylvania, on numerous adventures and missions with a magical tree house in order to help free Morgan from a spell, solve four ancient riddles to become Master Librarians, and save four ancient stories from being lost forever. What makes these stories so great is that each fictional story has a nonfiction counterpart called a Fact Tracker that provides information on the topic or time period that the characters are visiting. These paired texts are great for engaging students in reading chapter books.	Lexile: 240 - 820
Ruth and the Green Book by Calvin Ramsey	Historical Fiction, Cultural
The picture book Ruth and the Green Book is an excellent work of historical fiction about the Jim Crow era in the United States. The book is set in the 1950s. It's the story of an African-American family's car trip from their home in Chicago to Alabama to visit relatives, the racism they encounter and the help they receive. This help comes from other African Americans and from the Green Book.	Lexile: 810
Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes	Fiction, Acceptance
Chrysanthemum loves her name — until she starts kindergarten, which is an unfamiliar world full of short names like Sue, Bill, Max, Sam, and Joe. But it's Victoria who really makes Chrysanthemum wilt, offering that she was named after her grandmother, which is much more important than being named after a flower.	Lexile: 460
Cook-a-Doodle-Do! by Janet Stevens	Fiction, Humor, Cooperation
Big Brown Rooster is sick of chicken feed. So along with his friends — Turtle, Iguana, and Potbellied Pig — he sets out to make the most magnificent strawberry shortcake in the whole wide world. But there's one problem: none of his friends knows how to cook! The team bravely forges ahead, and with Rooster's help, they learn how to measure flour (not with a ruler) and how to beat an egg (not with a baseball bat). But can they keep Pig from gobbling up all the ingredients? Take an old family recipe, add four funny friends, and mix in some hilarious cooking confusion and you have a picture book treat for children of all ages!	Lexile: 420
Tops and Bottoms by Janet Stevens	Fantasy, Folktale, Hard Work
Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots in American slave tales, Tops & Bottoms celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship. "As usual, Stevens' animal characters, bold and colorful, are delightful.... It's all wonderful fun, and the book opens, fittingly, from top to bottom instead of from side to side, making it perfect for story-time sharing."	Lexile: 580

So You Want to Be President by Judith St. George	Nonfiction, History, Biography
All kinds of people have served as the President of the United States. That's a big job, and getting bigger. But why not? Presidents have come in just about every variety. They've been generals like George Washington and actors like Ronald Reagan; big like William Howard Taft and small like James Madison; handsome like Franklin Pierce and homely like Abraham Lincoln. They've been born in log cabins like Andrew Jackson and mansions like William Harrison.	Lexile: 730 CC Exemplar
Count me a Rhyme by Jane Yolen	Poetry, Animals
In this unusual counting book, playful poems tell the stories of one elk, two birds, three fish—from one through ten and then many—as they go about their day. For an added bonus, numerals, Roman numerals, and words related to the numbers are included in the page design. Jason Stemple's intimate photographs give us a unique look at some common creatures that enjoy the company of others.	Lexile: N/A
Aesop Fables Illustrated by Charles Santore	Fables, Classics
This magnificently illustrated collection contains Aesop's best-loved animal fables, as well as some not as well known - 24 memorable stories in all. The life lessons learned are as true today as when these fables were first written.	Lexile: 1090
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White	Fiction, Animals, Compassion
<p>Wilbur is the runt of a litter born to a pig on the farm of Fern Arable's father. When it is announced that her father is going to kill the pig, Fern rushes forth to save it, asking of her father: "If I had been very small at birth, would you have killed me?" Her father spares the pig, but only if Fern agrees to care for it. Falling in love immediately with the little pig, she feeds him regularly with a bottle, and names him Wilbur.</p> <p>Wilbur is Fern's constant companion until he grows big enough to be transferred to his new home in the barn of Fern's neighboring uncle. Fern is able to visit Wilbur, but is unable to see him as often. Out of boredom, Wilbur begins to befriend other animals in the barn, who often patronizingly instruct the still naïve little pig in the ways of life. His most important friend, however, turns out to be a spider named Charlotte, who occupies a web in the corner of a doorway above him. Her love for Wilbur, coupled with her ingenuity, will save Wilbur's life.</p>	Lexile: 680
Martin Luther King Jr. and the March on Washington by Frances E. Ruffin	Nonfiction, History, Biography
On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people came to the nation's capital. They came by plane, by bus, by car — even on roller-skates — to speak out against segregation and to demand equal rights for everyone. They also came to hear the words of a very special leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. Told with a wonderful immediacy; this book captures the spirit of this landmark day in American history and brings Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech to vivid life for young children.	Lexile: 480

Amelia Bediia by Peggy Parish	Fiction, Humor,
In the first story of this classic saga of a loveable noodle head, Amelia follows a list of tasks on her first day of work as a maid. When told to draw the drapes, she sketches them; she measures two cups of rice with a tape measure; and she “dresses” the chicken—literally. Although she might have been fired at the end of this disastrous day, Amelia has a secret weapon: her lemon meringue pie. It tastes so good that she gets invited back for another day.	Lexile: N/A