

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

34 recommended titles for summer reading

R W

**2022 Summer
Booklist**



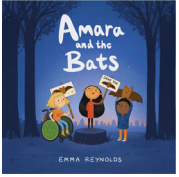
Picture Books



All Hands on Deck!: A Deadly Hurricane, a Daring Rescue, and the Origin of the Cajun Navy

By Robert Neubecker

A fun, illustrated book about a group of heroic boats teaming up to help others when catastrophe—a hurricane—strikes. Though they are small, they quickly realize that when working together you can accomplish bigger things. The group of boats now forms the “Cajun Navy” and they’re ready to help first responders save the day when needed! Based on a true story of communities coming together in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.



Amara and the Bats

By Emma Reynolds

A picture book for budding conservationists and anyone truly passionate about helping animals! Amara loves bats. She can endlessly recite bat facts, and enjoys watching them fly over her backyard. But when her very favorite animal is threatened by overdevelopment, she mobilizes her animal-loving friends to take action. A heartwarming tale that concludes with an array of Amara’s bat facts as well as a guide to constructing a bat house and getting involved with saving bats. Be sure to check out the endpapers, where you’ll find charming illustrations of a variety of bat species.



Bartali's Bicycle:

The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero

By Megan Hoyt, Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno

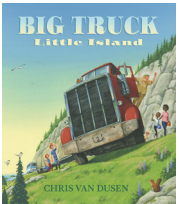
This picture book biography tells the story of Gino Bartali, a famous Italian cyclist who rose to the occasion and joined the forces of resistance during World War II. We follow Gino in rich, layered illustrations as he cycles through country and city, delivering false papers that will allow Jewish families to escape Italy. This tale doesn’t shy from the cruelties of this era, but uplifts Gino as an individual who stood up for what was right and took action, despite his fear and the danger he would put himself in. End matter for this book includes a timeline, a letter from Gino’s granddaughter, and a list of sources to read more. This historical read is both heart-breaking and uplifting, and reminds us to always look past prejudices and to ways we can help our neighbors.



Bathe The Cat *

By Alice B. McGinty, Illustrated by David Roberts

A family clamors to ready the house in time for Grandma’s visit, but their list of chores goes awry due to a meddling cat who does *not* want a bath! In hilarious rhyme, Dad struggles to round everyone up and keep the right family members on the right tasks. Before you begin the book, check out the endpapers, which are illustrated with the timeless alphabet refrigerator magnets that will feature prominently in the story. This picture book is playful, colorful, and downright funny.



Big Truck Little Island

By Chris Van Dusen

Big Truck Little Island is based on a true Maine story, told by a beloved Maine author & illustrator. When a big truck



becomes stuck on a narrow road, the islanders’ evening commute is interrupted. While the grown-ups despair being late for ballet or a swim meet, the clever island kids hatch a plan! With exceptional rhyming text and Chris Van Dusen’s signature vibrant illustrations, we’re told a tale of community and the power of small people to solve big problems. An absolute must-read this summer—be sure to check out the book’s dedication page!

Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky *

By Nana Ekuu Brew Hammond

Illustrated by Daniel Minter

The information and research behind the book *Blue* is as mind expanding as the beautiful illustrations. Curiosity abounds on every page. The author literally and figuratively takes us on a journey that dives deeply into the color, the facts about where the color itself came from out of nature, and the preciousness and therefore the holiness and cultural value of the color “blue.” Of course Minter’s illustrations bring that journey to life through the moods and experiences over the centuries and the lives on the pages. Most special was the idea of how “blue” as a color has also entered our language in implicit and explicit ways from “feeling blue” to the “Blues” as a music genre.

Celia Planted a Garden

By Gary D. Schmidt and Phyllis Root

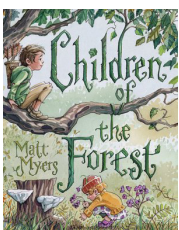
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

This picture book biography follows the life of Maine artist, gardener, and poet, Celia Thaxter (1835–1894) who lived much of her life on Appledore Island, where she planted and tended an incredible garden. Like the marigold seeds Celia planted in the rock crevices on the island where her family lived, beauty and joy were hard-won in Celia’s life. Melissa Sweet’s charming, abundant illustrations bring Celia’s world to life, including excerpts from her diaries. Readers will enjoy the vast diversity of plants and birds in Celia’s garden, and be inspired to carve out a creative space of their own.

Children of the Forest

By Matt Myers

An adventurous older brother and toddling little sister set out into the wilderness...of their backyard. The older brother is determined to teach his little sister how to survive in the wild, assuring her that “mother nature will take care of us,” or at least until their real mother beckons them inside for bed! Rich with detailed illustrations, we’re reminded of the power imagination has to turn all things ordinary into the fantastical. A beautiful picture book for anyone whose backyard has been the stage for vast adventures.



Our Top Picks for Whole Book Approach *

The Whole Book Approach asks children to look at books in their whole art form, including examining the endpapers, the jacket, the cover. By asking open-ended questions about the book and its visuals, we can create an interactive, rich learning experience.



Clovis Keeps His Cool

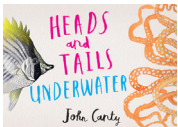
By Katelyn Aronson, Illustrated by Eve Farb

An oversized bull with a temper, an inherited china shop, and some old rivals looking to heckle. What could go wrong? Clovis the bull does everything he can to tamp down his raging temper. He clenches his teeth. He squeezes a cushion. "I will not lose my cool," Clovis said. As a tea-drinking, scented candle-loving shop proprietor with a flair for window decor, Clovis will win over readers—even if he does blow his top! Delightful and hilarious.



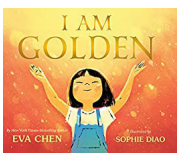
El Cucuy is Scared Too *

By Donna Barba Higuera, Illustrated by Juliana Perdomo
What is hiding under the bed? What creature do you fear at night? What if that creature was afraid of you too? Sprinkled with Spanish, this Latin American-inspired tale is a good one to share with kids learning to be independent at bedtime. "Other things are scarier to me now," declares the youngster. New experiences can be scary but not so bad with someone to talk things through and share those fears. Wonderfully bright illustrations are like visual candy and we get a preview of this with the brightly striped endpapers. And don't forget to look under the jacket on this one for a little surprise!



Heads and Tails: Underwater *

By John Canty
This colorful and clever picture book asks readers to guess the ocean creature on the next page from a series of clues—turn the page for the reveal! What begins as a simple "Guess Who," evolves with surprising and playful illustrations. A tadpole turns into a frog as it swims across the page, a whale takes up a whole spread on its own, and the ocean creatures scatter when a shark arrives on scene!



I Am Golden

By Eva Chen, Illustrated by Sophie Diao
I Am Golden is a love letter to Mei, told in the voice of her Chinese parents who have immigrated to the United States. In this sweet but powerful picture book, Mei's parents remind her that she is the embodiment of the hopes and dreams of her ancestors, full of strength, beauty, and uniqueness. This book addresses the feeling of not belonging, relationships with immigrant parents, and the pain of leaving beloved family members behind. (The image of connecting with grandparents via video chat will surely speak to many pandemic-era children!) Author Eva Chen and illustrator Sophie Diao have brought us a powerful message of perseverance, inner strength, and affirmation drawn from their own Chinese-American experiences.



I'm a Hare, So There! *

By Julie Rowan-Zoch
"Hello, Rabbit." "Rabbit? Did you say...rabbit? Listen up, Chipmunk, I'm a hare, so there!" A feisty "hare" argues his way across the Sonoran desert expounding all the reasons why they are NOT a rabbit. A squirrel counters their declarations as they encounter a variety of animals that are similar but not the same. Bright illustrations enhance the humorous romp with clever typography & design that has the reader



looking under the cover and turning the book sideways to truly experience the book. Check out the back matter too for a fun game of find the desert creature!

Mr. Mole Moves In (Juniper Hollow)

By Lesley-Anne Green

When Mr. Mole moves to Juniper Hollow, his new neighbors find him to be a kind and caring fellow...if a little odd. He mistakes the watermelon in Giraffe's lap for a baby (which he compliments) and erasers for candy (which he gives to Rabbit's bunnies). Whatever could be going on with Mr. Mole?! Perhaps this is how they do things back in Mole Town?! This is a sweet and silly tale of harmless misunderstandings and giving the benefit of the doubt. The critters of Juniper Hollow are created with felted wool and wire, giving the book a cozy, charming feel.

No Pants!

By Jacob Grant

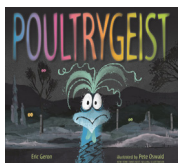
A little boy and his dad are going through daily routines and getting ready for the family cookout. "But first, breakfast!" says Dad. "Pancakes, please!" But there's no time and the expression on the kid's face says it all. As he goes through his remaining tasks to get ready we get to read the pictures and see the mood change at each step of the way until it's time for pants. "NO PANTS!" he declares. A funny and relatable "get ready for the day" exchange between a parent and kid.



Poultrygeist

By Eric Geron

Why did the chicken cross the road? Unfortunately for this chicken he literally made it to "The Other side." After his ghost rises from his remains, he quickly becomes surrounded by other animal ghosts. These ghosts believe that he should be scarier and nosier, but the new Poultrygeist doesn't want to haunt anyone, especially not innocent readers! With dark humor, witty wordplay, and ghostly illustrations, this book will provide you with a laugh-out-loud read aloud.



Room for Everyone

By Naaz Khan, Illustrated by Mercè López

This rhyming picture book uses a super interesting dala dala (bus) ride to teach counting—Musa and Dada climb on board and head to the beach but frequent stops with more and more passengers (not all people) makes it a wiggly, giggly trip for everyone! Sure, they squeezed in baskets and goats and an old man with his bicycle, but can they fit chickens, too? And a group of scuba divers, all geared up? Is there really, truly room for everyone?



Sarah and the Big Wave, The True Story of the First Woman to Surf Mavericks *

By Bonnie Tsui, Illustrated by Sophie Diao

This picture book biography tells the story of Sarah Gerhardt, the first woman to surf the Mavericks, a treacherous surfing location in California. Sarah faces real challenges of gender discrimination, such as feeling like an outsider in surfing communities and being unable to find equipment that fits her properly. Sarah's perseverance and love of surfing even-





tually prevail, and she glides through Sophie Diao’s powerful, foamy ocean illustrations. Readers will be delighted by the towering 50-foot wave that folds out from the book’s pages! End matter in this book includes a timeline of women’s milestones in surfing, spanning from the 1600s to 2020.

Something’s Wrong, A Bear, a Hare, and Some Underwear

By Jory John and Erin Kraan

What does it mean to truly be there for a good pal? “Good friends are like underwear, Jeff. They’re reliable and they’re supportive.” A hilarious tale of a forgetful bear who might have forgotten to take off his grandma’s gift of underwear before walking past pretty much ALL of his forest friends. He knows that something’s up. Something feels odd. What to do? Go ask a trusted friend who will be honest with him. But a true friend goes one step further to stand by his buddy. Woodcutter and printmaker, Erin Kraan elevates the words masterfully.

Soomi’s Sweater

By Susie Oh

When a box with a new sweater arrives wrapped in “soft, crinkly paper,” Soomi is delighted and wears it, despite it being far too big. She is so excited to share but the looseness of the fabric gets in the way and soon a snag appears. And grows. What will Soomi do? Her friends do their best but only mom can really mend it. The bold and vivid illustrations make this book a real gem. Simple facial expressions and lovely linework pop off the pages. A real charmer.

30,000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag

By Amanda Davis, Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

Beautifully written and inspiring, this story teaches perseverance, strength and hopefulness. Captivating illustrations take you on the restoration journey of the American flag after it gets torn, tattered, and tired. Instead of retiring this piece of history, many across America placed new stitches within their own state’s patch to reinstate it to its original glory!

***The Vanishing Lake* ***

By Paddy Donnelly

The combination of scientific discovery and a little imagination can help you discover extraordinary stories everywhere. Paddy Donnelly takes us along a mythical journey with a curious child and her creative and wondrous granddad. How can a lake disappear overnight? Is it magic? Little Meara doesn’t think so, and sets out to find the truth. But just like an oasis in a desert, sometimes our eyes can convince our brains to see the magic behind reality. And yet, the back matter tells us the science behind the magic. Be sure to look under the jacket of this one!

Graphic Novels

The Aquanaut

By Dan Santat

The Aquanaut is a graphic novel about a young girl who lives with her uncle upon the disappearance of her father. Before her father disappeared, he and her uncle, who were marine biologists, had opened an

ocean themed amusement park. With the help of some unlikely friends, the protagonist discovers not is all that it seems at this park and together they fight to change it.

Isla to Island

By Alexis Castellanos

This mostly-wordless graphic novel follows Marisol on her solo journey from Cuba to stay with a foster family in Brooklyn, NY in 1958, fleeing a chaotic and dangerous political atmosphere. Separated from her parents in wintry New York where she doesn’t speak the language of her bullying peers, Marisol is left in a world that feels gray and hopeless. But with the help of library books, a loving foster family, Cuban food, and botanical gardens, Marisol’s life is once more filled with color. A bittersweet, historical coming-of-age novel, *Isla to Island* invites compassion and understanding.

Little Monarchs

By Jonathan Case

In a future where the sun makes mammals sick to the point of dying, Elvie and her caretaker Flora are on a journey to find a vaccine that will allow the small amount of humans left to return to their lives aboveground. Flora’s vaccine is created from monarch butterfly scales, so this adventurous graphic novel (which is designed as Elvie’s travel diary) not only explores the high stakes of creating a vaccine, but also introduces wonderful facts about monarch migration, and teaches skills such as knot tying, making a quick harness, writing an entry in a nature journal, even baking a blackberry pie over a campfire. This book is not only a story, it’s a work of art, and a set of tools!

¡¡Manu!!

By Kelly Fernandez

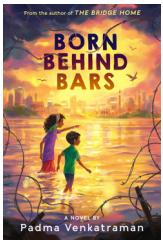
In their magical boarding school for girls tucked away in the jungle, naturally mischievous Manu tries to be like her best friend Josefina and keep out of trouble. Unfortunately, Manu’s great innate magic seems to land her in many tricky situations. When all hell breaks loose (literally), it’s the school’s loving headmistress and Josefina who believe in Manu to set things right, and use her talents for good. Sweet, inventive, and heartwarming, Manu is a tale of friendship and honoring our truest selves. Kelly Fernandez colorfully weaves the folklore and culture of the Dominican Republic into this charming middle-grade graphic novel.

Middle Grade

A Terrible Tide

By Suzanne Mead

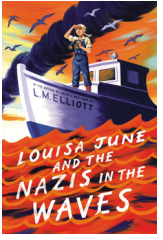
Celia’s 13th birthday party begins with preparing the table with Mother’s fancy, new dishes and ends with her dangling from a splintered piece of wreckage from her community in the frigid waters off her Newfoundland home. This fictionalized story of a real natural disaster is told through seven days of journal entries, just before and after a tsunami hit the Burin Coast of Newfoundland in 1929. The strength, adaptability and growth of these characters is a testament to the human spirit and can easily be compared to world events today. There are photographs of the aftermath of this event in the historical note at the back of the book.



Born Behind Bars

By Padma Venkatraman

Kabir was born in jail after his mother was locked up without proof or trial for a crime she did not commit. But living behind bars he learns from his mother and other prisoners to be kind and fair even in the face of oppression. The support within the walls of confinement are strong. But when he suddenly finds himself being released, he must navigate the outside world on his own. It doesn't take long, however, for Kabir to find a street wise ally to help him. Padma Venkatraman's writing brings us along emotional journeys that make our hearts shrink and swell with stories that are both complex and hopeful.



Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves

By L.M. Elliott

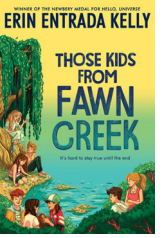
Louisa June's spunk, courage, determination, and stubbornness help her rise from the difficulties of her life in coastal Virginia during the Nazi U-boat attacks of WWII. Louisa June is the youngest child in her large family and the only one left home to deal with her mother's mental health issues while keeping the oyster farm running. She wants to do her part in the war effort but is too young to join the plane watchers or the "Hooligan Navy." When she finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time, she is drawn into the action in a way no one expected or wanted and, as usual, she rises to the occasion. Elliott writes lyrically with wonderful, well-developed characters and nail-biting action.



My Own Lightning

By Lauren Wolk

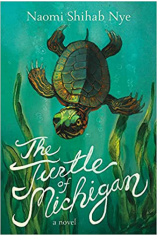
In this sequel to *Wolf Hollow*, we are reunited with Annabelle, a girl who is still coming to terms with the terrible events that took place in her rural farming community the previous year. When a shocking event occurs, Annabelle finds herself changed, and able to look at those around her with fresh eyes and new senses. Readers who fell in love with *Wolf Hollow* will be happy to return to those forests and fields to navigate compassion, forgiveness, and lingering darkness at Annabelle's side. (P.S. As this is a sequel, we'll leave our recommendation a little vague to avoid spoiling either book. Be assured that Lauren Wolk has done it again!)



Those Kids from Fawn Creek

By Erin Entrada Kelly

Are there mean kids in your school? Quiet kids? Smart kids? Some that like fashion or sports or cars? Do you ever think you would like someone new to come in and shake things up? That's just what happens to the 7th grade at Fawn (Yawn) Creek School when Orchid moves to town. She has a strange way of looking at the world—she notices the little things, loves flowers, listens to people, and gives them compliments. She weaves a magic spell over the class until someone hatches a jealous plan and the class must choose a side. Author Erin Entrada writes this emotional story in first person for each character, helping readers to understand the motivations of all.



The Turtles of Michigan

By Naomi Shihab Nye

The Turtle of Michigan (companion book to *The Turtle of Oman*) follows Aref as he leaves everything he knows behind including his Sidi (grandfather) to start a new life with his parents in Michigan. The author highlights Aref's range of emotions during this move—he misses Sidi, but is delighted to meet new people and learn about his new city of Ann Arbor. He is torn between two worlds and finds ways to express this through art. This book models how to navigate potential cultural barriers. For instance, when Aref is concerned that his new friends won't pronounce his name correctly, his father suggests that he tells them how to pronounce it ("RF, like the letters") and then ask how they pronounce their names. Diversity is met with openness and curiosity in this heartfelt story.

Young Adult

Gold Mountain

By Betty G. Yee

To earn enough money to free her politically imprisoned father, Tam Ling Fan assumes her dead brother's identity and travels to California to work on the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Her extraordinary journey gives the reader important insights into America's post-civil war period and the role that the Chinese laborers played in this historic project. Overcoming countless obstacles, including friends who become enemies and the weather, Ling Fan shows the reader just how strong and resourceful a young woman can be.



Lakelore

By Anna Marie-Mclemore

For Lore and Bastián, two young Mexican-American teenagers who both identify as neurodivergent and transgender, the world can be a frustrating, alienating place. When they first discover a magical world beneath their local lake, it seems like the lake will shelter their worries, frustrations, and fears. But soon Lore and Bastián learn that what you hide will eventually come to the surface. Dealing with issues of identity, belonging, and connection, this book is ultimately a journey of healing, friendship, and love.



The Storyteller

By Kathryn Williams

The Storyteller was written for those who find themselves dreaming up alternative realities. Following the stories of high schooler Jess and her great-great-aunt Anna, this story is the definition of a comfort read. Whether you are looking for romance, mystery, or history, this story has it covered. Although it may give off a fluffy, high-school-love vibe, you might find yourself surprised by the twists and turns of this retelling of the history of Anastasia Romanov.

Thank you to our volunteer readers, who make the Booklist possible! Kelsey Buckley, Molly Calder, David Evans, Ruth Feldman, Lisa Herrington, Jenna Jandreau, Alison Johnson, Abby Morrow, Dawn Severns

2022 SUMMER BOOKLIST

34 recommended titles for summer reading

R **W**

