

KID'S READ

Recommended Reads by Age -- A number of the suggested selections are available free on Kindle, can be purchased on Amazon, Google Books, and a variety of online sources, and some are offered on YouTube with guest readers.

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Bees Like Flowers by Rebecca Bielawski connects to Franklin County because bees are so important to the farming, and farming is a top industry of Franklin County.

Whispers in the Wind by Deanna Dewey explores secrets of the forest. Franklin County has nearly 40,000 acres of state forest land.

I Am Benjamin Franklin by Brad Meltzer is the 21st book in the New York Times bestselling series of biographies about heroes called Ordinary People Change The World. This book tells the story of Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the U.S. who helped draft the Declaration of Independence while making important scientific contributions. Franklin County is named to honor Benjamin Franklin.

Splat The Cat: I Scream For Ice Cream by Rob Scotton is an easy read for first-graders about a cat that loves ice cream. Franklin County produces lots of milks and is home to delicious creameries and ice cream shops.

For Bi-Lingual Readers

Terry L. Trepador by Tali Carmi is a series of books about Terry the Climber for children ages 2 to 8. Terry discovers the world around him by climbing trees, making friends, helping others, and visiting new places—a perfect connection to Franklin County.

La Yegua Holly y la Gran Misión by Jenny Loveless is a story about horses, animals, and the world around us. Makes a great bedtime story for ages 4 to 10.

3rd-4th Grade

From Ground to Grocery by Baby Professor takes plants from seeds to harvest—a perfect fit because Franklin County is a top producer of fruits and vegetables.

Locomotive by Brian Floca takes readers back to 1869 to discover a time when trains connected people and goods throughout America. Franklin County. Beautifully illustrated, it is a 2014 Caldecott Medal winner. Franklin County's history is filled with connections to the Cumberland Valley Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

5000 Awesome Facts About

Everything by National Geographic Kids offers so much to know. Because Franklin County is home to three post-secondary schools--Penn State Mont Alto, Shippensburg University, and Wilson College—learning is vital. This is a great book to for kids to learn a lot.

5th-6th Grade

Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos by Robert Lawson clues readers into where Benjamin Franklin got so many ideas for inventions. The PA legislature named Franklin County after Benjamin Franklin when it was created on September 9, 1784.

The Civil War: Brother Against Brother by Michelle Ablard and Torrey Maloof gives readers an understanding of the Civil War using original documents and sources to bring history to life.

Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad by Ann Petry tells how Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and became a leader of the Underground Railroad. Franklin County was just north of the Mason Dixon line and was an area of significant Underground Railroad activity. Learn about the Underground Railroad and freedom in this biography of Harriet Tubman. (Selection available online from a variety of sources.)

The Farm That Feeds Us by Nancy Castaldo looks at the seasons of a small organic family farm and the ways people support small scale, organic farms. Freshly grown food is everywhere throughout the county and is part of Franklin County's successful past, present, and future.

The Children's Book of America by Williams Bennett is a collection of stories, poems, and songs that teach American history and what it means to be American. Learn about Lewis and Clark and early American settlers. Franklin County is connected to the Lewis & Clark Expedition because Patrick Gass-- lead carpenter and author of a journal of the expedition—was born along the Falling Spring, off Franklin Farm Lane in Chambersburg.

7th-Grade and Older

The Royers of Renfrew A Family

Tapestry by Maxine Sheeley Beck and Marie Lancer Beck

The Royers of Renfrew - The Threads of Change by Maxine Sheeley Beck and Marie Lancer Beck

The Royers of Renfrew – The Fabric of Life by Maxine Sheeley Beck and Marie Lancer Beck

The Royers of Renfrew, Vol. IV: Branches in the Wind by Maxine Beck

The Royers of Renfrew series are set in Franklin County in the heart of the Cumberland Valley and portray the life of German immigrants making a living from the land. The first volume begins in 1812 and follows the lives of the frontier family. Branches in the Wind focuses on 1830 to 1838 and brings the conflict of slavery to focus.

Timekeepers: A Revolutionary Tale by J. Y Harris takes the reader on a trip through time. Kristen and Brad Everheart are taking part in a re-enactment of the American Revolution when they inexplicably find themselves back in 1777. Along the way, they deal with a spymaster, colonial deserters, and British soldiers. Plus Kristen and Brad still have to figure out how to return to their time. In Franklin County, James Chambers, son Benjamin Chambers and a group of local sharpshooters marched more than 450 miles to the Siege of Boston and the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare tells a tale of thirteen-year-old Matt, who is left alone by his father to guard the new cabin in the wilderness. A renegade stranger steals his gun, and Matt meets Attean, a boy in the Beaver clan, and begins to understand the native way of life and the changes settlers bring.

Sacajawea by Joseph Bruchac is an extraordinary story of the Shoshone women that guided the Lewis & Clark expedition. The story is told in the voices of Sacajawea and William Clark.

Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War

Spy by Seymour Reit takes the reader and Emma Edmonds from the sidelines to the midst of war. Posing as a slave, peddler, washerwoman and dandy, Emma risks discovery and death at every turn behind Confederate lines.

Spirit Preserves Trilogy by Alexis Dingeldein, a Franklin County author, consists of Soar (Volume 1), Steady (Volume 2), and Swoop (Volume 3). Follow the life of Quinn Smith and her friends as she navigates school, friends, and the challenges of life.