



Read-A-Like list for: Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Stories about the growing pains of middle-schoolers that introduce new kinds of heroes who epitomize the challenges of being a kid. Easy and fun reads.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series – Jeff Kinney – For any child thoughtful about growing up and who may be looking for a champion, Jeff Kinney has delivered it. In this hilarious diary told through the eyes of a "wimpy kid," the author tells the story of middle-schooler Greg Heffley.
JF Kinney

Frindle – Andrew Clements – When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.
JF Clements

Lunch Money – Andrew Clements – Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find himself teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.
JF Clements

The Homework Machine Series – Dan Gutman – Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.
JF Gutman

Dexter the Tough – Margaret Peterson Haddix – A sympathetic teacher and her writing assignment help fourth-grader Dexter deal with being the new kid in school after he punches a kid on the first day.
JF Haddix

Ellie McDoodle Series – Ruth McNally Barshaw – Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps.
JF Barshaw

The Riot Brothers Series – Mary Amato – "Make something exciting happen every day." This is Rule #1 for 5th grader Wilbur and 3rd grader Orville, aka the delightfully mischievous Riot Brothers.
JF Amato

Journal of a Cardboard Genius Series – Frank Asch – Alex Archer is a supergenius and his inventions are made of cardboard, duct tape and other household supplies. Alex is convinced that his little brother Jonathan is evil. The kid never shuts up. He's a klutz, and he drools on his pillow when he sleeps. Jonathan's specialty, though, is sticking to Alex like glue — and sticking his nose into his big brother's business.
JF Asch

Middle School Is Worse Than Meatloaf: a year told through stuff – Jennifer L. Holm – Ginny starts out with ten items on her to-do list for seventh grade, but notes, cartoons, and other "stuff" reveal what seems like a thousand things that go wrong between September and June, both at school and at home.
YA F Holm

Franny K. Stein Series – Jim Benton – Franny K. Stein is a mad scientist who prefers all things spooky and creepy, but when she has trouble making friends at her new school she experiments with fitting in--which works until a monster erupts from the trashcan.
JF Benton

Jake Drake Series – Andrew Clements – A series about an earnest and likable middle-schooler, Jake, who relates stories from his experiences with bullies, science projects and being mistaken for a teacher's pet among other things.
JF Clements

Stink Series – Megan McDonald – Judy Moody's pesky younger "bother" — encyclopedia in hand, zany schemes in mind, and comical comebacks at the ready — has totally come into his own with a compelling, kid-friendly series.
JF McDonald

Adventures of Captain Underpants Series – Dav Pilkey – The bald and barefoot Captain Underpants is a superhero. He is the comic-book invention of two troublemaking fourth-graders, George and Harold. The Captain comes to life after the boys use a mail-order device to hypnotize their diabolical school principal, who sheds his outergarments and battles crime in only a cape and Y-fronts.
JF Pilkey

Wayside School Series – Louis Sachar – Unusual things continue to happen in the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.
JF Sachar

Shredderman Series – Wendelin Van Draanen – Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity--Shredderman!
JF Van Draanen

Hank Zipzer Series – Henry Winkler – The mostly true confessions of the world's best underachiever. A series about the high-spirited and funny adventures of a fourth-grader with learning differences.
JF Winkler

The Legend of Spud Murphy – Eoin Colfer – When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.
JF Colfer

Babymouse Series – Jennifer L. Holm – Comic books about a girl mouse with eye-grabbing black-and-pink graphics. This personable, self-conscious mouse, with her penchant for pink hearts, resembles Kevin Henkes's Lilly, with some extra years of grade-school experience.
J 741.5 Hol

Lucy Rose Series – Katy Kelly – Meet Lucy Rose, a not-so-average girl with a no-so-boring life. Intelligent, charming, and utterly hilarious, Lucy Rose can tell you a thing or two about herself, and has written all about it in her journal.
JF Kelly

Schooled – Gordon Korman – Homeschooled by his hippie grandmother, Capricorn (Cap) Anderson has never watched television, tasted a pizza, or even heard of a wedgie. But when his grandmother lands in the hospital, Cap is forced to move in with a guidance counselor and attend the local middle school. While Cap knows a lot about tie-dyeing and Zen Buddhism, no education could prepare him for the politics of public school.

JF Korman

Amazing Days of Abby Hayes Series – Anne Mazer – Abby Hayes is a fun and quirky fifth grader looking to find her own "super-special" talent. Squeezed between two outstanding older siblings and her protege brother, Abby is determined to make her mark. She takes solace in the words of inspiration from the 73 calendars she has in her room, and records the quotes in her purple notebook.

JF Mazer

Julep O'Toole: Miss Independent – Trudi Strain Trueit – Eleven-year-old Julep O'Toole wants to convince her mom that she is old enough to wear makeup, have a cell phone, and choose her own clothes, but it takes a creative idea from the preteen to put mother and daughter on the same wave length.

JF Trueit

Lily B. on the Brink of Cool – Elizabeth Cody Kimmel – "The eventually internationally recognized writer Lily Blennerhasset" spends her thirteenth summer missing her best friend and keeping a journal of her boring life at home and exciting newly-discovered relatives.

JF Kimmel

Amelia's Notebook Series – Marissa Moss – Moss designs this upbeat, first-person story to resemble a real diary; the cover bears the familiar black-and-white abstract design of a composition book, decorated with color cartoons by Amelia, the book's nine-year-old "author." The feisty, make-believe nine-year-old takes on a life of her own as she writes and draws her feelings.

JF Moss

No Talking – Andrew Clements – The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

JF Clements

My Weird School Series – Dan Gutman – Second grader A.J. doesn't know quite what to make of the strange grown-ups at his school. His weird school is a pretty neat place.

JF Gutman

Clementine Series – Sara Pennypacker – As Clementine says, "Spectacular ideas are always sproing up in my brain." All the better for readers who like to laugh. Clementine is an ingenuous third-grader with a talent for trouble and a good heart. Her best friend is her neighbor Margaret, a fourth-grader who experiences both qualities firsthand.

JF Pennypacker

Max Quigley: technically not a bully – James Roy – After playing a prank on one of his "geeky" classmates, sixth-grader Max Quigley's punishment is to be tutored by him.

JF Roy

Airball: my life in briefs – Lisa Harkrader – Uncoordinated Kansas seventh-grader Kirby Nickel braves his coach's ire and becomes captain of the basketball team in order to help him prove that NBA star Brett McGrew is the father he has never known.

JF Harkrader

Dear Dumb Diary Series – Jim Benton – A series about a girl braving the trials and tribulations of middle school. Read the hilarious, candid (& sometimes mean) diaries of Jamie Kelly, who promises that everything in her diary is true...or at least as true as it needs to be.

JF Benton