Big Nate books in order (novels vs comic collections)

Peabody blog · Reading · updated 2026-10-30

Big Nate books in order: the eight novels from 2010 to 2016, then the comic-strip collections, which are a separate line. Which to read first, and whose age it is.

Big Nate is two kinds of book, and that is why "Big Nate books in order" is confusing. There are eight Big Nate novels by Lincoln Peirce, published by HarperCollins from 2010 to 2016; read those in number order, starting with Big Nate: In a Class by Himself. Then there are more than thirty collections of Nate's newspaper comic strips, from Andrews McMeel, numbered on their own; those can be read in any order. Peabody's Big Nate page has the eight novels as a checklist you can print.

Families usually discover this the hard way: a child loves one Big Nate book, you buy "the next one", and it turns out to be a different kind of book altogether. Both kinds are funny and both star the same eleven-year-old. They just aren't one list.

The eight novels, in order

Every title starts with "Big Nate", so here it is left off.

- #: 1 · Title: In a Class by Himself · Came out: 2010
- #: 2 · Title: Strikes Again · Came out: 2010
- #: 3 · Title: On a Roll · Came out: 2011
- #: 4 · Title: Goes for Broke · Came out: 2012
- #: 5 · Title: Flips Out · Came out: 2013
- #: 6 · Title: In the Zone · Came out: 2014
- #: 7 · Title: Lives It Up · Came out: 2015
- #: 8 · Title: Blasts Off · Came out: 2016

The novels stopped at book 8 in 2016, so we mark them as a finished series. They are best read in order, because Nate's school year, his rivals and his friends build as you go, but each is still its own run of school-day disasters, so a child who grabs book 4 will cope.

What reading them is like: short chapters of plain, chatty text on every page, with cartoons and comic strips mixed in. It is a hybrid, closer to Diary of a Wimpy Kid than to Dog Man.

The comic-strip collections

These are Nate's newspaper strips gathered into books, all comics and no prose, so they are quicker to read. They are numbered in their own line, from a different publisher. As of 30 October 2026, the newest we found were Code Red!, volume 34 (March 2026), and Curse of

the Puffy Shorts, volume 35, listed for 1 September 2026. Sources disagree on the exact total, so we haven't put them on the checklist; there is no story running between them, so the order doesn't matter.

There are also six Big Nate activity books (doodling, puzzles and drawing games, 2011 to 2016) and two Little Big Nate board books for toddlers (2019 and 2020). Neither is part of the story.

Whose age it is

Eight to twelve is our own estimate. HarperCollins' site refused our request, and the pages we could open for the collections gave no age. Bookroo shows 7 to 11 for books 1 and 5 and 8 to 12 for the others. An age label is not a reading level: the novels have real paragraphs on most pages, which suits a child who is ready for chapter books but still likes pictures. We don't print reading-level scores.

Our note for grown-ups, from the series page: Big Nate is a comedy about a boy who gets sent to detention a lot, argues with his teachers and a classmate, and makes his own comics. Expect school pranks, insults between kids, some name-calling and plenty of bragging. Nate is rarely right, and the books treat his bad ideas as the joke.

What to read next

The series page names three, each on Peabody with its own checklist:

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney: the same mix of words and cartoons, twenty-one books as of 30 October 2026.
- Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm: school comedy in comic panels, twenty books, finished.
- Berrybrook Middle School by Svetlana Chmakova: school and friends, for a reader of ten and up.

Questions grown-ups ask

How many Big Nate books are there?

Eight novels, finished in 2016, plus more than thirty comic-strip collections (volume 35 was listed for September 2026), six activity books and two board books.

Which Big Nate book should my child read first?

The first novel, Big Nate: In a Class by Himself (2010). If your child prefers pure comics, any collection is a fine start.

Are the comic collections and the novels the same stories?

No. The novels are new stories written as books; the collections reprint the newspaper strips. The characters are the same.

Every series on the book series hub has its books in order with a checklist kept on your device. Peabody (peabody.kids) is free through the end of 2026, and our library has stories for every reading level.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/big-nate-books-in-order