

Parent Guide to

LUCKY

Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader

October
2008

Get your
Parent Guide to Lucky
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Lucky
October Book Club flyer.

Horrible Harry Cracks the Code by Suzy Kline

Who it's for:

Anyone who fancies himself a
young Sherlock Holmes

Why we chose it:

This sleuth story will keep kids
turning the pages.

Parents say:

"My son couldn't put it down."



Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers by Megan McDonald

Who it's for:

Kids and parents who enjoy a
good laugh

Why we chose it:

"Judy Moody" author
McDonald has struck gold
again.

Kids weigh in:

"My brother has smelly
shoes too!"



Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo: Vote for Suzanne by Nancy Krulik

Who it's for:

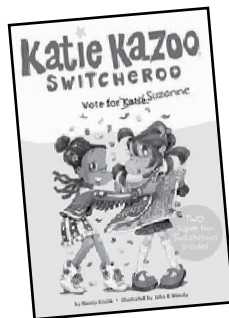
Young politicians and future
civic leaders

Why we chose it:

Because election season is
heating up!

Parents say:

"This was a perfect way to
introduce my kids to politics
– they loved it."



Getting to the Root of Reading

On average, your child learns 5,000 words per year! By learning the meanings for common root words, prefixes, and suffixes, he'll be better prepared to remember new words and steadily improve his vocabulary. Here's why:

- Knowing word roots will help him decode similar words and their definitions. For instance, if your child knows the root *spect* means "to look," he'll more easily grasp the definitions of *inspector*, *spectacle*, and *spectator*.
- Your child probably knows that the word "unfair" means "not fair." Once he recognizes the prefix *un-* means "not," he can apply it to a wide array of words like *unlucky*, *untidy*, or *unhappy*.
- Similarly, if he understands the suffix *-ful* means "full of" and *-less* means "without," he'll be able to reason that "thankful" means "full of thanks" and "meaningless" means "without meaning."

Of course, there are exceptions to the rules, but starting with these building blocks will help your child feel comfortable tackling longer words that might otherwise be intimidating.



Parent to Parent

"Yard sales are a great way to build a child's library. We usually leave with a whole stack of wonderful books — all for just a few bucks!"
—Kay R., Florida

Ask an Expert

What reading roadblocks might my child face?

Some kids have trouble because of decoding difficulties. Determine if your child is over-relying on reading words by sight rather than sounding them out with the Nonsense Word Test. If he can sound the words out, then decoding isn't the issue. If he uses one or two letters of the word to guess another, decoding issues exist. Ask your child to read these made-up words to you:

lat (rhymes with "cat")
rud (rhymes with "mud")
chab (rhymes with "grab")
flay (rhymes with "play")
weam (rhymes with "team")
froom (rhymes with "broom")
prouh (rhymes with "couch")

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander, a former teacher, has worked with the U.S. Department of Education. She is currently Chief Academic Officer at Scholastic.

Find more expert advice for your reader at www.scholastic.com/read.

Vocabulary Building

One of the marks of a good reader is a strong vocabulary. Memorization and exposure to new words (through books, newspapers, and conversation) are great ways to build vocabulary. Look for these learning milestones as your child increases his store of words:

- Figures out word meanings from clues in text
- Uses synonyms and antonyms correctly
- Uses new words appropriately in his writing
- Uses knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and root words to expand vocabulary
- Understands the vocabulary of different content areas such as science materials

Hallo-word Stories

Write a magical, suspenseful, or spooky tale that uses as many of the words below as possible. Use the writing prompts provided to get started . . . or create your own story idea.

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| truthful | pupils | neighbor | sense | abundant |
| adventure | twitch | sniff | faint | spicy |
| carnival | tremendous | wrap | telescope | murky |
| invitation | drink | troll | surprised | thrill |
| ridiculous | ravishing | blink | swallow | frown |
| | tomorrow | ridiculous | promptly | |

The Lowdown on Leveled Reading

Leveled reading uses various assessment tools to determine how well your child reads, and then matches her to books that are challenging enough for her to make progress, but not so hard that she will become frustrated. Books are categorized into levels of difficulty, which is how a perfect match, based on ability, can be made. There are a number of leveled reading systems utilized in schools across the country, typically beginning in kindergarten; it is up to school districts or individual schools to determine which, if any, are in place. The primary difference between the systems lies in how children are evaluated, and each program has its own way of labeling books. The three most common are Guided Reading Level (GRL), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and Lexile Level. To see a chart comparing these three systems, visit <http://www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/pdf/readinglevels2.pdf>.

Find More Titles in Kids' Favorite Series

Now, you and your child can find more titles in your favorite book series online – at the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters. From the Magic Tree House to Geronimo Stilton and beyond, the Series Headquarters puts all kids' best-loved characters all in one place – and all at low Scholastic Book Clubs pricing. And books are delivered right to the classroom, just like always! Visit www.scholastic.com/serieshq.

Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit www.scholastic.com/classroomscare to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.

Daily Reading Fun

October is Children's Magazine Month! Motivate your reader by subscribing to a periodical related to her favorite hobbies and interests.

Beyond Books

Host a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt. Make a list of "spooky" items (like a jack-o'-lantern or a magic potion) that your child and his friends need to find in your house or around the neighborhood. Provide written clues that lead to the treasures.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Lucky
Your Parent Guide to Lucky is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.