GRPS Recommended Book List

Second-Third Grade

Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing
By James Weldon Johnson

Stellaluna
By Janell Cannon

Mimi’s Tutu
By Tynia Thomassie
Illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist

Erandi’s Braids
By Antonio Hernandez Madrigal
Illustrated by Tomie dePaola

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat
Written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

Freedom in Congo Square
By Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Thunder Boy Jr.
By Sherman Alexie
Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Rainbow Stew
Written and illustrated by Catheryn Falwell

The Story I’ll Tell
By Nancy Tupper Ling and Jessica Lanan

One Green Apple
By Eve Bunting
Illustrated by Ted Lewin

My Name Is Sangoel
By Karen Lynn Williams, Khadra Mohammed, and Catherine Stock

If I Ran for President
By Catherine Stier
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Second-Third Grade

Amazing Grace *(Grace)*
By Mary Hoffman
Illustrated by Caroline Binch

The Selfish Giant
By Oscar Wilde
Illustrated by S. Saelig Gallagher

Charlotte's Web
By E.B. White
Illustrated by Garth Williams and Rosemary Wells

Diego
Translated by Jonah Winter and Amy Prince
Illustrated by Jeanette Winter

Mr. Popper's Penguins
By Richard Atwater and Florence Atwater
Illustrated by Robert Lawson

Woman Who Outshone the Sun / La mujer que brillaba aún más que el sol
(English/Spanish bilingual)
By Alejandro Cruz Martinez

The Story of Ruby Bridges
By Robert Coles
Illustrated by George Ford

My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito
By Amada Irma Pérez and Maya Christina González

The Great Kapok Tree
By Lynne Cherry

Black and White
By David Macaulay

The Hundred Dresses
By Eleanor Estes
Illustrated by Louis Slobodkin
GRPS Recommended Book List

Second-Third Grade

It Looked Like Spilt Milk
By Charles G. Shaw

Frog and Toad Are Friends (Frog and Toad #1)
By Arnold Lobel

All the World a Poem
By Gilles Tibo

Book of Mistakes
By Corinna Luyken

Boys Dancing: From School Gym to Theater Stage
By George Ancona

The Capital Catch (Ballpark Mysteries)
By David A. Kelly

Colette’s Lost Pet
By Isabelle Arsenault

Counting Sheep
By Jacqueline Kelly

Float Like a Butterfly
By Ntozake Shange

Flowers for Sarajevo
By John McCutcheon

The Great Antonio
By Elise Gravel

Independence Cake
By Deborah Hopkinson

Jasmine Toguchi: Mochi Queen
By Debbi Michiko Florence

John Ronald’s Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien
By Caroline McAlister
Lighter than Air: Sophie Blanchard, the First Woman Pilot
By Matthew Clark Smith

One Is Not a Pair: A Spotting Book
By Britta Teckenbrup

Pedal Power: How One Community Became the Bicycle Capital of the World
By Allan Drummond

7 Ate 9: The Untold Story
By Tara Lazar

Sprout Street Neighbors: A New Arrival
By Anna Alter

Story Worlds Nature
By Thomas Hegbrook

Who Wants to Be a Princess?
By Bridget Heos

The Whale
By Ethan Murrow and Vita Murrow

Under the Same Sun
By Sharon Robinson
Illustrated by AG Ford

If Kids Ran the World
Written and illustrated by Diane Dillon and Leo Dillon

The Tiny Seed
Written and illustrated by Eric Carle

So You Want to Be President?
By Judith St. George
Illustrated by David Small

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers
Written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein
**GRPS Recommended Book List**

**Second-Third Grade**

**Coming on Home Soon**  
By Jacqueline Woodson  
Illustrated by E. B. Lewis

**Owl Moon**  
By Jane Yolen  
Illustrated by John Schoenherr

**Frog and Toad All Year**  
By Arnold Lobel

**Danitra Brown Leaves Town**  
By Nikki Grimes

**Ramona Quimbly, Age 8**  
By Beverly Cleary

**Only Passing Through**  
Written and illustrated by Anne Rockwell

**Leo the Late Bloomer**  
By Robert Kraus

**Harlem**  
By Walter Dean Myers

**Wings**  
By Christopher Myers

**Circle Unbroken**  
By Margo Raven

**The People Could Fly: The Picture Book**  
By Virginia Hamilton  
Illustrated by Diane Dillon and Leo Dillon

**Who’s In Rabbit’s House: A Masai Tale**  
By Verna Aardema  
Illustrated by Diane Dillon
GRPS Recommended Book List

Second-Third Grade

Iktomi Loses His Eyes: A Plains Indian Story
By Paul Goble

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake
By Laura Joffe Numeroff

Henry’s Freedom Box
By Ellen Levin

Gone Crazy in Alabama
By Rita Williams-Garcia

Junebug
By Alice Mead

How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay
By Julia Alvarez
Illustrated by Tatsuro Kiuchi

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson
By Bette Bao Lord
Illustrated by Marc Simont
Major Themes in "Lift Every Voice and Sing": Endurance, freedom, suffering, and joy are the major themes of this poem. The poem celebrates the victory and liberty of African-American people. It also gives an account of their painful path and discusses the way they have struggled for their betterment.

Imagery: Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, "Lift every voice and sing"; "Come to the place for which our fathers sighed" and "We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered." Symbolism: Symbolism means to use symbols to signify ideas and qualities, giving them symbolic meanings different from literal meanings. Singing is the symbol of joy and freedom, while stony roads are the symbol of their sufferings. This arrangement of the words of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" with the melody of "The Star Spangled Banner" became part of the titular suite on her 2011 CD release, The Voice of My Beautiful Country.[6]. On January 20, 2009, the Rev. On September 24, 2016, this song was sung by mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and chorus at the conclusion of the opening ceremonies of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, at which Obama delivered the keynote address. On October 19, 2017, when white nationalist leader Richard Spencer spoke at the University of Florida, the university’s carillon played "Lift Every Voice and Sing" to convey a message of unity.[7].