BIG SHARK, LITTLE SHARK, AND THE SPOOKY CAVE
BY ANNA MEMBRINO, ILLUSTRATED BY TIM BUDGEN
RANDOM HOUSE, 2021
ISBN: 9780593302071
In this beginning-reader book, Big Shark is afraid to explore the dark and spooky cave, but Little Shark is excited for a new adventure!

BURT THE BEETLE DOESN'T BITE!
BY ASHLEY SPIRES
KIDS CAN PRESS, 2021
ISBN: 9781525301469
Some bugs seem to have superpowers, like strength and speed, but what can Burt the june beetle do? Includes insect super facts.

CREepy CRayON!
BY AARon REYNOLDS, ILLUSTRATED BY PETER BROWN
SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2022
ISBN: 9781534465886
A "purple, pointy, perfect" crayon seems to be the answer to all of Jasper's frustrations and failures at school, until the crayon begins making its own demands.

DARK ON LIGHT
BY DIANNE WHITE, ILLUSTRATED BY FELICITA SALA
BEACH LANE, 2022
ISBN: 9781534487985
As the sun sets, three young children pull on their boots and grab their flashlights, ready to explore the wonders of the world at night. Lyrical text and rich illustrations underscore the magic of discovery.

EMILE AND THE FIELD
BY KEVIN YOUNG, ILLUSTRATED BY CHIOMA EBINAMA
MAKE ME A WORLD, 2022
ISBN: 9781984850443
A young Black child feels companionship with a field, running through it in warm weather, and missing it when it is snow-covered in winter. Watercolor illustrations add to the dreaminess of the story.

GIGI AND OJIJI
BY MELISSA IWAI
HARCERCOLLINS, 2022
ISBN: 9780063208063
Gigi, a biracial six-year-old girl, seeks ways to connect with her Japanese grandpa when he comes to live with her family.

HANA’S HUNDREDS OF HIJABS
BY RAZEENA OMAR GUTTA, ILLUSTRATED BY MANAL MIRZA
BAREFOOT BOOKS, 2022
ISBN: 9781646866205
A problem-solving story that touches on identity, creativity, and pride of one’s culture and traditions.

HOLD THEM CLOSE: A LOVE LETTER TO BLACK CHILDREN
BY JAMILAH THOMPKINS-BIGELOW, ILLUSTRATED BY PATRICK DOUGHER WITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMEL SHABAZZ
HARCERCOLLINS, 2022
ISBN: 9780063036178
Through vivid collaged and gold-painted pages, this poetic picture book encourages Black children to hold onto the good moments.

IDA B. WELLS, VOICE OF TRUTH: EDUCATOR, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-LYNCHING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER
BY MICHELLE DUSTER, ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA FREEMAN
HENRY HOLT, 2022
ISBN: 9781250239464
A picture-book biography told by Wells’ great-granddaughter, adding a wonderful personal perspective.

IT FELL FROM THE SKY
BY TERRY FAN AND ERIC FAN
SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2021
ISBN: 9781534457621
Whimsical yet sophisticated, this picture book provides a look at structures of power and welcoming newcomers.

A LAND OF BOOKS: DREAMS OF YOUNG MEXIHCAH WORD PAINTERS
BY DUNCAN TONATIUh
ABRAMS, 2022
ISBN: 9781419749421
Explore the rich history of Mexihcah bookmaking through a child’s perspective. Features Nahuatl-infused text, an author’s note, and glossary.

LILY LEADS THE WAY
BY MARGI PREUS, ILLUSTRATED BY MATT MYERS
CANDLEWICK, 2022
ISBN: 9781536214031
Lily, a small sailboat, helps the larger cargo ships navigate the harbor around them. An author’s note describes different kinds of boats and bridges.

LITTLE WITCH HAZEL: A YEAR IN THE FOREST
BY PHOEBE WAHL
TUNDRA, 2021
ISBN: 9780735264892
Delve into the forest for a year and explore creatures, habitats, and flora. The tiny witch tends to all to ensure comfort and health. Lyrical writing makes for a lovely journey.

MY PET FEET
BY JOSH FUNK, ILLUSTRATED BY BILLY YONG
SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2022
ISBN: 9781534486003
In this silly picture book, a little girl discovers that her pet ferret is now her pet feet. Someone has taken all the
The 2023 Summer Reading Book 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.

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.

TÍA FORTUNA’S NEW HOME: A JEWISH CUBAN JOURNEY
BY RUTH BEHAR,
ILLUSTRATED BY DEVON HOLZWARTH
KNOPF, 2022
ISBN: 9780593172414
Estrella learns about her Cuban and Jewish heritage as her Tía Fortuna packs up and moves from her pink casita to an assisted-living home.

WAYS TO MAKE FRIENDS
BY JAIRO BUITRAGO,
ILLUSTRATED BY MARIANA RUIZ JOHNSON
GREYSTONE KIDS, 2022
ISBN: 9781771649759
In this tongue-in-cheek guide to friendship, a hapless toad tries out all kinds of methods, from the innocuous to the bizarre, in his quest to make a connection. Also available in Spanish.

THE WORLD BELONGED TO US
BY JACQUELINE WOODSON,
ILLUSTRATED BY LEO ESPINOSA
NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2022
ISBN: 9780399545498
A group of children in Brooklyn experience endless possibilities on their block when summer arrives, and they are free to play together until sundown.

YELLOW DOG BLUES
BY ALICE FAYE DUNCAN,
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS RASCHKA
EERDMANS, 2022
ISBN: 9780802855534
Young Bo Willie’s beloved puppy has gone missing, and his search traces the path of landmark spots in the development of blues music. Features unique hand-stitched illustrations.

A TASTE OF HONEY: KAMALA OUTSMARTS THE SEVEN THIEVES
BY REBECCA SHEIR,
ILLUSTRATED BY CHAAYA PRABHAT
STOREY PUBLISHING, 2022
ISBN: 9781635864922
A retelling of a folktale from India and Pakistan in which a young woman learns to rely on herself to solve her problems. Includes a QR code to listen to a podcast of the story as well as other creative storytelling activities.

SIR LADYBUG
BY COREY R. TABOR
BALZER + BRAY, 2022
ISBN: 9780063069060
Sir Ladybug, along with his trusty friends, must rescue a caterpillar from a hungry chickadee in the first book in this sweet graphic novel series.

TÍA FORTUNA’S NEW HOME: A JEWISH CUBAN JOURNEY
BY RUTH BEHAR,
ILLUSTRATED BY DEVON HOLZWARTH
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ISBN: 9780593172414
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DIGITAL

CIRCLE ROUND
wbur.org/podcasts/circleround
This podcast retells folktales from around the world, exploring themes like friendship, generosity, and creativity, and always ends with an activity.

SEEK BY INATURALIST
inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app
Get outside, explore, and identify plants and animals around you with the Seek app. Participate in challenges and earn badges.

SKYSCI FOR KIDS
scied.ucar.edu/kids
Learn about climate- and weather-related science through games, articles, and videos on this interactive website created for children ages five to ten.

STORY PIRATES
https://www.storypirates.com/podcast
Young people’s original stories are adapted into sketches by professional comedians and musicians, offering inspiration for podcast listeners to create their own stories.

TINYBOP: THE HUMAN BODY
https://tinybop.com/apps/the-human-body
Learn how the human body works in this interactive, entertaining app made for children ages six to eight.