

Worlds of Words 2020

Grade 4-5 Fiction Books: Paired Common Core and Global Texts

CC Title/Author	Level Info	Themes/Plot	Global Pairs	Level Info	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> , Lewis Carroll	880 L 176 pp.	Alice goes through a hole into the topsy-turvy world of Wonderland.	<i>Zorgamazoo</i> , Robert Paul Weston	700 L 281 pp	England	Katrina enters a secret world of underground tunnels into a forbidden city to save fantastical beasts. Told in rhyming couplets.
			<i>Inkheart</i> , Cornelia Funke	780L (W) 548 pp	Germany Tr.	Maggie's father can "read" characters to life and she goes on a dangerous adventure to save his life. Sequels-- <i>Inkspell</i> , <i>Inkdeath</i> .
			<i>The Inquisitor's Tale</i> , Adam Gidwitz	620 L RL 4.5 263 pp.	Medieval France	3 children with magical powers on a quest to escape prejudice and save threatened texts. 1342. Rich, adventure-packed storytelling.
			<i>The Ogre of Oglefort</i> , Eve Ibbotson	910 L 247 pp	England (Post WWII London)	Ivo, an orphan, sets out to rescue a princess from an ogre, but finds a princess who does not want to be saved and a depressed ogre.
			<i>The Book of Boy</i> , Catherine Murdock	278 pp RL 4.7 930 L	France 1350	A boy with a large hump is on a dangerous journey across Europe as the servant of a shadowy pilgrim. Gothic adventure, sly wit.
<i>The Secret Garden</i> , Frances Hodgson Burnett	970 L 270 pp	A rich orphan is sent to live in a lonely house with an ill cousin and a locked garden.	<i>Bronze and Sunflower</i> , Wenxuan Cao	790 L 386 pp	China, Tr. Rural 1970s	Sunflower is taken in by a poor family after her father's death, leading to a close friendship. The power of love to overcome hardship.
			<i>The Crow-Girl</i> , Bodil Bredsdorff	810 L (S) 155 pp	Denmark, Tr.	An orphaned, lonely girl gathers together a new family of lost souls like herself. Sequels.

			<i>The War that Saved My Life</i> , Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	580 L (Z) RL 4.1 316 pp	England, WWII	An abused child with a clubfoot is evacuated to the countryside with her brother, finding new life away from the war and an abusive mother.
			<i>How I Finally Won the War</i>	520 L 325 pp	England, WWII	Sequel -- Deals with Ada's struggle to heal from multiple traumas.
			<i>An Elephant in the Garden</i> , Michael Morpugo	890 L (Y) 199 pp	Germany, Dresden, WWII	A zookeeper hides an orphaned elephant in the family's garden. The elephant, in turn, saves the family during the Allied bombing.
			<i>A Long Walk to Water</i> , Linda Sue Park	720L (W) 121 pp	Sudan	Two lives intersect across time; a Sudanese boy who flees civil war to the U.S. and a Sudanese girl who travels miles for water.
			<i>The Island at the End of Everything</i> , Kiran M. Hargrave	243 pp 770 L (Y) RL 4.3	Philippine Islands 1906	A girl, separated from her mother who lives on an island for lepers, makes a harrowing journey to return before her mother dies.
			<i>Astrid the Unstoppable</i> , Maria Parr	770 L RL 5.8 306 pp	Norway Tr	Astrid, the only child in a mountain village, enjoys many adventures and deals with change brought by a new family and a stranger.
			<i>The Bridge Home</i> , Padma Venkatraman	680 L RL 4.2 194 pp	India	Four homeless children escape abuse to find shelter under a bridge and create their own family as they face difficult challenges.
			<i>Orange for the Sunsets</i> , Tina Athaida	600L RL 4.6 328 pp	Uganda 1972	Two friends, one from Uganda and the other from India, experience difficult times when Indians are suddenly expelled from Uganda. Told in alternating voices to raise issues of colonialism, nationalism, and refugees.

			<i>The Distance between Me and the Cherry Tree</i> , Paola Peretti	740 L RL 6.1 215 pp	Italy Tr	Mafalda learns that she will go blind in 6 months and needs the help of family and friends to retain what is essential to her.
<i>The Black Stallion</i> , Walter Farley	680 L (T) 275 pp	A boy and a wild stallion survive a shipwreck and develop a deep bond.	<i>Tua and the Elephant</i> , R.P. Harris	790 L (U) 202 pp	Thailand	Tua saves an elephant from abusive owners by stealing the animal to take it to a sanctuary.
			<i>A Million Shades of Gray</i> , Cynthia Kadahota	700 L 216 pp	Vietnam, 1975	A boy takes refuge in the jungle with his elephant when the Viet Cong attack his village. Truth as many shades of gray.
			<i>Soldier Bear</i> , Dumon Tak	790L (W) 145 pp	Italy, WWII Dutch tr.	An orphaned bear is adopted by Polish soldiers and serves as their mascot in Iran and Italy during WWII. Based on a true story.
			<i>The Tortoise and the Soldier</i> , Michael Foreman	RL 5.6 115 pp	England WWII	A British soldier is saved during a naval battle in Turkey by a tortoise who becomes his companion and troop mascot. Based on a true story. Watercolor vignettes and spreads.
			<i>Moon Bear</i> , Gill Lewis	590L (X) 368 pp	Laos	Torn from their homes, a boy and a moon bear cub must work on a farm where bears are cruelly caged and milked for their bile.
			<i>Hachiko Waits</i> , Leslea Newman	96 pp 770 L (S)	Japan	A dog waits at the train station every day, continuing for 10 years after his owner's death
			<i>Gorilla Dawn</i> , Gill Lewis	670 L RL 4.4	Congo	Two children held by rebel soldiers work to return a captive baby gorilla to the forest.
<i>What Elephants Know</i> , Eric Dinnerstein	790 L RL 5.7 273 pp	India Nepal 1970s	In a jungle between India and Nepal, an orphaned boy becomes an elephant driver.			

						Sequel – <i>A Circle of Elephants</i> , about the threats of human greed to elephants
<i>The Little Prince</i> , Antoine de Saint-Exupéry	710 L (X) 83 pp	An encounter with a prince fallen to Earth who shares his stories and philosophy	<i>The Midnight Zoo</i> , Sonya Hartnett <i>Do Fish Sleep?</i> Jens Raschke <i>The Cat from Hunger Mountain</i> , Ed Young <i>The Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching</i> , Demi <i>The Fox on the Swing</i> , Evelina Daciute <i>The Little Black Fish</i> , Samad Bihurangi <i>Questions Asked</i> , Jostein Gaarder	990 L 217 pp RL 4.0 60 pp 32 pp 870 L RL 4.4 42 pp 820 L RL. 4.0 32 pp RL 6.1 32 pp RL 4.0	Europe, WWII German Tr China China Lithuania Tr Iran Tr Norway Tr	Romani children fleeing bombs discover an abandoned zoo with animals who tell their stories. An allegorical tale of life and freedom. Jette wrestles with the death of her brother, recalling special times, his funeral, and grief. An original fable about Lord Cat whose wastefulness leads to ruin, loss of power, and eventual redemption. Visually rich collages. Combines legend and fact on the life and teachings of a Chinese philosopher, who founded Taoism and Tao Te Ching. Paul befriends a wise fox who gives him space to think about what makes him happy and what friendship means. Batchelder Award. In spite of warnings and danger, a small fish wants to see what is at the end of his stream. A boy asks questions about love, loss, grief, friendship, and what it means to be human Pair with two biographies of the author of <i>Little Prince</i> (see Gr. 4-5 Info books)
<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> , Natalie Babbitt	770 L (W) 160 pp	A girl discovers the secrets of a	<i>Toby Alone</i> , Timothee De Fombelle	760 L (Z) 384 pp	France Tr.	A society of miniature people live in a tree, threatened by their own greed and political opportunists. A quest tale with a sequel.

		family who never get older	<p><i>No Such Things as Dragons</i>, Philip Reeve</p> <p><i>Mañanaland</i>, Pam Muñoz Ryan,</p> <p><i>A Wish in the Dark</i>, Christina Soontornvat</p> <p><i>The Hidden Star</i>, Sello Duiker</p> <p><i>Sweep, The Story of a Girl and Her Monster</i>, Jonathan Auxier</p>	<p>920 L 186 pp</p> <p>650 L (V) 247 pp</p> <p>375 pp</p> <p>RL 5.4 234 pp</p> <p>630 L (X) 344 pp</p>	<p>England, medieval</p> <p>Latin America</p> <p>Thailand</p> <p>South Africa</p> <p>London 1800s</p>	<p>A mute boy apprenticed to a dragon-slayer, a con artist, finds his voice when they stumble upon a real dragon, overcome with loneliness.</p> <p>Max sets out to find his mother guided by the legend his grandfather tells him of a mythical gatekeeper who guides travelers to safety.</p> <p>Fantasy with a boy on the run and a girl determined to find him. Privilege, protest and justice. Based on Les Miserables.</p> <p>Nolitye lives in a shack and finds a stone with the power to make people happy. Combines township life with folklore and magic realism.</p> <p>Historical fantasy. A girl cleans chimneys, a dangerous life, when she awakens in an attic with a creature of soot and ash. Together, they experience the gift of friendship and home.</p>
<i>Zlateh the Goat</i> , Isaac Bashevis Singer	850 L 90 pp	Yiddish short stories set in Chelm, a village of fools	<p><i>Stories from the Billabong</i>, James Marshall</p> <p><i>The Ogress and the Snake</i>, Elizabeth Laird</p> <p><i>Amazonia</i>, Daniel Munduruku</p>	<p>760 L 61 pp</p> <p>RL 4.4 95 pp</p> <p>RL 6.5 (S) 95 pp</p>	<p>Australia</p> <p>Somalia</p> <p>Brazil Tr.</p>	<p>Origin and pourquoi tales from the Yorta-Yorta, an Aboriginal tribe, with illustrations using Aboriginal symbols and bright colors.</p> <p>Traditional Somalian folktales collected from living storytellers. Set in desert regions with black-and-white sketches.</p> <p>Tales set in the Amazon rainforest from 7 Indigenous tribes, focus on humor, death, and shapeshifters. Luminous full-page illustrations.</p>

			<i>Not One Damsel in Distress</i> , Jane Yolen	RL 4.0 116 pp	Global	A collection of traditional tales from around the world with brainy and brave heroines.
			<i>The Elephant's Friend</i> , Marcia Williams	RL 4.0 (Q) 32 pp GN	India	Intricate artwork in a comic-book style retells 8 fables from ancient India. Panels use bright jewel-like tones of Indian art.
			<i>Chinese Fables: Timeless Tales of Wisdom</i> , Shiho Nunes	810 L RL 5.4 64 pp	China	19 fables, including the Dragon Slayer, that contain ancient folk wisdom about pride, vanity, dishonesty and other human follies. Introduces traditional Chinese culture and lore.
<i>M.C. Higgins, the Great</i> , Virginia Hamilton	630 L (X) 277 pp	Strip mining endangers MC's home and family	<i>The Red Pencil</i> , Andrea Pinkney	630 L (Y) 308 pp NV	Sudan	Refugee camp in Darfur where a girl finds hope and possibility through writing and art. Novel in verse.
			<i>The Bone Sparrow</i> , Zana Fraillon	RL 5.6 228 pp	Australia	In an Australian detention camp, a Rohingya boy from Burma lives a life of bleakness and abuse as well as of imagination through story.
			<i>I Lived on Butterfly Hill</i> , Marjorie Agosin	770 L 454 pp	Chile 1970s	A girl in exile when her parents go into hiding during the military dictatorship of Pinochet.
			<i>When My Name was Keoko</i> , Linda Sue Park	610 L 199 pp.	Korea WWII	A brother and sister face the oppressive occupation and suppression of Korean culture by Japan during WWII.
			<i>Brother's Keeper</i> , Julie Lee	314 pp	N/S Korea 1950	Korean War – Sora flees with her brother from N. Korea, struggling against traditional female roles and danger to get to S. Korea.
			<i>The Turtle of Oman</i> , Naomi Shihab Nye	700 L 312 pp	Oman	Aref is upset about leaving Oman for the US, spends time with his grandfather, celebrating a mutual love for their country and culture.

			<i>Aftershock</i> , Bernard Ashley	RL 5 139 pp	Greece & London	When an earthquake in Greece kills his father, Makis and his mother move to London. Soccer and music provide outlets from the trauma.
			<i>Letters to a Prisoner</i> Jacques Goldstyn	Wordless 32 pp	France Tr	A peaceful protester is jailed, despairing until letters of support come from around the world
			<i>Tree of Dreams</i> , Laura Resau	850 L 316 pp	Ecuador	On a trip to the Amazon, a girl becomes aware of Indigenous and environmental issues.
			<i>The Only Road</i> , Alexandra Diaz	830 L RL 5.1 308 pp	Guatemala	Jaimie makes a treacherous journey to the US due to drug cartel violence. See <i>The Crossroads</i> on his life as an undocumented immigrant.
			<i>We're Not from Here</i> , Geoff Rodkey	740 L (V) RL 4.5	Sci Fi	A boy and his family migrate to a new planet where inhabitants look like giant mosquitos and dislike the new immigrants, who must prove they can contribute to society.
			<i>The Story that Cannot Be Told</i> , Kasper Kramer	800 L 378 pp	Romania 1989	Final months of Communist leader Ceausescu, as Ileana and her family deal with danger and spies, intertwined with her namesake folktale.
			<i>The Eleventh Trade</i> , Alyssa Holingsworth	650 L RL 4. 3 288 pp	Afghan. U.S.	When the instrument his grandfather treasures is stolen, a young Afghan refugee begins a series of trades to return it to him.
			<i>Caravan to the North: Misael's Long Walk</i> , Jorge Argueta	630 L 111 pp NV	El Salvador Tr	First person account of a Salvadoran boy whose family joins a caravan heading north to the U.S., only to be met with a closed border.

<i>The Birchbark House</i> , Louise Erdrich	970 L (T) 244 pp	An Ojibwa girl's life on an island on Lake Superior.	<i>Fatty Legs and A Stranger at Home</i> , Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton	RL 5.5 (T) 104 pp and 124 pp	Canada First Nations	An Inuit girl goes to a residential school, eager to learn to read, but experiences abuse and indoctrination. In the second book, she experiences alienation when returning home. Based on the author's life.
			<i>Sister Heart</i> , Sally Morgan	RL 5.0 250 pp NV	Australia Aborigine	A novel in verse about an Aboriginal girl who is taken far from her home to an institution, making a life for herself, longing for home.
<i>Bud, Not Buddy</i> , Christopher Paul Curtis	950 L (U) 245 pp	After his mother dies, a boy journeys to find his place and family.	<i>The Thief Lord</i> , Cornelia Funke	700 L (V) 349 pp	Germany Tr.	Two orphaned brothers run away to Venice, joining a secret community of street thieves.
			<i>A Single Shard</i> , Linda Sue Park	920 L (U) 152 pp	Korea 1100s	Homeless Tree-ear becomes an apprentice to a master potter, a difficult but talented mentor.
			<i>Tofu Quilt</i> , Ching Yeong Russell	970 L 125 pp NV	Hong Kong, 1960s	This novel in verse focuses on a girl's search to find her place as a writer and a female in a male-dominated culture. Based in author's life.
			<i>When Mischief Came to Town</i> , Katrina Nannestad	930 L 179 pp	Denmark 1911 Tr.	An orphaned girl is sent to live with her grandmother on a remote island, finding a new family amidst her grief and changing the island.
			<i>Breaking Stalin's Nose</i> , Eugene Yelchin	670 L (X)	Soviet Union, 1900s	Sasha's love of Stalin is shaken when his father is unfairly arrested, and his worldview makes a dramatic shift. Black-and-white illustrations.
<i>The Grand Plan to Fix Everything</i> , Uma Krishnaswami	770 L (U) 266 pp	India	A family move to India from the U.S. immerses Dini in a search for her heritage as she enjoys Bollywood adventures and misses her friend.			

			<p><i>Ten: A Soccer Story</i> Shamini Flint</p> <p><i>Ebb & Flow</i>, Heather Smith</p> <p><i>A Place to Belong</i>, Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p><i>My Fate According to the Butterfly</i>, Gail Villanueva</p> <p><i>Other Words for Home</i>, Jasmine Warga</p>	<p>185 pp 770 L RL 4.6</p> <p>NV 227 pp</p> <p>RL 5.8 405 pp</p> <p>660 L RL 5.7 233 pp</p> <p>NV 930 L RL 6.3 342 pp</p>	<p>Malaysia</p> <p>Canada</p> <p>Japan 1940s</p> <p>Philippine</p> <p>Syria US</p>	<p>Maya trains and organizes a girls' soccer team despite gender barriers and family conflicts. Semi-autobiographical, biracial child.</p> <p>Newfoundland – a boy becomes a bully after his father's imprisonment is sent to live with his grandmother to find his way. Free verse.</p> <p>A disillusioned Japanese-American family moves to Japan after WWII, experiencing cultural dislocation and a struggle with how to belong in a place where they are not welcome.</p> <p>A girl tries to bring her estranged family together, convinced she will die soon when she sees a black butterfly. Set in Manila.</p> <p>Novel in verse of a girl who flees the Syrian war with her mother to the U.S, facing prejudice, fearing for her brother, and longing for home.</p>
<p><i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i>, Grace Lin</p>	<p>810 L (T) 278 pp</p>	<p>On a quest to change her family's fortunes, Min is helped by characters who share their experiences in folktales.</p>	<p><i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i></p> <p><i>Starry River of the Sky</i></p> <p><i>When the Sea Turned to Silver</i> Grace Lin</p> <p><i>Before the Sword</i>, Grace Lin</p>	<p>810 L (T) 278 pp</p> <p>810 (T) 288 pp</p> <p>750 L (U) 350 pp</p> <p>820 L RL 5.0 374 pp</p>	<p>China</p> <p>China</p>	<p>Three companion books of characters on quests in beautifully illustrated novels. The adventures are interwoven with magical characters who tell stories from traditional Chinese folklore.</p> <p>Inspired by the legend of Mulan Hua, the female warrior, but occurring earlier when Mulan goes on a quest to save her sister.</p>

			<i>Odd and the Frost Giants</i> , Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell	820 L (T) 119 pp	Norway	A Norwegian boy leads Norse gods in attempt to outwit the evil Frost Giants. Weaves legend and adventure with black-and-white artwork.
			<i>West of the Moon</i> , Margi Preus	810 L 213 pp	Norway 1800s	Weaves fiction with myth and folktale in the story of a girl desperate to escape a cruel aunt and join her faraway father.
			<i>Into the Woods</i> , Lyn Gardner and Mimi Grey	930L (W) 427 pp	England	Three orphaned sisters flee into the woods encountering danger and adventures as well as familiar fairy tale characters. <i>Out of the Woods</i>
			<i>Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit</i> , Nahoko Uehashi	840 L 288 pp	Japan Tr.	A female warrior protects a young prince from a monster and the prince's father. Japanese mythologies and ethnic conflicts. Series.
			<i>The Storyteller</i> , Evan Turk	870 L 32 pp	Morocco	A storyteller and a boy weave a tale to thwart a Djinn's sandstorm from destroying the city. Exquisite illustrations.
			<i>Aru Shah and the End of Time</i> , Roshani Chokshi	355 pp 630 L	India	Aru Shah, known to stretch the truth, frees an ancient demon and goes on a quest to save her friends and mother. Hindu mythology. Series
			<i>The Secret of Nightingale Wood</i> , Lucy Strange	288 pp 730 L	UK, 1919	Hen must find a way to save her family, with her father gone and her mother mentally ill. Allusions to fairy tales, poetry and classics.
			<i>Lalani of the Distant Sea</i> , Erin Entrada Kelly	R.L. 5.9 400 pp	Philippine	Lalani goes on an ocean quest to save her mother and island from a horrible fate. Fantasy based in Filipino folklore.

			<i>The Bookshop Girl</i> , Sylvia Bishop	730 L (T) RL 5.9 136 pp	England	Abandoned at birth, Property Jones thwarts two greedy villains when her family wins a book emporium full of magical rooms.
			<i>The House with Chicken Legs</i> , Sophie Anderson	770 L RL 4.6 262 pp	Russia	A girl training to become the next Yaga, like her grandmother, is lonely and longs for a friend. A reimagining of Baba Yaga.
			<i>A Story Like the Wind</i> , Gill Lewis	750 L RL 4.4 80 pp	Middle East	A group of refugees adrift in a rubber dinghy, are given hope as one of them uses his violin to weave their stories together.
			<i>Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky</i> , Kwame Mbalia	680 L RL 6.2 482 pp	West Africa U.S.	Combines W. African and African American folklore in a quest by a boy who has accidentally torn a hole in the sky. Rick Riordan Presents. Sequel.

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels

7/20/2020