



Summer Reading Suggestions 2017

Selected by: Jean Sand – Matthew Thornton School • Leslie Schilling – South School
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PICTURE BOOKS (EVERYBODY BOOKS)

Higgins, Ryan T. **Be Quiet!** (2017)

Rupert the mouse wants to star in an artistic, wordless picture book, but his animal friends cause problems by talking too much.

Frazee, Marla. **The Bossier Baby** (2016)

Change is in the air—the Boss Baby’s staff has stopped taking his direction! It seems that there is a new CEO in town; from the moment she comes home, Boss Baby’s little sister is *extremely* loud and is demanding all sorts of corporate perks he never got. Can the Boss Baby and his staff get used to the new corporate structure?

Santat, Dan. **The Cookie Fiasco** (2016)

Hippo, Croc, and the Squirrels are determined to have equal cookies for all! But how? There are only three cookies . . . and four of them! They need to act fast before nervous Hippo breaks all the cookies into crumbs!

Levis, Caron. **Ida, Always** (2016)

Gus lives in a big park in the middle of an even bigger city, and he spends his days with Ida. Ida is right there. Always. Then one sad day, Gus learns that Ida is very sick, and she isn’t going to get better. The friends help each other face the difficult news with whispers, sniffles, cuddles, and even laughs. Slowly Gus realizes that even after Ida is gone, she will still be with him—through the sounds of their city and the memories that live in their favorite spots.

Brosgol, Vera. **Leave Me Alone!** (2016)

Grandmother wants so badly to be left alone to finish the knitting for her grandchildren that she leaves her tiny home and her big family to journey to the moon and beyond to find peace and quiet to finish her knitting.

Daywalt, Drew. **The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors** (2017)

From acclaimed, bestselling creators Drew Daywalt, author of *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, and Adam Rex, author-illustrator of *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, comes a laugh-out-loud hilarious picture book about the epic tale of the classic game Rock, Paper, Scissors.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **A Letter to my Teacher** (2017)

This funny, touching picture book—the perfect gift for a child to give to his/her own teacher—celebrates the difference a good teacher can make. Written as a thank-you note to a special teacher from the student who never forgot her, this moving story makes a great read-aloud and a perfect gift for Teacher Appreciation Day or the end of the school year.

- Papp, Lisa. **Madeline Finn and the Library Dog** (2016)
Reluctant reader Madeline really wants to earn a star at school, so when Mrs. Dimple, the librarian, suggests she read to a dog, Madeline gives it a try.
- Falconer, Ian. **Olivia the Spy** (2017)
Everyone’s favorite pig is about to have a birthday...but will her penchant for eavesdropping lead to more than presents?
- Barnett, Mac. **Rules of the House** (2016)
Ian always follows the rules and his sister, Jenny, never does, but when she angers some monsters while breaking all the rules of their vacation house in the woods, Ian first runs away, then realizes there should be a rule about protecting your sister from being eaten by monsters.
- Falatko, Julie. **Snapsy the Alligator (Did Not Ask to Be in This Book!)** (2016)
Snapsy’s ordinary day is interrupted by a meddling narrator.
- Wenzel, Brendan. **They All Saw a Cat** (2016)
In simple, rhythmic prose and stylized pictures, a cat walks through the world, and all the other creatures see and acknowledge the cat.

YOUNGER READERS



- Burnham, Molly B. **Teddy Mars: Almost a World Record Breaker** (2016)
Ten-year-old Teddy Mars seeks to stand apart from his six siblings, none of whom could be called “normal,” by earning a listing in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.
- Pastis, Stephan. **Timmy Failure: The Cat Stole my Pants** (2017)
While his mother and doorman Dave celebrate their wedding, Timmy visits Florida, where he forges a new partnership with Dave’s nephew, Emilio, when a surprise newcomer shows up and he encounters a thieving six-toed cat.
- Watson, Tom. **Stick Cat: Cats in the City** (2017)
Stick Cat is going somewhere he’s never been before—his best friend Edith’s apartment. It’s got everything: donut crumbs in the sink, a fire escape, and a window with a great view of the big city. While admiring the view, Stick Cat sees trouble. Hazel, the bagel maker, is in serious danger in the building across the alley. Stick Cat will use his smarts—and Edith’s appetite—to devise a rescue plan. But can Hazel hang on long enough for this dynamic duo to save her?
- LaReau, Kara. **The Infamous Ratsos** (2016)
Rat brothers Louie and Ralphie Ratso try to prove they can be as rough and tough as their father in the Big City, but every time they try to show how tough they are, they end up accidentally doing good deeds.
- Cronin, Doreen. **Into the Wild: Yet Another Misadventure** (2016)
The fluffy, fearless Chicken Squad detectives are determined to find out who the new addition is in their yard, so, equipped with the latest surveillance gear, the chicks venture into the wild to get answers.

Hale, Shannon. **The Princess in Black and the Perfect Princess Party** (2015)

When Princess Magnolia has to sneak out of her own birthday party over and over to change into her alter ego, the Princess in Black, to fight monsters, how will she keep her friends from guessing her secret? And, will she ever get to open her presents?

Weinberger, Justin. **Reformed** (2017)

Ian Hart has always been the kid most likely to be bullied, which is why he appreciates having aggressive Devon as a friend—but when one of Devon’s pranks goes terribly wrong, Ian finds himself the youngest student in the Juvenile Academy for Noncompliant and Underachieving Students, otherwise known as reform school, and somehow he is going to have to learn how to stand up for himself.

Stadelmann, Amy Marie. **Olive & Beatrix: The Super-Smelly Moldy Blob** (2015)

Beatrix wins the school science fair every year because she uses magic to cheat, but this year her un-magical twin Olive is convinced that her own project on molds will win—until a fight over space upsets both projects and turns Olive’s mold into a stinky, moldy blob monster which is alive, growing, and threatening to overwhelm the school.

Gottesfeld, Jeff. **The Tree in the Courtyard: Looking Through Anne Frank’s Window** (2016)

Told from the perspective of the tree outside Anne Frank’s window—and illustrated by a Caldecott Honor artist—this book introduces her story in a gentle and incredibly powerful way to a young audience.

Pennypacker, Sara. **Waylon! One Awesome Thing** (2017)

Waylon, a boy with the mind of a scientific genius and the vulnerable heart of an eight-year-old, is trying to understand his older sister and deal with changes among the kids at school.

OLDER READERS



Holt, Kimberly Willis. **Blooming at the Texas Sunrise Motel** (2017)

After the sudden death of her parents, Stevie, thirteen, is sent to live at a rundown motel, where she charms everyone except her estranged grandfather.

Espinosa, Rod. **The Courageous Princess: Volume 1: Beyond the Hundred Kingdoms** (2015)

Princess Mabelrose is kidnapped by an evil dragon and, unaware that her father has set out to find her, stages her own rescue, during which she meets a friendly porcupine named Spiky. Together, they seek their way home through a strange, dangerous land.

Sachar, Louis. **Fuzzy Mud** (2015)

Two middle-grade kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Grimes, Nikki. **Garvey’s Choice** (2016)

Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to play, Garvey comforts himself with food and endures bullying before joining the school chorus, where he learns how to accept himself and bond with his father.

Telgemeier, Raina. **Ghosts** (2016)

Catrina and her family have moved to the coast of Northern California for the sake of her little sister, Maya, who has cystic fibrosis—and Cat is even less happy about the move when she is told that her new town is inhabited by ghosts, and Maya sets her heart on meeting one.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. **The Girl Who Drank the Moon** (2016)

An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **In Over Their Heads** (2017)

Sequel to *Under Their Skin*. Twelve-year-old twins Nick and Eryn and their robot stepsiblings, Jackson and Ava, try to save humanity from killer robots.

Bauer, Joan. **Soar** (2016)

Moving to Hillcrest, Ohio, when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to find a baseball team to coach.

Nannestad, Katrina. **When Mischief Came to Town** (2015)

In 1911, when orphaned ten-year-old Inge comes to live with her stern grandmother in a remote island village in Denmark, she ends up changing the climate of the town, bringing joy and laughter to her grandmother's life and finding a new family for herself to help assuage her grief over losing her mother.

Peirce, Lincoln. **Big Nate: What's a Little Noogie between Friends?** (2017)

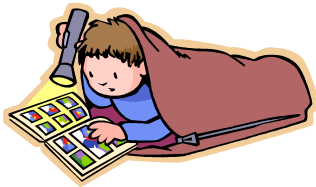
Big Nate comic strips that follow the adventures of sixth-grader Nate Wright and his middle school friends.

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Fish Girl** (2017)

Fish Girl, a young mermaid living in a boardwalk aquarium, has never interacted with anyone beyond the walls of her tank until a chance encounter with an ordinary girl, Livia. Their growing friendship inspires Fish Girl's longing for freedom, independence, and a life beyond the aquarium tank.

Brallier, Max. **The Last Kids on Earth** (2015)

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores.



NON-FICTION

Jenkins, Steve. **Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics** (2016)

Do all the insects in the world weigh more than all the humans? Which animal can survive both boiling water and the vacuum of space? Which animal sleeps more, a python or a bat? Which animal is more dangerous: a shark or a hippopotamus? Facts, figures, and comparisons are explained with colorful, easy-to-understand infographics and illustrations.

Tavares, Matt. **Crossing Niagara: The Death-Defying Tightrope Adventures of the Great Blondin** (2016)

An illustrated account of the daredevil of Niagara Falls, the Great Blondin, who walked from America to Canada across the Niagara River on a rope.

Colson, Rob. **Dinosaur Bones: and What They Tell Us** (2016)

Presents information on forty dinosaurs, marine reptiles, flying reptiles and prehistoric mammals. Each species is shown by its skeleton, revealing what it looked like inside and out. A full-color computer graphic illustration shows each animal in its habitat and introductory paragraphs describe when and where each dinosaur lived and other interesting facts. The annotated illustrations highlight physical features and their purpose. A human-to-dinosaur shadow comparison reveals the size and shape.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History** (2017)

A picture book that chronicles the life of African-American social reformer Frederick Douglass.

Miller, Pat. **The Hole Story of the Doughnut** (2016)

In 1843, 14-year old Hanson Gregory left his family home in Rockport, Maine, and set sail as a cabin boy on the schooner Achorn, looking for high stakes adventure on the high seas. Little did he know that a boat load of hungry sailors, coupled with his knack for creative problem-solving, would yield one of the world's most prized pastries. At long last, here's the "hole" truth about the invention of the donut!

Smith, Matthew Clark. **Lighter than Air: Sophie Blanchard, the First Woman Pilot** (2017)

A biography of Sophie Blanchard, the first female pilot in history, who flew a hot air balloon in 18th century France.

Winter, Jonah. **Mickey Mantle: The Commerce Comet** (2017)

The ONLY nonfiction picture book about New York Yankee Mickey Mantle, one of the greatest baseball players of all time.

Gray, Karlin. **Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still** (2015)

Nadia Comaneci was a feisty and fearless little girl who went from climbing trees in the forests of Romania to swinging into history at the 1976 Olympic Games, where she received an unprecedented *seven* perfect scores in gymnastics. But as readers will see in this first-ever illustrated picture book about Nadia's journey to Olympic gold, the road from small-town girl to world-class athlete was full of many imperfect moments.

London, Jonathan. **Otters Love to Play** (2016)

Ka-splash! Head to the river, where a frolicsome bunch of otters plays all year round in a nonfiction story sprinkled with facts — and loaded with fun.

Keating, Jess. **Pink is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals** (2016)

Some people think pink is a pretty color. A fluffy, sparkly, princess-y color. But it's so much more. Sure, pink is the color of princesses and bubblegum, but it's also the color of monster slugs and poisonous insects. Not to mention ultra-intelligent dolphins, naked mole rats and bizarre, bloated blobfish.

Jenkins, Steve. **Flying Frogs and Walking Fish - Leaping Lemurs, Tumbling Toads, Jet-Propelled Jellyfish, and More Surprising Ways that Animals Move** (2016)

A red-lipped batfish waddles across the sea floor on its fins, searching for small sea creatures to eat. Other animals may fly or glide, or jet-propel themselves to get around. These creatures come equipped with legs, wings, or tentacles, and they often move from place to place in surprising ways. Caldecott Honor-winning team Jenkins and Page show how animals roll, fly, walk, leap, climb, swim and even flip.

Heos, Bridget. **Shell, Beak, Tusk: Shared Traits and the Wonders of Adaptation** (2017)

We think of evolution as a tree with branches that make clear, linear sense—with one animal and its traits clearly derived from one that came before it genetically. But what about animals who share key traits but aren't on the same family tree? This is called convergent evolution, and it's the big idea that Bridget Heos tackles in a kid-friendly way in *Shell, Beak, Tusk*.

Bang, Molly. **Rivers of Sunlight: How the Sun moves Water around the Earth** (2017)

In this brightly illustrated narrative, readers will learn about the constant movement of water as it flows around the Earth and the sun's important role as water changes between liquid, vapor, and ice. From sea to sky, the sun both heats and cools water, ensuring that life can exist on Earth. How does the sun keep ocean currents moving, and lift fresh water from the seas? And what can we do to conserve one of our planet's most precious resources?

POETRY



Archer, Micah. **Daniel Finds a Poem** (2016)

A little boy's animal friends help him discover the poetry to be found in nature.

Singer, Marilyn. **Echo, Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths** (2015)

A collection of short poems which, when reversed, provide new perspectives on the Greek myths they feature.

Singer, Marilyn. **Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing** (2017)

An irresistible book of poems about dancing that mimic the rhythms of social dances from cha-cha to two-step, by the acclaimed author of *Mirror Mirror*. Marilyn Singer has crafted a vibrant collection of poems celebrating all forms of social dance, from samba and salsa, to tango and hip-hop. The rhythm of each poem mimics the beat of the dances' steps.

Harrison, David L. **Now You See Them, Now You Don't: Poems about Creatures that Hide** (2016)

Animals and insects use camouflage to hide from hunters or to ambush prey. Stealth is a very useful technique when it comes to survival. In this fun and informative collection of poems, we meet animals such as the polar bear and the octopus; the ghost crab and the copperhead snake; and many more that use camouflage to hunt or to hide.

“Giving Wings to Children’s Dreams”