

Portsmouth Christian Academy Lower School

*Recommended Summer Reading and Activities*  
*Kindergarten - Grade 2*

*Summer 2019*



**Great Books!**

*PCA's library recommends the following books for your child's summer reading enjoyment and to help them preserve their reading skills. You'll find something for every reading interest, so enjoy! More advanced readers may wish to consult the reading list for Grades 3-4. Note: different books are appropriate for and appeal to different ages, reading levels, personalities and parents' preferences. As always, please use your discretion in helping your child choose what to read.*

**A WORD ABOUT LEXILE MEASURES**

*Lexile measures quantify the difficulty of a piece of text OR a student's reading ability level. Where available, they have been provided in the following list. Note that an 'AD' Lexile code preceding the measure indicates "adult directed". Many picture books receive this code because they are typically read by adults to children. Independent readers can also enjoy these books and improve their reading skills at the same time. As with any book, adults can help their children to decipher long sentences and sound out unfamiliar words.*

**2019**

**Picture Books**

Blackall, Sophie. *Hello Lighthouse*. (2019 Caldecott Medal Book) A lighthouse keeper and his new wife raise their family and survive the hardships and joys of life offshore in this lovely, idyllic picture book.

Bryant, Howard. *Sisters and Champions*. "An inspiring picture book sports biography about two of the greatest female tennis players of all-time, outsiders who just happen to be sisters. Everyone knows the names Venus and Serena Williams. They have become synonymous with

championships, hard work, and with shaking up the tennis world. This picture book, by an award-winning sports journalist who knows the Williams family personally, details the sisters' journey from a barely-there tennis court in Compton, CA, to becoming the #1 ranked women in the sport of tennis".

Calabrese, Keith. *Lena's Shoes Are Nervous: A First -Day-of-School Dilemma*. Facing kindergarten, Lena must convince her shoes not to be nervous in this fresh look at a familiar experience.

Cummings, Troy. *Can I Be Your Dog?* A dog looking for a home sends letters to prospective owners on Butternut Street, with surprising results.

Churchill, Vicki. *Sometimes I Like to Curl Up in a Ball*. Wombat shows what he likes to do all day long with other animals until it is time to go to bed.

Colón, Raúl. *Imagine!* A boy's imagination comes alive during his visit to the Museum of Modern Art in this wordless tribute to the power of art.

Dyckman, Ame. *Boy + Bot*. A boy and a robot strike up a friendship despite their differences.

Guatnaccia, Steven. *The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale*. In this retelling of the classic tale, the three little pigs build homes inspired by the signature houses of famed architects Frank Gehry, Phillip Johnson, and Frank Lloyd Wright, and fill the interiors with furnishings by renowned designers, piquing the interest of a certain evil wolf.

Henkes, Kevin. *A Parade of Elephants*. Five elephants march in a line, up and down, under and over, and round and round, introducing simple concepts to very young children in this perfectly delightful confection.

Hesse, Karen. *Night Job*. A boy spends the night cleaning the school with his father. This is a tender and joyful look at work and time spent together.

Hood, Susan. *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay*. A town built on a landfill. A community in need of hope. A girl with a dream. A man with a vision. An ingenious idea.

Johnston, Tony. *A Small Thing...But Big*. Lizzie meets an elderly man and his companion, Cecile, at the park, but Lizzie is afraid of dogs, so she relies on her new friend to help her take things one-step at a time.

Jun, Nie. *My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder*. Yu'er and her grandfather are amiable guides to their Beijing neighborhood, and Jun's lush watercolor artwork gives this graphic novel even more charm. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Lê, Minh. *Drawn Together*. A boy and his grandfather bridge their cultural and generational divide through their shared love of art.

Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Alma and How She Got Her Name*. (2019 Caldecott Honor Book) Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela thinks her name is too long, so her father tells her the story of where it came from. (Caldecott Honor Book)

McCloskey, Shanda. *DOLL-E 1.0*. Charlotte has a talent for anything technological, so when she receives a doll as a present, she upgrades it with a few spare parts and some code to create a new and improved friend.

Miller, Sharee. *Don't Touch My Hair!* A spunky heroine uses humor to invite readers to understand boundaries and consent.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!* (2019 Caldecott Honor Book) When Omu makes a delicious-smelling dinner, neighbors stop by to sample soup until the pot is empty.

Paul, Miranda.. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women from Gambia*. Inspired by the true story of Isatou Ceesay and the women of the Gambia, and how they helped to clean up all the plastic bags.

Paul, Miranda,. *Service Dogs*. Find out all the important jobs that service dogs do to help people.

Tournville, Jaqueline. *Pocket Full of Colors*. From her imaginative childhood to her career as an illustrator, designer, and animator for Walt Disney Studios Mary would not play by the rules.

Yum, Hyewon. *Saturday Is Swimming Day*. Yum delicately explores the fear and triumph a little girl feels when facing her Saturday swimming lessons.

### **Chapter Books**

Bentley, Sue. *Magic Bunny*. Arrow is a magic bunny who tries to turn Charlotte's trip to the shore into one she'll never forget.

Kilmo, Kate. *Stubby*. "Stubby the war dog narrates the story of his life, from his birth on the streets of New Haven, Connecticut, through his time spent in Europe with the American Expeditionary Force, to his eventual hero's welcome back in the U.S."

Miles, Ellen. *Cuddle*. Lizzie meets Cuddles, a lonely pup, who is alone all day and could use some extra attention.

Selfors, Suzanne. *Wedgie & Gizmo*. Wedgie's and Gizmo's families are moving into the same house. Wedgie is excited but Gizmo refuses to share his human servant.

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967*. Mel is at the Glacier National Park trying to get over the loss of her mother when she comes face-to-face with a grizzly.

### **Picture Books**

Arnett, Robert. *Finders Keepers?* AD930L This charming story is both a glimpse of India and a tale which teaches the universal values of honesty, respect, and doing the right thing.

Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale*. 770L This engaging folktale starts with a mosquito that annoys an iguana by telling it a lie. This sets off a chain of events that affects all the jungle animals. Wonderful illustrations and fun to read aloud!

Aliki. *A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver*. 640L Born a slave, George Washington Carver became a scientist and devoted his life to helping the South improve its farm products and methods.

Andrews, Troy. *Trombone Shorty*. (2016 Caldecott Honor Book) 840L Hailing from the Treme neighborhood of New Orleans, where music floats on the air, Andrews didn't always have the money to buy an instrument, but he did have the dream to be a musician.

Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. (2018 Newbery and Caldecott Honor Book) An exuberant, joyful description of how a trip to the barbershop changes the way a young African-American boy feels about the world, and how he believes the world will see him! It's all about confidence and self-esteem.

Barnett, Mac. *Extra Yarn*. (2013 Caldecott Honor Book) 620L Enjoy this award-winning story of how a young girl and some amazing yarn change a community.

Bateman, Teresa. *Red, White, Blue and Uncle Who? The Stories Behind Some of America's Patriotic Symbols*. 960L Why is the eagle our national bird? Why does our flag have stars and stripes? Bateman's book explains the origins of all of America's major patriotic symbols.

Barrett, Judith. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. AD740L In the land of Chewandswallow, says Grandpa, meals come from the sky! But what silliness happens when the weather changes?

Beaty, Andrea. *Rosie Revere, Engineer*. At night, quiet Rosie is a brilliant inventor of gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) mentions her one unfinished goal—to fly—Rosie builds a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. What happens next is a great exploration of the old saying "If at first you don't succeed..." If you like this, try *Ida Twist, Scientist* and *Iggy Peck, Architect*.

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*. This wordless 2014 Caldecott Honor Book eloquently tells the story of a lonely girl and an extraordinary adventure that begins when she uses her red marker to draw a magic door on her bedroom wall.

Border, Terry. *Peanut Butter and Cupcake*. AD750L After moving to a new town, Peanut Butter sets out with his soccer ball to find a new friend, but everyone, including Hamburger and Soup, seems too busy to play with him!

Bowen, James, and Garry Jenkins. *My Name Is Bob*. AD450L True and heartwarming story of how Bob the homeless cat found a new home and someone to love him!

Brosgol, Vara. *Leave Me Alone*. 2017 Caldecott Medal Honor. One day, a grandmother leaves her tiny home and her very big family to journey to the moon and beyond to find peace and quiet to finish her knitting. Along the way, she encounters ravenous bears, obnoxious goats, and even hordes of aliens! But nothing stops grandma from accomplishing her goal!

Brett, Jan. *Town Mouse, Country Mouse*. 530L Trading Places – mouse style! What happens when two mouse couples – one pair of country mice, the other pair city-dwellers --trade homes for awhile?

Brett, Jan. *Gingerbread Friends*. AD810L In this sequel, the Gingerbread Baby is hunting for a friend. A bakery seems like a good place – or is it? Enjoy Jan Brett’s many wonderful books!

Bridges, Ruby. *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*. (Scholastic Reader Level 2) Bridges tells her amazing story in this easy reader. Also recommended: Robert Coles’ *The Story of Ruby Bridges*.

Bridges, Shirim Yim. *Ruby’s Wish*. Based on a true story of China long ago! Ruby (who insists on wearing red each day) lives in a large home with her grandfather and a very, VERY large family, including 100 grandchildren! A tutor teaches those who wish to learn, but Ruby is the only girl who continues to study while also learning to run a home as Chinese girls were expected to do. One day, Ruby’s grandfather reads a poem she has written: "Alas, bad luck to be born a girl; worse luck to be/ born into this house where only boys are cared for." When Grandfather asks about the poem, Ruby tells him how much she wishes to go to university. Could Ruby’s wish ever come true?

Brown, Margaret Wise. *The Sailor Dog*. The adventures of Scuppers as he becomes a sailor and travels the world.

Brucker, Meredith Babeaux. *Anklet for a Princess: a Cinderella Story from India*. 660L Adapted from the East Indian story “Nagami” (Jewel of the Snake), this version of the tale depicts the traditions and culture of India as well as the universal values of the Cinderella story.

Bryant, Howard. *Sisters and Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams*. Enjoy this story of how these two sisters grew to become tennis champions and two of the greatest athletes in history.

Bynum, Janie. *Otis*. AD840L Because he doesn’t like mud, Otis is different from the other pigs and has trouble finding friends.

Cannon, Janell. *Stellaluna*. AD550L Beautifully-illustrated story of the little bat that is separated from her mother but is adopted by a bird. Stellaluna tries to act like her bird brothers and sisters, but she’s going against her instincts! A story of celebrating differences-and being true to yourself.

Carle, Eric. *The Grouchy Ladybug*. 560L Enjoy all of Eric Carle’s stories, including this classic story of a bad-tempered bug who won't say "please" or "thank you," won't share, and thinks she is bigger and better than anyone else. Readers will love how this testy ladybug introduces them to many new animals and learns that maybe being grouchy isn’t always the best option.

Casey, Dawn. *The Great Race: The Story of the Chinese Zodiac*. The legend of how the animals were chosen for the Chinese Zodiac calendar.

Castaneda, Omar S. *Abuela’s Weave*. AD960L A story of family traditions and artisans set in Guatemala.

Chesanow, Neil. *Where Do I Live?* From a child’s room.to a home...to a street..to a town and beyond, this book helps children understand their world and their place in it.

Clements, Andrew. *Big Al*. 740L A big, ugly fish has trouble making the friends he longs for because of his appearance--until the day he saves them all from a fisherman's net.

Cleveland, Rob. *The Drum: A Folktale from India*. 660L In this sweet story, a young boy learns that good deeds and selflessness create a kind of magic all their own.

Climo, Shirley. *The Korean Cinderella*. 700L In this version of *Cinderella*, set in ancient Korea, Pear Blossom, a stepchild, eventual comes to be chosen by the magistrate to be his wife.

Cooper, Elisha. *Big Cat, Little Cat*. (2018 Caldecott Honor Book) A loving and gentle story of the friendship between two cats and the life cycle of pets.

Cordell, Matthew. *Wolf in the Snow*. (2018 Caldecott Award winner) A wordless story of friendship and trust as a little girl and a wolf cub, both lost in a snowstorm, try to find their way home.

Cronin, Doreen. *Thump, Quack, Moo!* (Click Clack series) It's time for the annual Corn Maze Festival. The farm is bursting with activity. Everyone is excited. Well, Duck is not excited exactly. But he has a plan. As Farmer Brown designs the corn maze for the festival, Duck does some designing of his own. Guess who's in for a big surprise?

Daywalt, Drew. *The Day the Crayons Came Home*. AD730L One day Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of which has run away or been left behind - and all of them want to come home.

Daywalt, Drew, and Oliver Jeffers. *The Day the Crayons Quit*. AD490L The crayons are not happy and they want Duncan to know it!

Dean, James. *Pete the Cat and the Treasure Map*. 490L When Captain Pete discovers a treasure map, he and his crew are ready to set out and sail the seas to find the buried gold and jewels. But they weren't expecting to find a giant sea monster along the way! Enjoy this and all the Pete the Cat books!

De la Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. (2016 Caldecott Honor Book & Newbery Medal) AD610L A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

DePaola, Tomie. *The Knight and the Dragon*. AD650L The knight and the dragon know they're supposed to fight each other, but they're really not sure how. They work hard to prepare – but what happens when they fight for the first time?

DePaola, Tomie. *The Art Lesson*. Tommy knows he wants to be an artist when he grows up. He can't wait to get to school and have real art lessons. When Tommy gets to school and finds out that the art lessons are full of "rules", he is surprised and dismayed. How the wise art teacher finds a way to give Tommy the freedom to create and stay within the "rules" makes a wonderfully perceptive picture book about growing up and keeping one's individuality.

Dennis, Brian. *Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle*. AD810L Enjoy this true story of the bond of love between human and dog, even in the midst of the Iraq War.

Donaldson, Julia. *The Gruffalo*. Enjoy this funny 'trickster tale' as a mouse invents 'the gruffalo' as a way to keep hungry animals from eating him!

Dunbar, Joyce. *A Chick Called Saturday*. Saturday the chick wants to know all about the other farmyard animals, and to do what they do. Why can't he swim like the ducks or moo like the cow? Read this sweet story to see how the little chick finds his own strengths.

Ellis, Corson. *Du Iz Tak?* 2017 Caldecott Honor Book. As a tiny shoot unfurls, two damselflies peer at it in wonder. When the plant grows taller and sprouts leaves, some young beetles arrive to gander, and soon—with the help of a pill bug named Icky—they wrangle a ladder and build a tree fort. But this is the wild world, after all, and something is waiting to swoop down—*booby voobeck!*—only to be carried off in turn. Carson Ellis invites readers to imagine the dramatic possibilities to be found in even the humblest backyard.

Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*. 840L Join this family on an exciting transcontinental journey in the 1860s, and you'll learn a lot about trains and train travel! 2014 Caldecott Medal winner.

Frazer, Marla. *The Farmer and the Clown*. In this sweet and nearly wordless book, a farmer rescues a baby clown who has bounced off the circus train, and takes very good care of him until he can reunite the baby with his clown family.

Gag, Wanda. *Millions of Cats*. 730L Revisit this classic story of the old man who sets out to find a cat for his wife – and returns with millions!

Hall, Donald, and Barry Moser. *I Am the Dog, I Am the Cat*. What are the real differences between dogs and cats? Well, let them tell you themselves, in this portrait of our pets. You decide which animal you prefer!

Hall, Michael. *Perfect Square*. This book works on two levels; about creativity and reinvention, and about the attributes, forms and possibilities of the square.

Harrison, Hannah E. *Extraordinary Jane*. 180L Jane the dog doesn't have a unique talent in the circus like the rest of her family, until the ringmaster discovers what is truly special about her.

Henkes, Kevin. *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*. 540L Lilly loves school and her teacher, Mr. Slinger, until one fateful day when he gets between her and the purple plastic purse she wants to show off! Fun to read and there just might be a lesson to learn about appropriate classroom behavior in there too.

Henkes, Kevin. *Waiting*. 2016 Caldecott Honor Book 260L Five friends sit happily on a windowsill, waiting for something amazing to happen.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. AD680L Based on a true story, this book tells the story of Clara, a young seamstress, who escapes slavery but leaves behind a patchwork quilt to show others the way to freedom.

Huck, Charlotte. *Princess Furball*. 920L This is yet another version of "Cinderella," a tale of how the beautiful princess talks her way out of marrying an ogre by insisting she must first have three very beautiful bridal dresses and a coat of fur. With these, she escapes and eventually captures the heart of the handsome prince.

Hutchens, Pat. *Ten Red Apples*. AD290L Strengthen counting skills and enjoy the rhythm of this story as the farm animals eat up the apples on the apple tree. Will there be any left for the poor farmer? Another great Hutchens favorite: *The Doorbell Rang*.

Jenkins, Steve. *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* 620L 2004 Caldecott Honor Book. This fascinating book first shows an animal's body part (nose, tail, ears, eyes, feet, mouth) and asks the 'what do you do?' question. The next page shows the entire animal and explains how the animal uses that body part.



Juster, Norton and Chris Raschka. *The Hello, Goodbye Window*. AD760L Author Norton Juster (*The Phantom Toll Booth*) and well-known illustrator Chris Raschka teamed up to produce this 2006 Caldecott Medal-winning story about the window in Nanna and Poppy's kitchen -- where the young narrator and her grandparents watch stars, play imagination games, and say their loving hellos and goodbyes.

Kann, Victoria. *Aqualicious*. AD590L At the beach, Pinkalicious (of the Pinkalicious series) and her brother help a tiny mermaid (a 'merminnie') to get home. Enjoy *Purplelicious*, *Emeraldlicious* (which has a great environmental stewardship message) and other colorlicious stories in this series, including one about Pinkalicious' brother - *Peterrific!*

Keller, Laurie. *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners*. AD460L Can Mr. Rabbit get along with his new neighbors, the Otters? Sure he can – with the help of the Golden Rule! Bonus – includes polite phrases in Spanish, French, Japanese, German and Pig Latin!

Kensky, Jessica and Patrick Downes. *Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship*. Written by a husband and wife injured in the Boston Marathon bombing, this is a sensitive and heartwarming tale of Rescue the service dog and how he helps a young girl named Jessica with everyday living. The Marathon bombing is not mentioned; this is a book about the bond between girl and dog and the work they do together every day.

Kirk, David. *Oh-So-Brave Dragon: A Picture Book*. Dragon knows he is supposed to be brave—because that's what dragons do. He's so brave and valiant, he's ready to try out his fearsome roar! But when he hears something that scares him, he turns to his forest friends to find the noise, and to help him be brave. From the author of the popular *Miss Spider series!*

Klassen, Jon. *This Is Not My Hat!* AD340L This is an excellent book to read with your children and discuss issues like honesty and personal property. It's funny, but makes a point about how we can sometimes try to justify actions that are just plain wrong.

Lamb, Albert. *Tell Me the Day Backwards*. Mama Bear and child reconstruct the day's events in reverse order, in this wonderful illustration of the flow of time.

Lamothe, Matt. *This is How We Do It*. 810L Follow the real lives of seven kids from Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia for a single day! In Japan Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda Daphine likes to jump rope. But while the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days—and this one world we all share—unites them. This genuine exchange provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as a mirror reflecting our common experiences.

Leaf, Munro. *The Story of Ferdinand*. AD830L Ferdinand the bull is a gentle soul who would rather smell the flowers than fight the other bulls. What happens when Ferdinand is taken to Madrid – for a bullfight?

Lionni, Leo. *Frederick*. 500L Frederick, a shy mouse with a poet's heart, refuses to help gather food for the winter because he is gathering other things – like the colors of summer and the sun's warmth, to share in the dark of winter.

Lionni, Leo. *Alexander and the Wind-up Mouse*. 490L Why are people so fond of Willy the wind-up mouse, but chase away Alexander, a real mouse, with brooms and mousetraps? In this fable about friendship, Alexander wishes he could be a wind-up mouse too.

Logue, Mary. *Sleep Like A Tiger*. Caldecott Honor Book. Does everything in the world go to sleep? Find out in this lovely bedtime story!

Loewen, Nancy. *Lemons and Lemonade: A Book about Supply and Demand*. 560L A humorous look at a basic economic principle. Another suggestion is Stuart Murphy's *The Penny Pot* (*MathStart 3*).

Makhijani, Pooja. *Mama's Saris*. Enjoy this simple but warm story about growing up, mother-daughter relationships, and family traditions.

Mattick, Lindsay. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*. (2016 Caldecott Honor Book) AD590L A woman tells her son the true story of his great-great grandfather, who rescues a bear cub and takes to the front lines during WWI, and was the inspiration for A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way for Ducklings, One Morning In Maine, Blueberries For Sal*. If family vacations are taking you to Boston or Maine, these are wonderful books to read!

Mosel, Arlene. *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. AD1090L Enjoy this Chinese tale about the trouble that began with a well, a little boy, and a very long name.

Moss, Lloyd, and Marjorie Priceman. *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*. AD790L The colorful illustrations and rhythmic language of this Caldecott Honor Book will help your child with counting as well as learning about musical instruments.

Munsch, Robert. All of Robert Munsch's stories are zany, clever, fun read-alouds!

Nelson, Kadir. *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. AD1050L The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope, inspiration and courage. But it is also a story of injustice and struggle.

Noble, Trinka Hakes. *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*. AD540L Mayhem follows when Jimmy's pet snake goes along on the class field trip to the farm!

Peet, Bill. *Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent*. AD760L A shark says Cyrus the gentle sea serpent is a sissy because he won't sink any ships! What will Cyrus do now?

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion & the Mouse*. 2010 Caldecott Medal Winner. Enjoy the gorgeous illustrations in this nearly wordless retelling of Aesop's classic fable and the relationship between two unlikely friends.

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. A great retelling of the classic tale by a multiple Caldecott-winning author! When the three billy goats Gruff are hungry, they see bountiful grass to eat across an old bridge. But the bridge is home to a terrible troll, who is hungry himself, and looking for a tasty morsel to gobble up. In this retelling, Jerry Pinkney shows there's little good to come from greed--but in the end, redemption for even the most trollish bully is possible.

Polacco, Patricia. *Chicken Sunday*. 650L This is based on a true story from Polacco's family history. Polacco's "adopted" grandmother longs for an Easter hat, and Polacco and her friends must find a way to earn the money to buy it for her, and win the trust of the milliner at the same time. Another Polacco favorite is *The Bee Tree* about the joy of reading.

Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. 510L Nobody knows more about safety than Officer Buckle, but nobody really listens until his new police dog, Gloria, comes along when he gives his school safety talks.

Raschka, Chris. *A Ball for Daisy*. Winner of the 2014 Caldecott Medal. Any child who has ever had a favorite toy break can relate to Daisy's feelings when her favorite ball is destroyed.

Rey, H.A. *Curious George* series. Who can resist George the monkey and his antics? Enjoy him on PBS as well!

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*. AD820L Tuck your truck-loving child into bed with this unusual good-night poem!

Rubin, Adam. *Dragons Love Tacos*. AD530L Here's everything you need to know about hosting a successful party for your taco-loving dragon friends! But whatever you do, pay attention to what it says about salsa...check out *Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel!*

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Relatives Came*. AD940L Do you have lots of relatives visiting you this summer? Then you'll enjoy all the chaos, commotion and love that fills the house in this book!

Rylant, Cynthia, and Lauren Stringer. *Scarecrow*. AD600L The peaceful mood and magnificent artwork in this book examine life from a scarecrow's perspective.

Saltzberg, Barney. *Beautiful Oops!* We all make mistakes, and this book shows how a mistake can, with the right spirit and a dash of creativity, turn into something good after all.

Santat, Dan. *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*. 2015 Caldecott Medal winner. 480L ADAn imaginary friend waits a long time to be imagined by a child – and then does the unimaginable and sets out to find his perfect match in the real world.

Santat, Dan. *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* L550 After his 'great fall', who can blame Humpty Dumpty for having a fear of heights? But because of his fear, there are many things he is now afraid to do. Can he muster the courage to conquer his fear? A reminder that "life happens when you get back up".

Sarcone-Roach, Julia. *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*. AD490L When a sandwich goes missing, a bear is the unlikely culprit!

Scanlon, Liz Garton, and Marta Frazee. *All the World*. AD380 Share the delights of a happy summer day with a multicultural family in this beautiful Caldecott 2010 Honor Book.

Schachner, Judy. *Dewey Bob*. 920L Dewey Bob Crockett is a raccoon who lives by himself in a house full of the wonderful things he collects. But there's something missing from Dewey's collection—a friend!

Schachner, Judy. *Skippyjon Jones*. AD740L. "My name is Skippito Friskito. /I fear not a single bandito./ My manners are mellow, /I'm sweet like the Jell-O/I get the job done, yes indeed-o." Skippyjon Jones isn't just a kitten - he's actually El Skippito the great sword-fighter and bandito-battler! With a mask, a cape and some imagination and a whole lot of fun, this hyperactive kitty takes on a bad bumble-beeto to save the day. Enjoy the many Skippyjon Jones stories!

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. *Green*. 2013 Caldecott Honor Book. A tribute to the color green and all its amazing variations!

Sendak, Maurice. *Bumble-Ardy*. Celebrate the life and work of late author Maurice Sendak by re-reading *Where the Wild Things Are* and also his latest work about a nine-year-old pig who has never had a birthday party. When Bumble throws a party for himself and invites all his friends, things of course get a little out of hand. One last time, Sendak celebrates children and the love of those who care for them.

Shannon, David. *Good Boy, Fergus!* Dog lovers will enjoy following the irrepressible West Highland terrier Fergus through his day.

Schnieder, Josh. *Tales for Very Picky Eaters*. AD500L Is there one in your house? James' dad has to get creative in order to get James to eat! Enjoy his crazy concoctions like pre-chewed gum as an alternative to broccoli, and lumpy oatmeal that grows really big! Will James himself discover that some foods are not so bad, after all?

Sperring, Mark. *Your Hand In My Hand*. AD600L The rhyming text invites the reader to bring a loved one and share the simple wonders of our world.

Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*. 530L Kids love Shel Silverstein's poetry books, so enjoy any of his works! *The Giving Tree's* message about self-giving love can generate a discussion about Christ's sacrifice for us.

Smith, Lane. *Grandpa Green*. AD360L Grandpa Green's memories come alive in the shapes of the topiary trees he creates in his garden. Enjoy this beautiful Caldecott Honor story of imagination, aging, memory, and family love.

Spires, Ashley. *The Most Magnificent Thing*. L380. A young girl sets out to 'create', but melts down in frustration and defeat when things do not go as planned. But all is not lost. Inspiration and confidence to try again return after a calming and regrouping walk with her dog!

Staake, Bob. *My Pet Book*. AD560L A boy's search for a pet leads him to a bookstore and the perfect friend for him!

Stead, Philip and Erin. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. 2011 Caldecott Medal. AD760L A wonderful story about friendship! Every day Amos McGee spends time with each of his animal friends at the zoo. But when Amos is too sick to come to the zoo, his animal friends decide to visit him.

Step toe, Javaka. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*. 2017 Caldecott Medal Winner and the Coretta Scott King Book Award. 1050L Somewhere in Brooklyn, a little boy dreams of being a famous artist, not knowing that one day he would make himself a king.

Swanson, Susan Marie. *The House in the Night*. 2009 Caldecott Medal Winner. 60L Wonderful bedtime story of a golden key that begins a nighttime journey of imagination.

Taback, Simms. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*. When Joseph the tailor's overcoat becomes worn, he stitches and restitches until – well, you'll have to read it to see what's left in the end. An adaptation of a Yiddish folk tale.

Trivizas, Eugene. *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*. 700L If you like fractured fairy tales, you'll enjoy this version of the big bad wolf and the three little pigs. This time it's the pig that's chasing the wolves, but eventually his heart softens and he ends up staying for a tea party with his new friends.

Underwood, Deborah. *Interstellar Cinderella*. In this outer space adaptation of the fairy tale in rhyme, Cinderella dreams of becoming a spaceship mechanic.

Van Dusen, Chris. *If I Built a House*. AD4501 Jack, the young guy who let his imagination fly in *If I Built a Car*, turns his fertile imagination to building the house of his dreams!

Viorst, Judith. *Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday*. AD570L There are some gentle lessons to be learned in this amusing book about Alexander's money dilemmas. He was rich last Sunday - where did the money go?

Viorst, Judith, Ray Cruz and Marilyn Sanabri.. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No-Good, Very Bad Day!* AD970L We all have them – but we can laugh about them in this funny classic!

Ward, Cindy. *Cookie's Week*. Enjoy this romp through a kitten's week

Weisner, David. *Art and Max*. Arthur is an accomplished painter; Max is a beginner. (They're also lizards, by the way.) Max's first attempt at using a paintbrush results in chaos, but also an exploration of various artistic media, and the question of "What is Art?" This story will encourage beginners everywhere!

Weisner, David. *Mr. Wuffles!* This might remind you a bit of *Toy Story*, Can the tiny aliens and their insect allies avoid Mr. Wuffles the cat (who likes to use the alien's spaceship as a toy), repair their ship and get away safely?

Wenzel, Brendan. *They All Saw a Cat*. 2017 Caldecott Honor. AD310L *The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws . . .* In this celebration of observation, curiosity, and imagination, Brendan Wenzel shows how perspective shapes what we see. When you see a cat, what do you see?

Willems, Mo. *The Pigeon Needs A Bath!* The Pigeon, a perennial favorite of library classes, is dirty and he needs a bath, but he won't go willingly! Enjoy this and many other Pigeon favorites!

Yolen, Jane. *What To Do With A Box*. L450 Put a child and a box together, and the possibilities are endless! It can be a library, an airplane, a palace – it's all about imagination!

Zagarenski, Pamela, and Joyce Sidman. *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*. AD570L Through the interplay of poetry and illustration, readers of this 2010 Caldecott Honor Book will explore and enjoy all the colors of the seasons.

### **K-2 Early Reader Chapter Books**

Bridges, Ruby. *Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story*. (Scholastic Reader Level 2) Bridges tells her amazing story in this easy reader. Also recommended: Robert Coles' *The Story of Ruby Bridges*.

Cazet, Denys. *Minnie and Moo* series.

Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry* series.

Rylant, Cynthia. Fun, easy chapter book series for beginning readers:

*Henry and Mudge* series

*Mr. Putter and Tabby* series  
*High Rise Private Eyes* series  
*Poppleton* series  
Tripp, Valerie. *Hopscotch Hill School* series.  
Sharmat, Marjorie Weinstein. *Nate the Great* series.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Freedom in Congo Square*. (2017 Caldecott Medal Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor Book) AD670L This poetic, nonfiction story about a little-known piece of African American history captures a human's capacity to find hope and joy in difficult circumstances and demonstrates how New Orleans' Congo Square was truly freedom's heart.

Willems, Mo. *Elephant and Piggie* series. With *Elephant and Piggie*, author Mo Willems is a worthy successor to Arnold Lobel (*Frog and Toad* series) when it comes to illustrating the joys and occasional sorrows of friendship.

### **Chapter Books (for reading aloud, or for the more advanced young reader)**

Adler, David. *Cam Jansen* series. Cam is a spunky young detective who uses her photographic memory to solve each of her cases!

Atwater, Richard and Florence. *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. 910L Mr. Popper is worried. It's hard for him to make enough money to feed himself, Mrs. Popper, Bill and Janie Popper – and 12 penguins! Read on to find out why 12 penguins are living with the Popper family – and how their talents make them stars of the stage!

Cleary, Beverley. *Ramona* series. Klickitat Street forever! You'll enjoy this evergreen series about funny, big-hearted, well-intentioned Ramona, and the rest of the Quimby family, including annoying older sister Beezus and Picky-Picky the cat.

Cleary, Beverley. *Henry Huggins*. 670L When Henry adopts Ribsby the ice-cream loving dog, the laughs and adventures just keep coming!

Cleary, Beverley. *Ralph S. Mouse*. 860L "That mouse is a mouse in a million," says Matt, the Mountain View Inn handyman. He's right – Ralph S. (for Smart) Mouse is very special. For one thing, Ralph has watched so much television that he can talk to humans like Matt and Ryan, the son of the Inn's housekeeper. But Ralph is sick of living with his wild mouse cousins who always want to ride his motorcycle. When Ryan takes him to school, Ralph likes his new home and attention. But trouble breaks out when Ryan quarrels with his classmate, Brad, who breaks Ralph's precious motorcycle!

Dahl, Roald. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. 810L Read this cautionary tale this summer – it's pure imagination ☺ and enjoy Dahl's many other books, including *The BFG*.

DePaola, Tomie. *26 Fairmount Avenue*. 760L Author dePaola recalls amusing stories of his childhood home on Fairmount Avenue, including a glimpse of the young artist drawing lifesize portraits of his family on the walls of his house. When he is told on his first day of kindergarten

that reading won't be taught until first grade, he tells the teacher, "Fine, I'll be back next year," and heads home!

DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson Goes For A Ride*. (*Mercy Watson* series.) 390L Fat little pig Mercy Watson is a much-loved member of the Watson family. They tuck her into bed, but Mercy is afraid of the dark, so she climbs into bed with Mr. and Mrs. Watson. Crash - the bed breaks! From there, things get a little crazy but Mercy gets help and saves the day! Enjoy Mercy's many adventures in this popular series.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Bink and Gollie* series. Bink and Gollie are as different as chalk and cheese, but great friends! Enjoy the fun and friendship in *Bink and Gollie* and the sequels, *Bink and Gollie: Two for One and Best Friends Forever*.

Edwards, Julie Andrews. *Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles*. 620L Travel with Professor Savant and the Potter children to meet the nearly-forgotten Whangdoodles of Whangdoodleland, including such unforgettable characters as the Swamp Gaboons and the High-Behind Splintercat! *Mandy* is another Edwards favorite about an orphan girl who dreams of a place to call her own.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. *My Father's Dragon*. 990L A group of lazy animals on Wild Island have captured a baby dragon and are making him work as a flying ferry across a dangerous river! Kind-hearted Elmer decides to rescue the dragon. He sets out, carrying with him the most unusual supplies—like chewing gum. Can one boy with just one bag of supplies really rescue the dragon all by himself? Read on to enjoy *Elmer and the Dragon* and *The Dragons of Blueland*.

Lewis, Beverley. *Cul-de-Sac Kids* series. Join the kids on the cul-de-sac at Blossom Hill Lane as they get into and out of realistic (and funny!) situations that teach them that Jesus is the ultimate mystery-solver!

Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking* series. What a trouble-maker Pippi can be – but she is also very kind and a lot of fun! Pippi lives all alone while her sea captain father is away, and her way of life is, to say the least, unusual!

MacDonald, Betty. *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* series. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's house is always filled with the smell of freshly baked cookies, and her backyard with buried treasure (courtesy of her pirate husband). Grownups come to her for cures for all their children's problems - like the Answer-Backers or the Slow-Eater-Tiny-Bite-Takers. Children just come to have fun! Her house, shared with Wag the dog and Lightfoot the cat, is built upside-down except for the kitchen, bath, and stairs. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle understands exactly what children like to do to have fun – so join in, open the book and come visit Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle!

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Balto of the Blue Dawn* (*Magic Tree House*) 580L Jack and Annie's treehouse takes them to Alaska 1925, where, along with Balto the sled dog, they must race against time to deliver life-saving medicine to Nome. Watch for their newest adventure, *Night of the Ninth Dragon*, due to be released in July 2016!

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine* series. This beginning chapter book series introduces a young lady who is a worthy successor to Beverley Cleary's beloved Ramona! Clementine has a good heart and a head full of ideas, but sometimes they land her in trouble! You may also want to try the *Ivy and Bean* series by Annie Barrows.

Roy, Ron. *The Absent Author* (#1 in the *A to Z Mysteries* series.) Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose are an unbeatable team of young detectives, and readers will enjoy figuring out the clues as they are revealed in this well-written mystery series. In #1, Dink writes to Wallis Wallace, his favorite

author, and invites him to visit. Wallace says he'll come, but then doesn't arrive. Did he just miss his plane, or is he in trouble? Dink, Josh and Ruth Rose are on a mission to find Wallis Wallace before it's too late! You also enjoy Roy's *Calendar Mysteries* series and *Capital Mysteries* series, which focuses on mysteries involving famous DC landmarks!

Sobol, Donald. *Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective* (#1 in *Encyclopedia Brown* series.) The super-brainy Encyclopedia Brown is the son of a police chief, and a fine detective who solves mysteries the old-fashioned way - using clues, logic, and observation. Solutions to the cases are at the back of each chapter book.

## Fun things to do this summer

PCA's Eagle Camp for children offers fun themed activities all summer long! Visit <https://pcaschool.org/summer/> for details.

Free Fun Fridays: Through this program, some 50 venues, including the Boston Children's Museum, the Eric Carle Museum, and the Springfield Museums will open the doors to some of Massachusetts' best cultural institutions at no cost to visitors on designated Fridays. For more information and schedules, visit [www.highlandstreet.org](http://www.highlandstreet.org).

Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth <http://www.prescottpark.org>, presents "Suessical" running throughout the summer, in addition to many other concerts and activities for children and families. Why not read Dr. Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who" and then go see the show!

Children's Museum of New Hampshire, Dover, New Hampshire – In addition to its regular activities and interactive exhibits, the museum offers many special events for all ages and interests. Call (603)742-2002 or visit the Museum website at <http://www.childrens-museum.org/> for details!

Seacoast Science Center, Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH offers excellent personal learning opportunities for families and students to learn about coastal environmental history and stewardship, and offers many special events and activities, including day camp opportunities for children. For more information, call 603-436-8043 or visit <http://www.seacoastsciencecenter.org>

Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH is the conservation and education headquarters for the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The trail and boardwalk allow visitors to explore estuarine habitats including hardwood forests, freshwater wetlands, salt marsh and mudflats. Climb aboard a 19th century gundalow replica or wander through the native gardens surrounding the center. Watch for eagles, warblers, waterfowl, and osprey. Enjoy the interactive displays and touch tank inside the Discovery Center. Summer programs for children include "Once upon an Estuary" for 3-5 years olds with an adult, while "Summer Bay Ventures" is a summer environmental education program series for children entering grades 1-6. Call (603)778-0015 or visit <http://www.greatbay.org/programs/education.htm>



Butternut Farm, Farmington, NH <http://www.butternutfarm.net/home> (603) 335-4705. A family-oriented pick-your-own-fruit farm. Check the website to see what's ripe for the picking! Also: Emery Farm, Durham, NH. <http://www.emeryfarm.com/> (603)742-8495. These and many other fine local farms provide your children with an appreciation for God's bounty, for the work of the farmer, and for an important part of New Hampshire's heritage.

Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth. Explore four centuries of life in Portsmouth's oldest neighborhood. Strawbery Banke Museum offers many special events and kids' activities, particularly at the Jones Discovery Center, as well as summer camps for all ages. Call the museum at (603) 433-1100 or visit <http://www.strawberybanke.org/>

### **Farther afield...**

New Hampshire Farm Museum, Milton, NH. Explore three centuries of farm life in New Hampshire at this museum, which also offers many special events and day camps for children of all ages. For more information call (603)652-7840 or visit <http://www.nhfarmmuseum.org/>

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness, NH. <http://www.nhnature.org/>, (603)968-7194. Through spectacular exhibits of live animals in natural settings, education programs, and lake cruises, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center has educated visitors for over forty years about our natural world. Open meadows, mature forests, and marsh boardwalks connect interactive exhibits where native animals reside: black bears, mountain lions, raptors, river otters, bobcats, and many more. In the Gordon Children's Activity Center, visitors young and old can climb a giant spider web, crawl through an underground tunnel, hear the sounds of nocturnal animals, invent their own plant or insect, climb through a two-story learning tree, and much more! Check out the center's summer programs for children ages 4-14.

Springfield Museums and Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden, Springfield, MA. <http://www.springfieldmuseums.org> or call 1-413-263-6800. Visit Dr. Seuss' birthplace, the home of five world-class museums, including the Springfield Science Museum with its Lego Brick Lab, Dinosaur Hall, the Solutia Live Animal Center and much more.

*Read...relax...have fun...enjoy a great summer!*