

Parent Guide to

ARROW

Grades 4–6

Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your preteen

September
2008

Get your
Parent Guide to Arrow
Every Month
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Editors' Picks of the Month

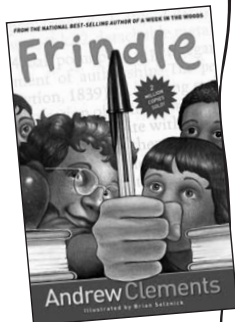
Look for these titles in your
September Book Club flyer.

Frindle by Andrew Clements

Who it's for:
Pranksters, future English majors, and everyone in between

Why we chose it:
Nick Allen is a charming, fun character, and his schemes will have readers cracking up – and devising their own.

Parents say:
"I couldn't pull my kid away from this book."



Swindle by Gordon Korman

Who it's for:
Anyone who appreciates a good heist story

Why we chose it:
Korman nails the classic formula, and throws in some clever twists of his own.

Kids weigh in:
"What a cool book! It's exciting and funny at the same time."

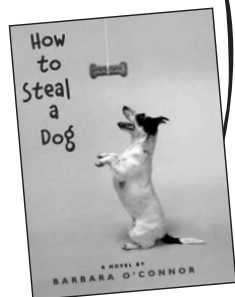


How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor

Who it's for:
Pre-teens who feel challenged by circumstances beyond their control

Why we chose it:
O'Connor's story is moving and her prose accessible without being simplistic.

Parents say:
"This is a serious book, but it's also light-hearted and charming."



Reversing the Summer Slide

It's common for students' skills to slip slightly over the summer when vacation fun replaces school and books. Help your child regain ground once school starts using these strategies:

1. **Keep reading aloud.** Kids of all ages benefit! Reading to your child builds listening comprehension skills and expands his experience with text, so he'll do better when he reads on his own.
2. **Make studying fun.** Create Spelling Scrambles or Word Searches using our Spelling Wizard at www.scholastic.com/homework.
3. **See what's for homework.** Taking time — even just 20 minutes — to go over your child's assignments tells her you think what she does at school is important.
4. **Limit TV.** Studies show that the more time kids spend watching television, the poorer they do academically. Replace TV time with active recreation like board games, soccer, or craft projects.
5. **Get involved.** It's been proven that when parents are actively involved in their child's education, reading and writing test scores go up. For ideas on how you can participate, visit www.scholastic.com/schoolinvolvement.



Did you know?

September 7 is Grandparents Day! Celebrate by reading a book together — you, your child, and his grandparents.

Ask an Expert

Should kids listen to music while doing homework?

Multitasking may interfere with full comprehension. I suggest that your child do one thing at a time and give homework her full attention. However, no one knows your child like you do! You may decide that some soft music is okay if it helps her get in a groove, or you may encourage her do her most difficult assignments in a quiet setting. Studying for a test is a good candidate for no-media-allowed working conditions, as they most closely replicate the environment in which she'll take the test.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander, a former teacher, has worked with the U.S. Department of Education. She is currently Chief Academic Officer at Scholastic.

Find more expert advice for your reader at www.scholastic.com/read.

Checklist: Reading Milestones

Track your reader's progress this year as she masters these skills and advances to new reading levels.

Fluency

- Reads aloud with expression
- Reads quickly and accurately

Comprehension

- Knows when to reread a sentence she doesn't understand
- Relates what he reads to his own experiences
- Draws conclusions about why things happen

Vocabulary

- Figures out word meanings from text and/or prefixes, suffixes, and roots
- Uses synonyms and antonyms
- Understands the vocabulary of different content areas

Reading strategies

- Checks the table of contents/skims text to find relevant information
- Knows when to stop and figure out the meaning of a word she doesn't know

Build a Reading Station

Create your very own space to explore great books!

- Find a spot where you won't be bothered by the TV or too much noise.
- Collect boxes that are large enough to hold piles of your books. Cover the boxes with paper, and decorate them. Use different artwork to make boxes for different types of books, such as:

- Stars and spaceships for stories about outer space;
- Wizard hat and magical creatures for favorite fantasies;
- Cats, horses, or wild beasts for books about animals.



- Add a comfy seat — old pillows or a folded sleeping bag will make it extra cozy!
- If you have a tape player/recorder, keep it close by. Use it to listen to books on tape or record stories that you read or imagine, and play them back.
- Make a writer's box filled with paper, pencils, and art supplies that you can use to make your own books.
- Invite a parent or friends to your Reading Station, and read together!

The Lowdown on Leveled Reading

Leveled reading uses various assessment tools to determine how well your child reads, and then matches her to books that are challenging enough for her to make progress, but not so hard that she will become frustrated. Books are categorized into levels of difficulty, which is how a perfect match, based on ability, can be made. There are a number of leveled reading systems utilized in schools across the country, typically beginning in kindergarten; it is up to school districts or individual schools to determine which, if any, are in place. The primary difference between the systems lies in how children are evaluated, and each program has its own way of labeling books. The three most common are Guided Reading Level (GRL), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and Lexile Level. To see a chart comparing these three systems, visit <http://www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/pdf/readinglevels2.pdf>.

Find More Titles in Kids' Favorite Series

Now, you and your child can find more titles in your favorite book series online — at the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters. From Goosebumps to Harry Potter and beyond, the Series Headquarters puts all kids' best-loved characters all in one place — and all at low Scholastic Book Clubs pricing. And books are delivered right to the classroom, just like always! Visit www.scholastic.com/serieshq

Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit www.scholastic.com/classroomscare to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message — kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Arrow

Your Parent Guide to Arrow is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.