

## 2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Grades 3–5



The Association for Library Service to Children promotes reading and books through recommendations, compilations of lists, and related services. This reading list was compiled by ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee as a resource for children's librarians to share with patrons. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore these titles to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest.

A full-color designed version of this reading list is forthcoming in May 2021. This text-only version has been provided to assist children's library workers in collection development.

### *Any Day with You*

by Mae Respicio

WENDY LAMB BOOKS, 2020

ISBN: 9780525707578

Kaia enters a filmmaking contest, drawing inspiration from the many Filipino tales her great-grandfather tells. When Tatang decides to return to the Philippines, Kaia will do whatever it takes to keep him in California.

### *Bear*

by Ben Queen, illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton

ARCHAIA, 2020

ISBN: 9781684155316

This graphic novel follows a seeing-eye dog, Bear, as he loses his vision and embarks on an exciting adventure to return home after getting lost.

### *Eva Evergreen, Semi-Magical Witch*

by Julie Abe

LITTLE, BROWN, 2020

ISBN: 9780316493888

Eva has only a pinch of magic, which makes passing the test to become a novice witch difficult. When she lands in a small coastal town, she sets up a magical repair shop to prove her worth.

### *The How and Wow of the Human Body: From Your Tongue to Your Toes and All the Guts in Between*

by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz, illustrated by Jack Teagle

HMH BOOKS, 2021

ISBN: 9780358306634

A fully illustrated comical tour of the human body focusing on disgusting, incredible, and hilarious facts about our very own, ever-oozing piece of machinery.

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### *Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero*

by Kelly J. Baptist

CROWN, 2020

ISBN: 9780593121368

Now the man of the house, a boy finds passion in poetry after discovering his late father's journal while struggling to hold his house together.

### *The Last Bear*

by Hannah Gold

HARPERCOLLINS, 2021

ISBN: 9780063041073

April's father has always told her that there are no more polar bears left on Bear Island. When April sees something that looks like a polar bear across the horizon, she is determined to save it.

### *Pepper Page Saves the Universe!*

by Landry Q. Walker, illustrated by Eric Jones

FIRST SECOND, 2021

ISBN: 9781250216922

Twenty-fifth-century Pepper Page is obsessed with old comics, but when a high-school science experiment goes wrong and Pepper lands in the middle of a cosmic adventure of her own, Pepper's reading may not be enough to save her.

### *Shaking Up the House*

by Yamile Saied Méndez

HARPERCOLLINS, 2021

ISBN: 9780062970725

Two sets of First Daughters shake up the White House with hysterical pranks on each other that escalate into an international affair!

### *Skunk and Badger*

by Amy Timberlake, illustrated by Jon Klassen

ALGONQUIN, 2020

ISBN: 9781643750057

No one wants a skunk as a roommate, but Badger doesn't have a choice. His quiet, solitary life is turned upside down by cheery Skunk in this odd-couple tale of friendship.

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### *A Sporting Chance: How Ludwig Guttmann Created the Paralympic Games*

by Lori Alexander, illustrated by Allan Drummond

HMH BOOKS, 2020

ISBN: 9781328580795

Jewish neurologist Ludwig Guttmann, who escaped Hitler’s Germany, had a revolutionary idea—sports might help patients labeled as “incurables.” Discover how his work evolved into the international Paralympic Games in this biography that includes photos and other illustrations.

### *Stella Díaz Dreams Big*

by Angela Dominguez

ROARING BROOK, 2021

ISBN: 9781250763082

Stella learns how to navigate fourth grade, participate in several clubs, and have fun with her family and friends. Third book in a series.

### *Super Detectives: Simon and Chester Book #1*

by Cale Atkinson

TUNDRA, 2021

ISBN: 9780735267428

A hilarious first volume in a new graphic novel series centered around ghost Simon and human Chester solving the case of a mysterious dog who shows up in their house one day.

### *Three Keys: A Front Desk Novel*

by Kelly Yang

SCHOLASTIC, 2020

ISBN: 9781338591385

The sequel to *Front Desk* finds Mia, now part owner of a motel, working to keep the motel afloat while facing anti-immigration sentiment and helping her best friend Lupe when her father is detained as an illegal immigrant.

### *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*

by Adrianna Cuevas

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX, 2020

ISBN: 9780374313609

Nestor wants to keep his ability to talk to animals a secret, but that’s a challenge when animals go missing in Nestor’s new town and rumors fly about a creature who lives in the forest.

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### *Truman the Dog*

by Debbi Michiko Florence, illustrated by Melanie Demmer

PICTURE WINDOW, 2020

ISBN: 9781515844754

First in the My Furry Foster Family series of illustrated chapter books about eight-year-old Kaita, whose family fosters pets until they can find new homes for the animals.

### *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*

by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac

CHARLESBRIDGE, 2021

ISBN: 9781623541927

A creatively organized picture book gives both Native and non-Native readers an overview of important topics including forced assimilation, sovereignty, and language.

### *We Got Game! 35 Female Athletes Who Changed the World*

by Aileen Weintraub, illustrated by Sarah Green

RUNNING PRESS, 2021

ISBN: 9780762497805

With amazing facts and detailed information, this nonfiction book shines a spotlight on amazing female athletes at the top of their game. New players and retired competitors alike are showcased for the mark they have made on the world.

### *When You Trap a Tiger*

by Tae Keller

RANDOM HOUSE, 2020

ISBN: 9781524715700

Lily makes a deal with a magical tiger in an attempt to heal her sick halmoni in this tale celebrating Korean folklore, strong women, and the power of the imagination.

### *The Year I Flew Away*

by Marie Arnold

VERSIFY, 2021

ISBN: 9780358272755

When 10-year-old Gabrielle moves from Haiti to Brooklyn, she finds that America isn't quite what she expected. With the help of a magical friend, Marie transforms into the perfect American girl but makes sacrifices in the process.

### **Digital Experiences**

*Brains On!* podcast

[www.brainson.org](http://www.brainson.org)

A podcast where different kid cohosts take the mic each week to tackle wide-ranging and fascinating science questions from listeners across the country.

Design Squad Global website

<https://pbskids.org/designsquad>

Kids can take on challenges, watch videos, play games, and be wowed by the power of engineering.

Funbrain website

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

This website for children features cool science experiments, read-aloud videos, and fun games to explore.

Go Noodle website

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com)

Online videos that inspire movement for kids.

iCivics website

[www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org)

Activities and games for both families and educators, all aimed at providing fundamental lessons in civics knowledge.

I Survived Book Club website

[www.scholastic.com/site/i-survived.html](http://www.scholastic.com/site/i-survived.html)

Watch videos and download printable games and resources to go along with the I Survived book series, written by Lauren Tarshis.

Monterey Bay Aquarium live cams webpage

[www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams)

Jellyfish, sea otters, and sharks, oh my! Learn about and watch live videos with these sea animals and more.

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NASA STEM @ Home website

[www.nasa.gov/stem](http://www.nasa.gov/stem)

For children ages five and up, this website includes many activities both on- and off-screen based around NASA and space. Activities are broken down into three sections based on grade level: K–4, 5–8, and 9–12.

National Geographic Kids website

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

This fun and educational website for children features games, videos, and brain boosters.

*The Past and the Curious* podcast

<https://thepastandthecurious.com>

Kids and families can learn about shocking, inspirational, and often humorous historical events and people through short stories, humor, music, and fun.

Scratch website

<https://scratch.mit.edu>

An innovative block-based programming language that allows for the creation and remixing of limitless programming, from games to music to animation.

“Son Đoòng 360: Exploring the World’s Largest Cave” virtual tour

[www.nationalgeographic.com/news-features/son-doong-cave/2/#s=pano37](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/news-features/son-doong-cave/2/#s=pano37)

Explore the world’s largest cave in Vietnam with National Geographic’s 360-degree tour of Hang Son Đoòng, with fun facts, nature sounds, and interactive questions.

*Wow in the World* podcast

<https://tinkercast.com/shows/wow-in-the-world>

A STEM-themed podcast with silly (but scientifically) accurate humor for curious young listeners.

**For more top resources, visit the [ALSC Book and Media Awards Shelf](https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/) at <https://alsc-awards-shelf.org/>.**