



Summer adventures are just a chapter away!

Summer is right around the corner, and while this one may feel a bit different than what we are used to, one silver lining is that we will all have lots of time to discover new worlds, learn about our history, and travel... all through reading! Children are inherently curious, and giving them plenty of opportunities to make these discoveries often leads to a hunger for more.

This list of titles is adapted from the Association for Library Service to Children 2020 Notable Books list and can help guide you as you select books for your child's summer reading adventures. *Many of these titles are available electronically through your local library.*

Grades PreK-2

Across the Bay. By Carlos Aponte. Illus. by the author. Penguin Workshop. In search of his father, Carlitos ferries from his serene home in Cataño to San Juan, taking in the vibrant sights and sounds of Puerto Rico's capital. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

Art This Way. By Tamara Shopsin. Illustrated by Jason Fulford. Phaidon. An interactive board book to help foster art appreciation in young children.

At the Mountain's Base. By Traci Sorell. Illus. by Weshoyot Alvitre. Penguin/Kokila. A lyrical story of a Cherokee family bonding through song and weaving as they celebrate a family member's service in the military.

B Is for Baby. By Atinuke. Illus. by Angela Brooksbank, Candlewick. The letter B is cleverly featured in this story of a baby's day in her African village.

The Balcony. By Melissa Castrillón. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. A whimsical, wordless picturebook that shows a young girl making her new house a home.

Bear Came Along. By Richard T. Morris. Illus. by LeUyen Pham. Little, Brown. A bear's river journey accumulates a number of other animals, resulting in an amazing ride. (Caldecott Honor Book)

The Bell Rang. By James E. Ransome. Illus. by the author. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy. A young enslaved girl's daily routine is altered by her brother's escape to freedom.

Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border. By Mitali Perkins. Illus. by Sara Palacios. Farrar. A family visits the border fence dividing California and Mexico to share gifts with their grandmother at La Posada.

A Big Bed for Little Snow. By Grace Lin. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. In spite of Mommy's warnings, Little Snow simply cannot resist jumping on his big, new feather bed.

The Bluest of Blues: Anna Atkins and the First Book of Photographs. By Fiona Robinson. Illus. by the author. Abrams. Anna Atkins' curiosity about science led her to experiment with the new art of photography, particularly cyanotypes.

Brown: My Alter Ego Is a Superhero. By Håkon Øvreås. Illus. by Øyvind Torseter. Tr. by Kari Dickson. Enchanted Lion. When bullies destroy his fort, Rusty dons superhero garb and seeks revenge. (Batchelder Award Book)

The Book Hog. By Greg Pizzoli. Illus. by the author. Disney/Hyperion. A beret-wearing pig who loves books as objects learns to love reading them, too. (Geisel Honor Book)

The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Yiddish Literature for Generations to Come. By Sue Macy. Illus. by Stacy Innerst. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. With dramatic art, this picturebook biography tells the story of Aaron Lansky's mission to save Yiddish literature.

Carter Reads the Newspaper. By Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. by Don Tate. Peachtree. This engaging nonfiction picturebook highlights the life and determination of little-known civil rights pioneer, Dr. Carter Woodson.

Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot! By Cece Bell. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Chick (a baby chicken) instructs his friend Brain (underwear-clad human with an exposed brain) in good manners. (Geisel Honor Book)

Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln. By Margarita Engle. Illus. by Rafael López. Atheneum. This picturebook biography follows young Venezuelan musician, Teresa Carreño, from her homeland to New York, famous concert halls, and a White House performance for President Lincoln. (Belpré Illustrator Award Book)

Dinosaur Feathers. By Dennis Nolan. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. This tongue-twisting, brightly illustrated poetry book introduces readers to a gaggle of dinosaurs.

Do Fish Sleep? By Jens Raschke. Illus. by Jens Rasmus. Tr. by Belinda Cooper. Enchanted Lion. Ten-year-old Jette comes to terms with her younger brother's death in this honest story about loss and the search for understanding. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Double Bass Blues. By Andrea J. Loney. Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez. Knopf. Aspiring musician Nic navigates two worlds—his suburban school and the bustling city streets of his home—in this picturebook about community, family, and the power of music. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Field Trip to the Moon. By John Hare. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Margaret Ferguson. When a child is left behind on a class field trip to the moon, an unexpected adventure unfolds.

Firefighters' Handbook. By Meghan McCarthy. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. Do you want to become a firefighter? Learn about their rigorous training in this informative picturebook.

Flubby Is Not a Good Pet! By J. E. Morris. Illus. by the author. Penguin Workshop. Flubby, a very lazy, but loveable, cat can always be counted on to bring comfort and kindness when they are needed most. (Geisel Honor Book)

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story. By Kevin Noble Maillard. Illus. by Juana Martinez-Neal. Roaring Brook. A sweetly illustrated account of the cultural and historical importance of fry bread to a Native American family. (Sibert Medal Book)

Going Down Home with Daddy. By Kelly Starling Lyons. Illus. by Daniel Minter. Peachtree. In this picturebook homage to familial bonds, a boy contemplates the perfect way to honor his great-grandmother. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Grandpa's Top Threes. By Wendy Meddour. Illus. by Daniel Egnéus. Candlewick. Henry uses Grandpa's favorite game, "Top Three," to help his grandfather grieve.

Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. This early nonfiction book examines how the water cycle surrounds you every day. (Sibert Honor Book)

How to Read a Book. By Kwame Alexander. Illus. by Melissa Sweet. Harper. Bright collage illustrations and poetic imagery depict many of the countless ways to savor a book.

It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way.

By Kyo Maclear. Illus. by Julie Morstad. Harper. This biography for young readers recounts the life of a trailblazing Japanese American picturebook artist.

Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet.

By Curtis Manley. Illus. by Jessica Lanan. Roaring Brook. An exploration of the solar system and humanity's search for another planet that can support life.

The Last Peach.

By Gus Gordon. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook. Unfolding through animated dialogue comes a tale of two insects debating who gets to eat the last peach.

Let's Scare Bear.

By Yuko Katakawa. Illus. by the author. Holiday. In a humorous story influenced by Japanese oral tradition, four small animals take a turn trying to scare a big bear.

Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons.

By Laura Purdie Salas. Illus. by Mercè López. Lerner/Millbrook. A collection of haiku riddles that celebrates the cycle of the year's seasons.

Luca's Bridge/El Puente de Luca.

By Mariana Llanos. Illus. by Anna López Real. Penny Candy. Llanos' bilingual book offers a glimpse into how some children affected by deportation find comfort in music.

The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh.

By Supriya Kelkar. Illus. by Alea Marley. Sterling. Indian American Singh wears different color patkas to match his mood or occasion of the day.

A Map into the World.

By Kao Kalia Yang. Illus. by Seo Kim. Carolrhoda/Lerner. A young Hmong girl comforts her new neighbor with a chalk drawing that reflects the past year's changes.

Moth.

By Isabel Thomas. Illus. by Daniel Egnéus. Bloomsbury. Rich illustrations help describe the survival and evolutionary adaptations of the peppered moth.

My Footprints.

By Bao Phi. Illus. by Basia Tran. Capstone. After facing school bullies, Thuy works through her emotions by using her imagination.

My Grandma and Me.

By Mina Javaherbin. Illus. by Lindsey Yankey. Candlewick. Set in Iran, this picturebook honors the power of grandmothers as models of tradition, family, and love.

My Papi Has a Motorcycle.

By Isabel Quintero. Illus. by Zeke Peña. Penguin/Kokila. Daisy enjoys exploring her changing neighborhood from the back of her papi's motorcycle. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

A New Home.

By Tania de Regil. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Two young children's families help them adjust to moving from Mexico City to New York City and vice versa.

Nya's Long Walk: A Step at a Time.

By Linda Sue Park. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Clarion. In South Sudan, Nya must carry both her younger sister and the water they collected for the long journey home.

One Fox: A Counting Book Thriller.

By Kate Read. Illus. by the author. Peachtree. A hungry fox gets more than he expects in this suspenseful counting book.

Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant

and Artist. By Julie Leung. Illus. by Chris Sasaki. Random/Schwartz & Wade. As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo assumed a fake identity to immigrate to the U.S., eventually becoming a Disney artist.

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller

Pura Belpré. By Anika Aldamuy Denise. Illus. by Paola Escobar. Harper. A riveting picturebook biography of Pura Belpré that captures her professional life and legacy. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Pokko and the Drum.

By Matthew Forsythe. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. When Pokko's dad sends her outside with her drum, she soon begins leading a band of forest animals.

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family.

By Ibtihaj Muhammad with S. K. Ali. Illus. by Hatem Aly. Little, Brown. A back-to-school book that focuses on the beauty and symbolism of a young girl's hijab.

Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom.

By Teresa Robeson. Illus. by Rebecca Huang. Sterling. The contributions of overlooked scientist Wu Chien Shiung are celebrated here, and the many obstacles she overcame acknowledged.

Saturday.

By Oge Mora. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. Saturdays are when Mom and Ava do special things together, even when they don't go as planned.

Sing a Song: How “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Inspired Generations. By Kelly Starling Lyons. Illus. by Keith Mallett. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. This story behind the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” shows its impact over the generations.

Small in the City. By Sydney Smith. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. While searching for his cat, a child offers advice on how to survive the big city when you’re small.

A Stone Sat Still. By Brendan Wenzel. Illus. by the author. Chronicle. A stone quietly sits as time passes, different creatures make use of it, and the world changes.

Stop! Bot! By James Yang. Illus. by the author. Viking. As a child’s run-away bot drifts up past each floor of a skyscraper, the tenants attempt creative strategies to capture it, leading to a surprise and an ingenious rooftop rescue. (Geisel Medal Book)

Stormy: A Story about Finding a Forever Home. By Guojing. Illus. by the author. Random/Schwartz & Wade. Beautifully illustrated, this wordless story emotionally depicts the relationship between a woman and homeless dog.

Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me. By Eloise Greenfield. Illus. by Ehsan Abdollahi. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky. In narrative verse, a puppy named Thinker and his boy ponder life, play, and go about their day.

Todos Iguales / All Equal: Un Corrido De Lemon Grove/ A Ballad of Lemon Grove. By Christy Hale. Illus. by the author. Lee & Low. This bilingual picturebook depicts the events of the Lemon Grove Incident, the first successful school desegregation case in the U.S.

¡Vamos! Let’s Go to the Market. By Raúl Gonzalez. Illus. by the author. HMH/Versify. Little Lobo and his trusty dog Bernabé deliver goods to the eclectic and bustling Mercado. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

What Is Given from the Heart. By Patricia C. McKissack. Illus. by April Harrison. Random/Schwartz & Wade. After his neighbors lose everything in a fire, a young child finds his own way to contribute to the community’s response.

When Aidan Became a Brother. By Kyle Lukoff. Illus. by Kaylani Juanita. Lee & Low. A transgender boy and his parents prepare for a new baby.

When Spring Comes to the DMZ. By Uk-Bae Lee. Illus. by the author. Translated by Chungyon Won and Aileen Won. Plough. A grandfather brings his family to visit Korea’s demilitarized zone, which inadvertently has evolved into a nature preserve with rich flora and fauna amid the barbed wire and warning signs. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Why? By Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. Bear answers rabbit’s many questions in a thought-provoking picturebook.

Reference: Association for Library Service to Children (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>)

