

2026 Summer Reading List - Grade 1

Grade 1 readers are building fluency. On-grade books are short picture books they can begin reading independently. Challenge books suit confident readers or make excellent read-alouds for any first-grader.

ON-GRADE LEVEL · 5 BOOKS

Fiction

Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World)

Corey R. Tabor

Short, funny, and satisfying — Crow's mystery personality is perfect for newly independent readers.

ISBN 9780063373587

Fiction

Nani and the Lion

Alicia D. Williams, illus. Anna Cunha

Brave Nani plays her drum for an ornery lion. Rhythmic text and a courageous heroine make this ideal for Grade 1.

ISBN 9781665914222

Fiction

Don't Trust Fish

Neil Sharpson, illus. Dan Santat

Fish seem nice — but are they secretly planning world domination? A delightfully silly read that Grade 1 kids will beg for again and again.

ISBN 9780593616673

Fiction

Fireworks

Matthew Burgess, illus. Cátia Chien

A perfect summer picture book with a spectacular fold-out finale.

ISBN 9780063216723

Nonfiction

Hurricane

Jason Chin

A hurricane heads for Hatteras Island. Meteorologists, pilots, and even the stray cat prepare. Exciting, accessible nonfiction.

ISBN 9780823458493

CHALLENGE READS · 3 BOOKS

Fiction

Orris and Timble: Lost and Found

Kate DiCamillo, illus. Carmen Mok

Orris the rat and Timble the owl are best friends — but when Timble doesn't appear for their nightly storytelling session, Orris fears their friendship is over. A sparsely beautiful early chapter book about trust, empathy, and the magic of stories. Book 2 of a beloved trilogy by two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo.

ISBN 9781536225303

Fiction

Another Word for Neighbor

Angela Pham Krans, illus. Thai My Phuong

A reclusive elderly widower is persistently befriended by his new neighbors. A rich, layered picture book about community.

ISBN 9780063334915

Nonfiction

Safe Crossing

Kari Percival

Every spring, amphibians make a perilous migration. Children can learn how to help — a great springboard for nature exploration this summer.

ISBN 9781797214566

DIGITAL RESOURCES

PBS Kids

pbskids.org

Interactive games and videos tied to beloved shows.

Highlights Kids

highlightskids.com

All the fun of Highlights magazine on a colorful, interactive site.