

SUMMER READING 2018

Entering
PK-1



Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts



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

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Hot Off the Presses: New and Noteworthy

Ahmed, Roda. ***Mae Among the Stars***

A picture book story inspired by the first African-American woman to travel in space describes how as a child, a persevering Little Mae dreamed of dancing in space while surrounded by billions of stars.

Atinuke. ***Baby Goes to Market***

Join Baby and his doting mama at a bustling southwest Nigerian marketplace for a bright, bouncy read-aloud offering a gentle introduction to numbers.

Bagley, Jessixa and Aaron. ***Vincent Comes Home***

Living on a cargo ship, a seafaring cat whose paws have never touched land spends his time chasing seagulls, eating fresh fish and gazing at the stars before wondering about the mysterious "home" referenced by human sailors, a situation that leads to revelations when the ship makes a final stop and the cat follows a crew member to his residence.

Blackall, Sophie. ***Hello Lighthouse***

Explores the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and the tenure of its final keeper.

Cooper, Elisha. ***Big Cat, Little Cat***

A moving tale about friendship, new beginnings, and cats.

Cornwall, Gaia. ***Jabari Jumps***

Passing tests in swimming class that give him the confidence to try jumping off the diving board, little Jabari stretches his muscles and squeezes his dad's hand when the big moment arrives, in a story that celebrates finding one's courage.

Denos, Julia. ***Windows***

Walking his dog at dusk, a boy catches glimpses of the lives around him in a lyrical ode to autumn evenings, exploring one's neighborhood and coming home.

Doerrfeld, Cori. ***The Rabbit Listened***

When Taylor's block castle is destroyed, all the animals think they know just what to do, but only the rabbit quietly listens to how Taylor is feeling.

Gray, Rita. ***When the World Is Dreaming***

Take a peek into the moonlit world of deer, rabbits, and other woodland creatures as they ready for a good night.

Hest, Amy. ***On the Night of the Shooting Star***

Glancing at each other through the fences that separate their homes, Bunny and Dog remain too shy to speak until the night when a shooting star zips through the sky and becomes a shared moment that begins a new friendship.

Hobbie, Holly. ***Elmore***

Suffering rejection and heartache from the other forest animals, Elmore the porcupine finds ways to connect with the other animals and move past his spikes.

Isadora, Rachel. ***I Just Want to Say Good Night***

In a village on the African plains, a little girl stalls bedtime by saying good night to various animals and objects.

Jeffers, Oliver. ***Here We Are***

In this salutation from Earth, the chronicler gives a tour of the planet and introduces those who call it home.

Lloyd-Jones, Sally. ***Goldfish On Vacation***

Three goldfish live in a small bowl, in an apartment building, in the middle of a big city, until one summer they get to go on vacation--in a fountain, with lily pads, and reeds, and other neighborhood goldfish.

Manley, Curtis. ***The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read***

When Nick decides to teach his cats to read, Verne is very much interested, especially in books about mice and fish, but Stevenson wants nothing to do with the project--or does he?

Martinez-Neal, Juana. ***Alma and How She Got Her Name***

Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela believes her name is too long, but after hearing the story behind her name, she realizes it is the perfect fit.

McClintock, Barbara. ***The Five Forms***

A little girl conjures increasingly destructive animals using Chinese martial arts poses.

Newman, Leslea. ***Sparkle Boy***

Young Casey loves sparkly things, just like his older sister, who does not approve until an encounter with teasing older boys helps her learn to accept and respect Casey for who he is.

Pinkney, Jerry. ***The Three Billy Goats Gruff***

An exciting retelling of the classic story about three billy goats who must outwit the big, ugly troll that lives under the bridge they have to cross on their way up the mountain.

Rylant, Cynthia. ***Life***

Life is beautiful, ever changing, sometimes not easy, but always worth waking up in the morning to see what might happen.

Santat, Dan. ***After the Fall***

After falling off the wall, Humpty Dumpty is very afraid of climbing up again, but is determined not to let fear stop him from being close to the birds.

Sayre, April Pulley. ***Warbler Wave***

A photographic exploration of warbler bird behavior and migration.

Slater, Dashka. ***Escargot***

Escargot is a beautiful French snail who only wants to be your favorite animal and get to the delicious salad at the end of the book, even if he has to try a carrot, which he hates.

Tamaki, Jillian. ***They Say Blue***

A young girl describes where she finds colors in both the world around her and beyond what she can see.

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Teckentrup, Britta. ***Moon***

Over deserts and forests, Arctic tundra and tropical beaches, the moon shines down on creatures around the world. Readers will love discovering how it changes from day to day as the lunar cycle is shown through clever peek-through holes, each revealing the moon in a different size and shape.

Tsurumi, Andrea. ***Accident!***

When a clumsy armadillo named Lola knocks over a glass pitcher, she sets off a silly chain of events, encountering chaos wherever she goes.

Walker, Anna. ***Florette***

When Mae's family moves to a new home, she wishes she could bring her garden with her but there's no room for a garden in the city . . . or is there? Mae's story, gorgeously illustrated in watercolor, is a celebration of friendship, resilience in the face of change, and the magic of the natural world.

Willems, Mo. ***It's Shoe Time***

Rhyming dialogue and engaging cartoon-style illustrations by the Caldecott Honor-winning artist, Bryan Collier, reinforce early reading skills in a story that redefines the boundaries of being a pair.

Yoon, Salina. ***That's My Book! And Other Stories***

Loud and bossy Big Duck, quiet and clever Little Duck, and friendly and gentle Porcupine return in a trio of stories featuring a talent show, favorite books and a game of pretend.

Young, Ed. ***Mighty Moby***

The classic tale of the hunt for Moby Dick, the whale, with a new twist.

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."

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."

Ezra Jack Keats.

Caldecott award winner Ezra Jack Keats has written and illustrated over twenty books depicting the ordinary, everyday experiences of the life of a child. In books such as "The Snowy Day" and "Peter's Chair" he uses a combination of collage and watercolor to capture the simple pleasures of childhood experiences.

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, while "Chrysanthemum" and "Wemberly Worried" speak to older children.

Lois Ehlert.

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

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.

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.

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, Daniel. ***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.

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

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

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Pilkey, Dav. ***The Paperboy***

A paperboy and his dog enjoy the quiet of the early morning as they go about their rounds.

Pizzoli, Greg. ***Good Night Owl***

Owl takes drastic measures to have a good night's sleep.

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.

Rocco, John. ***Blackout***

Neighbors gather on the roof after the power goes out on a hot night in the city and start having so much fun not everyone is happy when the lights go back on.

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.

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

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

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.

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

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

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 (series)***

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.

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.

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.

Liniers. ***Good Night, Planet***

After being played with all day, Planet, a friendly stuffed animal, comes to life at night and goes on a moonlit adventure with a dog and a mouse.

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 (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?

Yoon, Salina. ***My Kite Is Stuck and Other Stories (series)***

A trio of stories follows Big Duck, whose adventures include getting his kite out of a tree when it becomes stuck; navigating the shoals of jealousy when Porcupine and Little Duck find a new friend; and forgetting something very important while building a lemonade stand with Porcupine.

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, Cynthia. ***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.

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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.

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

Alice and Martin Provensen 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?

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.

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.

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

Cuckoo is beautiful, trouble is, 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 thick smoke and flames?

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.

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.

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

Dona Flor is a giant woman who lives in a puebla with lots of families. She loves her neighbors, she lets the children use her flowers for trumpets, and the families use her leftover tortillas for rafts, so when a huge puma is terrifying the village, of course Flor is the one to investigate.

Pinkney, Jerry. ***Grasshopper and the Ant***

In this retelling of the classic Aesop fable, hard working 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.

Folklore & Mythology

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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

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

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.

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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.

Alexander, Kwame. ***Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World In Poetry and Pictures***
Haiku poetry accompanies stunning close-up photography of a variety of animals, including butterflies, monkeys, frogs, tortoises, alligators, and tigers.

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.

Lilligard, Dee. ***Wake Up House!: Rooms Full of Poems***
Thirty-four poems which personify household objects from the bedroom window that greets the sun's morning rays to the nightlight that watches over sleeping dreamers.

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.

Murray, Carol. ***Cricket In the Thicket***
Poems about cool insects with interesting facts are brought to life with beautiful illustrations.

Opie, Iona. ***My Very First Mother Goose***
A collection of nursery rhymes featuring the delightful illustrations of Rosemary Wells.

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.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. ***All the World***
Pictures and rhyming text celebrate a family's day spent going to the beach, shopping at the market, eating at a restaurant and spending the evening with the rest of the extended family.

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.

Bingham, 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.

Entering PK – 1

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.

Kontis, Alethea. ***AlphaOops!: The Day Z Went First***

Chaos ensues when Z thinks that it's time for him to go first in the alphabet for a change.

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?

McDonnell, Patrick. ***The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's (the Hard Way)***

In this nearly wordless alphabet book, a little red cat runs away and gets caught up in a wild chase that goes everywhere from A to Z and back home again.

Murphy, Stuart. ***Betcha***

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

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, Mike. ***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?

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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