

# Lacey Branch

## Ocean County Library

10 East Lacey Road  
Forked River, NJ 08731  
609.693.8566

[www.theoceancountylibrary.org](http://www.theoceancountylibrary.org)

### Great Reads!

#### *A note for parents and caregivers:*

- The titles on this recommended reading list are all available at the Lacey Branch along with other Ocean County Library branches. Many are also available as ebooks through one of our digital platforms, either *hoopla* or *Libby by Overdrive*. You can access them at <http://theoceancountylibrary.org/downloads>.
- If you or a family member is in need of a library card, you can visit the Lacey Branch or apply online at <https://theoceancountylibrary.org/library-card-application>, and pick up the card at your convenience.
- You may also register the entire family for the **Color Our World** Summer Reading Challenge at <https://theoceancountylibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>. Earn virtual badges by completing reading and activity challenges.
- Titles listed by grade level are suggestions for appropriate reading levels, but reading levels vary widely by grade and you may find great books for your child on lists for other grades. For additional assistance in finding age-appropriate and engaging books, please stop into the library.
- The Lexile score is added (ex. **640L**) for titles, when it is available. Some teachers provide this readability score to their students. For more information on Lexile visit <https://lexile.com>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [cmeys-cronin@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:cmeys-cronin@theoceancountylibrary.org). Happy reading!

Corinne Meys-Cronin  
Youth Services Librarian  
Lacey Branch of the Ocean County Library

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## Entering Kindergarten or Grade 1

### Read to Child

Any beginning reader or picture book. Below are some suggestions:

Archer, Micha. *What's New, Daniel?*  
Beckmeyer, Drew. *The First Week of School*  
Blackall, Sophie. *Hello Lighthouse*  
Carzoo, Breanna. *The Squish*  
Castillo, Lauren. *Just Like Millie*  
Daywalt, Drew. *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*  
Denise, Christopher. *Knight Owl*  
Fang, X. *We are Definitely Human*  
Hest, Amy. *Sometimes it's Nice to Be Alone*  
Higgins, Ryan T. *We Don't Eat Our Classmates!*  
John, Jory. *The Bad Seed*  
Long, Loren. *The Yellow Bus*  
Lukoff, Kyle. *I'm Sorry You Got Mad*  
Martin, Bill. *Bing! Bang! Chugga! Beep!*  
Cronin, Doreen. *Click, Clack, Moo*  
de la Peña, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*  
Lanan, Jessica. *Jumper: a Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider*  
Laroche, David. *Go and Get with Rex*  
Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Alma and How She Got Her Name*  
Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!*  
Ohnari, Yuko. *Downpour: Splish! Splash! Ker-Splash!*  
Penfold, Alexandra. *All Are Welcome*  
Pizzoli, Greg. *Lucky Duck*  
Rogers, Andrea.L. *Chooch Helped*  
Salati, Doug. *Hot Dog*  
Scanlon, Liz Garton. *The World's Best Class Plant*  
Shannon, David. *Duck on a Bike*  
Tabor, Corey R. *Ursula Upside Down*



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## Entering Grade 1

### Guided or Independent Reading

Arnold, Tedd. *Fly Guy* (any in series) **170L-470L**  
Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. *Biscuit Goes Camping* **230L** (any in series)  
Dean, James. *Pete the Cat* (any in "My First Reading" or "Level 1" series)  
Dyckman, Ame. *Vacation: Three-and-a-half Stories* (any in the *Bat, Cat & Rat* series)  
*DK Super Readers* (any books in the Pre-Level or Level 1 series) Example – *Save the Bees* by Ruth Musgrave  
George, Kallie. *Duck, Duck, Dinosaur: Bubble Blast* (any in series)  
Hale, Bruce. *Clark the Shark* (any in series)  
Hills, Tad. *A Gift for Goose* **370L** (or other beginning reader by author)  
Iwai, Melissa. *Gigi and Ojiji* (any in series)  
John, Jory. *The Bad Seed Goes to the Library*  
Larochelle, David. *See the Ghost; Three Stories About Things You Cannot See*  
Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad All Year* **300L** (any in series)  
Madan, Vikram. *Bobo and Pup-Pup: Let's Make Cake!*  
Meadows, Michelle. *How to Love a Pony*  
Medina, Juana. *Elena Rides*  
McCully, Emily Arnold. *Little Ducks Go* **170L** (or any book in the "I Like to Read" Series)  
*National Geographic Readers* (any book in the Level 1 series)  
O'Connor, Jane. *Fancy Nancy Sees Stars* **270L** (any in series)  
Otheguy, Emma. *Reina Ramos: Neighborhood Helper* (any in series)  
Palatini, Margie. *Kitty-Cam* (any in series)  
Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge* **370L – 480L** (any in series)  
Shaskan, Stephen. *Pizza and Taco* (any in series)  
Tabor, Corey R. *Fox the Tiger* **240L** (any in series)  
Weeks, Sarah. *Sketty and Meatball* **470L**  
Willems, Mo. *Elephant & Piggie* (any in series) **170L – 330L**  
Windness, Kaz. *Go! Go! Dino!*

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## Entering Grade 2

- Allen, Kari. *Maddie and Mabel (any in series)*
- Arnold, Tedd. *Fly Guy (any in the series)* **280L – 420L**
- Battersby, Katherine. *Cranky Chicken (any in series)*
- Birney, Betty G. *Humphrey's Tiny Tales (any in series)* **490L – 520L**
- Blabey, Aaron. *The Bad Guys (any in series)* **530L**
- Blume, Judy. *Freckle Juice* **400L**
- Clanton, Ben. *Narwhal and Jelly (any in series)*
- Cordell, Matthew. *Cornbread & Poppy (any in series)*
- Derting, Kimberly. *Cece Loves Science* **550L**
- DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson (any in series)* **380L – 450L**
- DK Super Readers (any books in the Level 2 or 3 series)* Example – *Snakes Slither and Hiss* by Fiona Lock
- Hale, Shannon. *The Princess in Black (any in series)* **340L – 430L**
- Jarvis. *Bear and Bird: the Stars and Other Stories (any in series)*
- Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad All Year* **300L (any in series)**
- McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody and Friends (any in series)* **390L – 520L**
- National Geographic Readers (any in the Level 1 or 2 series)* **200L – 650L**
- Osborne, Mary Pope. *Magic Tree House (any in series)* **230L - 750L**
- Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine (any is series)* **580L – 720L**
- Quigley, Dawn. *Jo Jo Makoons: the Used-to-Be Best Friend*
- Romito, Dee. *Fort Builders, Inc.; The Birthday Castle* **530L (any in series)**
- Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter and Tabby (any in series)* **410L- 540L**
- Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. *Nate the Great (any in series)* **110L – 510L**
- Thomas, Jan. *Even Robots Can Be Thankful*
- Thomas, Kiah. *Lone Wolf Gets a Pet (any in series)*
- Willems, Mo. *Unlimited Squirrels (any in series)*



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- Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean* (any in series) **490L – 590L**
- Beaty, Andrea. *Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters* (any in series) **520L**
- Blabey, Aaron. *The Bad Guys* (any in series) **530L**
- Brown, Jeff, Egan, Kate, Greenhut, Josh or Pennypacker, Sara. *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures* (any in series) **580L – 700L**
- Cameron, W. Bruce. *Lily to the Rescue* (any in series) **580L – 770L**
- Castillo, Lauren. *Our Friend Hedgehog: the Story of Us* **600L**
- Chabert, Jack. *Eerie Elementary* (any in series)
- Coven, Wanda. *Heidi Heckelbeck and Henry Heckelbeck Series* **500L – 700L**
- Cronin, Doreen. *Chicken Squad* (any in series)
- Curran-Bauer, Christee. *The Case of the Missing Tarts* (any in series) **540L**
- DiCamillo, Kate. *Orris and Timble* (any in series) **540L**
- DK Super Readers* (any books in the Level 3 or 4 series) Example – *Shark: Apex Predator* by Ruth Musgrave
- Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* **650L**
- Elliott, Rebecca. *Owl Diaries* (any in series) **530L – 620L**
- Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School or My Weird School Daze* (any in series) **510L - 770L**
- Higgins, Cam. *Good Dog* (any in series)
- Hodgson, Rob. *When Moon Became the Moon* **630L**
- Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Felix Powell, Boy Dog*
- McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody or Stink* (any in series) **390L – 590L**
- Messner, Kate. *Emma McKenna, Full Out* (any in *The Kids in Mrs. Z's Class Series* - multiple authors)
- Osborne, Mary Pope. *Magic Tree House* (any in series) **230L – 750L**
- Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine* (any in series) **580L – 720L**
- Pilkey, Dav. *Dog Man* (any in series) **390L**
- Quigley, Dawn. *Jo Jo Makoons: the Used-to-Be Best Friend* (any in series) **570L**
- Rex, Adam. *The Story of Gumluck the Wizard* (any in series)

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## Entering Grade 4

Applegate, Katherine. *Odder*

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* **470L**

Brown, Peter. *Wild Robot* (any in series)

Cham, Jorge. *Oliver's Great Big Universe*

Chen, Li. *Detective Beans & the Case of the Missing Hat*

Cleary, Beverly. *Beezus and Ramona* (any in series) **780L**

Clements, Andrew. *The Loser's Club* **860L**

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Finding Langston* **760L**

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid* **320L**

Dahl, Roald. *Matilda* **840L**

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses* **520L**

*DK Super Readers* (any books in the 4 series) Example – *Hope for the Elephants* by Patricia J. Murphy

Gibbs, Stuart. *Spy School; the Graphic Novel* (any in series)

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* (any in series)

Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School, My Weird School Daze* (any in series) **470L – 770L**

Hosler, Jay. *Ant Story*

Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (any book in the series) **910L – 1060L**

Leigh, Lindsey. *The Deep! Wild Life at the Ocean's Darkest Depths*

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time* **740L**

Lin, Grace. *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* **810L**

*National Geographic Readers* (any in the Level 2 or 3 series) **200L – 650L**

Soontornvat, Christina. *The Guardian Test* (any in series)

Virts, Terry. *The Astronaut's Guide to Leaving the Planet*

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived* (any in series) **590L – 970L**

*Who was...? Who is...? What is...?* (any in series) **510L – 920L**

Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (any in series) **640L**



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**Entering Grade 5**

- Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan* (any in series) **570L**  
Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot* (any in series)  
Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the End of Time* (any in series) **630L**  
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy* **950L**  
DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn-Dixie* **610L**  
Elliott, Laura. *Bea and the New Deal Horse*  
Gidwitz, Adam. *Max in the House of Spies*  
Glaser, Karina Yan. *The Vanderbeekers of 141<sup>st</sup> Street* (any in series) **810L**  
Gutman, Dan. *Houdini and Me*  
Hale, Nathan. *Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales* (any in series) **GN200L – GN400L**  
Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance* **610L**  
Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello Universe* **690L**  
Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice* **800L**  
Konigsburg, E.L. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* **700L**  
Korman, Gordon. *Slugfest*  
Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out & Back Again* **800L**  
Lewis, C.S. *The Chronicles of Narnia* (any in series) **790L**  
Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars* **670L**  
Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* **700L**  
Messner, Kate. *History Smashers* (any in series), ex. *Pearl Harbor* **950L – 1000L**  
Nielsen, Jennifer A. *Iceberg*  
Pennypacker, Sara. *Leeva at Last*  
Schmidt, Gary D. *The Labors of Hercules Beal*  
Soontornvat, Christina. *All Thirteen: the Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team* **1020L**  
Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived* (any in series) **590L – 970L**  
Virts, Terry. *The Astronaut's Guide to Leaving the Planet*  
*Who was...? Who is...? What is...?* (any in series) **510L – 920L**  
Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk* (any in series) **640L**