



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.



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.

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.ahoi.com/fiete-world/>

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

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.

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