

2026 Summer Reading List - Kindergarten

For emerging readers, focus on read-alouds and picture books. On-grade books should be enjoyed together. Challenge books can be read aloud to children ready for more complex stories and ideas.

ON-GRADE LEVEL · 5 BOOKS

Fiction

Big Bike, Little Bike

Kellie DuBay Gillis, illus. Jacob Souva

A whimsical story about a bike that is reused and repurposed — perfect for early readers and a great conversation starter about sustainability.

ISBN 9780063315235

Fiction

Fireworks

Matthew Burgess, illus. Cátia Chien

A colorful summer day through the eyes of two children, complete with watermelon and a spectacular fireworks gatefold. Pure summer joy.

ISBN 9780063216723

Fiction

Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World)

Corey R. Tabor

Is Crow really just cranky? A simple, funny picture book that invites children to look beneath the surface.

ISBN 9780063373587

Fiction

Mama Car

Lucy Catchpole, illus. Karen George

A warm slice-of-life story about a child's love for their mom's wheelchair — authentic and joyful.

ISBN 9780316578035

Fiction

Midnight Motorbike

Maureen Shay Tajsar, illus. Ishita Jain

A mother and daughter escape the jungle heat on a special nighttime ride. Dreamy illustrations and a cozy bonding story.

ISBN 9780823456628

CHALLENGE READS · 3 BOOKS

Fiction

A Book of Maps for You

Lourdes Heuer, illus. Maxwell Eaton III

A story full of kindness and maps — details reward careful looking. May inspire children to draw their own maps this summer!

ISBN 9780823455706

Nonfiction

The History of We

Nikkolas Smith

Explores humanity's African origins and our shared history — rich, expansive ideas presented through stunning illustrations.

ISBN 9780593619681

Fiction

To See an Owl

Matthew Cordell

Janie really, really wants to spot an owl. A story about patience and persistence that rewards determined young readers.

ISBN 9780593649893

DIGITAL RESOURCES

PBS Kids

pbskids.org

Videos and games for ages 2–8 tied to beloved PBS programming.

Reading Rainbow

readingrainbow.org/watch

Original and new episodes featuring librarian Mychal Threets.