

SUMMER READING 2017

Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts



Entering PK-1 List



The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

Educational Technology and Library Department

Scott Moore, Director

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Creating a school-wide culture of reading has always been a priority for the teachers, librarians, and literacy specialists in the Brookline Public Schools. In each school that culture is built and nurtured in myriad ways—through the study of literary elements, read-alouds, book talks, literature circles, genre studies, author visits, evening parent/child book events, independent reading projects, participation in Massachusetts Book Awards and summer reading.

Summer is a perfect time to find books to read for pleasure. This list is a starting point to help you select books that match your interests and includes a variety of titles across many genres, levels, and lengths. Students are encouraged to read at least 5 or 6 books. Our goal is to develop readers who not only *can* read, but who *choose* to read for enjoyment.

Summer reading is also a great opportunity to hone your reading skills and maintain your fluency. According to a recent report from John Hopkins University's Center for Summer Learning children who do not read over the summer actually lose ground in reading proficiency. The report concludes that the effect of reading four or five books during the summer is large enough to prevent a decline in reading scores from spring to fall.

In addition to this list, Brookline's public libraries and bookstores offer a wealth of titles and suggestions to help you find just the right book for your enjoyment.

Explore. Read. Enjoy,

Brookline K-8 School Librarians

Deb Abner, Lincoln School
Colleen Carney, Heath School
Paula Ewenstein, Baker School
Teresa Gallo-Toth, Runkle School
Amanda Kretschmar, Pierce School
Jennifer Lauchlan, Upper Devotion School
Kathy Moriarty, Lawrence School
Anne Reid, Driscoll School
Julie Seifert, Devotion School

Scott Moore, Director of Educational Technology and Libraries.

Downloadable copies of the list are available at <http://brooklinesummerreading.weebly.com/>

Entering PK – 1

Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Agee, Jon. ***Life On Mars***

A young astronaut lands on the planet Mars hoping to find life and is surprised but what he finds.

Barnett, Mac. ***Triangle***

After Triangle plays a trick on Square, Square plans to reciprocate but runs into trouble when he tries to enter the triangular doorway of Triangle's home.

Brown, Lisa. ***The Airport Book***

Follow a family and the youngest member's favorite sock monkey through all the inner and outer workings of an airport.

Campoy, F. Isabel. ***Maybe Something Beautiful***

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.

Cousins, Lucy. ***Hooray for Birds***

Bright colors and rhyming text bring a variety of birds to life for young readers.

DiPucchio, Kelly. ***Antoinette***

Raised in a family of talented bulldogs, Antoinette the poodle wonders what makes her special. She gets the chance to prove herself and find what she's good at when puppy Ooh-la-la goes missing.

Ellis, Carson. ***Du Iz Tak?***

As a tiny shoot unfolds, a myriad of insects peer at it and wonder what it could be.

Freedman, Deborah. ***This House, Once***

Asks readers to think about ways in which the natural world has provided for them by exploring all the different elements of a house and where each came from.

Gravet, Emily. ***Tidy***

Pete the badger likes everything to be neat and tidy near his home in the forest but what starts as the collection of one fallen leaf quickly escalates as Pete attempts to clean up nature's mess.

Henkes, Kevin. ***Egg***

Three little birds crack their way out of eggs and fly away, leaving one egg sitting all alone until the three chicks come back and discover a friendly baby alligator has finally hatched.

Jackson, Richard. ***All Ears, All Eyes***

As darkness falls in the forest, animals hoot, chirp, whirr, and bark, lulling drowsy children to sleep.

Jenkins, Emily. ***A Greyhound and a Groundhog***

A tongue twister featuring a little round greyhound and a little round groundhog who work themselves into a frenzy as they whirl around and around one another.

Klassen, Jon. ***We Found a Hat***

Two turtles discover a hat that looks good on both of them, but only one can ultimately wear it.

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. ***Little Wolf's First Howling***

When little wolf follows big wolf out in the night for his first howling, he discovers he has a sound that is all his own.

Layton, Neil. ***The Tree: An Environmental Fable***

When a couple buys land that includes a large tree housing forest animals, they must decide how to proceed with their building plans.

Meisel, Paul. ***My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis***

The life cycle of a Praying Mantis told with both humor and beautiful illustrations.

Messner, Kate. ***Over and Under the Pond***

Celebrates the forms of life that live above and under a pond, including turtles, red-winged blackbirds, blue herons, minnows, frogs, and catfish.

Murray, Diana. ***City Shapes***

A young girl walks through the bustling city, while a pigeon flies above, both spotting hidden shapes at every turn.

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. ***Mighty, Mighty Construction Site***

Told in rhyming text, Excavator, Bulldozer, Crane Truck, Dump Truck, and Cement Mixer will all need to work together as they tackle their biggest job yet -- a massive building.

Root, Phyllis. ***Anywhere Farm***

Rhyming text explains how a farm can be planted anywhere, including a community garden, using just soil, sunshine, water, and a seed.

Sidman, Joyce. ***Round***

A poetic ode to all that is round and full of wonder including eggs about to hatch, sunflowers stretching toward the sun, and planets slowly spinning together for billions of years.

Smith, Lane. ***A Perfect Day***

It is a perfect day for cat, dog, chickadee, and squirrel until bear comes along.

Wenzel, Brendan. ***They All Saw a Cat***

In simple, rhythmic prose and stylized pictures, a cat walks through the world, and all the other creatures see and acknowledge the cat.

Willems, Mo & Keller, Laurie. ***Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! We Are Growing***

Walt is not the tallest, curliest, or silliest stalk of grass among his friends, however, just because he hasn't found his "est" doesn't mean he is not special in his own way.

Authors to Explore

Denise Fleming.

Fleming employs an unusual technique called pulp painting to create her color-saturated illustrations of adorable children and animals. Many of her books focus on nature, such as "Time to Sleep" or "In the Tall Tall Grass."

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Donald Crews.

Donald Crews accompanies his simple stories about trains, trucks, school buses and planes with bold, colorful illustrations. If your little reader likes anything that goes, introduce him or her to these books.

Eric Carle.

Nobody does animals like this iconic author and illustrator. Try one of his famous books like "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," or some of his lesser-known gems like "10 Little Rubber Ducks" or "Head to Toe."

Gail Gibbons.

Gail Gibbons has written and illustrated more than 150 wonderful nonfiction books for young readers exploring a range of topics from animals and plants to vehicles and the solar system.

Grace Lin.

Grace Lin draws on her Chinese-American background to write and illustrate wonderful stories about simple joys and everyday things; a Dim Sum meal, flying a kite, or the unfortunate result of sneezing during a haircut.

Jerry Pinkney.

Caldecott award winner Jerry Pinkney's watercolor illustrations bring folktales such as "The Little Red Hen" and "The Lion and the Mouse" vividly to life.

Kevin Henkes.

Kevin Henkes has that midas touch, everything he does comes off beautifully. He has written and illustrated many beloved books. For PK, his simple ones such as "Kitten's First Full Moon" or "Old Bear" are the best.

Lois Ehlert.

In stories such as "Growing Vegetable Soup" and "Snowballs," Lois Ehlert explores nature through colorful collage illustrations and spare text.

Rosemary Wells.

Author and illustrator Rosemary Wells has created some of the best-loved characters in children's literature. Don't miss her Max and Ruby or McDuff series, as well as her Yoko and Mother Goose books.

Matheson, Chistie. ***Tap the Magic Tree***

Children will love tapping, rubbing, touching, and wiggling these illustrations to make an apple tree bloom, produce fruit, and lose its leaves.

Take a Look: Picture Books

Archer, Micha. ***Daniel Finds a Poem***

A little boy's animal friends help him discover the poetry to be found in nature.

Ashman, Linda. ***Rain!***

An old man grumbles his way through a rainy morning, until he is inspired to enjoy the rain by his young neighbor.

Beatty, Andrea. ***Ada Twist, Scientist***

Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.

Becker, Bonny. ***A Visitor for Bear (series)***

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse.

Bernstrom, D. ***One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree***

Gobbled by a snake, a crafty boy finds a way out of his predicament by encouraging the snake to eat an increasing number of animals.

Bluernie, Elizabeth. ***Tap Tap Boom Boom***

Strangers become friends when a rainstorm sends people running for shelter in a subway under the city.

Castillo, Lauren. ***Nana in the City***

A young boy is frightened by how busy and noisy the city is when he goes there to visit his Nana, but she makes him a fancy red cape that keeps him from being scared as she shows him how wonderful a place it is.

DiPucchio, Kelly. ***Gaston***

A proper bulldog raised in a poodle family and a tough poodle raised in a bulldog family meet one day in the park.

Donofrio, Beverly. ***Where's Mommy***

While trying to keep their friendship a secret from their mothers, a human girl and a mouse make a surprising discovery.

Dyckman, Ame. ***Wolfie the Bunny***

When her parents decide to raise a baby wolf as their own, Dot the rabbit fears that he will eat them all up, until a surprising encounter with a bear brings them closer together.

Graham, Bob. ***How the Sun Got to Coco's House***

Describes the journey of the sun as reflected in a whale's eye, over a frozen forest, on an airplane's wing, and eventually through a little girl's window.

Nelson, Kadir. ***If You Plant a Seed***

What happens if you plant a seed of kindness? Nelson's spare text and beautiful oil paintings capture the process of planting and growing.

Rex, Adam. ***School's First Day of School***

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself.

White, Dianne & Krommes, Beth. ***Blue On Blue***

Rhyming text and illustrations depict the swell and quieting of a storm.

Austin, Mike. ***Fire Engine No 9***

A story told in almost entirely onomatopoeic sound words traces a day in the life of firefighters and features depictions of a colorful fire truck responding to a series of emergencies.

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Brown, Peter. ***Mr. Tiger Goes Wild***

Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature.

Donaldson, Julia. ***The Gruffalo***

A clever mouse uses the threat of a terrifying creature to keep from being eaten by a fox, an owl, and a snake only to have to outwit that creature as well.

Hall, Michael. ***Red: A Crayon's Story***

Poor Red! His label says he is red, but he can't seem to draw anything right. He gets lots of advice, but nothing seems to work, until he gets some help from a friend.

Havell, Juanita. ***Jamaica's Find (series)***

There are happy endings all around when Jamaica finds an old stuffed animal and has the satisfaction of returning it to the grateful owner.

Henkes, Kevin. ***Waiting***

An owl, puppy, bear, bunny, and pig wait for marvelous things to happen.

Jenkins, Emily. ***Water in the Park***

Shows how many people and animals use water in different ways throughout a hot summer's day in the park.

Kimura, Ken. ***999 Tadpoles (series)***

When their 999 tadpoles grow into frogs and outgrow their pond, Mother and Father have to find new digs. Their move turns into quite an adventure when they meet a snake and a falcon along the way.

McClintock, Barbara. ***Emma and Julia Love Ballet***

A story that follows the everyday life of two girls, one a professional ballerina, the other a student, both of whom love ballet.

Medina, Meg. ***Mango, Abuela and Me***

When Mia discovers that her Abuela can't speak English, she finds the perfect gift that helps them both with their language barrier.

Miller, Pat Zietlow. ***Sophie's Squash***

On a trip to the farmers' market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she adopts it.

Peet, Bill. ***Cyrus the Unsinkable Sea Serpent***

Cyrus, a shy and friendly serpent, finally realizes his ambition by heroically helping some voyagers through a storm and foiling some dastardly pirates.

Portis, Antoinette. ***Not a Box***

A box is just a box, unless it's not a box. From mountain to rocket ship, a small rabbit shows that a box will go as far as the imagination allows.

Rumford, James. ***Rain School***

Imagine arriving on your first day of school and finding no school building. These African students learn to build their own mud structure for a school.

Santat, Dan. ***The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend***

When an imaginary friend waits for a very long time to be imagined by a child, he decides it's time to visit the unimaginary world and find his match.

Seegar, Laura Vaccaro. ***First the Egg***

Which came first? The chicken or the egg? Cut-outs magically present transformation from seed to flower, tadpole to frog, and caterpillar to butterfly.

Spires, Ashley. ***The Most Magnificent Thing***

A young girl want to invent the most magnificent thing, but it turn out to be harder than she planned.

Stead, Philip C. ***Sick Day for Amos McGee***

Amos McGee, a friendly zoo keeper, always makes time to visit his animal friends, but when he becomes sick and cannot come in to work, the animals go in search of their friend.

Willems, Mo. ***Nanette's Baguette***

Mo Willems, famed author of the "Elephant and Piggie", "Knuffle Bunny" and "Pigeon" books, tells the hilarious rhyming story of a young frog in search of a fresh baguette.

Beginning Reading Books

Adler, David A. ***Don't Throw It to Mo***

Underdog football player Mo Jackson may be the smallest kid on his team, but Coach Steve has a plan for him to save the day.

Arnold, Tedd. ***Prince Fly Guy (series)***

Buzz is writing a fairy tale for homework, and Fly Guy naturally assumes the role of a handsome prince, who fends off a giant and rescues a beautiful princess.

Capucilli, Alyssa. ***Biscuit (series)***

A little yellow dog always wants one more thing before he'll go to sleep.

DePoala. ***When Andy Met Sandy (series)***

When Andy and Sandy first meet at the playground, they are cautious of one another, but soon find a way to become friends.

DiCamillo, Kate. ***Mercy Watson to the Rescue (series)***

After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor.

Eastman, P.D. ***Are You My Mother?***

A baby bird emerges from his egg to find himself alone in his nest and sets out on a amusingly confusing journey to find his mother.

Henkes, Kevin. ***Penny and Her Song (series)***

Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies.

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Lobel, Arnold. ***Frog and Toad Are Friends (series)***

Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends, Frog and Toad.

Long, Ethan. ***Up, Tall, and High***

In three laugh-out-loud situations, an irresistible cast of colorful birds illustrate the concepts of "up," "tall" and "high."

Meister, Cari. ***Tiny Goes to the Library (series)***

Tiny the dog is a big help at the library when his owner takes out too many books to carry home.

Milgrim, David. ***Go Otto, Go (series)***

Otto the robot builds a spaceship to take him home.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Henry and Mudge: The First Book (series)***

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.

Seuss, Dr. ***One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish***

A story-poem about the activities of such unusual animals as the Nook, Wump, Yink, Yop, Gack, and the Zeds.

Weeks, Sarah. ***Mac and Cheese (series)***

Mac loves to run and play, but Cheese likes lazy lounging. When Mac's hat blows away, will Cheese sit there like a lump or spring into action to save it?

Willems, Mo. ***Waiting Is Not Easy (Elephant and Piggie Series)***

Piggie tells Gerald she has a surprise for him, but it is not there yet so Gerald must be patient.

Rylant, C. ***Mr. Putter and Tabby Turn the Page (series)***

Who knows what havoc will happen when Mr. Putter and Tabby, along with Zeke, visit the library storytime?

Too Good to Miss: Classics

Bemelmans, Ludwig. ***Madeline (series)***

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis.

Burton, Virginia Lee. ***The Little House***

The little house was built in the country, but gradually the city moves closer and closer.

Cooney, Barbara. ***Miss Rumphius***

As a child Great-aunt Alice Rumphius decided 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.

DePaola, Tomie. ***Strega Nona (series)***

Find out what happens when Strega Nona leaves Big Anthony with her magic pasta pot.

Hutchins, Pat. ***Rosie's Walk***

Although she seems unaware that a fox is after her as she takes a walk around the farmyard, Rosie the hen still manages to lead him into one accident after another.

Johnson, Crockett. ***Harold and the Purple Crayon (series)***

Armed only with a purple crayon, young Harold draws himself a landscape full of wonder and excitement.

Keats, Ezra Jack. ***The Pet Show***

When he can't find his cat to enter in the neighborhood pet show, Archie must do some fast thinking to win a prize.

Kipling, Rudyard. ***Rikki-Tikki-Tavi***

Rikki, a fearless young mongoose finds himself locked in a life-and-death struggle to protect a boy and his parents from Nag and Nagaina, the two enormous cobras who stalk the gardens outside the family's home in India.

Leaf, Munro. ***The Story of Ferdinand***

While all of the other bulls snort, leap, and butt their heads, Ferdinand is content to just sit and smell the flowers under his favorite cork tree.

Lionni, Leo. ***Swimmy***

A little black fish in a school of red fish figures out a way of protecting them all from their natural enemies.

McCloskey, Robert. ***Make Way for Ducklings***

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring.

Provinsen, Alice. ***The Year at Maple Hill Farm***

Alice and Martin Provinsen capture one year at their beloved Maple Hill Farm in a way sure to delight city slickers and country folk alike.

Seuss, Dr. (Theodor Geisel). ***Horton Hears a Who***

Horton, the lovable elephant, tries to protect tiny creatures on a speck of dust.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. ***Caps for Sale***

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

Zion, Gene. ***Harry the Dirty Dog***

Harry, a white dog with black spots, loves to get dirty, but when he gets so dirty that he becomes a black dog with white spots, will his family recognize him?

Folklore & Mythology

Aylesworth, Jim. ***The Mitten***

A retelling of the traditional tale of how a boy's lost mitten becomes a refuge from the cold for an increasing number of forest animals.

Bryan, Ashley. ***Beautiful Blackbird***

The colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his "blackening brew."

Cousins, Lucy. ***Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales***

Retells eight classic stories, from "Little Red Riding Hood" to "The Musicians of Bremen."

Diakate, Baba Wague. ***The Hatseller and the Monkeys***

An African version of the familiar story of a man who sets off to sell his hats, only to have them stolen by a treeful of mischievous monkeys.

Hong, Lily Toy. ***Two of Everything***

A poor old Chinese farmer finds a magic pot that duplicates whatever is placed inside it, but his efforts to make himself wealthy lead to unexpected complications.

Isadora, Rachel. ***Twelve Dancing Princesses***

A retelling, set in Africa, of the story of twelve princesses who dance secretly all night long and how their secret is eventually discovered.

Aardema, Verna. ***Why Mosquitoes Buzz In People's Ears***

This West African tale which explains why the mosquito, responsible for the death of Mother Owl's baby, buzzes in people's ears looking for forgiveness.

Bruchac, Joseph. ***How Chipmunk Got His Stripes***

When Bear and Brown Squirrel have a disagreement about whether Bear can stop the sun from rising, Brown Squirrel ends up with claw marks on his back and becomes Chipmunk, the striped one.

Ehlert, Lois. ***Cuckoo: A Mexican Folktale***

Cuckoo is beautiful, but she's lazy. She never does her share of work—that is, until a field fire threatens the season's seed crop and Cuckoo is the only one who can save it, but will she risk harming her lovely feathers by flying through the smoke and fire.

Elya, Susan Middleton. ***Little Roja Riding Hood***

A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. A Spanish glossary is included.

Mora, Pat. ***Dona Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart***

Cuckoo Dona Flor, a giant lady with a big heart, sets off to protect her neighbors from what they think is a dangerous animal, but soon discovers the tiny secret behind the huge noise.

Grasshopper and the Ant

In this retelling of the classic Aesop fable, hardworking ants stock up for the winter while a fun-loving grasshopper plays all year long, until the cold weather arrives and he realizes his mistake in not planning ahead.

Tompert, Ann. ***Grandfather Tang's Story***

Grandfather tells a story about shape-changing fox fairies who try to best each other until a hunter brings danger to both of them.

Get Real: Nonfiction and Biography

Andrews, Troy. ***Trombone Shorty***

New Orleans jazz musician Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews tells the story of how he got his nickname and his start in jazz music.

Burns, Loree Griffin. ***Handle with Care: An Unusual Butterfly Journey***

Travel along with butterflies as they are raised on a farm in Costa Rica until they finally arrive at their new home at the Boston Museum of Science.

Butterworth, Chris. ***Sea Horse: The Shyest Fish in the Sea***

Discover the secrets of the sea horse, one of the most mysterious sea creatures.

dePaola, Tomie. ***The Art Lesson***

Having learned to be creative in drawing pictures at home, young Tommy is dismayed when he goes to school and finds the art lesson there much more regimented.

Ehlert, Lois. ***Scraps Book***

A memoir of the life of children's book illustrator and author Lois Ehlert, discussing her childhood, and her career.

Engle, Margarita. ***Drum Dream Girl***

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.

French, Vivian. ***Yucky Worms***

While helping Grandma in the garden, a child learns about the important role of the earthworm in helping plants grow.

Gray, Rita. ***Flowers Are Calling***

Rhyming text and color illustrations explain how pollination happens, looking at the natural cooperation between plants, animals, and insects

Hale, Christy. ***Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building***

A collection of poetry, illustrations, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

Hoban, Tana. ***Shapes, Shapes, Shapes***

Photographs of everyday objects present a study of rounded and angular shapes.

Hughes, Catherine D. ***First Big Book of the Ocean.***

Chock full of wonderful photos, this book provides profiles of creatures, from dolphins and sharks to sea otters and penguins, while sharing facts about their characteristics, diets, and habitats.

Jenkins, Steve. ***Flying Frogs and Walking Fish***

Explore unusual animal locomotion through incredible art and fascinating facts from the Caldecott Honor-winning team Steve Jenkins and Robin Page.

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King-Smith, Dick. ***All Pigs Are Beautiful***

Author (and farmer) Dick King-Smith shares his love for pigs in this introduction to the animal.

Kostecki-Shaw. ***Luna and Me***

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.

MacLachlan, Patricia. ***The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse***

If you were a boy named Henri Matisse who lived in a dreary French town where there were gray skies and you wanted color and light and sun, what might you become?

Neuman, Susan B. ***National Geographic Readers: Swim, Fish! Explore the Coral Reef***

Simple text and photographs describe the coral reef and animals that live in it.

Paul, Miranda. ***Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle***

From rain to fog to snow to mist, this spare, poetic picture book follows a group of kids as they move through all the different phases of the water cycle.

Pfeffer, Wendy. ***Light Is All Around Us***

Let the light shine in! This introduction to light teaches about different kinds of light, including sunlight, firelight and electric light,

Redmond, Shirley Raye. ***The Dog that Dug for Dinosaurs***

There once was a little dog named Tray. He lived in England with his owner, Mary Ann Anning. He loved to dig for dinosaur bones. Together he and Mary Ann found small bones, big bones, and even entire skeletons.

Sayre, April Pulley. ***Raindrops Roll***

The author sheds new light on the wonders of rain, from the beauty of a raindrop balanced on a leaf to the amazing, never-ending water cycle that keeps our planet in perfect ecological balance.

Sisson, Stephanie Roth. ***Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos***

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission that will inspire curiosity about our space in all young readers.

Ward, Jennifer. ***Mama Built a Little Nest***

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text introduce different kinds of birds' nests, from the scrapes falcons build on high, craggy ledges to the underground nests burrowing owls dig.

Winter, Jeanette. ***The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps***

Follow Jane from her childhood in London watching a robin on her windowsill, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates who are now in danger of extinction, and their habitat.

A Way with Words: Poetry

Ahlberg, Janet & Allan. ***Each Peach Pear Plum***

Have fun finding Tom Thumb, Cinderella, and the Three Bears in the illustrations that accompany this rhyming story.

Fogliano, Julie. ***When Green Becomes Tomatoes***

A book of poetry moving through the seasons.

Frost, Helen. ***Step Gently Out***

Examines nature through lyrical text and close-up photography.

Lewis, J. Patrick. ***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry***

Combines photography with lyrical text celebrating the animal world, in a compilation that includes works by such poets as Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Rudyard Kipling.

Maura, Pat. ***Water Rolls, Water Rises: El Agua Rueda, El Agua Sube***

A series of verses, in English and Spanish, about the movement and moods of water around the world and the ways in which water affects a variety of landscapes and cultures.

Opie, Iona. ***My Very First Mother Goose***

A collection of nursery rhymes featuring the delightful illustrations of Rosemary Wells.

Sidman, Joyce. ***Swirl by Swirl: Spirals In Nature***

Celebrates the shape of a spiral in nature, from rushing rivers to flower buds and even the shape of an ear.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. ***The Moon***

Tracey Campbell Pearson takes readers on a late-night adventure set to Robert Louis Stevenson's famous poem, in which we follow a father and his young son out on a late-night boat ride around a moonlit bay.

Swanson, Susan Marie. ***The House in the Night***

Illustrations and easy-to-read text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light.

Yolen, Jane & Peters, Andrew Fusek. ***Switching On the Moon***

A collection of poems for bedtime that features topics such as owls, lullabies, and the sounds of the city, with work from poets such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, Sylvia Plath, and Lee Bennett Hopkins.

ABCs and 123s: Alphabet and Counting

Baker, Keith. ***LMNO Peas, 123 Peas***

Peas take on a whole new personality in these fun alphabet and counting books.

Bang, Molly. ***Ten, Nine, Eight***

A father and his little "big" girl turn bedtime into playtime with a rhyming game.

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Bigham, Kelly. **Z is for Moose**

Moose wants to star in this book so badly he can hardly wait for the M page, but when his page finally comes, he is dismayed to learn that in this book, M is for mouse! How will Moose find a way to be part of this alphabet story?

Burns, Marilyn. **The Greedy Triangle**

Bored and dissatisfied with his life, a triangle visits a local shapeshifter to add another angle to his shape. Poof! He becomes a quadrilateral, but then he gets greedy and keeps adding angles until he's completely transformed.

Christelow, Eileen. **Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed**

A true children's classic with wonderful pencil and watercolor illustrations.

Crews, Donald. **Ten Black Dots**

How many black dots? One? Two? Three? Read this book and see.

Dee, Ruby. **Two Ways to Count to Ten**

A retelling of a traditional Liberian tale, in which King Leopard invites all the animals to a spear-throwing contest, whose winner will marry his daughter and succeed him as king.

Derubertis, Barbara. **Deena's Lucky Penny**

While pondering how to buy her mother a birthday present with no money, Deena finds a penny and follows a process of discovery about how pennies add up to nickels, which add up to dimes, all the way up to four quarters making a dollar.

Franco, Betsy. **Birdsongs**

Throughout the day and into the night various birds sing their songs, beginning with the woodpecker who taps a pole ten times and counting down to the hummingbird who calls once.

Hoban, Tana. **Circles, Triangles, and Squares**

The geometric concepts of circles, triangles, and squares are demonstrated in photographs of bubbles, windows, stacks of pipes, tires, boats, and other objects.

Johnson, Stephen. **Alphabet City**

As Stephen T. Johnson demonstrates in a series of strikingly realistic pastels and watercolors, a simple sawhorse can contain the letter "A," while lampposts alongside a highway can form a row of elegant, soaring Ys.

Leonni, Leo. **Inch by Inch**

A small green inchworm is proud of his skill at measuring anything, a robin's tail, a flamingo's neck, a toucan's beak. Then one day a nightingale threatens to eat him if he cannot measure his song. Children will enjoy the clever inchworm solution.

Margarette Reid. **The Button Box**

A child examines the many different buttons in Grandma's button box.

Martin, B. **Chick Chicka Boom Book, Chicka, Chicka, 1, 2, 3**

In these rhythmic and fun alphabet and counting books, letters and numbers climb up trees, but will there be enough room?

Otoshi, Kathryn. **Zero**

Numbers are very important. Even the number Zero. Read to find out how Zero finds that she too counts.

Shaskan, Trisha Speed. **If You Were a Minus Sign**

Primary math concepts are introduced using creative examples, easy-to-understand text and engaging art illustration.

Suess, Dr. **Dr. Suess's ABC**

A master author creates an alphabet book, taking some liberties with actual words and inventing some creatures.

Toft, Kim. **One Less Fish**

Counting down from twelve to zero, the reader learns about some of the fish found on the Great Barrier Reef and the threats to their continued existence.

Twohy, M. **Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run!: An Alphabet Caper**

When a bouncing ball wakes a sleeping mouse, it's just the beginning of an alphabet adventure.

Walsh, Ellen Stoll. **Mouse Count**

The concept of counting forward and backward in a suspenseful story that will keep young readers guessing.

Wells, Rosemary. **How Many? How Much?**

Fun-filled interactive picture books that introduces concepts from counting to measuring to money, readers will learn all about early math concepts in How Many? How Much?

Murphy, Stuart. **Betcha**

Uses a dialog between two friends, one who estimates, one who counts precisely, to show estimation at work in everyday life.

A Note About Availability

These titles are only a suggested starting point. Students are not expected to read every book on this list. Availability of these titles from local libraries may be limited. Please be considerate to others by borrowing only a few titles off this list at a time. Exploring other titles at Brookline's libraries and bookstores is also encouraged.

Notes

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