



SUMMER READING LIST*

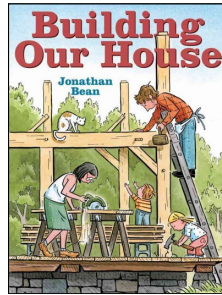
Build a Better World ~ Grades K-2

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

PICTURE BOOKS

Building Our House by Jonathan Bean

A young girl narrates her family's move from the city to the country, where they have bought a piece of land and live in a trailer while they build a house from the ground up, with help from relatives and friends. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 820



The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 840

Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood by F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell

Mira lives in a gray and hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and, along with his paints and brushes, brings color, joy, and togetherness to Mira and her neighbors. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 580

Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney

As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius resolved that when she grew up she would go to faraway places, live by the sea in her old age, and do something to make the world more beautiful--and she does all those things, the last being the most difficult of all. | [National Book Award Winner](#) | Lexile: 680

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena

A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#), [NCSS](#), [NCTE](#) | Lexile: 610

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle

Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba. Includes note about Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, who inspired the story, and Anacaona, the all-girl dance band she formed with her sisters. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#), [NCSS](#)

The Night Gardener by Terry Fan

Everyone on Grimloch Lane enjoys the trees and shrubs clipped into animal masterpieces after dark by the Night Gardener, but William, a lonely boy, spots the artist, follows him, and helps with his special work. | [ALA](#), [NCSS](#) | Lexile: 390

Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker

At sunset, when their work is done for the day, a crane truck, a cement mixer, and other pieces of construction equipment make their way to their resting places and go to sleep. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 820

The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

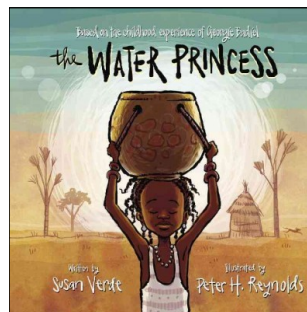
Sally McCabe is a very little girl, and nobody notices her, although she notices everything that goes on around her--but when she speaks out about the unkindness she sees, people start to pay attention. (CIP) Conduct of life. Human behavior. Stories in rhyme. Bullying. | [E.B. White Read Aloud Honor Book](#) | Lexile: 1010

Construction by Sally Sutton

Big machines and their drivers work together to build a library. | [NCTE](#) |

Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg

When he has a dream about a future Earth devastated by pollution, Walter begins to understand the importance of taking care of the environment. | Lexile: 550



The Water Princess by Susan Verde

The story of one young girl's quest to bring clean drinking water to her African village. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 290

The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

Two girls, one white and one black, gradually get to know each other as they sit on the fence that divides their town. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#) | Lexile: 300

SUMMER READING LIST*

GRAPHIC NOVEL

The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Evil Penguin Plan by Maxwell Eaton

Two beavers thwart an evil plot by penguins who plan to turn Beaver Island into a frosty resort. | [Nutmeg](#) | Lexile: 290

FOLKLORE

The Three Pigs by David Wiesner

The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon. | [ALA](#)

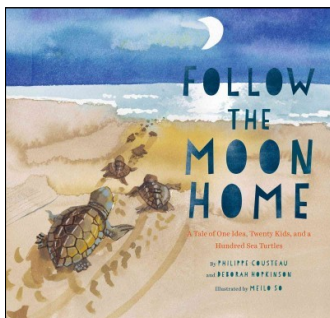
NONFICTION

Can We Help?: Kids Volunteering to Help Their Communities by George Ancona

Describes how children can help their communities in different ways, from tending a community garden and training service dogs to volunteering to help people with disabilities and mentoring younger students. | [NCSS](#)

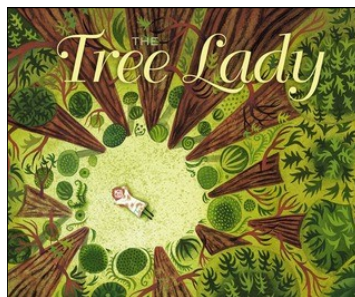
One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul

Tells the story of a Gambian woman who came up with a way to recycle the plastic bags that had littered the landscape in her nation, an act that saved the environment and transformed her community. | [ALA](#), [Nutmeg](#) | Lexile: 480



Follow the Moon Home by Philippe Cousteau

A book about loggerhead sea turtles, and a girl's attempts to help save their babies from man-made light. | Lexile: 520

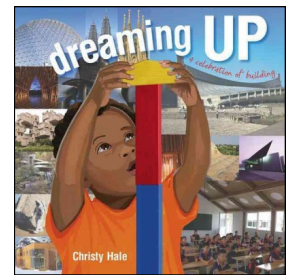


The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever by H. Joseph Hopkins

Documents the true story of the nature pioneer and activist who, after becoming the first woman to earn a science degree from the University of California, took a teaching position in the desert region of San Diego and single-handedly launched a movement to transform the area with trees and gardens. | [ALA](#), [NCSS](#) | Lexile: 760

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building by Christy Hale

A collection of concrete poetry, illustrations, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world. Includes biographies of the architects, quotations, and sources. | Lexile: 550



BIOGRAPHY

Luna and Me: The Story of Julia Butterfly Hill by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Social activism combines with environmentalism in this picture book bio of Julia Butterfly Hill and Luna, the thousand-year-old redwood tree whose life she saved. | [NCSS](#)

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz

The renowned cat conservationist reflects on his early childhood struggles with a speech disorder, describing how he only spoke fluently when he was communicating with animals and how he resolved at a young age to find his voice to be their advocate. | [ALA](#), [NCSS](#) | Lexile: 670

The House that Jane Built: A Story About Jane Addams by Tanya Lee Stone

This is the story of Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, who transformed a poor neighborhood in Chicago by opening up her house as a community center. | [NCSS](#) | Lexile: 810

*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

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute. | Lexile: 340

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. | Lexile: 450

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers — until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: 730

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

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

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

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Despite everyone's dire predictions, a little boy has faith in the carrot seed he plants. | Lexile: 230

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



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

The Poky Little Puppy by *Janette Sebring Lowrey*

One night a puppy, who is always late coming home, finds there is no dessert for him. | Lexile: 640

George and Martha by *James Marshall*

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

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

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

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

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by *Judith Viorst*

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too. | Lexile: 970

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

FAVORITE AUTHORS

Byron Barton
Margaret Wise Brown
Anthony Browne
Eric Carle
Donald Crews
Tomie de Paola
P. D. Eastman
Ed Emberley

Mem Fox
Ezra Jack Keats
Jon Klassen
James Marshall
Robert McCloskey
Jon Muth
Jerry Pinkney
Peggy Rathmann

Dr. Seuss
Maurice Sendak
David Shannon
Williams Steig
David Wiesner
Mo Willems
Karma Wilson
Jacqueline Woodson
