

Kindergarten: Summer Reading Suggestions

Grade School Librarian, Liz Perry
for Yelena (K1), Dagmar (K2), and Allison (K3)

What a pleasure it is to look outside the library windows to see the kindergarten children at play. Some are busy building forts. Others weave giant spider webs from rope, or craft high-rising cakes and pill-bug houses from petals, pebbles, and sand. This summer, I imagine the children in all sorts of creative and imagination-filled activities, especially outdoors.

For moments when a rest is needed, here are some stories and poems to share. The list is by no means inclusive, but can serve as a guide for the kinds of books we have in the grade school library; those marked with an asterisk (*) are sometimes more difficult to find in public libraries, but can be likely be ordered at local bookstores, found at [SteinerBooks \(703-661-1594\)](http://SteinerBooks.com) or other sources. Enjoy!

Picture Books: Poetry and Nursery Rhymes

1. *The 20th Century's Children's Poetry Treasury* by Jack Prelutsky
2. *A Child's Garden of Verses* (Robert Lewis Stevensen), with traditional late 19th and early 20th century illustrations selected by archivist Cooper Edens
3. *Animal Poems* by Eric Carle
4. *Aunt Giraffe's Green Garden* by Jack Prelutsky
5. *The Barefoot Book of Classic Poems* compiled by Jackie Morris
6. *Bringing the Rain to the Kapiti Plain: A Nandi Tale* by Verna Aardema
7. **A Fairy Went A-Marketing* by Janet Fyleman;
a rare find are this 1920s poet's anthologies: *Fairies and Chimneys*, *Fairy Flute*, or *Fairies and Friends*, which can be scanned for poems good for 4- and 5-year olds.
8. *The Glorious Mother Goose* compiled by Cooper Edens
9. *Here's a Little Poem* compiled by Jane Yolen (also *This Little Piggy*)
10. *It's Raining Said John Twainig: Danish Nursery Rhymes compiled by N.M. Brodecker*
11. *Jamberry* by Bruce Degan
12. *Lavender's Blue* compiled by Katherine Lewis
13. *Tomie de Paola's Book of Poems*
14. *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Helen Oxenbury
15. *When the Dark Comes Dancing: A Bedtime Poetry Book* by Nancy Larrick

Picture Books: Stories from Around the World

Since anthologies are generally compiled for children ages 4 through 8, pick and choose ones that feel right for your child.

1. *Japanese Children's Favorite Stories* by Florence Sakade
2. *The Ox of the Wonderful Horns and Other African Folktales* by Ashley Bryan
3. *The Rain Cat and Other Stories* by Rose Fyleman
4. *Tales our Abuelitos Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection* by Isabel Campoy and noted bilingual children's author and scholar Alma Flor Ada

Picture Books: Fantasy, Fairy, and Folk Tales

These are chosen to be complementary to the fairy and folk tales selected and told during the school year.

1. *Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave* retold by Marianna Mayer
2. *The Boy Who Held Back the Sea* by Thomas Locker
3. *Brigid's Cloak: An Ancient Irish Story* by Bryce Milligan
4. *Brub Rabbit and the Tar Baby Girl* by Virginia Hamilton
5. *The Bunyans* by Audrey Wood; also by the author *Silly Sally; King Bidgood's in the Bathtub; Heckedy Peg; and The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear*
6. *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slodbodkina
7. **Children of the Forest* by Elsa Beskow
8. **Dragon-Baked Bread* by Warren Lee Cohen
9. **The Faerie's Gift* by Tanya Robyn Batt
10. *Flossie and the Fox* by Patricia McKissak
11. *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Jan Brett; also by the illustrator *Beauty and the Beast, The Mitten, Gingerbread Baby, and The Trouble with Trolls*
12. **Grandfather Twilight* by Barbara Helen Berger
13. **The Hungry Coat* by Demi; also by the author *A Grain of Rice, The Empty Pot, King of Capri* by Jeanette Winterson, illustrated by Jane Ray; also by Jane Ray *The Apple-Pip Princess, Bold Boy, Moonbird, and The Lost Happy Endings*
14. **In the Land of the Fairies* by Daniela Drescher; also *In the Land of the Elves*
15. *It Could Always be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale* by Margot Zemach
16. *Little Black Hen* by Gennady Spirin; also by the illustrator
17. *Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp* by Mercer Mayer; also by Mercer Mayer *The Bravest Knights*
18. *The Magic Cooking Pot* by Faith Towle
19. *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain* by Arnold Lobel
20. 20. *Mr. Semolina/Semolinus* by Anthony Manna
21. 21. *Nabulela: A Nguni South African Folk Tale* by Fiona Moodie; also by the author *Boy and the Giants, The Wonder Shoes*
22. 22. *The Nightingale* by Jerry Pinckney
23. 23. **The Pancake the Ran Away* by Loek Koopmans; also by the illustrator *Cinderella, Any Room for Me?, Frog, Bee & Snail Look for Snow*
24. **Pico the Gnome* by Martina Müller
25. **The Princess in the Forest* by Shelley von Olfers
26. *Stone Cutter: A Japanese Folk Tale* by Gerald McDermott
27. *Stone Soup* by Jon Muth; also by the illustrator *Come on, Rain!, Zen Shorts*
28. *Story of Little Babaji*, illustrated by Fred Marcellino; also by this illustrator *Puss in Boots, Steadfast Tin Soldier*

29. *Swamp Angel* by Anne Isaacs
30. *The Three Princes: A Middle Eastern Tale* by Eric Kimmel; also by the author *Three Samurai Cats: A Story from Japan* and *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock*
31. **The Valley of the Mist* by Arcadio Lobato
32. *The Winter Wren* by Brock Cole

Picture Books: Animal Stories

1. *All Beatrix Potter Books*
2. **Any Room for Me?* by Loek Koopmans
3. **Chanticleer and the Fox* by Barbara Cooney
4. *Fly High, Fly Low* by Don Freeman; also by the author *Corduroy*
5. *Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf
6. *Go to Sleep, Little Bear* by Jan Morgenson
7. *Lassie* retold by Rosemary Wells
8. *Little Chick* by Amy Hest
9. *Little Rabbit books* by Harry Horse
10. *Little Snow Bear* by Hazel Lincoln
11. *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
12. **Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag
13. *Mister Seahorse* by Eric Carle
14. *One Fine Day* by Nannoy Hogrodian
15. **Pudding and Chips* by Penny Matthews
16. *Seven Little Rabbits* by John Becker and Barbara Cooney
17. *Stella Luna* by Janell Cannon
18. *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni; also by the author *Frederick, Inch by Inch, A Color of His Own, It's Mine, Theodore and the Talking Mushroom, and An Extraordinary Egg*
19. *Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
20. *The Little Red Hen* by Jerry Pinckney
21. *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens
22. *With Love, Little Red Hen* by Alma Flor Ada

Picture Books: Themes of Friendship

1. *Best Friends for Frances* by Russell Hoban
2. *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes; also by the author *Chester's Way, A Weekend with Wendell, and Sheila Rae, The Brave*
3. *Cork and Fuzx* series by Dori Chaconas
4. *Ernest and Celestine* stories by Gabrielle Vincent

5. **Goldie at the Orphanage* by Martha Sandwell-Bergström; also *Goldie at the Farm*
6. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton
7. *The Rag Coat* by Lauren Mills
8. **Peter ad Lotta Series* by Elsa Beskow
9. *The Quiltmaker's Gift* by Jeff Brumbeau
10. *Roxaboxen* by Barbara Clooney
11. *Ruby the Copy Cat* by Peggy Rathmann
12. **The Scarecrow who Wanted a Hug* by Guido Visconti
13. *Tim and Charlotte* by Edward Ardizzone
14. *Toot and Puddle series* by Holly Hobbie
15. *Wish, Change, Friend* by Ian Whybrow
16. *Yoko's Paper Cranes* by Rosemary Wells; and other "Yoko" stories

Picture Books: Family

1. *Adele & Simon* by Barbara McKlintock; also *Adele and Simon in America*
2. *Beatrice's Goat* by Paige McBrier
3. *Brave Irene* by William Steig
4. *Catch the Goat: A Market Day in Nigeria* by Polly Alakija
5. *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales
6. *Erandi's Braids* by Antonio Madrigal
7. *Hazel's Amazing Mother* by Rosemary Wells
8. *Little Hoot* by Amy Rosenthal (also *Little Oink* and *Little Pea*)
9. *Little Ob* by Laura Krauss Melmed
10. *Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats
11. *Mama's Secret* by Maria Polushkin
12. *The Man Who Kept House* by Kathleen and Michael Hague
13. **Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present* by Charlotte Zolotow; also *Over and Over* and *Williams' Doll*
14. *The Patchwork Quilt* by Valerie Flournoy
15. *There's An Alligator Under my Beard* by Mercer Mayer
16. *A Prairie Boy's Winter* (also a *Prairie Boy's Summer*) by William Kurelek
17. *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant
18. *The Voyage to the Bunny Planet* by Rosemary Wells
19. *Rosalie* by Joan Hewett ers by Steve Jenkins

Picture Books: Celebrating the Seasons

1. *Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow* by Joyce Sidman
2. **Children of the Forest* by Elsa Beskow; also *Around the Year*
3. *A Kitten Tale* by Eric Rohmann

4. *Red Sings from the Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman
5. **On the Farm* by David Elliott
6. *The Oxcart Man* by Donald Hall
7. *The Snow Day* by Komako Sakai
8. **The Story of the Root Children* by Sibylle von Olfers
9. *Welcome to the Ice House* by Jane Yolen
10. *The Year at Maple Hill Farm* by Alice Provensen

Read-Aloud Stories: Early Chapter Books

For Second-Year Kindergarten children; let the First Years dwell in the picture books a bit longer.

1. *Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond (50th Anniversary Edition)
2. *The Gingerbread Rabbit* by Randall Jarrell
3. **Gwinna* by Barbara Helen Berger
4. *I'll Meet you at the Cucumbers* by Lillian Moore
5. *Jamie and Angus Together* by Anne Fine
6. *Tales of Tiptoes Lightly* by Reg Down
7. *Thimbleberry Stories* by Cynthia Rylant
8. *Many Moons* by James Thurber
9. *Old Mother West Wind, (a series of many books)* by Thornton W. Burgess
10. *Sophie's Snail* by Dick King-Smith