

# Summer Reading List

## Entering Kindergarten

### ***And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell**

Roy and Silo were "a little bit different" from the other male penguins: instead of noticing females, they noticed each other. Thus penguin chick Tango, hatched from a fertilized egg given to the pining, bewildered pair, came to be "the only penguin in the Central Park Zoo with two daddies."

### ***Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs* by Kathleen Kudlinski**

What could be more heartening to children than the unabashed admission that grown-ups make mistakes? Science has had its share of theories once accepted as fact but later superseded, and the mystery of dinosaur fossils seems to have brought out the imaginative side of scientists.

### ***A Cricket in Time Square* by George Selden**

One night, the sounds of New York City--the rumbling of subway trains, thrumming of automobile tires, hooting of horns, howling of brakes, and the babbling of voices--is interrupted by a sound that even Tucker Mouse, a jaded inhabitant of Times Square, has never heard before. Mario, the son of Mama and Papa Bellini, proprietors of the subway-station newsstand, had only heard the sound once. What was this new, strangely musical chirping?

### ***The Deaf Musicians* by Pete Seeger**

It's all about the rhythm and the sounds, musicians in conversation answering each other with notes and riffs instead of words. But what happens when one member of the band can't hear the notes anymore?

### ***Kamishibai Man* by Allen Say**

An elderly kamishibai (paper theater) man decides to return to the city and spend the day on his former rounds. His wife makes candies for him, just as in the past, and he sets off on his bicycle.

### ***Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me* by Simms Taback**

These 13 tales range in humor from slapstick to ridiculous to poignant. Each story includes a Yiddish word or two followed by a simple translation and ends with a saying, e.g., Not every thought is worth expressing; Everyone has his own craziness.

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## ***Meggie Moon* by Elizabeth Baguley**

Digger and Tiger are rough-and-tumble boys, spiky-haired, hole-at-the-knee boys who spend all their time in the Yard. When Meggie Moon enters their turf, the boys sneer, We don't play with girls. Undeterred, she rifles through the broken broom handles, garbage-can lids, and light bulbs and creates a magnificent race car.

## ***Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride* by Kate DiCamillo**

Mercy the pig is headed for more adventure. Every weekend, when Mr. Watson takes his pig for a ride in his pink convertible, Mercy must be cajoled out of the driver's seat with the promise of a tasty treat upon their return. One Saturday, their elderly neighbor, Baby Lincoln, stows away in the backseat. Man and pig speed happily along until Baby reveals her presence.

## ***My Colors, My World* by Maya Christina Gonzales**

With the help of a feathered friend, Maya searches extra-hard to find the colors in her world. And she does—in the vibrant purple of her Mama's flowers, the juicy green of a prickly cactus, the hot pink clouds at sunset, and the shiny black of her Papi's hair.

## ***The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy* by Jeanne Birdsall**

The tale begins as the Penderwicks embark on a summer holiday in the Berkshire Mountains, at a cottage on the grounds of a posh mansion owned by the terribly snobbish Mrs. Tifton. Her son, Jeffrey, is a brilliant pianist, but her heart is set on him attending a military academy like her beloved father.

## ***Pictures From Our Vacation* by Lynne Rae Perkins**

A glimpse into a simple summer vacation, this is a story about children filling time with their own thoughts, discovering the joy of playing for hours, and strengthening family bonds.

## ***Sally Jean the Bicycle Queen* by Cari Best**

Thanks to its adjustable seat and handlebars, Sally Jean's bright red two-wheeler, which she calls "Flash," grows right along with its rider. But pretty soon "there was no more room for raising," and no money to buy a bigger bike. At first despairing, resourceful Sally Jean eventually solves the problem using her imagination, advice from a kindly junk shop owner, and her mechanical skills.

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## ***The Sleeping Giant by Edna Cabcabin Moran***

A fisherman on the island of Kauai catches an enchanted fish. To all the villager's surprise, the fish grows and grows, his scales fall, his fins turn into arms and legs, and he becomes a giant. Hungry, the giant eats all the poi in the village. Everyone scrambles to make more poi, but still, it's not enough. Only one young girl, named Pualani, can tame the giant.

## ***Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic by Emily Jenkins***

This is a delightful read aloud which offers a peek into the secret lives of toys. Three beloved playthings participate in a series of small adventures.

## ***Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur! A Palestinian Folktale by Margaret Read MacDonald***

A childless woman prays for "a child, even if it is nothing more than a cooking pot!" She gets what she wishes for in this rollicking Palestinian folktale.

## ***Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding by Lenore Look***

Jenny's Chinese American family is attending the wedding of favorite cousin Peter, whose focus on the big day makes his possessive niece feel like "an umbrella turned inside out." Her sense of abandonment erupts in a stunt involving ceremonial tea leaves, but eventually it subsides through tender gestures from both bride and groom and the giddy excitement of participating.

## ***Welcome to Kindergarten by Anne Rockwell***

"Tim, Come meet your kindergarten teacher on Thursday at 3 o'clock." In Anne Rockwell's *Welcome to Kindergarten*, Tim visits his new classroom before the start of school. After working in the science center, making "things out of wet and squishy clay, playing ball outside and having a cookie with a new friend," Tim discovers that his new classroom is not too big after all, but "just the right size for me."

## ***Young Cornrows Callin Out the Moon by Ruth Forma***

Who needs a backyard when you've got brownstone steps, double dutch, and freeze tag beneath the sizzling summer sun? The jingling bell of the ice cream truck mingles with laughter and sidewalk rhymes.

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## Entering First

### ***All-of-a-Kind Family* by Sydney Taylor**

There's something to be said for a book that makes you wish you'd been part of a poor immigrant family living in New York's upper east side on the eve of World War I. Life is rich for the five mischievous girls in the family. They find adventure in visiting the library, going to market, even dusting the front room. The family's Jewish faith strengthens their ties to each other, while providing still more excitement and opportunity for mischief. Readers unfamiliar with Judaism will learn with the girls during each beautifully depicted holiday.

### ***Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs* by Kathleen Kudlinski**

What could be more heartening to children than the unabashed admission that grown-ups make mistakes? Science has had its share of theories once accepted as fact but later superseded, and the mystery of dinosaur fossils seems to have brought out the imaginative side of scientists.

### ***Bronzeville Boys and Girls* by Gwendolyn Brooks**

The Pulitzer Prize-winning poet first published this collection of 34 brief poems in 1956. Each one presents a different child involved in a pastime that still figures in the lives of contemporary children.

### ***The Deaf Musicians* by Pete Seeger**

It's all about the rhythm and the sounds, musicians in conversation answering each other with notes and riffs instead of words. But what happens when one member of the band can't hear the notes anymore?

### ***Fiona's Luck* by Teresa Bateman**

Using the background of the Irish potato famine, Bateman weaves a tale of Irish history and leprechauns, threads it with optimism, and embroiders it with cleverness and luck. At one time, luck was in abundance in Ireland—until the leprechaun king got angry with the humans for soaking it all up.

### ***How High Can A Dinosaur Count* by Valorie Fisher**

A book with 15 "math mysteries." Each confidence-boosting number puzzle combines a brief vignette and question with a full-page illustration containing additional information and visual hints.

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## ***Kiki's Journey* by Kristy Orona-Ramirez**

Kiki is a city girl, like any of the millions of kids who call Los Angeles home. But home is also a place filled with expressions of her family's Tiwa Indian heritage. Her parents left the Taos Pueblo reservation long ago, and Kiki hasn't been back since she was a baby. She hardly even remembers what the Pueblo is like, until she returns with her parents during spring break. Suddenly, Kiki feels like a tourist in a place that should feel like home.

## ***Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals* by Ashley Bryant**

The inspiring words of three well-known spirituals, "This Little Light of Mine," "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In," and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," are matched with powerful construction-paper collage illustrations. Each double-page spread of this oversize picture book is an explosion of shapes and bright colors.

## ***Mama's Sari* by Pooja Makhijani**

When a young girl eyes her mother's suitcase full of gorgeous silk, cotton and embroidered saris, she decides that she, too, should wear one, even though she is too young for such clothing. When the mother finally realizes how important it is for her little girl to feel like a big girl on her seventh birthday, she dresses up her daughter in the folds of a blue sari.

## ***Mia's Story* by Michael Foreman**

This story tells of Mia and her family, who make their home from the materials they scavenge from the village dump. When Mia goes on a long search for her dog, she finds herself high in the mountains. There she discovers lovely white flowers and transplants them at home.

## ***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little* by Peggy Gifford**

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## ***On My Block* Edited by Dana Goldberg**

*On My Block* is a celebration of community, an homage to neighborhoods everywhere, and an exploration of past and present. The fifteen paintings and stories within ask you to ponder the places that comprise your world. What's on your block, down your street, in another country, that makes up who you are?

## ***Pictures From Our Vacation* by Lynne Rae Perkins**

A glimpse into a simple summer vacation, this is a story about children filling time with their own thoughts, discovering the joy of playing for hours, and strengthening family bonds.

## ***The Reluctant Dragon* by Kenneth Grahame**

Grahame's classic tale of loyalty and compassion, which first appeared in 1898, tells of a shepherd who discovers a sleeping dragon in a cave on the Downs. His son knows from his reading of fairy tales and natural history that some dragons are reasonable and nonthreatening. The child approaches the creature and finds it to be gentle. The villagers, believing it to be a menace, send for St. George, but after the boy persuades the knight to meet his new friend, the three are able to devise a plan that gives everyone a fine show and allows the dragon to stay, writing poetry and singing.

## ***Sally Jean the Bicycle Queen* by Cari Best**

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### ***Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker**

Clementine goes to great lengths to be friends with fourth-grade neighbor, Margaret, but more times than not, both girls end up in trouble. Humorous scenarios tumble together, blending picturesque dialogue with a fresh perspective as only the unique Clementine can offer.

### ***Clever Ali* by Nancy Farmer**

Set in long-ago Cairo, Ali's father holds a crucial position as the Sultan's pigeon keeper. The pigeons carry messages across Egypt to and from the ruler. When Ali overfeeds one of the birds, chaos results, and the boy must come up with a plan to save his father from certain death in the Sultan's "deep, dark oubliette."

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## ***Jazz* by Walter Dean Myers**

The father-and-son team behind *blues journey* creates a scintillating paean to jazz. Walter Dean Myers infuses his lines (and the rests between them) with so much savvy syncopation that readers can't help but be swept up in the rhythms.

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## ***Lakas and the Makibaka Hotel* by Anthony Robles**

Fun-loving Lakas takes readers on a new adventure in San Francisco, transforming one community's struggle into a celebration of activism, spirit, and song.

## ***Mama's Sari* by Pooja Makhijani**

When a young girl eyes her mother's suitcase full of gorgeous silk, cotton and embroidered saris, she decides that she, too, should wear one, even though she is too young for such clothing. When the mother finally realizes how important it is for her little girl to feel like a big girl on her seventh birthday, she dresses up her daughter in the folds of a blue sari.

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## ***Ruby Lu* by Lenore Look and Anne Wilsdorf**

Ruby Lu takes her role as Smile Buddy to her deaf cousin, Flying Duck, so seriously that her work suffers, dooming the second grader to a vacation marred by summer school and a repeat of last year's swimming lessons. She is also dealing with the ups and downs of her relationship with her sometimes-best-friend, Emma.

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## ***Whittington* by Alan Armstrong**

This superior novel interweaves animal fantasy and family story with a retelling of the English folktale Dick Whittington and His Cat. A battered tomcat named Whittington arrives one late-fall day at a New England barn, where he befriends the equally ragtag group of animals.

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### ***Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink**

Caddie Woodlawn is a real adventurer. She'd rather hunt than sew and plow than bake, and tries to beat her brother's dares every chance she gets. Caddie is brave, and her story is special because it's based on the life and memories of Carol Ryrie Brink's grandmother, the real Caddie Woodlawn. Her spirit and sense of fun have made this book a classic that readers have taken to their hearts for more than seventy years.

### ***Catwings* by Ursula Leguin**

Down an alley in a dumpster, Mrs. Jane Tabby gives birth to four kittens. But these are no ordinary offspring each has a pair of wings. Although Mrs. Tabby is unperturbed by her kittens' appearance, her neighbors are not so charitable; when the kittens are old enough to fly, Mrs. Tabby sends her children out into the world.

### ***Charlie Bone And The Beast* by Jenny Nimmo**

Life should be perfect for Charlie now that his parents have been reunited. But mystery and adventure always find him. This time Asa, a fellow classmate who changes into a beast at dusk, and Charlie's sometime-enemy, is missing. His parents seek out Charlie for help. Manfred is holding Asa captive in a forest cave and now Charlie needs the help of the Flames to rescue his classmate.

### ***Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker**

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## ***Commander Toad in Space* by Jane Yolen**

Commander Toad and the crew of Star Warts are asked to rout out Tip Toad, Space Fleet's greatest and most elusive spy.

## ***Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl**

This is a "garden tale" of farmer versus vermin, or vice versa. The farmers in this case are after the clever, the Fantastic Mr. Fox.

## ***The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron**

This 2006 Newbery winner is filled with superb characterizations, and the talented Cassandra Campbell turns each into a splendid dramatic opportunity. The eccentric heroine is 10-year-old Lucky, who entertains herself by eavesdropping on AA meetings at the Found Object Wind Chime Museum and Visitor Center. Campbell slips into the Southern drawl of one of the "anonymous people" who talk about a "Higher Power" and subtly communicates Lucky's own longing for support.

## ***Home to Medicine Mountain* by Chiori Santiago**

Native American children were taken from their families and sent to government-run boarding schools. There, the youngsters lost precious contact with their cultures, their languages, and their families. In this personal story, the illustrator shows through vivid, full-page paintings the story of her father and uncle finding their way home from such a school in the 1930s. Stanley and Benny Len, inspired by their grandmother's stories, undertook their own adventure to get home for the summer.

## ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy.

## ***Josefina's Story Quilt* by Eleanor Coerr**

Faith is allowed to take her pet hen, Josefina, along in her family's covered wagon to California on one condition: ". . .if she makes any trouble, OUT SHE GOES!" Josefina survives some close calls with trouble, but when robbers raid the camp and Josefina squawks a warning, she earns Pa's praise and gratitude.

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## ***Landed* by Milly Lee**

Entering America from China will be difficult for 12-year-old Sun because of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, even though he will be traveling with his father. He studies hard so that he can answer all of the questions the American officials will ask upon his arrival; he will be alone because his father, a returning merchant, will not have to be interrogated. When he arrives on Angel Island, where Asian immigrants are held for sometimes up to a year, he waits four weeks to be called.

## ***Mieko and the Fifth Treasure* by Eleanor Coerr**

The four treasures of traditional East Asian calligraphy are brush, inkstick, inkstone, and paper. The "fifth treasure," as Mieko's art teacher has told her, is beauty in the heart, which breathes life into writing word-pictures (characters). Mieko lived in a village outside Nagasaki when the atom bomb was dropped. Flying glass badly damaged her writing hand and she has lost the fifth treasure. The child's inner and outer conflicts are believably handled, and readers will identify with her struggle towards normalcy after trauma.

## ***Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little* by Peggy Gifford**

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## ***My Name is Maria Isabel* by Alma Flor Ada**

This gentle story tells of Maria Isabel Salazar Lopez, who finds herself dubbed "Mary Lopez" when her family moves and she is placed in a class with two other Marias. Maria Isabel finds it hard to respond to a name that does not seem like hers. Her teacher doesn't understand why it is so difficult for her to answer to "Mary" until the child is inspired to address her paper on "My Greatest Wish" to the topic of her name. The result is not only a happy ending, but also an affirming study of heritage and how it is integrally bound up in an individual's sense of self.

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## ***Peter and the Shadow Thieves* by Dave Barry**

In this sequel to *Peter and the Starcatchers*, trouble arrives at Mollusk Island in the form of a ship filled with nefarious characters searching for the trunk of starstuff that the Starcatchers spirited away in the first book. It is filled with enough rollicking, death-defying adventure to satisfy anyone.

## ***Secret of the Dance* by Andrea Spalding**

In 1935, a Native boy and his family are spirited away by boat to a secret location where he witnesses a Potlatch ceremony—outlawed with severe consequences at that time by the Canadian government. This story gives readers barely a taste of the culture and vast history around the topic.

## ***Stories Julian Tells* by Ann Cameron**

Julian is a quick fibber and a wishful thinker. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people—especially his younger brother, Huey—believe just about anything. Like the story about the cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble

## ***Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins**

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## ***Whittington* by Alan Armstrong**

This superior novel interweaves animal fantasy and family story with a retelling of the English folktale Dick Whittington and His Cat. A battered tomcat named Whittington arrives one late-fall day at a New England barn, where he gradually befriends the equally ragtag group of animals already adopted by the barn's taciturn but soft-hearted owner, Bernie.

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### ***Faraway Summer* by Johanna Hurwitz**

In 1910, a 12-year-old Jewish girl from New York's Lower East Side spends two weeks with a Vermont family through the Fresh Air Fund. Dossi takes two library books with her on the long train journey to help dispel her fears, but finds that her sponsors are warm and sharing people. Each experience on the Meades' farm is new for Dossi: the size of cows, the wonder of fireflies in the night, and the quantity of food on the table.

### ***Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson**

In this engaging historical novel set in 1918, 16-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks leaves Iowa and travels to a Montana homestead inherited from her uncle. In the beautiful but harsh setting, she has less than a year to fence and cultivate the land in order to keep it. Neighbors who welcome Hattie help heal the hurt she has suffered from years of feeling unwanted.

### ***The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick**

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### ***Listening For Lions* by Gloria Whelan**

1919, in British East Africa, 13-year-old Rachel loses her missionary parents during an influenza epidemic. When she turns to her English neighbors for help, the Pritchards ensnare her in a shocking, ill-intentioned scheme. Disowned by their rich family, they had planned to send their daughter, Valerie, to her grandfather's estate in England, where they hoped she would help to reinstate them in his will.

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## ***The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart**

After Reynie Muldoon responds to an advertisement recruiting "gifted children looking for special opportunities," he finds himself in a world of mystery and adventure. The 11-year-old is one of four children to complete a series of challenging and creative tasks, and he, Kate, Constance, and Sticky become the Mysterious Benedict Society. After being trained by Mr. Benedict and his assistants, the four travel to an isolated school where children are being trained by a criminal mastermind to participate in his schemes to take over the world. The young investigators need to use their special talents and abilities in order to discover Mr. Curtain's secrets, and their only chance to defeat him is through working together.

## ***Peter and the Shadow Thieves* by Dave Barry**

In this sequel to *Peter and the Starcatchers* (Hyperion, 2004), trouble arrives at Mollusk Island (otherwise known as Never Land) in the form of a ship filled with nefarious characters searching for the trunk of starstuff that the Starcatchers spirited away in the first book. When the bad guys, led by nonhuman Lord Ombra, learn that it is in London, they sail off in pursuit, and it takes the combined efforts of Peter, Tinker Bell, and Peter's friend Molly's Starcatcher family to ensure that it is returned to outer space before Lord Ombra can use it to rule the world. Kids won't have to have read the first book to dive headfirst into this one; it is filled with enough rollicking, death-defying adventure to satisfy anyone.

## ***Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes* edited by David Roessel**

Hughes' stirring poetry continues to have enormous appeal for young people. In this illustrated collection of 26 poems, Andrews' beautiful collage-and-watercolor illustrations extend the rhythm, exuberance, and longing of the words.

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## ***Porch Lies: Tales of Slicksters, Tricksters, and Other Wily Characters* by Patricia McKissack**

The nine original tales in this uproarious collection draw on African American oral tradition and blend history and legend with sly humor, creepy horror, villainous characters, and wild farce. McKissack based the stories on those she heard as a child while sitting on her grandparents' porch.

## ***Project Mulberry* by Linda Sue Park**

Julia Song doesn't want to do a silkworm project for the state fair. It's too Korean; she wants something American. But she becomes interested in caring for the eggs, the caterpillars, and the moths and then in sewing the silk thread. Kind, elderly Mr. Dixon donates the mulberry leaves the silkworms eat, but why is Mom against Julia spending time with him?

## ***Rickshaw Girl* by Mitali Perkins**

Perkins draws on her family roots to tell the lively contemporary story of a young Bangladeshi girl who challenges the traditional role of women in her village so that she can help her struggling family in hard times. Naima's parents cannot afford to pay school fees for her anymore, but she wins the village prize for painting the best traditional *alpana* patterns.

## ***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

"No toys in the fish tank" is one of many rules that 12-year-old Catherine shares with her autistic younger brother, David, to help him understand his world. Lots of the rules are practical. Others are more subtle and shed light on issues in Catherine's own life. Torn between love for her brother and impatience with the responsibilities and embarrassment he brings, she strives to be on her parents' radar and to establish an identity of her own.

## ***The Star of Kazan* by Eva Ibbotson**

Abandoned as a baby, Annika is found and adopted by Ellie and Sigrid, cook and housemaid for three professors. Growing up in early-20th-century Vienna, she learns to cook and clean and is perfectly happy until a beautiful aristocrat appears and claims to be her mother.