Summer Reading
(For reading aloud mostly and independent reading)

2019

Children Entering First Grade

For a current list of the very best kids' books, go to the following links:

http://www.readingrockets.org/books/summer/2019
http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

Revised 6/19 by Joanne Shulman, K-4 Reading Coordinator, NCPS
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Terrific Recently Published Books!

*The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson, 2018
A must-have book about the power of one’s voice and the friendships that emerge when you are yourself. *(Picture book. 4-8) ~ Kirkus Review*

*Cece Loves Science* by Kimberly Derting, 2018
In this STEM-themed picture book, Cece asks one of life’s most pressing questions: Do dogs eat vegetables? Cece and her best friend, Isaac, head to the lab to find out. ~ *Harper Collins*

*If You Had Your Birthday Party on the Moon* by Joyce Lapin, 2019
Readers with approaching birthdays may be inspired to replicate this moon-themed celebration. ~ *Publishers Weekly*

*Sock Story* by C.K. Smouha, 2019
Separation and sudden change pose an existential threat to a pair of socks… *A well-knit tale of textile togetherness. (Picture book. 5-8) ~ Kirkus Review*

*I am Fierce!* by Bea Birdsong, 2019
A multicultural girl-power manifesto featuring a feisty young girl who faces her day as a knight on an epic quest. ~ *Kirkus Review*

*King and Kayla and the Case of Found Fred* by Dori Hillestad Butler, 2019
"This fast-paced mystery is a fun addition to this series for new readers. *(Early reader. 5-8)*" ~ *Kirkus Review*

*Fur, Feather, and Fin: All of Us are Kin* by Diane Lang, 2018
“Come along on a rhyming tour through the amazing animal kingdom—from mammals to millipedes and everything in between...” ~ *Simon and Shuster*

*Baby Elephant Joins the Herd* by American Museum of Natural History, 2019
“Wildlife photographs document the life of an elephant on the African savannah from newborn calf to 15-year-old adult. A gentle narrative...” ~ *Publishers Weekly*

*Flower Talk: How Plants Use Color to Communicate* by Sara Levine, 2019
“...features a cantankerous talking cactus as a narrator, revealing to readers the significance of different colors of flowers in terms of which pollinators (bees, bats, birds, etc.) different colors "talk" to. A fun nonfiction presentation of science info that may be new to many kids--and adults.” ~ IndiBound

*I Am Not a Fish!* by Peter Raymundo 2019
“A jellyfish talks through identity issues with help from an undersea support group.” ~ *Kirkus*
Favorites from Previous Summer Lists

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell, 2017
Winner of the 2018 Caldecott Medal—a story of friendship and trust.

Lily’s Cat Mask by Julie Fortenberry, 2017
Lily conquers her fears of starting a new school.
"Excellent artwork...sweet and reassuring."—Kirkus, starred review

Wordy Birdy by Tammi Sauer, 2018
Read aloud this humorous book about a character who finally learns to listen.

Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller, 2018
"[A] lovely exploration of empathy and thoughtfulness.”—Publishers Weekly

Pass It On by Sophy Henn, 2017
“A bright message of the power of positive emotion...”—Amazon

Charlie and Mouse by Laurel Snyder, 2017
“...has to be one of our favorites of the entire year, so far. It so easily elicits giggles!”--The Children’s Book Review

Goldfish on Vacation by Sally Lloyd-Jones, 2018
“...satisfying tale, based on true events, is about three children, three goldfish, and their summer adventures.”—Amazon

Unplugged by Steve Antony, 2018
“[A] gorgeous piece of propaganda for going outside.”—New York Times Book Review

And Then Comes Summer by Tom Brenner, 2017
“A joyful, sun-drenched tribute to the anticipation and adventures of the warmest season of the year.”—Amazon

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal
“A beautifully illustrated, tender story to be shared with all children.”—School Library Journal
(starred review)

How to Trick the Tooth Fairy by Erin Danielle Russell, 2018
“...a witty and engaging picture book about a prankster who wants to pull off the best prank of all...” Amazon
**Favorites from Previous Summer Lists**

*Wolfie the Bunny* by Ame Dyckman  
Funny story of a family of bunnies adopting a wolf son

*Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great* by Bob Shea  
Very funny and engaging

*Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett  
Caldecott Honor Book for 2015

*Ten Rules of Being a Superhero* by Deb Pilutti  
For children who can imagine being a superhero

*Scaredy Squirrel* series by Melanie Watt  
I couldn’t pick just one—they are all great. The website is fun, too: [www.scaredysquirrel.com](http://www.scaredysquirrel.com)

*The Thank You Book* by Mo Willems  
The very last Elephant and Piggy book—a very popular series.  
*Everything* Mo Willems writes is pure gold. Here’s his website: [www.mowillems.com](http://www.mowillems.com)

*Bad Kitty Drawn to Trouble* by Nick Bruel  
This is a wonderful book for aspiring authors and illustrators, as Nick Bruel shares his process of creating the Bad Kitty books.  
Also, a fun website is [www.badkittybooks.com](http://www.badkittybooks.com)

*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to School* by Benjamin Chaud and Davide Cali  
An outrageous tall tale that will make children laugh out loud!

*Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear* by Lindsay Mattick  
This is the 2016 Caldecott Award winner, and the words are as good as the illustrations.

More suggestions for new books are at:  
[http://booksforkidsblog.blogspot.com](http://booksforkidsblog.blogspot.com)  
(A retired librarian’s excellent children’s book blog)  
[http://www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)  
(Current reviews and recommendations)  
[http://www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)  
(American Library Association)
Books About Things that are Important to Kids!

HOW TO BEHAVE
STAGESTRUCK by Tomie DePaola
THE ART LESSON by Tomie DePaola
TROUBLE IN THE BARKER’S CLASS by Tomie DePaola
LILY’S PERFECT PLASTIC PURSE by Kevin Henkes
LILY’S BIG DAY by Kevin Henkes
WEEKEND WITH WENDELL by Kevin Henkes
BEATRICE DOESN’T WANT TO by Laura Numeroff
WHAT ARE YOU SO GRUMPY ABOUT? by Tom Lichtensheld
IT’S HARD TO BE FIVE: LEARNING HOW TO WORK MY CONTROL PANEL by Jamie Lee Curtis
HOW DO DINOSAURS CLEAN THEIR ROOMS? by Jane Yolen
HOW DO DINOSAURS GET WELL SOON? by Jane Yolen
HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT? by Jane Yolen

WORRYING
WEMBERLY WORRIED by Kevin Henkes
IRA SLEEPS OVER by Bernard Waber
IRA SAYS GOODBYE by Bernard Waber
THE KISSING HAND by Audrey Penn
ALEXANDER, WHO’S NOT GOING TO MOVE by Judith Viorst
I DON’T WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL by Marisabina Russo
MEAN SOUP by Betsy Everitt
SCAREDY SQUIRREL by Melanie Watt
JUNIE B. JONES HAS A MONSTER UNDER HER BED by Barbara Park
FRIENDS

MY BUNNY DIARY by Dora Cottontail (Tracy Dockray)
BEST FRIENDS FOR FRANCES by Russell Hoban
A BARGAIN FOR FRANCES by Russell Hoban
A SPECIAL FRIEND, INDEED by Suzanne Bloom
ELLA THE ELEGANT ELEPHANT by Carmella and Steven D’Amico
CHESTER’S WAY by Kevin Henkes
TOOT & PUDDLE by Hollie Hobbie
THE TREASURE TREE by John & Cindy Trent, Gary & Norma Smally
MR. PUSSKINS by Sam Lloyd
THE ENGLISH ROSES by Madonna
THE PEANUT-FREE CAFÉ by Gloria Koster
ENEMY PIE by Derek Munson
PINKALICIOUS and PURPLICIOUS by Victoria Kann

SCHOOL

YOKO books by Rosemary Wells
HOPSCOTCH HILL SCHOOL books by Valerie Tripp
CHRYSANTHEMUM by Kevin Henkes
KINDERGARTEN ROCKS by Katie Davis
THE SECRET SCIENCE PROJECT THAT ALMOST ATE THE SCHOOL
   By Judy Sierra
MISS MALARKEY DOESN’T LIVE IN ROOM 10 by Kevin O’Malley
ANNABELLE SWIFT, KINDERGARTNER by Amy Schwartz
RECESS QUEEN by Alexis O’Neil
THE BRAND NEW KID by Katie Couric
EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

(These are more advanced than easy readers, but not too long or difficult.)

HOPSCOTCH HILL SCHOOL SERIES by Valerie Tripp

  Bright, Shiny Skylar          Good Sport, Gwen
  Hallie’s Horrible Handwriting  Teasing Trouble
  Thank You, Logan!

ARTHUR CHAPTER BOOKS by Stephen Krensky

JIGSAW JONES MYSTERIES by James Preller

JUNIE B. JONES SERIES by Barbara Park

MARVIN REDPOST SERIES by Louis Sachar

KIDS OF THE POLK STREET SCHOOL SERIES by Patricia Reilly Giff

NANCY DREW NOTEBOOKS series by Carolyn Keene

NATE THE GREAT SERIES by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

STINK series by Megan McDonald

SOCcer ‘CATS series by Matt Christopher

ZACK FILES SERIES by Dan Greenburg

THE ADVENTURES OF THE BAILEY SCHOOL KIDS
  by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones

  Best Enemies and Best Enemies Again by Kathleen Leverich

STEPPING STONES books published by Random House

LITTLE HOUSE CHAPTER BOOKS adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder

WEIRD SCHOOL series by Dan Gutman

  Miss Small is off the Wall!
  Mr. Hynde is out of his Mind!
  Ms. Hannah is Bananas! and many more!
CLASSIC CHARACTERS

These are beloved book characters that should be part of every child’s literary background. They are sure to amuse and captivate children!

and sequels by Harry Allard/James Marshall

The Babar series by Jean and Laurent De Brunoff

The Frances series by Russell Hoban

Angelina Ballerina from the series by Katharine Holabird

Martha, from the *Martha Speaks* series

Dr. DeSoto, from the series by William Steig

Lyle Crocodile, from the series by Bernard Waber

Finally, the two characters that everyone seems to remember forever . . .

*MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL* by Virginia Lee Burton
A brief word about “Easy Readers:”

- These are books with carefully controlled vocabulary for children just beginning to read.
- They are usually designated “beginning reader,” “early reader,” or something that lets you know they have been created for this purpose.
- Books with controlled vocabulary are not usually great literature, although some, like *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss and *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel, have become classics.
- Most libraries keep the “Easy Reader” books separate, so they are easy to find.
- Many companies assign these books different levels. This just means that you can tell which are the easiest and which are the hardest. The levels don’t generally correlate with the reading levels we use in school.

Some high quality easy readers are:

The *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant

![Henry and Mudge](image)

The *Frog and Toad* series by Arnold Lobel

![Frog and Toad](image)

Dr. Seuss: “Bright and Early Beginner Books”

The *Johnny Lion* series by Edith Thatcher Hurd

**Mo Willems’ *Elephant and Piggie* series**

![Elephant and Piggie](image)

**Very popular with first graders!**

These are some classic easy readers—there are many more. You can read them aloud, too! Reading aloud gives children the support and confidence they need to try words out on their own.

*See below for information about independent reading levels for the beginning of first grade.*

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**Our current thinking about levels:** The leveling system was intended for teachers to use to guide their instruction. It isn’t a number or letter to compare one student to another, and it should never be a label used to define your child’s reading identity. The leveling system is not an exact science. Levels are about a set of book characteristics and a text’s complexity. Levels can never capture the unique experiences and abilities that each reader brings to a book. Refer to levels for guidance, but also, please consider your child’s interests, background knowledge, and motivation when selecting books for pleasure.
When your child is reading at a C/D level:

**Characteristics of Level C/D books:**
- Simple story lines that are familiar to children
- Large print with ample space between words
- Two to five lines of text per page
- Story is told through text, but pictures still give clues to story plot
- High frequency/word wall words used often
- A variety of punctuation is used
- Pictures and words correspond directly (i.e., a picture of a bat corresponds to the words “This is a bat.”)

**Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:**
- Child uses pictures to make and check predictions
- Easily identifies known words (high frequency words)
- Tracking words while reading with finger-pointing or, as time progresses, with eyes
- Able to solve many unfamiliar words using a variety of decoding strategies (i.e. sounding out, picture clues, re-reading, etc)
- Actively reading for meaning
- Recognizing word patterns (rhyming, word families) and text patterns (predictable text “This is a ___. This is a ____.”)

**Some examples of C/D level books:**
- *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?* by Bill Martin
- *Mary Wore Her Red Dress* by Merle Peek
- *Dirty Larry* by Bobbie Hamsa
- *Sleepy Dog* by Harriet Ziefert
- *Paul the Pitcher* by Paul Sharp
- *Spots, Feathers, and Curly Tails* by Nancy Tafuri
- *Pancakes for Breakfast* by Tomie DePaola
- *Danny & the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff

(These titles are provided to be used as a point of reference when picking out books at this level.)

When your child is reading at an E/F level:

**Characteristics of Level E/F books:**
- Each page has 3-8 lines of text
- Stories are more complex; ideas may be subtle and require more interpretation
- Illustrations strongly support the story, but the text carries the story line
- Children need to problem-solve to decode unknown words
- Words become more difficult/specific, more than high-frequency words
- Full variety of punctuation
Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:
- Relying less on finger-pointing while reading; using eyes to track words with the exception of challenging words
- Reading fluently
- Rereading for understanding
- Making predictions and then reading to confirm predictions
- Using known words to get to words not yet known (for example, finding the smaller word and in candy.)
- Using a variety of decoding strategies to read unknown words

Some examples of E/F level books:
- Mrs. Wishy-Washy by Joy Cowley, Elizabeth Fuller
- The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss
- Go, Dog, Go by Philip Eastman
- Shhh by Kevin Henkes
- No David! by David Shannon
- Biscuit Wants to Play by Alyssa Sating Capucilli
- It Looked Like Spilled Milk by Charles Shaw

(These titles are provided to be used as a point of reference when picking out books at this level.)

When your child is reading at a G/H level:

Characteristics of Level G/H books:
- Story concepts become more complex, many are somewhat unfamiliar to children
- Story vocabulary becomes more challenging
- 4-8 lines of text per page with smaller print and text location (top of page, bottom of page) may vary
- Sentences are longer in length and complex

Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:
- Using both text and pictures to comprehend the story
- Figure out unknown words using their decoding strategies
- Can retell the story, including details, to demonstrate their understanding of the story
- Reading fluently (without frequent stops and with expression)
- Re-reading to check for understanding
- Reads a variety of fiction and nonfiction
- Makes connections between text and another text (“This reminds me the book ____________ where the characters moved away.”)
- Makes connections between the text and themselves or their world (“I got hurt like the character in the story, and I was sad too.”)
Some examples of G/H level books:

- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archabault
- Super Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold
- Biscuit by Alyssa Capucilli
- Growing Vegetable Soup by Lois Ehlert
- Clifford the Big Red Dog (some titles) books by Norman Bridwell
- More Spaghetti, I Say! by Rita Gelman
- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
- Put Me In The Zoo by Robert Lopshire
- The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree by Gail Gibbons

(These titles are provided to be used as a point of reference when picking out books at this level.)