

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ABOUT CARS
Preschool – Grade 8
Developed for the California Automobile Museum
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FICTION/CHAPTER BOOKS:

THE BEETLE AND ME: A LOVE STORY. Karen Romano Young. Greenwillow. 1999. Grade 6+. Surrounded by her busy extended family and their many car projects, 15-year-old Daisy pursues her goal of single-handedly restoring the car of her childhood, an old purple 1957 Volkswagen Beetle. This is a fine book that shows a girl who is not only interested in old cars, but is also a very good mechanic!

BORN TO DRIVE. Rhea Perlman. Illus. by San Santat. Katherine Tegen Books. 2006. Grades 3-6. Otto Undercover series. After thwarting bad guys to win the Yazoo 200 race, with the help of his trusty racecar and his eccentric Aunts FiFi and FooFoo, Otto Pillip receives a note from his long-lost parents inviting him to join the secret family business. Includes words spelled backwards, anagrams, and palindromes. Note that Otto Pillip and racecar are both palindromes. This book will appeal to reluctant readers.

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG. Ian Fleming. Illustrated by Ian Cunliffe. Cover art by Brian Selznick. Random. 1964. 2002. 2003. Grades 3-5. Eight-year-old twins, Jeremy and Jemima Pott persuade their father, an inventor, to purchase and restore an old race car that turns out to have magical powers – one of them being the ability to fly through the air. Their adventures take them to seaside caves where gangsters have their stash and a chocolate shop in Paris. This book, by the author of the James Bond series, was written for his son, Caspar, and has become a classic. A film was made in 1968.

THE GOLD CADILLAC. Mildred Taylor. Illustrated by Michael Hayes. Dial. 1987. Grades 3-6. When their father brings home a new 1950 gold Cadillac, sisters 'lois and Wilma are excited about the car and the pending drive from Ohio to visit relatives in Mississippi. It is on the trip that the two girls encounter racial prejudice for the first time and come to understand their mother's concern about an African American family's owning and driving such a car in the South. This is a strong story about the America of 50 years ago and how certain cars have always been status symbols – for the "right" people.

HERE LIES THE LIBRARIAN. Richard Peck. Dial. 2006. Grades 6+. Fourteen-year-old Eleanor "Pee-wee" McGrath, a tomboy and automobile enthusiast, discovers new possibilities for her future after the 1914 arrival in her small Indiana town of four young librarians. Pee-wee is being raised by her older brother, and her goal in life is to be like him – to be an auto mechanic and own a garage. This is a very funny story of a different time in America and shows that even that many years ago, not all girls wanted to be "typical" girls.

MILTON, THE MODEL A. Donald Sobol. Illustrated by Joan E. Drescher. Harvey House. 1971. Grades 1-3. Nobody understood why Billy Harper and his dad bought the dumpy old Model A on the used-car lot. It was old-fashioned and its paint had faded, and it looked like a pile of junk on wheels. In the story, Billy and his father take Milton apart piece by piece and restore it to a real beauty that wins first place in the car show. **Out of Print – Look in your library!**

RULES OF THE ROAD. Joan Bauer. Putnam's Sons. 1998. Grades 6+. Sixteen-year-old Jenna gets a job driving the elderly owner of a chain of stores from Chicago to Texas to confront the son who is trying to force her to retire. Along the way Jenna learns and teaches others about life and finally finds the strength to face her alcoholic father. This is a tender generational story that features an enormous white Cadillac as a vehicle for change.