



Children's Realistic Fiction Book List:

Realistic Fiction seems like real life, with characters dealing with real life problems. The plot often takes place in the present time. The situations are true or could be, but the main characters are fictional.

All About Sam – Louis Lowry – The adventures of Sam, Anastasia Krupnik's younger brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous times as a toddler. 135 pages
JF Lowry

Alvin Ho Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things – Lenore Look – A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. 192 pages
JF Look

Are You There God, It's Me Margaret – Judy Blume – Faced with the difficulties of growing up and choosing a religion, a twelve-year-old girl talks over her problems with her own private God. 149 pages
JF Blume

Because of Winn Dixie – Kate DiCamillo – Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother from her preacher father. Because of Winn-Dixie, Opal makes new friends among the somewhat unusual residents of her new hometown, Naami, Florida. 182 pages
JF DiCamillo

Belle Prater's Boy – Ruth White – When Woodrow's mother suddenly disappears, he moves to his grandparents' home in a small Virginia town where he befriends his cousin and together they find the strength to face the terrible losses and fears in their lives. 196 pages
JF White

The Best School Year Ever – Barbara Robinson – The six horrible Herdmans, the worst children in the history of the world, cause mayhem throughout the school year. 117 pages
JF Robinson

Blubber – Judy Blume – Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target. 153 pages
JF Blume

The Broccoli Tapes – Jan Slepian – During a stay of several months in Hawaii with her family, Sara reports her experiences by tape back to her sixth grade class in Boston, detailing her "adoption" of a wild cat, a friendship with a troubled Hawaiian boy, and the death of a beloved grandmother. 157 pages
JF Slepian

Dear Mr. Henshaw – Beverly Cleary – In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems in coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world. 133 pages
JF Cleary

Each Little Bird that Sings – Deborah Wiles – Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begins on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great-uncle Edisto. 247 pages
JF Wiles

Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining – Anne Mazer – Abby hopes to prove that she is as great as her siblings. First in the Amazing Days of Abby Hayes series. 118 pages
JF Mazer

Firegirl – Tony Abbott – A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while receiving treatment at a local hospital. 145 pages
JF Abbott

The Friends – Kazumi Yumoto – Curious about death, three sixth-grade boys decide to spy on an old man waiting for him to die, but they end up becoming his friends. 175 pages
JF Yumoto

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E.L. Konigsburg – Having runaway with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself. 162 pages
JF Konigsburg

Games – Carol Gorman – When fourteen-year-old rivals Boot Quinn and Mick Sullivan fight once too often, the new principal devises the punishment of having to play games together at his office, where they learn which battles are worth fighting. 279 pages
JF Gorman

Getting Near to Baby – Audrey Couloubis – Although thirteen-year-old Willa Jo and her Aunt Patty seem to be constantly at odds, staying with her and Uncle Hob helps Willa Jo and her younger sister come to terms with the death of their family's baby. 211 pages
JF Couloubis

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup– Sharon Creech – With the help of her wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door. 141 pages
JF Creech

Great Gilly Hopkins – Katherine Paterson – An eleven-year-old foster child tries to cope with her longings and fears as she schemes against everyone who tries to be friendly. 148 pages
JF Paterson

Harriet, the Spy – Louise Fitzhugh – Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge. 300 pages
JF Fitzhugh

Holes – Lewis Sachar – Stanley Yelnats is unjustly sent to Camp Green Lake where he and other boys are sentenced to dig holes to build character. Stanley learns the warden has them digging holes for something else- but what? 233 pages
JF Sachar

Hoot – Carl Hiaasen – Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. 292 pages
JF Hiaasen

Hope Was Here – Joan Bauer – When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner; they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. 186 pages
JF Bauer

How to Eat Fried Worms – Thomas Rockwell – Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal. 115 pages
JF Rockwell

Ida B: --And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World – Katherine Hannigan – In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school. 246 pages
JF Hannigan

It's Not the End of the World– Judy Blume – When her parents' divorce, a sixth grader struggles to understand that sometimes people are unable to live together. 169 pages
JF Blume

Ivy + Bean – Annie Barrows – When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. First in the Ivy + Bean series. 120 pages
JF Barrows

Judy Moody – Megan McDonald – Third grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece, the Me collage. First in a series. 160 pages
JF McDonald

Maniac Magee – Jerry Spinelli – After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. 184 pages
JF Spinelli

The Million Dollar Shot – Dan Gutman – Eleven-year-old Eddie gets a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals. 114 pages
JF Gutman

Missing May – Cynthia Rylant – After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living. 89 pages
JF Rylant

Moving Day – Meg Cabot – Nine-year-old Allie Finkle has rules for everything and is even writing her own rule book, but her world is turned upside-down when she learns that her family is moving across town, which will mean a new house, school, best friend, and plenty of new rules. First in the Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls series. 228 pages
JF Cabot

My Side of the Mountain – Jean Craighead George – A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, his dependence on nature, his animal friends, and his ultimate realization that he needs human companionship. 177 pages
JF George

Odd Man Out – Sarah Ellis – Kip goes to British Columbia to visit his grandmother and five girl cousins. While there he finds an unexpected treasure--an old black binder that once belonged to his dead father. 162 pages
JF Ellis

On My Honor – Marion Bauer – When his best friend drowns while they are both swimming in a treacherous river that they had promised never to go near, Joel is devastated and terrified at having to tell both sets of parents the terrible consequences of their disobedience. 90 pages
JF Bauer

Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great – Judy Blume – A summer in Tarrytown, New York, is a lot of fun for ten-year-old Sheila even though her friends make her face up to some self-truths she doesn't want to admit. 138 pages
JF Blume

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits and a Very Interesting Boy – Jeanne Birdsall – While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. Followed by **The Penderwicks on Gardam Street** and **The Penderwicks at Point Mouette**. 262 pages
JF Birdsall

Replay: A New Book – Sharon Creech – While preparing for a role in the school play, twelve-year-old Leo finds an autobiography that his father wrote as a teenager and ponders the ways people change as they grow up. 180 pages
JF Creech

Shiloh – Phyllis Reynolds Naylor – When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. 144 pages
JF Naylor

The Sloppy Copy Slipup – DyAnne DiSalvo – Fourth-grader Brian Higman worries about how his teacher Miss Fromme--nicknamed The General--will react when he fails to hand in a writing assignment, but he ends up being able to tell his story after all. 103 pages
JF DiSalvo

Sounder – William Howard Armstrong – Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding by learning to read and through his relationship with his devoted dog Sounder. 116 pages
JF Armstrong

Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers – Megan McDonald – A class visit to the Gross-Me-Out exhibit at the science museum inspires Stink Moody to create a variety of terrible smells to put on the sneakers he plans to enter in the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneaker contest. 130 pages
JF McDonald

Stone Fox – John Reynolds Gardiner – Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters. 96 pages
JF Gardiner

The Summer of Swans – Betsy Byars – A teen-age girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost. 142 pages
JF Byars

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing – Judy Blume – Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem. First in the Fudge series. 120 pages
JF Blume

Then Again, Maybe I Won't – Judy Blume – Unable to accept or explain his family's newly acquired wealth, his growing interest in sex, and a friend's shoplifting habit, a thirteen-year-old finds the pains in his stomach getting worse and worse. 164 pages
JF Blume

There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom – Louis Sachar – An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too. 195 pages
JF Sachar

Welcome to Camden Falls – Ann M. Martin – Two sisters have to move to a new place after their parents die, and they adjust and make new friends. First in the Main Street series. 174 pages
JF Martin

Wonder – R.J. Palacio – Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. 315 pages
JF Palacio