



Best Read Aloud Books for Second Grade

Melissa Taylor, [Imagination Soup](#)

[The Hundred Dresses](#) by Eleanor Estes

THEMES/TOPICS: poverty, friendship, kindness, bullying

SKILLS: character traits, predictions, connect to background knowledge, draw conclusions, cause and effect, sequence

[Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures](#) by Kate DiCamillo

THEMES/TOPICS: loneliness, hope, love, superheroes, poetry, relationships

SKILLS: vocabulary, character growth/comparison, poetry, prediction, conflict, setting, fact and opinion, persuasion

[Fortunately, the Milk](#) by Neil Gaiman

THEMES/TOPICS: storytelling, hero, dads, perseverance, imagination

SKILLS: figurative language (hyperbole, onomatopoeia,) ask questions, inference, make mental images, sequence, prediction, setting, action, plot, irony, voice, imagery, description, dialogue, characterization, retelling vs. summary, vocabulary

[Because of Winn-Dixie](#) by Kate DiCamillo

THEMES/TOPICS: loss, identity, belonging, friendship, acceptance, rescue animals, pets

SKILLS: character, setting, plot, connect to background knowledge, inference, prediction

[Esperanza Rising](#) by Pam Munoz Ryan

THEMES/TOPICS: change, migrant work, immigration, child labor, farming, facing challenges, hope, family

SKILLS: character, proverbs, point-of-view, plot, connections, questions, inference, visualizing, determine importance

[Wishtree](#) by Katherine Applegate

THEMES/TOPICS: bullying, kindness, friendship, immigration, religion, making a difference, science

SKILLS: character, compare and contrast, setting, ask questions, inference, perspective, making mental images

[Sideways Stories from Wayside School](#) by Louis Sachar

THEMES/TOPICS: school, humor, community

SKILLS: vocabulary, background knowledge, determine importance, ask questions, inference, make mental images, synthesis, irony, perspective

[The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe: Chronicles of Narnia](#) by C. S. Lewis

THEMES/TOPICS: good vs. evil, mythological creatures, loyalty, sacrifice, sibling rivalry,

SKILLS: inference, vocabulary, character analysis, figurative language, foreshadowing, make mental images

[Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#) by Roald Dahl

THEMES/TOPICS: kindness, loyalty, family, respect, identity, behavior

SKILLS: character traits, description, vocabulary, make mental images, inference, perspective, dialogue

[STAT: Standing Tall and Talented: Home Court](#) by Amar'e Stoudemir

THEMES/TOPICS: bullying, sports, basketball, skateboarding, competition, friendship, problem-solving, believing in yourself

SKILLS: connect to background knowledge, plot, make mental images, figurative language

[The Terrible Two](#) by Mac Barnett and Jory John

THEMES/TOPICS: pranks, friendship, change, behavior

SKILLS: voice, sarcasm, vocabulary, plot, determining importance, inference, perspective

[The Twits](#) by Roald Dahl

THEMES/TOPICS: good vs. bad, behavior, love/hate, injustice, bullying, animal rights

SKILLS: word choice, voice, character comparison, make predictions, inferences, first person, description

[Wedgie & Gizmo](#) by Suzanne Selfors

THEMES/TOPICS: family, divorce, friendship,

SKILLS: vocabulary, make predictions, mental images, sequence, inference, point of view, perspective, voice, character comparison

[The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane](#) by Kate DiCamillo

THEME/TOPICS: love, loss, emotions (might be too mature for your class-- preview and decide if it's right for you)

SKILLS: make mental images, inferences, character traits, character growth, story sequence

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