

Angleberger, Tom. **The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**

For Tommy, the only question is whether or not Origami Yoda is real. Of course he's real as a small puppet on Dwight's finger. But does the oracle possess magic power? In order to find out, he decides to compile scientific evidence from the experiences of those who asked Origami Yoda for help.

Barshaw, Ruth McNally. **Ellie McDoodle** Series

When Ellie's family moves to a new town, she's sure she won't fit in. Nobody else likes to read as much as she does, the other kids tease her, and even the teachers can't seem to get her name right.

Benton, Jim. **Frannie K. Stein** series

Franny K. Stein is not your average girl -- she's a mad scientist. She prefers poison ivy to daisies and piranha to goldfish, and when Franny jumps rope, she uses her pet snake. Being a mad scientist is exciting, but it *does* have its drawbacks. From fending off giant monstrous fiends to getting a lab assistant to battling her own teenage self, Franny has her hands full! (See also **Dear Dumb Diary** Series)

Birdsall, Jeanne. **The Penderwicks**

The motherless Penderwick sisters--Rosalind, 12; Sky, 11; Jane, 10; and Batty, 4--are spending the summer in a Berkshire cottage on the Arundel estate. Their botanist father and protective dog, Hound, are also in attendance, though Hound is far more involved with the girls than their absentminded professor dad. After a bad beginning, the girls become friends with Jeffrey, the son of the lady of the manor, Mrs. Tifton, whose main concern is the welfare of her garden. Their summer makes for a wonderful, sweet story.

Buckley, Michael. **NERDS (National Espionage, Rescue, and Defense Society)**

*NERDS* combines all the excitement of international espionage with all the awkwardness of elementary school, and the results are hilarious. A group of unpopular fifth graders run a spy network from inside their school.

Cammuso, Frank. **Knights of the Lunch Table** Series

New student Artie King is a nice, comics-loving kid who just wants to ease into life at Camelot Middle School without attracting too much attention. But by second period, Artie already has enemies. He tripped Camelot's mean principal by mistake. An older kid isn't happy about the lunch he stole from Artie. (Well, Artie tried to warn him that sandwich was made by his pesky sister . . . out of boogers and soap!) And Artie just can't seem to stay out of the way of big Mo and The Horde, the bunch of brawny bullies who rule the school.

Cleary, Beverly. **Ramona**

From the first day of third grade, when Ramona Quimby meets her eventual nemesis Yard Ape, life moves on at its usual wild pace--usual for the boisterous Ramona, that is.

Clements, Andrew. **Frindle**

Trying to aggravate a tough language-arts teacher, a fifth-grade boy invents a new word for pen: "frindle." Soon, the whole country is using it. Be sure to look at other titles by this author.

Colfer, Eoin. **The Legend of Spud Murphy.**

During the holidays, Will and his big brother Marty are packed off to the library, the home of the dreaded librarian Spud Murphy, who uses a spud gun on kids who put a foot wrong. Eventually, Will and Marty discover a love of books and that Mrs. Murphy isn't so bad after all.

Gownley, Jimmy. **Amelia Rules** Series

She's nine years old, a former New Yorker who's now living in a small town after her parents decided to get divorced, and dealing with everything from being the new kid in school to getting her first kiss. But you know what? She's got her mom and her aunt Tanner (who happens to be an ex-rock star) and her friends Reggie, Rhonda, and Pajamaman, and everything's going to be okay. Except, of course, when it isn't.

Holm, Jennifer and Michael. **Babymouse** Series

Meet Babymouse, a sassy young mouse who dreams of glamour, excitement, adventure, straight whiskers, being queen of the world, and of course, being invited to Felicia Furrypaws's oh-so-exclusive party.

Holm, Jennifer. **Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff**

Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or losing the lead role in the ballet recital to her ex-best friend. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June. But it looks like it's shaping up to be that kind of a year! Here's the story of one girl's worst school year ever -- told completely through her stuff.

Korman, Gordon. **Schooled**

Capricorn Anderson had never watched a television show before. He'd never tasted a pizza. He had never even heard of a wedgie. And he had never, in his wildest dreams, thought of living anywhere but Garland Farm commune with his hippie caretaker, Rain. But when Rain falls out of a tree while picking plums and is hospital-ridden, he has to attend the local middle school and live with his new guidance counselor and her irritable daughter. While Cap knew a lot about Zen Buddhism, no amount formal education could ready him for the trials and tribulations of public middle school.

Krieg, Jim. **Griff Carver, Hallway Patrol.**

Twelve-year-old Griff Carver knows a thing or two about fighting crime. Because Griff's not just any kid—he's a kid with a badge. And if you are a criminal, he's your worst nightmare. Griff might be the new kid on the Rampart Jr. High Patrol squad, but he's no rookie. And he'll do whatever it takes to clean up the mean hallways of his middle school—even if it lands him in hot water. But when Griff links cool kid Marcus "The Smile" Volger to a counterfeit hall pass ring, can he and his friends close the case? Or will Griff let down the force—and lose his badge—for good?

Kroscozka, Jarrett. **Lunch Lady** series

*Serving justice . . . and lunch!* Hector, Terrence, and Dee have always wondered about their school lunch lady. What does she do when she isn't dishing out the daily special? Where does she live? Does she have a lot of cats at home? Little do they know, Lunch Lady doesn't just serve sloppy joes—she serves justice! Whatever danger lies ahead, it's no match for LUNCH LADY!

McDonald, Megan. **Stink**

Stink is the younger brother from Megan McDonald's award-winning Judy Moody series. He may be short in stature, but by no means is he short on personality.

Moss, Marissa. **Amelia's Notebooks**

When Amelia's mom gives her a journal for her ninth birthday, Amelia has a place to share her truest feelings at last! Colorful and funny.

Paulsen, Gary. **Lawn Boy**

When Arnold's grandmother gives him an old rider mower for his 12th birthday, his life changes. Almost as soon as he figures out how to run it, the boy is in business—by the second day he has eight jobs. Soon lawn boy has a partner, 15 employees, a lot of money invested in the market, a prizefighter, and maybe more than he can handle.

Peirce, Lincoln. **Big Nate**

Big Nate is in a class by himself! But things don't always go your way just because you're awesome. He knows he's destined for greatness. A fortune cookie told him so.

Pennypacker, Sue. **Clementine**

As Clementine says, "Spectacularful ideas are always sproing up in my brain." All the better for readers who like to laugh. Clementine is an ingenuous third-grader with a talent for trouble and a good heart.

Petrucha, Stefan. **Tales from the Crypt: Diary of a Stinky Dead Kid**

(Parody) Imagine Jeff Kinney's wimpy hero transformed into a brain-munching zombie ("they HAD to taste better than Mom's broccoli and Velveeta"). The first tale focuses on brother Rock's demon incantations, and the closing vignette about an undead Guitar Zero contest features a rather staggering depth of horror-movie in-jokes.

# If you like Diary of a Wimpy Kid...

Pilkey, Dav. **Captain Underpants** Series

Faster than a speeding waistband... more powerful than boxer shorts... It's Captain Underpants!

Red, Adam. **The True Meaning of Smekday**

It all starts with a school essay. When twelve-year-old Gratuity ("Tip") Tucci is assigned to write five pages on "The True Meaning of Smekday" for the National Time Capsule contest, she's not sure where to begin. When her mom started telling everyone about the messages aliens were sending through a mole on the back of her neck? Maybe on Christmas Eve, when huge, bizarre spaceships descended on the Earth and the aliens - called Boov - abducted her mother? Or when the Boov declared Earth a colony, renamed it "Smekland" (in honor of glorious Captain Smek), and forced all Americans to relocate to Florida via rocketpod? In any case, Gratuity's story is much, much bigger than the assignment.

Sachar, Louis. **Sideways Stories from the Wayside School**

There was a terrible mistake-Wayside School was built with one classroom on top of another, thirty stories high! (The builder said he was sorry.) Maybe that's why all kinds of funny things happened at Wayside- especially on the thirteenth floor.

Scieszka, Jon. **The Time Warp Trio** series

Whether the gang's fighting off the Black Knight in the middle of Camelot, practicing magic tricks on Blackbeard and his pirates, stampeding cattle in the Old West, or running from a woolly mammoth, one thing is for sure: no one's ever bored when the Time Warp Trio's around!

**The 39 Clues** (Series, multiple authors)

When their beloved Aunt Grace dies, Dan, 11, and Amy, 14—along with other Cahill descendants—are faced with an unusual choice: inherit one million dollars or participate in a perilous treasure hunt. Cahills have determined the course of history for centuries, and this quest's outcome will bring the victors power and affect all of humankind.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. **Shredderman**

Alvin Bixby: Hulking, knuckles of steel, hideous breath, foul temper. Kids call him: Bubba.  
Nolan Byrd: Puny, power walker, math genius, can't keep shoes tied. Kids call him: Nerd.

Nolan creates a secret identity for himself—on the Internet; he launches Shredderman.com as a place where truth and justice prevail—and bullies get what's coming to them.

Vernon, Ursula. **Dragonbreath** Series

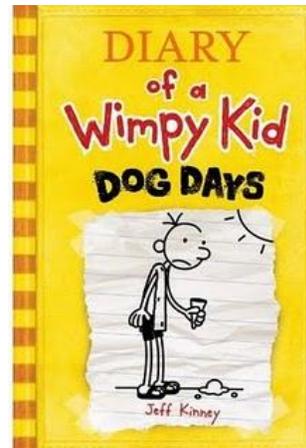
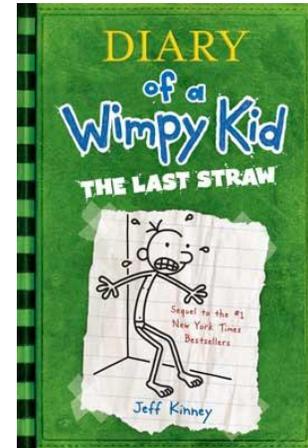
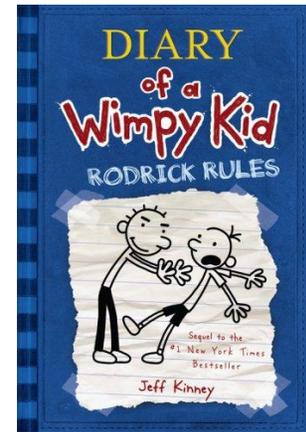
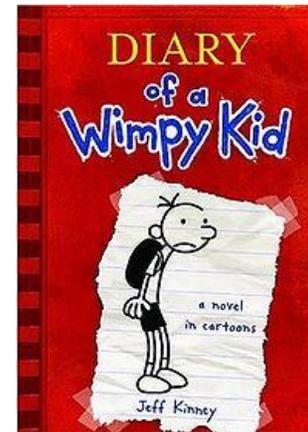
It's not easy for Danny Dragonbreath to be the sole mythical creature in a school for reptiles and amphibians, especially because he can't breathe fire like other dragons (as the school bully loves to remind him). But having a unique family comes in handy sometimes.

Watterson, Bill. **Calvin and Hobbes**

Calvin, the six-year-old tricksmeister and master of indignation and his warm, cuddly philosopher sidekick, Hobbes, a tiger whose idea of adventure is to lie on his back by the fire and have his stomach rubbed.

Winkler, Henry. **Hank Zipzer** Series

Hank Zipzer is the world's greatest underachiever. Hank Zipzer is a young boy growing up on the Upper West Side of New York City; follow this smart witted boy as he deals with school, friends, and family.



...try these other funny books!