

## 2021 ALSC Summer Reading Booklists

Kindergarten–Grade 2



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.

### *Baloney and Friends*

by Greg Pizzoli

DISNEY-HYPERION, 2020

ISBN: 9781368054546

This funny graphic novel for beginning readers stars Baloney the pig alongside his friends Bizz (a bee), Peanut (a horse), and Krabbit (a very cranky rabbit).

### *Black Is a Rainbow Color*

by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes

ROARING BROOK, 2020

ISBN: 9781626726314

There's no black in rainbows, but Black is more than a color. It's a culture. This picture book celebrates African American history and identity.

### *Carpenter's Helper*

by Sybil Rosen, illustrated by Camille Garoche

SCHWARTZ & WADE, 2021

ISBN: 9780593123201

A sweet story about a girl and her family bonding while building a birdhouse in their home.

### *The Electric Slide and Kai*

by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson

LEE & LOW, 2021

ISBN: 9781643790527

Kai's family is excited for his aunt's upcoming wedding, but since every family celebration means dancing, Kai's worried he will make a fool of himself on the dance floor again. A picture-book celebration of family, love, and overcoming one's fears.

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### *Eyes That Kiss in the Corners*

by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho

HARPERCOLLINS, 2021

ISBN: 9780062915627

A picture book filled with wonderful illustrations that encourage children to be proud of who they are and how they look.

### *A Hatful of Dragons: And More than 13.8 Billion Other Funny Poems*

by Vikram Madan

WORDSONG, 2020

ISBN: 9781684371501

A silly collection of interactive poems and rhymes in a variety of formats with fun illustrations about mummies, dragons, and more!

### *I Am a Bird*

by Hope Lim, illustrated by Hyewon Yum

CANDLEWICK, 2021

ISBN: 9781536208917

A little girl, riding on the back of her father's bike, is wary of the mysterious woman with a bag they pass. One day, she finds out what the bag is for, and her wariness grows into kinship.

### *Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend*

by Dawn Quigley, illustrated by Tara Audibert

HEARTDRUM, 2021

ISBN: 9780063015371

This early chapter book follows Jo Jo, a young Ojibwe girl, as she navigates the troubles and tribulations of being in elementary school. This story also includes snippets of the Ojibwe language with more information in the back matter.

### *Lift*

by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat

DISNEY-HYPERION, 2020

ISBN: 9781368036924

Frustrated with her little brother taking over her job of pushing the elevator button, a girl takes a discarded button to transform her closet door into a magical elevator. In the process, she discovers that adventures are more fun when you share them.

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### *Milo Imagines the World*

by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson

PUTNAM, 2021

ISBN: 9780399549083

While on the subway, Milo imagines different stories for the people he sees, but he soon realizes you can't tell who people really are just by their appearance.

### *A Place inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart*

By Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Noa Denmon

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIROUX, 2020

ISBN: 9780374307417

A Black boy, shown all over his neighborhood, experiences a range of emotions: fear, pride, sorrow, and joy.

### *Sadiq and the Green Thumbs*

by Siman Nuurali, illustrated by Anjan Sarkar

PICTURE WINDOW, 2020

ISBN: 9781515845676

Sadiq, a Somali American third-grader, starts a gardening club focused on helping neighbors. Part of a series.

### *Sharuko: El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello / Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello*

by Monica Brown, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri

LEE & LOW, 2020

ISBN: 9780892394234

In this Spanish-English picture-book biography, readers find out about this Indigenous scientist who found skulls and artifacts in the mountains of Peru as a child and went on to become the founder of modern Peruvian archaeology.

### *Story Boat*

by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh

TUNDRA BOOKS, 2020

ISBN: 9780735263598

Join a little girl and her younger brother as they leave behind the place they know as home and, along the way, make the best of times with what they find. A wonderful refugee story.

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*Try It! How Frieda Caplan Changed the Way We Eat*

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Giselle Potter

BEACH LANE BOOKS, 2021

ISBN: 9781534460072

A look into Frieda Caplan’s life of being a produce trailblazer, introducing new fruits and vegetables, like baby corn and kiwi, to the American diet.

*We Laugh Alike / Juntos nos reímos: A Story That’s Part Spanish, Part English, and a Whole Lot of Fun*

by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez

CHARLESBRIDGE, 2021

ISBN: 9781623540968

Two groups of friends meet in the park, but one group only speaks English, and the other only speaks Spanish. Watch how they play together and discover all sorts of similarities!

*What about Worms!?*

by Ryan T. Higgins

HYPERION, 2020

ISBN: 9781368045735

Tiger is big and brave—except when it comes to worms! When faced with a worm-themed book and then a big group of worms, he must try to overcome his fear.

*Your Mama*

by NoNieqa Ramos, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara

VERSIFY, 2021

ISBN: 9781328631886

This super fun book is a spin on the “yo mama” jokes. The twist with this book is that everything included here is pleasant, comforting, and warm, with more than just a hint of humor.

*Your Place in the Universe*

by Jason Chin

HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2020

ISBN: 9780823446230

An introduction to size, scale, and distance that goes from comparing an eight-year-old’s height with a stack of books to examining the vastness of the universe.

*Zonia's Rain Forest*

by Juana Martinez-Neal

CANDLEWICK, 2021

ISBN: 9781536208450

Explore Zonia's home, the Amazon rain forest, and learn as Zonia respects and protects the Peruvian wildlife and her heritage.

**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.

*The Imagine Neighborhood* podcast

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

Kids will learn about social-emotional skills through stories, songs, and activities, prompting conversations between children and caregivers about big feelings.

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*Molly of Denali* podcast

<https://pbskids.org/molly/podcast>

Listen to the adventures of 10-year-old Molly, an Alaska Native girl who lives with her bush pilot mom, adventure-guide dad, and her dog, Suki, in a small village.

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.

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.

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/>.**