The following books are enthusiastically recommended for kids in second grade. The list contains new books which the Ferguson librarians have especially enjoyed, as well as old favorites, which have proven popular over the years.

We hope you’ll find this list a good place to start your reading. Remember to ask your librarian for additional suggestions by these and other favorite authors. HAPPY READING!

**Fiction**

**The Terrible Hodag and the Animal Catchers** by Caroline Arnold
An unusual animal that has the head of an ax, feet of a bear, a dinosaur’s back and tail of an alligator is in danger of being put ox, feet of a bear, a dinosaur’s back and tail of an alligator is in danger of being put

**Little Rat Rides** by Monika Bang-Campbell
Little rat overcomes her fears and learns to ride a horse just like big daddy rat.

**The One in the Middle is the Green One** by Judy Blume
Sibling rivalry in the school play spell trouble when one of them gets chosen.

**Flat Stanley** by Jeff Brown
Flattened by a bulletin board, Stanley Lambchop discovers the benefits of his new condition.

**Little Horse** by Betsy Byars
A miniature horse accidentally falls into a fast moving stream and is carried away to a strange land.

**Buttons** by Brock Cole
Father has burst his britches and burnt his buttons. Which clever daughter has the best solution? EPIC

**Second Grade Rules, Amber Brown** by Paula Danziger
Amber Brown is quite comfortable with her messy desk, until she hears about Deskarina, the “desk fairy.” EBEG

**Snowed In With Grandmother Silk** by Carol Fenner
When his parents go on a ten day cruise, Rudy gets left behind with his rather serious grandmother. Can a severe snowstorm and no electricity liven things up?

**Moose’s Big Idea** by Stephanie Greene
After shedding his very large antlers, a proud moose has a difficult time coping with his new look until he discovers his other attributes. EBEG

**Runaway Radish** by Jessie Haas
When his second owner outgrows him, Radish the pony runs away to find his original owner and ends up finding the perfect job.

**Pinky and Rex and the School Play** by James Howe
Two best friends and only one starring role in the school play spells trouble when one of them gets chosen.

**Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores** by Jennifer Jacobson
Andy dreads going to school because of Dolores, a bossy “know it all” who constantly tries to get him in trouble. Fortunately, Andy has a granny who just happens to know a few things about bullies.

**Marvin Redpost: Why Pick on Me?** by Louis Sachar
When Clarence starts a rumor about Marvin picking his nose, Marvin uses a class assignment to restore his reputation.

**Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman** by Alan Schroeder
Former slave Clara Brown travels west for car rides and the adventures they bring.

**Squashed in the Middle** by Wendy Orr
Two best friends and only one starring role in the school play spell trouble when one of them gets chosen.

**Sitting in the Middle of the Park** by Suzy Kline
When the ants arrive at classroom 2B, a mischievous but lovable second grader gets the coveted job of “Ant Monitor.” J BEG, J AUDIO

**Fat Bat and Swoop** by Leo Landry
Fed up with her constant daytime moaning, bat and owl play a trick on cow and end up becoming friends.

**Sea Surprise** by Leo Landry
A mermaid, a blow fish and a shark with an itchy tooth set out to help an electric eel recover his zap.

**Aunt Clara Brown: Official Pioneer** by Linda Lowery
Former slave Clara Brown travels west and makes a new life while searching for her daughter.

**Whitewater Scrubs** by Jamie McEwan
A star athlete discovers that she is lousy at kayaking and ends up getting support from her non-athletic teammates.

**Molly Bannaky** by Alice McGill
The story of Benjamin Banneker’s grandmother and her journey from England to Maryland in the 17th century.

**Gus & Gertie and the Lucky Charms** by Joan Lowery Nixon
Two penguins who have their hearts set on winning gold medals at the Animal Olympics take on a couple of thieves and a prickly judge instead.

**On the Road by Lucy Nolan**
Although she does not know where she is going, a dog called Down Girl has a fondness for car rides and the adventures they bring.

**Ark in the Park by Wendy Orr**
Sitting in the middle of the park is an unusual pet store where secret wishes sometimes come true.

**Junie B., First Grader: Cheater Pants** by Barbara Park
Junie B. Jones hands in a homework assignment that she has borrowed from a classmate and learns an important lesson in honesty.

**Squashed in the Middle by Elizabeth Winthrop**
Daisy, a middle child, finds it hard to be heard in her noisy family, until she discovers her own voice.

**Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole** by Wongs Herbert Yee
Neighbors Mole and Mouse become friends while trying to solve their house cleaning dilemma.
Folktales

Raccoon’s Last Race: a Traditional Abenaki Story by Joseph and James Bruchac
A funny Native American legend tells how raccoon was once the fastest animal on earth until he tried to outrun a large rock. E398.2B

Paul Bunyan adapted by Stephen Krensky
Paul and his blue ox Babe make a name for themselves in the lumberjack camps of the great northwest. E398.2K

Head, Body, Legs: A Story from Liberia retold by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret H. Lippert
Although each body part is able to perform a special task, they accomplish far more when they are together. E398.2P

Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur! A Palestinian Folktale retold by Margaret Read MacDonald
Alonely woman who prays for a child becomes the proud parent of a loving but sometimes naughty cooking pot. E398.2P

Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale From West Africa by Gerald McDermott
A clever rabbit proves that you don’t have to be big or strong to accomplish the impossible. E398.2M

Tasty Baby Belly Buttons by Judy Sierra
Urikohime, a girl born from a melon, battles the monstrous Oni, who steals babies to eat their tasty belly buttons. E398.2S

Hungry, Hungry Sharks by Joanna Cole
Even before there were dinosaurs, there were sharks. Find out which shark can fit in the palm of your hand and more amazing facts. E597.31C

Young Thomas Edison by Michael Doeling
Despite his hearing loss and difficulty in school, Thomas Edison becomes America’s greatest inventor. JB EDISON

Knights in Shining Armor by Gail Gibbons
Knights may not have battled dragons long ago, but they did many other real things. E394.7G

I Have a Weird Brother Who Digested a Fly by Joan Holub
Learning about the digestive system can be very exciting if you happen to have a weird little brother around. E612.3H

Why Do Rabbits Hop? And Other Questions about Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters and Gerbils by Joan Holub
Find out why rabbits are made for hopping and how guinea pigs say hello. E636.9H

Little Lost Bat by Sandra Markle
A newborn Mexican free-tailed bat faces an uncertain future when his mother does not return from her nightly hunting trip. E599.4M

Big Cats by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
Meet the big cats: lions, tigers, cheetahs and more. Find out where they live and (gasp) what they like to eat. E599.75P

Abraham Lincoln: The Boy Who Loved Books by Kay Winters
Abraham Lincoln’s love of books greatly influenced his life despite his lack of formal education. EB LINCOLN

Sea Horse: The Shyest Fish in the Sea by Chris Butterworth
Did you know that the daddy sea horse is the only male fish that has a special pouch for carrying his babies until they are born? E597.679B

Non Fiction

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