



READING LIST

Birth–
Preschool

BOOKS

AHOY!

BY SOPHIE BLACKALL

ANNE SCHWARTZ BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9780593429396

A child transforms a living room into a high-seas adventure, convincing a reluctant parent to join in as they battle giant squid and navigate stormy seas.

ALL OF THOSE BABIES

BY MYLISA LARSEN, ILLUSTRATED
BY STEPHANIE LABERIS

BEACH LANE, 2024
ISBN: 9781666921442

Celebrate all the babies in the world—from humans to animals!

ANIMAL ALBUMS FROM A TO Z

BY CECE BELL

WALKER, 2024
ISBN: 9781536226249

The bright, colorful art will draw readers to this silly and fun alphabet book over and over. Musical lyrics and engaging language will make this a favorite for all generations.

BUNNY LOVES BEANS

BY JANE WHITTINGHAM

PAJAMA PRESS, 2024
ISBN: 9781772783018

Explore the vibrant colors in the foods that both humans and animals enjoy.

BUNNY SHOULD BE SLEEPING

BY AMY HEST, ILLUSTRATED
BY RENATA LIWSKA

NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9780823453412

In bed but tired of waiting for Dad to check on him, Bunny packs up his

wagon and goes to Dad's room to check on him instead. A sweet story of a father and son caring for each other, with soft, cozy illustrations perfect for bedtime reading.

GET THE GIGGLES: AN INVISIBLE THINGS BOOK

BY ANDY J. PIZZA, ILLUSTRATED
BY SOPHIE MILLER

CHRONICLE, 2024
ISBN: 9781797215228

A lighthearted look at laughter in various forms with all-ages appeal.

THE GOAT AND THE STOAT AND THE BOAT

BY EM LYNAS, ILLUSTRATED
BY MATT HUNT

NOSY CROW, 2024
ISBN: 9798887770529

A goat and a stoat face off in a hilarious rhyme-filled fight over the boat they both occupy.

THE GOOD GAME

BY ARIHHONNI DAVID

HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2024
ISBN: 9780823456222

When a young Indigenous boy is upset that he can't play lacrosse with the older kids, his grandfather tells him the story of one of the first lacrosse games, played by animals of land and sky.

HELLO DAY: A CHILD'S- EYE VIEW OF THE WORLD

BY CHARLIE MYLIE

ABRAMS, 2024
ISBN: 9781419768132

A toddler greets and explores the world, reminding his destination-focused father to savor the wonder of everyday experiences.

HIGH CHAIR CHEMISTRY

BY JILL ESBAUM

MIT KIDS PRESS, 2023
ISBN: 9781536229660

Combine curiosity with simple scientific concepts as a way to introduce chemistry to babies and toddlers.

LET'S GO! / HAW ÊKWA!

BY JULIE FLETT

GREYSTONE KIDS, 2024
ISBN: 9781771646109

A little boy dreams of learning to skateboard, until his mother surprises him with her old board. This story about practice and perseverance features a glossary of Cree words found throughout the book.

LOVE, THE EARTH

BY FRANCES STICKLEY,
ILLUSTRATED BY TIM HOPGOOD

CANDLEWICK, 2024
ISBN: 9781536234121

Discover and celebrate the wonders of our world.

MAMÁ'S MAGNIFICENT DANCING PLANTITAS

BY JESÚS TREJO, ILLUSTRATED
BY ELIZA KINKZ

MINERVA, 2024
ISBN: 9781662651069

Readers will enjoy Jesús's misadventures in his new job as "Chief Plant Officer," helping to take care of Mamá's houseplants. His narration is full of humor and wit, like when he helps take care of a plant that "soiled" itself. But will he save the Golden Pothos?

THE QUIET FOREST

BY CHARLOTTE OFFSAY,
ILLUSTRATED BY ABI CUSHMAN

PAULA WISEMAN BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9781665926423

A fun frolic in the not-so-quiet woods will be enjoyed by reader and listener alike. So fun to read with the refrain and alliteration throughout.

THE TEENY-WEENY UNICORN

BY SHAWN HARRIS

KNOPF, 2024
ISBN: 9780593571880

A tiny unicorn feels frustrated by his size and being bossed around by his older siblings, but an accidental discovery of a hidden power leads to both trouble and a heartwarming lesson about the importance of family support. This charming tale blends fairytale magic with relatable challenges, showing young readers the value of having one another's backs in fresh, engaging ways.

THIS IS A WINDOW

BY LAUREN PAIGE CONRAD

MINERVA, 2024
ISBN: 9781662651595

Told in rhyming text, this book explores how imagination can turn everyday objects into something magical.

THIS TABLE

BY ALEX KILLIAN, ILLUSTRATED
BY BROOKE SMART

GREYSTONE KIDS, 2024
ISBN: 9781771645829

Read as a seed becomes a tree, a tree becomes a table, and a table becomes the focal point of a family's life and home.



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TOWED BY TOAD

BY JASHAR AWAN

TUNDRA, 2024
ISBN: 9781774883488

Toad rescues others with his tow truck, but when the truck breaks down, Toad learns that even the helpers need help sometimes.

URSULA UPSIDE DOWN

BY COREY R. TABOR

BALZER + BRAY, 2024
ISBN: 9780063275560

Ursula, a pink catfish, is perfectly content with the way she swims, until another fish suggests that she might be swimming upside down.

YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING

BY STEPH STILWELL

LITTLE BEE, 2024
ISBN: 9781499817126

Has Stilwell cornered the market on circular board books? Shaped like a bagel, this book is full of punny affirmations and delightful illustrations. Her other books include *Dough Much Love*, *Pie Love You*, and *A Pizza My Heart*. This book gets a *round* of applause!

DIGITAL

DIAL-A-STORY

<https://www.lapl.org/kids/fun/storytime-anytime>

The Dial-a-Story's phone-in feature is available anytime for anyone, no library card required.

There are new stories offered in English at (877) 737-8679 and en español at (888) 573-5275 every week.

SMALL WONDERS (FOR FAMILIES)

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/apps/early-literacy>

Adults and kids are encouraged to play together with games, songs, and activity ideas in this digital app from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Available in English and Spanish.

www.ala.org/alsc

The 2025 Summer Reading List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit www.ala.org/alsc/booklists.

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READING LIST

Grades
K-2

BOOKS

AS EDWARD IMAGINED: A STORY OF EDWARD GOREY IN THREE ACTS

BY MATTHEW BURGESS,
ILLUSTRATED BY MARC MAJEWSKI

KNOPF, 2024
ISBN: 9781984893802

Discover the eccentric Edward Gorey, an American author and illustrator renowned for his macabre and one-of-a-kind style.

THE BOOK FROM FAR AWAY

BY BRUCE HANDY, ILLUSTRATED
BY JULIE BENBASSAT

MINERVA, 2023
ISBN: 9781662651335

A child meets an out-of-this-world family and discovers that our desire for adventure and stories is universal.

CHOOCH HELPED

BY ANDREA L. ROGERS, ILLUSTRATED
BY REBECCA LEE KUNZ

LEVINE QUERIDO, 2024
ISBN: 9781646144549

Even though Sissy's brother, Chooch, isn't a baby anymore, she feels he still gets away with everything.

DOG VS. STRAWBERRY

BY NELLY BUCHET, ILLUSTRATED
BY ANDREA ZUILL

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2024
ISBN: 9780593643129

A dog goes all out trying to beat a strawberry in a race—will Dog win? A great book to read aloud in your best “announcer” voice to a kid, and also a good picture book for beginning readers to read on their own!

DRAWN ONWARD

BY DANIEL NAYERI, ILLUSTRATED
BY MATT ROCKEFELLER

HARPERALLEY, 2024
ISBN: 9780063277168

Presented in a palindrome format, this is the story of how a young boy finds adventure and love in the midst of personal grief.

THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

BY DREW BECKMEYER

ATHENEUM, 2024
ISBN: 9781665940429

“This is the first day of the first week of school” begins the story as cars line up outside a cheerful school. Inside, we meet the Inventor, the Artist, the Sport Kings, their Teacher, and Pat, the bearded dragon class pet. On Tuesday, a spaceship lands, and a new classmate—Nobody—joins in! Clever, funny language and a surprising twist at the end.

GO AND GET WITH REX

BY DAVID LAROCHELLE, ILLUSTRATED
BY MIKE WOHNOUTKA

CANDLEWICK, 2024
ISBN: 9781536222067

Get creative in a game of Go and Get as Jack, Jill, and Rex all try to find items that begin with a certain letter of the alphabet.

HEATWAVE

BY LAUREN REDNISS

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2024
ISBN: 9780593645949

Vivid red pages and spare text convey the city's scorching summer heat. Relief comes with a cool, blue downpour.

JUNIA, THE BOOK MULE OF TROUBLESOME CREEK

BY KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON,
ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID C. GARDNER

SLEEPING BEAR, 2024
ISBN: 9781534113039

Inspired by the real Pack Horse librarians, this story is a day in the life of Junia, a mule that transports books to the people living in the hills of Kentucky.

A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

BY MEGHANA NARAYAN, ILLUSTRATED
BY MICHELLE CARLOS

SLEEPING BEAR, 2024
ISBN: 9781534112926

As young Amaya observes the world, she discovers how her family and experiences make her special and unique.

MAKE WAY: THE STORY OF ROBERT MCCLOSKEY, NANCY SCHÖN, AND SOME VERY FAMOUS DUCKLINGS

BY ANGELA BURKE KUNKEL,
ILLUSTRATED BY CLAIRE KEANE

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2023
ISBN: 9780593373354

This picture-book biography with breathtaking illustrations focuses on the creation of *Make Way for Ducklings* and the sculptures it inspired in Boston Garden.

OVER AND UNDER THE WETLAND

BY KATE MESSNER, ILLUSTRATED
BY CHRISTOPHER SILAS NEAL

CHRONICLE, 2024
ISBN: 9781797210872

The latest addition to the Over and Under nature series by this duo takes place in the Florida Everglades National Park. Readers' curiosity will be piqued as they explore and learn about the plants and wildlife.

PLUS ONE

BY JOHN HARE

MARGARET FERGUSON BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9780823450435

Looking to make friends, new girl Agnes eventually expands her criteria for her after-school tea party guest list to include the strange but optimistically persistent neighbor boy and his "plus one," his pet goose, Pierre of the North, Esquire.

PUNKY ALOHA

BY SHAR TUIASOA

HARPERCOLLINS, 2022
ISBN: 9780063079236

Punky goes on an adventure sharing her aloha—by being helpful, giving, and brave. She finds out it feels good and grows more confident along the way. And, of course, succeeds in her mission to bring butter home for her grandmother's banana bread.

A RAINBOW IN BROWN

BY PAVONIS GIRON

HENRY HOLT, 2024
ISBN: 9781250874368

A fresh look at colors through simple and effective storytelling, Jo is given red, yellow, and blue paint and explores her favorite things in each color before combining them to make new colors, including her favorite color, brown, with which she paints a beautiful self-portrait!

ROY IS NOT A DOG

BY ESMÉ SHAPIRO AND DANIEL NEWELL KAUFMAN, ILLUSTRATED BY ESMÉ SHAPIRO

TUNDRA, 2024
ISBN: 9780735265967

The neighborhood paperboy is curious about one of his neighbors, Roy, and decides to investigate.



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SEW SISTER: THE UNTOLD STORY OF JEAN WRIGHT AND NASA'S SEAMSTRESSES

BY ELISE MATICH

TILBURY HOUSE, 2023
ISBN: 9780884489825

Discover the untold stories of the "Sew Sisters" who handcrafted thermal blankets for NASA's space shuttles.

THIS LAND

BY ASHLEY FAIRBANKS, ILLUSTRATED BY BRIDGET GEORGE

CROWN, 2024
ISBN: 9780593651445

Through beautiful picture-book art, kids can visualize the history of a house and the land it is on, as well as places like the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, Times Square, and the White House. The text includes simple, accurate, and impactful statements like "Everywhere we go, there are Indigenous people to learn from," and ample back matter for curious kids.

TOUCH THE SKY

BY STEPHANIE V. W. LUCIANOVIC, ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS PARK

CAROLRHODA BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9781728460451

Buoyed by Gretchen's enthusiastic instruction and encouragement, Vern learns to pump his legs on the swings. Joyful illustrations capture the feeling of—finally—flying on the swings. Great for those striving to master a new skill.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE COUCH

BY ADAM RUBIN, ILLUSTRATED BY LINIERS

PUTNAM, 2024
ISBN: 9780593619131

Get ready for a peek into the secret lives of couches! A fancy red fox takes the stage, ready to spill all the juicy details about sofas—until a sharp-dressed opossum bursts in, accusing the fox of stretching the truth. Their bickering takes over the show, with the opossum slapping black tape over the fox's silly charts. But in the end, they do agree on one thing: couches love to eat coins!

WE ARE DEFINITELY HUMAN

BY X. FANG

TUNDRA, 2024
ISBN: 9781774882023

A recently landed group of aliens tries to convince their new hosts that they are definitely human.

DIGITAL

FIETE WORLD

<https://www.ahoiil.com/fiete-world/>

Explore the world and create your own stories in this role-play-inspired app from Ahoiii Entertainment.

KHAN ACADEMY KIDS

<https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/>

Keep learning going through summer, boost literacy skills, and develop social-emotional skills with this free app.

www.ala.org/alsc

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READING LIST

Grades
3-5

BOOKS

AND THEN, BOOM!

BY LISA FIPPS

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2024
ISBN: 9780593406328

This novel in verse features Joe, who suddenly finds himself without a home or family. He doesn't tell anyone—not even his friends—until he has his own “and then, boom!” moment that reminds him of the value and importance of friends.

BEA AND THE NEW DEAL HORSE

BY L. M. ELLIOTT

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2023
ISBN: 9780063219007

When the Great Depression upends her family's life, Bea is left to provide for herself and her sister. Can taming a rowdy horse and entering jumping competitions change the course of their lives?

BOG MYRTLE

BY SID SHARP

ANNICK PRESS, 2024
ISBN: 9781773218922

A delightfully macabre story of diametrically opposed sisters, sustainability, and spiders, this long-form picture book pairs a rich vocabulary with quirky storytelling for a dark and utterly distinctive tale.

THE BOY AND THE ELEPHANT

BY FREYA BLACKWOOD

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2024
ISBN: 9780593707661

An imaginative and beautiful wordless picture book in which a boy befriends a tree shaped like an elephant and leads all the tree animals to safety before they get cut down.

CONTINENTAL DRIFTER

BY KATHY MACLEOD

FIRST SECOND, 2024
ISBN: 9781250813749

In this graphic novel, Kathy splits her year between living in Bangkok and a small town in Maine. While she loves her summers spent by the sea, Kathy struggles to fit in and find where she belongs.

THE CURSE OF EELGRASS BOG

BY MARY AVERLING

RAZORBILL, 2024
ISBN: 9780593624906

Kess and new girl Lilou are determined to investigate a mysterious curse, but they must explore a strange, monster-filled bog to unravel its secrets. Can Kess find the courage to uncover the clues, even when she discovers more than she bargained for?

DAUGHTERS OF THE LAMP

BY NEDDA LEWERS

PUTNAM, 2024
ISBN: 9780593619308

While visiting her family in Egypt, Sahara Rashad discovers her family's connection to the legendary treasure of Ali Baba.

EVIDENCE! HOW DR. JOHN SNOW SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF CHOLERA

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON,
ILLUSTRATED BY NIK HENDERSON

KNOPF, 2024
ISBN: 9780593426814

The true story of how a neighborhood doctor solved the mystery of cholera outbreaks and, in doing so, changed the way we approach public health. This book is a fun and accessible way to keep critical thinking going over the summer.

FERRIS

BY KATE DICAMILLO

CANDLEWICK, 2024
ISBN: 9781536231052

Soon-to-be-fifth-grader Ferris, along with her eccentric family and best friend, Billy Jackson, seeks to provide closure for the ghost that recently visited her grandmother.

THE FIRST STATE OF BEING

BY ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

GREENWILLOW, 2024
ISBN: 9780063337312

Michael Rosario lives in Red Knot, Delaware, in 1999. In the midst of worrying about Y2K and pining over his teenage babysitter, he meets Ridge, the world's first time-traveler. While Ridge enthusiastically explores 1999, Michael focuses on his own goal—stealing Ridge's book that details the events of the next twenty years.

LOL 101: A KID'S GUIDE TO WRITING JOKES

BY DAVID ROTH AND RINEE SHAH,
ILLUSTRATED BY RINEE SHAH

CHRONICLE, 2023
ISBN: 9781797213927

Learn the elements that make jokes funny and then try the included exercises to practice writing your own jokes. Also covered are joke delivery, visual jokes, and real jobs that involve writing or performing jokes. No joke!

MAGNOLIA WU UNFOLDS IT ALL

BY CHANEL MILLER

PHILOMEL, 2024
ISBN: 9780593624524

In this graphic novel, Magnolia and her new friend Iris set out in their New York City neighborhood to find matches for all

of the missing socks at her family's laundromat. Quirky and sweet!

MAX IN THE HOUSE OF SPIES: A TALE OF WORLD WAR II

BY ADAM GIDWITZ

DUTTON, 2024
ISBN: 9780593112083

Max Bretzfeld is sent by his parents from Berlin to London to help him escape from the increasing danger towards Jewish families, but Max is intent on returning to his home and protecting his parents. With the help (or sometimes hindrance) of his own personal kobold and a dybbuk, named Berg and Stein, Max concocts a plan to become a British spy in order to return to his home and his family.

QUAGMIRE TIARELLO COULDN'T BE BETTER

BY MYLISA LARSEN

CLARION, 2024
ISBN: 9780063324664

When a good cover sells a book and then the plot delivers, too! Quag's plan for a summer break of sleeping in until at least noon doesn't work out—and worse, his mom leaves him stranded in the rural U.S.

THE SECRET LIBRARY

BY KEKLA MAGOON

CANDLEWICK, 2024
ISBN: 9781536230888

The Secret Library is a magical place where every book holds a hidden secret, and Dally has to decide how to use it wisely. When she chooses to visit her ancestors, the librarian helps her pick just the right clothes for each time-travel adventure. Dally's pirate adventures are especially exciting, full of fun and surprises that pull readers right into her amazing world.



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A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN CHERRY HALL

BY JASMINE WARGA

HARPERCOLLINS, 2024
ISBN: 9780062956705

A fast read once you meet classmates Rami and Veda, plus Agatha the turtle, in a museum where a painting has gone missing. Will they be able to solve the mystery?

THE WRONG WAY HOME

BY KATE O'SHAUGHNESSY

KNOPF, 2024
ISBN: 9780593650738

Fern's life is turned upside down when her mom takes her away from the Ranch—the only home she's ever known. Now living in a beachside town, Fern must adapt to the unfamiliar modern world and the challenges of school life. Along the way, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, learning to define her own values and make choices that are true to herself.

YES! NO? MAYBE SO...: AMAZING ANSWERS TO MORE THAN 250 MIND-BLOWING QUESTIONS

BY JULIE BEER AND PAIGE TOWLER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS, 2024
ISBN: 9781426375736

This book answers so many of the questions we all have. Can dogs tell time? Could technology from science fiction come true? Do most mammals

get hiccups? This book is full of fun and interesting facts to satisfy readers' curiosity all summer long.

DIGITAL

MILLION BAZILLION

<https://www.marketplace.org/shows/million-bazillion/>

Each episode of this Marketplace podcast humorously explores an economics question. Past episodes include "Why do prices end in \$0.99?," "Why are so many toys made in China?," and "What's up with those claw machines?" Hosted by Ryan Perez and Bridget Bodnar.

REBEL GIRLS APP

<https://www.rebelgirls.com/audio>

Enjoy an ever-expanding library of inspiring audio stories.

www.ala.org/alsc

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