


Great Reads for 3rd Graders



Selected by librarians from Milwaukee Public Library

Make Way for Dymonde Daniel by Nikki Grimes. INT GRIMES.

Smart, confident Dymonde sits in her third-grade classroom and wonders why she's been at her new school for weeks and still doesn't have a best friend. Then in walks Free, a new student who's so irritable that Dymonde secretly names him Rude Boy.

Medusa Jones by Ross Collins. INT COLLINS.
Medusa's grandmother used to change people to stone with her stare, but Medusa's family is more civilized and they handle their anger in a more socially acceptable manner. So when the 'golden ones' at school bully Medusa, she finds a new way to fight back.

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-You Notes by Peggy Gifford. INT GIFFORD.

Our heroine Moxy, trying to find an easier way to complete the boring task of writing thank you notes, remembers the forbidden new copy machine in her stepfather's off-limit office.

Keena Ford and the Field Trip Mix-up by Melissa Thomson. INT THOMSON.

During a field trip to the Capitol, Tiffany pulls Keena's scarf off, revealing an embarrassing hair cut accident. Representative Thomas shows Keena that she's not the only one with hair trouble when he pulls off his toupee.

Testing the Ice by Sharon Robinson. INT ROBINSON.

Jackie Robinson took a step out onto the ice. It groaned and crackled under his heavy footsteps, but he kept going, tapping the ice with his broom handle, as his children watched from the shore. Robinson's daughter narrates this family story about the man who couldn't swim, but always showed immense courage.

Abe's Honest Words by Doreen Rappaport. 92 L736RA.

Lincoln's own moving words are used to eloquently portray his historic life.

The Dunderheads by Paul Fleischman. INT FLEISCH.
The fiendish Miss Breakbone is terrifying to her students. Miss Breakbone has insulted them -- "doodling, dozing, don't-knowing dunderheads!" and confiscated a cat figurine that Junkyard was saving for his mother's birthday. She dares them to retaliate. So they do!

A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk by Deborah Ruddell. 811.6 R914.

Richly glowing watercolors accompany these delightful poems about woodland flora and fauna.

Scaredy-Cat Catcher by Betty Hicks. INT HICKS.
Last season, Rocky was the best catcher in his league, until a hit from a player who was sliding into home plate broke his arm. Now every time someone slides home he flinches. Can he still make the all-star team?

Babymouse: The Musical by Jennifer L. Holm. GRAPHIC HOLM.

As tryouts for the school musical begin, Babymouse takes the starring role in several imaginary Broadway productions, which also feature her debonair new classmate, Henry the hedgehog.

Sharks:--Biggest! Littlest! by Sandra Markle. 597.3 M283.

Bright, clear color photos and informative text introduce the biggest and littlest sharks as well as sharks with some really strange features.

Friend or Fiend? by Judy Blume. INT BLUME.
Jacob (the Pain) and Abigail (the Great One) have to deal with their fiendish cousins from New York along with some embarrassing school issues.

The Lion's Share by Matthew McElligott. PIC MACELLI.

The lion king hosts a party, and as dessert is passed around he tells elephant to help himself. Elephant takes half the cake before passing it along, then hippo takes half of that, and so on, until ant is left with only a crumb to split with the king. What will the ant do?

TIPS for helping your child become a Super Reader:
Present reading as an activity with a purpose; a way to gather useful information for something like making paper airplanes or taking care of a pet, whatever your child is interested in.

Kids have a lot of activities competing for their attention. Make reading more attractive by allowing your youngster to stay up a little later to finish a chapter.