



By Melissa Taylor

# A Series Addiction

## 31 Book Series That Will Get Kids Reading

**E**very parent wants to see their child addicted to a good book, or even better, a good series of books. So, here's a round up of some of the best book series for kids, ages five to fifteen.

### EARLY READER SERIES FOR KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADERS

Start young readers with early-reader series they'll enjoy. Try these:

- ***Elephant and Piggie* by Mo Willems** Gerald, the Elephant, and Piggie, his optimistic best friend, show what it's like to be a friend with humorous stories perfect for beginning readers.
- ***Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold** Cartoon illustrations of Buzz and his pet, Fly Guy, depict hilarious adventures such as searching for brown, oozy, lumpy, smelly food.
- ***Little Critter* by Mercer Mayer** Join Little Critter in these kid-like adventures—growing up with a tag-along little sister, getting ready for bedtime, and doing things all by himself.

### BEGINNING CHAPTER BOOK SERIES FOR FIRST & SECOND GRADERS

As your young reader improves, he or she will soon be ready for beginning chapter books. The classic series, *Frog and Toad*, celebrates over 30 years in print and is just as good today. Here are some others to try:

- ***Cork and Fuzz* by Dori Chaconas** Despite their differences, muskrat Cork and possum Fuzz are the best of friends who are always up to something fun.
- ***Fancy Nancy (I Can Read Book)* by Jane O'Connor** Fancy Nancy who loves to dress up and use fancy vocabulary is now written for early readers.
- ***Mercy Watson* by Kate DiCamillo** Hilarious Mercy Watson follows the adventures of a toast-eating pet pig named Mercy with

full-color, kid-friendly illustrations.

- ***Roscoe Riley Rules* by Katherine Applegate** First-grader, Roscoe Riley is always in time-out; he just can't seem to stay out of trouble.

### EASY CHAPTER BOOK SERIES FOR SECOND & THIRD GRADERS

Children this age will devour the hilarious *Frannie K. Stein* books and the historical mysteries of *The Magic Tree House* books, or try:

- ***Araminta Spookie* by Angie Sage** Ghost-obsessed Araminta explores her aunt and uncle's spooky mansion filled with ghosts whom she tries to befriend.
- ***Babymouse* by Jennifer L. Holm** Pink- and black-colored graphic novel, Babymouse, tells the silly antics of a daydreaming mouse.
- ***Frankie Pickle* by Eric Wright** Fourth-grader Frankie's vivid imagination turns him into the awesome Frankie Pickle, who is always successful (and dramatic) at everything he does.
- ***Stink* by Megan McDonald** Judy Moody's little brother Stink stars in this series of playful, relatable books filled with Stink-drawn comic strips.

### CHAPTER BOOK SERIES FOR SECOND THROUGH FOURTH GRADERS

There are so many great series for kids this age. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* appeals to both boys and girls. For girls, try *The Sisters Eight* while for boys, check out *How to Train Your Dragon*.

- ***American Girl Mystery Series* by various authors** The popular historical American Girl characters solve mysteries in these well-written, historical novels.
- ***Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist* by R.L. LaFevers** Nathaniel Fludd discovers he is a beastologist, meaning he must protect and contain the magical beasts of the world.



- ***Ivy and Bean* by Annie Barrows** Best friends, neighbors, and opposites, Ivy and Bean, always get into crazy misadventures.
- ***The Sisters Eight* by Lauren Baratz-Logsted** Eight identical eight-year old sisters survive on their own in order to find their secret power and discover what happened to their vanished parents.

#### CHAPTER BOOK SERIES FOR FIFTH & SIXTH GRADERS

The *Little House on the Prairie* books are still favorites. Lots of kids are also addicted to these book series:

- ***Artemis Fowl* by Eoin Colfer** Anti-hero and child genius, Artemis Fowl, and his trusty butler kidnap fairy elf, Holly Short, to ransom her for fairy gold, and end up on exciting adventures.
- ***Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan** Monsters chase Percy Jackson, a half Greek god, half human teenager, while he tries to save the world from the Titans.
- ***Peter and the Star Catchers* by Dave Berry and Ridley Pearson** Prequels to Peter Pan, these books follow the story of an orphan boy named Peter, and his friend Molly, as they try to guard Stardust from the evil Shadows.
- ***Warriors series* by Erin Hunter** A popular series of adventures of four clans of wild, forest-dwelling cats involved in war, politics and forbidden love.

#### CHAPTER BOOK SERIES FOR SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADERS

Two outstanding sci-fi/fantasy book series for this age group are both from Colorado authors. The best thing about reading these

science fiction and fantasy series is you're not reading about sex, drugs, and rock and roll, just good versus evil. Try these series:

- ***39 Clues* by various authors** Siblings Amy and Dan Cahill race worldwide to find the clues that will uncover the secret to the Cahill family power.
- ***Galabad* by Dom Testa** Colorado author, Testa, pens this futuristic story where 250 teenagers travel into outer-space to find a cure for the deadly adult-killing virus back on Earth.
- ***The Lost Years of Merlin* by T.A. Barron** Colorado author, Barron tells a coming of age story of the great wizard of Camelot.
- ***On the Run* by Gordon Korman** While trying to clear their parents' names, Aiden and Meg Falconer must stay on the run from both authorities and an unknown killer.
- ***Gallagher Girls* by Ally Carter** Cammie Morgan attends Gallagher Academy to train as a spy but spying becomes real when she faces danger, double agents, and family secrets.

Find that perfect series for your child – and, yes, even the most reluctant of readers have a perfect match. Just don't give up looking. Try matching your child's interests to the theme, character, or setting of a book series. Then, once he engages with the first book, he'll be hooked until he turns the last page in the series. ♦

*Melissa Taylor is the Book Editor-at-Large for Colorado Parent.*

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