

Summer Reading Suggestions

Adapted from The American Library Association

Pre-K & K

All the Way to Havana by Margarita Engle

A boy and his family have an unforgettable road trip across Cuba to see his new baby cousin.

Alphabet Family Band by Sarah Jones

A musical Hawaiian family introduces readers to the alphabet with a variety of instruments.

Beach Baby by Laurie Elmquist

From sand dollars to sandpipers, a baby's blissful day at the beach is recalled in lyrical verse and simple pastel-hued illustrations.

Beep! Beep! Go to Sleep! by Todd Tarpley

A boy and his three rambunctious robots get ready for bed.

Before & After by Jean Jullien

A series of clever and funny before-and-after scenarios that explore the concept of cause and effect.

Canticos: Elefantitos Canticos: Little Elephants by Susie Jaramillo

This traditional Mexican counting song is perfect for putting youngsters to sleep, in English and Spanish.

City Shapes by Diana Murray

Through the eyes of a young girl, shapes rise, shift and compose the cityscape from the shimmering squares of a skyscraper to the circles in the sunglasses of a cop.

Clive and His Bags by Jessica Spanyol

Clive loves his collection of bags of all kinds, and he and his friends enjoy them together.

Flora and the Chicks: a Counting Book by Molly Idle

Flora tries to keep up with an increasing number of hatching chicks.

Good Day, Good Night by Margaret

Reminiscent of the author's beloved *Goodnight Moon*, share a day - and night- in the life of a busy little bunny.

Looking for Bongo by Eric Velasquez

A boy's stuffed dog is missing: can advice from his abuela and a bit of detective work help him find his beloved toy?

Lucia the Luchadora by Cynthia Leonor Garza

Lucia's abuela helps her find the courage to stand up to bullies by sharing that Lucia comes from a long line of strong women Luchadoras.

Music is... by Brandon Stosuy

Musical instruments and styles are engagingly introduced to young children in a format that also features opposites.

My Heart Fills with Happiness by Monique Gray Smith

A celebration of moments in life to reflect on and cherish.

Old MacDonald Had a Truck by Steve Goetz

Toddlers will love to sing along with this new version of an old favorite featuring heavy farm machinery.

One Lonely Fish : A Counting Book with Bite! by Andy Mansfield

Bold colors, die-cut pages and a twist ending assure repeated readings of this cleverly designed concept book.

Puddle by Hyewon Yum

A rainy day doesn't stop the boy and his mother from having creative fun both inside and out.

The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet! by Carmen Agra Deedy

After a new mayor outlaws singing in the village of La Paz, It's up to one brave rooster to remind the villagers of the joys of song!

Twenty Yawns by Jane Smiley

After a long, full day at the beach everyone in the family falls asleep early except young Lucy and her stuffed animals.

The Whale in My Swimming Pool by Joyce Wan

A boy goes out to swim only to find a whale in his swimming pool. He tries everything he can think of to get him out before coming to the perfect solution.

The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal

Wheels on the Bus has never been so fun in this modern update to the traditional song, this time set in India!

Windows by Julia Denos

In a lively neighborhood, just before dark, a boy walking his dog enjoys the view through the windows.

Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt

Presented as a thoughtful, poetic exchange between two characters -- who don't realize they are thinking and asking the very same questions -- this beautiful celebration of our humanity.

K - 2

After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again) by Dan Santat

Humpty Dumpty conquers his fears in a most extraordinary result.

The Bad Seed by Jory John

The story of a baaaaaad sunflower seed who decides it's time for a change.

Beastly Verse Various authors

Text and art are interwoven to bring to life sixteen animal- related poems in this award- winning anthology.

Big Cat, Little Cat by Elisha Cooper

This endearing story of the friendship between an older cat and a younger cat is a celebration of love and loss.

Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus

This poetic, patriotic tribute will help readers appreciate America's splendor.

The Book of Mistakes by Corinna Luyken

Incorporating accidental splotches, spots and unusual shapes into her art, a young artist explores the creative process.

Flowers Are Calling by Rita Gray

Playful rhyming text alternates with factual callouts that describe flowers and the pollination process. The watercolor illustrations are gorgeous and sure to inspire young naturalists everywhere!

Fly Guy Presents: Castles by Tedd Arnold

Fly Guy and Buzz learn about what it is like to have lived in a castle in this nonfiction reader.

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford

In this work of historical fiction, enslaved people are forced to work hard all week long, so they look forward to Sunday when they can gather in New Orleans' Congo Square to dance, sing, and enjoy an afternoon of freedom.

Get a Hit, Mo! by David A. Adler

Mo is used to striking out but when the bases are loaded, he may just finally hit a homerun.

Good Night, Planet by Liniers

After a busy day of play, a girl's favorite toy animal begins his day, befriendng a dog, eating a cookie and exploring the unknown.

Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug by Evan Kuhlman

Pill bug Hank and his human pal Amelia spend a marvelous day exploring the outdoors in a sweet story of friendship and imagination.

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

The big moment has come for Jabari to jump off the diving board, but is he ready?

Little Elliot, Big Fun by Mike Curato

A big amusement park brings more fear than fun until a mouse friend helps Little Elliot find the rides that are just right for him.

Marta! Big & Small by Jen Arena

An exploring of opposites in English and Spanish with a very clever niña named Marta.

My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis by Paul Meisel

Vibrant illustrations add whimsy to this five-month diary in the life of a praying mantis as it eats (its siblings!), hides from predators and learns to fly.

My Beautiful Birds by Suzanne Del Rizzo

Behind Sami, the Syrian skyline is full of smoke. The boy follows his family and all his neighbors in a long line, as they trudge through the sands and hills to escape the bombs that have destroyed their homes.

The Night Gardener by Terry Fan and Eric Fan

William and the elderly gardener help transform their town by creating anonymous topiary artwork.

Now by Antoinette Portis

Following a girl's joys and experiences shows an appreciation of life's simple moments.

A Piece of Home by Jeri Watts

Moving from Korea to West Virginia is a big and scary adjustment for Hee Jun, but finding a flower in America that also grew in his grandmother's garden back in Korea makes him feel connected once again.

La Princesa and the Pea by Susan Middleton Elya

In this twist on the classic fairytale, a Peruvian Prince goes to great lengths to marry the girl of his dreams.

Robinson by Peter Sís

Exquisite art and a heartfelt story of adventure and friendship come together in this imaginative, magical book.

Strictly No Elephants by Lisa Mantchev

Pets—and friends—come in all shapes and sizes.

This is My Dollhouse by Giselle Potter

A little girl's homemade dollhouse inspires hours of creativity - but can it compare to her friend's store bought one?

What Do You Do With a Problem? by Kobi Yamada

The child experiences an unexpected problem, worrying and wrestling it through until he realizes it's not really a problem after all -- it's an opportunity.

Grades 3-5

Ape and Armadillo Take Over the World by James Sturm

Ape and Armadillo learn that achieving world domination is a lot less fun without your best friend at your side.

Almost Paradise by Corabel Shofner

A (stolen) pet pig, an ornery nun, and a feisty 12-year-old runaway from an unusual family in this lively debut novel.

Charlie & Mouse by Laurel

Charming short stories follow the exploits of two brothers as they organize a neighborhood party, earn ice cream money and invent the "bedtime banana". First in a series.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground by Rita Williams-Garcia

When his beloved grandfather, the blues man Cool Papa Byrd, dies suddenly, Clayton's anger and misplaced alliances get him into trouble. This story of family grief, reconciliation, and the power of music is set in New York City.

Cucumber Quest: The Doughnut Kingdom by Gigi D.G.

A brother and sister duo take on a mission to stop the maniacal "Queen" Cordelia and her henchman, The Nightmare Knight. First in new series.

Flying Lessons & Other Stories

Ten authors celebrate diversity through tales of Bigfoot, basketball, girl pirates and more in a highly readable, relatable short story collection.

Grand Canyon by Jason Chin

As a father and daughter hike up and out of the canyon, Chin introduces readers to this National Park's unique geology, plants and animals.

Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible (Hamster Princess #1) by Ursula Vernon

Princess Harriet is not your typical princess, what with all the ogre-slaying, cliff-diving, and battle quail-riding. But she knows that the curse that is destined to befall her on her 12th birthday must also keep her alive until then - making her invincible!

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

The lives of Virgil, Kaori, Gen and Valencia are woven together in unexpected ways when a disaster brings them together to perform a rescue in this story of bravery and friendship.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers

A moving and conversational description of the history of the Statue of Liberty and how some of the smallest details contribute to her symbolism as a welcoming beacon to the world.

Juana and Lucas by Juana Medina

A little girl growing up on Bogota is determined to learn English before her trip to the U.S. and her visit to Spaceland.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste

Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

Just Dance by Patricia MacLachlan

Years ago, Sylvie's mother was a famous opera singer, but she gave it all up to marry Sylvie's father and move to small town Wyoming. Sylvie can't help but wonder - does her mother ever miss her glamorous former life? And is she ever tempted to go back to it?

Lemons by Melissa Savage

When Lemonade Liberty Witt moves in with her grandfather, the last thing she expects is to join the Bigfoot Detective Inc. Are they on track to discover sasquatch or something more?

Lights, Camera, Middle School! (Babymouse Tales from the Locker #1) by Jennifer L. Holm

Babymouse is in Middle School! She is ready to stand out! She is ready to direct an epic movie! She is ready to learn about the necessity of cooperation and friendship! Typical.

Lola Levine is Not Mean! by Monica Brown

Sports-loving Lola accidentally injures a classmate during a recess soccer game and resolves to win back her spot on the field – and her friends – by demonstrating what good sportsmanship is all about.

Makoons by Louise Erdrich

Twin brothers Makoons and Chickadee travel across the plains in search of buffalo with their family in the 1860's.

Me & Marvin Gardens by Amy Sarig King

While picking up trash from Devlin Creek, Obe discovers a most extraordinary animal that may be the answer to the pollution.

Mighty Jack and the Goblin King by Ben Hatke

In this sequel to *Mighty Jack*, Jack and Lilly travel through a portal to a bridge between worlds where they encounter grave dangers and receive help from unexpected sources.

Older than Dirt: A Wild But True History of Earth by Don Brown and Dr. Mike Perfit

A groundhog and a worm narrate this irreverent yet fact-filled graphic novel look at the violent forces that created our planet and continue to shape it today.

Out of Wonder by Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderly and Marjory Wentworth

The authors pay tribute to twenty famed poets from around the world with imaginative verse and gorgeous illustrations.

Rafi and Rosi: Pirates! Rafi y Rosi: ¡piratas! by Lulu Delacre

Adventure-seeking frogs swashbuckle their way through Puerto Rico's historic El Morro fort in three brightly illustrated short stories.

Real Friends by Shannon Hale

Shannon is learning how to navigate the turbulent waters of childhood. Handling bullies, dealing with cliques, and finding out who your true friends really are.

Secret Coders (Secret Coders #1) by Gene Luen Yang

New girl Hopper discovers some very strange goings-on at Stately Academy. Do she and her new friend Eni have what it takes to outwit the school's founder and solve the mysteries? Readers are invited to code along!

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate Feiwel & Friends

Every May, neighbors tie their wishes to the old red oak tree. This year, with the threat of being taken down looming, Red knows it must help its neighbors, both human and animal, as they confront the hatred and prejudice being directed at the new family in the little blue house.

Summer Reading Suggestions

Adapted from Barnes & Noble

Grades 1 & 2

The Absent Author (A to Z Mysteries Series #1) by Ron Roy

Help Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose solve mysteries from A to Z! A is for Author . . . A famous writer is coming to Green Lawn! Dink rushes to the bookstore to meet his favorite author, Wallis Wallace, and get all his books signed. But the author never shows up! Where is Wallis Wallace? It's up to Dink and his friends Josh and Ruth Rose to track him down.

Fancy Nancy and the Delectable Cupcakes (I Can Read! Series) by Jane O'Connor

Yummy, cupcakes are *scrumptious* (that's fancy for tasty!). Nancy is thrilled to be making cupcakes for the bake sale! But will she remember to follow all of Mom's directions?

Flat Stanley at Bat (I Can Read! Series) by Jeff Brown

Flat Stanley, the beloved character created by Jeff Brown, is back in this *I Can Read* book about baseball! When Stanley plays center field for his baseball team, he is a flat-out great player! None of the other players can float to catch the highest hits, or earn walks from the fastest pitchers. But when the fairness of his flatness is questioned by the other team, Stanley has to step up to bat to prove himself.

Jorge el curioso construye una casa en un árbol (Curious George Builds a Tree House) by H. A. Rey

In this Spanish/English bilingual reader based on Curious George, the Emmy Award-winning PBS TV show, Curious George wants to build a treehouse, but first he has to make a plan!

Pete the Cat: Pete's Big Lunch (My First I Can Read! Series) by James Dean

Pete the Cat makes one giant, tasty sandwich for lunch. But what's the fun in eating lunch without your friends? Young Pete the Cat fans will enjoy Pete's funny food creativity and Pete's joy in sharing with friends.

Sunbeam's Shine (Unicorn Princesses Series #1) by Emily Bliss

Welcome to an enchanted land ruled by unicorn princesses! Cressida Jenkins, a unicorn-obsessed girl who is *sure* that unicorns are real, is invited to visit, and readers will be thrilled to journey to the Rainbow Realm along with her! In each story, Cressida is called to help a unicorn princess and her sisters in a magical adventure. In the first story, a blundering wizard-lizard casts a spell that accidentally robs Princess Sunbeam of her magic yellow sapphire. Without it, she loses her powers—the ability to create light and heat. The only way to reverse the spell is for a human girl who believes in unicorns to find the yellow sapphire and reunite Sunbeam with her gemstone. Sunbeam ventures into the human world and enlists Cressida's help, who is thrilled to visit the Rainbow Realm. But finding Sunbeam's sapphire isn't quite as easy as she thought it would be . . .

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron

Julian has a big imagination. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people—especially his younger brother, Huey—believe just about anything. Like the story about the cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble, and that's *exactly* where Julian and Huey end up!

Weather (National Geographic Kids Series) by Kristin Baird Rattini

What causes thunder and lightning? How do different clouds form? What makes a tornado twist? Kids will discover the answers to these questions and more in this colorful, photo-packed book. In this inviting and entertaining format, kids will discover what causes the weather they experience every day.

Where Is the Amazon? (Where Is? Series) by Sarah Fabiny

Human beings have inhabited the banks of the Amazon River since 13,000 BC and yet they make up just a small percentage of the "population" of this geographic wonderland. The Amazon River basin teems with life—animal and plant alike. It's a rainforest that is home to an estimated 390 billion individual trees, 2.5 million species of insects, and hundreds of amazing creatures and plants that can either cure diseases, or, like the poison dart frog, kill with a single touch. *Where Is the Amazon?* reveals the amazing scale of a single rainforest that we are still trying to understand today and that, in many ways, supports our existence on this planet.

Grades 3 & 4

The 13-Story Treehouse (The Treehouse Books Series #1) by Andy Griffiths

Andy and Terry live in a treehouse. But it's not just any old treehouse, it's the most amazing treehouse in the world! This treehouse has thirteen stories, a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a secret underground laboratory, and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and automatically shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you are hungry. Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn't for the fact that they have to write their next book, which is almost impossible because there are just so many distractions, including thirteen flying cats, giant bananas, mermaids, a sea monsters pretending to be mermaids, enormous gorillas, and dangerous burp-gas-bubblegum bubbles!

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Willy Wonka's Famous Chocolate Factory is opening at last! But only five lucky children will be allowed inside ... and what Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee, and Charlie Bucket find is even wilder than any of the wild rumors they've heard!

The Haunted House Next Door (Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol #1) by Andres Miedoso

Meet Desmond Cole! A fearless eight-year-old who runs his own ghost patrol, looking for ghosts, monsters, and mischief makers everywhere. Oh, and he just so happens to be my new best friend...and thank goodness! Because I'm afraid of everything. Welcome to Kersville, a town with a spooky history and a collection of ghosts and spirits who are major mischief-makers. Most kids spend their days without ever seeing or dealing with a ghost, but some kids get stuck with a haunt. When that happens, they call Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol. Desmond is the hall monitor of ghosts and monsters. There's no job too spooky, icky, or risky for Desmond. I'm not like that at all. My name's Andres Miedoso. I'm Desmond's best friend. We do everything together...including catch ghosts. Seems cool, right? There's only one problem: I'm afraid of everything.

I Survived the American Revolution, 1776 (I Survived Series #15) by Lauren Tarshis

British soldiers were everywhere. There was no escape. Nathaniel Fox never imagined he'd find himself in the middle of a blood-soaked battlefield, fighting for his life. He was only eleven years old! He'd barely paid attention to the troubles between America and England. How could he, while being worked to the bone by his cruel uncle, Uriah Storch? But when his uncle's rage forces him to flee the only home he knows, Nate is suddenly propelled toward a thrilling and dangerous journey into the heart of the Revolutionary War. He finds himself in New York City on the brink of what will be the biggest battle yet.

Judy Moody and the Bucket List (Judy Moody Series #13) by Megan McDonald

Judy is visiting Grandma Lou one day when she accidentally finds an uber-mysterious list of activities — a Bucket List! Which gives Judy an idea: How rare would it be if she made her *own* way-official bucket list of all the things she wants to do—before she starts fourth grade? Pretty soon Judy is off and running trying to cross off all her items: learn to do a cartwheel, invent something rad, go to Antarctica (the real one), ride a horse—the list goes on. But what happens if Grandma Lou achieves everything on *her* list? Does that mean she'll be ready to . . . kick the bucket?

Judy Moody está de mal humor (Judy Moody Was in a Mood) (Series #1) by Megan McDonald

Bad moods, good moods, even back-to-school moods —Judy Moody has them all! When her teacher assigns the class the task of creating "Me Collages," it puts Judy and her friends in a cut-and-paste mood. Meet Judy Moody, her little "bother" Stink, her best friend Rocky, and her "pest" friend Frank Pearl. They're guaranteed to put you in a very Judy Moody mood... or something.

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh by Robert C. O'Brien

Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White

Louis is a Trumpeter Swan who came into the world lacking a voice. When his father explained to him that he was different from other cygnets, Louis felt scared. His father, however, promised to help. Sam Beaver, a boy who loved all wild things, took Louis to school, where he learned to read and write. This was a help, but it did not solve his major problem: he was in love with the beautiful swan, Serena, and she spurned him because he was defective. And that was when Louis's father, the old cob, did a difficult thing - he put honor aside and stole a trumpet so his son would be able to woo his love. Louis's determination to become a trumpeter and pay off his father's debt takes him far from the wilderness he loves. But he succeeds and wins the swan of his desiring.

Grades 5 & 6

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a millionaire, a genius—and, above all, a criminal mastermind. But even Artemis doesn't know what he's taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These aren't the fairies of bedtime stories; these fairies are armed and dangerous. Artemis thinks he has them right where he wants them...but then they stop playing by the rules.

Book Scavenger (The Book Scavenger Series #1) by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

For twelve-year-old Emily, the best thing about moving to San Francisco is that it's the home city of her literary idol: Garrison Griswold, book publisher and creator of the online sensation Book Scavenger (a game where books are hidden in cities all over the country and clues to find them are revealed through puzzles). Upon her arrival, however, Emily learns that Griswold has been attacked and is now in a coma, and no one knows anything about the epic new game he had been poised to launch. Then Emily and her new friend James discover an odd book, which they come to believe is from Griswold himself, and might contain the only copy of his mysterious new game.

The Fairy-Tale Detectives—10th Anniversary Edition (The Sisters Grimm Series #1) by Michael Buckley

Fans of fractured fairy tales will be delighted to discover the fantasy, mystery, adventure, and humor in the beloved *New York Times* bestselling Sisters Grimm series by Michael Buckley, now with new cover art. As featured on NBC's *The Today Show*, the nine wildly popular books are favorites around the world. They were among the first books to bring a distinctly girl-power spin to fairy tales—a spin taken up by hit movies and shows TV such as *Once Upon a Time*, *Grimm*, and *Maleficent*, the bestselling book series *The Land of Stories*, and other.

Greenglass House by Kate Milford

It's wintertime at Greenglass House. The creaky smuggler's inn is always quiet during this season, and twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers' adopted son, plans to spend his holidays relaxing. But on the first icy night of vacation, out of nowhere, the guest bell rings. Then rings again. And again. Soon Milo's home is bursting with odd, secretive guests, each one bearing a strange story that is somehow connected to the rambling old house. As objects go missing and tempers flare, Milo and Meddy, the cook's daughter, must decipher clues and untangle the web of deepening mysteries to discover the truth about Greenglass House—and themselves.

Jack: The True Story of Jack & the Beanstalk by Liesl Shurtliff

All his life, Jack has longed for an adventure, so when giants turn up in the neighbor's cabbage patch, he is thrilled! Soon Jack is chasing them to a land beyond the clouds, with his little sister, Annabella, in tow. The kingdom of giants is full of super-sized fun: puddings to swim in, spoons to use as catapults, monster toads to carry off pesky little sisters. . . . But Jack and Annabella are on a mission. The king of the giants has taken something that belongs to them, and they'll do anything—even dive into a smelly tureen of green bean soup—to get it back.

One for the Murphys by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

A moving debut novel about a foster child learning to open her heart to a family's love
Carley uses humor and street smarts to keep her emotional walls high and thick. But the day she becomes a foster child, and moves in with the Murphys, she's blindsided. This loving, bustling family shows Carley the stable family life she never thought existed, and she feels like an alien in their cookie-cutter-perfect household. Despite her resistance, the Murphys eventually show her what it feels like to belong--until her mother wants her back and Carley has to decide where and how to live. She's not really a Murphy, but the gifts they've given her have opened up a new future.

A Tale Dark & Grimm (Grimm Series #1) by Adam Gidwitz

Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into eight other classic Grimm (and Grimm-inspired) fairy tales. An irreverent, witty narrator leads us through encounters with witches, warlocks, dragons, and the devil himself. As the siblings roam a forest brimming with menacing foes, they learn the true story behind the famous tales, as well as how to take charge of their destinies and create their own happily ever after. Because once upon a time, fairy tales were *awesome*.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him

how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Summer Reading Suggestions Adapted from *We Are Teachers*

PreK-2

Floaty by John Himmelman

When someone leaves a mysterious basket on grouchy Mr. Raisin's doorstep, the last thing he expects to be inside is a dog—especially one that floats! What will Mr. Raisin do when Floaty floats away? This is the perfect light-hearted read aloud for a picnic blanket or summer bedtime.

Flashlight Night by Matt Forrest Esenwine

One of the best parts of summer is staying up late! The nighttime adventure these children have will inspire students to click on their own flashlights—and their imaginations—and head out into the dark.

Take a Hike, Miles and Spike! by Travis Foster

Two oblivious dogs pack for an outdoor adventure but have to revise their plans when the other animals call them out for being selfish. Catchy rhymes and Ethan Long's signature, super-fun illustrations make this silly story a guaranteed hit.

Big Brown Bear's Cave by Yuval Zommer

Working through every one of Yuval Zommer's creative titles would be a great way for students to spend vacation! This one is especially perfect, though, for kids whose parents ask them to help clean out the garage (or attic, or basement) during summer break. Based on his observations of humans' "caves," Big Brown Bear thinks he needs a *lot* more stuff to make his own home feel comfy—or does he?

National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Why 2 by Jill Esbaum

This medley of explanations will answer curious kids' questions about animals, the human body, and nature. Bonus: It also supplies plenty of fun activities and games to fill a lazy day or a long car ride!

Natsumi! by Susan Lendroth

No one in Natsumi's family appreciates her extra-energetic approach to preparing for the Japanese arts festival. Her grandfather knows just how to channel all that enthusiasm, though—drumming! Inspire students to march to their own drum this summer.

Big Bunny by Rowboat Watkins

Big Bunny loves to eat carrots, along with ... lots of other stuff. The zany plot twists will give kids the giggles. The unexpected ending is pure fun.

1 - 3

The Magician's Secret by Zachary Hyman

Sleepovers at Grandpa's are a highlight of many kids' summer. When your grandfather is a retired magician with a magic story chest in his attic, though? Well, that's a guaranteed adventure.

Baby Monkey, Private Eye by Brian Selznick

Emergent readers will love the adorable—and often pant-less—young primate detective in this collection of five simple "mysteries." Clever illustrations elevate the simple text.

Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall

Unique and detailed illustrations will sweep students back in time in this narrative nonfiction account of a lighthouse keeper's year. What would it be like to live "on the highest rock of a tiny island at the edge of the world?"

Sisters and Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Howard Bryant

This story of the sisters that redefined expectations of what kids from a tough LA neighborhood can achieve is a summer inspiration. Floyd Cooper's illustrations are a delight.

Polly Diamond and the Magic Book: Book 1 by Alice Kuipers

When Polly discovers that a magic book that appeared on her doorstep can make everything she writes actually happen, she wastes no time trying it out—with entertaining results.

What if You Had an Animal Tail? By Sandra Markle

A perfect pairing for a summer outing to the zoo, the newest title in this fun series will have kids laughing as they learn about animal adaptations and the human body. How would you look with a peacock's tail?

Monsters Beware! (The Chronicles of Claudette) by Jorge Aguirre

The final installment of this engaging graphic novel series is as worthy of multiple reads as the previous installments. Claudette is desperate to compete in—and win—the annual Warrior Games. She'll have to contend with monsters who reportedly eat the other competitors, though!

Grades 3-6

Ellie, Engineer by Jackson Pearce

Friends, creativity, and girl-powered STEM: A story about a neighborhood building project is a perfect summer read, especially when led by Ellie, armed with her trusty tool belt.

Power Forward by Hena Kahn

Summer is the perfect time to get hooked on a new sports fiction series. This introduction to the *Chasing the Dream* series introduces Zayd Saleem, a likable fourth grader who's also a basketball fanatic.

Waste of Space by Stuart Gibbs

A good end to a trilogy is satisfying for readers of any age. Teen detective Dash Gibson tackles another murder on the moon in the final title of the popular *Moon Base Alpha* series.

The Orphan Band of Springdale by Anne Nesbet

Kids who love historical fiction will enjoy this World War II story of life on the home front. Eleven-year-old Gusta moves from New York City to live with her grandmother in Maine, where there's plenty of small-town drama.

The Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell

Make-believe definitely isn't just for little kids. This engaging graphic novel will inspire bigger kids to spend summer break building and creating with friends.

Grump: The (Fairly) True Tale of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves by Liesl Shurtliff

We love this author's entertaining way of turning classic fairy tales on their heads for middle grade readers. A young dwarf is torn between the appeal of new friendship and a nagging suspicion that Queen Elfrieda Veronika Ingrid Lenore (E.V.I.L.) has dark intentions.

The Creature of the Pines (The Unicorn Rescue Society) by Adam Gidwitz

A society for caring for mythical creatures is a surefire hook, but this new series by a talented middle-grade author backs up its hype with compelling characters and clever plot twists. Kids can start with this title and then check out the second installment, *The Basque Dragon*, when it's released midsummer.

Science Comics: Robots and Drones: Past, Present, and Future by Mairghread Scott

The *Science Comics* series is awesome for motivating readers while teaching about high-interest topics. This title is excellent screen-free entertainment for tech-loving kids.

You Go First by Erin Entrada Kelly

Charlotte and Ben may only know each other through an online Scrabble game, but they're both busy finding their way through middle school. This engaging story will draw readers in.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson

A puzzling letter sends Candice on a summer quest to find treasure and clear her grandmother's name. Reviewers compare this historical mystery to Ellen Raskin's classic [The Westing Game](#).

Race to the Bottom of the Sea by Lindsay Eagar

Fidelia Quail's life assisting in her parents' marine biology research is already unusual. But when they drown in a storm and she's kidnapped by pirates, this story catapults into page-turning summer-adventure territory.

The Sky at Our Feet by Nadia Hashimi

Summer is for compelling page-turners and characters that move you. Everything changes for Jason when he finds out that his Afghan mother, who he thought was deported, is living illegally in the United States.

It is recommended that parents/guardians review and approve any selections prior to student reading. There are many websites available recommending and suggesting a variety of books for children of all ages.