

Knight, Eric *Lassie Come Home.*

When the family is forced to go on welfare, Lassie is sold to a wealthy man and taken to Scotland. Lassie keeps her loyalty to her boy in England, escapes from the kennels in Scotland and returns to her true master, over 400 miles away.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Lawson, Robert, *Ben and Me.*

The story of Amos, a mouse, oldest son of a large family who has written a biography of his good friend Benjamin Franklin. Actually, Amos explains that he is responsible for many of the great Franklin's accomplishments and discoveries.

Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade

Morpurgo, Michael, *War Horse (JPB)*

World War I has started and the military needs horses to move equipment, charge the enemy, and carry wounded soldiers off the battlefield. Joey, a farm horse is sold to the Army. Joey misses the farmer's son, Albert, and spends the war years wondering if the war will ever end and if he will ever see Albert again.

Reading Level: 5th — 8th grade

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds, *Shiloh.*

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

O'Brien, Robert C., *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH.*

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse, is directed by an owl to consult with the rats that live under the rosebush about her problem of

moving her sick son from the family's endangered home. Upon entering the rats' quarters, she discovers that the rats are not ordinary rodents but highly intelligent creatures that escaped from an NIMH laboratory after being taught to read.

Reading Level: 4th grade and up

Parnall, Peter, *Marsh Cat.*

Cat was born in the Maine woods, the sole surviving kitten of his one-eyed, feral mother. Now four-years-old, he is having a hard time catching enough food to survive the winter when he meets a barn cat and follows her home.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Rawlings, Marjorie, *The Yearling.*

Young Jody Baxter lives a lonely life in the scrub forest of Florida until his parents unwillingly consent to his adopting an orphan fawn. The two become inseparable until the fawn destroys the family's meager crops.

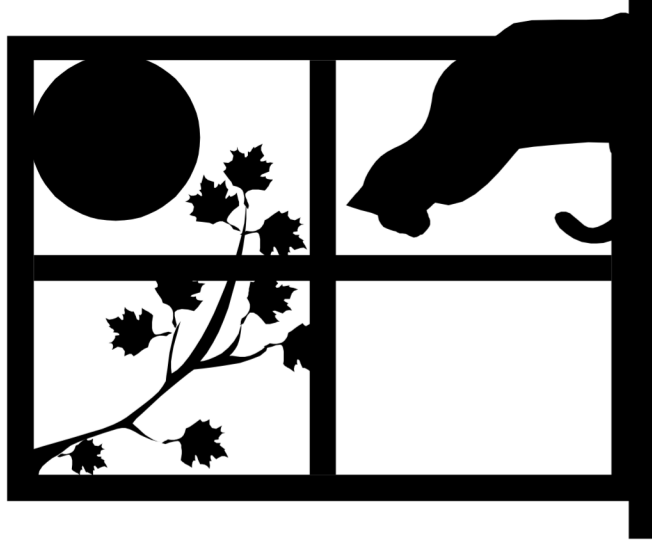
Reading Level: 5th grade and up.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher, *The Green Dog.*

During the summer before fifth grade, Suzanne, a daydreaming loner who likes to fish and walk through the woods, acquires a canine companion. This story is based on the author's childhood in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Books on this list can be found in the fiction section of the Children's Department under the author's last name unless otherwise noted.



Stories about Animals

Children's Department
Vineland Public Library

1058 E. Landis Ave.

Vineland, NJ 08360

794-4244

www.vinelandlibrary.org

09/14

Bagnold, Enid, *National Velvet*.

An English girl, Velvet Brown, wins a magnificent piebald horse in a lottery and determines to enter and win the Grand National Steeplechase even though girls are not allowed to ride in that race.

Reading Level: 5th grade and up

Bawden, Nina, *Henry*.

Evacuated to the country from London during the bombings of World War II, a family tries to raise a baby squirrel, Henry, who has fallen from his nest and lost his home also.

Reading Level: 5th — 9th grade

Burnford, Sheila, *The Incredible Journey*.

A Labrador Retriever, a Terrier, and a Siamese cat journey two hundred fifty miles through the Canadian wilderness to return home. Together they battle starvation, exposure, a bobcat and a bear, and resist the human beings who would detain them.

Reading Level: 5th — 8th grade

Byars, Betsy, *The Midnight Fox*. (JPB)

City bred Tommy doesn't want to spend the summer on Aunt Millie's farm while his parents bicycle through Europe. But once he is there, a black fox shatters his idea that he hates all animals and they hate him. He begins to stalk the midnight fox.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Farley, Walter, *The Black Stallion*.

A boy and a wild black stallion, the only survivors from a shipwreck, live for a time on an uninhabited island, and somehow

they manage to exist until they are rescued. Back in the United States the boy and a retired jockey tame the horse so that they can race him.

Reading Level: 4th grade and up

Fox, Paula, *One-eyed Cat*.

Told by his father that he is too young for the air rifle an uncle gives him as a birthday present, Ned sneaks the gun out one night and takes a shot at a shadowy creature. Later when he sees a one-eyed feral cat and realizes that he put out one of its eyes, he is devastated with guilt. Now he will never be the good person his minister father wants him to be.

Reading Level: 5th grade and up

Garfield, James, *Follow My Leader*.

After a neighborhood baseball game, Art Davis finds a firecracker. As they argue about whether or not to light it, Mike Adams grabs it and strikes a match. As it starts to sputter, he panics and accidentally throws it toward Jimmy. It explodes in Jimmy's face and blinds him. That's how Jimmy meets his guide dog, Leader.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Gipson, Frederick, *Old Yeller*.

Travis at fourteen was the man of the family during the hard summer of 1860 when his father drove his herd of cattle from Texas to the Kansas market. It was the summer when an old yellow dog attached himself to the family and won Travis' reluctant friendship. Before the summer was over, Old Yeller proved more than a match for thieving raccoons, fighting bulls, grizzly bears, and mad wolves.

Reading Level: 4th grade and up

Grahame, Kenneth, *The Wind in the Willows*.

Toad, Rat, Mole and Badger have adventures along the river bank, take to the open road and their cart gets overturned by a passing motorcar. They return to reclaim Toad Hall from weasels, ferrets and stoats who have taken over during their absence. (CLASSIC)

Reading Level: 4th — 8th grade

Haas, Jessie, *Shaper*.

While recovering from the loss of his dog Shep, fourteen-year-old Chad tries to learn how to control the family dog Queenie with the help of a friendly new neighbor, an animal trainer.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Henry, Marguerite, *King of the Wind*.

A mute stableboy saves the life of a foal who is the ancestor of Man 'O' War. He becomes the foal's caretaker and best friend. Though intended as a gift for the boy king, Louis XV of France, Agba's foal and the other horses are thin and weak from their journey and are rejected. Boy and horse travel through Morocco and France and finally find a safe harbor in England.

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

King-Smith, Dick, *The Fox Busters*.

The fox busters are three extraordinary chickens, whose heritage, upbringing and intelligence combine to make them attempt a daring plan. Their enemies, four smart poultry-loving foxes, have hatched a murderous plan of their own.

Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade