

Kindergarten Summer Reading List



These books are our favorite summer time reading books. Enjoy your summer break!

Astronauts Are Sleeping

by Natalie Standiford, Allen Garns (illus.)

Inspired by a description of astronauts asleep aboard the space shuttle, *ASTRONAUTS ARE SLEEPING* is a bedtime book that is at once a reverie and a visual tour de force. A bright, eager voice describes three sleeping astronauts whizzing around the earth in a space capsule and asks the thought-provoking question, "What do the astronauts see in their dreams?" Magnificent pastels show planets that are breathtaking, astronauts who are alive, and a galaxy that is lush, deeply textured, and beautiful to look at. And happily, readers do discover what the astronauts are seeing in their dreams: They are seeing their homes on earth and memories of their happy childhoods.

Chicka Chicka ABC

by Bill Martin, John Archambault, Lois Ehlert (illus.)

"A told B, and B told C, I'll beat you to the top of the coconut tree." Rascally A entices the whole alphabet up the tree, but the tree cannot handle the weight. All the lowercase letters come crashing to the ground. Uppercase letters rush in to comfort the little ones, and all is well -- for a while -- in this irresistible,

award-winning alphabet book. Ehlert's bright, graphic illustrations join the foot-tapping rhyme.

The Chicken Sisters

by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Sharleen Collicott (illus.)

When the big bad wolf moves into town, he thinks the three chicken sisters next door will be easy prey. But his tactics backfire when he comes face to face with the eccentric threesome, who knit, bake, and sing him to distraction, sending him running home to his mother.

The Leaf Men

by William Joyce

The brave good bugs march off to save the garden. First, they must fight the evil Spider Queen before summoning the Leaf Men to save the day...but what about the mystery of the Long-Lost Toy? Here is ancient elfin magic, epic adventure, and a bugle salute to the power of memory, loyalty, and love as resounding as Robin Hood's call to his Merry Men!

Market Day

by Eve Bunting, Holly Berry (illus.)

The finest lace from Donegal...sweet clover honey to melt in your mouth...a penny poke of gob stoppers from the sweetie stall...your future glimpsed in a crystal ball.... Hurry along! Thursday has arrived, and the streets of this tiny Irish village are chock-full of fun. What will you buy with your Market Day penny today?

Mouse Mess

by Linnea Asplind Riley

This giggle-inspiring story rhymes its way into the affections of all who read it. When a hungry little mouse goes in search of a snack, you should never underestimate the huge mess that follows

in his wake. This delightful read-aloud with its paintbox-bright illustrations is sure to become a classic.

My Many Colored Days

by Dr. Seuss, Steve Johnson (illus.), Lou Fancher (illus.)

Accompanying a manuscript Dr. Seuss wrote in 1973 is a letter outlining his hopes of finding "a great color artist who will not be dominated by me." The late Dr. Seuss saw his original text about feelings and moods as part of the "first book ever to be based on beautiful illustrations and sensational color." The quest for an artist has finally ended -- after the manuscript languished for more than two decades -- at the paintbrushes of husband-and-wife team Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, whose stunning, expressive paintings reveal such striking images as a bright red horse kicking its heels, a cool and quiet green fish, a sad and lonely purple dinosaur, and an angrily howling black wolf. Using a spectrum of vibrant colors and a menagerie of animals, this unique book does for the range of human moods and emotions what *OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!* does for the human life cycle. Here is a wonderful way for parents to talk with children about their feelings. With Johnson and Fancher's atmospheric, large-scale paintings bursting off the pages, Dr. Seuss's vision is brought to life. This rare and beautiful book is bound to appeal to both the innocent young and the most sophisticated seniors.

The Scrambled States of America

by Laurie Keller

At the first annual states party, Virginia and Idaho hatch a plan to swap spots so each can see another part of the country. Before the party is over, all the states decide to switch places. In the beginning, every state is happy in its new location. But soon things start to go wrong. Will the states ever unscramble and return to their proper places? This clever story -- starring all 50

states -- is chock-full of introductory facts and madcap humor. Young readers can identify their favorite states by color, size, and shape. Learning about geography has never been as easy -- or as much fun.

Sheep in a Jeep

by Nancy Shaw, Margot Apple (illus.)

With very few words (sheep, jeep, thud, mud, heap, cheap), a tableau unfolds in which five silly yet distinctive sheep futilely attempt to ride in their jeep. Amusing details -- such as the tattoos on the pigs' arms -- abound in the pictures. Apple's expressive illustrations and Shaw's minimal text make this an extremely clever read-aloud.

Visiting the Art Museum

by Laurene Krasny Brown, Marc Brown (illus.)

This wonderful offering from Laurene Krasny Brown and her husband -- and kids' fave -- Marc Brown presents a highly palatable introduction to art. The fun, silly illustrations with reproductions of real works intermingled invite readers to follow a family through an art museum. On this tour they see examples of various art styles from primitive through 20th century pop art.

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)

From the moment Alexander wakes up and finds gum in his hair, everything goes wrong! His brothers both get prizes in their cereal boxes, his best friend demotes him to third-best friend, there are lima beans for dinner, and there is kissing on TV. All kids experience this kind of day and will be glad to find they are not alone!

The Bears' Picnic

by Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain
The Berenstain Bears endure countless trials before finding a suitable picnic spot.

Bedtime for Frances

by Russell Hoban, Garth Williams (illus.)

It may be bedtime for Frances, but that doesn't mean Frances is ready to go to bed -- not by a long shot. First she must have a glass of milk and make certain Mother and Father have each kissed her good night (twice). Then she is ready to imagine there is a tiger in her room, and a giant, and ... each time Frances thinks up something new, off she goes to tell her ever-patient, if increasingly weary, parents. The familiar delaying tactics of Frances the song-singing badger have delighted fans young and old for more than three decades. Combining sympathetic understanding with gentle humor, Russell Hoban created in Frances a character at once immediately recognizable and eminently likable.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?

by Bill Martin, Eric Carle (illus.)

Eric Carle's double-page tissue collages and Bill Martin's friendly chant unite to create this vibrant introduction to colors. The first line of the book is the title, to which a big brown bear responds, "I see a redbird looking at me." The redbird responds with another animal and so on, until a mother (or a teacher, depending on the edition) asks a group of children what they see. A wonderful read-aloud for either a group or individuals, this book is a favorite of teachers.

Franklin Rides a Bike

by Paulette Bourgeois, Brenda Clark (illus.)

At the beginning of spring, Franklin and all his friends have training wheels on their bikes. But soon Franklin is the only one who can't ride without them. Every time he tries he falls down, and he's beginning to get discouraged. His mom finally convinces him to keep with it, and Franklin finally rides on his own.

Freckle Juice

by Judy Blume, Sonia O. Lisker (illus.)

Nicky has freckles -- they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Once, sitting behind him in class, Andrew counted 86 of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty. One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. And, as luck would have it, who should overhear him but giggling, teasing Sharon. She offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe -- for 50 cents. That's a lot of money, but Andrew is desperate. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens. ...

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)

What happens if you give a mouse a cookie? Why, he'll need a glass of milk to go with it! He'll also need a straw, a napkin, a mirror -- each item prompts the need for another. When the mouse is hanging a picture from a refrigerator (how did he get there?), he's reminded that he's thirsty and needs a glass of milk (uh-oh). With this milk, it's absolutely necessary to have a cookie, of course! Bond's wonderful illustrations enliven this modern-day classic.

The Listening Walk

by Paul Showers

We're going on a Listening Walk. Shhhhh. Do not talk. Do not hurry. Get ready to fill your ears with a world of wonderful, surprising sounds. In this colorfully illustrated book a little girl and her father take a quiet walk and identify the sounds around them. This beautiful lesson in appreciating the extraordinary qualities found in the rhythm of everyday life entices readers to pay more attention to the world surrounding them.

The Little Engine That Could

by Watty Piper, George Hauman (illus.), Doris Hauman (illus.)
When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain. This classic never loses its appeal or fails to teach its lesson.

Make Way for Ducklings

by Robert McCloskey
This Caldecott Award-winning classic about Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their brood of ducklings has been a favorite since 1941. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them. McCloskey's sepia illustrations are priceless, and a statue of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings can be found in the Boston Common today.

There's an Alligator Under My Bed

by Mercer Mayer
This sequel to *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* brings back that story's imaginative young hero for an even funnier nighttime adventure.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (illus.)

In this highly acclaimed version, Alexander T. Wolf tells his never-before-heard version of the story. Is he the bad guy history has portrayed him as, or was the big, bad wolf framed?

