

**Fortunately, the Milk** by Neil Gaiman

When there's only orange juice left to drink in the fridge, the kids send Dad out for some milk. When Dad finally returns, he brings with him an outrageous tale of pirates, crazy monsters, exploding volcanoes, alien abduction, and of course, the milk. 101 p. Grades 3-5. 83OL

**How Do You Burp in Space? And Other Tips Every Space Tourist Needs to Know** by Susan E. Goodman

Want to blast into orbit? Walk on the moon? Snag a personal photo of a shooting star? Well, your time is coming! This guide is filled with the kind of information you'd need to plan any vacation, including what to pack (hint: no bubble bath or juggling balls!). 71 p. Grades 3-6. 83OL

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein

Kyle Keeley, gamer extraordinaire, wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the new town library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high. 291 p. Grades 4-6. 72OL

**The 13-Story Treehouse** by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in the most amazing treehouse in the world! This treehouse has 13 stories, a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a secret underground laboratory, a marshmallow machine, and more. With all these distractions, how can Andy and Terry get their book written on time? 239 p. Grades 4-6. 56OL

**Regarding the Fountain: A Tale, in Letters, of Liars and Leaks** by Kate Klise

The Dry Creek Middle School drinking fountain has sprung a leak, so principal Walter Russ dashes off a request to Flowing Waters Fountains to have a new drinking fountain installed. But the project takes on a mysterious and hilarious life of its own. 138 p. Grades 4-6. 83OL

**The Adventures of a South Pole Pig: A Novel of Snow and Courage** by Chris Kurtz

Flora the pig ditches the sedentary life on the farm for an adventure in Antarctica, where she escapes the knife and courageously lives her dream of pulling a sled with a team of dogs. 278 p. Grades 3-5. 66OL

**Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909** by Michelle Markel

The inspiring true story of Clara Lemlich, a young immigrant girl in early 20th-century New York who led the biggest strike of women workers in U.S. history. 32 p. Grades 3-5.

**Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs** by Michaela Muntean

This is the amazing and heart-warming story of ten dogs rejected by their owners as hopeless cases and adopted by Luciano Anastasini, a renowned circus performer and dog trainer. 40 p. Grades 3-5. 76OL

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends 54 days in the wilderness, learning to survive initially with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. 195 p. Grades 5 and up. 102OL

**Sidekicks** by Dan Santat

When Captain Amazing feels he's getting too old to be a reliable superhero, he decides he needs a sidekick. Captain Amazing's four pets agree. But each one of them thinks HE should get the sidekick spot. 215 p. Grades 3-6. 34OL

**Glory Be** by Augusta Scattergood

A Mississippi town in 1964 gets riled when tempers flare at the segregated public pool in this memorable novel about family, friendship, and choices that aren't always easy. 213 p. Grades 4-6. 68OL

**The Junction of Sunshine and Lucky** by Holly Schindler

Auggie Jones lives with her Grandpa Gus in a poor part of town. When their home is fined for violations of the neighborhood House Beautification Committee, Auggie sets out to remedy the situation. What starts out as a home renovation project becomes much more as Auggie and her grandpa redefine a whole town's perception of beauty, one recycled sculpture at a time. 240 p. Grades 4-6. 93OL

**Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin** by Liesl Shurtliff

In a magic kingdom where your name is your destiny, 12-year-old Rump is the butt of everyone's joke. But when he finds an spinning wheel, his luck seems to change. Rump discovers his gift of spinning straw into gold. But magic is also dangerous, and with each thread he spins, he weaves himself deeper into trouble. 272 p. Grades 4-6. 66OL

**Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird** by Stephanie Spinner

When Irene Pepperberg walked into a pet store and bought a year-old African grey parrot that she named Alex, she wanted to see what Alex could learn. Alex and Irene's story is one of groundbreaking discoveries about animal intelligence, hard work, and the loving bonds of a unique friendship. 41 p. Grades 3-6. 68OL

**I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912** by Lauren Tarshis

Ten-year-old George Calder can't believe he is on the famous ship Titanic. The ship is full of exciting places to explore, but when George ventures into the first class storage cabin, a terrible boom shakes the boat. Suddenly, water is everywhere, and George's life changes forever. 96 p. Grades 3-5. 59OL

About Lexile Measures

Typical reader measures, by grade

Grade	Reader Measures, Mid-Year 25th percentile to 75th percentile (IQR)
1	Up to 300L
2	140L to 500L
3	330L to 700L
4	445L to 810L
5	565L to 910L
6	665L to 1000L
7	735L to 1065L
8	805L to 1100L
9	855L to 1165L
10	905L to 1195L
11 and 12	940L to 1210L

Past Bluestem Award Winners

- 2015 ***The One and Only Ivan*** by Katherine Applegate
- 2014 ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio
- 2013 ***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon Draper
- 2012 ***Adventures in Cartooning*** by James Sturm
- 2011 ***Hachiko Waits*** by Leslea Newman

Visit the Bluestem Award website at:

www.islma.org/Bluestem.htm



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Bluestem Award Reading List 2016

Can you read them all?

The Bluestem Award was established in 2010 to promote the joy of reading for children in 3rd grade through 5th grade.

The winners are chosen by Illinois children in grades 3-5 after reading books from a list of 20 titles.

This is the list of nominees for the 2016 Award.

- ☐ ***The 100-Year-Old Secret* by Tracy Barrett**
Xena and Xander Holmes have just discovered they are related to Sherlock Holmes and have inherited his unsolved casebook. Now the siblings set out to solve the cases their famous ancestor couldn't, starting with the mystery of a prized painting that disappeared more than a century ago. 157 p. Grades 4-6. 650L
- ☐ ***Little Dog, Lost* by Marion Dane Bauer**
Mark is a boy who needs a dog. Buddy is a dog who needs a boy who truly understands him. Mr. LaRue is a reclusive old man who needs a community. How they all come together is magical. 208 p. Grades 3-5. 710L
- ☐ ***Dorko the Magnificent* by Andrea Beaty**
Robbie Darko loves magic, but something always goes wrong with his tricks. When crotchety Grandma Melvyn moves in and takes over his room, Robbie discovers she was once an assistant to a great magician. Is there more to Grandma than Robbie thinks? 213 p. Grades 4-6. 740L
- ☐ ***Masterpiece* by Elise Broach**
James Pompaday finds out that his beetle friend Marvin is an artist, and he will need Marvin's artistic help as he attempts to pull off a staged art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. 292 p. Grades 4-6. 700L
- ☐ ***Matilda* by Roald Dahl**
Matilda is an exceptional young girl who discovers she has a remarkable power with which to battle against the terrible school headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it. 240 p. Grades 4-6. 840L