

Parent Guide to

LUCKY

Grades 2–3 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your independent reader

October
2007

Get your
Parent Guide to Lucky
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your **Lucky**
October Book Club flyer.

Horrible Harry and the Triple Revenge by Suzy Kline

Who it's for: Pranksters and
their pals

Why we chose it: Harry's a
troublemaker with a heart
of gold.

Kids weigh in: "I couldn't
wait to see what Harry
would do!"



Nighttime: Too Scared to Sleep by Todd Strasser

Who it's for: Readers who
want a little scare

Why we chose it: Seven
spooky stories in one spot!

Parents say: "Perfect for
Halloween happenings."



Monday With a Mad Genius by Mary Pope Osborne

Who it's for: Fans of the
Magic Tree House series

Why we chose it: Jack and
Annie meet Leonardo da
Vinci.

Kids weigh in: "I love
traveling through time!"



Choosing Books for Your Child

In school, she is reading poetry, plays, and fiction and starting to complete book reports. She may also be making trips to the library with her class and selecting her own books. To foster a love for reading, fill your home library with a wide variety of nonfiction and fiction books that she can enjoy.



How does the book look?

Introduce chapter books with stories about kids like her. Chapter books for this age group often have illustrations to make the transition from picture books easier. Look for books of 200 pages or less.

Is it the right reading level?

Check with the teacher to find out your child's reading level. While the books he reads should introduce new vocabulary, it is important to make sure that they aren't frustratingly hard.

Will my child enjoy it?

She is developing her own preferences for reading materials — finding favorite authors, genres, and styles — so encourage her to tell you what she wants to read. If she is reluctant to try chapter books, tempt him with humor. Try the Captain Underpants series, Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, Louis Sachar's *Dogs Don't Tell Jokes*, James Howe's *Bunnicula*, and Judy Blume's *Freckle Juice*.

Parent to Parent

October is Children's Magazine Month! Give literacy skills a boost by subscribing to a periodical related to your child's favorite hobbies and interests.

Ask an Expert

**My son is losing
interest in reading with
me at night. Help!**

Think of selecting books according to how they might be used:

A **read-aloud** book is one that you read to your child at special times — like bedtime or in a comfy chair on a rainy afternoon. These books should always be well *above* your child's independent reading level because you are the one in control of the reading.

A **read with** book is one that you and your child read together. Now, however, the primary control of the book is in your child's hands, as for the most part, your child will be the one reading aloud. These books should be generally *at or slightly above* your child's reading level.

A **read alone** book is just that — a book that your child selects and then reads on her own, perhaps at night after spending earlier time with a read-aloud. The key to book selection here depends upon the broad foundation you set in the above experiences.

Meet Our Expert: Francie Alexander is Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Scholastic. Francie has taught at all levels, from kindergarten to elementary grades to college.

Integrate Reading Into Everyday Life

As early as 3rd grade, many kids become less interested in reading for fun. Try these simple ways to encourage a positive and fun attitude toward language:

Everyone's a Critic

If your child is hard to pry from the TV, encourage him to write reviews of his favorite shows so he can tell you why watching the show is valuable. Works for music and movies too!

Keep a Calendar

Give your child a wall calendar and encourage her to write down assignments, dates, games, and even what you had for dinner. Simple tasks like this show how useful writing and reading can be and keep her practicing basic skills.

Comics and Baseball Cards

Keep your child reading in nontraditional ways through comic books, baseball cards, and trading cards. Since they're easy to carry, they're great for car trips and waiting in line.

Assign a News Story

Have your child investigate an everyday mystery. Give him a notebook and ask him to find out and report back on what everyone thinks about cuckoo clocks or zucchini or the ideal bedtime.

Tell Ghost Stories

Bring storytelling into your routine and exchange a new eerie tale every week. Your child will enjoy searching for the next thrilling tale.

Scary Story Starters

Write your own terrifying tale! Use these opening lines to get started. Everyone in the family can try their hand at this — you can either write your stories down (try illustrating them too!) or tell them aloud (sound effects optional).

1. It was a cold Halloween night when I saw the . . .
2. The mad scientist was creating a new monster that could . . .
3. The large cauldron of purple liquid started to boil when . . .
4. I got an eerie feeling when I heard . . .
5. The mysterious object started floating in the air and . . .
6. The Halloween pumpkin turned into a . . .
7. The black cat started to crouch and hiss when . . .
8. Something in the closet was making a strange noise, so I opened the door and . . .
9. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw . . .
10. As I carefully entered the haunted house, the door shut behind me and . . .

Starters adapted from *A Cauldron of Halloween Ideas* by Lorrie L. Birchall (Scholastic Professional Books)

Reading Is Giving

ClassroomsCare is a terrific way for kids to share their love of reading — and make a difference. Students in classrooms around the country are encouraged to read 100 books to give 100 books to kids in need (up to one million books)! Together, Scholastic Book Clubs and caring classrooms nationwide have donated more than 5 million books to under-resourced schools since the program launched in 2002. That's something young readers can be proud of! And this year, we're launching a brand new online community (www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) where classrooms can connect with each other and share their love of reading.

Reading Milestones

Use this guide to reading milestones to track your child's progress this year.

In 2nd grade (RL 2.0 to 2.9), your child is learning to:

- Sound out new words
- Read simple sentences independently
- Comprehend basic plots and characters as she reads
- Read with expression
- Know when she makes a mistake
- Recognize multi-letter syllables in words (i.e., ti - ger)

In 3rd grade (RL 3.0 to 3.9), your child is learning to:

- Figure out a word from the context
- Read full pages of text with short paragraphs
- Sound out multisyllabic words
- Read quickly and accurately
- Relate what he reads to his own experiences
- Read for information and take notes

Beyond Books

Host a Halloween scavenger hunt. Make a list of "spooky" items (like jack-o'-lantern or witch's potion) that your child and his friends need to find in your house or around the neighborhood. Provide written clues that lead to the treasures.

Daily Reading Fun

Play a board game! Scrabble and Boggle are especially good for building vocabulary and spelling, but most games include reading opportunities, including kid versions of Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, and Clue.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Parent Guide to Lucky

Your Parent Guide to Lucky is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit www.scholastic.com/read.