Harry Potter Read-a-likes

SKELLIQ by Almond (JF Almond)
Grades 5-9
Michael was looking forward to moving into a new house. But now his baby sister is ill, his parents are frantic, and Doctor Death has come to call. Michael feels helpless. Then he steps into the crumbling garage. What is this thing beneath the spider webs and dead flies? A human being or a strange kind of beast never before seen?

WHALES ON STILTS! by Anderson (JF Anderson)
Grades 4-7
An intrepid trio must defeat an insidious plan to use whales (equipped with metal stilts and laser-beam eyes) in a takeover of the state capital - and then the world! (Followed by THE CLUE OF THE LINOLEUM LEDERHOSEN.)
**Bright Shadow** by Avi (JF Avi)
Grades 5-8
Young Morwenna, upon the death of an ancient wizard, finds herself in possession of the world's last five wishes. She soon discovers that this gift is a lonely burden. By a curious trick of fate, a beloved but rather simple and selfish friend believes himself to be in possession of the wishes and constantly gets himself into situations from which Morwenna must extricate him.

**Chasing Vermeer** by Balliett (Summer 6)
Grades 5-8
When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee & Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen: seemingly unrelated events connect, an eccentric old woman seeks their company, & an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal.

**Lost Years of Merlin** series by Barron (YA Barron)
Grades 5 & up
One day Emrys discovers that he has some unusual powers; using them to kindle a fire in his mother’s defense, he is blinded by the flames. However, he learns to see without eyes, using his “second sight.” Desperate to know about his past, Emrys sets off on an ocean journey. He lands on Fincayra, where he plunges into a dangerous quest to rescue the island from the destructive blight caused by a pact between its king and an evil power. *(The Lost Years of Merlin, The Seven Songs of Merlin, The Fires of Merlin, The Mirror of Merlin, The Wings of Merlin)*
**MODERN TALES OF FAERIE** series by Black (YA Black)  
Grades 8 & up  
With a hard-drinking rock singer for a mother and a band of faeries as childhood friends, 16-year-old Kaye's life has always been unconventional. But when she rescues a gorgeous knight, Roiben, from mysterious attackers, Kaye is thrown into a terrifying, otherworldly war between two faerie kingdoms. (*Tithe, Valiant, Ironside*)

**SHAKESPEARE’S SECRET** by Broach (JF Broach)  
Grades 4-9  
As usual, sixth-grader Hero’s Shakespearean name prompts teasing in her new school, and her loving parents are clueless about her difficulties. Then intriguing, elderly neighbor Mrs. Roth tells her about the enormous diamond rumored to be hidden in Hero's new house. Helped by Mrs. Roth and eighth-grader Danny, Hero launches into a stealthy search that unearths links between the diamond's original owner and Edward de Vere, a nobleman believed by some to be the original author of Shakespeare's plays.

**HEIR CHRONICLES** by Chima (YA Chima)  
Grades 6 & up  
Jack forgets his medicine one morning and by afternoon is filled with such strength he sends his rival, Garrett Lobeck, sailing into the net at soccer tryouts - without even touching him. Jack soon discovers he is no ordinary teen and his medicine is not what he thought it was. Since the secret insertion of a warrior stone in his chest at infancy, Jack has been dosed with a suppressant meant to hold his powers as a Warrior Heir in check until his wizard sponsor can retrieve him and prepare him to fight in a death tournament for supremacy. (*The Warrior Heir, The Wizard Heir, The Dragon Heir*)
**Artemis Fowl** series by Colfer (YA Colfer)
Grades 5-9
Artemis Fowl is a 12-year-old genius and the scion of a legendary Irish criminal family whose fortune was diminished when Artemis Senior tried to horn in on the Russian Mafia. Determined to restore the family wealth, Artemis Fowl the Second concocts an elaborate plan to relieve the fairies of some of their magical gold by locating and tricking one of them into giving up the fairy’s Book. (*Artemis Fowl*, *The Arctic Incident*, *The Eternity Code*, *The Opal Deception*, *The Lost Colony*, *The Time Paradox*, *The Atlantis Complex*)

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**The Hunger Games Trilogy** by Collins (YA Collins)
Grades 7 & up
Sixteen-year-old Katniss poaches food for her widowed mother and little sister from the forest outside the legal perimeter of District 12, the poorest of the dozen districts constituting Panem, the North American dystopic state that has replaced the U.S. in the not-too-distant future. Her hunting and tracking skills serve her well when she is then cast into the nation's annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death where contestants must battle harsh terrain, artificially concocted weather conditions, and two teenaged contestants from each of Panem's districts. (*The Hunger Games*, *Catching Fire*, *Mockingjay*)
**UNDERLAND CHRONICLES** series by Collins (JF Collins)
Grades 4-8
What if Alice fell down an air vent in a New York City apartment building instead of down a rabbit hole? Eleven-year-old Gregor expects a long, boring summer of baby-sitting his two-year-old sister, Boots, and his senile grandmother. Distracted with thoughts about his father, who disappeared three years ago, Gregor belatedly notices that Boots has crawled into an air vent in the laundry room. He dives in after her, and the two are sucked downward into the Underland, a fantastic subterranean world of translucent-skinned, violet-eyed humans, and giant talking cockroaches, bats, spiders, and rats. *(Gregor the Overlander, Gregor and the Prophecy of Bane, Gregor and the Curse of the Warmbloods, Gregor and the Marks of Secret, Gregor and the Code of Claw)*

**THE DARK IS RISING** series by Cooper (JF Cooper)
Grades 5-7
The Drew children find an old map in a hidden room while summering at the Grey House in Cornwall. Along with their Great-Uncle Merry, they become embroiled in a web of intrigue that surrounds an Arthurian legend. *(Over Sea, Under Stone, The Dark is Rising, Greenwitch, The Grey King, The Silver Tree)*

**THE DRAGONSLAYERS** by Coville (JF Coville)
Grades 4-6
Grizelda seeks revenge on King Mildred by creating the fiercest dragon the kingdom has ever seen. Can an old squire, a young page boy, and a willful princess stop arguing long enough to face the greatest battle of all?
**THE UNSEEN** series by Cusick (YA Cusick)
Grades 10 & up
Lucy is sure that someone is following her when she suddenly stumbles across a bruised and bloodied girl who passes on her psychic abilities just before dying. Now the teen is tormented by visions indicating that the killer is stalking her. (IT BEGINS, REST IN PEACE, BLOOD BROTHERS, SIN & SALVATION)

**MATILDA** by Dahl (JF Dahl)
Grades 4-7
Matilda is an extraordinarily gifted four-year-old whose parents - a crass, dishonest used-car dealer and a self-centered, blowzy bingo addict - regard her as “nothing more than a scab.” Life with her beastly parents is bearable only because Matilda teaches herself to read, finds the public library, and discovers literature. Also, Matilda loves using her lively intelligence to perpetrate daring acts of revenge on her father.

**THE WITCHES** by Dahl (JF Dahl)
Grades 4-7
A boy is turned into a mouse, but nevertheless takes on the Grand High Witch of the World.
**The Last Apprentice** series by Delaney (YA Delaney)
Grades 5-8
It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it. Rid the county of boggarts, witches, ghosts and other evils, that is. And that's what the Spook's business happens to be. But current spook, Old Gregory, is getting on in years and he needs to train a successor. He takes on as his apprentice young Thomas Ward, a seventh son of a seventh son. (*Revenge of the Witch, Curse of the Bane, Night of the Soul Stealer, Attack of the Fiend, Wrath of the Bloodeye, Clash of the Demons, Rise of the Huntress, Rage of the Fallen*)

**The Tale of Despereaux** by DiCamillo (JF DiCamillo)
Grades 3 & up
Despereaux, a tiny mouse with huge ears, is the bane of his family's existence. He has fallen in love with the young princess who lives in the castle where he resides and, having read of knights and their ladies, vows to honor her. But his unmouselike behavior gets him banished to the dungeon, where a swarm of rats kill whoever falls into their clutches.

**Book of Ember** series by DuPrau (JF DuPrau)
Grades 4-8
The city of Ember was built as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! (*City of Ember, People of Sparks, The Prophet of Yonwood, The Diamond of Darkhold*)
**The Sea of Trolls** series by Farmer (JF Farmer)
Grades 5-9
Rampaging Northmen (the polite term for Vikings) pass through a Saxon village and enslave two of its residents: an 11-year-old apprentice mage and his 5-year-old sister. When Jack offends the Northmen's touchy queen, she threatens to kill his sister unless he reverses a misfired spell - a task that requires a journey deep into icy troll country. (*The Sea of Trolls, The Land of the Silver Apples, The Islands of the Blessed*)

**Ranger’s Apprentice** series by Flanagan (YA Flanagan)
Grades 5-8
Like the other wards of Castle Redmont, Will is nervous about Choosing Day, when each of them will be assigned to a master for training. Though his dearest wish is to enter the Battleschool, his small stature prevents it. Instead, Will is apprenticed to the grim-faced, mysterious Ranger. Soon Will learns that becoming a ranger is more dangerous and worthwhile than thought. (*The Ruins of Gorlan, The Burning Bridge, The Icebound Land, The Battle for Skandia, The Sorcerer of the North, The Siege of Macindaw, Erek’s Ransom, The Kings of Clonmel, Halt’s Peril, The Emperor of Nihon-Ja*)

**Spartan Quest** series by Ford (YA Ford)
Grades 6-10
Lysander, a young Helot slave who is trying to do twice the work demanded of him so his ailing mother can stay out of the fields, is attacked on his way home one night. He is saved by a distinguished old Spartan who is fascinated by the pendant that has been pulled from its hiding place under Lysander’s clothing. (*The Fire of Ares, The Birth of a Warrior, Legacy of Blood*)
**INKHEART** series by Funke (JF Funke)
Grades 4 & up
Twelve-year-old Meggie and Mo, her book binder father, are fleeing their old enemy, Capricorn, when they arrive at Great Aunt Eleanor’s book-lined villa in Italy. Though the three of them are brave and wily by turns, their cruelly-powerful nemesis manages to find them and their copy of the book, Inkheart. (*INKHEART, INKSPELL, INKDEATH*)

**DRAGON RIDER** by Funke (JF Funke)
Grades 4-7
When humans encroach upon his home valley, Firedrake, a young silver dragon, sets off to find the Rim of Heaven, a legendary haven in the mountains. But evil Nettlebrand, a human-made hunter of silver dragons, is spying on him, hoping Firedrake will lead him to even more delicious treats.

**PRINCESS ACADEMY** by Hale (JF Hale)
Grades 5-9
The thought of being a princess never occurred to the girls living on Mount Eskel. Most plan to work in the quarry like the generations before them. When it is announced that the prince will choose a bride from their village, 14-year-old Miri, who thinks she is being kept from working in the quarry because of her small stature, believes that this is her opportunity to prove her worth to her father. All eligible females are sent off to attend a special academy where they face many challenges and hardships as they are forced to adapt to the cultured life of a lowlander.
**WARRIORS** series by Hunter (JF Hunter)  
Grades 5 & up  
Rusty, a young "kittypet" (house cat), yearns for adventure. When he's offered the chance to join the ThunderClan, one of the gangs of feral cats in the area, he doesn't hesitate. Renamed Firepaw, he becomes an apprentice and begins to train as a warrior. *(Into the Wild, Fire & Ice, Forest of Secrets, Rising Storm, A Dangerous Path, The Darkest Hour)* (There are more sub-series of Warriors.)

**The Secret of Platform 13** by Ibbotson (JF Ibbotson)  
Grades 4-7  
The door between our world and the enchanted Island is only open for nine days every nine years. Unfortunately, in the last minutes before it closes in 1983, the baby prince of the Island is kidnapped by a nasty woman named Trottle. For nine long years, the king and queen pine and plan for his rescue. Which of the magical creatures of their land should be sent to rescue their lost child? Finally, the team is chosen: Cor, an ancient wizard; Gurkie, a lovable agricultural fairy; Hans, a one-eyed giant; and Odge, a resourceful young hag.
**Howl’s Moving Castle** series by Jones (YA Jones)  
Grades 6 & up  
Sophie Hatter reads a great deal and soon realizes that as the eldest of three daughters she is doomed to an uninteresting future. But adventure seeks her out. The wicked Witch of the Waste, angered by "competition" in the area, turns her into an old woman, so she seeks refuge inside the strange moving castle of the wizard Howl. (**Howl’s Moving Castle, Castle in the Air, House of Many Ways**)

**Song in the Silence** by Kerner (SF Kerner)  
Grades 11 & up  
Tall and outspoken, much like the mother she never knew, Lanen Hadronsddatter is far from the meek, dutiful female her stepfather wants her to be. Not until after his death is Lanen able to leave home and set off on the journey she has always dreamed of making: sailing to the remote Dragon Isles, only source of the rare and potent lansip leaves used to defeat old age, in order to search for the mysterious True Dragons.

**Murry Family** series by L’Engle (JF L’Engle)  
Grades 4 & up  
One stormy night a strange visitor comes to the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O’Keefe on a most dangerous and fantastic journey - a journey that will threaten their lives and our universe. (**A Wrinkle in Time, A Wind in the Door, A Swiftly Titling Planet, Many Waters, An Acceptable Time**)
**Ella Enchanted** by Levine (JF Levine)

Grades 5-8

Ella is burdened with a curse (she cannot disobey a command) bestowed at birth as a gift from an addled fairy and this - plus the loss of her beloved mother - causes all sorts of troubles. Before her death, Ella’s mother commands her daughter to keep the curse a secret - only the cook Mandy knows the truth.

**The Chronicles of Narnia** by Lewis (JF Lewis)

British schoolchildren Polly and Digory inadvertently tumble into the Wood Between the Worlds, where they meet the evil Queen Jadis and, ultimately, the great, mysterious King Aslan. The series then moves on to a new group of siblings, whose adventures in Narnia make troubles in their true world seem small. (*The Magician’s Nephew, The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, The Horse and His Boy, Prince Caspian, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair, The Last Battle*)

**Tapestry** series by Neff (JF Neff)

Grades 5-8

Max McDaniels lived an ordinary life until visiting the Art Institute to celebrate his missing mother’s birthday. While fleeing from a mysterious man with one white eye, Max stumbles on a beautiful tapestry and has a vision. Upon returning home, Max receives two visitors: a woman who tries to attack him, and a recruiter for Rowan Academy, a fantastical school for gifted children. (*The Hound of Rowan, The Second Siege, The Fiend and the Forge*)
**WIND ON FIRE TRILOGY** by Nicholson (YA PBK FAN Nicholson)

Grades 5-8

In Amaranth, life is very structured: people live in color-coded rings around the city - white for best, gray for the gritty outer circle - and tests rule all. When two-year-old Pinpin fails her first test, her older sister, Kestrel, snaps and is banished to the bottom of her class, even below the hated Mumpo. In a wild scene, Kestrel escapes, and with her twin brother, Bowman, and a map goes on a quest for the voice of the Wind Singer, an odd sculpture in the middle of Amaranth that has long been silent. *(The Wind Singer, Slaves of the Mastery, Firesong)*

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**CHILDREN OF THE RED KING** series by Nimmo (JF Nimmo)

Grades 4-7

When he is 10 years old, Charlie discovers that he is able to look at photographs and hear conversations and even thoughts that were taking place at the time the photo was taken, a legacy of his ancestor the Red King, whose descendants all have different magical abilities. Charlie hears one conversation that sets him on a search for a girl who has been missing for years, and when he begins attending Bloor's Academy, an elite boarding school for the rich and the endowed (as the Red King's descendants are called), his life becomes full of intrigue and danger. *(Midnight for Charlie Bone, Charlie Bone and the Time Twister, ...and the Invisible Boy, ...and the Castle of Mirrors, ...and the Hidden King, ...and the Hidden Beast, ...and the Shadow, ...and the Red Knight)*
**THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM** series by Nix (YA Nix)
Grades 5-8
During a running exercise at school, Arthur Penhaligon collapses from an asthma attack. Upon awakening, he meets a stranger, Mister Monday. Monday hands Arthur an unusual key which begins a wild adventure. Using the powers of the key, Arthur travels to another realm and battles many evil creatures in a struggle to save his world from a mysterious disease. (*Mister Monday, Grim Tuesday, Drowned Wednesday, Sir Thursday, Lady Friday, Superior Saturday, Lord Sunday*)

**OLD KINGDOM** by Nix (YA Nix)
Grades 7 & up
The mage Abhorsen is an "uncommon necromancer," who, rather than raising the dead like others of the art, lays the dead back to rest or binds those that will not rest. Sabriel, his daughter, has been sent for her safety to boarding school outside the Old Kingdom, where she is in her last year when she receives her father's sword and necromancy tools, which means that Abhorsen is either dead or trapped in the realm of Death. (*Sabriel, Lirael, Abhorsen, Across the Wall*)

**MRS. FRISBY AND THE RATS OF NIMH** by O’Brien (JF O’Brien)
Grades 3-7
There's something very strange about the rats living under the rosebush at the Fitzgibbon farm. But Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with a sick child, is in dire straits and must turn to these exceptional creatures for assistance. (Followed by *Rasco & The Rats of Nihm* by Conly (JF Conly).)
**Matt Cruse** series by Oppel (YA Oppel)  
Grades 6-10  
Matt Cruse is a cabin boy aboard the luxury passenger airship Aurora when the ship encounters a battered hot air balloon with an unconscious man aboard. Before dying, the man claims to have seen beautiful creatures swarming in the air over an uncharted island. Matt doesn’t learn until a year later that the man wasn’t hallucinating. (*Airborn, Skybreaker, Starclimber*)

**Inheritance** series by Paolini (YA Paolini)  
Grades 5 & up  
Eragon, 15, is hunting for wild game when he witnesses a mysterious explosion. At the center of the blast radius he finds a polished blue stone marked with white veins. Brom, the village storyteller, has shown interest in it, so it is to him that Eragon turns when it starts squeaking, then wobbling, and then hatches into a majestic sapphire blue dragon. (*Eragon, Eldest, Brisinger, Inheritance*)

**The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents** by Pratchett (YA Pratchett)  
Grades 6 & up  
The Amazing Maurice, an opportunistic cat, talks Keith, a "stupid-looking kid" who plays a flute, and a horde of rats (with names like Dangerous Beans, Darktan, Hamp pork, Big Savings, Peaches, and Nourishing) into working pied-piper scams on various towns.
**Wee Free Men** by Pratchett (JF Pratchett)
Grades 5 & up
Young Tiffany Aching, incipient witch armed with a large iron frying pan, goes after the Elf Queen, who has taken Tiffany's little brother into Fairyland and who plans to use humans' dreams to conquer their world. Tiffany's companions on her quest are a talking toad, who used to be a human, and a band of fierce Wee Free Men, who are six inches tall, talk with a Scottish brogue, and are famous for "stealin' an' drinkin' an' fightin'!"

**His Dark Materials** series by Pullman (YA Pullman)
Grades 6 & up
Lyra, apparently an orphan, lives among the scholars at Jordan College, Oxford. She becomes aware of a nefarious plot to steal children and transport them to the far north. As Lyra is drawn deeper and deeper into this mystery, she finds that the children are being made to suffer terribly. What she does not - and must not - know is that she is the keystone in an ancient prophecy. Her destiny is to save her world and to move on into a parallel universe. (**The Golden Compass**, **The Subtle Knife**, **The Amber Spyglass**) 

**The Scarecrow and His Servant** by Pullman (JF Pullman)
Grades 4-7
Old Mr. Pandolfo, feeling that life is getting too difficult, decides the time has come to create a scarecrow. At least a scarecrow would take care of the birds. Mr. Pandolfo creates a fine scarecrow, indeed. Hidden within it, carefully wrapped in oilskin, is a mysterious letter. But how can this extraordinary creature - who comes to life when struck by a bolt of lightning - fulfill his destiny if he's stuck out in the middle of a field?
**The Kane Chronicles** by Riordan (YA Riordan)
Grades 4-9
Since their mother's death six years ago, Sadie Kane has lived in London with her grandparents while her older brother has traveled the world with their father, a renowned African American Egyptologist. In London for a rare evening together, Carter and Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone in summoning an Egyptian god. Unleashed, the vengeful god overpowers and entombs him, but Sadie and Carter escape. *(The Red Pyramid, Throne of Fire)*

**Percy Jackson & The Olympians** series by Riordan (YA Riordan)
Grades 5-9
Perseus, aka Percy Jackson, thinks he has big problems. His father left before he was born, he’s been kicked out of six schools in six years, he’s dyslexic, and he has ADHD. What a surprise when he finds out that that’s only the tip of the iceberg: he vaporizes his pre-algebra teacher, learns his best friend is a satyr, and is almost killed by a minotaur before his mother manages to get him to the safety of Camp Half-Blood - where he discovers that Poseidon is his father. *(The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan’s Curse, The Battle of the Labyrinth, The Last Olympian)*

**Septimus Heap** series by Sage (JF Sage)
Grades 4-8
Septimus - whose birth shortly before chapter one set this series in motion - is killed off in chapter one, whisked away by a midwife shouting, Dead! Fast-forward 10 years, when it becomes apparent that Jenna, a foundling girl whom the large, boisterous Heap family has adopted, has her own grand destiny to fulfill. As for Septimus, could it be that his death is more presumed than actual? *(Magyk, Flyte, Physik, Queste, Syren, Darke)*
SECRETS OF THE IMMORTAL NICHOLAS FLAMEL series by Scott (YA Scott)
Grades 6-9
When 15-year-old twins Josh and Sophie inadvertently become involved in a plot to steal the Codex from their friend Nick Fleming (aka Nicholas Flamel), they are propelled into a fantasy world of golems, wereboars, and many other creatures that inhabit the netherworld between good and evil. (THE ALCHEMYST, THE MAGICIAN, THE SORCERESS, THE NECROMANCER, THE WARLOCK)

A COLLEGE OF MAGICS by Stevermer (SF Stevermer)
Grades 10 & up
Teenager Faris Nallaneen is the heir to the small northern dukedom of Galazon. Too young still to claim her title, her despotic Uncle Brinker has ruled in her place. Now he demands she be sent to Greenlaw College. But Greenlaw is not just any school - as Faris and her new best friend Jane discover. (Followed by A Scholar of Magics.)

BARTIMAeus TRiOLOGY by Stroud (YA Stroud)
Grades 5 & up
Nathaniel is a 12-year-old magician in training in an alternate London where magic is real and perilous creatures and artifacts abound. Bartimaeus is a cocky, 5,000-year-old djinni whom Nathaniel summons to help him get revenge against an arrogant adult wizard. (THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND, THE GOLEM’S EYE, PTOLEMY’S GATE)
**QUEEN'S THIEF** series by Turner (YA Turner)  
Grades 5 & up  
Because of his bragging and his great skill at thievery, Gen lands in the King's Prison, shackled to the wall of his cell. After months of isolation, kept sane only by his sharp intelligence, Gen is released by none other than the King's Scholar, the Magus, who believes he knows the site of an ancient treasure. The Magus needs the best thief in the land to help him steal it, and that thief is Gen. (*The Thief, The Queen of Attolia, The King of Attolia, A Conspiracy of Kings*)

**ENCHANTED FOREST CHRONICLES** by Wrede (JF Wrede)  
Grades 5 & up  
Princess Cimorene is the youngest of seven daughters, and her royal parents find her quite trying, so they arrange a match between Cimorene and dull-witted Prince Therandil. "I'd rather be eaten by a dragon," she mutters. And risking just that, she volunteers to be a dragon's captive princess. (*Dealing with Dragons, Searching for Dragons, Calling on Dragons, Talking to Dragons*)