



# READING LIST

Grades  
3-5

## BOOKS

### AND THEN, BOOM!

BY LISA FIPPS

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593406328

This novel in verse features Joe, who suddenly finds himself without a home or family. He doesn't tell anyone—not even his friends—until he has his own “and then, boom!” moment that reminds him of the value and importance of friends.

### BEA AND THE NEW DEAL HORSE

BY L. M. ELLIOTT

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2023  
ISBN: 9780063219007

When the Great Depression upends her family's life, Bea is left to provide for herself and her sister. Can taming a rowdy horse and entering jumping competitions change the course of their lives?

### BOG MYRTLE

BY SID SHARP

ANNICK PRESS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781773218922

A delightfully macabre story of diametrically opposed sisters, sustainability, and spiders, this long-form picture book pairs a rich vocabulary with quirky storytelling for a dark and utterly distinctive tale.

### THE BOY AND THE ELEPHANT

BY FREYA BLACKWOOD

RANDOM HOUSE STUDIO, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593707661

An imaginative and beautiful wordless picture book in which a boy befriends a tree shaped like an elephant and leads all the tree animals to safety before they get cut down.

### CONTINENTAL DRIFTER

BY KATHY MACLEOD

FIRST SECOND, 2024  
ISBN: 9781250813749

In this graphic novel, Kathy splits her year between living in Bangkok and a small town in Maine. While she loves her summers spent by the sea, Kathy struggles to fit in and find where she belongs.

### THE CURSE OF EELGRASS BOG

BY MARY AVERLING

RAZORBILL, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593624906

Kess and new girl Lilou are determined to investigate a mysterious curse, but they must explore a strange, monster-filled bog to unravel its secrets. Can Kess find the courage to uncover the clues, even when she discovers more than she bargained for?

### DAUGHTERS OF THE LAMP

BY NEDDA LEWERS

PUTNAM, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593619308

While visiting her family in Egypt, Sahara Rashad discovers her family's connection to the legendary treasure of Ali Baba.

### EVIDENCE! HOW DR. JOHN SNOW SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF CHOLERA

BY DEBORAH HOPKINSON,  
ILLUSTRATED BY NIK HENDERSON

KNOPF, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593426814

The true story of how a neighborhood doctor solved the mystery of cholera outbreaks and, in doing so, changed the way we approach public health. This book is a fun and accessible way to keep critical thinking going over the summer.

### FERRIS

BY KATE DICAMILLO

CANDLEWICK, 2024  
ISBN: 9781536231052

Soon-to-be-fifth-grader Ferris, along with her eccentric family and best friend, Billy Jackson, seeks to provide closure for the ghost that recently visited her grandmother.

### THE FIRST STATE OF BEING

BY ERIN ENTRADA KELLY

GREENWILLOW, 2024  
ISBN: 9780063337312

Michael Rosario lives in Red Knot, Delaware, in 1999. In the midst of worrying about Y2K and pining over his teenage babysitter, he meets Ridge, the world's first time-traveler. While Ridge enthusiastically explores 1999, Michael focuses on his own goal—stealing Ridge's book that details the events of the next twenty years.

### LOL 101: A KID'S GUIDE TO WRITING JOKES

BY DAVID ROTH AND RINEE SHAH,  
ILLUSTRATED BY RINEE SHAH

CHRONICLE, 2023  
ISBN: 9781797213927

Learn the elements that make jokes funny and then try the included exercises to practice writing your own jokes. Also covered are joke delivery, visual jokes, and real jobs that involve writing or performing jokes. No joke!

### MAGNOLIA WU UNFOLDS IT ALL

BY CHANEL MILLER

PHILOMEL, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593624524

In this graphic novel, Magnolia and her new friend Iris set out in their New York City neighborhood to find matches for all



St. Charles City-County  
Library



of the missing socks at her family's laundromat. Quirky and sweet!

## MAX IN THE HOUSE OF SPIES: A TALE OF WORLD WAR II

BY ADAM GIDWITZ

DUTTON, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593112083

Max Bretzfeld is sent by his parents from Berlin to London to help him escape from the increasing danger towards Jewish families, but Max is intent on returning to his home and protecting his parents. With the help (or sometimes hindrance) of his own personal kobold and a dybbuk, named Berg and Stein, Max concocts a plan to become a British spy in order to return to his home and his family.

## QUAGMIRE TIARELLO COULDN'T BE BETTER

BY MYLISA LARSEN

CLARION, 2024  
ISBN: 9780063324664

When a good cover sells a book and then the plot delivers, too! Quag's plan for a summer break of sleeping in until at least noon doesn't work out—and worse, his mom leaves him stranded in the rural U.S.

## THE SECRET LIBRARY

BY KEKLA MAGOON

CANDLEWICK, 2024  
ISBN: 9781536230888

The Secret Library is a magical place where every book holds a hidden secret, and Dally has to decide how to use it wisely. When she chooses to visit her ancestors, the librarian helps her pick just the right clothes for each time-travel adventure. Dally's pirate adventures are especially exciting, full of fun and surprises that pull readers right into her amazing world.



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

## A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN CHERRY HALL

BY JASMINE WARGA

HARPERCOLLINS, 2024  
ISBN: 9780062956705

A fast read once you meet classmates Rami and Veda, plus Agatha the turtle, in a museum where a painting has gone missing. Will they be able to solve the mystery?

## THE WRONG WAY HOME

BY KATE O'SHAUGHNESSY

KNOPF, 2024  
ISBN: 9780593650738

Fern's life is turned upside down when her mom takes her away from the Ranch—the only home she's ever known. Now living in a beachside town, Fern must adapt to the unfamiliar modern world and the challenges of school life. Along the way, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, learning to define her own values and make choices that are true to herself.

## YES! NO? MAYBE SO...: AMAZING ANSWERS TO MORE THAN 250 MIND-BLOWING QUESTIONS

BY JULIE BEER AND PAIGE TOWLER

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS, 2024  
ISBN: 9781426375736

This book answers so many of the questions we all have. Can dogs tell time? Could technology from science fiction come true? Do most mammals

get hiccups? This book is full of fun and interesting facts to satisfy readers' curiosity all summer long.

## DIGITAL

### MILLION BAZILLION

<https://www.marketplace.org/shows/million-bazillion/>

Each episode of this Marketplace podcast humorously explores an economics question. Past episodes include "Why do prices end in \$0.99?," "Why are so many toys made in China?," and "What's up with those claw machines?" Hosted by Ryan Perez and Bridget Bodnar.

### REBEL GIRLS APP

<https://www.rebelgirls.com/audio>

Enjoy an ever-expanding library of inspiring audio stories.

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

The 2025 Summer Reading List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://www.ala.org/alsc/booklists).

© 2025 American Library Association