



LOOKING AT GENDER WITH EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

Martin Baynton, *Jane and the Dragon*, Candlewick, 2007.

A feisty heroine who'd rather joust than sew seeks out her own adventures.

Dori Hillestad Butler, *Sliding Into Home*, Peachtree Jr., 2005.

When Joelle, a star baseball player, moves to a new town where the only option for girls is softball, she starts an all-girl baseball league against the wishes of her school coaches and others in the town.

Ann Cameron, *Gloria Rising*, Random House Books for Young Readers, 2004.

A chance meeting with a woman astronaut encourages Gloria to try to be her best self, even with her difficult fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Yardley.

Matt Christopher, *Goalkeeper in Charge*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 2002.

Tina Esparza loves everything about soccer, but especially the fact that it is a team sport where no one player is in the spotlight. Will Tina be able to overcome her shyness and accept the attention as goalkeeper?

Matt Christopher, *Windmill Windup*, Little, Brown Young Readers, 2002.

Thirteen-year-old Kelly, softball star, has to face new challenges in her life, including assignment to a different softball team and her mother's new boyfriend.

Beverly Cleary, *Dear Mr. Henshaw*, HarperTrophy, 2000.

In his letters to his favorite author, ten-year-old Leigh reveals his problems coping with his parents' divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

Beverly Cleary, *Ramona the Brave*, HarperTrophy, 1995.

Six-year-old Ramona tries to cope with an unsympathetic first-grade teacher.

Andrew Clements, *The Jacket*, Aladdin, 2003.

An incident at school forces sixth grader Phil Morelli, a white boy, to become aware of racial discrimination and segregation, and to seriously consider if he himself is prejudiced.

Andrew Clements, *The Janitor's Boy*, Aladdin, 2001.

Gets to the heart of a father-son relationship as a boy deals with teasing and then understanding of his father's job.

Andrew Clements, *No Talking*, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2007.

The fifth-grade girls and the fifth-grade boys at Laketon Elementary don't get along very well. But the real problem is that these kids are loud and disorderly until they challenge each other to a no talking contest.

Eleanor Coerr, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, Puffin, 2005.

Hospitalized with the dreaded atom bomb disease, leukemia, a child in Hiroshima races against time to fold one thousand paper cranes to verify the legend that by doing so a sick person will become healthy.

Bill Cosby & Varnette P. Honeywood (Illustrator), *Little Bill #11: Hooray For The Dandelion Warriors*, Cartwheel, 1999.

Little Bill and his friends are trying out for the baseball team. Little Bill is sure he'll be picked for second base. But then a girl tries out, and she's really good!

Bill Cosby & Varnette P. Honeywood (Illus.), *Little Bill #12: The Day I Saw My Father Cry*, Cartwheel, 2000.

Little Bill confronts two powerful emotions - anger and grief - in this important story in which Little Bill loses a special friend.

Bruce Coville, *Jennifer Murdley's Toad*, Magic Carpet Books, 2007.

When an ordinary-looking fifth grader purchases a talking toad, she embarks on a series of extraordinary adventures.

Peter Golenbock & Paul Bacon (Illustrator), *Teammates*, Voyager Books, 1992.

This is the moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, PeeWee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.

Bette Greene & Charles Lilly (Illustrator), *Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe*, Puffin, 1999.

Philip Hall is the smartest boy in the sixth grade, and Beth Lambert loves him. He beats her in class work, sports, and almost everything else but then she realizes that Philip might be best because she's letting him beat her. Beth knows that she deserves to be Number One--and she's going to prove it!

Margaret Peterson Haddix & Mark Elliott (Illustrator), *Dexter the Tough*, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2007.

Dexter is a multifaceted character who thinks about his actions and emotions like a smart, confused kid.

Kevin Henkes, *Sun and Spoon*, Puffin, 1998.

After the death of his grandmother, Spoon misses her terribly but is unable to show it; so he tries to find the perfect artifact to preserve his memory of her.

Dick King-Smith, *Babe: The Gallant Pig*, Yearling, 1995.

The story of an extraordinary pig that wants to be a sheepherder. Babe is a sensitive soul, deeply loyal to those who are kind to him.

Dick King-Smith, *Lady Daisy*, Fox Buster, 1993.

Nine-year-old Ned faces a lot of teasing when he decides to keep a Victorian doll that speaks only to him.

Francess Lantz, *The Day Joanie Frankenhauser Became a Boy*, Dutton Juvenile, 2005.

Joanie is tired of everyone telling her she can't do things like play tackle football or write action stories, simply because she is a girl. When her family moves to a new town and the school misspells her name as John she decides to let her teachers and fellow students think she is a boy. Discussion guide:

www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-joanie.html.

Elizabeth Levy, *Tackling Dad*, HarperCollins, 2005.

When Cassie tries out for the middle school football team, she faces unexpected opposition from her father, a former professional football player.

Grace Lin, *The Year of the Dog: A Novel*, Little Brown, 2006.

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Patricia MacLachlan, *Arthur for the Very First Time*, HarperTrophy, 1994.

Arthur spends a summer with his unconventional aunt and uncle and begins to look at life, his family, and himself differently.

Stephen Manes, *Be A Perfect Person in Just Three Days*, Yearling, 1996.

Milo, tired of problems with his sister, parents, and classmates, finds a book in the library that promises to make him perfect in just three days.

Sharon Bell Mathis, *Running Girl: The Diary of Ebonee Rose*, Harcourt, 1997.

In her diary Ebonee Rose records her passion for running, her desire to be like the great African American women athletes who have come before her, and her preparations for the All-City Meet.



Megan McDonald & Robert Hunt (Illustrator), *Meet Julie: An American Girl*, American Girl, 2007.

Julie lives in San Francisco in 1976. When she moves to a new neighborhood and new school the coach won't allow girls to play on the basketball team. She learns that it's up to her to make positive changes in her new school--and her new life. Touches on the history of Title IX.

James McEwan, *Rufus the Scrub Does Not Wear a Tutu*, Darby Creek Publishing, 2007.

Rufus finds himself involved in both the football team and a ballet class. Despite the teasing from his friends, the ballet lessons may just save the football season.

Patricia McKissack, *Abby Takes a Stand*, Viking, 2005.

Gee recalls for her grandchildren what happened in 1960 in Nashville, Tennessee, when at the age of ten she passed out flyers while her cousin and other adults held sit-ins at restaurants and lunch counters to protest segregation.

Alice Mead, *Junebug and the Reverend*, Yearling, 2000.

Having moved out of the housing project and into a new home along with his mother and sister, ten-year-old Junebug discovers that bullies are everywhere and that the elderly can make great friends. Also, *Junebug* and *Junebug in Trouble*.

Naomi Shihab Nye & Terre Maher (Illustrator), *A Maze Me: Poems for Girls*, Greenwillow, 2005.

Short, wonderful poems celebrate the days, people, feelings, moments, insights, glory, and more in a girl's life.

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor & Barry Moser (Illustrator), *Shiloh*, Aladdin, 2000.

What do you do when a dog you suspect is being mistreated runs away and comes to you? When it is someone else's dog? When the man who owns him has a gun? This is Marty's problem, and he finds it is one he has to face alone.

Katherine Paterson, *Bridge to Terabithia*, HarperTrophy, 1987.

The life of a ten-year-old boy in rural Virginia expands when he becomes friends with a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway, Terabithia, during a storm.

Katherine Paterson. *Marvin One Too Many*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001.

Marvin learns to read with help from his slow-to-learn father.

Mitali Perkins, *Rickshaw Girl*, Charlesbridge, 2007.

In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family she thinks she will have to be a boy – or disguise herself as one. Discussion guide: www.mitaliperkins.com/pdf/RickshawGirlDiscussionGuide.pdf

Patricia Polacco, *Mr. Lincoln's Way*, Philomel, 2001.

When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene, the school bully, knows a lot about birds, he uses this interest to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.

Cynthia Rylant & Suçie Stevenson (Illustrator), *Henry And Mudge And The Forever Sea*, Aladdin, 1997.

Henry and his 180-pound dog share a fun-filled day at the beach with Henry's father.

Cynthia Rylant & Suçie Stevenson (Illus.), *Henry and Mudge and the Great Grandpas*, Aladdin, 2006.

When Henry and his dog Mudge go with Henry's parents to visit Great-Grandpa Bill in the home with lots of other grandpas, they lead them all on a wonderful adventure.

Louis Sachar, *There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom*, Yearling, 1988.

Bradley Chalkers, an 11-year-old misfit, learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit too.



George Selden, *The Cricket in Times Square*. Yearling, 1970.

A country cricket with unique musical talents lands in the middle of New York's Times Square where he and his new-found friends put his unique musical skills to use.

Mildred Pitts Walter, *Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World*, Yearling, 1990.

His beloved grandfather helps ten-year-old Justin realize that cleaning and keeping house are not only women's work. Discussion guide: http://tech.psd3.org/projects/HERO/html/Friedman/html/lesson_plan_6.html

E. B. White. *Charlotte's Web*, HarperTrophy, 2004.

Some Pig. These are the words in Charlotte's web, high in the barn. Her spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, as well as the feelings of a little girl named Fern ... who loves Wilbur, too.

Vera B. Williams, *Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart*, HarperTrophy, 2004.

A series of poems tells how two sisters help each other deal with life while their mother is working and their father is in jail. Friendships and support shine through the difficulties.

Sharon Dennis Wyeth, *Tomboy Trouble*, Random House Books for Young Readers, 1998.

When eight-year-old Georgia gets a short hair cut, the kids at her new school don't know what to make of her. Her tomboy trouble has just begun as she is repeatedly mistaken for a boy. With the help of a friend, Georgia proves that she's her own kind of girl!

Jane Yolen, *The Ballad of the Pirate Queens*, Voyager Books, 1995.

Two women who sailed with Calico Jack Rackham and his pirates in the early 1700s do their best to defend their ship while the men on board are busy drinking.

BOOKS IN A SERIES:

David A. Adler, *Cam Jansen Series*, Viking Juvenile.

Cam with her photographic memory helps solve mysteries.

Ann Cameron, *The Stories Julian Tells*, Random House, 1981.

"If you have a girl for a friend, people find out and tease you," says Julian. Nonetheless, he wishes that Gloria would become his best friend. First in a series of books featuring Julian.

Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen (Illustrator), *The Magic School Bus Series*, Scholastic Paperbacks.

Science teacher Miss Frizzle takes her class on wild and enlightening field trips on the Magic School Bus. They go anywhere from inside the human body, to the solar system, to inside a beehive. Series of picture books and chapter books

Marissa Moss, *Vote 4 Amelia*, Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2007.

One of the many books featuring Amelia writing in her diary.

Mary Pope Osborne, *Magic Tree House Series*. Random House Books for Young Readers.

Jack and his sister Annie are just two regular kids who discover a mysterious tree house Soon they are traveling through time and space and having amazing adventures.

Science Solves It! Series, Various authors, Kane Press.

Easy readers that each involve a mini mystery using science to figure out what happened.

