# Language Arts

**Common Core State Standards**

**Recommended Books**

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library  
An Annotated Comprehensive Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance. These books are recommended reading as part of the Common Core State Standards curriculum.

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<tr>
<th>Lexile</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>BIG BOOKS</td>
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Calvin Curbhopper, a bicycle messenger, makes his way through the city in all kinds of conditions to make sure that his messages get delivered on time.

| EASY BOOKS | | |

Yasmin is visiting her grandmother, who lives in a country somewhere in the Middle East. On her first night, she's wakened by the muezzin at the nearby mosque calling the faithful to prayer, and Yasmin watches from her bed as her grandmother prepares to pray. A visit with Grandmother is always special, but this time it is even more so.


Injured by a passing motorboat, a pregnant manatee is rescued and
taken to an aquarium to recover and have her baby in a safe environment.


Emily Elizabeth tells all about Clifford's first Halloween when he was a small puppy.


A rampaging tyrannosaurus rex demonstrates to an out-of-control little girl the results of "beastie" behavior in the library.

N/A Cabatingan, Erin. *Musk Ox Counts*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2013. (Other title by author: *A is for Musk Ox*)

In this second installment, Musk Ox and Zebra try to make it through a counting book.


Rhyming text counts off ten puppies as they awaken one by one, chase and bounce around the house, eat kibble and get washed, then fall back to sleep.


When challenges arise during a hiking and camping trip a mother could do a lot of things herself, such as carrying her son's heavy pack or putting up the tent by herself, but always finds a way to lovingly teach self-reliance.


After failing to find his favorite sneakers in time for the big basketball game, Jumper the rabbit learns how to put his room in order by organizing his possessions.
When Penny, a period, competes in her school's annual punctuation bee, she is especially determined to beat Elsie, an exclamation point who is loud and boastful.

Before they begin planting new trees, Mr. Tate tells his students to listen closely as the lone tree behind their school counts out ten ways it serves the needs of different animals.

Letters of the alphabet in various graphic styles accompany words associated with fairs.

Her parents swept away by a catastrophic flood, Chandra finds solace in her mother's magic flute.

Young, blind Hershel finds that he has special gifts he can use to help his mother during the Jewish holiday of Purim. Includes author's notes about the holiday and its origins.

Mick, Mack, and Molly get caught in a sudden summer thunderstorm, and when they run for cover to a safe, dry cave, they meet new friends.

Andy wants two things very much--to win the contest for the best decorated bicycle in the "Home Sweet Home parade" and to be a hero--but his best friend Dolores stands in the way of at least one goal.
A parade balloon shaped like a sun breaks free of his strings and flies away from the other balloons.

A cat's quiet life is disrupted one day when a window is broken, and after several frustrating attempts to find a suitable place, he winds up in the perfect spot.

Pete the cat loves the buttons on his shirt so much that he makes up a song about them, and even as the buttons pop off, one by one, he still finds a reason to sing.

Illustrations and rhyming text introduce a dancing, juggling, bouncing man who appears once every five hundred years.

Children spend the day with their grandmother, who ignores their mother's carefully planned schedule in favor of activities that are much more fun.

When an apple pie comes out of the oven, a little pup does everything he can to get his paws on it.

The Jelly Beans--four friends who like to do such different things as paint, play soccer, read, and dance--paint a mural on an outside wall of Mrs. Petunia Dinkley-Sneezer's candy shop that depicts them each
doing what they love best.


On her mother’s birthday, Nancy gives her a total beauty makeover in the yard outside, which she has converted into a fancy salon.


When a pair of chopsticks get separated, after some traumatic moments the two friends eventually learn to stand on their own.


When Brownie and her cat go for a spin in her car, neither one is ready for it to end.


Petunia decides to stop being a human child and start living the life of a wild animal, much to her parents’ displeasure.


Kat, who loves to make maps of all sorts of places and things, gives a special map to Jack.


Christmas has arrived with so many rules to follow that David fears his mistakes will cause Santa to pass him by.


When Big Bad Wolf, who now lives at the Villain Villa Retirement Residence, is invited to tell his story at the library, he faces the truth about what he did to the three little pigs and decides to make amends.
Tallulah strives for perfection during ballet class and dreams of dancing a solo in the upcoming recital, but her little brother, Beckett, who misbehaves all during class, gets a better role than she does.

Tallulah strives for perfection during ballet class and dreams of dancing a solo in the upcoming recital, but her little brother, Beckett, who misbehaves all during class, gets a better role than she does.

Lulu, who likes to wear a ladybug costume, goes to the beach for the first time and makes sand castles, flies kites, and deals with her fear of the ocean.

When Mr. Potter decides to bring both his dog and a tree inside to share his cozy house, there are unexpected repercussions.

After Sean gives a yawn, it gets passed along to a series of animals, each revealed by a page turn, until Nellie the elephant decides it is time for bed.

When Desmond takes his new bicycle out for a ride, his pride and joy turn to hurt and anger when some boys shout a very mean word at him. No matter what he tries, Desmond can't stop thinking about what the boys said. With the wise advice of kindly Father Trevor, Desmond learns an important lesson about understanding his conflicted feelings and how to forgive.

An encounter with a moose while they are learning to ski provides Mr. Magee and his dog with some unexpected excitement.
At bedtime, Grandma tells Max and Ruby three favorite stories about themselves.

**FICTION**


A ghost-sighting at a creepy haunted house means the Goofballs have a new silly mystery to solve.


A sixteen-year-old lesbian tries to get over a crush on her religious best friend by embarking on a "holy quest" with a couple of misfits who have invented a wacky, made-up faith called the Church of Blue.


The Justice League battles the Royal Flush Gang in Las Vegas, and Booster Gold learns why the team pays Superman so much respect.


It started with a kidnapping. A shadowy organization known only as the Vespers snatched seven members of the Cahill family and demanded a series of bizarre ransoms from around the world.


Superboy and Miss Martian are moving into the secret super hero cave, but Superboy finds himself haunted by the Cave's memories and visions from his past.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Boos, Ben</td>
<td><em>Fantasy: an Artist’s Realm</em></td>
<td>Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010.</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>B64449F</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Readers are invited to immerse themselves in the sovereignty of New Perigord, brought to life through the artistry of the author and illustrator, Ben Boos.</td>
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<td>780</td>
<td>Bosch, Pseudonymous</td>
<td><em>This Isn’t What it Looks Like</em></td>
<td>New York: Little, Brown, 2011. (Part of the <em>Secret Series</em>)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>B6507S04</td>
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<td>Cass finds herself alone and disoriented in a dream-like world, while back at home she is in the hospital in a coma with Max-Ernest desperately searching for a way to awaken her.</td>
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<td>When a violent storm in the Gulf of Mexico damages a drilling rig off the Louisiana coast, the superhero Aquaman must save the day--but will the evil Black Manta prevent the rescue?</td>
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<td>Hoping to save their family and the citizens of Ferryport Landing from the evil plans of Mirror, Sabrina and Daphne Grimm seek counsel from the other magic mirrors, who advise them to join forces with the Scarlet Hand.</td>
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<td>840</td>
<td>Cabot, Meg</td>
<td><em>Blast from the Past</em></td>
<td>New York: Scholastic, 2010. (Part of the <em>Allie Fingle’s Rules</em> series)</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>Fourth-grader Allie establishes a new set of rules after she is forced to pair up with ex-best friend Mary Kay on a class trip to a historic one-room schoolhouse.</td>
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<td>810</td>
<td>Carman, Patrick</td>
<td><em>Trackers</em></td>
<td>New York: Scholastic, 2010. (Part of the <em>Trackers</em> series)</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>C31T01</td>
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<td>When the mysterious Glyphmaster tricks Adam into solving a puzzle and then hacks his computers, Adam, Finn, Lewis, and Emily are pulled into a mystery that is more trouble than they ever imagined.</td>
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A handbook for fledglings new to the House of Night that provides information to ease the transition from human to fledgling, and describes the history of vampires.


Having learned more about his mysterious past, Happenstance accompanies Lord Umber on a daring journey that could affect the future of Kuraharen.


Nine-year-old Sharon has conflicted feelings towards her copycat little sister and rambunctious toddler brother, who is sent to China for a year to live with relatives.


As mysterious murders threaten the new peace between Shadowhunters and Downworlders, only Simon, the Daylighter vampire, can help bring both groups together.


Twelve-year-old identical twins Jay and Ray have long resented that everyone treats them as one person, and so they hatch a plot to take advantage of a clerical error at their new school and pretend they are just one.


Fifteen-year-old Janie feels devastated when she discovers that her boyfriend has betrayed her and her family through his college radio program.

Raised underground by a robot, twelve-year-old Eva Nine finally finds all she ever wanted in the human colony of New Attica, but something very bad is going on there and unless Eva and her friends stop it, it could mean the end of life on Orbona.


During the turbulent 1960s, sixth-grader Mary Clare makes a deal with God: she will try to become a saint if He provides for her large, cash-strapped family.


Hal and the other Herons face many perils as they track down the pirates who stole Skandia’s most prized artifact, the Andomal.


Posey’s fear of starting first grade is alleviated when her teacher invites the students to wear their most comfortable clothes to school on the first day.


Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered.


As fourteen-year-old archaeologist Will and his friends plummet down a subterranean pore, they face deadly creatures and discover a strange fungal shelf, which not only reveals artifacts from ancient civilizations, but clues to a lost land at the end of the Earth.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISBN 7</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>790</td>
<td>Grisham, John. <em>Theodore Boone, Kid Lawyer</em>. New York: Dutton Children's Book, 2010.</td>
<td>In the small city of Strattenburg there are many lawyers, and thirteen-year-old Theo Boone thinks he is one of them, but his inside knowledge of the justice system means trouble when a cold-blooded killer is about to go free and only Theo can stop him.</td>
<td>F G887TH01</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>610</td>
<td>Gutman, Dan. <em>Nightmare at the Book Fair</em>. New York: Simon &amp; Schuster, 2010.</td>
<td>When fifth-grader Trip Dinkleman, who does not like to read very much, is hit on the head by a heavy box and becomes a character in a series of different books--from a sports story to a science fiction novel to an adventure tale--his view of reading is changed forever.</td>
<td>F G9858N</td>
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<tr>
<td>660</td>
<td>Haarsma, PJ. <em>The Softwire: Awakening on Orbis 4</em>. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010.</td>
<td>As the Scion's guardian, Johnny Turnbull is expected to begin training as a Space Jumper, a role he promised his girlfriend Max he would never take on, and which might not be enough to save his sister and friends when Orbis is threatened.</td>
<td>F H1115S04</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>Haber, Melissa. <em>Dear Anjali</em>. New York: Aladdin, 2010.</td>
<td>When her best friend dies at the age of thirteen, Meredith writes letters to her as she tries to endure her grief and other confusing emotions.</td>
<td>F H1134D</td>
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<td>560</td>
<td>Hale, Shannon. <em>Calamity Jack</em>. New York: Bloomsbury, 2010. (Graphic Novel)</td>
<td>In this graphic novel interpretation of &quot;Jack and the beanstalk,&quot; Jack is a born schemer who climbs a magical beanstalk in the hope of exacting justice from a mean giant and gaining a fortune for his widowed mother, aided by some friends.</td>
<td>F H135C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call Number</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Publication Date</td>
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<td>IG5P1</td>
<td>The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt &amp; Julie Graham-Chang</td>
<td>Ignatow, Amy</td>
<td>New York: Amulet</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Two best friends embark on a project to study the behavior and taste of the popular girls at their elementary school so that by the time they get to middle school they too will be in the right crowd. Novel appears in the form of a scrapbook.</td>
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<td>J6355SU02</td>
<td>Scarlett Fever</td>
<td>Johnson, Maureen</td>
<td>New York: Point</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Fifteen-year-old Scarlett, who is beginning to get over her break-up with Eric, stays busy as assistant to her theatrical-agent friend who is not only promoting Scarlett's brother Spencer, but also a new client whose bad-boy brother has transferred to Scarlett's school.</td>
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<td>J7123N02</td>
<td>Captivate</td>
<td>Jones, Carrie</td>
<td>New York: Bloomsbury</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>High school junior Zara and her friends continue to try to contain the pixies that threaten their small Maine town, but when a Valkyrie takes Zara's boyfriend, Nick, to Valhalla, the only way to save him is to trust a pixie king, Astley.</td>
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<td>Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds.</td>
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<td>K2971E</td>
<td>The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate</td>
<td>Kelly, Jacqueline</td>
<td>New York: Henry Holt</td>
<td>2009</td>
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<td>Growing up with six brothers in rural Texas in 1899, 12-year-old Callie realizes that her aversion to needlework and cooking disappoints her mother. She prefers to study the natural world with her grandfather, which leads to an important discovery.</td>
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<td>K6885L</td>
<td>Love Drugged</td>
<td>Klise, James</td>
<td>Woodbury, MN: Flux</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Fifteen-year-old Jamie is dismayed by his attraction to boys, and when a beautiful girl shows an interest in him, he is all the more intrigued by her father's work developing a drug called Rehomoline.</td>
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At a New England boarding school, Lenah Beaudonte tries to act like a normal sixteen-year-old although she was, before a hundred-year hibernation, a centuries-old vampire queen whose bloodthirsty, abandoned coven is seeking her.


When fourteen-year-old Talibah and her ten-year-old brother, Adom, visit modern-day Egypt with their historian-father, they become involved in a mystery surrounding Hatshepsut, a woman pharaoh, and Senenmut, architect of her mortuary tomb, as well as their own deceased mother.


Freshman Todd gets to try out for the varsity soccer team that his best friend plays for, but when two junior teammates bully Todd and he moves to a rival school, he is forced to confront the bullies—and play against his best friend.


Labeled outcasts by their Ethiopian neighbors because of their Jewish faith, Wudita and her family make the arduous trek on foot to Sudan in the hope of the promise of a better life. Instead, they are herded into a squalid refugee camp. Wudita becomes separated from her family and forced back to the Ethiopian border.

Patterson, James. *Middle School: Get Me Out of Here!* New York: Little Brown, 2012. (Part of the *Middle School* novels) (Other series by author: *Witch & Wizard*)

After surviving sixth grade, Rafe expects seventh grade to be a fun zone because he has been accepted to art school in the big city, but when he discovers it is more competitive than he expected, he sets out to turn his boring life into the inspiration for a work of art.


Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart
and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel.


When Justin Fisher, long-time class clown, realizes that his classmates are growing tired of his misdeeds, he declares war on their fifth-grade teacher, Mr. Tripp, in hopes of regaining his popularity.


In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck leaves him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro, who dreams of becoming a samurai, learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.


Despite their best efforts, Carter and Sadie Kane can't seem to keep Apophis, the chaos snake, down. Their only hope: find an ancient spell that might turn the serpent's own shadow into a weapon.


Nikki Maxwell has been writing in a diary since the start of the school year, and she usually takes it everywhere she goes - so she can't believe it when one morning she can't find her diary!


Twelve-year-old Isabel dreams of seeing the world but has never left Oregon, and so when her best friend, Sophie, tells her of a baking contest whose winners travel to New York City, she eagerly enters despite concerns about her mother, who is opening a cupcake bakery. Includes recipes.

Hanna, Spencer, Emily and Aria are trying to move on and forget about their old friend Alison DiLaurentis and all the torture she put them through, but someone is trying to keep her spirit alive.


Ten brief cases allow the reader to match wits with ten-year-old crime-buster, Encyclopedia Brown, as he investigates such cases as whether a diary of George Washington's mother is authentic, or if a UFO picture supposedly taken by the army is real.


Zig and Wikki arrive on earth to search for a pet for Zig's class assignment.


Ever since they were Snotsippers, Jack and the girl have fought, until one day she steals his bike and as he and the Amigos try to recover it, Jack realizes that he is growing up and must eventually leave the "goodlands and badlands of Hokey Pokey."


Doctor Docter's Energy Replenerator turns Daniel (aka Loud Boy) and his superhero friends into prune-eating, cane-wielding old people.


When the Sea King declares war on the small kingdoms of Norland, and forbids any ships from sailing on the rising waters that threaten to flood humanity, a princess must awaken an ancient killer to save the world.
Sixth-grader Griffin Penshine has always believed wishes can come true, and so when a strange woman curses her with a box of pennies, Griffin fears her evil desires will come true until she returns each penny to the person who first wished upon it.

Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a café and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

An advocate for robot rights and a renowned European robot have been murdered. Gesicht, the detective assigned to the case, has deduced that the killer is targeting the great robots of the world—which means that he too is one of the targets.

Poe, a homeless fifteen-year-old boy, struggles to keep his living situation a secret.

When best friends Natalie, age ten, and Annie, nine, form a detective agency to solve neighborhood mysteries, Natalie hopes it will help her win a school election, while Annie seeks the mother who abandoned her.

After escaping Camp Twilight, eighteen-year-old Carl Hobbes and Beth, his girlfriend, begin a new life in London, England, where he attempts to program Sphynx Cargo's highly intelligent supercomputer to help protect them from the CIA and assassins.
When the body of a classmate is discovered in the woods, sixteen-year-old Evie's lies wind up involving her with the girl's best friend, trying to track down the killer.

Twelve-year-old Henry York, finally reunited with his family, works with them and the Chestnut King, the long-deposed and mythic leader of the faeren people, to destroy Nimiane and her forces of evil.

Fourteen-year-old Melanin Sun's comfortable, quiet life is shattered when his mother reveals she has fallen in love with a woman.

In 1888, twelve-year-old Will Henry chronicles his apprenticeship with Dr. Warthrop, a scientist who hunts and studies real-life monsters, as they discover and attempt to destroy a pod of Anthropophagi.

A collection of animal-themed nursery rhymes in Spanish, from Spain and Latin America, with English translations.

Join a family of giraffes on their journey to Punctuation Station. As the train chugs along, learn the ins and outs of using periods, commas, apostrophes, question marks, hyphens, quotation marks, and exclamation points.

Presents the adventures of Timmy the Tug as he escapes his moorings and explores the high seas.


This book examines conjunctions and time connectives, explaining what they are and how they are used.


Introduces color theory with primary and secondary colors, the color wheel, and how artists visualize and choose colors.


In this song, originally sung by Nat King Cole in 1947, a train heads out to Dreamland, traveling on peppermint rails through a confectionary landscape. Includes sheet music.


Learn all about conjunctions and how to use them.


Provides information about the water signs of the zodiac.


Discover eleven truly amazing adventures through fun and lively illustrated finger mazes. Mapping and direction skills are reinforced with the inclusion of a compass rose, key, and instructions for things to look for on each adventure.
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<td></td>
<td>A tiny girl no bigger than a thumb is stolen by a great ugly toad and subsequently has many adventures and makes many animal friends, before finding the perfect mate in a warm and beautiful southern land.</td>
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<td>From Cerberus the three-headed dog to Humbaba the humanoid monster of Iraq, learn about the many legends and mysteries surrounding these fascinating creatures.</td>
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<td>Learn about the power of medicine through the true stories of people who survived life-threatening heart problems. Includes tips for heart health.</td>
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<td>Jamey Tortoise is smarter than anyone else and Jimi Hare is faster, but when a race is announced each consults a reporter about how to get what he really wants when and if he should win in this updated twist on the familiar fable.</td>
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<td>An examination of the rules behind English grammar, focusing on the components known as phrases, clauses, and conjunctions, which are groups of words that comprise and connect all parts of a sentence</td>
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<td>Drawings of everyday objects, animals, and activities illustrate the shape of each vowel.</td>
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<td>N/A</td>
<td>Rock, Lois. <em>Our Father and Other Classic Prayers for Children</em>. Oxford: Lion Children’s Press, 2010.</td>
<td>242.82 OU71</td>
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<td>Collected prayers inviting readers to address God as Father and classic prayers for them to say and learn.</td>
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In 1936, the New York Yankees wanted to test a hot prospect named Joe DiMaggio to see if he was ready for the big leagues. They knew just the ballplayer to call, Satchel Paige, the best pitcher anywhere, black or white. For the game, Paige joined a group of amateur African-American players, and they faced off against a team of white major leaguers plus young DiMaggio.

Collected poems and nursery rhymes from around the world, including such countries as China, Ireland, Zimbabwe, and Iran, and provides the English translations along with the rhymes in their original languages.