

# First Chapter Books for Newly Independent Readers

Great transitional titles for readers starting on their own, to help them bridge the gap between leveled easy readers and traditional chapter books. These books will tend to have short chapters, simple plotlines, illustrations, and larger fonts than regular chapter books.

Adderson, Caroline. *Star of the Week* (Jasper John Dooley series)

Taking a turn as "Star of the Week" at school, Jasper John Dooley is upset by an unsuccessful show-and-tell presentation, a spotlight-stealing baby, and a classmate's shenanigans that send Jasper to the principal's office.

Adler, David. *Cam Jansen* (series)

No mystery is too great for super-sleuth Cam Jansen and her amazing photographic memory!

Angleberger, Tom. *Inspector Flytrap*

Inspector Flytrap is a detective and solver of BIG DEAL mysteries. And a plant.

Applegate, Katherine. *Roscoe Riley Rules* (series)

When the first-graders' bee antennae won't stay on their heads and the drummers won't stay in their seats for the open house play, Roscoe decides to help by using the "don't-you-dare" glue.

Barkley, Callie. *The Critter Club* (series)

Four best friends band together to form a rescue shelter to save lost and lonely animals in their town.

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean* (series)

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide quick, Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other!

Bauer, Marion Dane. *The Blue Ghost* (series)

At her grandmother's log cabin, 9-year-old Liz is led to make contact with ghostly children she believes may be her ancestors.

Bauer, Marion Dane. *The Very Little Princess*

Zoey has always dreamed that someday one of her dolls would come alive. But in her dreams, the doll never ordered her around. The doll didn't call her a servant. And the doll was a whole lot nicer!

Blume, Judy. *Freckle Juice*

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's secret freckle recipe for fifty cents. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens...

Blume, Judy. *The Pain & the Great One* (series)

An eight-year-old girl, "The Great One," and her six-year-old brother, "The Pain," state their cases about each other and who is best loved by their parents.

Branford, Anna. *Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot* (series)

Introducing Violet Mackerel, a charismatic new chapter book star with a zest for life and an endearing, relatable voice akin to Ramona Quimby and Junie B. Jones.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Pirate's Promise*

Young and orphaned, Tom Pippin has just been sold by his greedy uncle to the captain of a great sailing ship bound for America. Although Tom has been sold into slavery, no one can buy or sell his unwavering spirit.

Butler, Dori Hilstead. *The Buddy Files* (series)

While searching for his mysteriously lost human family, Buddy the dog is adopted by another family and helps solve the mystery of their missing boy.

Butler, Dori Hilstead. *The Haunted Library* (series)

Kaz, a ghost, has been haunting an old schoolhouse with his family for years - but when the building is torn down, his family is thrown to the winds - literally. Kaz is swept away to an old library, where for the first time in his life he meets a "solid" who can see him.

Byars, Betsy. *Tornado*

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to their farmhand tell stories about the dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

Byars, Betsy. *Little Horse* and *Little Horse On His Own*

Little Horse falls into the stream and is swept away into a dangerous adventure and a new life. This tender, fast-moving tale, written by master storyteller Betsy Byars and enhanced by David McPhail's beguiling illustrations, is a true cliff-hanger.

Calmenson, Stephanie and Cole, Joanna. *No Dogs Allowed* (Ready, Set, Dogs! series)

Best friends and dog lovers Kate and Lucie discover sparkly pink dog necklaces at the thrift store that turn them into dogs! Now it seems like the girls won't need their own pet dogs . . . because they'll be having furry adventures of their own!

Coven, Wanda. *Heidi Heckelbeck* (series)

Heidi Heckelbeck seems like any other eight-year-old, but she has a secret: she's a witch in disguise. Careful to keep her powers hidden (but excited to use them all the same), Heidi's learning to live like any other kid - who just happens to be witch!

Coville, Bruce. *The Dragon of Doom* (Moongobble and Me series)

Edward is bored with life in the little town of Pigbone. Then Moongobble the Magician and his faithful toad, Urk, move into the cottage on the hill. Soon Edward has a job helping Moongobble. And Moongobble needs a lot of help, because it turns out he is not a very good magician. (His spells keep turning things into cheese!)

Cronin, Doreen. *The Trouble with Chickens* ( J. J. Tully Mystery series)

A hard-bitten former search-and-rescue dog helps solve a complicated missing chicken case. Bestselling author Doreen Cronin uses her deadpan humor to pitch-perfect effect in her first novel for young readers. Heavily illustrated with black-and-white artwork from Kevin Cornell, this series is destined to become a classic.

Danziger, Paula. *Amber Brown is Not a Crayon* (series)

Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They've known each other for practically forever, they're a great team - until disaster strikes. Justin has to move away, and now the best friends are fighting. Will they be able to work it out before it's too late?

Davies, Nicola. *Welcome to Silver Street Farm*

Some animal farms are up in the hills, or down winding lanes. But Silver Street Farm is different - it's in the middle of a city, and it's run by kids!

De Paola, Tomie. *26 Fairmount Avenue* (series)

Popular children's author-illustrator Tomie De Paola describes his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy in this fun autobiographical series. His childhood memories are hilarious, and his charming illustrations are sure to please.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson* (series)

To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig - she's a porcine wonder. And to the portly and good-natured Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them!

DiCamillo, Kate. *Bink and Gollie* and *Bink and Gollie Two for One*

Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls -- one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter (for Bink) and pancakes (for Gollie), they share many comical adventures.

Egan, Tim. *Dodsworth in London* (series)

When Dodsworth sets out for adventure, including a stop in New York City before going to Paris, London, and beyond, he does not expect a crazy duck to stow away in his suitcase and lead him on a merry chase.

Etra, Jonathan and Spinner, Stephanie. *Aliens for Breakfast* and *Aliens for Lunch*

Finding an intergalactic special agent in his cereal box, Richard joins the extraterrestrial in a fight to save Earth from the Dranes, one of whom is masquerading as a student in Richard's class.

Feder, Sandra. *Daisy's Defining Day*

Loving language and resolving to shed herself of a mean-spirited nickname given to her by a teasing peer, Daisy, who has learned about alliteration in school, searches for "D" words that describe her, in hopes of finding a better nickname.

Fenner, Carol. *Snowed in with Grandmother Silk*

Ruddy is disappointed when his parents go on a cruise and he must stay with his fussy grandmother for a whole week, but an unexpected snowstorm reveals a surprising side of Grandmother Silk.

Fine, Anne. *The Jamie and Angus Stories* and *Jamie and Angus Together*

Jamie and Angus - an imaginative little boy and his treasured toy bull - spring to life in six delightful stories from Britain's Children's Laureate, Anne Fine - illustrated with warmth and charm by Penny Dale.

Gardiner, John. *The Stone Fox*

Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters. But he isn't the only one who desperately wants to win. Willy and his brave dog Searchlight must face off against experienced racers, including a Native American man named Stone Fox, who has never lost a race.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Ballet Slippers* (series)

Rosaleen O'Meara wants to be a ballerina like her late grandmother. When a ballet school opens in town, Rosie is sure her big chance has arrived, until she realizes she's missed the sign-up and the class is filled.

Godden, Rumer. *Mouse House*

There is never any room for Bonnie, the baby mouse, in the flower pot, so she goes looking for a new mouse house.

Greenburg, Dan. *Great-Grandpa's in the Litter Box* (Zack Files series)

Zack takes home from the local animal shelter a scruffy tomcat who not only talks but claims to be the reincarnation of Zack's Great-Grandpa Julius!

Greenburg, Dan. *On the Dog* (Andrew Lost series)

Andrew is sucked through his shrinking machine and ends up in a dog's nose!

Greene, Stephanie. *Princess Posey* (series)

Posey is very nervous about starting first grade and walking into school all by herself. Worst of all, she has to do it without the one thing that always makes her feel brave and special: the tutu that turns her into the Pink Princess. How will Posey face the first day of school without it?

Guest, Elissa Haden. *Iris and Walter* (series)

When Iris moves to the country, she misses the city where she formerly lived; but with the help of a new friend named Walter, she learns to adjust to her new home.

Haas, Jessie. *Bramble and Maggie: Horse Meets Girl* and *Bramble and Maggie: Give and Take*

Bramble the horse gets bored giving riding lessons, but regains her enthusiasm when she goes to live with a girl named Maggie.

Haas, Jessie. *Runaway Radish*

When Radish the pony grows too big for the girls who own him, he goes to live at a horse camp where there are always new children for him to train.

Hale, Shannon. *Princess in Black* (series)

Princess Magnolia is not what she seems. . . . When no one is looking the delicate pink flower slips out through a secret broom closet and morphs into The Princess in Black, here to rid the kingdom of monsters. But can she keep her secret from the nosy Duchess Wigtower?

Harper, Jessica. *Uh-oh Cleo*

What starts out as a perfectly ordinary day in the Small house turns into Stiches Saturday when Cleo gets a cut on the head after her twin brother, Jack, accidentally pulls down their "Toy House." Cleo's unique voice and lively narration will pull chapter book readers into her amusing stories of life in a big family that has many uh-oh moments.

Hartnett, Sonya. *Sadie and Ratz*

Hannah and her hands, named Sadie and Ratz, regularly get into trouble, especially when younger brother Baby Boy is around.

Hesse, Karen. *Sable*

Tate is overjoyed when a scrawny mutt turns up in the yard one day. She even persuades Mam and Pap to let her keep Sable, named for her dark, silky fur. But before long, the dog begins to cause trouble with the neighbors and Mam and Pap decide the dog must go. But Tate doesn't give up easily . . . and neither does Sable.

Hicks, Betty. *Gym Shorts* (series)

Stories about kids and their sports including soccer, baseball, swimming, track, and tennis.

Hoena, Blake A. *The Big Mistake* (Eek and Ack series)

Eek and Ack are two alien brothers who try to take over Earth over and over and over. . . . Okay, so they've never actually succeeded in conquering Earth, but that hasn't stopped them from trying!

Howe, James. *Houndsley and Catina* (series)

Catina (a cat) and Houndsley (a dog) are best friends, and they encourage each other as best friends do. Their subtle dance of friendship - from holding your tongue to knowing what to say - is played out in three sweetly humorous tales about an unlikely, likable pair.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *The Two and Only Kelly Twins*

Enjoying their special status as identical twins while dressing alike, sharing activities, and caring for identical pet ferrets, second-graders Arlene and Ilene begin feeling less special after meeting a set of triplets.

Jacobson, Jennifer. *Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle* (Andy Shane series)

Andy Shane hates school, mainly because of a tattletale know-it-all named Dolores Starbuckle, but Granny Webb, who has taken care of him all his life, joins him in class one day and helps him solve the problem.

Jules, Jacqueline. *Freddie Ramos Takes Off* (Zapato Power series)

Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds.

Keene, Carolyn. *Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew* (series)

Eight-year-old Nancy Drew has her first case to crack! A great introduction to the classic series, but for a younger audience.

Keller, Laurie. *Bowling Alley Bandit* (Adventures of Arnie the Doughnut series)

The popular picture book character now has his own series of chapter books! Arnie the talking doughnut is delighted to be Mr. Bing's new pet "doughnut-dog," so when Mr. Bing starts rolling gutter balls during a big bowling tournament, Arnie suspects foul play and sets out to solve the mystery.

Kelly, David. *Ballpark Mysteries* (series)

A chapter book series where each book is set in a different American ballpark! Cross Ron Roy's mystery series with Matt Christopher's sports books and you get the Ballpark Mysteries: fun, puzzling whodunnits aimed right at beginning readers.

Kerrin, Jessica Scott. *Martin Bridge* (series)

Meet Martin Bridge -- a boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry. The daily rhythms, struggles and triumphs of childhood -- at home, at school and with friends -- are evoked with warmth, understanding, honesty and humor in these three illustrated stories.

King-Smith, Dick. *Lady Lollipop*

Lollipop is no ordinary pig. According to her young trainer, Johnny Skinner, she's the smartest pig in the entire kingdom. When people stare into Lollipop's bright, intelligent eyes, it somehow changes them for the better. But can Lollipop win over the spoiled Princess Penelope - and her not-so-pig-friendly parents, the King and Queen?

King-Smith, Dick. *The Mouse Family Robinson*

After a close call with the cat who stalks the hallways, a family of wild mice, including adventurous, young Beaumont and elderly Uncle Brown, emigrates to a more mouse-friendly house down the block.

King-Smith, Dick. *Smasher*

Smasher is always getting into trouble, whether it's chasing chickens, chewing up Mrs. Buzzard's slippers, or breaking all her china. Now she wants to get rid of him. Can Farmer Buzzard find a way to save him? Or is Smasher in the doghouse...for good?

Kirby, Stan. *Captain Awesome to the Rescue!* (Captain Awesome series)

When second-grader Eugene and his family move to a new neighborhood and he starts at a new school, he has a chance to bring out his superhero alter ego, Captain Awesome, to find the kidnapped class hamster.

Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry in Room 2B* (Horrible Harry series)

Doug discovers that though being Harry's best friend in Miss Mackle's second grade class isn't always easy, as Harry likes to do horrible things, it is often a lot of fun.

Koller, Jackie French. *Mole and Shrew Are Two*

For fans of the Frog and Toad books and Amelia Bedelia stories, the antic tales of Mole and Shrew will prove to be worthy successors. In the introductory title, find out how Mole and Shrew first meet, how Mole finds a new home, and how, with much confusion along the way, Mole and Shrew finally become fast friends!

Krulik, Nancy. *Anyone but Me* (Katie Kazoo, Switcharoo series)

Katie Carew wishes she could be anyone but herself, and turns into a hamster.

Lagercrantz, Rose. *My Happy Life* (series)

Dani is happy to be starting school and she is even happier when she meets a girl named Ella who becomes her best friend. But when Ella moves away, Dani doesn't think she'll find happiness again. Translated from the Swedish.

Landon, Lucinda. *Meg Mackintosh and the Case of the Missing Babe Ruth Baseball: A Solve-It-Yourself Mystery*

In the book that launched her adventures, Meg follows a series of notes hidden in her grandfather's house to solve an old mystery of a missing baseball signed by Babe Ruth. The reader is challenged to interpret each clue before Meg solves it.

LaReau, Karen. *The Infamous Ratsos*

Louie and Ralphie Ratso are determined to be tough and mean, just like their dad, Big Lou. But every time they try to do something nasty, it turns out to be anything but. How can the siblings stop doing good deeds on accident?!

Lowry, Lois. *Gooney Bird Greene* (Gooney Bird series)

There's never been anyone like Gooney Bird Greene at Watertower Elementary School. What other new kid comes to school wearing pajamas and cowboy boots one day and a polka-dot t-shirt and tutu on another?! Lois Lowry introduces a new girl in class who loves being the center of attention and tells the most entertaining "absolutely true" stories.

McDonald, Megan. *Jessica Finch in Pig Trouble*

With her birthday coming up, Jessica hopes that, just maybe, her present will be a real-live potbellied pig. Jessica can hardly wait for her party with Judy Moody and all their friends. But Judy Moody is acting like a pig-head, and Jessica UN-invites her from the party. To make matters worse, Jessica has snooped around the house and has found zero sign of a pig present. Could her birthday be any more of a disaster?

McDonald, Megan. *Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid* (series)

Judy Moody's little "bother" now has his own series! In Stink's first solo adventure, his special style comes through loud and strong — enhanced by a series of comic strips, drawn by Stink himself, which are sprinkled throughout the book

McKay, Hilary. *Lulu and Duck in the Park* (Lulu series)

When Lulu finds a duck egg that has rolled out of its nest, she takes it to class to keep it safe. Lulu isn't allowed to bring pets to school. But she's not really breaking the rules because it's just an egg. Surely nothing bad will happen...

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (series)

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. This children's literature classic is perfect for fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie books and historical fiction fans.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *Seven Kisses in a Row*

It's not fair, Emma thinks, for her parents to go away (for five whole days) and leave her with an aunt and uncle she hardly knows. What if they don't like children? But Aunt Evelyn and Uncle Eliot like Emma and her brother, Zachary, just fine. They also like rules. . . . Emma can see that Aunt Evelyn and Uncle Elliot have a lot to learn about being parents. But that's okay - because Emma has five whole days in which to teach them!

Marshall, James. *Rats on the Roof* and *Rats on the Range*

Illustrated collections of seven stories about various animals, including a frog with magnificent legs, a hungry brontosaurus, and a mouse who gets married.

Mass, Wendy. *Archie Takes Flight* (Space Taxi series)

It's not every day a regular kid like Archie gets to wake up at midnight. But today is Take Your Kid to Work Day, and Archie is finally allowed to ride along in his dad's taxi cab. But he's about to discover his dad is no ordinary cab driver...In fact, he drives an intergalactic space taxi!

Miles, Ellen. *Bandit* (Puppy Place series)

Charles and Lizzie Peterson love puppies. They want a puppy of their own more than just about anything. They know dogs are a lot of work. But their mom still doesn't think their family is ready for a puppy. So instead the siblings decide it's their job to find every puppy they encounter the perfect home.

O'Connor, Jane. *Nancy Clancy, Super Sleuth* (Nancy Clancy series)

In her chapter book debut, Nancy Clancy must find the culprit when a prized possession goes missing at school.

O'Ryan, Ray. *Hello Nebulon* (Galaxy Zack series)

Moving from Earth to the futuristic planet Nebulon in 2120, eight-year-old Zack is nervous about starting school and meeting people.

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Dinosaurs Before Dark* (Magic Tree House series)

Jack and Annie's very first fantasy adventure in the bestselling series. Where did the tree house come from? Before Jack and Annie can find out, the mysterious tree house whisks them to the prehistoric past. Now they have to figure out how to get home. Can they do it before dark . . . or will they become a dinosaur's dinner?

Park, Barbara. *Junie B. Jones* (series)

Meet the World's Funniest Kindergartner - Junie B. Jones! It's the first day of kindergarten, and Junie B. did not like riding the bus to school. Only guess what? Junie B. is an excellent hider. So, at the end of the day--when everyone lines up to go--home . . . Junie B. doesn't.

Pennypacker, Sara & Josh Greenhut. *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures* (series)

Ever since Stanley was flattened by a bulletin board, every trip is an adventure! This exciting series of travel adventures activates the imagination, causes fits of giggles, and inspires creativity.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Stuart's Cape* and *Stuart Goes to School*

Bored because there is nothing to do in the house to which his family has just moved and worried about starting third grade in a new school, Stuart makes a magical cape out of his uncle's ties and then has a series of adventures.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *Mrs. Noodlekugel*

Nick and Maxine have a new babysitter - the eccentric Mrs. Noodlekugel who lives in the funny little house behind their drab high-rise apartment building along with her feline butler, Mr. Fuzzface, and three myopic mice. With signature wit and whimsy, the inimitable Daniel Pinkwater introduces an eccentric, endearing babysitter every child will wish they could have.

Potter, Ellen. *Piper Green and the Fairy Tree* (series)

Piper lives on an island in Maine, and has to take a lobster boat every day to get to school. When the new teacher won't let her wear her favorite earmuffs in class, Piper decides to take matters into her own hands.

Preller, James. *Case of Hermie the Missing Hamster*. (Jigsaw Jones Mysteries series)

With the help of his Top Secret Detective Journal and his ace partner, Mila, Jigsaw Jones is hot on the trail of Hermie the missing hamster.

Rodowsky, Colby F. *Not My Dog*

Ellie has always wanted a puppy, and now that she's almost nine and finally old enough to get one, Preston is foisted on her. What's more, her parents say that this fully grown mutt that Great-aunt Margaret can no longer keep will have to do. They can't very well have a dog and a puppy. Although heartbroken and resentful, Ellie does see Preston's virtues. Still, she refuses to accept him as her dog - until it's almost too late.

Roy, Rob. *A is for Author* (A to Z Mysteries series)

In the first book of the A to Z Mysteries, Dink writes to his favorite author, mystery writer Wallis Wallace, and invites him to visit Green lawn. Wonder of wonders, Wallace says yes! In fact, the famous writers says the the only way he won't come is if he's kidnapped. But when the big day comes, Wallis Wallace is nowhere to be found. The police think he just missed his plane, but Dink knows better. It's up to Dink and his two best friends, Josh and Ruth Rose, to find Wallace - before it's too late!

Rylant, Cynthia. *In Aunt Lucy's Kitchen* (The Cobble Street Cousins series)

Three nine-year-old cousins keep busy having fun while staying with their aunt for a year.

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Storm*

Life with just the sea can be lonely. Just ask Pandora or Seabold. They've lived most of their lives with the sea, and they're quite used to being alone. Or they were. But one extraordinary day, the same sea that brought Pandora and Seabold together gave them the ingredients for an adventure that neither of them had considered before -- an adventure called "family."

Sachar, Louis. *Marvin Redpost : Kidnapped at Birth?* (Marvin Redpost series)

Marvin Redpost has finally figured out why he doesn't look like anyone in his family. He's not really Marvin Redpost--he's Robert, the lost prince of Shampoo!

Scieszka, Jon. *Knights of the Kitchen Table* (Time Warp Trio series)

Joe's been caught up in a book before, but this is ridiculous. Joe's Book, a gift from his magician uncle, doesn't just tell stories, it zaps Joe and his friends Sam and Fred right into the middle of them!

Selznick, Brian. *The Houdini Box*

A chance encounter with Harry Houdini leaves a small boy in possession of a mysterious box - one that might hold the secrets to the greatest magic tricks ever performed.

Shreve, Susan Richards. *The Flunking of Joshua T. Bates*

Driving home from the beach on Labor Day, Joshua receives some shocking news from his mother: he must repeat third grade. But he manages to survive the taunts of former classmates, learn something important about himself, and make it through the year with the help of a sympathetic teacher in this funny, touching, and realistic story.

Smith, Alex T. *Claude in the City*

When Claude, a small, plump dog, and his friend, Sir Bobblysock, visit the city Claude heroically, if accidentally, stops a thief, then, when Sir Bobblysock becomes ill, Claude rushes him to a hospital and is mistaken for a doctor.

Sternberg, Julie. *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* (series)

When nine-year-old Eleanor's beloved babysitter Bibi moves away to care for her ailing father, Eleanor must spend the summer adjusting to a new babysitter while mourning the loss of her old one.

Stevens, Carla. *Anna, Grandpa, and the Big Storm*

The whole city of New York is blanketed by snow. But it's the final day of the spelling bee, and snow or no snow, Anna has to get to school. But it's not as easy as she expected as they end up stranded on the Third Avenue elevated subway train during the blizzard of 1888.

Urban, Linda. *Weekends with Max and His Dad*

Max goes to stay with his newly divorced dad every other weekend - and together the two have wonderful adventures and experiences exploring the neighborhood, pretending to be spies, meeting the neighbors and eating bacon and pineapple pancakes at the local diner.

Vande Velde, Vivian. *8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel [divided by] 1 Dog = Chaos*

When Twitch the squirrel is chased into a school by the principal's dog, the class pets work together to rescue him. In this hilarious chapter book, a group of small animals turn an elementary school into a real zoo!

Voake, Steve. *Daisy Dawson is on Her Way!* (series)

Imagine if you woke up one day and found you could talk to animals! Sweetly illustrated in black and white, this charming series is sure to enchant young animal lovers everywhere.

Warner, Sally. *EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken* (series)

Eight-year-old EllRay's father has promised a family trip to Disneyland if EllRay can stay out of trouble for a week, but not defending himself against Jared, the class bully, proves to be a real challenge.

Wells, Rosemary. *Wingwalker*

During the Depression, Reuben and his out-of-work parents move from Oklahoma to Minnesota, where his father gets a job as a carnival wingwalker and Reuben has a chance to overcome his terror of flying.

Willems, Mo. *The Story of Diva and Flea*

Diva, a pampered little white dog who lives in a grand apartment building in Paris. Flea is a big black cat, who has no home or owner and roams the streets of Paris having all sorts of adventures. When the two meet they quickly become fast friends. Flea shows Diva the sights of their beautiful city and she introduces him to the comforts of apartment living.

Wojciechowski, Susan. *Don't Call Me Beanhead*

Five humorous stories about a little worrywart named Beany.