

Realistic Fiction

"The events in realistic fiction must be realistic in terms of being within the realm of possibility, although they might not actually have occurred. Events can be based on things that happened in real life but details can be changed in the retelling."

from *Educator's Companion to Children's Literature* (JR 028.5 MCE)

In general, realistic fiction can be combined with other genres, such as animal stories, mysteries, sports, and historical fiction, but usually when patrons request realistic fiction, they are referring to *contemporary realistic fiction*. These books deal with conflicts (for example, school, friendship, peer pressure, death) in the real world of today or the recent past.

The following titles are all in the J FIC section of the Children's Department and range in reading appropriateness from 4th-6th grades.

Avi	Never Mind! A Twin Novel	twins/school	200
Balliett, Blue	Chasing Vermeer	mystery/friends	254
Bauer, Joan	Sticks	family/pool contest	182
Birdseye, Tom	Attack of the Mutant Underwear	humor, embarrassment	199
Blume, Judy	Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing	humor/brothers	120
Cleary, Beverly	Strider	dogs/divorce	179
Clements, Andrew	A Week in the Woods	survival/camping	190
Clements, Andrew	The School Story	authorship/friends	196
Cooney, Doug	The Beloved Dearly	popularity/bullies	214
Cooper, Ilene	Buddy Love Now on Video	self-acceptance	183
Creech, Sharon	Granny Torrelli Makes Soup	friends/grandmother	141
Delton, Judy	Angel Bites the Bullet	worry/family	130
Derby, Kenneth	The Top 10 Ways to Ruin the First Day of 5 th Grade	humor	165
DiCamillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie	dogs/fathers	182
Dowell, Frances	Chicken Boy	self-esteem	201
Fitzhugh, Louise	Harriet the Spy	diaries	298
Fox, Paula	One-eyed Cat	guilt/responsibility	216
Gantos, Jack	What Would Joey Do?	ADHD/family	229
George, Jean	My Side of the Mountain	survival	178
Gilson, Jamie	Hello, My Name Is Scrambled Eggs	Vietnamese-Amer.	159
Greene, Constance	Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe	friends	135
Greene, Stephanie	Falling into Place	stepfamilies/moving	124
Gutman, Dan	The Million Dollar Shot	contests/basketball	114
Henkes, Kevin	Protecting Marie	dogs/family	195
Hurwitz, Johanna	Aldo Applesauce	friends/moving	127
Kehret, Peggy	Abduction!	kidnapping/siblings	215
Lewis, Maggie	Morgy Coast to Coast	hockey/moving	205
MacLachlan, Patricia	The Facts and Fiction of Minna Pratt	musicians	136
Miracle, Lauren	Eleven	friends/school	201
Naylor, Phyllis	Starting with Alice	single-parent family	181
O'Dell, Kathleen	Ophie Out of Oz	moving/friendship	184
Patneaude, David	Colder than Ice	bullies/overweight	168
Pevsner, Stella	Is Everyone Moonburned But Me?	self-acceptance/sisters	202
Repka, Janice	The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco	ball games/school/blind	181
Rockwell, Thomas	How to Eat Fried Worms	humor/dare	115
Schumacher, Julie	The Chain Letter	superstition/mystery	195
Shalant, Phyllis	Beware of Kissing Lizard Lips	school/karate	183
Slote, Alfred	Finding Buck McHenry	baseball/school	250
Slote, Alfred	The Trading Game	baseball/family	200
Smith, Robert	Bobby Baseball	baseball/fathers	165
Spinelli, Jerry	Loser	school/acceptance	218
Swallow, Pamela	It Only Looks Bad	school/Alzheimer's	168
Wallace, Bill	No Dogs Allowed!	death/dogs	214
Wardlaw, Lee	101 Ways to Bug Your Parents	family	204
Wittlinger, Ellen	Gracie's Girl	homeless/responsibility	186