

# Required Book List: Level 1 Language Arts

## Second Edition

### **READ FIRST--Important Notes About the Required Books for Year 1 Language Arts:**

**Weeks 1 - 19 and 36** each focus on a common element found in folk and fairy tales. We have provided a recommended selection, as well as alternative (or additional) selections you may want to consider. However, you may choose any story you like for these weeks, based on preferences and availability of books at your local library. Simply adapt the journal prompt and / or literature activities as needed.

**Weeks 20 - 35** are dedicated to exploring story collections. You may substitute any of the four-week collections for another collection (such as Russian fairytales, Korean folk tales, etc.) if you would like. You may need to adapt some of the journal prompts and activities, and you'll simply need to change the focus of that particular 4-week geography unit.

**Optional Weekly Poetry:** We have added an option to read from a poetry collection each week, which you'll find at the end of the book list. This element is completely optional, and you are free to skip it or expand it, based on your family's preferences.

**Should I Purchase or Borrow the Books?** Each recommended selection in Year 1 is used for one to four weeks, so borrowing is ideal, *unless* you do not live near a library or your library has a limited collection, or you wish to build up your child's home library. Please feel free to swap out books as needed, based on preferences or availability of books. While we have provided alternative suggestions, you are welcome to choose ANY book or collection to use for any given week. If your child loves stories and you want to add more, feel free to read multiple stories from the suggestions (or of your own choosing) on any given week. *You can always move the weeks around as needed for literature selections.*

**Always screen stories first!** Not every story will be appropriate for every child or every family.

★ **Helpful tip:** Read-alouds of recommended books and stories can often be found on YouTube and story-telling podcasts. Some great podcasts to consider: <https://www.storynory.com/>, <http://storiespodcast.com/>, and The Barefoot Books Podcast (sadly, these are often unavailable, but if you can find any that are streaming, they are wonderful!) Always screen first before sharing with your child, as some stories have frightening content, or content that may not be appropriate for all families.

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Theme or "Focus"  
(Weeks 1 - 19)



The selection we recommend,  
which will be reflected in the  
content of the curriculum.



Recommended alternatives or  
additional stories to consider.  
(You are also free to choose a  
story not listed here.)



Week	Focus	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
1	It Takes a Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Grandma Lena's Big Ol Turnip</i> by Denia Lewis Hester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Turnip</i> by Jan Brett</li> <li><i>The Gigantic Turnip</i> by Aleksei Tolstoy</li> </ul>
2	Appreciating What We Have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>It Could Always Be Worse</i> by Margot Zemach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A Crowded Farmhouse Folktale</i> by Karen Rostoker-Gruber</li> <li>A beautiful oral retelling of this classic Jewish folktale: <a href="https://youtu.be/YFcirro1rZ8">https://youtu.be/YFcirro1rZ8</a></li> </ul>
3	Tell It In Three (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas</i> by Natasha Yim</li> <li>OR</li> <li><i>The Ghanian Goldilocks</i> by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli (male protagonist)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Three Bears</i> by Paul Galdone</li> <li><i>Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs: As Retold by Mo Willems</i> by Mo Willems (a very silly version)</li> </ul>
4	Tell It In Three (Part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Three Little Pigs</i> by Paul Galdone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig</i> by Eugene Trivizas</li> <li><i>The Three Little Javelinas</i> by Susan Lowell</li> <li><i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</i> by Jon Scieszka</li> </ul>
5	Asking Too Much	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Magic Fish</i> by Freya Littledale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Luba and the Wren</i> by Patricia Polacco</li> <li><i>The Fisherman and His Wife</i> by Rachel Isadora</li> <li><a href="https://www.storynory.com/the-golden-fish/">https://www.storynory.com/the-golden-fish/</a></li> </ul>
6	The Great Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>When Turtle Grew Feathers</i> by Tim Tingle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Tortoise and the Hare</i> by Janet Stevens</li> <li><i>The Tortoise or the Hare</i> by Toni Morrison and Slade Morrison (very different version of the classic fable)</li> </ul>

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Week	Theme	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
7	The Wolf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China</i> by Ed Young</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>The Girl and the Wolf</i> by Katherena Vermette and Julie Flett (wolf as helper / guide)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i> by Trina Schart Hyman</li> <li>• <i>Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion</i> by Alex T. Smith (not a wolf, but a fun version to explore)</li> </ul>
8	The Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Henny Penny</i> by Paul Galdone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Fox Went Out on a Chilly Night</i> by Peter Spier</li> <li>• <i>Flossie and the Fox</i> by Patricia McKissack</li> <li>• <i>Basho and the River Stones</i> by Tim J. Myers</li> </ul>
9	Work and the Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tops and Bottoms</i> by Janet Stevens</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>Grasshopper and the Ants</i> by Jerry Pinkney</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Little Red Hen</i> by Paul Galdone</li> <li>• <i>The Little Red Fort</i> by Brenda Maier</li> <li>• <i>The Ants and the Grasshopper, Narrated by the Fanciful But Truthful Grasshopper</i> by Nancy Loewen</li> </ul>
10	The Tower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rapunzel</i> by Barbara Barbara Rogasky</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>Rapunzel</i> by Rachel Isadora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Really, Rapunzel Needed a Haircut!: The Story of Rapunzel as Told by Dame Gothel</i> by Jessica Gunderson</li> <li>• <i>Rapunzel</i> by Chloe Perkins</li> </ul>
11	Kindness Triumphs Over Cruelty  There are so many stories that fit into this theme. Feel free to expand this one into several weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale</i> by John Steptoe</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>The Woman Who Outshone the Sun</i> from a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez and Illustrated by Fernando Olivera</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Thumbelina</i> by Sylvia Long</li> <li>• <i>Snow White and Rose Red</i> by Kallie George and Kelly Vivanco</li> <li>• <i>Cendrillon</i> by Robert D. San Souci</li> <li>• <i>Yeh-Shen</i> by Ai-Ling Louie</li> <li>• <i>Domitila</i> by Jewell Reimhart Coburn</li> <li>• <i>The Irish Cinderlad</i> by Shirley Climo</li> <li>• <i>The Korean Cinderella</i> by Shirley Climo</li> <li>• <i>Cinderella</i> by Marcia Brown</li> <li>• Any number of Cinderella variations</li> </ul>
12	Mysterious Helpers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Tomten</i> by Astrid Lindgren</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>Rumpelstiltskin</i> by Paul Galdone</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• <i>The Elves and the Shoemaker</i> by Paul Galdone (please note that the elves are nude in this version, and there is a brief mention of Christmas--not detailed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Elves and the Shoemaker</i> illustrated by Jim Lamarche (alludes briefly to Christmas)</li> <li>• <i>Frankly, I'd Rather Spin Myself a New Name!: The Story of Rumpelstiltskin as Told by Rumpelstiltskin</i> by Jessica Gunderson</li> </ul>

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13	Fast Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Stop that Pickle!</i> by Peter Armour (gentle ending)</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <i>Gingerbread Baby</i> by Jan Brett (gentle ending)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Gingerbread Girl</i> by Lisa Campbell Ernst (lots of videos on YouTube for this one, screen first)</li> <li>• <i>The Gurabia Man</i> by Talene Dadian White (screen first, this one won't be for everyone--some aggressive behavior)</li> <li>• <i>The Musubi Man</i> by Sandi Takayama (gentle ending, available on YouTube)</li> </ul>
14	Outwit and Outlast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Town Musicians of Bremen</i> by Gerda Muller</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <i>Fin M'Cou! The Giant of Knockmany Hill</i> by Tomie dePaola</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Owl and the Two Rabbits</i> by Nadia Sammurtok (not recommended for sensitive learners)</li> <li>• <i>Clever Tom and the Leprechaun: An Old Irish Story</i> by Linda Shute</li> </ul>
15	The Heart of Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mulan</i> by Li Jian</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• Disney's <i>Moana</i> (film)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mulan: The Legend of the Woman Warrior</i> by Faye-Lynn Wu</li> <li>• <i>Fritz and the Beautiful Horses</i> by Jan Brett</li> <li>• <i>The Tale of Tam Linn</i> by Lari Don</li> </ul>
16	Playing with Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Magic Porridge Pot</i> by Paul Galdone</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <i>Strega Nona</i> by Tomie dePaola</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Magic Porridge Pot</i> by Alan MacDonald</li> </ul>
17	Tales of the Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Little Mermaid</i> by Jerry Pinkney (a wonderfully updated version with gorgeous illustrations!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ponyo</i> (film, screen first)</li> <li>• <i>The Little Mermaid</i> by Hans Christian Andersen (screen first--the original version is not recommended for sensitive learners and won't be a good fit for every family)</li> </ul> <p>Note: We explore selkie / selky stories during the Scotland collection later in the year.</p>
18	Tales of Ice and Snow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Snow Queen</i> by Hans Christian Andersen (longer, "winter figure" is cold and cruel)</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>• <i>Grandmother Winter</i> by Phyllis Root (shorter, "winter figure" is sweeter and gentler)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Story Blanket</i> by Ferida Wolff (focus on caring for others during colder months)</li> <li>• <i>Good Night Wind: A Yiddish Folktale</i> by Linda Elovitz Marshall (beautiful story personifying the winter wind)</li> </ul>
19	A Gift From the Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story</i> by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Water Dragon: A Chinese Legend</i> by Li Jian</li> <li>• <i>Thanks to the Animals</i> by Allen Sockabasin</li> </ul>

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Weeks	Recommended Selection(s)	Alternative or Additional Selections
20 - 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Tales Our Abuelitas Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection</i> by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada</li> </ul>	<p><b>For Weeks 20 - 35</b></p> <p><i>Always screen stories first. You may choose any story or stories you like to read each week from the following collections.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Korean Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Kim So-un</li> <li><i>Russian Fairy Tales</i> recorded by Alexander Afanasyev and illustrated by Ivan Bilibin</li> <li><i>African Tales: A Barefoot Collection</i> by Gcina Mhlophe and Rachel Griffin (some illustrations feature nudity)</li> <li><i>Japanese Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Florence Sakade</li> <li><i>Singapore Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Di Taylor</li> <li><i>Filipino Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Liana Elena Romulo</li> <li><i>Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories</i> by Joan Suyenaga</li> </ul> <p>You may also choose any other collection you like. Be mindful when choosing, as some story collections are targeted at older learners and may contain frightening or mature content.</p>
24 - 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>An Illustrated Treasury of Scottish Folk and Fairy Tales</i> by Theresa Breslin and Kate Leiper</li> </ul>	
28 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories Retold</i> by Tran Thi Minh Phuoc</li> </ul>	
32 - 35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Mangoes, Mischief, and Tales of Friendship: Stories From India</i> by Chitra Soundar</li> </ul>	
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>A Story, A Story: An African Tale Retold</i> by Gail E. Haley</li> </ul>	
All Weeks (optional)	<p>Optional Weekly Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons</i> by Julie Fogliano</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year</i> selected by Fiona Waters</li> <li>ANY poetry your family enjoys!</li> </ul>

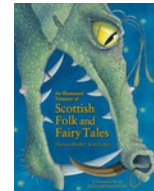
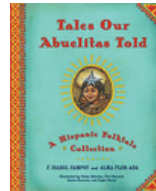
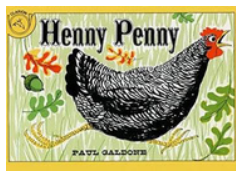
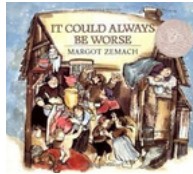
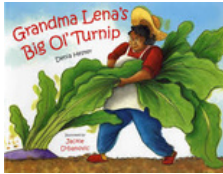
**Note:** For families that prefer a more contemporary approach, the following books feature many stories that can be used for weeks 1 - 19:

- Power to the Princess: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Girl Power* by Vita Murrow
- High-Five to the Hero: 15 Favorite Fairytales Retold with Boy Power* by Vita Murrow

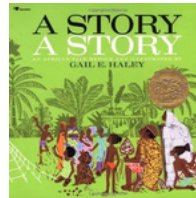
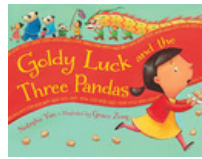
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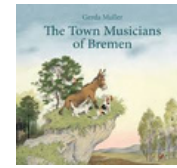
Recommended Selections Shown Below  
(Please see full list for alternative or additional selections)



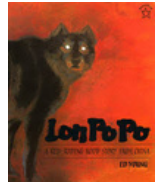
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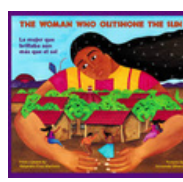
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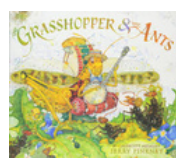
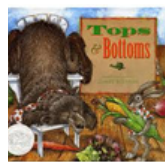
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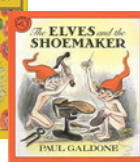
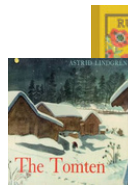
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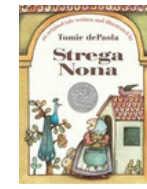
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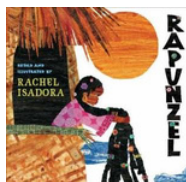
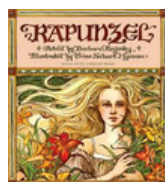
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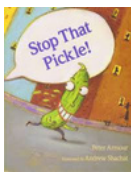
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