

# 2026 Summer Reading List - Grade 3

Grade 3 marks a big shift: from learning to read, to reading to learn. On-grade picks are engaging chapter books and illustrated nonfiction. Challenge books introduce longer novels and more complex themes.

## ON-GRADE LEVEL · 5 BOOKS

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Nonfiction

### Akeem Keeps Bees!

Kamal E. Bell & Akeem Bell, illus. Darnell Johnson

A graphic-novel-style nonfiction book about bees and pollinators at Sankofa Farms. Conversational, visual, and full of fascinating facts.

ISBN 9781635866094

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Fiction

### Casey's Cases: The Mysterious New Girl

Kay Healy

Upbeat Casey must solve the mystery of the new girl at her school — a fun, accessible mystery series starter.

ISBN 9780823456505

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Fiction

### Bad Badger: A Love Story

Maryrose Wood, illus. Giulia Ghigini

Septimus the badger isn't sure he's a badger. A quirky journey of self-discovery and friendship.

ISBN 9781454953456

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Fiction

### The Five Wolves

Peter McCarty

Five wolves wander the world to draw and paint. Follow their adventures and explore the incredibly detailed illustrations they leave behind.

ISBN 9781250170620

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Graphic novel

### I'm a Dumbo Octopus!

Anne Lambelet

Did you know octopuses have nine brains? A conversational graphic novel packed with facts about cephalopods — perfect summer brain food.

ISBN 9798765661376

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## CHALLENGE READS · 3 BOOKS

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Nonfiction

### 3 Weeks in the Rainforest

Jennifer Swanson

An NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book — journeys to the Amazon with the Field Museum's rapid inventory team. Includes a free activity kit.

ISBN 9781623543167

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Fiction

### Chickenpox

Remy Lai

1994 Indonesia: twelve-year-old Abby quarantines at home with wild siblings when chickenpox strikes the whole family. Funny and relatable.

ISBN 9781250863300

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Fiction

### Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers

Angela Dominguez

Fourth-grader Gabby launches a social media profile — and spirals when anonymous mean comments appear. A timely story about life online.

ISBN 9781250901361

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

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### **National Geographic Kids**

[kids.nationalgeographic.com](https://kids.nationalgeographic.com)

Fun trivia, puzzles, quizzes, and video games for STEM-loving kids.

### **Greeking Out**

[nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/greeking-out](https://nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/greeking-out)

National Geographic's podcast introducing children to stories of ancient Greece.

### **Wow in the World**

[tinkercast.com/wow-in-the-world](https://tinkercast.com/wow-in-the-world)

Weekly Tinkercast podcast gets kids excited about science and technology.