

**BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP:
ENTICING BOYS TO BOOKS AND READING**
Suggestions for Parents, Teachers, Caregivers, and Librarians

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- Provide boys with lots of opportunities for sensory activities and experiences.
- Make sure your center, classroom, and library have print materials that will interest boys.
- Provide boy-friendly culminating activities after completing books.
- Once boys get started, they don't want to move from one activity to another.
- Allow boys more time to transition from one activity to another.
- Give boys frequent breaks from work.
- Provide boys with opportunities to engage in creative dramatics, to demonstrate their abilities.
- Allow boys to move about the classroom and library as they work and think.
- Provide literature circles and book discussion groups – and separate participants by gender.
- Read humorous poetry aloud.
- Share nonfiction as a read aloud and booktalk informational books.
- Give reluctant readers short passages to read.
- Use art as a way to respond to literature.
- Provide boys with some prior knowledge (background) before they begin to read or listen to a book.
- Allow boys to experience the actions in a book – before and/or after reading and listening.
- Provide more titles similar in theme to the one a boy has selected or one read aloud to them and enjoyed.
- Do not think of comic books or graphic novels as sub-literature.
- Provide a wide variety of reading materials at home and in the classroom/center.
- Encourage fathers to become active in their sons' reading.
- Model reading.
- Set aside a daily time when everyone reads – turn off the TV, video games, and the computer.
- Read the newspaper with boys.
- Allow boys to participate in choosing their books.
- Support reading selections – no matter what they are!
- Participate in local, state, regional, and national young reader's award programs.

**BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP:
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Selected Professional Resources**

- Bazelton, Emily. March 9, 2006. *The Little Men Who Live Little House: Why Boys Like Girls Books*. <http://slate.com/id/2137789>. Last accessed August 18, 2011.
- Brozo, William G. 2002. *To Be a Boy, to Be a Reader: Engaging Teen and Preteen Boys in Active Literacy*. Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association.
- Gurian, Micahel. 2010. *Boys and Girls Learn Differently! A Guide for Teachers and Parents: Revised 10th Anniversary Edition*. Jossey-Bass
- Gurian, Michael and Kathy Stevens. 2005. *The Minds of Boys: Saving Our Sons from Falling Behind in School and Live*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Gurian, Michael, with Terry Trueman. 2000. *What Stories Does My Son Need? A Guide to Books and Movies That Build Character in Boys*. New York: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam.
- Guys Read* Web Site. <http://www.guysread.com/> Last accessed August 18, 2011..
- Hymowitz, Kay. 2011. *Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men into Boys*. Basic Books.
- James, Abigail Norfleet. 2007. *Teaching the Male Brain: How Boys Think, Feel, and Learn in School*. Corwin Press.
- James, Stephen. 2009. *Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys*. Tyndale House Publishers.
- Kindlon, Dan and Michael Thompson. 1999. *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Knowles, Elizabeth and Martha Smith. 2005. *Boys and Literacy: Practical Strategies for Librarians, Teachers, and Parents*. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited.
- McFann, Jane. August/September 2004. "Boys and Books. *Reading Today*. Volume 22, Number 1.
- Odean, Kathleen. 1998. *Great Books for Boys: More than 600 Books for Boys 2 to 14*. New York, Ballantine Books.
- Rand, Donna and Toni Trent Parker. 2001. *Black Books Galore! Guide to Great African American Children's Books about Boys*. New York: Wiley.
- "The State of the American Man." July 2006. *Esquire*. Volume 146, Number 1.
- Smith, Michael W. 2006. *Going with the Flow: How to Engage Boys (and Girls) in their Literacy Learning*. Heinemann.
- Smith, Michael W. 2002. *Reading Don't Fix No Chevys: Literacy in the Lives of Young Men*. Heinemann.
- Sullivan, Michael. 2003. *Connecting Boys with Books: What Libraries Can Do*. Chicago: American Library Association.
- Sullivan, Michael. 2009. *Connecting Boys with Books 2: Closing the Reading Gap*. Chicago: American Library Association.
- Tyre, Peg. 2008. *The Trouble with Boys: A Surprising Report Card on Our Sons, Their Problems at School, and What Parents and Educators Must Do*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Whitmire, Richard. 2010. *Why Boys Fail: Saving Our Sons from an Educational System That's Leaving Them Behind*. AMACOM.

BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP: ENTICING BOYS TO BOOKS AND READING

This list provides a *sampling* of some of the books that boys may enjoy at various ages. I have *not* included all the books in a series nor have I included every book by every author even though they fit the scope of this bibliography. While some may be out of print, many are already in library collections; others are brand new. Also remember that some books can fit in several categories. As always, not every book is appropriate for every library collection or every reader. This bibliography is a work in progress; new books are added and the list refined as time goes by. Approximate interest levels have been added to this version of this bibliography; however, library staff, teachers, and parents are encouraged to become familiar with the children and tweens they work with as well as the books on this list. It is the responsibility of adults to assist the boys and young men to find the right book for them at the right time. This list will provide numerous alternatives to help them do just that.

I have divided this list by genre. However, these may not be your typical categories nor official subject headings normally found in library catalogs. They are categories that boys and young men will relate to. Additional genre or categories may be added and/or expanded over time. This version has several new genres: Crime; Hunting, Fishing, and the Great Outdoors; and Mechanical.

Please feel free to contact me with suggestions of books to add – or new titles to replace ones on the list or even additional categories that you feel should be added to this list.

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Adventure

Animals

Biography

Dinosaurs

Family

Fantasy

Folklore, Fairy Tales, & Myths

Graphic Novels

Gross

History/Historical Fiction

Horror

Humor

Mystery

Poetry Realistic Fiction

School Stories

Science Fiction

Sports

War and Weapons

Nonfiction/Informational Books

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Adventure

- Elise Broach. ***Gumption!***. Atheneum, 2010. Interest level: Early Elementary, PreSchool.
- Remi Charlip. ***Fortunately***. Simon & Schuster, 1984. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.
- Kate DiCamillo. ***The Magician's Elephant***. Candlewick, 2009. Other genres: Animals. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.
- Enrique Flores-Galbis. ***90 Miles to Havana***. Roaring Brook, 2010. Other genres: Family, Realistic Fiction. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.
- Brian Selznick. ***Wonderstruck***. Scholastic, 2011. Other genres: Mystery. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.
- John Reynolds Gardiner. ***Stone Fox***. HarperCollins, 1980. Other genres: Animals. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

Animals

- Juliana Hatkoff. ***Leo the Snow Leopard, The True Story of an Amazing Rescue***. Scholastic, 2011. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.
- Mark Hutchinson. ***Reptiles***. Simon & Schuster, 2011. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.
- David McLimans. ***Gone Wild: An Endangered Animal Alphabet***. Walker, 2006. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary, PreSchool.
- Claudia Mills. ***Mason Dixon: Pet Disasters***. Knopf, 2011. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Elementary.
- Tony Mitton. ***Down by the Cool of the Pool***. Orchard, 2002. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Biography

- Jon Scieszka. ***Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka***. Viking, 2008. Other genres: Family. Interest level: Elementary, Middle School, Upper Elementary.
- Mark Alan Stamaty. ***Shake, Rattle & Turn That Noise Down! How Elvis Shook Up Music, Me and Mom***. Knopf, 2010. Other genres: Graphic Novels. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.
- Jonah Winter. ***Dizzy***. Arthur A. Levine, 2006. Interest level: Elementary.

Crime

- Karen Blumenthal. ***Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition***. Roaring Brook Press, 2011. Interest level: Middle School, High School.
- John Grisham. ***Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer***. Dutton, 2010. Other genres: Family, Mystery, Realistic Fiction. Interest level: Middle School.
- Craig Moodie. ***Into the Trap***. Roaring Brook Press, 2011. Other genres: Adventure, Mystery. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Dinosaurs

- Anna Grossnickle Hines. ***I Am a Tyrannosaurus***. Tricycle Press, 2011. Interest level: Preschool, Early Elementary.
- Robert Sabuda. ***Encyclopedia Prehistorica Dinosaurs: The Definitive Pop-Up***. Candlewick, 2005. Interest level: PreSchool, Early Elementary, Elementary.

David Sheldon. **Barnum Brown: Dinosaur Hunter**. Walker, 2006. Other genres: Biography. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Jane Yolen. **How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?**. Blue Sky Press, 2005. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary, PreSchool.

Family

Matt Blackstone. **A Scary Scene in a Scary Movie**. Farrar Strauss Giroux, 2011. Interest level: Middle School, High School.

Megan McDonald. **Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers**. Candlewick, 2007. Other genres: Gross, Humor, School Stories. Interest level: Elementary.

Gary Paulsen. **Paintings from the Cave: Three Novellas**. Random House, 2011. Other genres: Realistic Fiction. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Chris Raschka. **Seriously, Norman!**. Michael Di Capua Books (Scholastic), 2011. Interest level: Middle School.

Zilpha Keatley Snyder. **William's Midsummer Dreams**. Atheneum, 2011. Interest level: Middle School.

Fantasy

Tedd Arnold. **Hi! Fly Guy**. Scholastic, 2005. Other genres: Animals, Family, Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary.

Avi. **Perloo the Bold**. Scholastic, 1998. Other genres: Adventure. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Fred Gwynne. **The King Who Rained**. Simon & Schuster, 1970. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Jacqueline Jules. **Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Zooms to the Rescue**. Albert Whitman, 2011. Other genres: School Stories. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

William Steig. **Sylvester and the Magic Pebble**. Simon & Schuster, 1969. Other genres: Family. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Folklore, Fairy Tales & Myths

Nina Crews. **Jack and the Beanstalk**. Henry Holt, 2011. Interest level: Elementary.

Virginia Hamilton. **Bruh Rabbit and the Tar Baby**. Blue Sky Press, 1993. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

David LaRochelle. **The End**. Arthur A. Levine, 2007. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Julius Lester. **Sam and the Tigers**. Dial, 1996. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Anne Silbey O'Brien. **The Legend of Hong Kil Dong: The Robin Hood of Korea**. Charlesbridge, 2006. Other genres: Graphic Novels. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

Margie Palatini. **The Three Silly Billies**. Simon & Schuster, 2005. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Rick Riordan. **The Sons of Neptune**. Hyperion, 2011. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Graphic Novels

David Mark. **Crazy Cars for Crazy Kids**. Kane/Miller, 2006. Other genres: Mechanical. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Matt Phelan. **The Storm in the Barn**. Candlewick, 2009. Other genres: History/Historical Fiction. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Marcia Williams. **Chaucer's Canterbury Tales**. Candlewick, 2007. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Gross

Jacob Berkowitz. **Jurassic Poop**. Kids Can Press, 2006. Interest level: Early Elementary.

Dawn Cusick. **Bug Butts**. Early Light Books, 2011. Other genres: Animals. Interest level: Elementary.

Margery Cuyler. **Skeleton Hiccups**. McElderry, 2002. Interest level: Elementary.

Nicola Davies. **What's Eating You Parasites - The Inside Story**. Candlewick, 2007. Other genres: Nonfiction/Informational Books. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Justin Heimberg. **Would You Rather...? Radically Repulsive: Over 300 Crazy Questions**. Seven Footer Kids Book, 2010. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

William Kotzwinkle. **Walter the Farting Dog**. North Atlantic, 2001. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Dav Pilkey. **Captain Underpants and the Preposterous Plight of the Purple Potty People**. Scholastic, 2006. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Dav Pilkey. **Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers**. Scholastic, 2011. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

History/Historical Fiction

Edward Bloor. **London Calling**. Knopf, 2006. Interest level: High School, Middle School.

Deborah Hopkinson. **Into the Firestorm: A Novel of San Francisco, 1906**. Knopf, 2006. Other genres: Adventure. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Cynthia Kodohata. **A Million Shades of Gray**. Atheneum, 2010. Other genres: Adventure, Animals. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Alexander McCall Lagos. **Sons of Liberty: Death and Taxes**. Random House, 2011. Other genres: Graphic Novels. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Aaron Reynolds. **Back of the Bus**. Philomel, 2010. Interest level: Elementary.

Adam Selzer. **The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History**. Delacorte, 2009. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Brian Selznick. **The Houdini Box**. Atheneum, 1991. Other genres: Mystery. Interest level: Elementary.

Horror

Enid A. Goldberg. **Vlad the Impaler; The Real Count Dracula (A Wicked History)**. Scholastic, 2008. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Patricia C. McKissack. **The Dark Thirty: Souty Tales of the Supernatural**. Knopf, 1992. Other genres: Folklore, Fairy Tales & Myths. Interest level: Elementary, Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Jason Hawes. **Ghost Hunt 2: More Chilling Tales of the Unknown**. Little Brown, 2011. Other genres: Adventure. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Jack Prelutsky. *The Headless Horseman Rides Tonight: More Poems to Trouble Your Sleep*. Greenwillow, 1981. Other genres: Poetry. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

R.L. Stine. *It's the First Day of School Forever*. Feiwel & Friends, 2011. Other genres: School Stories. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

Rick Yancey. *Monstrumologist*. Simon & Schuster, 2009. Interest level: High School, Middle School.

Humor

Andrew Clements. *Frindle*. Simon & Schuster, 1996. Other genres: School Stories. Interest level: Elementary.

Margie Palantini. *Bad Boys*. HarperCollins, 2003. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Jon Scieszka. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Faily Stupid Tales*. Viking, 1992. Interest level: Elementary.

Gary Paulsen. *Lawn Boy*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2007. Other genres: Family, Realistic Fiction. Interest level: Middle School.

Gary Paulsen. *Flat Broke*. Wendy Lamb Books, 2011. Other genres: Family. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Mechanical

David Macaulay. *The New Way Things Work*. Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Interest level: High School, Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Mystery

Sharon M. Draper. *Clubhouse Mysteries: Lost in the Tunnel of Time*. Aladdin, 2011. Interest level: Elementary.

Sharon M. Draper. *Clubhouse Mysteries: The Buried Bones Mystery*. Aladdin, 2011. Interest level: Elementary.

John Grisham. *Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer*. Dutton, 2010. Other genres: Family, Realistic Fiction. Interest level: Middle School.

Carl Hiaasen. *Flush*. Knopf, 2005. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Donald Sobol. *Encyclopedia Brown series*. Delacorte, various. Interest level: Elementary.

Poetry

Lee Bennett Hopkins. *Oh, No! Where Are My Pants? And other Disaster Poems*. HarperCollins, 2005. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Elementary.

Charles R., Jr. Smith. *Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali*. Candlewick, 2007. Other genres: Biography, Sports. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Realistic Fiction

Avi. *Nothing But the Truth*. Orchard, 1991. Other genres: School Stories. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School.

Pat Mora. *Tomas and the Library Lady*. Knopf, 1997. Other genres: Biography. Interest level: Elementary.

School Stories

Andrew Clements. *Trouble-Maker*. Atheneum, 2011. Other genres: Family. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

Jamie Gilson. *Thirteen Ways to Sink a Sub*. Marshall Cavendish, 2009. Other genres: Humor. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary.

Walter Dean Myers. ***The Cruisers: Checkmate***. Scholastic, 2011. Interest level: Middle School.

Paul Volponi. ***Crossing Lines***. Viking, 2011. Other genres: Family, Sports. Interest level: Middle School, High School.

Eric Wicht. ***Frankie Pickle and the mathematical menace***. Simon & Schuster, 2011. Interest level: Elementary.

Science Fiction

Jeanne DuPrau. ***City of Ember***. Random House, 2003. Interest level: High School, Middle School.

Sports

Julianna Baggott. ***The Prince of Fenway Park***. HarperCollins, 2009. Other genres: Family, Science Fiction. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Mina Javaherbin. ***Goal!*** Candlewick, 2010. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

Deloris Jordan. ***Salt In His Shoes: Michale Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream***. Simon & Schuster, 2000. Other genres: Family. Interest level: Elementary.

Jerry Spinelli. ***Maniac Magee***. Little, Brown, 1990. Other genres: Adventure. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Jane Yolen. ***All Star! Honus Wagner and the Most Famous Baseball Card Ever***. Philomel, 2010. Interest level: Early Elementary, Elementary.

War and Weapons

J. Patrick Lewis. ***The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse***. National Geographic, 2007. Other genres: History/Historical Fiction, Poetry. Interest level: Upper Elementary, Middle School.

Walter Dean Myers. ***Sunrise Over Fallujah***. Scholastic, 2008. Interest level: High School, Middle School.

Gary Paulsen. ***Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers***. Delacorte, 1998. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Nonfiction/Informational Books

Marc Aronson. ***For Boys Only: The Biggest, Baddest, Book Ever***. Feiwel & Friends, 2007. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Dominique Enright. ***How To Be The Best At Everything (The Boys' Book)***. Scholastic, 2007. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Brenda Z. Guiberson. ***Disasters: Natural and Man-Made Catastrophes Through the Centuries***. Henry Holt, 2010. Interest level: Middle School, Upper Elementary.

Guinness Book of World Records. Guinness, annual. Interest level: Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, High School.