



19 of the best books for boys aged 5-10

I don't like hearing people say: "My son's not a reader" or "boys don't like to read" because it's not necessarily true. Your little one might like to read, but may be struggling to learn or may be too busy, or as a parent or caregiver, you may have inadvertently turned him off reading by pushing books on him that he doesn't like. The best way to find out the kind of books your son likes to read is to ask him what his friends are reading. Chances are, his friends talk about the books they like and have shared books. The problem may be, that you don't approve of the books he likes and he will hide what he's reading from you or may choose not to read at all for fear of negative comments from you.

The solution to this problem is very easy: let your son choose his own books! When he chooses his own books, he's more likely to stick with them and enjoy the feeling of empowerment. Books for boys are not as complicated as for girls. Boys are not usually interested in complex relationships so you won't have to worry about wading through books that might be too emotionally mature.

So what do boys want? They generally want books that are:

- Funny
- Familiar (maybe their friends have read it)
- Factual

Now before you go off and buy every funny book out there hear me out: This is just a guideline, not a hard and fast rule. Reading levels of kids aged 5-10 can vary greatly so you'll have to do a bit of research to make sure the book is not too difficult. But that's the only place you should draw the line. Let your son read a book that you think is slightly inappropriate (I'm looking at all of you parents who don't like Captain Underpants). He'll feel good about himself and once he finishes all of the books in that series, he will be ready to move on to another similar series: Big Nate or Diary of a Wimpy Kid. And after he reads all of those books, you will now have a reader on your hands. Over 10 Captain Underpants books, at least 9 Diary of a Wimpy Kid books, and 7+ Big Nate books equals a child who's read over 25 books! If that's not a reader, then I don't know what is.

That said, here are 19 books that I think are great for boys and fall into the 3Fs (funny, factual, or familiar). In no particular order:

- Fly Guys – Tedd Arnold
- Captain Underpants – Dave Pilkey
- National Geographic Kids - various authors
- Magic Treehouse series – Mary Pope Osborne
- My Weird School series – Dan Gutman
- Goosebumps – RL Stine
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Jeff Kinney
- I Survived - various authors
- Geronimo Stilton – Geronimo Stilton
- The Lightning Thief/Percy Jackson – Rick Riordan
- Babe & Me (Jackie & Me) series – Dan Gutman
- The Lemonade War-Jacqueline Davis
- Invasion of the Overworld: An unofficial Minecraft'er's Adventure – Mark Cheverton

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- Al Capone Does My Shirts – Gennifer Choldenko
- Play Ball – Matt Christopher
- Big Nate – Lincoln Peirce
- I Funny – James Patterson
- Shark Wars – EJ Altabacker
- Warriors series – Erin Hunter

The appeal of this list is that includes something for every reader: there's historical fiction, funny & gross humor, animals, adventures, and pop culture. While not every book is a guaranteed literary winner, you'll be able to build a collection your child and you can enjoy. My top picks: Magic Treehouse and The Lemonade War.