



READING LIST

Grades
K–2

BOOKS

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: 9781534487895

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: 9781984850423

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 OJJI

BY MELISSA IWAI

HARPERCOLLINS, 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

HARPERCOLLINS, 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

r's! Through clever wordplay, readers will follow along and hope that the missing letters are found.

NOTHING SPECIAL

BY DESIREE COOPER,
ILLUSTRATED BY BEC SLOANE

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2022
ISBN: 9780814349731

A picture-book tribute to Black American families who travel south each summer to stay connected to family and history. The memorable illustrations were created entirely with recycled textiles.

REINA RAMOS WORKS IT OUT

BY EMMA OTHEGUY,
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDRÉS LANDAZÁBAL

HARPERCOLLINS, 2022
ISBN: 9780063223110

In this beginning reader, Reina has a dilemma to solve. When their teacher announces that the class will be creating a "wax museum" for open house day, she and her best friend choose the same person to portray. Also available in Spanish.

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.

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.

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.

DIGITAL

CIRCLE ROUND

wbur.org/podcasts/circleround

This podcast retells folktales from around



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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.

www.ala.org/alsc

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.

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