BOOKS FOR MIDDLE AND UPPER PRIMARY

* Australian author

**Simple**

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. *Burglar Bill.*  
A lovable villain acquires a box with a crying, nappy-wetting baby inside. Betty who happens to have lost that box, burgles Bill.

Also Happy Families series, Funny Bones, and Cops and Robbers

Bone, Ian. *Maddy in the Middle.* Illustrated by Mitch Vane.  
Maddie, as the middle child doesn't have a special place in her family until Silky the cat becomes ill.

Also Shoo Cat Illustrated by Mitch Vane

Browne, Anthony. *Willy the Wimp.*  
A very funny picture book about Willy who wouldn't hurt a fly.

Also Willy the Champ, Willy the Wizard, A Walk in the Park, Gorilla, Through the Magic Mirror, Piggy Book, The Tunnel, Changes, Willy the Dreamer, Voices in the Park.

Castor, Harriet. *Fat Puss and Friends.*  
Just what you ordered - a funny 'chapter' book for those who aren't quite up to one but want to be.

Also Fat Puss on Wheels.

Cole, Babette. *Trouble with Mum* etc  
Characteristically illustrated, improbable stories about eccentric relatives.

Also Prince Cinders and Princess Smartypants two non-sexist tales with endearing characters; Hair in funny Places

Dubosarsky, Ursula. *The Two Gorillas.* Illustrated by Mitch Vane.  
Becky's two toy gorillas are put through the mill in this very clever, droll story.

Harnett, Sonya. *Sadie and Ratz*  
Hannah has two bad hands who get her into and out of trouble. But what does Boy think he is doing? Wonderful story with rich language from one of best writers.

Hoban, Russell. *Bread and Jam for Frances.*  
Frances will only eat bread and jam until she begins to know 'how a jam jar feels.'

Also Bedtime for Frances, A Babysitter for Frances

List prepared by Pam Macintyre, University of Melbourne, 2013.
Ostensibly Tom is a very naughty cat who gets up to all sorts of tricks and adventures, but plenty of children will identify with him.

Also *Old Tom at the Beach; Old Tom Goes to Mars*

*Kettle, Phil* **Too Cool series**
Popular series centred around various sporting pursuits, from bike riding to AFL. Rich use of sprot-specific terminology supported by glossaries.

Leaf, Munro. The Story of Ferdinand.

Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad are Friends, etc*
Witty stories with delicate illustrations throughout.

Also *Mouse Tales.*

McNaughton, Colin. Boo!; Oops!; Suddenly
Follow the adventures of Preston Pig as he attempts to outwit the wily wolf in these wonderful plays on fairytales.

Also *Crazy Bear.*
Crazy stories of Crazy Bear’s predicaments with plenty of loopy humour and language.

*Metzenthen, David* Winning the World Cup
Back yard soccer is a passion for the groups of friends from various parts of the planet, and provides friendship for a newcomer.

*Moloney, James.* Blue Hair Day. Illustrated by Leigh Hobbs
Margo and Sonya decide to give Grandma a surprise by dying her hair violently, shockingly midnight blue in this light hearted story.

A delightful counter-sexist fairytale.

Also *Moira's Birthday*

*Oliver, Narelle* What a Goat! Illustrated by David Cox
Ernie the goat behaves like his friend Jody the farm dog – sort of, in this delightful tale of a family’s recognition of a boy’s loved pet.

*Rippin, Sally.* Twin Trouble.
Fat Cheeks longs for an identical twin, not the twin brother, Little Bean, that she has.

Also *What mess, Fang Fang!*

*Wagner, Michael* Maxx Rumble series
Ever plucky Maxx faces the footy field no matter what is dished up to him and
sometimes his team wins.

Wells, Rosemary. *Stanley and Rhoda.*
A brother uses subtle psychology on his mischievous younger sister.

**Harder**

Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. *Jeremiah in the Dark Woods.*
Farcical story in true, irreverent Ahlberg style with wonderful illustrations and demanding text.

Also *A Pair of Sinners; Happy Families* series

Aiken, Joan. *Fog Hound, Wind Cat, Sea Mice.*
Marvellous, mysterious stories by a superb writer.

**Baillie, Allan The Excuse**
When you have a teacher who seems to accept any excuse for being late, the challenge is to invent the most outrageous one of all.

Blume, Judy. *Freckle Juice.*
No, not a recipe to get rid of them but how to have some!

Bond, Michael. *A Bear Called Paddington.*
The Brown family adopt a bear from Peru. Lots of fun.

Brown, Jeff. *Flat Stanley.*
A time-proven favourite of how Stanley Lambchop copes with being flattened by his bulletin board.

**Caisely, Raewyn. The Mermaid’s Tail.** Illustrated by Ann James
Crystal longs to be a mermaid but she knows it is all pretense until a dolphin visits her.

Colfer, Eoin. *The Legend of Spud Murphy*
Wonderfully witty story of how Will and his brother Marty become readers when their mother sends them to the local library during the holidays, either despite, or because of Spud Murphy, the terrifying librarian with a spud gun and dark sense of humour

Dahl, Roald. *The Enormous Crocodile; Fantastic Mr Fox; The Magic Finger; The Twits; George's Marvellous Medicine.*
Pick any title for a sure fire winner with this age group.

**Disher, Garry. Ermyntrude takes Charge.**
Ermyntrude, the piano with attitude, helps the family to adjust to a new place, and a life without Dad.

**Fienberg, Anna. Tashi; Tashi and the Giants; Tashi and the Ghost; Tashi and the Genie; Tashi and the Baba Yaga.** Illustrated by Kim Gamble
Tashi is a cheeky imaginary friend of Jack’s and tells marvellous stories evoking folk and fairy tales.
*Flynn, Pat. The Tuckshop Kid; The Toilet Kid; Witty books that tackle childhood issues with tact and respect.

*Gleeson, Libby. Queen of the Universe. Illustrated by David Cox A younger sibling who always seems to miss out gets a chance when things do not work out for an older sister, with a surprising twist.

*Griffiths, Andy. The Cat on the Mat is Flat; The Cow that went Kapow; The Bad Book. Irreverent, hilarious doggerel and other verse.. Guaranteed winners.

*Jennings, Paul. The Gizmo; The Gizmo Again; Come Back Gizmo. Familiar Jennings' magical stories with full colour illustrations by Keith McEwan

Also The Paw Thing; Singenpoo Strikes Again; Singenpoo Shoots Through

King-Smith, Dick. The Hodgeheg. A delightful introduction for this age group to the author's highly individual animals.

Also Friends and Brothers; George Speaks; The Jenius.

*Klein, Robin. Thing; Junk Castle; The Enemies; Thalia the Failure; Barney's Blues; Gabby's Fair All interest grabbers from a favourite author.

Lamourisse, Albert. The Red Balloon. The classic story of a lonely boy and his magical balloon.

Le Guin, Ursula. Cat Wings. A gentle story of kittens who are born with wings, beautifully illustrated.


Also Toby's Millions; Alison Gets Told.

*MacLeod, Doug. Sister Madge's Book of Nuns. Hilarious verse about surprising nuns.

*Murphy, Sally. Pearl verses the World Delightful and surprisingly rich verse novel about young Pearl ('I am in a group of one') adapting to big changes in her life.

Also Toppling

*Nilsson, Eleanor. The Black Duck. Parents underestimate how much a pet means to their son.

Also The 89th Kitten; Pearl's Pantry
*Orr, Wendy.  *Ark in the Park.*  
*Mr and Mrs Noah built the best pet shop in the world, Noah’s Ark and it turns out to be special for them and for Sophie.*

Also *Yassou Nikki;*

*Rodda, Emily.  *Crumbs!  
*Ellie, Pete’s baby sister develops a sinister alter ego when she eats Brown’s Bonzer Baby Biscuits.*

Also *Bob the Builder and the Elves*

*Rubinstein, Gillian.  *Jake and Pete.*  
*These two kitkids have got it hard in the cat survival stakes as one can’t smell and the other’s eyesight isn’t too hot. Very funny, witty and playful with language.*

Also *The Giant’s Tooth; Jake and Pete and the Stray Dogs; Jake and Pete and the Catcrowbats*

Ryan, John.  *Captain Pugwash. etc.*  
*Pugwash, a totally incompetent and cowardly pirate is always rescued by his smart cabin boy.*

Swindells, Robert.  *The Ice Palace.*  
*Gripping, at times scary story of a boy’s search for his brother who was taken to the Ice Palace.*

Also *Dracula’s Castle; The Right Royal Kidnap.*

Tomlinson, Jill.  *The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark.*  
*Appealing story of a timid owl, Plop, who eventually overcomes his apprehension.*

*Rebecca is obsessed with food until Emma sorts her out.*

*How does a town cope when the bums of all its citizens are stolen? Typical, irreverent Winton.*

*Wrightson, Patricia.  *Rattler’s Place.*  
*Guy is unsettled at the move to the country until he is caught up in solving the small mystery of ‘Rattler’.*

Also series like ‘Jets’ (Young Lions); ‘Young Puffins’ ‘Aussie Bites’ ‘Aussie Nibbles’ (Penguin); ‘Hippo Books’ ‘Ripper’ (Scholastic); ‘Young Corgi’ (Hamish Hamilton); ‘Read it Yourself (Gollancz) ‘Dipper’, ‘Solo’ (Omnibus) ‘Flippers’ (Pan Macmillan) ‘Skinny Books’ (Angus & Robertson) ‘Young Bluegum’ (Angus & Robertson) ‘Little Ark’ (Allen & Unwin) ‘Storybridge’ (UQP)
Captures beautifully, the politics of the playground. Lara is in Year 5, but she sorts out (for better or ill!) friendship issues for kids right across the school.

*Barnes, Rory. *Horsehead Boy.*
A very loopy story of a boy who, after a terrible accident finds his brain transplanted into a wheelie bin by a mad scientist

*Barton, Colleen. *I Findem, P.I*
These are very witty detective stories with a strong Australian flavour for young readers to pit their wits against.

*Bateson, Cahterine. *Rain May and Captain Daniel; Being Bee;* Small but insightful stories of children’s negotiations with changing worlds.

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing; Superfudge; Fudge-a-mania.*
Funny accounts of Peter’s trials and tribulations with his younger brother Fudge.

*Bowles, Colin. *Surfing Mr Petrovic*
Tao is hurt and angry that his parents have separated and begins a course of self destruction until the confrontation with Mr Petrovic starts the healing process in this unsentimental, direct story.

*Carey, Peter. *The Big Bazoochley.*
Sam gets caught up in the bizarre world of advertising competitions. You’ll be reminded of Strictly Ballroom in this romp by one of Australia’s leading writers.

*Carr, Roger Vaughan. *The Split Creek Kids; Nipper and the Gold-Turkey.*
Very funny stories which evoke rural life in coastal Victoria.

*Caswell, Brian. *Mike; Lisdalia; Maddie*
These are companion stories about ordinary, suburban Australian children written engagingly and with insight by one of our major writers.

Also Alien Zones series

*Clark, Margaret. *Weird Warren; Butterfingers; Britt the Boss; Wally the Whiz Kid.*
These are all part of the Mango Street stories set in primary school. They have Clark’s characteristic, wacky, irreverent humour.

*Clark, Sherryl. *Sixth Grade Style queen, Not!*
Twelve-year-old Dawn doesn't know where she belongs. It's not with the style queens at school. And it's not at home, where her parents are fighting. Powerful, punchy, optimistic verse novel.
Also Meet Rose (Our Australian Girl series)

DiCamillo, Kate. *Because of Winn Dixie*
Utterly charming story of India Opal Buloni and the dog she adopts which helps several inhabitants of Naomi, Florida over some rough patches.

Also *The Magician's Elephant; The Tale of Despereaux*

*Dickins, Barry. *Joey: a Dog for All Seasons.*
Joey from the pound joins the family and we follow his life from cheeky puppy to loved old dog. Metaphorically it is about the seasons of life.

A beautifully told, moving story, set during the Depression about a boy and his father finding common ground.

Also *Walk Twenty, Run Twenty*
An orphaned city boy finds courage and resourcefulness in a time of emergency in the country, in this exciting adventure story.

It can be exciting when your mother is an author and her characters suddenly appear at the breakfast table. But is it as much fun to visit their land?

*Fienberg, Anna. *Madeline the Mermaid and Other Fishy Tales.* Illustrated by Ann James
Madeline is young, feisty, redheaded mermaid who has adventures that evoke other fairy tales.

Fine, Anne. *Bill's New Frock.*
Bill wakes up one day to find that he is a girl!

*Flynn, Rachel. *I Hate Fridays; It's not Fair; I Can't Wait; Worried Sick.*
These are funny, lively stories about Koala Hills Primary School except for the last one in which the students are now at Koala Hills Secondary School.

*Forrestal, Elaine* *Someone Like Me*
Tas is constantly in trouble at school, but trouble takes on a different meaning when he makes friends with Enya, a new girl at school. This book has a surprising revelation at its conclusion.

Also *Graffiti on the Fence and Leaving No Footprints*

*Fowler, Thurley. *A Hippo Doing Backstroke.*
Greg overcomes his weight problem with the help of his tough but loving Grandmother.

Also *Not Again Dad! That's Enough Paul*

*Freeman, Pamela* *Victor’s Quest*
Victor is not the brightest of princes, but shows that ordinariness can have its
own virtues on his quest to find a princess. A wonderful witty and satirical introduction to the fantasy quest novel for young readers.

Also The Willow Tree’s Daughter, Windrider and The Centre of Magic

*French, Jackie. Rainstones.
A collection of strong stories about how children deal with crises.

Also Walking the Boundaries; The Secret Beach; Somewhere Around the Corner; Soldier on the Hill; Daughter of the Regiment; Hitler’s Daughter etc

A younger sibling of older twins, Hannah is very worried when her mother becomes pregnant. Her behaviour becomes outrageous in this funny and insightful book.
Also Hannah and the Tomorrow Room

*Gleitzman, Morris. Misery Guts; Worry Warts; Puppy Fat
Keith wants terribly to cheer up his gloomy parents but all his efforts seem to twist out of his grasp with hilarious consequences.
Also Blabber Mouth; Sticky Beak; Water Wings; Belly Flop; Bumface; Toad Rag; Adults Only; Toad Heaven; Once; Then; Now; Grace

*Godwin, Jane. Minnie and the Superguys
Exciting adventure led by eleven-year-old Minne. Three Chinese boys appear in her life with a mystery from the past to be solved. Set in Bendigo.

*Griffiths, Andy. Just Tricking; Just Annoying; Just Awful; Just Crazy
These are very popular, very funny, episodic stories, set around Melbourne, matched by Terry Denton’s illustrations, jokes, comments!
Also The Day My Bum Went Psycho

*Hartnett, Sonya. The Silver Donkey
A charming story of children in France during World War 1 finding a blind soldier who wants to return to England. Interwoven are donkey stories, such as Simpson and his donkey and the Nativity.

*Herrick, Stephen. The Spangled Drongo.
A funny, clever and moving verse novel about a soccer mad boy and his friendships and his unusual aunt. Highly Recommended.
Also Do-wrong Ron

Antonio wants to meet the mysterious Mr Guzman who lives in his huge house and who has a secret room. Enchanting and demanding.

Also Bartlett and the Ice Voyage; Hazel Green; Bartlett and the City of Flames; Something’s Fishy Hazel Green, Frankel Mouse; Have Courage Hazel Green; Bartlett and the Forest of Plenty
*Honey, Elizabeth. *Don't Pat the Wombat
The Coconuts go on school camp, where they must deal with a bullying teacher as well as the usual grade 6 camp escapades in this funny and serious winner of a book, illustrated by the author’s 12 year old son.

Also 45 & 47 Stella Street and Everything that Happened; What Do You Think Feezal?; Fiddleback; Remote Man

Hughes, Ted. *The Iron Man.
’Where had he come from? Nobody knows’ but there he stood, tall as a house on the edge of a cliff. A modern myth from a poet laureate.

Also *The Iron Woman

*Hyde, Michael Change the Game series
AFL meets choose-your-own-adventure in these terrific books by a sports writer as well as novelist for young people

*Jennings, Paul. *Unreal!; Uncanny!; Unbelievable! Uncovered! Unseen etc.
Sure fire winners from a proven popular author.

*Kidd, Diana. *Onion Tears.
Nam Huong is the only member of her family still alive in a new country, in this moving story.

Also The Day Grandma Came to Stay and Spoilt My Life; The Fat and Juicy Place; Spider and the King; Two Hands Together

King-Smith, Dick. *Martin’s Mice.
Martin is an endearing cat who likes mice as friends not as dinner.

Also for the good readers *The Sheep Pig (better known as Babe)

*Laguna, Sofie. *Meet Grace. *(Our Australian Girl series)*
Orphan Grace is a ‘mudlark’ searching the mudflats of the Thames, when she is arrested for stealing. A compassionate judge sentences her to transportation rather than hanging. It is 1808.

Leeson, Robert. *Hey, Robin.*
Robin longs to be brave and his courage is truly tested on his quest.

Also The Right Royal Kidnap; Smart Girls Forever

*Lester, Alison. *The Quicksand Pony
An evocatively told story of childhood in Gippsland with a mystery at its heart.

Also *The Snow Pony, an even better story of horses and Gippsland

Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.*
The first of the Narnia books which makes an excellent first dip into high magic for younger readers.
The ever-popular 'strongest girl in the world' stories. Appeals to most children.

*Lloyd, Alison* Meet Letty (Our Australian Girl series)
*In 1841, Letty inadvertently finds herself on a ship to Australia in the company of her older sister, arriving in Sydney at the close of this first installment.*

*McDonald, Meme & Boori Pryor* My Girragundj; The Binna Binna Man
*In an innovative format an Aboriginal childhood is brought to life with humour and terrific storytelling*

Mahy, Margaret. *Chocolate Porridge and Other Stories.*
A collection of magical stories by a writer with a great sense of loopy humour.

*Marsden, John* Looking for Trouble.
Tony, Phil and Luke form LFT to investigate mysterious happenings in their street. In journal format, it is funny and wise.

Also Staying Alive in Year Five; Creep Street; Cool School

*Mattingley, Christobel.* No Gun for Asmir.
This is the true story of seven-year-old Asmir and his family who flee their home in Sarajevo. Also Asmir in Vienna and Escape from Sarajevo.

Also Windmill at Magpie Creek; Tiger's Milk; Worm Weather; The Big Swim; The Sack.

*Mayle, Peter and Arthur Robins.* The Amazing Adventures of Chilly Billy.
Chilly Billy is the little man who lives in your fridge and turns the light on - but he's very hard to catch.

*Measday, Stephen* A Pig Called Francis Bacon
Lucy makes friends with the remarkable learned pig, in this funny and serious story about the implications of genetic engineering.

Also My Friend Roger Bacon

*Millard, Glenda* The Naming of Tishkin Silk; Layla Queen of Hearts; Perry Angel's Suitcase; The Colour of Sunshine.
Beautifully crafted stories about the atypical Silk family and its ability to include lost souls. Utterly without sentimentality.

Milligan, Spike. Dip the Puppy; Bad Jelly the Witch.
Two zany stories by someone who knows just how silly stories for children can be.

*Moloney, James.* Swashbuckler
A surprising but important friendship develops between two troubled boys, one whose father is dying and the other's whose father is a destructive gambler, in a story which nevertheless is told with a light touch.
Also Buzzard Breath & Brains

*Orr, Wendy.  *Nim’s Island
Nim is a singular girl who proves her mettle in this charming adventure story.

*Phillips, Juanita.  *The Newspaper Kids; Mandy Miama and the Miracle Motel
Hugo, Frankie, Jasper and Toby have many adventures, real and virtual in search of the news that matters.

Reid Banks, Lynne.  *The Indian in the Cupboard; The Return of the Indian.
What happens when your toy Indian comes alive?

Richler, Mordecai.  *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang; Jacob Two-Two and the Dinosaurs.
’I’m two plus two years old’ says Jacob who is the youngest and misses out on all the adventures until he meets the horrible Hooded Fang!

*Rodda, Emily.  *Finder’s Keepers; The Timekeeper.
Exciting stories of Patrick and his journeys across to the ‘other side’.

Also  *Pigs Might Fly; Something Special; The Best Kept Secret; Rowan of Rin; Rowan and the Travellers; Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal; Rowan and the Zebak; Deltora Quest; Deltora Quest 2

*Rubinstein, Gillian.  *Answers to Brut.
A really gripping mystery/adventure story centred around a bull terrier.  
Also  *Melanie and the Night Animal.

Short, fast-moving who-dunnits, to ensnare reluctant ones.  Ten mysteries solved in one book.

Starke, Ruth  *Nips XI.
A funny, clever story of Lan and his multicultural cricket team who want to assert their sameness, rather than always having to be different.

Also  *Saving Saddler Street; Nips go National; Noodlepie

Snicket, Lemony.  *A Series of Unfortunate Events series
The darkly, funny and witty gothic tales of the poor Baudelaire orphans and their attempts to outwit the evil Count Olaf.  
One of the most original series for children in a long time.

*Stephens, Michael.  *Ghost Train.
In a fast-paced romp across the galaxies, Harry finds himself aboard a very strange train, perhaps never to return to his parents and home.

Also  *Eddy the Great; A Flock of Blats; Blat Magic

*Thiele, Colin.  *Storm Boy,
A moving story of a lonely boy who raises an orphaned pelican.

Also The Hammerhead Light; River Murray Mary; Farmer Schulz's Ducks; Brahminy.

* Wang, Gabrielle. The Garden of Empress Cassia
  Mimi is given a box of magic pastels, which transport people inside her
drawing of the Garden of Empress Cassia. But the pastels are ancient,
mysterious and powerful, and there is danger.

Also A ghost in my Suitcase; Meet Poppy (Our Australian girl series)

* Walker, Kate. I Hate Books.
  Hamish loves stories but is in danger of hating them when he has to learn to
read in this clever, funny but poignant story.

  One of the best-loved of all books, the story of a pig who is befriended by a
beautiful spider.

Also Stuart Little.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. Little House in the Big Woods. etc.
  Based on the author's childhood in pioneering America. Much, much better
than the insipid television series. Don't be put off!

Williams, Ursula Moray. Gobbolino the Witch's Cat.
  Gobbolino didn't make the grade as a witch's cat, so defects and goes in
search of a friendly kitten.

and many more!