

Finding the Right Book

The best question a student can ask is, “Can you help me find a book?” And that can also be a scary question. Helping students know which book is right for them means knowing books, because handing the right book to a student can mean turning that student into a reader.

How do we keep up with books for children and teens? Well, first, we read a lot. But how do we know what to read? We begin by asking kids to tell us what they are reading. They love sharing the titles that excite them and that’s the best way for us to keep up with popular titles.

Second, we ask other teachers, colleagues, and librarians two questions: 1. What do you suggest we read? and 2. What are you hoping kids will read next? In your school, be sure to keep a visible space for teachers, librarians, and even parents to jot down titles of books that they’ve found are hits with their students.

Third, we check online sources that provide lists of books:

- www.weneeddiversebooks.org (See the Resources tab.)
- www.tfcbooks.org (See the Booklists tab for many lists of titles on a wide range of subjects: multiculturalism, social justice, LGBTQ rights, and more, as well as lists by age, author, and theme.)
- www.socialstudies.org (Find Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People under the Resources tab.)
- www.nsta.org (Search Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12.)

- www.ncte.org (See Awards under the About tab for a list of Orbis Pictus Awards titles and other award-winning books.)
- <http://www.alan-ya.org> (See ALAN Picks for the newest reviews of YA books.)
- <http://www.ala.org> (Search ALA Book, Print & Media Awards.)
- <http://www.zencollegelife.com/50-best-childrens-literature-blogs/> (Find an annotated list of the 50 best blogs about children's literature.)
- <https://nerdybookclub.wordpress.com> (See the Nerdy Book Awards tab.)
- <http://www.cbcbooks.org> (See the Find Books tab and discover lists of diverse books and content-area books.)
- <https://www.goodreads.com/list> (Browse the Listopia section for various lists of reader-recommended books.)