



Reading List

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Pre-School

Doggies, by Sandra Boynton

In this adorable board book, Artist Sandra Boynton has a blast counting to ten with dogs that bark, whine, and howl. For baby and preschool, but lots of fun for dog-loving older people too.

Good Dog, Carl, by Alexandra Day

No dog person's book collection is complete without at least one "Carl" book. The theme in each of these hardboard baby-preschool books is the same: mother entrusts baby with Carl, a lovable, rottweiler with a marvelous sense of fun and adventure.

Ages 4-8

Arthur's New Puppy, by Marc Brown

This is the eighteenth book in the bestselling Arthur Adventure series. Through trial and error, and with the help of a puppy training book, Arthur transforms his "naughty" puppy into a (mostly) well-trained member of the family. And just in time — Arthur feared his new pet might be banished to the garage or sent away. With humor and an upbeat attitude, it teaches children about the real problems encountered in puppy training, with lessons on patience and dedication to a task.

Before You Were Mine, by Maribeth Boelts

In this touching story, a young boy ponders what his adopted dog's life might have been like "before you were mine." He imagines his beloved pet in various situations—with a loving family forced to give him up, misunderstood for his puppy antics, neglected in a backyard, and roaming the streets. Finally the boy concludes, "Maybe it doesn't matter what happened before you were mine...because now, you're home." Alternately sweet and sad, this book points out the advantages of shelter adoption and especially the benefits of adopting older pets.

Dogku, Andrew Clements

Told entirely in haiku verse, this fun book tells the story of a stray dog who one morning shows up on a family's back step. After being fed, bathed, played with, and given a nickname, Mooch starts to make himself at home, but the family has a big decision to make. Are they ready for the responsibilities of taking care of a dog, or will they have to bring him to the animal shelter to find a new home? The light suspense builds until dad brings home a new dog bed and squeaky toy.

Home for Dixie by Emma Jacksons

An abandoned puppy was brought to an animal rescue. And although this little puppy had a warm place to sleep and food to eat, she dreamed of having her very own family to love. Emma adopts this puppy and names her Dixie, and in each other they find the companionship they've been looking for

Max Talks to Me, by Claire Buchwald

As best friends, Alex and Max usually know what the other is thinking without either one having to say a word. That's a good thing, because Max is a dog! He doesn't need words to let Alex know when he's hungry, thirsty, or ready to play, and Alex doesn't need to say anything to let Max know that he's feeling happy, sad, or somewhere in between. Many young readers will relate to the deep bond Alex and Max share, while others may gain insight into how their own pets "talk" to them.

Scruffy, by Parish, Peggy and Kelly Oechsli

An "I Can Read Book" that celebrates Todd's birthday with a trip to the animal shelter. Mrs. Star, a shelter employee, shows Todd and his parents around the facility, and explains what services the shelter provides. Pet overpopulation and abandonment are dealt with simply by Mrs. Star. Todd is surprised to find so many cats, and after carefully visiting with many animals, he settles on a scruffy, older black and white kitten with a crooked tail.

Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog and Three Stories You Can Read to Your Cat, by Sara Swan

These simple chapter books are the perfect way to spend quality time with your dog or cat—reading them a bedtime story! Each book contains three stories. For dogs: "The Burglar", "The Bone", and "The Wild Dog". For cats: "The Yummy Bug", "The Rainy Day", and "The Bad Day". You will find yourself and your children enjoying the stories as much as your dog or cat!

Zach and His Dog: A story of Bonding, Love and Loss for Children and Adults to Share Together by Ed Meagher

Zach wants a puppy very much and is excited when his mom and dad give him one for his birthday. He loves learning how to care for his new best friend. Later, Zach witnesses Freckles pull his leash out of Zach's mother's hand and run in front of an oncoming car. Freckle's death devastates Zach, and his parents do their best to comfort him.

Ages 9-12

Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo

With her newly adopted, goofy pooch at her side, Opal explores her bittersweet world and learns to listen to other people's lives. This warm and winning book hosts an unforgettable cast of characters, including a librarian who fought off a bear with a copy of War and Peace, an ex-con pet-store clerk who plays sweet music to his animal charges, and the neighborhood "witch," a nearly blind woman who sees with her heart. Opal brings her own unique and wonderful voice to a story of friendship, loneliness, and acceptance. Opal's down-home charm and dead-on honesty will earn her friends and fans far beyond the confines of Naomi, Florida.

The Cat who Went to Heaven, by Elizabeth Jane Coatsworth

A tender, imaginative timeless story, which won the 1931 Newbery Medal for best contribution to American children's literature, it's a true classic with beautiful illustrations.

Champ, by Marcia Thornton Jones

No matter how hard he tries, Riley is just no good at sports. He practices for the baseball team anyway to please his sports-hero dad, but he ends up causing a car accident that leaves a champion show dog with only three legs. When the dog's owner rejects the injured Champ as useless, Riley steps up to the plate to take care of him. Soon, though, Riley's parents are fed up with Champ, who doesn't let his disability stop him from dragging bed linens around the house or digging up mom's prized flowers. Training for the town's annual agility competition helps keep Champ out of trouble, but it also brings about a new dilemma that threatens to take Champ away from Riley. Can Riley figure out how to hold on to his new best friend while proving to his dad that he's not a quitter?

Shiloh, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

When 11-year-old Marty Preston chances upon a mistreated beagle pup in his hometown of Friendly, West Virginia, he is not prepared for the ethical questions he has to face. Should he return the dog to its owner, only to have the animal abused again? Should he tell his parents? Should he steal food to help the poor creature? Marty's efforts to cope with these questions provides the moral backbone for this story, which is presented in a language and manner that will be understood by third- and fourth-grade readers. The heart and beauty of this 1992 Newbery Medal winner lies in lessons children will take away with them.



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but they do need you.

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