For readers in grades 2 - 4

Unless otherwise noted, all books may be found in juvenile fiction under the author’s last name.

Butterfly Buddies / Judy Cox
Third grader Robin learns about honesty in her efforts to become best friends with her science partner.

Big Whopper / Patricia Reilly Giff
When Destiny Washington cannot think of a discovery during Discovery Week at school, she makes up a story, but finds that she cannot keep pretending it is true.

Princess Posey and the Christmas Magic / Stephanie Greene
Posey has asked Santa for a real magic wand, but when an accident leads her to tell a white lie, she begins to wonder if Santa will come at all.

Horrible Harry and the Mud Gremlins / Suzy Kline
In order to look at some fascinating fungi with Harry’s miniature microscope, will he and his friends have to fib to their nice teacher?

Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise / Suz Right A.
Mary decides to cheat in order to win a special lunch with her favorite teacher.

Julie Tells Her Story / Megan McDonald (j AMERICAN GIRLS)
In 1974 at her new San Francisco school a nine-year-old girl realizes the importance of telling the truth.

The Tangled Web: A Julie Mystery / Kathryn Reiss (j AMERICAN GIRL)
In 1977 San Francisco, Julie wants to be just like her new friend Carla, until she discovers that Carla is either in big danger or telling big lies.

I Did It, I'm Sorry / Caralyn Buehner
Ollie Octopus and his friends face moral dilemmas that the reader must help them solve.

A Day's Work / Eve Bunting
Francisco lies to help his grandfather find work, but when that results badly, his grandfather insists they rectify their mistakes the next day.

Arnie and the Stolen Markers / Nancy Carlson
When Arnie steals a set of markers he must deal with the consequences of his actions.

Harriet and the Garden / Nancy Carlson
Harriet accidentally ruins her neighbor’s prize flower and feels terrible until she confesses.

Princess Kim and the Lie That Grew / Maryann Cocca-Leffler
After new girl Kim tells her classmates she is from a royal family, her lie grows and grows.
Princess Kim and Too Much Truth / Maryann Cocca-Leffler
Young Kim discovers that there is a difference between being honest and always speaking the truth.

My Big Lie / Bill Cosby (easy reader - j Er COSBY)
Little Bill lies when he has to explain why he is late for dinner.

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire / Diane deGroat
Gilbert is playing George Washington in the class play, so he decides that he too “cannot tell a lie,” until he misplaces George’s hat.

The Missing Cupcake Mystery / Tony Dungy (j Er DUNGY)
Justin, Jordan, and Jade’s mother agrees to buy cupcakes if the trio will wait until after dinner to eat them, but one cupcake goes missing and until the mystery is solved, no one will get dessert.

Being Frank / Donna Earnhardt
Frank struggles to learn the art of being tactful when he observes that his friend has freckles resembling the Big Dipper, his teacher has breath that smells like onions, and his principal’s toupee looks like a weasel.

Doug-Dennis and the Flyaway Fib / Darren Farrell
Having fibbed about stealing his best friend’s popcorn at the circus, Doug-Dennis the sheep finds himself carried far away to a place filled with lies and liars of all sorts and must discover a way to return.

The Big Fib / Tim Hamilton (j Er PRIMER Hamilton)
After playing with Miss Finn’s discarded boxes and making a mess, her young neighbors first lie about their misdeed and then make things right.

Freya’s Fantastic Surprise / Libby Hathorn
Jealous of a friend’s surprise, Freya begins inventing fantastic surprises too.

Betty Bunny Didn’t Do It / Michael Kaplan
When a young rabbit breaks a table lamp and blames the Tooth Fairy, her family explains the importance of honesty.

That’s Mine, Horace / Holly Keller
Horace finds a little yellow truck in the schoolyard, so he takes it home.

The Boy Who Cried Ninja / Alex Latimer
A young boy named Tim is accused of lying when he tells his parents that a ninja ate the last piece of cake and a sunburned crocodile landed on the roof, so he figures out a way to prove that he is telling the truth.

Theodore and the Talking Mushroom / Leo Lionni
Unable to think of an impressive skill to share with his friends lizard, frog, and turtle, Theodore the mouse tells a wild lie about a talking mushroom that makes everyone respect him.

The Boy Who Cried Bigfoot / Scott Magoon
Ben has so often tried to convince people he has seen Bigfoot that when a real yeti arrives and borrows his bicycle, no one comes to see if Ben is telling the truth.

Herbie’s Secret Santa / Petra Mathers
The temptation of a Christmas cookie is too much for Lottie’s friend, Herbie.

The Honest-to-Goodness Truth / Patricia C. McKissack
Libby learns the difference between never lying and not always telling the whole truth either.

Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie / Laura Rankin
When Ruthie lies to keep a camera she finds on the playground, nothing seems to go quite right for her.

Sarah’s Little Ghosts / Thierry Robberecht
Which is scarier: the little ghosts that pop out every time Sarah lies or telling the truth?

Sam Tells Stories / Thierry Robberecht
After telling some pretty amazing stories about himself Sam finally confesses that he is just boring, regular Sam, and he finds that his new friends still like him!

A Big Fat Enormous Lie / Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
A boy’s lie about an empty jar of cookies turns into a big fat monster that never leaves.

Tell the Truth, B.B. Wolf / Judy Sierra
When Big Bad Wolf, who now lives at the Villain Villa Retirement Residence, is invited to tell his story at the library, he faces the truth about what he did to the three little pigs and decides to make amends.

Jackalope / Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel
When a jackrabbit wishes for horns he becomes the first jackalope, but there’s one condition: he must not lie.

’It Was Me, Mom!’ / Brigitte Weninger
Miko breaks his mother’s favorite vase.