Looking to start a new middle-grade book series? There are so many different ones to choose from!

If you have an idea of what you like to read, pick a category below and flip to that page to find some books that match it:

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Animal Heroes

Warrior cats, guardian owls, dragons with destinies... who says humans always have to save the day? If you like animal heroes, you might like:

**Bravelands**
by Erin Hunter
Guided Reading Level: W
In this series: When a murderer breaks the code of honor and sends the Bravelands into chaos, it’s up to a lion, a baboon, and an elephant to restore peace.

**Guardians of Ga’Hoole**
by Kathryn Lasky
Guided Reading Level: U–Y
In this series: After Soren the owl is pushed from his nest, he starts on a fantastical path to become a guardian of the Great Ga’Hoole Tree, dedicated to doing good deeds and fighting evil in the forest.

**Seekers**
by Erin Hunter
Guided Reading Level: V
In this series: When a brown bear, a black bear, and a polar bear get separated from their families, they start on a quest that will change their lives forever.

**Spirit Animals**
by Various Authors
Guided Reading Level: U–W
In this series: Four children in the world of Erdas discover that they each have a bond with an animal, and now they must use those bonds to defeat a dark force from the past.

**Survivors**
by Erin Hunter
Guided Reading Level: U
In this series: After an earthquake in their city, a group of former Leashed Dogs flee to the forest where they encounter a pack of Wild Dogs.
**Warriors**
bby Erin Hunter
Guided Reading Level: R–T
In this series: Four clans of wild cats share a forest, but they don’t always live in peace.

**Wings of Fire**
bby Tui T. Sutherland
Guided Reading Level: W, X
In this series: Centers around ten dragon tribes, wars, and world-saving prophecies.

**Wolves of the Beyond**
bby Kathryn Lasky
Guided Reading Level: S–U
In this series: After being abandoned by his pack for his twisted paw, wolf pup Faolan survives on his own and grows up to change the wolf world forever.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Cozy Magic

Not all magicians go on perilous quests. Some characters use magic to help them in school, or make birthday wishes come true. If you like cozy magic, you might like:

**Ivy and Bean**
by Annie Barrows
Guided Reading Level: M–O
In this series: Ivy and Bean are total opposites who become best friends. They’re constantly getting into trouble—especially since one of them is a witch.

**Love Sugar Magic**
by Anna Meriano
Guided Reading Level: P–S
In this series: When Leonora Logroño discovers she is from a family of bruja bakers, she tries to use her magic, and it doesn’t go exactly as planned.

**Rainbow Magic**
by Daisy Meadows
Guided Reading Level: L, M
In this series: Magic fairies of all kinds help put a stop to the antics of Jack Frost.

**Tales of Magic**
by Edward Eager
Guided Reading Level: R–T
In this series: we explore how magic enters the lives of ordinary children in many fantastical ways.

**Willow Falls**
by Wendy Mass
Guided Reading Level: X
In this series: The kids in Willow Falls all experience strange and wondrous “birthday magic” that changes their lives forever.
Detectives and Mystery

Whether it’s a missing notebook, a missing person, or a riddle-filled library, life is full of mysteries. Are you on the case? If you like detectives and mystery, you might like:

*All the Wrong Questions*
by Lemony Snicket
Guided Reading Level: V
In this series: Set before the Series of Unfortunate Events, this series centers around Lemony Snicket solving mysteries in a seaside town.

*The Blackthorn Key*
by Kevin Sands
Guided Reading Level: X
In this series: Apprentice apothecary Christopher Rowe must decipher codes and clues to save London from destruction by mysterious threats.

*Cam Jansen*
by David A. Adler
Guided Reading Level: J–O
In this series: Cam Jansen has a photographic memory and a knack for solving even the trickiest of mysteries.

*Chasing Vermeer*
by Blue Balliett
Guided Reading Level: T
In this series: Chicago sixth-graders Petra and Calder are whisked into the world of mystery when a famous painting goes missing in their community.

*Clubhouse Mysteries*
by Sharon M. Draper
Guided Reading Level: O–R
In this series: Ziggy, Rashawn, Jerome, and Rico form a club to solve mysteries, crack codes, and help their community.

*Lou Lou and Pea*
by Jill Diamond
Guided Reading Level: R
In this series: Best friends Lou Lou and Pea solve unusual mysteries to protect their beloved neighborhood of El Corazón.

**Mr. Lemoncello’s Library**
by Chris Grabenstein
Guided Reading Level: U, V
In this series: Kyle and his friends must use books and their own wits to solve the clues created by master game-maker Luigi Lemoncello.

**Nancy Drew Mystery Stories**
by Carolyn Keene
Guided Reading Level: S
In this series: The clever young detective Nancy Drew can solve any mystery that comes her way, no matter how dangerous.

**Precious Ramotswe**
by Alexander McCall Smith
Guided Reading Level: O
In this series: Young Precious Ramotswe, Botswana’s leading lady detective, solves cases from missing cake to missing lions.

**Theodore Boone**
by John Grisham
Guided Reading Level: T–W
In this series: Theodore Boone wants to be a lawyer someday, and he’s already getting plenty of practice solving crimes.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Dystopian

These societies have rules that are pretty different from the life we’re used to, and usually not in a good way. If you like dystopian books, you might like:

*City of Ember*
by Jeanne DuPrau
Guided Reading Level: V, W
In this series: Two teenagers discover lost instructions to help them escape from their decaying underground city.

*The Giver*
by Lois Lowry
Guided Reading Level: V
In this series: Children try to make their way in a community where pain and strife have been eliminated in favor of Sameness.

*Robyn Hoodlum Adventures*
by Kekla Magoon
Guided Reading Level: X
In this series: After her parents go missing, Robyn Loxley becomes Robyn Hoodlum, the leader of a gang of rebellious heroes in her harsh home of Nott City.

*The Unwanteds*
by Lisa McMann
Guided Reading Level: Z
In this series: In the land of Quill, artistic children are considered “unwanteds” and sent to their deaths. But a magician opens a world called Artime for them to hide in, until Artime comes under threat.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Fairy Tales

Some of these stories are new spins on the tales we’ve heard for years. Others involve whole new tales about, well, fairies. Either way, you’re sure to find some magical characters with tricks up their sleeves. If you like fairy tales, you might like:

**The Fairyland Series**
by Catherynne M. Valente
Guided Reading Level: Q–S
In this series: Twelve-year-old September takes a fantastical trip from Nebraska to a place called Fairyland.

**Land of Stories**
by Chris Colfer
Guided Reading Level: U–Z
In this series: Twins Alex and Conner must find their way back home after they fall through a magical book into a world of fairytales.

**School for Good and Evil**
by Soman Chainani
Guided Reading Level: X, Y
In this series: Sophie and Agatha are kidnapped from their village and forced to attend schools for fairytale heroes and villains, but neither feels they belong there and they must find a way to break free of the norms of good and evil.

**Sisters Grimm**
by Michael Buckley
Guided Reading Level: R–U
In this series: Sabrina and Daphne Grimm live in a town filled with Everafters—characters from fairytales. They solve mysteries to find their missing parents, and prevent the evil Everafters of Ferryport Landing from escaping.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Funny Ones

Are you in it for a laugh? These books have talking plants, dorky doodles, and the weirdest villains you’ve ever seen. If you like funny ones, you might like:

**Alvin Ho**
by Lenore Look
Guided Reading Level: P
In this series: At home, Alvin Ho is as loud and bold as a Chinese New Year. But when it comes to school, camping, and birthday parties, he’s trying his best to not be a scaredy cat.

**Bad Kitty**
by Nick Bruel
Guided Reading Level: H–Q
In this series: A house cat named Kitty keeps getting into trouble, earning his bad reputation.

**Ellray Jakes**
by Sally Warner
Guided Reading Level: O, P
In this series: Ellray Jakes may be the shortest kid in his class, but that doesn’t stop him from getting up to big trouble.

**Hank the Cowdog**
by John R. Erickson
Guided Reading Level: N–Q
In this series: Hank the dog must deal with all the issues and mysteries that arise as “head of security” for his ranch.

**Inspector Flytrap**
by Tom Angleberger
Guided Reading Level: P
In this series: This illustrated chapter book series follows a venus fly trap who solves mysteries.
My Weird School
by Dan Gutman
Guided Reading Level: L–P
In this series: A.J. and his friends get into all kinds of wacky adventures at Ella Mentry School.

Origami Yoda
by Tom Angleberger
Guided Reading Level: T–V
In this series: Are finger puppets just finger puppets, or do they have a special connection to the Force?

Platypus Police Squad
by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
Guided Reading Level: S
In this series: Rick Zengo and Corey O’Malley are platypus detectives who bust criminals in their animal-filled city.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Heroes and Quests

Whether they’re trying to save their world, their kingdom, their friends, or themselves, we can’t help but root for these bold adventurers. If you like heroes and quests, you might like:

39 Clues
by Various Authors
Guided Reading Level: T–V
In this series: Amy and Dan Cahill set out to find clues detailing their family history, left behind by their late grandmother.

The Dark is Rising Sequence
by Susan Cooper
Guided Reading Level: W, X
In this series: Simon, Jane, Barney, and Will join forces to collect powerful items and fend off the Dark.

Five Kingdoms
by Brandon Mull
Guided Reading Level: N, O
In this series: On Halloween night, Cole’s friends disappear underneath a haunted house. Cole follows them into the Outskirts and must try to find them while restoring balance to the five kingdoms he visits.

N.E.R.D.S.
by Michael Buckley
Guided Reading Level: U, V
In this series: A group of kid secret agents battle evil using their enhanced “nerdy” characteristics such as braces and glue-eating.

Ranger’s Apprentice
by John Flanagan
Guided Reading Level: U–X
In this series: Will is chosen to be a ranger’s apprentice, which means he’ll have to learn skills like tracking and archery in order to protect the kingdom of Araluen.
**Seven Wonders**
by Peter Lerangis
Guided Reading Level: L–N
In this series: Jack and his friends begin searching the seven wonders of the ancient world to find the missing Loculi that will save their lives, but they might end up saving the world in process.

**Zapato Power**
by Jacqueline Jules
Guided Reading Level: O
In this series: Freddie Ramos comes home one day to find a pair of superpowered shoes, turning him into the neighborhood superhero!

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Journeys to Other Worlds

Through a wardrobe, through a vent, down a hole...other worlds are everywhere! Filled with magic, monsters, and danger, of course. If you like journeys to other worlds, you might like:

**The Chronicles of Narnia**
by C.S. Lewis
Guided Reading Level: T–W
In this series: The four Pevensie children stumble upon a magical world called Narnia on the other side of a wardrobe. Over the course of the series, Narnia is born, fought for, and destroyed.

**The Gauntlet**
by Karuna Riazi
Guided Reading Level: Z
In this series: When Farah’s baby brother Ahmed gets trapped inside an evil mechanical board game, she and her friends must enter to save him—and themselves!

**Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond**
by Sayantani DasGupta
Guided Reading Level: O–S
In this series: When Kiranmala’s parents are accidentally cast into another dimension, she must travel with a pair of Indian princes into The Kingdom Beyond.

**Secrets of Droon**
by Tony Abbott
Guided Reading Level: M–P
In this series: Eric, Neal, and Julie discover a staircase to a magical world called Droon, where they must help fight the evil forces that threaten to conquer it.

**The Seems**
by John Hulme and Michael Wexler
Guided Reading Level: S–Z
In this series: Becker Drane is a fixer who works in a world called The Seems to prevent disasters that might unravel our world.
**Tunnels**  
by Roderick Gordon and Brian Williams  
Guided Reading Level: W–Z+  
In this series: Will Burrows ventures deeper and deeper into an underground world, making friends, family, and mortal enemies along the way.

**Underland Chronicles**  
by Suzanne Collins  
Guided Reading Level: V  
In this series: Gregor and his sister Boots fall through a vent in their basement and find themselves in the Underland, a city of beasts and hidden people underneath New York.

**The Unicorn Chronicles**  
by Bruce Coville  
Guided Reading Level: Q, R  
In this series: Cara Hunter is sent by her grandmother into Luster, a magical parallel universe, to deliver a message to the unicorn queen and save both worlds.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Magical Adventures

Wizards, beasts, curses, genies, and dragons—these stories are where magic meets action. If you like magical adventures, you might like:

**Children of the Lamp**
by P.B. Kerr
Guided Reading Level: T–Y
In this series: Twins John and Philippa discover that they are genies, and must learn to use their powers to protect the balance of good luck and bad luck in the world.

**Children of the Red King**
by Jenny Nimmo
Guided Reading Level: U
In this series: Charlie Bone, a magical descendant of the Red King, is sent to Bloor’s Academy and takes on many adventures there.

**Dragons in a Bag**
by Zetta Elliot
Guided Reading Level: P–S
In this series: Jaxon’s mother leaves him to spend the day with Ma, who doesn’t turn out to be his grandmother—she’s a witch with a bag full of dragons. When Jax sets them loose, can he get them all back?

**Fablehaven**
by Brandon Mull
Guided Reading Level: O, P
In this series: When Kendra and Seth arrive at their grandparents’ house, they discover it is a preserve for magical creatures—creatures in need of defending.

**Harry Potter**
by J.K. Rowling
Guided Reading Level: V–Z
In this series: Harry finds out he is a wizard and is invited to attend Hogwarts school to learn magic. He faces a destiny of defeating the evil he-who-must-not-be-named.
**Jinx**
by Sage Blackwood
Guided Reading Level: M
In this series: Jinx must learn to use the magic within him if he’s going to survive in—and protect—his home forest of the Urwald.

**The Last Dragon Chronicles**
by Chris D'Lacey
Guided Reading Level: X, Y
In this series: When David Rain moves in with Liz and Lucy Pennykettle, he doesn’t expect to find a house full of magical clay dragons.

**The Magic Thief**
by Sarah Prineas
Guided Reading Level: T
In this series: Connwaer picks the pocket of a powerful wizard, who takes him on as an apprentice to help stop the disappearance of magic.

**Pandava Series**
by Roshani Chokshi
Guided Reading Level: O–S
In this series: Trying to impress her classmates, Aru Shah accidentally releases an ancient demon from a lamp and must stop it before it unleashes the God of Destruction.

**Septimus Heap**
by Angie Sage
Guided Reading Level: W, X
In this series: As the seventh son of a seventh son, Septimus Heap has magical powers which he must use to defend his family, friends, and Castle from dark threats all around them.

**The Spiderwick Chronicles**
by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black
Guided Reading Level: R
In this series: When the three Grace children move into the Spiderwick Estate, they discover a hidden worlds of fairies, goblins, trolls, and more.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Mythology

When ancient Gods are involved, there will always be adventure! Read as human, god, and demigod heroes fight to save (or destroy) the world. If you like mythology, you might like:

**The Cronus Chronicles**
by Anne Ursu  
Guided Reading Level: W
In this series: Cousins Charlotte and Zee travel to the underworld, the high seas, and Mount Olympus fighting against the Greek Gods who are out to destroy them, and the world.

**Goddess Girls**
by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams  
Guided Reading Level: S, T
In this series: See the Greek Goddesses Athena, Aphrodite, Artemis, and Persephone in a whole new light, as young girls attending Mount Olympus Academy to learn divine skills.

**Heroes in Training**
by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams  
Guided Reading Level: Q
In this series: See the Gods of Olympus as young children facing adventures that put their powers to the test.

**Pegasus**
by Kate O’Hearn  
Guided Reading Level: U, V
In this series: Emily and Pegasus are brought together by fate and must face off with gods, monsters, and mortals to save Olympus.
**Percy Jackson Series**  
by Rick Riordan  
Guided Reading Level: W  
In this series: Percy Jackson, son of Poseidon, teams up with his demigod friends on perilous adventures which lead to a final showdown against the titan lord Kronos.

**The Storm Runner Series**  
by J. C. Cervantes  
Guided Reading Level: M–O  
In this series: Zane Obispo discovers a powerful connection between him, his limp, the volcano near his house, and the ancient Maya Gods.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Real-World Adventures

These stories don’t have magic or monsters, but they still have young heroes who face school troubles, friendship drama, and summertime mischief. If you like real-world adventures, you might like:

**The Adventures of Sophie Mouse**  
by Poppy Green  
Guided Reading Level: L–O  
In this series: Sophie Mouse goes to school in the Silverlake forest, where she and her animal friends aren’t so different from you and me.

**Cleo Edison Oliver**  
by Sundee T. Frazier  
Guided Reading Level: R, S  
In this series: Future businesswoman Cleo Edison Oliver puts big ideas to action, while finding her place in her adoptive and birth families.

**Dear America**  
by Various Authors  
Guided Reading Level: S–Y  
In this series: Through their diaries, young American women recount their experiences at different points in history.

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**  
by Jeff Kinney  
Guided Reading Level: S–T  
In this series: Read Greg Heffley’s comic journals about his life as a wimpy middle schooler.

**Katie Woo**  
by Fran Manushkin  
Guided Reading Level: H–J  
In this series: Katie Woo thinks every day is an adventure, even when she’s hit with the flu or the blues.
Horrible Harry
by Suzy Kline
Guided Reading Level: L–O
In this series: Follow the misadventures of third grader Harry and his best friend, Doug.

Lola Levine
by Monica Brown
Guided Reading Level: M–P
In this series: Second grader Lola Levine tackles problems from the soccer field to the drama stage.

The Penderwicks Series
by Jeanne Birdsall
Guided Reading Level: L–P
In this series: Follow the Penderwick sisters through mischief and heartfelt fun as they grow up together on Gardam Street.

Princess Posey
by Stephanie Greene
Guided Reading Level: K–L
In this series: Dressed in her favorite tutu, Princess Posey tackles all the challenges first grade throws at her.

Tia Lola
by Julia Alvarez
Guided Reading Level: R
In this series: Tia Lola is like Mary Poppins, showing up in Vermont one day to help take care of Miguel and Juanita.

Track
by Jason Reynolds
Guided Reading Level: X, Y
In this series: Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and Lu all join an elite track team, and they each have something to lose and a lot to prove—to each other, and themselves.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Strange and Spooky

Enter the worlds of the weird, the dark, and the creepy-crawly. If you like strange and spooky books, you might like:

**Artemis Fowl**
by Eoin Colfer
Guided Reading Level: W–Y
In this series: Genius anti-hero Artemis Fowl enters the magical world as a criminal, but eventually joins forces with his fairy enemies to save the world.

**Franny K. Stein**
by Jim Benton
Guided Reading Level: N–P
In this series: Franny is a spunky young mad scientist who is constantly battling creepy creatures and spooky situations.

**Inkheart**
by Cornelia Funke
Guided Reading Level: W, X
In this series: Meggie and her father Mo have the ability to bring book characters into their world by reading them aloud—but this power doesn’t come without consequence.

**Jumbies**
by Tracey Baptiste
Guided Reading Level: U–W
In this series: After a strange encounter in the forest, Corinne LaMer learns that Jumbies are real—and she must protect her island from their dangerous tricks.

**The Last Apprentice**
by Joseph Delaney
Guided Reading Level: W
In this series: Tom Ward becomes a Spook’s apprentice, training to fight ghosts, witches, and other dark forces in the County.
Molly Moon
by Georgia Byng
Guided Reading Level: T
In this series: A young orphan gains the power to hypnotize anyone she wants, but many evil villains want that power for themselves.

A Series of Unfortunate Events
by Lemony Snicket
Guided Reading Level: V
In this series: After the death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children attempt to escape from the custody of their murderous uncle, Count Olaf.

Skulduggery Pleasant
by Derek Landy
Guided Reading Level: U–Z
In this series: Twelve-year-old Stephanie Edgley teams up with four-hundred-year-old Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton detective, to solve her uncle’s murder and eventually save the world.

Spirit Hunters
by Ellen Oh
Guided Reading Level: V
In this series: Harper Raine’s visions may scare her, but they’re helpful for getting rid of haunting spirits in her home and out in the world.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!
Time Travel

Get lost on these epic adventures into the past, future, and the fabric of time and space!
If you like time travel, you might like:

**Magic Tree House**
by Mary Pope Osborne
Guided Reading Level: M, N
In this series: Jack and Annie are sent by two magicians, Morgan and Merlin, on time-traveling missions in their treehouse.

**The Missing**
by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Guided Reading Level: X
In this series: Follow Jonah Skidmore, one of a group of famous babies who were kidnapped and sent to the future. Jonah and his adoptive sister Katherine travel through time to right wrongs and preserve the world as they know it.

**Pendragon**
by D.J. MacHale
Guided Reading Level: T–X
In this series: Bobby Pendragon travels through time and space to defend the ten “territories” from the demon Saint Dane.

**Ranger in Time**
by Kate Messner
Guided Reading Level: S, T
In this series: Join Ranger, the time-traveling search-and-rescue dog, as he teams up with kids from all different times and places in the world.

**The Time Quintet**
by Madeleine L’Engle
Guided Reading Level: V, W
In this series: The Murray family gets caught up in time travel and fantastical, otherworldly struggles of good and evil.

For more suggestions, ask a librarian!