

Parent Guide to

ARROW

Grades 4–6

Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your preteen

September
2007

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

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your
September Book Club flyer.

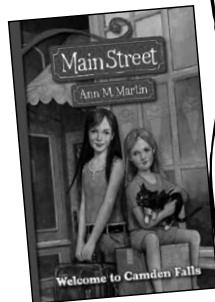
Main Street: Welcome to Camden Falls

By Ann M. Martin

Who it's for: Readers eager
for a new series

Why we chose it: Marks the
return of a favorite author

Parents say: "It's a real
'moral of the story' book, but
still fun to read."



From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

By E. L. Konigsburg

Who it's for: Anyone who's
ever felt misunderstood

Why we chose it: Puts a
fresh spin on the classic
"runaway" plot

Parents say: "I'll never look
at a museum the same
again!"



The Homework Machine

By Dan Gutman

Who it's for: Detective
wannabes

Why we chose it: Its unique
storytelling style

Parents say: "Guaranteed to
spark passionate debate."



Break the Communication Logjam

The best way to stay close to a budding teenager? Try books. Books build bridges between people, and reading together is still one of the best ways to impart values, as well as share ideas and feelings with your child.

Grab a book, magazine, or newspaper, and read quietly next to your child while she does her homework. You can't legislate closeness, but you can be physically and emotionally available when a taciturn preteen decides to open up.

Talk about books you're reading and those you'd like to read. Parents need to inspire, not push. If your child sees you reading and hears you talking about it, she'll be more likely to pick up a book in the first place, as well as share her own ideas.

Read what he's reading. Books allow you to connect with your child in ways that might otherwise feel forced or awkward. If she's reading *Catcher in the Rye* for English, buy another copy and read along.

Start a book club with your child and other families. The 7th grader who balks at reading a book may be more inclined to pick it up if friends are doing the same.

Remember that bonding with an older child is more complex than with an infant. Very young children drain our stamina; older ones challenge our minds and spirits. Make it a habit to share your feelings — about your day or how you felt when you were your child's age.



Parent to Parent

Writing is a more active pursuit than reading. Get your child started with a simple journal! Encourage her to record her thoughts and day-to-day activities.
—Jan B., Pennsylvania

Ask an Expert

I read a lot about standards. As a parent, what do I need to know to help my child?

Standards are statements of what students should know and be able to do. Many states have these in place and they provide a mechanism to monitor how students are doing. Standards are like a destination on a map. You need to know where you're going in order to plan the best way to get there. Your child's teacher will be able to tell you how your child is doing. You can help by monitoring homework in all subjects, having a reading- and language-friendly home, and encouraging your child to do her best.

Meet Our Expert: *Francie Alexander is a vice president at Scholastic, where her focus is on creating materials that help kids learn to read.*

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

Party Time

To encourage both reading and communication with your tween, try throwing a book party.

- Invite four to eight parent-child pairs (eight to sixteen people). Try to include kids who are within one grade of each other.
- Each person can take a turn talking about a book and reading a favorite passage aloud.
- Your child and her friends can make drawings based on their favorite parts of the stories.
- Have refreshments on hand, and give out goodie bags with bookmarks, colored pencils, and a small journal to inspire reading and writing.

Activity

Create and hang a chart to keep track of the books your child reads.

Date	Title	Author/ Illustrator	★ ★ ★ Loved It! ★ ★ Liked It ★ Didn't Like It	IT WAS: ✓ ✓ ✓ A Bit Hard ✓ ✓ Kind of Easy ✓ Very Easy
			★ ★ ★	✓ ✓
			★	✓ ✓ ✓

Reading Is Giving

ClassroomsCare is a terrific way for kids to share their love of reading — and make a difference. Students in classrooms around the country are encouraged to read 100 books to give 100 books to kids in need (up to one million books)! Together, Scholastic Book Clubs and caring classrooms nationwide have donated more than five million books to under-resourced schools since the program launched in 2002. That's something young readers can be proud of! And this year, we're launching a brand new online community (www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) where classrooms can connect with each other and share their love of reading.

Beyond Books

To better retain information, help your child memorize things backwards. This helps him to visualize the words rather than simply parrot them. Try it with the alphabet — then take on the Gettysburg Address!

Word Power

Reading and language development directly influence social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Motivate Your Child

Knowing what excites kids is the key to helping them master new skills and be successful in school. Here's how to tap into your child's passions in a fun, meaningful way.

4th Graders Love:

Role-playing. Children this age still love pretend play, but now it becomes a vehicle for more sophisticated storytelling. They often get very excited about re-enacting historical events and scenes from books. Through higher-level playacting, children can interpret what they're learning in school and bring literature to life. And while they're at it, they're mastering character as well as plot development, as well as an understanding of how to use dialogue successfully.

5th and 6th Graders Love:

Technology. Tweens are drawn to anything electronic. High-tech tools like computers, cell phones, and mp3 players capture kids' attention, keep them engaged and focused, and provide them with instant feedback. Spark correspondence skills by leaving your child voice, email or text messages to let him know he's in your thoughts. You might ask, "How is your day going? Tell me three adjectives that describe it." Another fun idea, come December, is putting your child in charge of the family's holiday letter. Your child can report the family's news — complete with photos and captions.

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 Arrow
Your Parent Guide to Arrow 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.