

# Your **ARROW** Reader Now

Grades 4-6

October 2006

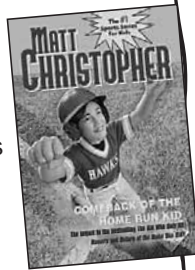
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**Your Arrow Reader Now**  
Every Month  
at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Editors' Pick of the Month

Available in your Arrow October Book Club flyer.

### Comeback of the Home Run Kid by Matt Christopher

**Who it's for:** Baseball fans who dig the long ball  
**Why we chose it:** Inspiring story in time for the playoffs  
**Kids weigh in:** "Not to be cheesy, but this book's a home run!"



### Land of Elyon Book 3: The Tenth City by Patrick Carman

**Who it's for:** Fans of Alexa who can't wait for the new installment  
**Why we chose it:** It's the final book in the best-selling trilogy.  
**Kids weigh in:** "Wow, what an ending...can't wait to read the entire series again."



### The Witch of Blackbird Pond

**Who it's for:** Advanced readers who love a good thriller  
**Why we chose it:** Newbery medal winner based on events from Puritan times  
**Kids weigh in:** "If you're into history and magic, this is definitely for you."



## 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

Magazine subscriptions are a great gift to get kids reading for fun!  
-Sam, TN

## Ask an Expert

### How can I help my child comprehend what she's reading?

**Video is a powerful way of providing the mental models** needed for struggling - and not-so-struggling - readers. In fact, if you provide video to your child before she tackles new texts, her chance of successfully comprehending that text more than doubles. As she watches, she'll be building a rich reservoir of prior knowledge and imagery; she can draw on it later when she reads. Check with your child's science or social studies teachers to find out the topics they'll be covering over the next few months. Then go to the library or video store, or browse your on-line video rental site and look for good video matches.

**Meet Our Expert:** Wiley Blevins is the Director of Primary Programs at Scholastic. A former elementary-school teacher, he is a respected trainer, researcher, and author of more than 30 children's books.

Find more expert advice for your reader at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

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## 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

## Halloween 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.

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

### Writing Prompts:

- I was walking home after dark last week when...
- If I could cast a magical spell over someone, I would...
- My best friend and I were babysitting my little brother and suddenly...

### 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.



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## Find the Perfect Book for Your Child!

If your child's school uses Guided Reading Levels (GRL) or a Grade Level Equivalency (RL), use this chart to find perfect on-level books from your Arrow October Book Club flyer.

Title	RL	GRL
101 Ways to Bug Your Parents	4.8	S
Ann M. Martin Pack	4.2-6.1	Q-Y
Comeback of the Home Run Kid	4.5	M
Everything on a Waffle	5.9	V
Goosebumps Haunted Boxed Set	3.5-4.9	O-P
The Land of Elyon Book 3: The Tenth City	5.5	V
The Lightning Thief	4.7	S
Mystery Pack	4.5-6.3	O-W
Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great	4.2	R
Scary Stories Pack	4.5-5.1	N-R
The Witch of Blackbird Pond	6.9	W



### ClassroomsCare

ClassroomsCare helps children learn the joys of giving...and reading!

Your child's class can help donate 1 million books to kids in need.

To learn more, visit [scholastic.com/classroomscare](http://scholastic.com/classroomscare)

Find out more about leveled reading at [www.scholastic.com/yourreader](http://www.scholastic.com/yourreader).

### About Your Arrow Reader Now

Your Arrow Reader Now is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit *All About Reading*. Go to: [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).