

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Readalikes

If you like Jeff Kinney's series about Greg Heffley, try these other books that mix cartoons with traditional text or stories of embarrassing or annoying situations with friends, schoolmates, or family.



Please Write in This Book

By Amato, Mary

J AMA

When Ms. Wurtz leaves a blank book in the Writer's Corner with a note encouraging those who find it to "talk to each other" in its pages, the student's entries spark a classroom-wide battle.



Ellie McDoodle: Have Pen, Will Travel

By Barshaw, Ruth

J BAR

Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt, and uncle.



Dear Max

By Grindley, Sally

J LUC

As Max--who is almost ten--and his favorite author, D.J. Lucas, exchange letters, the two writers help each other with their new books and develop a special friendship.



Middle School is Worse Than Meatloaf

By Holm, Jennifer

J HOL

The first year of middle school can be exciting, or scary, just ask Ginny.



Martin Bridge Ready for Takeoff!

By Kerrin, Jessica Scott

J KER

Meet Martin Bridge -- a boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry. In three illustrated stories, Martin encounters two bus drivers with very different ways of relating, makes a tough decision about a friend's pet and takes on an extremely competitive model rocket project that almost costs him a friendship.



Regarding the Sink

By Klise, Kate

J KLI

A series of letters reveals the selection of the famous fountain designer, Florence Waters, to design a new sink for the Geyser Creek Middle School cafeteria, her subsequent disappearance, and the efforts of a class of sixth-graders to find her.



Stink: the Incredible Shrinking Kid

By McDonald, Megan

J MCD

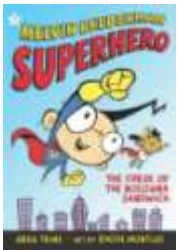


Amelia's Notebook

By Moss, Marissa

J MOS

The hand-lettered contents of a nine-year-old girl's notebook, in which she records her thoughts and feelings about moving, starting school, and dealing with her older sister, as well as keeping her old best friend and making a new one.

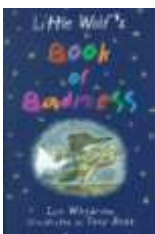


The Curse of the Bologna Sandwich

By Trine, Greg

J TRI

After graduating from the superhero academy, Melvin Beederman heads for Los Angeles, where he unexpectedly teams up with Candace Brinkwater, school play actress, to nab the evil McNasty Brothers.



Little Wolf's Book of Badness

By Whybrow, Ian

J WHY

Little Wolf has been behaving too courteously, so his parents send him to his uncle's Big Bad Wolf school to learn to be a proper wolf.



Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom

By Wight, Eric

J WIG

Fourth-grader Frankie Piccolini has a vivid imagination when it comes to cleaning his disastrously messy room, but eventually even he decides that it is just too dirty.



The Strange Case of the Origami Yoda

By Angleberger, Tom

J ANG

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.



Attack of the Mutant Underwear

By Birdseye, Tom

J BIR

Fifth-grader Cody Carson keeps a journal of his hopes for a fresh start in a town where nobody knows about his humiliating mistakes of the past, but before school even begins so does his embarrassment.



Frindle

By Clements, Andrew

J PB CLE, J Book on CD CLE

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.



Cheesie Mack is Not a Genius or Anything

By Cotler, Steve

J COT

Ronald 'Cheesie' Mack relates events he and his best friend, Georgie, experience as fifth grade comes to an end and their summer plans are drastically changed, due in part to an old, possibly valuable coin that may belong to the mysterious inhabitants of a place they call The Haunted Toad.



Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

By Greenwald, Tom

J GRE

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far.



The Homework Machine

By Gutman, Dan

J GUT

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.



Airball: My Life in Briefs

By Harkrader, Lisa

J HAR

Uncoordinated Kansas seventh-grader Kirby Nickel braves his coach's ire and becomes captain of the basketball team in order to help him prove that NBA star Brett McGrew is the father he has never known.



Dying to Meet You

By Klise, Kate

J KLI

In this story told mostly through letters, children's book author, I. B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer.



Letters From Camp

By Klise, Kate

J KLI

Sent to Camp Happy Harmony to learn how to get along with each other, pairs of brothers and sisters chronicle in letters home how they come to suspect the intentions of the singing family running the camp.



My Rotten Life

By Lubar, David

J LUB

Tired of continually having his feelings hurt by popular students and bullies, fifth-grader Nathan agrees to try an experimental formula, Hurt-Be-Gone, and becomes a half-dead zombie, a condition which, he soon discovers, has some real advantages.



Middle School: the Worst Years of My Life

By Patterson, James

YA FIC PAT

When Rafe Khatchadorian enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

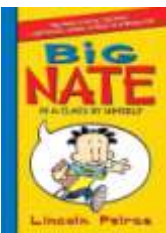


Lawn Boy

By Paulsen, Gary

J PAU

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business.

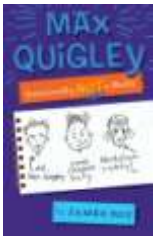


Big Nate

By Peirce, Lincoln

J PEI

Supremely confident middle school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement.



Max Quigley Technically Not a Bully

By Roy, James

J ROY

After playing a prank on one of his "geeky" classmates, sixth-grader Max Quigley's punishment is to be tutored by him.

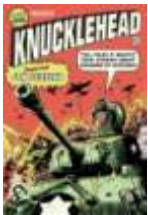


Sideways Stories from Wayside School

By Sachar, Louis

J SAC, J PB SAC, J Book on CD SAC

Fourth-grader Frankie Piccolini has a vivid imagination when it comes to cleaning his disastrously messy room, but eventually even he decides that it is just too dirty.



Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka

By Scieszka, Jon

J BIO SCIESZKA

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, and jokes told at family dinner.



Milo: Sticky Notes and Brain Freeze

By Silberberg, Alan

J SIL

In love with the girl he sneezed on the first day of school and best pals with Marshall, the "One-Eyed Jack" of friends, seventh-grader Milo Cruikshank misses his mother whose death has changed everything at home.



My Life as a Book

By Wight, Eric

J WIG

Dubbed a "reluctant reader" by his teacher, twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list.



The Adventures of Beanboy

By Harkrader, Lisa

J HAR

Wheaton, Kansas seventh-grader Tucker MacBean loves comic books, so when his favorite comic has a contest to create a sidekick, he is hopeful that he can win, thereby fixing his struggling family.