



READING LIST

Grades
K-2

BOOKS

ANOTHER WORD FOR NEIGHBOR

BY ANGELA PHAM KRANS,
ILLUS. BY THAI MY PHUONG

HARPERCOLLINS, 2025
ISBN: 9780063334915

A reclusive elderly widower is persistently befriended by his new neighbors, two lively siblings.

BIG BIKE, LITTLE BIKE

BY KELLIE DUBAY GILLIS,
ILLUS. BY JACOB SOUVA

HARPERCOLLINS, 2025
ISBN: 9780063315235

With whimsical and charming illustrations, this story about the journey of a bike that is reused and repurposed will delight readers.

A BOOK OF MAPS FOR YOU

BY LOURDES HEUER,
ILLUS. BY MAXWELL EATON III

NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2025
ISBN: 9780823455706

This is a story full of kindness, community, and maps with details that draw the reader in and, perhaps, inspire a summer activity of drawing one's own maps. Keep an eye out for a surprise at the end.

CRANKY, CRABBY CROW (SAVES THE WORLD)

BY COREY R. TABOR

GREENWILLOW, 2025
ISBN: 9780063373587

Crow seems cranky and wants everyone to leave him alone. Is there more to Crow than just being cranky?

DON'T TRUST FISH

BY NEIL SHARPSON,
ILLUS. BY DAN SANTAT

DIAL, 2025
ISBN: 9780593616673

Sure, fish seem nice and quiet—but did you know that they are planning to take over the world?

FIREWORKS

BY MATTHEW BURGESS,
ILLUS. BY CÁTIA CHIEN

CLARION, 2025
ISBN: 9780063216723

Colorful and playful, this story is perfect for summer! Readers follow a fun-filled summer day through the eyes of two children as they play, eat juicy watermelon slices, and marvel at the fireworks. A special gatefold reveals the full kaboom of the spectacular final display.

HENRY'S PICTURE-PERFECT DAY

BY JENN BAILEY, ILLUS. BY MIKA SONG

CHRONICLE, 2025
ISBN: 9781797230252

Henry, a young boy on the autism spectrum, wonders how his class could possibly have a picture-perfect day. After all, his tooth is loose, he hasn't practiced smiling, and his shirt has stripes.

THE HISTORY OF WE

BY NIKKOLAS SMITH

KOKILA, 2025
ISBN: 9780593619681

This picture book explores humanity's African origins, imagining the ingenuity and achievements of our earliest ancestors and celebrating the shared history that connects every person on Earth.

HURRICANE

BY JASON CHIN

NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2025
ISBN: 9780823458493

A hurricane is on its way to Hatteras Island, North Carolina. Meteorologists, weather pilots, and the community work together to keep everyone safe from the devastating storm. Even the island's stray cat gets involved in the preparations.

MAMA CAR

BY LUCY CATCHPOLE,
ILLUS. BY KAREN GEORGE

LITTLE, BROWN, 2025
ISBN: 9780316578035

A child shares her favorite things about her mom's wheelchair in this authentic slice-of-life story written by a disabled disability advocate.

MIDNIGHT MOTORBIKE

BY MAUREEN SHAY TAJRSAR,
ILLUS. BY ISHITA JAIN

NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2025
ISBN: 9780823456628

A mother and daughter escape the overwhelming jungle heat with a special nighttime ride.

NANI AND THE LION

BY ALICIA D. WILLIAMS,
ILLUS. BY ANNA CUNHA

CAITLYN DLOUHY BOOKS, 2026
ISBN: 9781665914222

In a quiet village, brave Nani plays her drum for an ornery lion who dances to exhaustion.

ORRIS AND TIMBLE: STAR STORIES

BY KATE DICAMILLO,
ILLUS. BY CARMEN MOK

CANDLEWICK, 2026
ISBN: 9781536227581

In this early chapter-book series, which began with *Orris and*

Timble: The Beginning (2024) and *Orris and Timble: Lost and Found* (2025), Orris the rat and Timble the owl are friends. Their friendship began when Timble was a young, lost owl, but can that friendship continue as Timble grows up? Can they stay friends even though they are so very different?

OVER AND UNDER THE CORAL REEF

BY KATE MESSNER,
ILLUS. BY CHRISTOPHER SILAS NEAL

CHRONICLE, 2025
ISBN: 9781797225357

In the latest installment in Messner's Over and Under series, readers dive in to explore the vibrant coral reef. Includes an author's note, informative back matter about the animals featured, and resources and websites for further reading. Great for STEM connections.

RUMPELSTILTSKIN

BY MAC BARNETT,
ILLUS. BY CARSON ELLIS

ORCHARD, 2026
ISBN: 9781797214562

A witty retelling of the fairy tale classic about a girl tasked with spinning straw into gold and the trickster with whom she strikes a deal.

SAFE CROSSING

BY KARI PERCIVAL

CHRONICLE, 2025
ISBN: 9781797214566

Every spring, amphibians take a perilous journey to vernal pools to mate and lay eggs. Children learn that our slow-moving friends can use a little help from the superhero Amphibian Migration Team!



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

THREAD BY THREAD

BY ALICE BRIÈRE-HAQUET,
ILLUS. BY MICHELA ECCLI

EERDMANS, 2025
ISBN: 9780802856395

Oh no! The mouse family's house is unraveling! After being chased over the water and into the unknown, how will they ever knit a new home? This book explores forced migration and displacement in a way children can understand.

TO SEE AN OWL

BY MATTHEW CORDELL

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2025
ISBN: 9780593649893

Janie really, really, really wants to see an owl. But spotting owls is very hard to do. Most come out at night and are well hidden during the day. However, with patience, persistence, and even more patience, she just might see an owl.

WELCOME TO OUR PLAYGROUND: A CELEBRATION OF GAMES CHILDREN PLAY EVERYWHERE

BY MOIRA BUTTERFIELD,
ILLUS. BY HARRIET LYNAS

NOSY CROW, 2025
ISBN: 9798887771571

Discover new activities and games for the summer! This fascinating book presents a wide range of games, toys, and playtimes from around the world,

organized by type—such as "Catch and Kick" and "Draw on the Ground."

WORDS WITH WINGS AND MAGIC THINGS

BY MATTHEW BURGESS,
ILLUS. BY DOUG SALATI

TUNDRA, 2025
ISBN: 9781774880289

With imaginative poems that play with words and meaning and enchanting illustrations by Caldecott medalist Salati, this spellbinding book will delight readers and listeners of all ages.

DIGITAL

HIGHLIGHTS KIDS

[highlightskids.com](https://www.highlightskids.com)

All the fun of *Highlights* magazine—on a colorful, interactive website.

PBS KIDS

[pbskids.org](https://www.pbskids.org)

This website hosts videos and games related to PBS Kids television programming for children ages two to eight.

READING RAINBOW

[readingrainbow.org/watch](https://www.readingrainbow.org/watch)

Enjoy original and new episodes of *Reading Rainbow*, featuring librarian Mychal Threets, on this website.

www.ala.org/alsc

The 2026 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.

© 2026 American Library Association