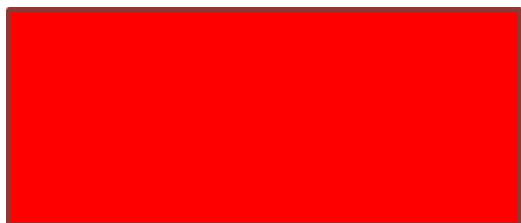
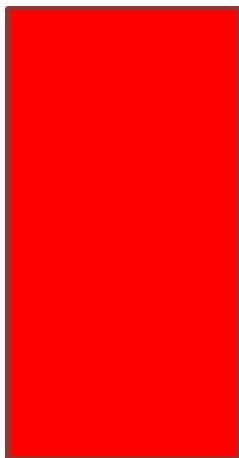
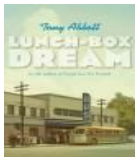


Shaker Heights Schools

4th Grade Reading List



Recommended by your Shaker Schools Librarians



Abbott, Tony *Lunch-Box Dream*

Told from multiple points of view, a white family on a 1959 road trip between Ohio and Florida, visiting Civil War battlefields along the way, crosses paths with a black family near Atlanta, where one of their children has gone missing. *Fiction*



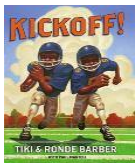
Alexander, Sally Hobart *She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-blind Pioneer*

When she was 2 years old, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, her hearing, and most of her senses of smell and taste. A progressive doctor took her in, and Laura learned to communicate, read, write, and eventually even to teach. *Biography*



Applegate, Katherine *Crenshaw*

A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary. *Fiction*



Barber, Tiki *Kickoff!*

Professional football players Tiki and Ronde Barber recall trying out for the Hidden Valley Eagles football team when they entered junior high. *Fiction*



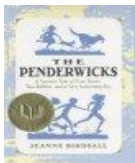
Barnett, Mac *Terrible Two*

When master prankster Miles Murphy moves to sleepy Yawnee Valley, he challenges the local, mystery prankster in an epic battle of tricks but soon the two join forces to pull off the biggest prank ever seen. *Fiction*



Barton, Chris *Whoosh!*

A biography of Lonnie Johnson, an engineer at NASA who is best known for inventing the Super Soaker water gun. *Biography*



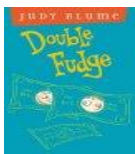
Birdsall, Jeanne *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. *Fiction*



Bishop, Nic *Snakes*

Naturalist and photographer Nic Bishop provides information about snakes - their physical characteristics, how they hunt, and why some snakes are poisonous. *Nonfiction*



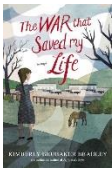
Blume, Judy *Double Fudge*

This book in the popular series about Fudge and his brother, Peter, features Sheila Tubman, otherwise known as Sheila the Great. Reading about this madcap character is fun! *Fiction*



Borden, Louise, and Mary Kay Kroeger *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*

Growing up in Texas, Bessie worked in the fields instead of going to school. Determined to follow her dreams, she became a stunt pilot in 1923. *Biography*



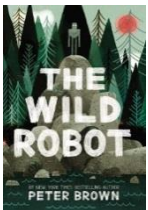
Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker ***The War That Saved My Life***

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. *Fiction*



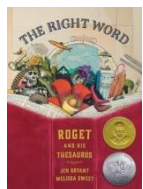
Brown, Don ***A Wizard from the Start: The Incredible Boyhood & Amazing Inventions of Thomas Edison***

Thomas Edison began life as a farmer's son selling newspapers on trains. He read through all the public library's books, dreaming of new inventions. Edison went on to create many wonderful things like the light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera. *Biography*



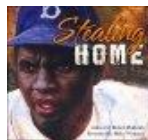
Brown, Peter ***The Wild Robot***

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants. *Fiction*



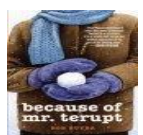
Bryant, Jennifer ***The Right Words: Roget and His Thesaurus***

The story of "shy young Peter Mark Roget, [for whom] books were the best companions--and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. *Biography*



Burleigh, Robert ***Stealing Home: The Jackie Robinson Story***

Jackie Robinson was the first African American to play in baseball's Major Leagues. He led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series Championship. *Biography*



Buyea, Rob ***Because of Mr. Terupt***

Seven 5th graders at Snow Hill School in Connecticut relate how their lives are changed for the better by "rookie teacher" Mr. Terupt. *Fiction*



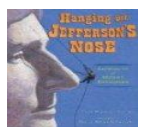
Challoner, Jack ***Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects: build, invent, create, discover***

Each step-by-step activity is appropriate for kids ages 8-12, and ranked easy, medium, or hard, with an estimated time frame for completion. Requiring only household materials, young makers can build an exploding volcano, race balloon rocket cars, construct a solar system, make a lemon battery, and more. Photographs and facts carefully detail the "why" and "how" of each experiment using real-world examples to provide context so kids can gain a deeper understanding of the scientific principles applied. *Nonfiction*



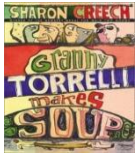
Corey, Shana ***Here Come the Girl Scouts***

The subtitle says it all: the amazing all-true story of Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low and her great adventure." *Biography*



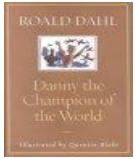
Coury, Tina ***Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose : Growing Up on Mt. Rushmore***

Lincoln Borglum's father dreamed up the idea of carving four presidents' faces into the rockface of Mount Rushmore. Lincoln was the one who finished the project. *Nonfiction*



Creech, Sharon *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*

When Rosie learns to read Braille just like her best friend Bailey, they have a big argument. Rosie and Bailey go to Granny for help and everyone shares stories as they cook in Granny's warm kitchen. *Fiction*



Dahl, Roald *Danny, the Champion of the World*

Danny and his father must use their wits as they face the snobby landowner, Mr. Victor Hazell. *Fiction*



Davies, Jacqueline *The Lemonade War*

Evan Treski, who is people-smart, and his younger sister Jesse, who is math-smart, battle it out through competing lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn one hundred dollars. *Fiction*



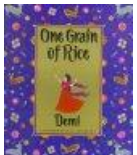
Davis, Kathryn Gibbs *Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*

Examines how the engineer George Ferris invented and constructed the amusement park ride that bears his name for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. *Biography*



Defelice, Cynthia *Fort*

Wyatt and his friend Augie are enjoying the fort they built, but when two older boys mess with it and with another kid who can't fight back, they launch Operation Doom to get back at the bullies. *Fiction*



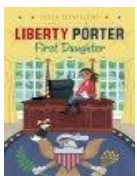
Demi *One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale*

A reward of one grain of rice doubles day by day into millions of grains of rice when a selfish raja is outwitted by a clever village girl. *Folk Tale*



DiCamillo, Kate *Flora & Ulysses*

Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived. *Fiction*



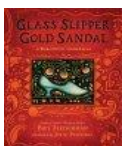
DeVillers, Julia *Liberty Porter, First Daughter*

On her first day at the White House, as her dad becomes president, Liberty tries to help. Instead she causes problems by contributing to a press conference and disguising herself as a tour guide. This is the start of more adventures for Liberty and First Dog, Franklin. *Fiction*



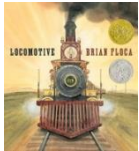
Dunbar, Paul Laurence *Jump Back, Honey*

This collection of poems includes "A Boy's Summer Song," "The Sparrow," and "Little Brown Baby." *Poetry*



Fleischman, Paul *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella*

The author draws from folk traditions of Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, and Appalachia to create this version of Cinderella. *Folk Tale*



Floca, Brian *Locomotive*

Learn what it was like to travel on the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s. *Nonfiction*



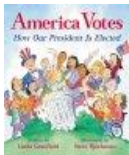
George, Jessica Day *Tuesdays at the Castle*

Princess Celie lives at Castle Glower, which adds rooms or secret passageways on Tuesdays. When her parents are ambushed, it is up to Celie to protect their home and save their kingdom. *Fiction*



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

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape. *Fiction*



Granfield, Linda *America Votes: How Our President Is Elected*

The race for the Presidency is a whirlwind of activity, from the primaries through political conventions to the final count at the polls. You can be a part of it with this book! *Nonfiction*



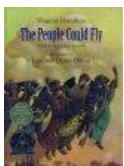
Green, Dan *Chemistry*

Imagine chemistry as a community of dynamic characters, each with its own personality. This book is your guide to the guys who fizz, react, and combine to make up everything around us! *Nonfiction*



Griffith, Victoria *The Fabulous Flying Machines of Alberto Santos-Dumont*

Alberto loved floating over Paris in his personal flying machine—first a balloon, then a box with wings! When another inventor challenges him to be first in flight, Alberto rises to the challenge. *Biography*



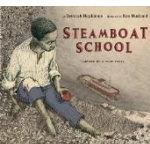
Hamilton, Virginia *The People Could Fly : The Picture Book*

Some Africans flew on black wings before they were taken into slavery. Those who know the ancient magic words escape to freedom in this entrancing story. *Folk Tale*



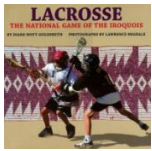
Hill, Laban Carrick *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*

Dave was a potter of great skill who inscribed poetry into his clay pots. He lived and died a slave in South Carolina in the 19th century. *Biography*



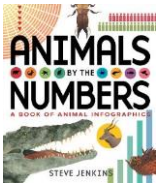
Hopkinson, Deborah *Steamboat School*

In 1847 St. Louis, Missouri, when a new law against educating African Americans forces Reverend John to close his school, he finds an ingenious solution to the new state law by moving his school to a steamboat in the Mississippi River. Includes author's note on Reverend John Berry Meachum, a minister, entrepreneur, and educator who fought tirelessly for the rights of African Americans. *Nonfiction*



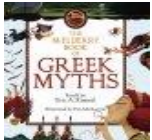
Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane ***Lacrosse : The National Game of the Iroquois***

This book describes the sport of lacrosse, its origins, and its connections to the Iroquois Indians. *Nonfiction*



Jenkins, Steve ***Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics***

Do all the insects in the world weigh more than all the humans? Which animal can survive both boiling water and the vacuum of space? Which animal sleeps more, a python or a bat? Which animal is more dangerous: a shark or a hippopotamus? In "Animals by Numbers," Steve Jenkins answers these questions and many more. ...Facts, figures, and comparisons are explained with colorful, easy-to-understand infographics and illustrations. *Nonfiction*



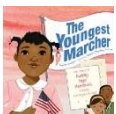
Kimmel, Eric ***The McElderry Book of Greek Myths***

Pandora's box, King Midas and the golden touch, and Jason and the Golden Fleece are three of the twelve stories in this colorful collection of Greek myths. *Nonfiction*



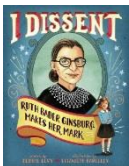
Korman, Gordon ***Swindle***

When his precious baseball card is stolen by a mean dealer named Swindle, Griffin Bing gathers up a group of courageous misfits and devises a plan to break into the compound to get it back. *Fiction*



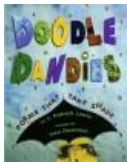
Levinson, Cynthia ***The Youngest Marcher***

Tells the story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a nine-year-old civil rights activist, who marched and was jailed in order to rid Birmingham, Alabama of its segregation laws. *Biography*



Levy, Debbie ***I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark***

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. This biographical picture book about the Notorious RBG, tells the justice's story through the lens of her many famous dissents, or disagreements. *Biography*



Lewis, J. Patrick ***Doodle Dandies : Poems That Take Shape***

Each of these poems appears on the page in the shape of its subject -- a feast of poetry and art! *Poetry*



Lin, Grace ***The Year of the Dog***

As Grace (aka Pacy) celebrates the Chinese Year of the Dog with her family, she learns that this is the year she is supposed to "find herself" and acquire a best friend. *Fiction*



Macaulay, David ***Black and White***

Black and White is a puzzle that appears to be four stories about a family, a train station, a bank robber, and some cows. Or is it? *Fiction*



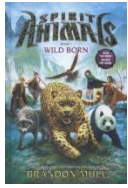
Marsden, Carolyn ***The Jade Dragon***

Ginny, a Chinese-American girl who wants to be accepted in her American school, is torn between how her family does things and the ways of her classmates. *Fiction*



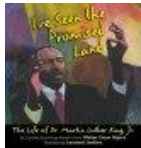
McCurdy, Michael ***Trapped by the Ice!***

In 1914 the ship carrying the Shackleton Antarctic Expedition is slowly crushed by ice. The explorers must make the long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land. *Nonfiction*



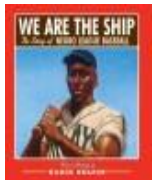
Mull, Brandon ***Spirit Animals: Wild Born***

As a dark force engulfs the land, the fate of Erdas has fallen on the shoulders of four young strangers who each have forged a rare bond with their spirit beasts -- a bond that gives great powers to all of them. *Fiction*



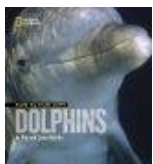
Myers, Walter Dean ***I've Seen the Promised Land : The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.***

Dr. King's courage during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s showed his belief in nonviolence. *Biography*



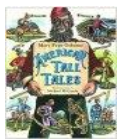
Nelson, Kadir ***We Are the Ship : The Story of Negro League Baseball***

Using his own wonderful illustrations and an "Everyman" player as a narrator, Kadir Nelson tells the story of Negro League baseball from its 1920s beginnings through its decline after Jackie Robinson went to the majors in 1947. *Nonfiction*



Nicklin, Flip ***Face to Face with Dolphins***

Photographer Flip Nicklin and his wife Linda, a naturalist and educator, study and photograph the amazing behavior of the beloved dolphin. Read other books in the series such as *Face to Face with Wolves* and *Face to Face with Caterpillars*. *Nonfiction*



Osborne, Mary Pope ***American Tall Tales***

Nine legendary heroes and heroines are described in this fantastic collection. *Folk Tale*



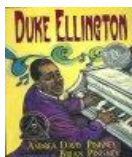
Palacio, R. J. ***Wonder***

Auggie Pullman, who was born with facial anomalies, goes from being home-schooled to entering 5th grade, where he faces taunting and fear from his classmates. All he wants is to be normal. *Fiction*



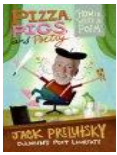
Pennypacker, Sara ***PAX***

After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. *Fiction*



Pinkney, Andrea Davis ***Duke Ellington : The Piano Prince and His Orchestra***

This introduction to the life and music of Duke Ellington won the 1999 Coretta Scott King award for illustrations by Brian Pinkney. *Biography*



Prelutsky, Jack *Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry : How to Write a Poem*

Prelutsky offers tips and secrets about writing poetry, including fun exercises to help you get started - or unstuck! *Nonfiction*



Raczka, Bob *Wet Cement*

Who says words need to be concrete? This collection shapes poems in surprising and delightful ways. *Poetry*



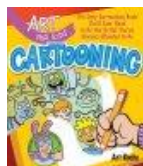
Raczka, Bob *Guyku : A Year of Haiku for Boys*

Poems and pictures capture the fun that boys and girls have while playing outdoors in all four seasons. *Poetry*



Rappaport, Doreen *Abe's Honest Words : The Life of Abraham Lincoln*

Ms. Rappaport's prose and Kadir Nelson's illustrations create a portrait of a great American who became our 16th president. *Biography*



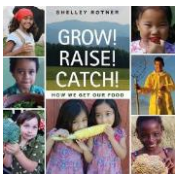
Roche, Art *Cartooning : The Only Cartooning Book You'll Ever Need to Be the Artist You've Always Wanted to Be*

Here are the tools and techniques needed to draw cartoons and create your own characters! *Nonfiction*



Rocklin, Joanne *One Day and One Amazing Morning on Orange Street*

The last remaining orange tree on a California street brings together neighbors of all ages as they face their problems and anxieties. Is the mysterious stranger a threat to their tree? *Fiction*



Rotner, Shelley *Grow! Raise! Catch! : How We Get Our Food*

Who grows our juicy fruits and yummy vegetables? Who raises animals for our tasty eggs, milk and meat? Who catches fresh fish for our table? Farmers and fishermen show off their bounty in this lively look at the people who produce the food on which we all rely.



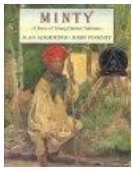
Roy, Katherine *Neighborhood Sharks*

An up close look at the ocean's most fearsome and famous predator and the scientists who study them--just twenty-six miles from the Golden Gate Bridge. *Nonfiction*



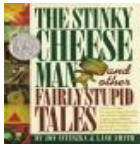
Ryan, Pam Muñoz *When Marian Sang : The True Recital of Marian Anderson, The Voice of the Century*

Marian Anderson was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera. She overcame many obstacles in her career as a singer and civil rights activist. *Biography*



Schroeder, Alan *Minty : A Story of Young Harriet Tubman*

As a child, Harriet Tubman dreamed of escaping from the plantation where she was a slave. *Biography*



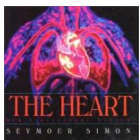
Scieszka, Jon *The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales*

This treat for your funny bone has witty versions of familiar fairy tales, all outrageously illustrated by Lane Smith. *Fiction*



Sepahban, Louis *Paper Wishes*

Near the start of World War II, young Manami, her parents, and Grandfather are evacuated from their home and sent to Manzanar, an ugly, dreary internment camp in the desert for Japanese-American citizens. *Fiction*.



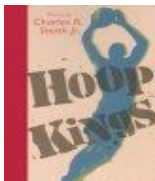
Simon, Seymour *The Heart : Our Circulatory System*

The heart is only the size of a fist, yet it is the pump that keeps blood circulating through the entire body. *Nonfiction*



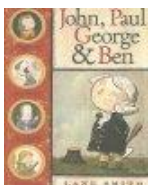
Simon, Seymour *Storms*

Dramatic photographs and a well-written text capture the beauty and danger of storms, in one of Simon's many books about our world. *Nonfiction*



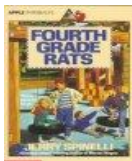
Smith, Charles R. *Hoop Kings: Poems*

Twelve poems celebrate contemporary basketball stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, Allen Iverson, and Kobe Bryant. *Poetry*



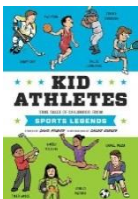
Smith, Lane *John, Paul, George & Ben*

Take a humorous look at five of our country's founding fathers: Hancock, Revere, Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson. *Fiction*



Spinelli, Jerry *Fourth Grade Rats*

Suds learns that his best friend is wrong. You don't have to be a tough guy, a "rat," to be a grown-up 4th grader. *Fiction*



Stabler, David *Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood From Sports Legends*

Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Billie Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up. *Nonfiction*.



Steig, William ***Abel's Island***

A pampered mouse learns to survive after being marooned on an island. *Fiction*



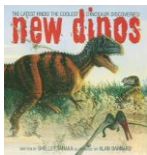
Swanson, Jennifer ***How Hybrid Cars Work***

Explore automobiles that work on two different fuel sources, including their history, why they are needed, how they work, and possible future developments. *Nonfiction*



Sweet, Melissa ***Some Writer: the Story of E.B. White***

Caldecott Honor winner Sweet mixes White's personal letters, photos, and family ephemera with her own exquisite artwork to tell the story of this American literary icon. Readers young and old will be fascinated and inspired by the journalist, *New Yorker* contributor, and children's book author who loved words his whole life. *Biography*



Tanaka, Shelley ***New Dinos : the Latest Finds! The Coolest Dinosaur Discoveries!***

Learn about the latest finds and research on these giants, from the thundering Tyrannosaurus to an evil-looking Suchomimus. *Nonfiction*



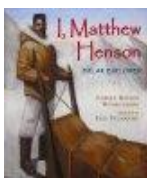
Thornhill, Jan ***The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk***

Explores the history of the Great Auk, a flightless bird that lived in the North Atlantic, and discusses how it was hunted to extinction by humans by the end of 1844. *Nonfiction*



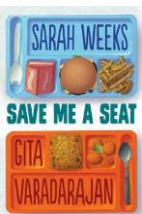
Van Allsburg, Chris ***The Mysteries of Harris Burdick***

The drawings, titles, and captions from the works of Harris Burdick invite readers to create their own stories. Why don't you try? *Fiction*



Weatherford, Carole Boston ***I, Matthew Henson, Polar Explorer***

Matthew Henson's dreams took him from Baltimore around the world. After years of learning to survive in the wilderness and standing by Admiral Peary, Henson defied the odds and proved himself as an explorer and as a man by reaching the North Pole. *Biography*



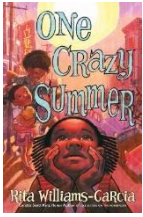
Weeks, Sarah ***Save Me a Seat***

Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems--but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives. *Fiction*



White, E. B. ***The Trumpet of the Swan***

A trumpeter swan without a voice finds that there are many problems to overcome. His bravery and the love of those around him help him survive. *Fiction*



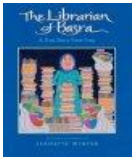
Williams-Garcia, Rita *One Crazy Summer*

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. *Fiction*



Winston, Sherri *Sweetest Sound*

Shy ten-year-old Cadence grapples with an overprotective father, a mother who's skipped town to pursue stardom, and what to do when a recording of her amazing voice leaks before she's ready to share it with the world. *Fiction*



Winter, Jeanette *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq*

Everyone in Basra uses the library, not only for reading, but for talking about important things. When war comes to her city, the librarian wants to save her books. Will she find a way? *Nonfiction*



Woodson, Jacqueline *The Other Side*

Two girls, one white and one black, get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town. Clover and Annie Rose are told not to meet even though they are friends. *Fiction*



Young, Ed, translator *Lon Po Po : A Red Riding Hood Story from China*

A hungry wolf disguised as their grandmother endangers three sisters who are home alone. *Folk Tale*



The mission of the Shaker City Schools Library Media Program is to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of information and ideas.

Strong reading skills are the key to student achievement and lifelong learning. This reading list is intended as an aid in choosing books to provide rich reading experiences for students.

Professional school librarians work with their students—your children—to build strong skills in locating, accessing and analyzing information. This begins with the retelling of stories in the earliest grades, through the teaching of sophisticated web evaluation strategies for older students. These critical thinking skills will serve students well throughout their school career and beyond. Our goal is to help all children make good selections and learn to judge the quality and intent of information in all formats.

Our libraries also provide online resources for students and families to use, accessible from any Internet connection. You can find them on <http://www.shaker.org/library.aspx>, or by going to your school building and clicking the library link there. Use the “Information /Databases” link to see the online materials we have for school and home use. You can get the access codes needed from your school library staff.

We encourage you to use the [Shaker Heights Public Library](#) to bring a multitude of good books and reading experiences to your children. They can suggest other great books for you to enjoy, as well as provide events like story hours and their summer reading program. Their kids’ page can be found at <http://shakerlibrary.org/kids/>.

Elementary Websites

If you are looking for more information about good reading for your child, you can also check the following websites.

Reading Rockets <http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents/> provides a wide variety of materials about books for children and developing reading skills.

Carol Hurst, author and educator, provides a children’s literature website, organized by topics. The “Featured Books” link will take you to long descriptions of her recommended books. The address is <http://www.carolhurst.com/>

For more information about the Shaker Heights Schools Library Media Program, call (216) 295-4181.