Family Read-Alouds

The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis / Barbara O’Connor
Popeye’s summer becomes an adventure when Elvis, the boy who lives in a visiting motor home, joins him in solving the mystery of strange boats floating down the backyard creek. (ages 9+)

Tom’s Midnight Garden / A. Philippa Pearce
When the grandfather clock strikes thirteen, Tom discovers a beautiful garden where only a deserted alley exists during the day, and where he makes a new friend who seems to be different ages every time they meet. (ages 9+)

A Long Way from Chicago / Richard Peck
During the Great Depression two siblings visit their larger-than-life grandmother. (ages 9+)

Riding Freedom / Pam Munoz Ryan
The exciting story of Charley Parkridge, a girl who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance. (ages 6+)

The Good Master / Kate Seredy
City-born Kate is an enthusiastic visitor to her cousin’s Hungarian home. (ages 9+)

The Mysterious Benedict Society / Trent Lee Stewart
Four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. (ages 9+)

Stuart Little / E. B. White
The adventures of Stuart Little, who is only two inches tall and resembles a mouse in every way. Also Charlotte’s Web and The Trumpet of the Swan by the same author. (ages 6+)

The Mysterious Howling / Maryrose Wood
Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner quickly, in preparation for a Christmas ball. (ages 9+)

Great Family Read-Alouds

Chapter books for families to enjoy together

Suggestions from the Mt. Lebanon Public Library

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase / Joan Aiken
Two young girls are left in the care of the villainous Miss Slighcarp in an eerie house surrounded by snow and hungry wolves. (ages 9+)

Mr. Popper’s Penguins / Richard Atwater
A shy painter receives a mysterious package in the mail. (ages 6+)

The Indian in the Cupboard / Lynne Reid Banks
A nine-year-old boy accidentally brings a three-inch plastic Indian and his cowboy friend to life. (ages 6+)

The Penderwicks / Jeanne Birdsall
While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. (ages 6+)

A Bear Called Paddington / Michael Bond
A very small bear found by Mr. and Mrs. Brown at Paddington station becomes one of the family. (ages 6+)

Millions / Frank Cottrell Boyce
Two brothers find a huge amount of money which they must spend quickly before England switches to the new European currency, but they disagree on what to do with it. (ages 9+)

Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 531-1912
www.mtlebanonlibrary.org

Updated December 2013
Caddie Woodlawn / Carol Ryrie Brink
Based on the remembrances of the author's grandmother, this is the story of her tomboyish adventures on the Wisconsin frontier. (ages 6+)

The Wish Giver / Bill Brittain
Wishes come true for three youngsters in a New England town, but the results aren't at all what they expected. (ages 9+)

Freddy the Detective / Walter R. Brooks
Freddy the pig does some detective work in order to solve the mystery of the missing toy train. One of a classic series. (ages 6+)

The Enormous Egg / Oliver Butterworth
When the oversized egg in the hen house hatches into a prehistoric triceratops, everything changes for a New Hampshire farm family. (ages 6+)

Fantastic Mr. Fox / Roald Dahl
Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family. (ages 6+)

The Wheel on the School / Meindert DeJong
A group of Dutch schoolchildren hope their efforts will entice a stork to come and nest on the roof of their schoolhouse. (ages 6+)

Because of Winn-Dixie / Kate DiCamillo
Ten year old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in a new town where good things happen because of her big ugly dog Winn Dixie. (ages 6+)

Half Magic / Edward Eager
What starts off as a dull summer for four children, turns into a series of exciting and fun adventures when they find a coin that is magic—well, it is only half magic. (ages 6+)

Understood Betsy / Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Timid nine-year old Elizabeth Ann discovers self-confidence when she goes to live with her relatives on a farm in Vermont and her life becomes one adventure after another. (ages 6+)

The Great Brain / John Fitzgerald
Set in Utah at the turn of the century, this humorous adventure revolves around seven year old J. D. as he relates the escapades of T. D., his clever older brother. (ages 6+)

The Wind in the Willows / Kenneth Grahame
The adventures of a group of animals who live in the English countryside—bashful Mole, boastful Toad, practical Badger and world-wise Rat. (ages 6+)

Journey to the River Sea / Eva Ibbotson
Sent with her governess to live with the dreadful Carter family in exotic Brazil in 1910, Maia endures many hardships before fulfilling her dream of exploring the Amazon River. (ages 9+)

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat / Lynne Jonell
When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions, she and her friends try everything to return things to normal. (ages 9+)

The Contests at Cowlick / Richard Kennedy
Little Wally saves his town by outwitting a band of ferocious outlaws. (ages 6+)

From the Mixed-Up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler / E. L. Konigsburg
Twelve-year old Claudia and her brother run away to New York city where they solve the mystery of a statue donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. (ages 9+)

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle / Betty MacDonald
From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle provides marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerback-ism, and Fighter-Quarrelitis. (ages 6+)

Wolf Story / William McCleery
When Waldo the Wolf attempts to capture Rainbow the Hen, Jimmy Tractorwheel comes to her rescue. (ages 6+)

Homer Price / Robert McCloskey
Hilarious adventures of an inventive boy. (ages 6+)

Snow Treasure / Marie McSwigan
The exciting story of some Norwegian children who use their sleds to transport nine million dollars worth of gold past German soldiers when the Nazis invade their Norwegian village in 1940. (ages 6+)

Secret Letters from 0 to 10 / Susie Morgenstern
Ernest's boring life is enlivened when a spunky girl named Victory enters his class. (ages 9+)

Owls in the Family / Farley Mowat
The funny adventures of a Canadian boy and his two pet owls that create havoc throughout his neighborhood as well as his animal-filled home. (ages 6+)

Mrs. Frisky and the Rats of NIMH / Robert C. O'Brien
Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived. (ages 9+)