

# Best Read Alouds for 3rd Grade

Melissa Taylor, [Imagination Soup](#)

## [What the Moon Saw](#) by Laura Resau

THEME/TOPICS: identity, culture, family, rural life, Spanish language, indigenous life, immigration, dreams, nature, stereotypes, magical realism

SKILLS: making predictions, determining importance, making inferences, analyzing word choice

## [Holes](#) by Louis Sachar

THEME/TOPICS: bullying, belonging, sense of self, family, loyalty, friendship, courage, growth mindset

SKILLS: making predictions, determining importance, making inferences, making sensory images, plot, characterization, sequence, cause/effect

## [The One and Only Ivan](#) by Katherine Applegate

THEME/TOPICS: animal cruelty, friendship, advocacy, family, home, empathy

SKILLS: predicting, determining importance, making mental images, making inferences, point of view, characterization

## [In a Glass Grimly](#) by Adam Gidwitz

THEME/TOPICS: bullying, self-acceptance, determination, storytelling, family

SKILLS: accessing background knowledge, determining importance, asking questions, making mental images, voice, figurative language, compare and contrast, plot, sequence, POV, vocabulary, making inferences, author's purpose, characters, setting, word choice

## [The Wishing Spell \(Land of Stories\)](#) by Chris Colfer

THEME/TOPICS: fairy tales, family, loyalty, good vs. evil, storytelling, hero's journey

SKILLS: accessing background knowledge, making connections, determining importance, making inferences, synthesis, figurative language (alliteration, allusion, foreshadowing, personification, metaphor,) characterization, plot

## [The Year of the Book](#) by Andrea Chang

THEME/TOPICS: culture, friendship, books, mean girls, heritage, growing up, family

SKILLS: connecting to background knowledge, character arc, making inferences

## [The Sasquatch Escape](#) by Suzanne Selfors

THEME/TOPICS: fantasy creatures, animals,

SKILLS: asking questions, making inferences, determining importance, character traits, plot sequence, problem/solution, compare/contrast

## [Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy](#) by Karen Foxlee

THEME/TOPICS: friendship, courage, grief, love, perseverance, family, science vs, fairy tales

SKILLS: making connections, asking questions, character traits & development, making predictions, making inferences, problem/solution, story arc

[Wild Robot](#) by Peter Brown

THEME/TOPIC: family, kindness, inclusion, belonging, life, technology, nature (forest, predator/prey, habitat, etc.) STEM,

SKILLS: making connections, asking questions, predicting, character development, making mental images, cause/effect, compare/contrast, sequence of events, POV, dialogue, setting

[Fenway and Hattie](#) by Victoria J. Coe

THEME/TOPIC: friendship, family, moving, growing up, dog training/owning

SKILLS: making predictions, asking questions, POV, perspective, making sensory images, making inferences, character traits and development

[Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library](#) by Chris Grabenstein

THEME/TOPIC: teamwork, friendship, board games, libraries

SKILLS: making predictions, asking questions, making inferences, perspective, problem/solution, character traits, synthesizing information

### **More 3rd Grade Read Aloud Books**

*Rump: The Fairly True Tale of Rumpelstiltskin* by Liesel Shurtliff

*Frindle* by Andrew Clements

*Poppy* by Avi

*Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

*The Homework Machine* by Dan Gutman