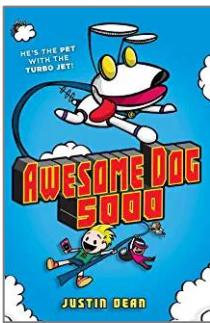




YOU ARE
READY!

It's time to
Level Up
from J* to J

These fun, shorter books that still have some pictures will make it easy!



Awesome Dog 5000 (book 1 in the series) by Justin Dean

Marty, Ralph, and Skyler might make the ultimate secret combo when battling alien-slime ninjas in their favorite video game, but in real life they're just regular kids. That is, until the three best friends discover Awesome Dog 5000, a robotic dog with very real power-ups. Awesome Dog can "bark" a sonic boom, "walk" at speeds over three hundred miles per hour, and "fetch" with an atomic cannon. Life for Marty, Ralph, and Skyler just got a major turbo-boost! AWESOME DOG 5000 is a wild action-comedy told through a mix of text and black-and-white illustrations, with a mystery to solve at the end. A great choice for fans of Dog Man and Bad Guys.

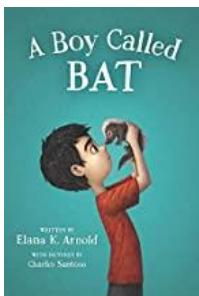


The Best of Iggy (book 1 in the series) by Annie Barrows

Meet 9-year-old Iggy Frangi. He's not a bad kid, he's really not. Okay, so he's done a few bad things. And okay, he's not very sorry about most of them. People make a big deal about nothing. What's a little pancake here and there? Is that something to get mad about? Iggy doesn't think so. No one got hurt, so there's no problem. No one got hurt except for that one time, that one time when the Best Idea Ever turned into the Worst Idea of All Time. Iggy is sorry he did it. He is really, really, really sorry.

"For what?" you might ask. "What did he do?"

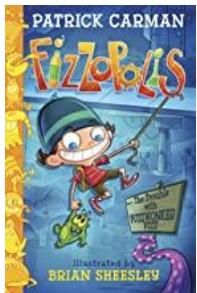
Well, you'll have to read the book to find out.



A Boy Called Bat (book 1 in the series) by Elana K. Arnold

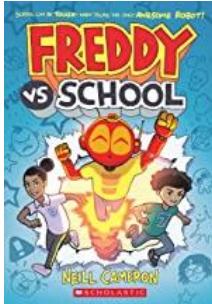
For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter.

But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.



The Trouble with Fuzzwonker Fizz (book 1 in the Fizzopolis series) by Patrick Carman

Welcome to Fizzopolis! Home to the world's greatest soda pop, Fuzzwonker Fizz, and the Fizzies—fuzzy, fizzy creatures that live only in Fizzopolis. Harold Fuzzwonker is an ordinary kid with an extraordinary fizzy friend, Floyd. But Floyd's a secret—like a top super-secret. Harold must protect him, as well as the family recipe for Fuzzwonker Fizz, from the evil Snood Candy Factory. But it's hard to guard a secret when he's your best good buddy and he always escapes from your backpack!



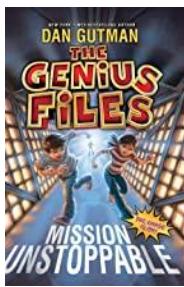
Freddy vs. School by Neil Cameron

Freddy is a superhero robot . . . stuck in school. Most robots get to build cars and save the world. But Freddy's mom says he has to go to school and learn stuff the human way. The only problem is that it's really hard to be human. And when he breaks the rules too many times, Principal Javid is forced to create a ROBOTIC CODE OF CONDUCT:

- NO Super-Strength
- NO Lasers
- NO Rocket Boosters

Now Freddy has three strikes until game over: expulsion.

What will life be like with all of the pointing and whispering, but none of the fun? Will his friends even still like him? And who will be able to stop Henrik from terrorizing the other kids?



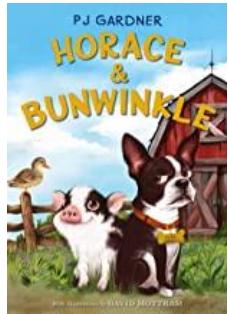
The Genius Files Mission Unstoppable (book 1 in the series) by Dan Gutman

Coke McDonald and his twin sister, Pepsi, think their family's cross-country RV vacation is nothing to get excited about...until they're chased off a cliff, locked in a burning school, and receive mysterious messages in codes and ciphers. From California to Wisconsin, it's a race against time to find out who's after Coke and Pep, who's leaving the notes...and just what being a part of The Genius Files entails! The Genius Files is a one-of-a-kind mix of geography and fun, with black-and-white photographs and maps that put young readers right into the action.



Ghosthunters and the Incredibly Revolting Ghost! (book 1 in the series) by Cornelia Funke

Nine-year-old Tom can't catch a break: He's a klutz, his sister Lola pretty much hates his guts, and -- he just found a ghost camping out in his cellar. Lucky for Tom his grandma's best friend just happens to be the world's foremost ghosthunter. Under her expert tutelage, Tom learns the tools of the trade -- which just happen to include buckets of graveyard dirt -- and soon finds he has to face down not just the Averagely Spooky Ghost (ASG) in his basement but the Incredibly Revolting Ghost (IRG) in town. All while keeping the nettlesome Lola off his trail....

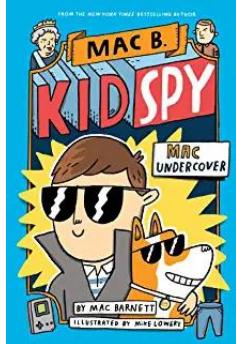


Horace & Bunwinkle by PJ Gardner

Horace Homer Higgins III despises dirt, the outdoors, and ducks. But when his person, Ellie, moves to a farm called the Homestead, the anxious Boston Terrier is forced to adapt. As if that isn't enough to strain his nerves, Ellie adopts a perpetually cheerful potbellied pig named Bunwinkle to be his baby sister.

Bunwinkle is delighted to be on the farm despite the stuffiness of her new canine brother. She's sure she'll crack his shell eventually—no one can resist her cuteness for long—especially once they bond over watching a TV pet-etective show.

When the duo discovers that some neighborhood animals have been disappearing, they decide to use their new detective skills to team up to solve this barnyard mystery. Is it a mountain lion? Or their suspiciously shot-loving veterinarians? Only one thing seems certain: if they don't figure it out soon, one of them might be next.



Mac B. Kid Spy Mac Undercover (book 1 in the series) by Mac Barnett

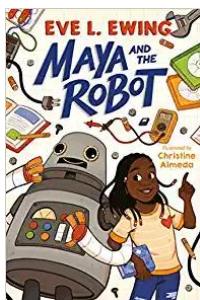
Before Mac Barnett was an author, he was a kid. And while he was a kid, he was a spy. Not just any spy. But a spy...for the Queen of England. The precious Crown Jewels have been stolen, and there's only one person who can help the Queen of England: her newest secret agent, Mac B. Mac travels around the globe in search of the stolen treasure...but will he find it in time? From secret identities to Karate hijinks, this fast-paced, witty and historically inspired chapter book will keep readers guessing until the very last page. With full-color illustrations and fascinating historical facts masterfully sprinkled throughout, this series offers adventure, intrigue, absurdity, history and humor. Discover this totally smart and side-splittingly funny series, and experience what it's really like to be a kid spy.



The Monster's Ring (book 1 in the Magic Shop series) by Bruce Coville

*Twist it once, you're horned and haired;
Twist it twice and fangs are bared;
Twist it thrice? No one has dared!*

Russell is sure that the ring he gets at Mr. Elives' shop is just a silly magic trick, but he follows the instructions and twists the ring twice anyway—and becomes a monster!



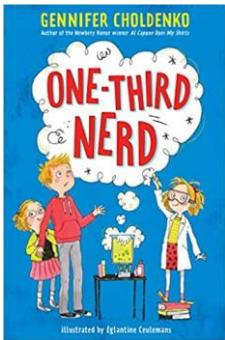
Maya and the Robot by Eve L. Ewing

Maya's nervous about fifth grade. For the first time since kindergarten, her best friends Jada and MJ are placed in a different class without her, and introverted Maya has trouble making new friends. She tries to put on a brave face since they are in fifth grade now, but Maya is nervous! Just when too much seems to be changing, she finds a robot named Ralph in the back of Mr. Mac's convenience store closet. Once she uses her science skills to get him up and running, a whole new world of connection opens up as Ralph becomes a member of her family and Maya begins to step into her power.



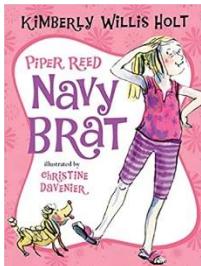
Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere (book 1 in the series) by Elise Gravel

Meet Olga, the amazing child scientist who LOVES animals! When she crosses paths with a weird creature and becomes the first kid to discover the species *olgamus ridiculus*, she is ecstatic! What does an *olgamus* eat? How does it poop? Why does its burp sound like the word rubber? With her trusty observation notebook and the help of a librarian, a shopkeeper, and some friends, Olga sets out to do science—learning the facts about her smelly, almost-furry pal and searching for him when he goes missing. The scientific method is the best way to discover anything! These books are jam-packed with fun: vibrant illustrations, word bubbles, quirky humor, *olgamus* facts, and plenty of excitement.



One-Third Nerd by Gennifer Choldenko

Fifth grade is not for amateurs, according to Liam. Luckily, he knows that being more than one-third nerd is not cool. Liam lives in the Bay area near San Francisco with his mom and two younger sisters. Dakota is fascinated by science and has a big personality but struggles to make friends; Izzy, a child with Down syndrome, makes friends easily and notices things that go past everyone else. Dad lives across town, but he's over a lot. And then there's Cupcake, their lovable German shepherd, who guards their basement apartment. Recently, Cupcake has a problem--she's peeing in the house. The kids need to make enough money to take her to the vet before their landlord upstairs finds out. And Mom and Dad have said if Cupcake doesn't stop, they will find her a new home. But the kids will never let Cupcake go. Can they save her?



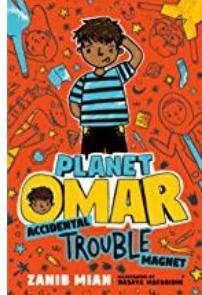
Piper Reed Navy Brat (book 1 in the series) by Kimberly Willis Holt

It's not easy being the middle child, especially when your dad is a Navy Chief. Meet Piper Reed, a spunky nine-year-old who has moved more times than she can count on one hand. From Texas to Guam, wherever Piper goes, adventure follows, inspired by her active imagination, free-wheeling spirit, and a bit of sister magic. Unlike her older sister, Piper loves being part of a Navy family, and unlike her little sister, Piper is no prodigy genius. Piper is Piper—fearless and full of life.



Phineas L. MacGuire... Erupts! (book 1 in the series) by Frances O'Roark Dowell

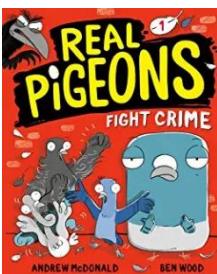
Phineas L. MacGuire, aka Mac is a boy-scientist extraordinaire and probably the world's expert on mold, including which has the highest stink potential. Disaster strikes when his teacher pairs Mac and his un-best friend together for the upcoming science fair. Worse, this un-best friend wants the project to be on dinosaurs, which is so third grade. Worse still, it seems as though everyone else in his class finds the un-best friend as unlikeable as Mac does. But, being a boy-scientist, once Mac notices this, he just might have to do some investigating....



Planet Omar Accidental Trouble Magnet (book 1 in the series) by Zanib Mian

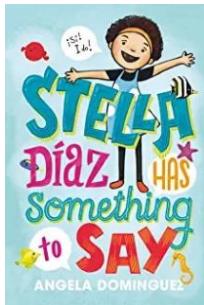
Welcome to the imaginative brain of Omar! Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. What if the work is too hard or the kids are mean or the teacher is a zombie alien?! But when Omar makes a new best friend, things start looking up. That is, until a Big Mean Bully named Daniel makes every day a nightmare! Daniel even tells Omar that all Muslims are going to be kicked out of the country . . . Could that possibly be true?

Luckily, Omar's enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life's ups and downs.



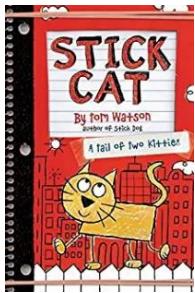
Real Pigeons Fight Crime (book 1 in the series) by Andrew McDonald

What do REAL PIGEONS do? They fight crime, of course! Wait, what? You didn't know your town is protected by a secret squad of crime-fighting feathered friends? Well, you are about to get schooled. REAL PIGEONS solve mysteries! REAL PIGEONS fight bad guys! And REAL PIGEONS won't stop until your neighborhood is safe and the questions are all answered: Like, why have all the breadcrumbs disappeared? And which food truck smells the best?



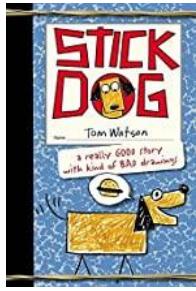
Stella Diaz Has Something to Say (book 1 in the series) by Angela Dominguez

Stella Diaz loves marine animals, especially her betta fish, Pancho. But Stella Diaz is not a betta fish. Betta fish like to be alone, while Stella loves spending time with her mom and brother and her best friend Jenny. Trouble is, Jenny is in another class this year, and Stella feels very lonely. When a new boy arrives in Stella's class, she really wants to be his friend, but sometimes Stella accidentally speaks Spanish instead of English and pronounces words wrong. Plus, she has to speak in front of her whole class for a big presentation at school! She better get over her fears soon, because Stella Díaz has something to say! Stella is an infectiously charming character with relatable writing and adorable black-and-white art throughout. Simple Spanish vocabulary is also integrated within the text, providing a bilingual element.



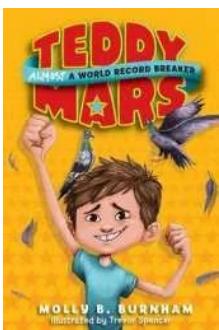
Stick Cat: A Tail of Two Kitties (book 1 in the series) by Tom Watson

It's a big day in the big city for Stick Cat and his best friend, Edith. There are treasures to hunt, songs to sing, pigeons to catch, and naps to take. But way up on the twenty-third floor, danger lurks just around the corner. Terrible noises and violent crashes trap a desperate man in the building across the alley. Stick Cat will need to navigate his way across the alley—and around Edith's peculiar ways—to attempt a rescue. Stick Cat features Tom Watson's trademark combination of laughs, adventure, and hilarious stick-figure drawings.



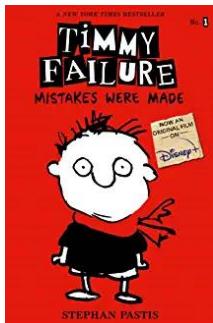
Stick Dog (book 1 in the series) by Tom Watson

Introducing everyone's new best friend: Stick Dog! He'll make you laugh...he'll make you cry...but above all, he'll make you hungry! Follow Stick Dog as he goes on an epic quest for the perfect burger. With hilarious text and stick-figure drawings, this book has a unique perspective, as the author speaks directly to the reader throughout the story in an engaging and lively way! Stick Dog is a winner for those looking for their next funny illustrated middle grade book series.



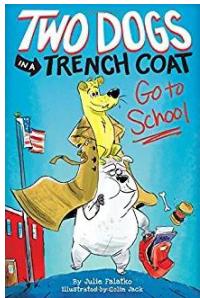
Teddy Mars: Almost a World Record Breaker (book 1 in series) by Molly B. Burnham

Try this hilarious series about a ten-year-old boy from a big family who dreams of making it into *The Guinness Book of World Records*. Teddy Mars is determined to stand out in a world full of wonders and a house bursting with siblings. With the help of his best friends, Teddy tries to build the biggest snow mound, stuff the most grapes in his mouth, and lift a chair with his teeth. Too bad his pesky little brother, also known as The Destructor, always wrecks Teddy's record-breaking plans! Told in short, accessible sections, with memorable lists and winning illustrations, Teddy's never-give-up attitude will have readers laughing out loud and trying to break records of their own!



Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made (book 1 in the series) by Stephan Pastis

Meet Timmy Failure—the clueless, comically self-confident CEO of the best detective agency in town, perhaps even the nation. Add his impressively lazy business partner, a very large polar bear named Total, and what you have is Total Failure, Inc. From the offbeat creator of *Pearls Before Swine* comes an endearingly bumbling hero in a hilarious caper accompanied by a whodunit twist. Timmy Failure will have you laughing out loud!



Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School (book 1 in the series) by Julie Falatko

Sassy and Waldo are good dogs. They spend the day keeping their house safe. But every day their boy, Stewart, comes home from this terrible place called school smelling like anxiety and loose-leaf paper. Sassy and Waldo decide to save Stewart. But they don't let dogs into school, so Sassy and Waldo decide to get creative. They put on an old trench coat, and now everyone at Bea Arthur Elementary thinks they are a new student named Salty from Liver, Ohio. Well, everyone except Stewart. Sassy and Waldo love school! Everything smells like meat and dirty socks. And they discover a whole other way to help out Stewart!



Ways to Make Sunshine (Book 1 in the Ryan Hart series) by Renée Watson

Ryan Hart has a lot on her mind--school, self-image, and especially family. Her dad finally has a new job, but money is tight. That means some changes, like selling their second car and moving into a new (old) house. But Ryan is a girl who knows how to make sunshine out of setbacks. Ryan is all about trying to see the best in people. But even if her life isn't everything she would wish for, and the unexpected happens, she always finds a way forward, with grace and wit. And plenty of sunshine.



Wedgie & Gizmo (book 1 of the series) by Suzanne Selfors

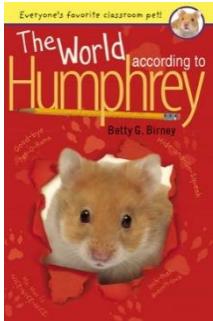
When a bouncy, barky dog and an evil genius guinea pig move into the same house, the laughs are nonstop! Wedgie is so excited, he can't stop barking. He LOVES having new siblings and friends to protect. He LOVES guinea pigs like Gizmo! He also LOVES treats! But Gizmo does not want to share his loyal human servant with a rump-sniffing beast! He does not want to live in a pink Barbie Playhouse. Or to be kissed and hugged by the girl human. Gizmo is an evil genius. He wants to take over the world and make all humans feel his wrath. But first he must destroy his archenemy, Wedgie, once and for all!



The Wild Robot (book 1 of 2) by Peter Brown

Can a robot survive in the wilderness?

When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.



The World According to Humphrey (book 1 in the series) by Betty G. Birney

You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That's what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true! In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. Soon Humphrey learns to read, write, and even shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course). With lots of friends to help, adventures to enjoy, and a cage with a lock-that-doesn't-lock, Humphrey's life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn't out to get him!

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