

Beginner Chapter Books (Series)

These titles are all chapter books that would work as a good transition between easy readers and full chapter books. You can find these by typing title into the search bar on the library's website. The following titles are shelved in the Juvenile Fiction section by the author's last name unless otherwise noted. Need help? Ask a librarian!

The Secrets of Droon series by Tony Abbott (J Abbott)

Eric, Neal, and Julie are three friends who accidentally discover a rainbow staircase that appears when Eric's basement closet is dark. It is a portal to the magical and troubled world of Droon. It's a wondrous place where adventure is always close at hand. Many books in this series.

Cam Jansen series by David A. Adler (J Adler)

Cam Jansen is a crack detective with a photographic memory. Together with her friend Eric, she solves every mystery that comes her way. Many books in this series.

Danny's Doodles by David A. Adler (J Adler)

Danny is an eccentric 4th grader who follows the rules at school. Calvin likes to break the rules and see if he can get away with it. Danny likes baseball and Calvin likes doing strange experiments like the big jelly bean experiment. Danny thinks Calvin is weird, but as their friendship grows, Danny gets to appreciate that Calvin is odd and different and that's okay.

Origami Yoda Series by Tom Angleberger (J Angleberger)

One day, Dwight folds an origami finger puppet of Yoda. Through an imitation voice, Dwight offers advice to his classmates through Yoda. Some students soon become convinced that Origami Yoda has a special connection to the Force, while others remain skeptical. This series includes a number of titles that touch on multiple Star Wars characters.

Jane and the Dragon Series by Martin Baynton (J Baynton)

The first book features Jane, a young girl whose mother is a lady-in-waiting to the queen. Jane is expected to grow up in her mother's footsteps but wishes to become a knight. When the royal prince is kidnapped by a dragon, Jane sets out to rescue the boy. She does not slay the dragon but instead befriends him, and they soon become best friends.

Flat Stanley series by Jeff Brown (J Brown)

Stanley Lambchop is an ordinary boy. At least he was, until the night his bulletin board fell off the wall and flattened him. At only half an inch thick, Stanley can slide under doors, mail himself across the country in an envelope, and fly like a kite!

Arthur series by Marc Brown (J Brown, E Brown)

Arthur the aardvark is a friendly face to many children who grew up watching his PBS television show. These chapter books are a great transition for those who are just starting to read because they're already familiar with the characters, making context easier to figure out. There are a number of titles in this series.

The Buddy Files by Dori Hillestad Butler (J Butler)

King is surrendered to the pound and believes his family has gone missing. He waits for his human, Kayla, to get him, but instead he is adopted by Connor and renamed Buddy. Buddy becomes a school therapy dog and starts solving mysteries. All stories are told from the dog's point of view.

Heidi Heckelbeck series by Wanda Coven (E Coven)

Meet Heidi Heckelbeck. Heidi seems like any other 8 year-old. She eats peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch. She hates all vegetables. She picks on her younger brother, Henry. She begrudgingly does her homework. But Heidi Heckelbeck has a secret: She's a witch in disguise. Heidi loves practicing her witching skills but she knows she has to be careful not to reveal her identity to anyone outside the family. Heidi encounters typical elementary school challenges (mean classmates, boring field trips, and icky cafeteria food), and with each challenge, she must find a way to balance her desire to use her powers and her need to fit into her new school.

Bink and Gollie series by Kate DiCamillo (E DiCamillo)

Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls—one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter (for Bink) and pancakes (for Gollie), they share many adventures together. No matter where their roller skates take them, at the end of the day they will always be the very best of friends. This series is especially good for those just starting to branch out of easy readers because it also contains a number of great illustrations.

Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo (E DiCamillo)

Mr. and Mrs. Watson have no children. So one day, while on a drive through the country, they come to a farm that has a sign advertising, "Pig for Sale-Cheap." Beside the sign stands an unusual pig. The farmer tells Mr. and Mrs. Watson that the pig is named Mercy and she is no ordinary pig. Instead of eating slop like other pigs, Mercy likes to eat toast with lots of butter on top, and she sleeps in a bed like a human, and she also likes to dress up and do things that other pigs cannot do. Many books in this series.

The Owl Diaries series by Rebecca Elliott (J Elliott)

Eva Wingdale is an owl who is just trying to navigate friendship, family, and everyday life. The bright and colorful digital illustrations, large type, frequent speech bubbles and familiar story make this accessible to emerging readers. This is a nice step between first readers and series such as Mary Pope Osborne's "Magic Tree House."

The Princess in Black series by Shannon Hale (J Hale)

This series begins with Princess Magnolia having hot chocolate and scones with Duchess Wigtower when the monster alarm sounds! Stopping monsters is no job for dainty Princess Magnolia, but luckily Princess Magnolia has a secret —she's also the Princess in Black! Can the princess sneak away, transform into her alter ego, and defeat the monster before the nosy duchess discovers her secret?

Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon (J Hanlon)

As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she's too much of a baby for them, so she's left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy. Her siblings may roll their eyes at her childish games, but Dory has lots of things to do: outsmarting the monsters all over the house, escaping from prison (aka time-out), and exacting revenge on her sister's favorite doll.

Secret Agent Jack Stalwart series by Elizabeth Singer Hunt (J Hunt)

Nine-year-old Jack Stalwart works for the Global Protection Force (GPF) battling evil villains and protecting the world's most precious treasures. In every book, Jack travels to a new foreign land, and tries to collect clues that will help him find his missing brother, Max. Many books in this series.

Princess Pink series by Noah Jones (J Jones)

Princess Pink lives in the land of fake-believe. These books take traditional fairytales and give them a twist. Princess Pink meets characters such as Moldylocks and the Three Beards and The Three Little Pugs along her

journeys. These books are great for young children because they incorporate characters they probably already know the backstory for and give them a silly twist to keep them interested.

Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald (J McDonald)

Judy Moody is a mover and a shaker, with a wicked troll-eyes stare and a pesky little brother, Stink. Each of the books in this series contains witty stories that offer a heap of new adventures, larger-than-life characters, and crazy lingo. With the majority of the tales set at Judy's home and school and dealing with realistic moments in a child's life, they are relatable and provide a number of positive messages in a humorous way. Quite a few books in this series.

Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe series by Susan Nees (J Nees)

Missy Abigail Rose is the sort of girl who likes dressing up her cat as much as she enjoys dressing herself. She is full of energy and personal pizzazz. Nees's full-color cartoons appear throughout, keeping up with Missy's energy and the bustle and activity of an elementary-school classroom.

Galaxy Zack series by Ray O'Ryan (J O'Ryan)

The year is 2120 and Zack Nelson and his family are making the big move from Earth to the planet Nebulon. Zack is already nervous about starting school and making new friends, but it only gets worse when he dreams that his classmates are slimy aliens with tentacles, pizza comes covered in gross bugs, and he can never communicate with his Earth friends again! When Zack arrives at Sprockets Academy for his first day of school, he meets and befriends Drake Tucker, a Nebulite boy who also loves to explore and learn about the planets. All of the differences between Earth and Nebulon begin to pile up and make Zack miss his home in Dubbsville, Texas, even more. But things start to look up when he receives a mysterious surprise. What could it possibly be?

Ricky Ricotta series by Dave Pilkey (J Pilkey)

Ricky Ricotta is a lonely mouse who lives in Squeakyville. He always wished he had a close friend to keep him company. One day, Ricky happens to see a crazed doctor mistreating a robot he just created. Ricky saves the robot, and they become best friends. This series documents all of their fun adventures. This series has a lot of humor, but basic vocabulary, making it a fun and exciting read for those just starting to read on their own.

Time Warp Trio series by Jon Scieszka (J Scieszka)

For his tenth birthday, Joe receives a mysterious blue book from his magician uncle and namesake, "Joe the Magnificent," known only as The Book. Using an often unpredictable number of voice and print clues, The Book transports Joe and his friends Fred and Sam to a variety of places in history, like Ancient Egypt, the Old West & to the year 2105, where they meet their own great-granddaughters, Jodie, Samantha & Freddi. The only way they are able to return to present-day Brooklyn, New York is to find The Book again within whatever time period they are in.

Dragon Masters series by Tracey West (J West)

A fully-illustrated early chapter book series filled with dragons, wizards, magic, and more! The Dragon Stone has chosen Drake, Ana, Rori, and Bo. They live in King Roland's castle in the Kingdom of Bracken. There, they learn how to connect with the dragon they have been paired with. With the help of Griffith, a wizard, they must uncover their dragons' special powers. Lots of action and colorful illustrations throughout.

Frankie Pickle series by Eric Wight (J Wright)

Franklin Lorenzo Piccolini is a fourth grader with a big imagination and an alter ego named Frankie Pickle, a mixture of adventure icons from Indiana Jones to Batman. This is a silly story with an adventure undertone. It has black-and-white cartoon graphics in a chapter-book format. We only have one of these, but there are others in the system.