

# SUMMER READING LIST\*

## On Your Mark, Get Set... READ!

Suggested summer reading compiled for the Connecticut Department of Education by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library

Grades K 2

### PICTURE BOOKS

#### **My Bike** by Byron Barton

Tom tells all about his bicycle, his ride to work past trucks, cars, and even elephants, and his work as a circus performer.

#### **Emma and Julie Love Ballet** by Barbara McClintock

A story that follows the everyday life of two girls, one a professional ballerina, the other a student, both of whom love ballet.

#### **Take Me Out to the Yakyu** by Aaron Meshon

A little boy's grandfathers, one in America and one in Japan, teach him about baseball and its rich, varying cultural traditions. | Lexile: 610 | [ALA](#)

#### **Niño Wrestles the World** by Yuyi Morales

Lucha Libre champion Nino has no trouble fending off monstrous opponents, but when his little sisters awaken from their naps, he is in for a no-holds-barred wrestling match that will truly test his skills. | Lexile: 260 | [ALA](#)

#### **The Mighty Lalouche** by Matthew Olshan

In Paris, France, more than a hundred years ago, a small man named Lalouche is let go from his job as a mail carrier and discovers that he has great skill as a fighter. | Lexile: 690

#### **Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle** by Chris

Raschka

A father teaches his daughter all about bicycle riding, from selecting the right bike to trying again after a fall. | Lexile: 70

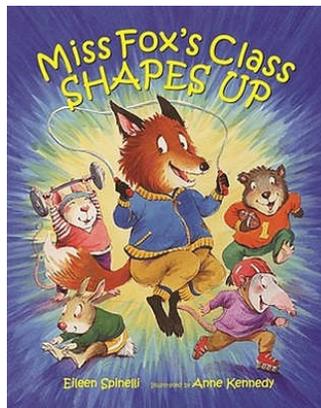
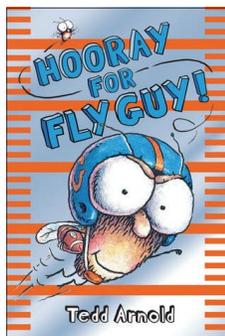
#### **Ninja Red Riding Hood** by

Corey Rosen Schwartz

In this twist on "Little Red Riding Hood," a certain wolf trains to be a ninja in order to catch his prey, but he is not the only one mastering a martial art. | [ILA](#)

#### **Frances Dean Who Loved to Dance and Dance** by Birgitta Sif

Frances Dean loves to dance. She feels the wind and she dances. She hears singing birds and she dances. In her every waking moment, she is inspired to move. But as soon as anyone is around, Frances Dean's knees begin to tremble, butterflies start to flutter in her tummy, and she forgets how to dance. Will she ever find the courage to share her talent with others and feel free? | [ILA](#)



#### **Miss Fox's Class**

**Shapes Up** by Eileen Spinelli

When Miss Fox realizes that her students do not have healthy habits, she teaches them that healthful living is fun and rewarding, which they find to be true on Field Day. | Lexile: 500

#### **Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine** by Gloria Whelan

Inspired by a true story, when Queen Victoria is unable to go swimming without her subjects glimpsing her in a swimming suit, her husband, Prince Albert, comes up with an innovative solution so his wife can indulge in the healthy exercise. | Lexile: 820 | [ALA](#), [NCSS](#)

### EARLY READERS

#### **Don't throw it to Mo!** by David A. Adler

Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins football team. The kids on the rival team tease him for being a 'butterfingers' who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan up his sleeve to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins. | Lexile: 270 | [ALA](#)

#### **Hooray for Fly Guy!** by Tedd Arnold

Fly Guy joins Buzz's football team, despite Coach's misgivings, and hits the field for a special, secret play. | Lexile: 270

#### **Play ball!** by James Dean

Pete the Cat is ready to play baseball! Pete's team, the Rocks, is playing the Rolls. But when the game doesn't go Pete's way, what will Pete do? | Lexile: 120 | [ILA](#)

#### **The Totally Secret Secret** by Bob Shea

While Ballet Cat and Sparkles the Pony are trying to decide what to play, they each share an important secret. | Lexile: 70 | [ALA](#)

#### **Are You Ready to Play Outside?** by Mo Willems

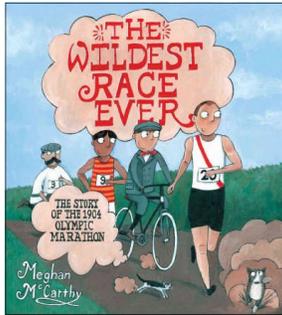
Friends Elephant and Piggie are playing outside when it starts to rain, and then they must decide what to do. | Lexile: 140 | [ALA](#)

# SUMMER READING LIST\*

## EARLY READERS (cont.)

### **Cork & Fuzz: The Swimming Lesson** by Dori Chaconas

Cork the muskrat wants his best friend Fuzz, a possum, to visit his home, but first he must teach Fuzz to swim and not be afraid of the water. | Lexile: 290



### **The Wildest Race Ever: The Story of the 1904 Olympic Marathon** by Meghan McCarthy

The exciting and bizarre true story of the 1904 Olympic marathon, which took place at the St. Louis World's Fair.

## GRAPHIC NOVEL

### **Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball** by Charise Mericle Harper

Bean Dog and Nugget lose Bean Dog's shiny new ball in a bush. They dream up elaborate and silly ways to get it back while they argue about who is actually going to go and get it. | [ILA](#)

## POETRY

### **Poem Runs: Baseball Poems and Paintings** by Douglas Florian

Collects a series of poems celebrating the sport of baseball, including poems on the pitcher, the first baseman, the umpire, and the fans.

## FOLKLORE

### **The Tortoise & the Hare** by Jerry Pinkney

Illustrations and minimal text relate the familiar fable of the race between a slow tortoise and a quick but foolish hare. | [ILA](#)

## NONFICTION

### **Healthy Kids** by Maya Ajmera

Shows how children around the world stay healthy by eating good food, having access to clean water, living in safe homes, and sharing a loving community. | Lexile: 1010 | [NCSS](#)

### **How Did That Get in my Lunchbox?: The Story of Food** by Christine Butterworth

Easy-to-read text, accompanied by full-color illustrations, introduces young readers to the processes involved in producing food found in lunchboxes. | Lexile: 870 | [NSTA](#)

## BIOGRAPHY

### **Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumpers** by Ann Malaspina

A biography of the first black woman to win an Olympic gold medal, from her childhood in segregated Albany, Georgia, in the 1930s, through her recognition at the 1996 Olympics as one of the hundred best athletes in Olympic history. | Lexile: 600 | [ALA](#), [IRA](#), [NCSS](#)

### **Strong Man: The True Story of Charles Atlas** by Meghan McCarthy

Simple text and illustrations present the life of fitness legend Charles Atlas. | Lexile: 740

### **Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story** by Emily Arnold McCully

A picture book biography about Lizzie Murphy, the first woman to play in a major league exhibition game and the first person to play on both the New England and American leagues' all-star teams. | Lexile: 460 | [ALA](#)

### **Emmanuel's Dream** by Laurie Ann Thompson

Previously depicted in the film Emmanuel's Gift, the inspiring story of a West African youth who pursued an education, helped support his family and became a record-setting cyclist in spite of a disability traces his ongoing achievements as an activist. Illustrated by the award-winning artist of Little Cloud and Lady Wind. | Lexile: 770 | [NCSS](#)

### **Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team** by Audrey Vernick

Shares the story of the Acerras and their sixteen children, who had enough members to fill every position on a baseball team. | Lexile: 780 | [ILA](#)

### **You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!** by Jonah Winter

Offers a look at the professional accomplishments and personal struggles of the noted pitcher, including the discrimination he experienced as one of the only Jews in the game and the injury that caused him to retire at the peak of his career. | Lexile: 830 | [ALA](#)

\*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the *American Library Association* (ALA), the *International Literacy Association* (ILA), the *National Council for the Social Studies* (NCSS), the *National Council of Teachers of English* (NCTE), the *National Science Teachers Association* (NSTA), the *American Association for the Advancement of Science* (AAAS) or the *United States Board on Books for Young People* (USBBY). Other awards as noted.



# SUMMER READING

## Favorites & Classics

*For Kindergarten to Grade 2*

### **Ten, Nine, Eight** by Molly Bang

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed.

### **The Princess and the Pony** by Kate Beaton

Princess Pinecone would like a real war horse for her birthday, instead of which she gets a plump, cute pony — but sometimes cuteness can be a kind of weapon, especially in a fight with dodgeballs and spitballs and hairballs and squareballs. | Lexile: 530

### **The Mitten** by Jan Brett

One by one, animals in a snowy forest crawl into Nicki's lost white mitten to get warm until the bear sneezes, sending the animals flying up and out of the mitten. On each turn page, signature borders inspired by Ukrainian folk art hint at what animal is coming next. | Lexile: 800

### **Goodnight Moon** by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile: 360

### **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile: 440

### **Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type** by Doreen Cronin

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | Lexile: 160

### **Last Stop on Market Street** by Matt de la Peña

A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. | Lexile: 610

### **Strega Nona: An Old Tale** by Tomie de Paola

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. | Lexile: 800

### **Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita** by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme, Maria takes her llama to school one day.

### **Abuela** by Arthur Dorros

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City. | Lexile: 520

### **Millions of Cats** by Wanda Gág

How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions? | Lexile: 730

### **Dogs** by Emily Gravett

Big dogs, small dogs, stripy dogs, spotty dogs. There are so many different kinds of dogs. How can anyone pick one type of dog to love the most?

### **Honey I Love: and Other Love Poems** by Eloise Greenfield

Titles include "I Look Pretty," "Fun," "Riding on the Train," "Harriet Tubman," and "By Myself." | Lexile: 290

### **Harold and the Purple Crayon** by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: 490

### **The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. | Lexile: 500

### **Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!** by Grace Lin

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different. | Lexile: 390

### **Frederick** by Leo Lionni

Frederick, the poet mouse, stores up something special for the long cold winter. | Lexile: 500

### **George and Martha** by James Marshall

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | Lexile: 500



# SUMMER READING

## Favorites & Classics

*For Kindergarten to Grade 2*

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by *Bill Martin*  
An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | Lexile: 530

**Make Way for Ducklings** by *Robert McCloskey*  
Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. | Lexile: 630

**Lulu and the Dog from the Sea** by *Hilary McKay*  
Seven-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach. | Lexile: 770

**If You Plant a Seed** by *Kadir Nelson*  
While planting seeds in their garden, two animals learn the value of kindness. | Lexile: 150

**The Little Engine That Could** by *Watty Piper*  
Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. | Lexile: 680

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit** by *Beatrix Potter*  
Adventurous Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and wanders into Mr. McGregor's garden. | Lexile: 660

**Yo! Yes?** by *Chris Raschka*  
Two lonely characters, one black and one white, meet on the street and become friends.

**Good Night, Gorilla** by *Peggy Rathmann*  
An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.

**Henry and Mudge:** The First Book of Their Adventures by *Cynthia Rylant*  
Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. | Lexile: 420

**The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs** by *Jon Scieszka*  
The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | Lexile: 570

**Where the Wild Things Are** by *Maurice Sendak*  
A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king. | Lexile: 740

**Caps for Sale** by *Esphyr Slobodkina*  
A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: 480

**Red Sled** by *Patricia Thomas*  
A boy and his father lift one another's spirits by going sledding on a winter's night.

**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!** by *Mo Willems*  
When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | Lexile: 120

**Bear Snores On** by *Karma Wilson*  
On a cold winter night many animals gather to party in the cave of a sleeping bear, who then awakes and protests that he has missed the food and the fun. | Lexile: 280

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### SERIES

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**Alvin Ho** series by *Lenore Look*  
**Cork & Fuzz** series by *Dori Chaconas*  
**Freddie Ramos** series by *Jacqueline Jules*  
**Frog and Toad** series by *Arnold Lobel*  
**Bink and Gollie** series by *Kate DiCamillo*  
**Elephant and Piggie** series by *Mo Willems*  
**Fly Guy** series by *Tedd Arnold*

**Nate the Great** series by *Marjorie Weinman Sharmat*  
**Biscuit** series by *Alyssa Satin Capucilli*  
**Fox** series by *James Marshall*  
**Penny** series by *Kevin Henkes*  
**Benny and Penny** series by *Geoffrey Hayes*  
**Cowgirl Kate** series by *Erica Silverman*

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