Best Read Aloud Books for First Grade

Melissa Taylor, Imagination Soup

[Mercy Watson to the Rescue](#) by Kate DiCamillo
THEMES/TOPICS: family, pets, friendship, humor
SKILLS: figurative language, fact vs. opinion, word choice/vocabulary, character development, prediction, asking questions, inference, predictions

[Charlotte's Web](#) by E.B. White, illustrated by Garth Williams
THEMES/TOPICS: friendship, love, loss, sacrifice, determination, empathy, animals/ arachnids, communities (urban, rural), kindness
SKILLS: word choice/vocabulary, persuasion, character traits, problem/solution, cause/ effect, creating mental images

[Gooney Bird Green](#) by Lois Lowry
THEME/TOPICS: storytelling, friendship, school, humor
SKILLS: story plotting, background knowledge, sequence, character development, word choice/ vocabulary, prediction, asking questions, synthesis

[Lulu and the Brontosaurus](#) by Judith Viorst
THEMES/TOPICS: selfishness, manners, responsibility, dinosaurs
SKILLS: voice, persuasion, connect to background knowledge, predictions, asking questions, story sequence, punctuation

[Dory Fantasmagory](#) by Abby Hanlon
THEME/TOPICS: pretend/fantasy/imagination, siblings, friends, reading, humor, coping strategies
SKILLS: Connect to background knowledge, make predictions, character traits/ development, drawing conclusions

[The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane](#) by Kate DiCamillo
THEME/TOPICS: Love, loss, emotions
SKILLS: creating mental images, making inferences, character traits, character growth, sequence

[A Boy Called Bat](#) by Elana K. Arnold
THEME/TOPICS: autism, animals, rescue animals, divorce, friendship, siblings, social skills
SKILLS: inference, point of view, character description, five senses, figures of speech

[Ivy and Bean](#) by Annie Barrows
THEME/TOPICS: friendship, siblings, humor
SKILLS: connecting to background knowledge, making predictions, making inferences, character traits/development, sequence, plot, problem/solution

[Zoey and Sassafras Dragons and Marshmallows #1](#) by Asia Citro
THEME/ TOPICS: science, fantasy, scientific process, journals, observation, animals,
SKILLS: problem/solution, journaling, plot sequence, asking questions, drawing conclusions

[A to Z Mysteries](#) by Rob Roy
TOPICS/ THEMES: mystery, friendship, helping others
SKILLS: determining what's important, making inferences, problem/solution

[The Chicken Squad The First Misadventure](#) by Doreen Cronin
THEME/ TOPICS: humor, chickens, mystery
SKILLS: Inference, determine what's important, mental images, asking questions, character traits, problem/solution, word choice, description

[The World According to Humphrey](#) by Betty Birney
THEME / TOPICS: honesty, responsibility, differences, family
SKILLS: point of view/perspective, character development, sequence, voice, dialogue