

The All-New Book of Lists for Kids

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*written by Sandra and Harry Choron  
Houghton Mifflin, 2002*

This month's book is a bit different from the ones I typically post in this section. Admittedly, I tend to overdose on narrative text (both fiction and non-fiction). The book this month is comprised of list after list (over 300, in fact!) of nearly every thing imaginable that students of all ages care about.

- Some of the lists, I imagine, took someone a great deal of research to compile. For example... The Largest Foods in the World (Did you know that a company in Germany once make a hotdog that was over half a mile long!); 22 Great Websites for Sports Fans; and 7 Facts about Kids and Guns.
- Some of the lists require personal experiences. For example, How to Make It Appear As Though You've Cleaned Your Room in Only 27 Minutes; or 15 Things Every Babysitter Should Know; and 10 Reasons Why Girls Are Better Than Boys.
- Some are based on hobbies and particular/peculiar interests—10 Mistakes Made in Movies; 25 Characters That Appear in the Harry Potter Series; and 10 Great Websites that Help with Homework; 22 Online Acronyms; and 16 Way in Which Movies Cheat.
- Some of the lists are valuable tips, like 9 Rollerblading Safety Tips; 7 Things To Do If You Think You're Going to Throw Up; 9 Ways to Stop the Hiccups; and 10 Ways to Win The Battle Against Zits; and How to Say "I Have to Go to the Bathroom" in 9 Languages!

Even as an adult (I think I qualify on most days!), I thoroughly enjoyed reading the lists. It wasn't a book I wanted to read in one sitting, but I did return to it often to read a bit more. The lists were fun (You'll LOL!), informative, inspirational, and thought-provoking. I hope you and your students will enjoy this book!

### **Guided Reading Block**

Genre: This is a most interesting informational text.

Sequencing– Sequencing is a necessary part of some of the lists. It might be fun to have students identify the ones where sequence makes a difference and tell why it makes a difference.

Research – Many of the lists can become springboards to research that your students may conduct. Also, they will surely want to compile their own book of lists where research is required.

Discussions - You might have some lively discussions about such topics as...  
33 Things That Are Hard to Tell Your Parents; 15 Ways to Fight Racism; The Girls' Bill of Rights; 5 Things You Can Do About World Hunger; and 19 Tips for Getting Good Grades on Tests.

### **Self-Selected Reading Block**

This book would make a wonderful read-aloud during Self-Selected Reading Block. I don't know that you would want to read it aloud from cover to cover. Just mark some of the lists that you think will be most appealing to your students and read those. This is also a book that you can return to periodically to read a few lists, especially those connected to topics begin studied.

### **Writing Block**

Many students have probably not thought of writing lists as writing at all! Once you've shared this book, they'll be raring to try their hand at this type of writing. Most students will like the organization of list-writing, especially those who don't care for lots of description and details.

After introducing this book, get the list-writing ball rolling by first creating a class book of lists. Have students sign up for the list they want to pursue through research, personal experiences, hobbies, interests, etc. Remind them of their skill and expertise—"Marian, your family raised Shetland ponies, and you might want to make a list of the smallest pets or the different kinds of horses. Jessica, you're taking dance lessons, and you might want to list the different kinds of dances. That would probably be a long list! Terek, you've got a great collection of baseball cards. I wonder if you could find out what the most valuable cards are? Jen, you love to read about dinosaurs. You might want to make a list of extinct animals." Take a narrow 3-ring binder (the kind with the plastic cover for an insert is best) and fill it with plastic protective covers. As students complete a page for the book, just insert the students' lists into the plastic sheets, let some of your artistically talented students make a nice insert for the cover, and voile—you've got a great Class Book of Lists.

To get kids started on their list writing, suggest that they brainstorm on the **form below** about all of the topics that might make good lists.

Hope you'll enjoy this book as much as I have! **(See the form below!)**

## Ideas for My Book of Lists

|         |             |             |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Sports  | Hobbies     | Food        |
| Movies  | Music       | Books       |
| Animals | Safety      | Characters  |
| Games   | History     | Math        |
| Science | Other Ideas | Other Ideas |