

Literature Circle Book List

Welcome to Langley's novel list database. Here you will find selections recommended for use as lit circle titles based on general themes. Most of the titles have been a Langley Book of the year selection at one time. Other recommendations have come from classroom teachers, Adrienne Gear, Donalyn Miller, and other websites. **Approximate** reading levels have been included for **your** information only (**levels should not be discussed with students or parents and should not get in the way of student choice**). These levels come from various sources including Scholastic's Book Wizard, Lexile Levels, ATOS levels, and directly from the authors' sites. **(If you feel the reading level is incorrect, please contact instructional services).**

When selecting novels to use with your students, it is important to consider a number of factors including general interest, time, student choice, genre, availability, and classroom goals. It is best to let go of the idea that you must find books written specifically for a given grade level or for a specific independent reading level.

Literature circles allow students to work together to understand and enjoy books. **Often students can respond to books in literature circles that are beyond their independent reading level.** Choice is the greatest motivator and should be the greatest priority.

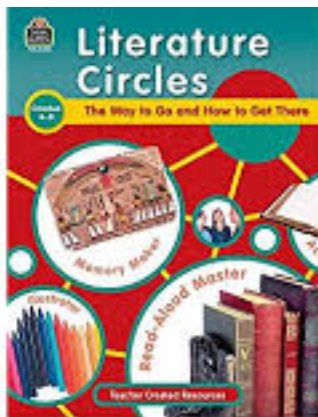
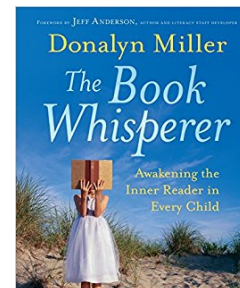
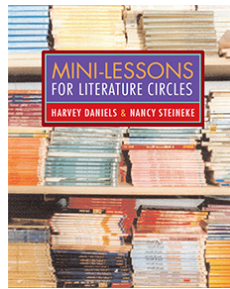
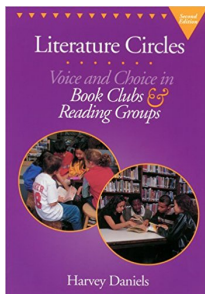


**If you have additional recommendations,
please contact instructional services so we can
add them to the list. Happy Reading!**

Getting Started With Literature Circles

Literature circles are flexible, student-led book groups that allow students to engage in rich discussions, and develop ownership and responsibility for their learning. To help you get started, the following resources are recommended.

The Nuts and Bolts of Setting up Literature Circles,
article by Elena Aguilar, Transformational Leadership Coach from
Oakland, California



Survival Stories With Children

Title	Approx. F&P Level	Details
<u>Safe As Houses</u> , Eric Walters	Q/R	survival, Hurricanes, Ontario, Babysitting
<u>North</u> , Donna Jo Napoli	Q	Canada, Inuit, adventure
<u>Everest Book 1</u> , Gordon Korman	T	mountain climbing
<u>The River</u> , Gary Paulsen	R	Canadian, courage, leadership, responsibility
<u>A Week in the Woods</u> , Andrew Clements	T	outdoors, cooperation, team work, school
<u>Storm Blast</u> , Curtis Parkenson	R	courage, survival at sea, siblings
<u>Kensuke's Kingdom</u> , Michael Morpurgo	V	survival, lost at sea, cooperation
<u>The Dogs of Winter</u> , Bobbie Pyron	U	true Story, survival, dogs
<u>Never Say Die</u> , Will Hobbs	T	arctic wilderness, survival, siblings
<u>Stay Alive- Flood</u> , Joseph Monninger	Q/R	series, flood, survival
<u>Stranded</u> , Jeff Probst	R/S	shipwrecked, survival, siblings, blended family
<u>Trial By Fire</u> (Sequel to Stranded), Jeff Probst	V	blended family, siblings, survival on island
<u>May B., a novel</u> , Caroline Starr Rose	R	historical fiction, survival
<u>I Survived Series</u> ... see individual titles for descriptions	Q R S T	
<u>Unsinkable; #1 Titanic</u> , Gordon Korman	T	historical fiction, Titanic, survival
<u>Escape Under The Forever Sky</u> , Eve Yohalem	U	Ethiopia, imprisonment, survival
<u>Airman</u> , Eoin Colfer	V	courage, determination, wrongfully accused

Survival Stories With Children

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Peak</u> , Roland Smith	T	mountain climbing, determination, coming of age
<u>Jolted: Newton Starker's Rules for Survival</u> , Arthur Slade	R	family curse, survival,
<u>Among the Hidden</u> , Margaret Peterson Haddix	Z	friendship, violence, crime, survival

Overcoming Hardship

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Elijah of Buxton</u> , Christopher Paul Curtis	W	historical fiction, slavery, Canada, helping others
<u>Middle of Nowhere</u> , Caroline Adderson (local setting)	P	adventure, takes place in B.C.
<u>Undergrounders</u> , David Skuy	Q	possible read-aloud, hockey
<u>A Single Shard</u> , Linda Sue Park	U	historical fiction, determination, Korean setting
<u>I am a Taxi</u> , Deborah Ellis (Topic Gr 6-8)	R	child drug trafficking, survival, friendships
<u>Stella by Starlight</u> , Sharon M Draper	V	courage, prejudice, segregation, historical fiction
<u>Ultra</u> , David Carrol	N/O	interview format, running, determination
<u>Ugly</u> , Robert Hoge	T	true story, bullying, self-esteem (similar to Wonder)
<u>Freckle Juice</u> , Judy Blume	M	confidence, self-esteem
<u>Iqbal</u> , Francesco D'Adamo	S/T	middle-eastern culture, markets, courage,
<u>Out of My Mind</u> , Sharon Draper	S	challenges, disabilities, family life
<u>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</u> , Ying Chang Compestine	S	historical fiction, China
<u>Wonderstruck</u> , Brian Selznick	W	Interesting Format, 2 different time periods, illness, disabilities
<u>Secret Garden</u> , By Frances Hodgson Burnett	U	overcoming loss, loneliness, historical fiction, understanding others

Family/Relationships

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Bridge to Terabithia</u> , Katherine Paterson	T	friendship, grief,
<u>Because of Winn-Dixie</u> , Kate DiCamillo	R	moving, family, pets, friendships
<u>Because of Mr. Terupt</u> , Rob Buyea	Q	possible read-aloud, school-life
<u>Each little Bird that Sings</u> , Deborah Wiles	U	friendship, family life, death
<u>The Naked Mole-Rat Letters</u> , Mary Amato	R	family, growing up, relationships,
<u>Dog House Blues</u> , Jacqueline Pearce	O	friendships, fitting-in, dogs
<u>True (...Sort of)</u> , Katherine Hannigan	U	friendships, siblings
<u>The Crazy Man</u> , Pamela Porter (Written in Prose)	R	friendships, disabilities
<u>The Lemonade War</u> , Jacqueline Davies	O/P	sibling rivalry, summer,
<u>Year of the Dog</u> , Grace Lin	Q	immigration, Chinese New Year, self-esteem
<u>The One and Only Ivan</u> , Katherine Applegate	S	based on true story, animals in captivity
<u>Rules</u> , Cynthia Lord	P	autism, friendship, living with disabilities
<u>Loser</u> , Jerry Spinelli	Q	confidence, peer pressure, humor
<u>Star Girl</u> , Jerry Spinelli	P	popularity, coming of age, romance

Fantasy

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>The False Prince</u> , Jennifer Nielsen	X	king, queen, prince, princess, survival, determination
<u>Flight of the Phoenix</u> , Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist, R.L. LaFevers	P	losing parents, going to live relative, discovering magical beasts
<u>Dragon Keeper</u> , Carole Wilkinson	T	dragons, adventure
<u>The Silver Bowl</u> , Diane Stanley	Q	magic, historical setting, royalty
<u>The Giant Rat of Sumatra or Pirates Galore</u> , Sid Fleischman	R/S	pirate story, shipwreck, thievery
<u>Dragon Shield</u> , Charlie Fletcher	X	dragons, statues, adventure, battles
<u>Eager</u> , Helen Fox	R	Science Fiction, life with robots
<u>Coraline</u> , Neil Gaiman	W	spooky, horror genre
<u>Pip Bartlett's Guide To Magical Creatures</u> , Jackson Pearce	Q	magical creatures
<u>The Night Gardener</u> , Jonathon Auxier	X	Victorian ghost story
<u>The Giver</u> , Lois Lowry	U	dystopian community
<u>Ella Enchanted</u> , Gail Carson Levine	U	alternate version of Cinderella
<u>The BFG</u> , Roald Dahl	U	giants, friendship
<u>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (The Chronicles of Narnia)</u> , C.S. Lewis	V/W	mysterious land, magical creatures
<u>Jinx</u> , Sage Blackwood	Q	series, trolls, wizards, magical creatures
<u>Liesl & Po</u> , Lauren Oliver	U	ghosts
<u>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</u> , Roald Dahl	R	magic, honesty, just rewards

Fantasy 2

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Dark Life</u> , Kat Falls	W	apocalyptic future, survival under water, uncovering a mystery
<u>Ctrl-Z</u> , Andrew Norriss	U	adventure, time travel, humorous
<u>Savvy</u> , Ingrid Law	U	coming of age, family live, magic and supernatural
<u>Gregor the Overlander</u> , Suzanne Collins	V	courage, hero, Dark Underland, mystery, spiders, rats cockroaches
<u>Dark Hills Divide</u> , Patrick Carman	W	adventure, curiosity, forest animals, magic & supernatural
<u>The True Meaning of Smekday</u> , Adam Rex (Sci-Fi)	Y	science-fiction, aliens, UFO's, adventure
<u>Alcatraz Versus the Evil Librarians</u> , Brandon Sanderson	S	overcoming obstacles, magic & supernatural
<u>Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher</u> , Bruce Coville	R	imagination, magic, ghosts, monsters, and dragons
<u>The Power of Un</u> , Nancy Etchemendy	T	sci-fi/fantasy, courage, bravery, heroism, kindness, helping others
<u>I Was a Rat</u> , Philip Pullman	O	a magical weaving of humor, fairy tale, and adventure
<u>A Wrinkle in Time</u> , By Madeleine L'Engle	W	parents, siblings, time travel *also available as graphic novel
<u>The Lightning Thief</u> , Rick Riordan	W	overcoming obstacles, growing up, dragons, mythical creatures
<u>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</u> , J.K. Rowling	V	school, magical creatures, witches
<u>Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer</u> , Kelly Jones	N/O	magic, animals, humor
<u>The Lion Who Stole My Arm</u> , Nicola Davies	Q	illustrated, relationships, Africa,
<u>Knights of the Kitchen Table</u> , By Jon Scieszka	P	dragons, adventure, middle ages

War

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Extra Credit</u> , Andrew Clements	U	cultural differences, Afghanistan, penpals, school, wartime conditions
<u>The Breadwinner</u> , Deborah Ellis	R	determination, Afghanistan war, survival, strong female lead
<u>Parvana's Journey</u> , Deborah Ellis (sequal to Breadwinner)	V	determination, Afghanistan war, survival, strong female lead
<u>Mud City</u> , Deborah Ellis (Sequal to Parvana's Journey)	U	3 rd book in series, survival, animals, friendship
<u>Breaking Stalin's Nose</u> , Eugene Yelchin	S	communism, human rights, parents
<u>Number the Stars</u> , Lois Lowry	U	WWII, holocaust, courage, helping others
<u>End of the Line</u> , Sharon E. McKay	S	WWII, holocaust, Holland, courage, helping others
<u>Dash</u> , Kirby Larson	U	WWII, Japanese internment camp, prejudice, dog, relationship
<u>The War That Saved My Life</u> , Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	z+	WWII, overcoming obstacles, family, relationships
<u>Walking Home</u> , Eric Walters	9-13	war, refugee camp
<u>Inside Out & Back Again</u> , Thanhha Lai	U	refugee camp, immigration
<u>Long Walk to Water</u> , Linda Sue Park	T	Africa, survival, wars
<u>Someone Named Eva</u> , Joan M. Wolf	U	WWII, holocaust, survival, courage
<u>Fly Boy</u> , Eric Walters	U	WWII, Canadian forces, survival, adventure
<u>Refugee</u> , Alan Gratz	Y	3 different perspectives over time, courage, survival
<u>War Horse</u> , Michael Morpurgo	X	WWI, horses, survival

Animal Stories

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>The Metro Dogs of Moscow</u> , Rachelle Delaney	Q/R	mystery, from the dogs perspective, friendships
<u>Ugly</u> , Donna Jo Napoli Canadian	R/S	based on Hans Christian Anderson's Classic tale
<u>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</u> , Kate DiCamillo	U	dolls, toys puppets, kindness
<u>Poppy</u> , Avi	S	courage, bravery, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs
<u>We Can't All Be Rattlesnakes</u> , Patrick Jennings	R	friends, pets, snakes
<u>Toad Rage</u> , Morris Gleitzman	Q	friendship, survival, Australia
<u>Young Fredle</u> , Cynthia Voigt	T/U	discovery, perspective, mouse
<u>I, Jack</u> , Patricia Finney	O	from the dog's point of view
<u>The Last Wild</u> , Piers Torday	U/V	talking animals, adventure
<u>Guinea Dog</u> , Patrick Jennings	O	school-life, pets, guinea pig
<u>Mr. Popper's Penguins</u> , Richard Atwater, Florence Atwater	Q	kindness, responsibility, penguins, pets
<u>Silverwing</u> , by Kenneth Oppel	R/S	courage, magic, supernatural, bats
<u>Shiloh</u> , Phyllis Reynolds Naylor	T/U	pets, relationships, honour
<u>The Mouse and the Motorcycle</u> , Beverly Cleary	Q	friendship, helping others, talking mouse
<u>Showoff</u> , Gordon Korman	T	cooperation, friendship, dogs
<u>The Stranger Next Door</u> , Pet Kehret	U	pets, relationships, neighborhood crime, cats
<u>Ralph S. Mouse</u> , Beverly Cleary	O	friendship, school-life, talking mouse
<u>Charlotte's Web</u> , E.B. White	R	kindness, friendship, talking animals
<u>Guardians of Ga'Hooole: The Capture</u> , Kathryn Lasky	V	adventure, courage, family, owls

Animal Stories

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Maxi's Secrets: (Or What You Can Learn from a Dog)</u> Lynn Plourde	N/O	dogs, bullying, friendships, school, moving

Mystery

Title	Level	Details
<u>Escape From Mr Lemoncello's Library</u> , Chris Grabenstein	V	cleverness, codes, puzzles, adventure
<u>Missing On Superstition Mountain</u> , Elise Broach	Q	action-packed mystery, siblings, adventure
<u>Shakespeare's Secret</u> , Elise Broach	T	changes, courage, school-life, fitting in
<u>Chasing Vermeer</u> , Bret Helquist	S/T	cooperation, puzzles, problem solving, crime
<u>Masterminds</u> , Gordon Korman	V	curiosity, adventure, crime
<u>Space Case</u> , Stuart Gibbs	V/W	curiosity, moons, crime
<u>Belly Up</u> , Stuart Gibbs	V	crime, zoo animals
<u>I Owe You One</u> , Natalie Hyde	Q	relationships, friendships, survival
<u>Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life</u> , Wendy Mass	Q/R	turning 13, friendship, mysterious box, adventure
<u>The Westing Game</u> , Ellen Raskin	T	cleverness, cooperation, family, solving clues
<u>Holes</u> , Louis Sachar	S	solving a curse, friendships, determination
<u>When You Reach Me</u> , Rebecca Stead	V	coming of age, secret notes, magic & supernatural
<u>Thumb and the Bad Guys</u> , Ken Roberts	S	Canadian, humor, small-town life
<u>The London Eye Mystery</u> , Shiobhan Dowd	Q	mystery, Aspergers, family
<u>Eleven</u> , Patricia Reilly Giff	U	mystery, adoption, learning difficulties
<u>Invention of Hugo Cabret</u> , Brian Selznick	V	words and Pictures
<u>Fuzzy Mud</u> , Louis Sachar	W	author of Holes, Science Fiction, bullying, middle school
<u>The Mask That Sang</u> , Susan Currie	O	Canadian, First People

Adventure

Title	Level	Details
<u>Running Out of Time</u> , Margaret Peterson Haddix	W	historical fiction/modern life, running away, illness
<u>Chasing the Falconers</u> , Gordon Korman	R	siblings, running away, parents,
<u>My Rotten Life</u> , David Lubar	N	zombies, school life, adventure
<u>The Wreckers</u> (High Seas Adventures #1), Iain Lawrence	Y	pirates, shipwreck, survival, historical adventure
<u>The City of Ember</u> , Jeanne DuPrau	W	post apocalyptic world, mystery, survival
<u>Sky Jumpers</u> , Joseph Monninger (Sci-Fi/Fantasy)	U/V	Illness, adventures, resourcefulness, inventors & inventions
<u>Sasquatch & Aliens – Alien Encounter</u> , Charise Mericie Harper (local)	M	Science fiction, local, friendship
<u>Game Over</u> , Pete Watson (Sci-Fi/Fantasy)	Q	humour, science fiction, video games
<u>Chocolate Fever</u> , Robert Kimmel Smith, Gioia Fiammenghi	O	school, adventure, eating, chocolate
<u>Riding Freedom</u> , Pam Munoz Ryan (Historical Fiction)	P	historical fiction, horses, strong female lead
<u>The Whipping Boy</u> , Sid Fleischman	R	running away, Kings/Queens, loyalty, resourcefulness
<u>7 Professors of the Far North</u> , John Fardell	V	eccentric characters, adventure, Arctic travel, inventions
<u>Leaving Protection</u> , Will Hobbs	W	fish & marine life, technology, geography
<u>The Several Lives of Orphan Jack</u> , Sarah Ellis	S	friendship

Adventure

Title	Level	Details
<u>Airborn #1</u> , Kenneth Oppel	W	fantasy World, air transportation, pirates, adventure
<u>True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle</u> , Avi	V	intrigue, murder, historical fiction, sea voyage
<u>White Jade Tiger</u> , Julie Lawson	T	local, historical fiction, time travel
<u>Tracker</u> , Gary Paulson	T	death, grief, loss, grandparents, hunting
<u>The Sign of the Cat</u> , Lynne Jonell	Q	cats, adventure, mothers and sons, pirates

School/Family/Friendship

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Pie</u> , Sarah Weeks	Q	cats, friendship, cooking
<u>No More Dead Dogs</u> , Gordon Korman	U	middle school, football, school play
<u>MelonHead</u> , Katy Kelly	O	science fairs, school, friendships
<u>The Lemonade War</u> , Jacqueline Davies	R/S	summer, siblings, understanding others
<u>Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time</u> , Lisa Yee	W/X	basketball, middle school, fitting in, family life,
<u>The Nose From Jupiter</u> , Richard Scrimger	M/N	aliens, friendship
<u>El Deafo</u> , Cece Bell (Graphic Novel)	X	graphic novel, fitting in, school life
<u>Please Write in this Book</u> , Mary Amato	Q	humour, school-life
<u>Hoot</u> , Carl Hiaasen (see also Adventure)	W	bullying, school, endangered animals
<u>Revenge on the Fly</u> , Syliva McNicoll	O	historical fiction, families, Canada
<u>Flying Solo</u> , Ralph Fletcher	R/S	middle school, cooperation, loss
<u>Absolutely Almost</u> , Lisa Graff	U	babysitters, school-life, family
<u>Speechless</u> , Jennifer Mook-Sang	O/P	humour, friendship, school-life
<u>Adventures of Bean Boy</u> , Lisa Harkrader	O/P	school-life, competition, family
<u>Wonder</u> , RJ Palacio	V	overcoming obstacles, middle school, friendship, fitting in
<u>Ungifted</u> , Gordon Korman	V	middle school, fitting in, gifted, getting into mischief
<u>Harriet the Spy</u> , Louise Fitzhugh	T	friendship, school, honesty, understanding others

School/Family/Friendship 2

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Invisible Lines</u> , Mary Amato	P	moving, school, fitting in
<u>Because of Mr. Terupt</u> , Rob Buyea	O	school, gratitude, helping others
<u>Waiting For Normal</u> , Leslie Connor (divorce, family)	W	blended Families, divorce, fitting in
<u>Nine Lives of Travis Keating</u> , Jill MacLean	Q	bullying, relationships
<u>Smile</u> , Raina Telgemeier (Graphic Novel)	T	school life, middle school, friendships, fitting-in
<u>Double Identity</u> , Margaret Peterson Haddix	X	family mystery, thriller
<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u> , Gennifer Choldenko	X	family life, autism, historical fiction
<u>The Homework Machine</u> , Dan Gutman	Q	elementary school, homework, creativity
<u>Granny Torelli Makes Soup</u> , Sharon Creech	S	friendship, grandparents, overcoming obstacles
<u>Bud, Not Buddy</u> , Christopher Paul Curtis	U	historical fiction, running away, orphan
<u>The Landry News</u> , Andrew Clements	R	school life, writing, culture & diversity
<u>The View from Saturday</u> , E.L. Konigsburg	U	middle school, cooperation, helping others, achievement & success
<u>Maniac Magee</u> , Jerry Spinelli	W	running away, death & grief, foster care, understanding differences
<u>Waylon! One Awesome Thing</u> , Sara Pennypacker	Q	changes, new experiences, family, school, growing up
<u>Half a World Away</u> , Cynthia Kadohata	P	adoption, family, relationships, siblings
<u>Frindle</u> , Andrew Clements	R	clever, school, humor
<u>Jake Drake Bully Buster</u> , Andrew Clements	O	bullying, elementary school, understanding others

Indigenous Novels

Title	F&P Level	Details
<u>Fatty Legs</u> , Christy Jordon-Fenton	T	residential schools, Inuit culture, overcoming obstacles,
<u>A Stranger At Home</u> – A True Story Christy Jordon-Fenton	U	continuation from Fatty Legs, overcoming obstacles, Inuit Culture, fitting-in, family
<u>No Time to Say Goodbye</u> , Sylvia Olsen	U	Tsartlip Culture, residential schools,
<u>Touching Spirit Bear</u> , Ben Mikaelson	Y	overcoming hardship, violence, survival, traditional Native American culture
<u>My Name is Seepeetza</u> , Shirley Sterling	S	diary Format, residential schools – Kamloops BC, historical