

fairy godmothers had left was the gift of being “ordinary.” So she runs away and gets her first job in the kitchen of the neighboring kingdom.

SUBJECT: Fantasy, Humor

Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade

Konigsburg, E. L., *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

A bored and brainy twelve-year-old girl talks her nine-year-old brother into running away with her. To throw everyone off their trail, Claudia chooses the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City as a refuge, and amid centuries-old art they sleep, dine, bathe, and pray in regal secret splendor.

Subject: Mystery

Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Lowry, Lois. *The Willoughbys (JPB)*

In this tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children’s literature, the four Willoughby children set about to become “deserving orphans” after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of their no-nonsense nanny.

SUBJECT: Orphans, Humor

Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Paterson, Katherine, *Bridge to Terabithia*

Jess has practiced all summer to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade and is shocked when Leslie, a new student and a girl, beats him. Despite the competition, they become good friends and create a secret place they name Terabithia. Then he must struggle to accept her unexpected death.

SUBJECT: Friendship, Death

Reading Level: 5th — 7th grade

Paulsen, Gary, *The Voyage of the Frog*

David’s beloved Uncle Owen has just died of cancer, and David has inherited a sailboat, the Frog, which the two of them often sailed together. Now David takes the boat out to scatter his uncle’s ashes, but he’s caught in a storm and swept hundreds of miles out to sea.

SUBJECT: Survival, Adventure

Reading Level: 5th — 8th grade

Peck, Robert Newton, *Soup*.

Soup and his pal, Rob, get into trouble every time they turn around. They talk back to their teacher, roll down hills in a barrel, and try cheating the storekeeper. Through thick and thin they are the best of friends.

SUBJECT: Friendship, 1930’s

Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade

Rockwell, Thomas, *How to Eat Fried Worms*.

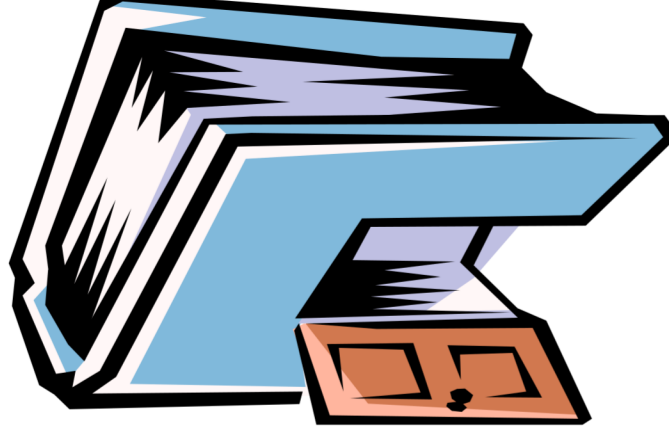
Billy bets his friend that he can eat fifteen worms in fifteen days for fifty dollars. When his friend takes him up on the bet he is forced to eat or pay.

SUBJECT: Humor

Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

**These books may be found under the author’s last name in the fiction section of the Children’s Dept. unless otherwise noted. Please see the Children’s Librarian for the exact location.**

# Thin Books for Book Reports



Vineland Public Library

Children’s Department

1058 E. Landis Ave.

Vineland, NJ 08360

794-4244

[www.vinelandlibrary.org](http://www.vinelandlibrary.org)

09/14

Armstrong, William, *Sounder*

Set in the South in the era of sharecropping and segregation, this book tells of the courage of a father who steals a ham in order to feed his undernourished family: the determination of the eldest son, who searches for his father despite the apathy of prison authorities: and the devotion of a coon dog named Sounder.

SUBJECT: African Americans, Dogs

Reading Level: 4th grade and up

Atwater, Richard, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*.

As a result of a letter to Admiral Drake, Mr. Popper receives a penguin whom he names Captain Cook. "Greta" comes to cheer up Captain Cook when he becomes lonely and soon, the Poppers have twelve penguins.

SUBJECT: Animals

Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

Avi, *Something Upstairs : A Tale of Ghosts. (JPB)*

The spirit of a young slave cannot rest until a contemporary boy is willing to travel to the 1800's to change the circumstances of his death.

SUBJECT: Slavery, Ghosts

Reading Level: 5th — 6th grade

Bauer, Marion Dane, *On My Honor. (JPB)*

Joel's friend, Tony, is a headstrong show-off who will not listen to anyone's warnings. When Tony drowns in a place Joel promised never to go, Joel is terrified to tell what he knows. So he returns home and tells no one the truth of the tragedy.

SUBJECT: Death, Accidents

Reading Level: 4th — 7th grade

Brown, Jeffrey, *Jedi Academy. (JGN Star)*

When Roan's application to pilot school is rejected, he finds he has been invited to study under Master Yoda at the Jedi Academy.

SUBJECT: School

Reading Level: 3rd — 7th grade

Cleary, Beverly, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*.

A story about Ralph, a mouse, who learns to ride a toy motorcycle and goes on wild rides through the corridors of the hotel where he lives. Keith, the boy to whom the motorcycle belongs, becomes fast friends with Ralph and defends him when danger threatens.

SUBJECT: Mice

Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

Clements, Andrew, *The Janitor's Boy*

Fifth grader Jack finds himself the target of ridicule at school when it becomes known that his father is out of the janitors, and he turns his anger onto his father.

SUBJECT: School, Fathers and sons

Reading Level: 3rd — 7th grade

Creech, Sharon, *The Unfinished Angel*

In a tiny village in the Swiss Alps, an angels meets an American girl named Zola who has come with her father to open a school, and together Zola and the angel rescue a group of homeless orphans, who gradually change everything.

SUBJECT: Angels, Orphans

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Dahl, Roald, *James and the Giant Peach*.

James is sent to live with his two mean aunts after his parents are eaten by a rhinoceros in London. He is resigned to spending the rest of his life as their humble servant. One day James meets an old man in a strange dark green suit who gives him a bag of magic.

SUBJECT: Fantasy

Reading Level: 3rd — 6th grade

Fleischman, Paul, *Half-a-Moon Inn*.

A chilling fantasy-adventure story about a mute boy separated from his mother by a blizzard and later kidnapped by the wicked innkeeper of a village inn.

SUBJECT: Kidnapping, Adventure

Reading Level: 3rd — 5th grade

Fleischman, Sid, *The Whipping Boy*.

This is the story of Prince Roland (better known as Prince Brat) and his whipping boy, Jemmy, who has received all the hard knocks for the prince's mischief. When Prince Brat run away he requires Jemmy to carry the lunch basket. They are soon captured by Hold-Your-Nose-Billy and his sidekick, Cutwater, who plan to hold the prince for ransom.

SUBJECT: Adventure, Humor

Reading Level: 4th — 6th grade

Kaye, M. M. *The Ordinary Princess (JPB)*

The King and Queen had six beautiful daughters named: Diamond, Opal, Emerald, Sapphire, Crystal and Pearl. When they had the seventh daughter the only gift that the