

**MORE What's New in Children's Literature (2006)**

**Upper elementary**

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***Graphic Novels***

Madagascar, Erin Stein editor, (2006), Manga.

*This is a full-color "Cine-Manga" book based on the Disney movie.*

Open Season, Julie Taylor, editor, (2006), Manga.

*This Cine-Manga book is based on a Disney movie.*

The Baby-Sitters Club – Kristy's Great Idea, Raina Telgemeier, (2006), Scholastic.

*This is a graphic novel that Baby-Sitters Club fans will enjoy.*

Geronimo Stilton - Valentine's Day Disaster, Edizioni Piemme, (2006), Scholastic.

*Geronimo Stilton is a mouse who runs a newspaper and has a passion for writing adventure stories.*

***Mystery***

Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life, Wendy Mass, (2006), Little & Brown.

*Jeremy Fink is just ready to become a teenager. A mysterious box arrives, supposedly holding the meaning of life. Jeremy is to open it on his birthday, but he needs to find the missing keys. [Grades 6-8]*

***Historical Fiction***

*"American Girls" - A new American Girls character is created each year. The 2006 American Girl is Jess. The 2007 character is Nicki. Both are exciting adventures with a strong heroine. Jess travels with her family to an archeological dig of ancient Maya ruins. Nicki, a real animal lover, works to train a "service dog," preparing the dog to someday help make someone's life better.*

Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare, (2006), Usborne.

*This is a well-done introduction to the famous Shakespeare play. [Grades 4-6]*

***Fantasy***

River Secrets, Shannon Hale, (2006), Bloomsbury.

*This is the third in the "Books of Bayern" fantasy series, following the outstanding story, The Goose Girl and its sequel Enna Burning. Like the first two, River Secrets is an exciting adventure that takes place "in a world where even those with no special magic skills find in themselves something they never imagined." [Grades 5-8]*

Stories of Dolls, Susanna Davidson, (2006), Usborne.

*This is a short collection of three doll stories for early readers. [Grades 2-3]*

Stories of Princesses, (2006), Usborne.

*This collection contains “The Princess and the Pea,” “Cinderella,” and “The Twelve Dancing Princesses.” It is very well-illustrated. [Grades 2-4]*

The Tiara Club, Vivian French, (2006), Harper Collins.

*Many girls in grades 2-4 will enjoy these short princess stories, such as Princess Charlotte and the Birthday Ball and Princess Katie and the Silver Pony. [Grades 2-4]*

Pirates of the Caribbean – Silver, Rob Kidd, (2007), Disney Press.

*Based on the Disney movie, six books, starting with The Coming Storm and ending with Silver, tell the swashbuckling story. [Grades 4-6]*

Ready, Freddy! Super-Secret Valentine, Abby Klein, (2007), Scholastic.

*Freddy wants to make a special card, but knows if Max finds out, he’ll get teased. Can he keep it a secret? [Grades 2-4]*

Blizzard of the Blue Moon – Magic Tree House #36, Mary Pope Osborne, (2006), Random House.

*Jack and Annie are off on a mission to rescue a beautiful unicorn. They end up in an adventure set in 1930’s NYC. [Grades 3-6]*

Toys Go Out – Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic, Emily Jenkins, (2006), Schwartz and Wade.

*This reminds me of “Toy Story.” These three toys must brave the world outside the Little Girl’s room, and together must find the girl a birthday present. [Grades 3-5]*

### ***Realistic Fiction***

Starlight (Breyer Stablemates), Kristin Earhart, (2006), Scholastic.

*This is a good horse story for young readers. [Grades 2-3]*

Part of Me, Kimberly Willis Holt, (2006), Henry Holt.

*This story traces the roots of a Louisiana family, charting the history from the books they’ve read and loved. [Grades 5-8]*

### ***Sports Stories***

Satch & Me – A Baseball Card Adventure, Dan Gutman, (2006), Harper Collins.

*Was Satchel Paige the fastest pitcher in history? “This baseball card adventure is a whirlwind of excitement, drama, and curveballs – starring one of the liveliest athletes in the game!” [Grades 4-8]*

Jackie Robinson (Legends in Sports series), Matt Christopher, (2006), Little & Brown.

*This is another great Matt Christopher book, this time about Jackie Robinson, the first African-American player in the major leagues. [Grades 4-6]*

## ***Nonfiction***

Titanic – Usborne Young Reading, Claybourne & Daynes, (2006), Usborne.

*This is an excellent introduction to the Titanic disaster for young readers. [Grades 3-6]*

The Fabulous Story of Fashion, Katie Daynes, (2006), Usborne.

*This is an interesting look at fashion throughout history. [Grades 3-6]*

## ***Picture Books***

Chowder, Peter Brown, (2006), Little, Brown, and Company.

*Chowder is a very unusual dog. When a petting zoo opens, Chowder is determined to make friends. This is a very funny book, mostly because of the illustrations.*

Cowlick!, (2007), Christin Ditchfield, Golden Books.

*This book explains why our hair looks like it does when we wake up in the morning!*

Duck at the Door, Jackie Urbanovic, (2007), Harper Collins.

*Max the Duck shows up at Irene's doorstep one winter day. When his flock flew south he decided he'd rather stay, but now he's not so sure. Irene and her pets help Max feel at home. This is a very funny book!*

Eats, Shoots & Leaves – Why Commas Really DO Make a Difference!, Lynne Truss, (2006), Putnam Books.

*Commas are important. Think of the difference, for example between the following. 1) "Eat here, and get gas." 2) "Eat here and get gas."*

Flotsam, David Wiesner, (2006), Clarion Books.

*This is the 2007 Caldecott winner! This book is really strange! It is a wordless book, based on a boy finding a camera washed up on the shore. When he has the film developed, it shows some pretty remarkable things happening in the ocean!*

John, Paul, Goerge & Ben, Lane Smith, (2006), Hyperion.

*You say you want a revolution? This clever picture book tells what our founding fathers might have been like in elementary school.*

Tippy-Tippy-Tippy, Hide!, Candace Fleming, (2007), Atheneum Books.

*This is the clever sequel to the beloved Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! It's winter and the bunnies want in! Mr. McGreely has no intention of sharing his house with those pesky pufftails. Hilarious.*