

Reading Resource Library Guide: Action/Adventure

The following high-interest books were selected to support an exploration of Action/Adventure books. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to access the books.

Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter four slide deck to explore with your class: Supernatural/Suspense, Realistic Fiction, All Stories Tell a Story, and Action/Adventure.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to learners while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with learners and explore the books and websites. Allow learners individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This information guide has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Scar Island</i>	Dan Gemeinhart	610
<i>Out of Nowhere</i>	Maria Padian	HL670
<i>The Bridge Home</i>	Padma Venkatraman	680

<i>Wildfire</i>	Rodman Philbrick	700
<i>Masterminds</i>	Gordon Korman	730
<i>The Trail</i>	Meika Hashimoto	780
<i>Navigating Early</i>	Clare Vanderpool	790
<i>The Car</i>	Gary Paulsen	830
<i>Lost on a Mountain in Maine</i>	Donn Fendler and Joseph B. Egan	910
<i>Graphic Novel: Lost Trail: Nine Days Alone in the Wilderness</i>	Donn Fendler and Lynn Plourde	N/A
Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>We are Going on a Bear Hunt</i>	Helen Oxenbury and Michael Rosen	280
<i>Our Great Big Backyard</i>	Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager	440
<i>Sam & Dave Dig a Hole</i>	Mac Barnett	450
<i>The Hike</i>	Alison Farrell	AD 500
<i>Humphrey's Creepy-Crawly Camping Adventure</i>	Betty G. Birney	610
<i>The Jolley-Rogers and the Cave of Doom</i>	Jonny Duddle	790
<i>The Vanishing Lake</i>	Paddy Donnelly	N/A

Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ At the start of this unit, you will want to engage your learners and get them excited to read action/adventure stories. You may want to consider doing a fun activity to “hook” their interest. One suggestion you may think about would be to bring in a suitcase full of objects, maps, and other artifacts that may represent the characters, settings, and plot lines of the texts learners can choose from for this unit. As you show these to learners, share a “book talk” about each book available to them. [Here](#) are some tips on how to conduct a great book talk. You may consider playing this [ambient train video](#) or [ambient airplane video](#) in the background to make the class feel like they are on this journey with you.
- ▶ As your learners read their action/adventure texts, ask them to keep track of the places their character(s) go or the types of terrain their character(s) experience. This is the setting of their book. For example, if a learner is reading *Wildfire* by Rodman Philbrick, the learner may note places like North Woods, Maine, Camp

Wabanaski, Afghanistan (where the main character's father was killed), and the forest.

- ▶ As a culminating activity at the end of the unit, ask learners to research the places they found within their book (the settings) a bit more. In the previously mentioned *Wildfire* example, the learner would research the forests of Maine, the North Woods area of Maine, and Afghanistan. Consider giving them a template like [this](#) for them to track their research and any images they may find about these locations. Consider asking learners to research the following about their settings when applicable:
 - What is the temperature and weather like in this region?
 - What nature (animal or plant) may exist in this region?
 - Are there any natural disasters that this area is prone to? (Example: hurricane, flood, fire, etc.)
 - What is required to live/survive in this area? What types of jobs do people typically do?
 - What are the people like in this area? Do people even live in this area?
- ▶ After your learners have gathered this information, consider having them calculate any distance their character may have traveled (if applicable) between locations within the text.
- ▶ Learners can also work in groups to write their own adventure story. This [website](#) can offer sample adventure writing prompts as a resource to help learners create their stories. Use this [website](#) to facilitate an activity with your learners.
- ▶ As a final piece, consider having the learners do their own interactive presentation, similar to your book talk at the start of the unit. Ask the learners to bring in a suitcase, or survival backpack, representative of their character(s) from their texts. Their suitcase should include similar items yours did at the start of the unit. Also ask the learners to have maps of locations representative of the setting of their text. [Here](#) is a website where students can access map templates of a variety of regions and places.

Helpful Links for Teachers

Literacy Ideas for Teachers and Students:

"The purpose of literacyideas.com is to provide teachers and students with a collection of guides, resources and tools to improve literacy levels for all ages and ability levels. Why? Because literacy is fundamental to a person's ability to learn at school and to engage productively in society.

Since launching in 2015, we have had millions of teachers and students from around the world access our ever growing [text-type writing guides](#), [reading skills](#) and [general writing skills tutorials](#)," (Literacyideas.com).

The Benefits of Reading Adventure Books:

This [short article](#) was written in 2016 and offers many benefits and tips for both educators and families on reading adventure books. It was published on the Elemental Science Blog, an educational resource on the science of all things. You can access the main page to the site [here](#).

Literacy Information and Communication System (LINCS):

[This link](#) will take educators to a variety of links, PDFs, and instructional material specific for adult learners. [This link](#) specifically for adult learners, will take users to the learning center to access curriculum support in the content areas, as well as tips on staying healthy, learning English, and getting a job. The U.S. Department of Education is a contributor to this site.

Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. Ask them, “What do you notice?” Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called making a prediction.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the action/adventure books that you are reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that an adventure is “something unusual, unexpected, or exciting” and that it can include a plot (or path), a challenge, bravery, and reward. Explain to your child that adventures many times involve a quest (journey) towards a difficult goal. With that in mind, explore these questions with your child:
 - What was the adventure in this story?
 - What was exciting for the character? What was exciting for you as a reader?
 - What types of adventures have you experienced?
 - Would you like to read other action/adventure books? What is your favorite thing about reading books in this genre?

Expert Reviewers

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