

West Side School
1597 Laurel Hollow Road
Syosset, New York 11791

October 2012

Dear Parents,

Are you having trouble supporting your child's reading success? Don't know where to begin selecting a book? Well this is your answer!

Below is a list of fiction and non-fiction books. Each list is in order from least challenging to most challenging. These books can be found in our school library, the Cold Spring Harbor Library or retail stores such as Book Revue or Amazon.com. This list is not a required list of books; just a guideline when choosing books for your child.

We have also compiled a list of "West Side Staff Picks". These are favorite stories chosen by teachers and staff members. Happy reading!

Sincerely,

The Reading Department and the Library Media Center

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

— Jacqueline Kennedy

1. **Are You My Mother?** by P.D. Eastman

Little bird asks animals, planes, and boats, "Are you my mother?" until he finds his own mother.



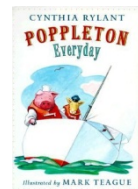
2. **Hattie and the Fox** by Mem Fox



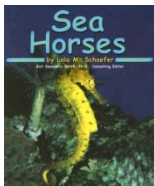
Hattie, a big black hen, discovers a fox in the bushes, which creates varying reactions in the other barnyard animals.

3. **Poppleton Everyday** by Cynthia Rylant

Poppleton the pig goes stargazing, tries out a new bed before he buys it, and goes sailing for the first time in this great adventure!



4. **Sea Horses** by Lola M. Schaefer



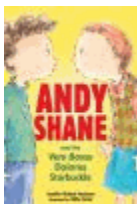
Young readers dive into non-fiction with the help of these vibrant books about the intriguing world of marine life.

5. **Peter's Chair** by Ezra Jack Keats

When Peter discovers his blue furniture is being painted pink for a new baby sister, he rescues the last unpainted item, a chair, and runs away.



6. **Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle** by Jennifer Jacobsen



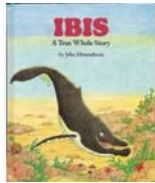
Andy Shane hates school, mainly because of a tattletale know-it-all named Dolores Starbuckle, but Granny Webb, who has taken care of him all his life, joins him in class one day and helps him solve the problem.

7. **The Big, Beautiful, Brown Box** by Larry Brimner

The Corner Kids all have different ideas about how to use a big box, but then they find that working together is the best idea of all.



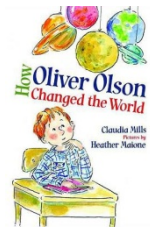
8. **Ibis: A True Whale Story** by John Himmelman



Based on a true story, this exciting account of the first successful rescue of a net-entangled whale is told from the whale's point of view.

9. **How Oliver Olson Changed the World** by Claudia Mills

Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system.



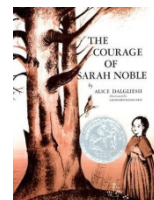
10. **The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto** by Natalie Standiford



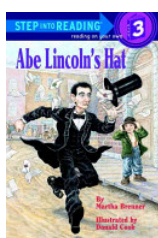
This is the true story about a very brave dog who, in 1925, led his team 700 miles through blinding snowdrifts, over a frozen river, and around cracking ice to save two diphtheria-stricken children.

11. **The Courage of Sarah Noble** by Alice Dalgliesh

Remembering her mother's words, an eight-year-old girl finds courage to go alone with her father to build a new home in the Connecticut wilderness and to stay with the Indians when her father goes back to bring the rest of the family.



12. **Abe Lincoln's Hat** by Martha Brenner



Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest presidents, started out in life as an absent-minded frontier lawyer. How did he nudge his memory? He stuck letters, court notes, contracts, and even his checkbook in his trademark top hat. When he took off his hat, it was all there!

West Side Staff Picks

These are book recommendations chosen by the teachers and staff at West Side School!

Slake's Limbo by Felice Holman
~Mr. Simon, Principal

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate diCamillo
~Ms. Wojcik, Reading Teacher

George and Martha by James Marshall
~Ms. Weiss, Reading Teacher

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
~Ms. Fraiberg, Library-Media Specialist

The Old Woman Who Names Things by Cynthia Rylant
~Ms. Ryan, Second Grade Teacher

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka
~Ms. Villa, Second Grade Teacher

Stepping on the Cracks by Mary Downing Hahn
~Mr. Farmer, Third Grade Teacher

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner
~Ms. Santoro, Third Grade Teacher

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
~Ms. Dopico, Fourth Grade Teacher

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
~Ms. Dudek, Fourth Grade Teacher

The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick
~Mr. Arloff, Fifth Grade Teacher

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
~Ms. Baratta, Fifth Grade Teacher

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
~Dr. Dawkins, Fifth Grade Teacher

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Moss
~Ms. Agnello, Sixth Grade Teacher

The Seven Chinese Brothers by Margaret Mahy
~Ms. DeRosa, Sixth Grade Teacher

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
~Ms. Gerver, Sixth Grade Teacher

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
~Sra. Tassani, FLES Teacher

The Polar Express by Margaret Mahy
~Sra. Jordan, FLES Teacher

The City of Gold and Lead by John Christopher Tripods
~Mr. Craine, Science Teacher

Button Soup by Disney
~Ms. Matthews, AIS Teacher

Corduroy by Don Freeman
~Ms. Perea-Olsen, AIS Teacher

Flotsam by David Wiesner
~Ms. MacLaughlin, Art Teacher

Blueberries for Sal by Robert McClosky
~Ms. Kleiner, Band Teacher

Strega Nona by Tomie di Paola
~Ms. Latham, School Psychologist

Love You Forever by Robert Munsch
~Ms. Schoenberg, Special Education Teacher

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
~Ms. Astor, Special Education Teacher

Puff the Magic Dragon by Peter Yarrow and Lenny Lipton
~Ms. Tramonte, Special Education Teacher

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch and Michael Martchenko
~Ms. Rodriguez, Speech Teacher

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson
~Ms. Hoffman, School Secretary