



Third Graders **READ TOGETHER**

Teacher Guide





Thank you for participating in Third Graders Read Together!

In this guide, you will find discussion questions, vocabulary words, and read-a-like suggestions for each title.

All the books are 2023 OTTER Award nominees. As with the Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award and the Sasquatch Award, the OTTER Award is given by the Washington Library Association. This Award is designed to spotlight titles that are both engaging and developmentally appropriate for readers transitioning into chapter books.

Voting happens in May, and you can encourage your students to participate by:

- Creating a ballot box to collect votes in the library or classroom.
- Creating an incentive for voting, such as "Be the one to suggest next year's winner."
- Reaching out to your local community library for more ideas on voting.

Save the dates for two online author/illustrator events:

- Tuesday, March 7 at 9:00 am with Anoosha Syed
- Thursday, March 9 at 9:00 am with Jonathan Messinger

Additional details will be sent via email. Recordings will be available for two weeks.

If you have questions, reach out to your local librarian, or contact us using the sno-isle.org/school-support.

Happy reading!



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Starla Jean Which Came First, the Chicken or the Friendship?, Book 1

by Elana K. Arnold, illus. by A. N. Kang



Discussion Questions

1. Which animals lay eggs? What is your favorite way to eat chicken eggs? (Starla Jean likes them sunny side up, with two pieces of toast!) (p. 5)
2. What do chickens like to eat? Have you ever eaten a snail? Would you? (p. 21, 53, 70)
3. Can chickens fly? Are there birds that can not fly? (p. 6, 30, 51)
4. What is the name Starla Jean gave to her chicken? What would you name your chicken if you had one? (p. 32)
5. Who did Opal Egg belong to before Starla Jean? How did they find out Opal Egg was at Starla Jean's house? (p. 43, 65)

Vocabulary Words

1. **Certain** (Ch. 1, p. 2)
"There are **certain** things you have to do if you're going to catch a chicken."
2. **Jutting** (Ch. 1, p. 20)
"... her skinny neck **jutting** out with each step."
3. **Scratch** (Ch. 1, p. 22)
"**Scratch!** Scratch! **Scratch!**" **Opal** (Ch. 2, p. 32)
"We will call you **Opal Egg.**"
4. **Opal** (Ch. 2, p. 32)
"We will call you **Opal Egg.**"
5. **Included** (Ch. 3, p. 50)
"My list of chicken facts now **included...**"
6. **Plenty** (Ch. 3, p. 52)
"Chicken are **plenty** smart."
7. **Belonged** (Ch. 4, p. 59)
"But she still didn't think Opal Egg **belonged** inside the house."

8. **Treasure** (Ch. 4, p. 66)
 “It sounds like a **treasure**.”
9. **Coop** (Ch. 4, p. 68)
 “We can build her a **coop**.”

10. **Continued** (end, p. 81)
 “To be **continued** in Starla Jean Takes the Cake!”

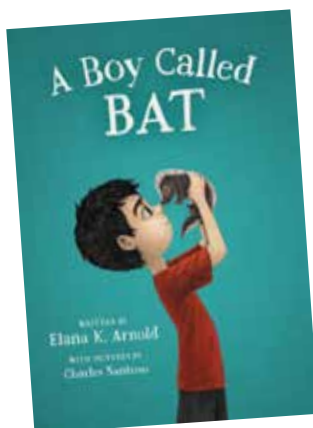
If You Liked... Starla Jean

Check out bit.ly/StarlaJean for more books.

Other books in the Starla Jean Series:

Book 2: **Starla Jean Takes the Cake**

Book 3: **Starla Jean Cracks the Case** (coming in April 2023)



Fiction

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

Willa the Wisp by Jonathan Auxier

The Chicken Squad by Doreen Cronin

King of the Birds by Elise Gravel

The Used-to-be Best Friend by Dawn Quigley

Charlie & Mouse by Laurel Snyder

Nonfiction

Keeping Chickens: a Kid's Guide to Everything You Need to Know About Breeds, Coops, Behavior, Eggs, and More!

by Mindie Dittmore

Chickenology: the Ultimate Encyclopedia by Barbara Sandri

The Hen Who Sailed Around the World A True Story

by Guirec Soudée

Henrietta's Guide to Caring for your Chickens

by Isabel Thomas



Monster and Boy

Book 1

by Hannah Barnaby,
illus. by Anoosha Syed



Discussion Questions

1. What would you do if you were swallowed by a monster? (p. 6)
2. How would you feel if you shrunk down and were very tiny? What would you like to do if you were tiny? (p. 33)
3. When Boy is hungry, Monster helps him go downstairs even though he is scared. When was a time you were scared but decided to try something new? (p. 57)
4. Boy knows that monsters are real, and it feels like having a secret. Have you ever had a secret? What did it feel like? (p. 128)
5. Monster and Boy are great friends. What are your favorite things to do with your friends?

Vocabulary Words

1. **Nocturnal** (Ch. 1, p. 1)
"The monster had never met the boy because monsters are **nocturnal** and boys (well, most boys) are not."
2. **Snuffling** (Ch. 1, p. 3)
"He heard bedtime stories and songs, he heard snoring and **snuffling**, and he loved the boy more and more."
3. **Conscience** (Ch. 3, p. 14)
"It was not his **conscience**."
4. **Crept** (Ch. 5, p. 29)
"... as the moonlight crawled across the floor and **crept** its bright fingers under the edge of the monster's home."
5. **Exclaimed** (Ch. 6, p. 41)
"No, thank you!" he **exclaimed**."
6. **Drat** (Ch. 6, p. 42)
"**Drat** it all!" shouted the monster..."
7. **Squinched** (Ch. 7, p. 48)
"The boy **squinched** his eyes."

8. **Astonished** (Ch. 11, p. 92)
“He did manage to gather just enough bravery to peek into the water, and what he saw **astonished** him.”

9. **Inconsiderate** (Ch. 13, p. 117)
“Not all monsters are so **inconsiderate**, you know.”
10. **Pricking** (Ch. 13, p. 122)
“The monster felt tears **pricking** at the corners of his eyes.”

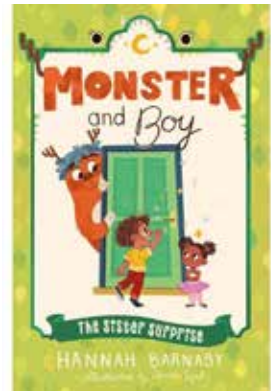
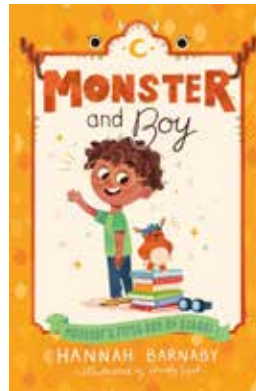
If You Liked... Monster and Boy

Check out bit.ly/MonsterandBoy for more books.

Other books in the Monster and Boy series:

Book 2: *Monster's First Day of School*

Book 3: *The Sister Surprise*



Fiction

Ivy Lost and Found (Book Buddies, Book 1) by Cynthia Lord

Willa the Wisp (The Fabled Stables, Book 1)

by Jonathan Auxier

Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-be Best Friend (Book 1)

by Dawn Quigley

Rabbit's Bad Habits (Rabbit & Bear, Book 1) by Julian Gough

Stinky by Eleanor Davis

Little Robot by Ben Hatke

Monster Friends by Kaeti Vandorn

Under-the-bed Fred by Linda Bailey

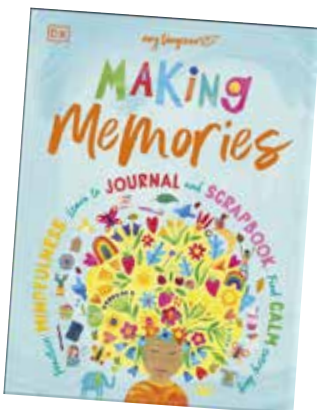
Nonfiction

What Makes a Monster? by Jess Keating

One Minute Till Bedtime by various authors

125 True Stories of Amazing Animal Friendships by Lisa Gerry

Making Memories by Amy Tangerine



Max Meow Cat Crusader, Book 1

by John Gallagher



Discussion Questions

1. Max accidentally eats a meatball from space and gets superpowers. What food would give you superpowers? What would your powers be? (p. 39)
2. Why did Mindy get upset when Max called her his sidekick and took credit for the victory against the Tyrannosaurus Rex? (p. 102)
3. How did Mindy prove that Max was being set up? (p. 152)
4. Chef Richelle says, "Even heroes make mistakes. But heroes don't give up. They just try to do better!" When was a time you made a mistake, but you didn't give up? (p. 165)
5. What is your favorite of Mindy's experiments or inventions? What is your idea for a superhero invention?

Vocabulary Words

1. **Crusader** (Title; Prologue, p. 4)
"Max Meow: Cat **Crusader**"
2. **Feline** (Ch. 4, p. 70)
"Pep Svenson, **Feline** Golf Pro!"
3. **Radiation** (Ch. 4, p. 76)
"But my sensors picked up a strange **radiation** ..."
4. **Tikka Masala** (Ch. 5, p. 87)
"Two **tikka masalas**, coming up."
5. **Plausible** (Ch. 5, p. 92)
"Not **plausible**!"
6. **Tyrant** (Ch. 5, p. 103)
"Correction: I melted you into a **Tyrant** Lizard King!"
7. **Snickering** (Ch. 7, p. 139)
"Why are you **snickering**?!"
8. **Mishaps** (Ch. 8, p. 149)
"Something wasn't right about all of Max's **mishaps** ..."

9. **Culprits** (Ch. 8, p. 151)
“These two **culprits** are at every event!”
10. **Lair** (Ch. 12, p. 220)
“In a secret **lair**, nearby ...”

If You Liked... Max Meow

Check out bit.ly/MaxMeow for more books.

Other books in the Max Meow series:

- Book 2: *Donuts and Danger*
- Book 3: *Pugs From Planet X*
- Book 4: *Taco Time Machine*



Fiction

- The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza* by Mac Barnett
- Super Turbo Saves the Day (Book 1)* by Lee Kirby
- Dog Man (Book 1)* by Dav Pilkey
- Cat Ninja (Book 1)* by Matthew Cody
- The Epic Origin of Super Potato* by Laperla
- When Pigs Fly* by Rob Harrell
- InvestiGATORS (Book 1)* by John Patrick Green



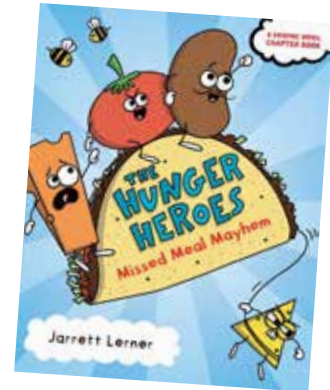
Nonfiction

- Super Hero Science* by Jennifer Hackett
- 10-Minute Science Experiments* by Steve Spangler
- Cooking Class Global Feast!* by Deanna F. Cook
- Making Inventions* by Devra Newberger Speregen
- 10-minute Kitchen Science Projects* by Elsie Olson

Missed Meal Mayhem

The Hunger Heroes, Book 1

by Jarrett Lerner



Discussion Questions

1. What's a 10-29? Will Jason's test be affected by it? (p. 18-19)
2. The Hunger Heroes are taco ingredients. Can you name the characters (food and name)? What ingredients do you put in your tacos? (p. 6-9)
3. What are their superpowers? Which superpower do you wish you had? (p. 6-8).
4. While we don't really know what Leonard's superpower is, he does help Jason. How? (p. 102)
5. When Mrs. Sternbladder was a child, what were the creatures that visited her when she had a snack during class? Why did they come? (p. 117)

Vocabulary Words

1. **Extraordinary** (introduction, p. 2)
"Atop a seemingly ordinary building ... live a group of **EXTRAordinary** heroes ..."
2. **Snatched** (Ch. 1, p. 18)
"She **snatched** the report out of Tammy's hand and looked it over herself."
3. **Nonexistent** (Ch. 1, p. 19)
"Concentration: **nonexistent**."
4. **Approximately** (Ch. 1, p. 19)
"Math test at **approximately** 11:15 a.m."
5. **Despiser** (Ch. 2, p. 26)
"**Despiser** of snacks; crusader against crumbs."
6. **Poltergeist** (Ch. 2, p. 29)
"The Shiny **Poltergeist**?"
7. **Pneumatic** (Ch. 3, p. 39)
"**Pneumatic** grappling hook!"

8. **Baffled** (Ch. 4, p. 50)
“...the Hunger Heroes were **baffled** about what their next step should be.”

10. **Empathize** (Ch. 6, p. 107)
“The next chapter may cause you to **empathize** with an adult.”

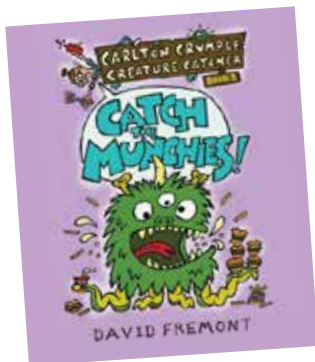
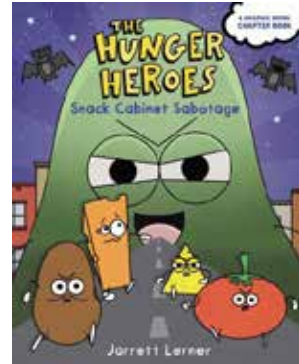
9. **Distraction** (Ch. 6, p. 85)
“We just need a **distraction**.”

If You Liked... Missed Meal Mayhem

Check out bit.ly/MissedMealMayhem for more books.

Other books in the Hunger Heroes series:

Book 2: **Snack Cabinet Sabotage**



Fiction

Geeger the Robot Goes to School by Jarrett Lerner

Who's the Best? by Stephen Shaskan

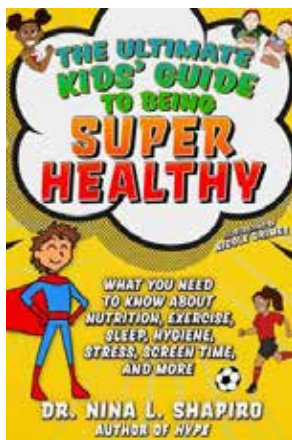
Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute by Jarrett Krosoczka

The Epic Origin of Super Potato by Laperla

Catch the Munchies! by David Fremont

Donut Feed the Squirrels by Mika Song

Big Nate, Genius Mode by Lincoln Peirce



Nonfiction

Ultimate Kids' Guide to Being Super Healthy
by Nina L. Shapiro

The Healthy Junior Chef Cookbook by Williams-Sonoma, Inc.

Chef Junior by Will Bartlett

Are You What You Eat? by DK

My Weird Reading Tips by Dan Gutman

The Alien Adventures of Finn Caspian

The Fuzzy Apocalypse, Book 1

by Jonathan Messinger,
illus. by Aleksei Bitskoff



Discussion Questions

1. Finn, Elias, Vale, Abigail, and Foggy are young Troop Explorers. What is the relationship between Abigail and Finn? Who is in charge? Why? (p.1)
2. What happens on the biggest day (8th birthday) for a kid on the Marlowe? Does Finn's birthday present have a name? (p. 12)
3. Who is Bunny (also known as "little death bunny")? Is Bunny a friend or enemy? (p.30)
4. What are some of the ways a planet can explode (besides balloon and banana)? How did the Explorers fix this particular exploded planet? (p. 40-41)
5. What does it mean to get Doug'd? How do you know if someone has been Doug'd? (p.50)

Vocabulary Words

1. **Translucent** (Ch. 1, p. 3)
"... but their skulls were all strangely **translucent**."
2. **Optimistic** (Ch. 1, p. 6)
"He was also strangely **optimistic** in the face of things like exploding planets."
3. **Luscious** (Ch. 3, p. 22)
"... and cared for the **luscious** gardens you see all around."
4. **Loathsome** (Ch. 3, p. 24)
"It is a **loathsome**, fearsome creature."
5. **Implosion** (Ch. 6, p. 41)
"There is the **implosion**, where the planet collapses in on itself ..."
6. **Impenetrable** (Ch. 7, p. 46)
"... the giants squatted down and pressed their shoulders together, forming an **impenetrable** wall."

7. **Ravine** (Ch. 10, p. 71)
“... rip a tree straight out of the ground and carry it back to the **ravine.**”
8. **Chasm** (Ch. 10, p. 72)
“... lashing the trees together and laying them across the **chasm.**”
9. **Indignant** (Ch. 11, p. 78)
“Just a bunny!” said the bunny, **indignant.**”
10. **Magma** (Ch. 11, p. 78)
“The planet’s core is an ocean of white-hot **magma.**”

If You Liked... The Alien Adventures of Finn Caspian

Check out bit.ly/TheAlienAdventuresofFinnCaspian for more books.

Other books in the Alien Adventures of Finn Caspian series:

Book 2: *The Accidental Volcano*

Book 3: *The Uncommon Cold*

Book 4: *Journey to the Center of That Thing*



Fiction

Izzy Hawthorne: Destiny Awaits by Bethany Baptiste

Attack of the Necron by Cavan Scott

Finn and the Intergalactic Lunchbox by Michael Buckley

The Return of Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke

Bounders by Monica Tesler

Voyage of the Dogs by Greg Van Eekhout

The New Kid by A.I. Newton

Nonfiction

Above and Beyond NASA's Journey to Tomorrow
by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

Human Missions to Outer Space by Laurie Calkhoven

Alien Worlds Your Guide to Extraterrestrial Life
by David A. Aguilar



Trouble at Table 5

The Candy Caper, Book 1

by Tom Watson, illus. by Marta Kissi



Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the book, Molly got a big glass jar of Skittles stuck in her head. Have you ever had something get stuck in your head? How did you get it unstuck? (p. 8)
2. Rosie, Molly, and Simon work together to find a solution to their problem. How have your friends helped you solve a problem? (Chapters 3-5)
3. To count the Skittles, Molly gets in trouble by wrapping herself in toilet paper and acting like a mummy. When is it okay to get in trouble? Is there a good kind of trouble? (p. 61)
4. How would you feel if you were sent to the principal's office? (p. 62)
5. Can you think of another way Molly could have counted the Skittles without getting into trouble?

Vocabulary Words

1. **Absentee** (Ch. 1, p. 6)
"Mr. Willow asked me to take the **absentee** slip to the main office."
2. **Mason Jar** (Ch. 2, p. 12)
"There's a **mason jar** on Principal Shelton's desk."
3. **Strategy** (Ch. 2, p. 16)
"But we couldn't come up with a Skittles-snatching-and-counting **strategy** right then."
4. **Discouraged** (Ch. 3, p. 24)
"I didn't want Simon to feel **discouraged**."
5. **Precise** (Ch. 5, p. 41) "It just doesn't sound very **precise**..."
6. **Summarized** (Ch. 5, p. 42)
"...But she also has to be fast, Simon **summarized**."
7. **Ultimately** (Ch. 6, p. 48)
"It ran all the way from the dispenser, under the stall door and, **ultimately**, to Rosie's hand."
8. **Definitive** (Ch. 7, p. 52)
"...giving her head a **definitive** nod."

9. **Initiated** (Ch. 9, p. 68)
“Simon had **initiated** step two...”

10. **Muttered** (Ch. 10, p. 74)
“‘What is this? Bizarro day?’ she **muttered** to herself...”

Bonus: **Bizarro** (see sentence from number 10)

If You Liked... Trouble at Table 5

Check out [bit.ly/Trouble at Table 5](https://bit.ly/Trouble%20at%20Table%205) for more books.

Other books in the Trouble at Table 5 series:

Book 2: **Busted by Breakfast**

Book 3: **The Firefly Fix**

Book 4: **I Can't Feel My Feet**

Book 5: **Trouble to the Max**

Book 6: **Countdown to Disaster**



Fiction

How to Test a Friendship (Magnificent Makers, Book 1)
by Theanne Griffith

Catalina Incognito (Book 1) by Jennifer Torres

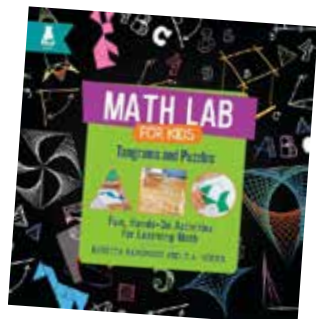
Hide and Go Beak (Great Mathemachicken Book 1)
by Nancy E. Krulik

Beat the Clock (Amelia Bedelia & Friends Book 1)
by Herman Parish

The Magic Eraser (Locker 37, Book 1) by Aaron Starmer

Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker (Book 1)
by Shelley Johannes

Clementine (Book 1) by Sara Pennypacker



Nonfiction

Bedtime Math by Laura Overdeck

Candy Experiments by Lorelee Leavitt

How to Solve a Problem by Ashima Shiraishi

How Many Mice Make an Elephant? by Tracey Turner

Math Lab for Kids by Rebecca Rapoport and J.A. Yoder

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