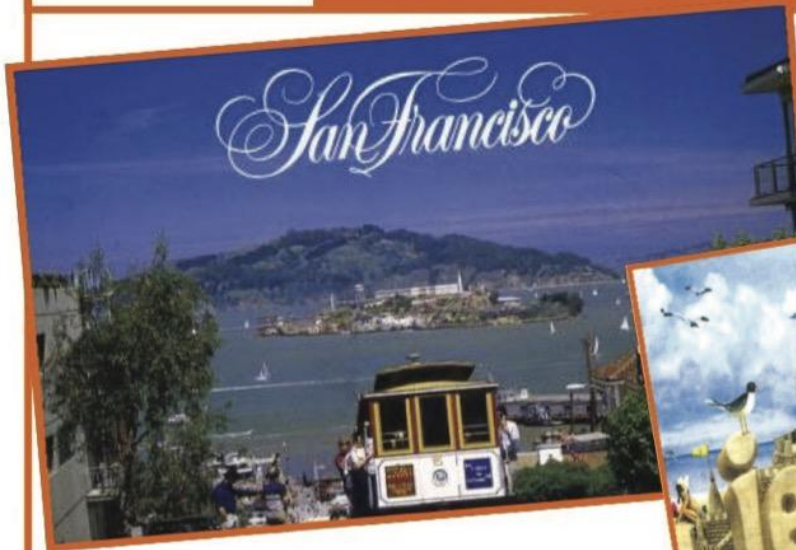


Grades  
K-1

# The Pingry School Lower School Library Summer Reading List 2021



## Postcards to the Library

June 2021

## **A Message to Pingry Families**

**Fostering a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children.**

This has been a challenging school year for our students but they have shown grit and determination to learn and adapt to the unusual circumstances that Covid-19 has created. We hope that our students will enjoy some normal experiences this summer and that includes relaxing and reading with a treasured book.

The Lower School Library Summer Reading Program has been developed to encourage reading and to guide our students with their book choices during the summer. We hope every child will find something on the list to spark their interest in reading. Reading for pleasure helps to build reading skills and instills a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

We recommend that students read a variety of books from the reading list. Many different books and genres, from challenging to easier choices, are listed. While specific book titles are suggested, students may choose any book by the authors listed.

### **The following information and resources can be found in this booklet:**

- **Postcards to the Library Program** - Students send picture postcards to the Library. See directions for participation on the next page.
- **eBooks** - The Library offers hundreds of books online (directions on inside back cover).
- **Reading Log** - Set a reading goal, and record the books read during the summer.
- **Required reading** - Books for rising 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are noted.


Browse the **Lower School Library Website** (see back cover for details) for subscription databases, eBooks, streaming book resources, and related activities.

***Have a Wonderful Summer and Happy Reading!***

Sincerely,

Mrs. D’Innocenzo  
Lower School Librarian

# Send Postcards to the Library

<p>Dear Mrs. D'Innocenzo,</p> <p>I am having fun this summer.</p> <p>I play with my friends during the day, go swimming with my family, and read every night before dinner.</p> <p>I read <u>The One and Only Ivan</u> by Katherine Applegate. It was a great book and I loved it!</p> <p>Your friend, Taylor Jones</p>	 <p>Mrs. D'Innocenzo The Pingry School Library 50 Country Day Drive Short Hills, NJ 07078</p> <hr/>
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## How to Participate in "Postcards to the Library"

- Send picture postcards to the Library at the above address.
- Send one postcard for every book you read.
- Postcards can be sent from anywhere. You do not need to travel!
- Include the book title, author's name, and **your first and last name**.
- Write a short description of what you liked about the book and/or how you are enjoying your summer vacation.
- Each postcard is entered in a drawing to be held the first week of school in September.
- Ten postcards will be chosen at random and prizes will be awarded.
- Postcards will be displayed in the hallway and archived in the library.

**Have a wonderful summer!**

**Happy Reading!**

# The Pingry Lower School Library 2021 Summer Reading List

## Students Entering Kindergarten and Grade 1



### Picture Books

#### **Multi** = Multicultural Books

**All Are Welcome** by Alexandra Penfold. **Multi**

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed. Kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps.

**Apple Pie Fourth of July** by Janet Wong. **Multi**

A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.

**Bad Seed** by Jory John.

The bad seed cuts in line, lies, and never washes his hands and feet. What happens when he changes his mind and decides to be happy? Also read **The Good Egg**.

**Be Kind** by Pat Zietlow Miller.

How can we be kind? Each act, big or small, can make a difference and help a friend.

**Because** by Mo Willems.

*Because...*each separate event connects both creativity and change across generations, as a girl realizes her love of music and begins her own creative journey.

**The Book of Mistakes** by Corinna Luvken.

As an artist crafts her slip ups into her drawing, young readers see how “mistakes” can lead to inspiration, thanks to the determination and creativity of the artist.

**The Book with No Pictures** by B. J. Novak.

You might think a book with no pictures is boring and serious. Except . . . everything on the page has to be read aloud. Even if the words are silly like...BLORK. Or BLUURF.

**Brush of the Gods** by Lenore Look.

During the Tang dynasty, master painter Wu Daozi creates a stunning mural for the emperor.

**Bug Zoo** by Lisa Wheeler.

Ben loves insects, but when he puts some in jars to start a bug zoo, the bugs quickly stop buzzing and after adding a luna moth to the collection, he understands why.

**Carmela Full of Wishes** by Matt de la Peña. **Multi**

Carmela is so happy on her birthday to go to town with her brother that she cannot think of anything else to wish for. When she finds a wishing dandelion, will she make the right choice?

**Charlie & Mouse** by Laurel Snyder.

Brothers Charlie and Mouse enjoy a day out together, collecting rocks and going to an imaginary party. *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award*.

**Chopsticks** by Amy Kroouse Rosenthal. **Multi**

A pair of chopsticks gets separated, but after some traumatic moments the two friends eventually learn to stand on their own.

**Click, Clack, Surprise** by Doreen Cronin.

Little Duck celebrates his first birthday with the other animals on the farm by copying their examples, from shearing off all his feathers to taking a mud bath.

**Creepy Carrots!** by Aaron Reynolds.

Buster the rabbit loves carrots and he cannot resist pulling some to eat each time he passes by, until he begins hearing and seeing creepy carrots wherever he goes. Rabbit fears his favorite treats are out to get him! *Sequel: Creepy Pair of Underwear*.

**The Day the Crayons Quit** by Drew Daywalt.

When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them. *Teachers Choice Award 2014*.

**The Day You Begin** by Jacqueline Woodson. **Multi**

“There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you.” Children feel like outsiders for many different reasons in this story, but as they share their stories, they discover hope and friendship, in voices “stronger than a minute ago.”

**Dog on a Frog** by Kes Gray.

Frog decides he does not want to sit on a log, and he definitely does not want a dog to sit on a frog! So he changes the rules. Now, dogs sit on logs, and cats sit on gnats! But what will frog sit on now? Also read: **Frog on a Log?**

**Drawn Together** by Minh Lê . *APALA Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature* **Multi**

A young boy visits his grandfather but their lack of a common language leads to frustration and silence. But when they sit down to draw together, something magical happens-with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words.

**Duck & Goose Go to the Beach** by Tad Hill.

Duck wants to go on an adventure. Goose doesn't. After all, they're happy right where they are? But then Goose sees the ocean and loves it. Who doesn't? Well, Duck, for one!

**Duck on a Tractor** by David Shannon.

Duck trades his bike for a big, red tractor. As Duck drives around the farm, animal friends climb aboard for a ride. What will happen when he drives through town?

**The Duckling Gets a Cookie (Series)** by Mo Willems.

The Duckling asks for a cookie — and gets one! Do you think the Pigeon is happy about that? He is very angry when the duckling gets a cookie just by asking politely.



**Egg** by Kevin Henkes.

Three little birds crack their way out of eggs and fly away, leaving one egg sitting all alone until the three chicks discover a friendly baby alligator has finally hatched.

**Ella McKeen Kickball Queen** by Beth Mills.

When first-grader Ella, the undisputed kickball queen at school, is bested by new student Riya Patel, she throws a tantrum with her entire class watching.

**Frankencrayon** by Michael Hall.

The crayons are ready to tell the thrilling tale of Frankencrayon. The costumes are made, the roles are cast, the pages are all set—but then disaster strikes. Someone has scribbled on the page! Hideous! Horrifying! The story can't go on!

**Five Forms** by Barbara McClintock. **Multi**

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

**Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story** by Kevin Noble Maillard. **Multi**

Follows a Native American family as they make fry bread and celebrate their culture.

**Guji Guji** by Chih-Yuan Chen **Multi**

Guji Guji, a crocodile hatched and raised by a mother duck, must come up with a plan to save his family from a trio of bad crocodiles.

**Hello Lighthouse** by Sophie Blackall. *Caldecott Medal Winner.*

On the highest rock of a tiny island stands a lighthouse. The lighthouse keeper tends to the light, the logbook, and all his chores, then joined by his wife and baby keep the ships safe.

**In Plain Sight** by Richard Jackson.

Sophie lives with Mama and Daddy and Grandpa, who spends his days by the window. Every day after school, it's Grandpa whom Sophie runs to, to start their favorite game.

**Jabari Jumps** by Gaia Cornwall. **Multi**

The big moment has come for Jabari to jump off the diving board. But is he ready?

**Kite Flying** by Grace Lin **Multi**

A Chinese girl describes how her family comes together to make and fly a dragon kite.

**Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale (Series)** by Mo Willems. *Caldecott Honor Book.*

A trip to the laundromat leads to problems when Trixie, too young to talk, realizes something is missing and tries to explain to her father.

**Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dog (Series)** by David Soman.

Ladybug Girl and her friends help at a dog-adoption fair and discover that even the littlest things can make a big difference.

**Life on Mars** by Jon Agee.

The little astronaut is sure he will find life on Mars — he has even brought a gift of chocolate cupcakes. But he can't find any sign of life on Mars...or can he?

**Lola Gets a Cat** by Anna McQuinn.

More than anything Lola wants a cat, but first she must learn how to care for it. At the library she finds books about cats and pet care and learns as much as she can.

**My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis** by Paul Meisel

Get a bug's-eye-view on the life cycle of the praying mantis, in this hilarious, scientifically accurate Nature Diary following an insect through her whole summer.

**My Friend Maggie** by Kevin Henkes.

Paula and Maggie are best friends until Paula starts playing with some new friends. But when her new playmates turn on her, it's Maggie who rushes to Paula's defense.

**My Name is Yoon** by Helen Recorvits. **Multi**

Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

**My Weird School: Class Pet Mess!** by Dan Gutman. (*I Can Read 2*)

Mr. Cooper's class is getting a pet! But what's the coolest pet to get? Stay tuned...

**Nothing Rhymes with Orange** by Adam Rex.

All the fruits gather together and enjoy a rhyming party, but poor Orange feels left out because he does not rhyme with anything—until Apple invents a new word.

**The Pet Dragon** by Christoph Niemann. **Multi**

The story of a little girl who goes in search of her missing pet dragon.

**Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses** (*Series*) by James Dean.

Pete the Cat wakes up feeling grumpy — nothing seems to be going his way. With the help of magic sunglasses, Pete learns that a good mood has been inside him all along.

**The Pigeon Needs a Bath!** (*Pigeon Series*) by Mo Willems.

The Pigeon really needs a bath! But the Pigeon's not so sure about that. He took a bath last month! It's going to take some convincing to get him to take the plunge.

**The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family** by Ibtihaj Muhammad. **Multi**

Faizah relates how she feels on her sister's first day wearing a hijab to school. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. There are hurtful words but Faizah finds ways to be strong.

**Rosie Revere, Engineer** by Andrea Beaty.

Rosie's a brilliant inventor of gizmos and gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer, but first, she must get over her fears. Also read: **Ada Twist, Scientist**.

**The Rough Patch** by Brian Lies. *Caldecott Honor Book*.

Evan and his dog do everything together — play, read, eat, tend the beautiful garden. When he is suddenly alone, Evan finds no joy in his garden, until a sprout of hope appears.

**Saffron Ice Cream** by Rashin Kheiriyeh. **Multi**

Rashin thinks of beach trips when she lived in Iran, especially the saffron ice cream shared with her friend. But in Brooklyn she finds new "likes"- from ice cream flavors to a new friend.

**Same, Same but Different** by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw **Multi**

Pen pals Elliott and Kailash discover that even though they live in different countries, America and India, they both love to climb trees, own pets, and ride school buses.

**Scaredy Squirrel Goes Camping** (*Series*) by Melanie Watt.

Scaredy Squirrel has never liked the idea of camping, but he begins to feel differently when he takes a hike through the woods looking for an electrical outlet.

**Snail & Worm Again** by Tina Kugler.

Fun and silly stories about friends Snail and Worm, together again in a book for early readers. *Theodor Geisel Honor Award*.

**Strictly No Elephants** by Lisa Mantchev.

It's Pet Club day, and kids are bringing their cats, dogs, and fish — but strictly no elephants allowed. Don't they understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes?

**Sulwe** by Lupita Nyong'o **Multi**

When five-year-old Sulwe's classmates make fun of her dark skin, she tries lightening herself to no avail, but her encounter with a shooting star helps her understand there is beauty in every shade.

**This and That** by Mem Fox.

Two mice set off on an adventure that takes them through caves, on top of giraffes, and over palace walls until they return safely home to the comfort of their beds.

**This Is Not My Hat** by Jon Klassen. *Caldecott Medal Winner*.

The narrator is the thief, a small, self-confident fish who has taken a little blue hat from a big sleeping fish. He wastes no time confessing his crime as he swims across the page announcing, "This hat is not mine. I just stole it." Sequel to **I Want My Hat Back**.

**Tiger vs. Nightmare** by Emily Tetri. *Theodor Geisel Honor Award*.

Every night, Tiger and her friend Monster play until bedtime. While Tiger sleeps, Monster scares away the nightmares. But one night, the nightmare is too scary for Monster to fight it alone, so Tiger and Monster make a plan, and Tiger takes a turn protecting her friend.

**The Very Last Castle** by Travis Jonker. **Multi**

In the middle of the town stood the very last castle. Only one young girl is fearless and curious enough to venture inside. Everyone tells her there is something terrible inside... but she wonders, *Could it be something else?*

**The Wolf, the Duck, & the Mouse** by Mac Barnett.

When a mouse is swallowed by a wolf, he learns that a duck devoured earlier has set up a table to enjoy the food the wolf eats. Life is pretty good, until a hunter shows up!

**We Don't Eat Our Classmates** by Ryan Higgins.

Penelope Rex was determined to have a good first day of school. But sometimes it's hard to remember all the rules, such as "We don't eat our classmates" — even if they are delicious! Walter the goldfish helps the little T Rex learn why we do not munch on our friends.

**Wolfie the Bunny** by Ame Dyckman.

When her parents find a baby wolf on their doorstep and decide to raise him as their own, Dot is certain he will eat them all up until a surprising encounter with a bear brings them closer together.

**The Word Collector** by Peter Reynolds.

Jerome collects words — short and sweet, or two-syllable treats, or multi-syllable words that sound like little songs. Marvelous words — "aromatic" and "effervescent" — and powerful words — "I understand" and "You matter." Best of all, his words can be shared.





## CONCEPT BOOKS

**7 Ate 9: The Untold Story** by Tara Lazar.

6 has a problem. Everyone knows that 7 is always after him. Word on the street is that 7 ate 9. If that's true, 6's days are numbered. Lucky for him, Private I is on the case.

**An Animal Alphabet** by Elisha Cooper.

Discover hundreds of animals, big and small, and learn one wild fact about each. For each letter of the alphabet, one animal is pictured eight times. Why 8? Look inside and find out.

**The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse** by Eric Carle.

The artist in this book paints the world as seen through the imaginative eyes of a child. There's a red crocodile, an orange elephant, a purple fox and a polka-dotted donkey.

**Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3** by Bill Martin.

Numbers from one to one hundred climb to the top of an apple tree in this rhyming chant.

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** by Bill Martin.

An alphabet rhyme/chant relates what happens when the alphabet tries to climb a tree.

**Click, Clack, Splish, Splash: A Counting Adventure** by Doreen Cronin.

While Farmer Brown sleeps, some of the animals go on a fishing expedition.

**Click, Clack, Quackity-Quack: An Alphabet Adventure** by Doreen Cronin.

Animals, including cows and ducks, gather for a picnic, spelling the alphabet along the way.

**Circle, Square, Moose** by Kelly Bingham.

When Zebra and his friend Moose are asked to exit a book about shapes, Moose has other plans. Zebra has to restore order and save the day.

**A Color of His Own** by Leo Lionni.

A chameleon, upset that he does not have a color of his own, is comforted to meet another chameleon who offers to stick around so the two of them will always be the same.

**Color Zoo** by Lois Ehlert.

Introduces colors and shapes with illustrations of die-cut shapes that form animal faces when placed on top of one another.

**The Crayon Counting Book** by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Many-colored crayons group, stack, and rearrange themselves to learn counting by twos for the even numbers, then switching around to learn the odd numbers. A fun and cheerful way to practice counting!

**Each Orange Had 8 Slices: A Counting Book** by Paul Giganti, Jr.

Bright, colorful illustrations by Donald Crews help children practice counting, grouping, and early math concepts, with familiar sights and activities.

**Green** by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. *Caldecott Honor Book*

How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea.

**Hey, Water** by Antoinette Portis.

A young girl explores her surroundings and sees water everywhere. But water doesn't always look the same, it doesn't always feel the same, and it shows up in many different shapes.

**If the S in Moose Comes Loose** by Peter Herman.

When the S in MOOSE comes loose, Cow must find the missing letters and glue MOOSE back together! Perfect for fans of Michael Hall and Sandra Boynton.

**It's an Orange Aardvark** by Michael Hall.

A carpenter ant puts on his hard hat and drills a hole in the tree stump to see what fearsome creature waits out there. The ants learn their colors as they peek outside.

**Math Fables: Lessons That Count** by Greg Tang.

Colorful pictures of happy animal groups help children practice counting and math literacy skills. Also read: **Math Fables Too** for counting and science lessons.

**Once Upon an Alphabet** by Oliver Jeffers.

Each letter of the alphabet gets its own little story in this picture book that is much more than a simple set of ABCs. *Best Children's Books 2014*.

**A Parade of Elephants** by Kevin Henkes.

Get ready for the parade of elephants — big and round, up and down, happily showing counting skills and simple verbal concepts for children. Hooray for elephants!

**Perfect Square** by Michael Hall.

A perfect square that is perfectly happy is torn into pieces, punched with holes, and crumpled, but finds that with each change it can be something new and happy.

**Planting a Rainbow** by Lois Ehlert.

A mother and child plant flowers of each color of the rainbow in their garden, helping the child to understand how to plant bulbs and seeds, and nurture their growth.

**Say Zoop** by Herve Tullet.

Make some noise! Shout "OH!" Whisper "oh!" Say "Zoop"? Yes! "Zoop! Zoop! Zoop!" This companion book adds sound to the dots with bursts of color and moving shapes. The dots magically change. Also interact with **Press Here**, **Mix it Up**, and **Let's Play**.

**Square** by Mac Barnett.

This book is about Square and his friend Circle. Square is trying to make something perfect like Circle is, but it is hard to make something perfect. Sequel to **Triangle**



## SERIES FICTION

*\* CHOOSE any BOOK in the SERIES \**

**Amelia Bedelia I Can Read Series** by Herman Parish.

When Amelia Bedelia makes a sponge cake, she puts in real sponges. When she weeds the garden, she replants the weeds. And when she pitches a tent, she throws it into the woods!

**Judy Moody & Friends Series** by Megan McDonald.

Explore more of the genuine-and-for-real world of Judy Moody as beloved characters from the original series enjoy their own escapades in awesomeness.

**An Andy and Sandy Book Series (Easy Reader Series)** by Tomie dePaola.

Andy is small. Sandy is tall. Andy is quiet. Sandy is LOUD. But when these two seemingly opposites met on a playground one day, it was just the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

**Bad Kitty Series** by Nick Bruel.

Bad Kitty is bad. But she doesn't mean to be. Whether she is trying to be a good kitty and eat her vegetables or be a quiet kitty and behave at a party, it seems trouble always finds her.

**Bink and Gollie Series** by Kate DiCamillo.

Whether exploring the state fair, attempting to set a world record, or relaxing with some pancakes and peanut butter, Bink and Gollie are witty, imaginative, and adventurous.

**Biscuit Series** by Alyssa Satin Capucilli.

Explore the world with this curious pup! These simple, playful stories are just right for newly independent readers.

**The Critter Club Series** by Callie Barkley.

In Santa Vista, California, four eight-year-old friends help found and maintain The Critter Club, a rescue shelter set on saving "lost and lonely" animals, in this sweet and silly series.

**Mo Jackson Series** by David Adler.

Mo Jackson is a little boy with a big passion for sports. He may not be the biggest, the strongest, or the fastest player, but he won't let that stop him from playing!

**Elephant & Piggie Series** by Mo Willems.

Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Piggie cannot help smiling. Gerald can. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends.

**Flat Stanley Worldwide Adventures Series** by Jeff Brown.

Since Stanley was flattened by a bulletin board, he is taking over the world, 1 city at a time!

**Fly Guy Series** by Tedd Arnold.

Are you ready for a fun, zany story? Buzz and Fly Guy will bring the antics to your day.

**Fox the Tiger Series** by Corey Tabor.

Fox is a fun-loving and mischievous character in this charming and hilarious series of friendship, adventure—and snacks.

**Galaxy Jack Series** by Ray O’Ryan.

Planet hop with Zack on his galactic adventures as he makes new friends, explores a newly discovered planet, befriends a space monster, and much more.

**Heidi Heckelbeck Series** by Wanda Coven.

Join Heidi and her friends on their charming adventures as they deal with everyday childhood challenges...with a bit of help from Heidi’s magical *Book of Spells*.

**A Crabby Book Series** by Jonathan Fenske.

Crabby is not a happy crab, in fact Crabby is quite crabby.

**Henry and Mudge Series** by Cynthia Rylant.

Henry and Mudge do everything together. When Mudge gets scared, Henry stays by his side. When Henry gets scared, Mudge licks him! That’s what friends are for!

**Horrible Harry Series** by Suzy Kline.

For Horrible Harry, Song Lee, and the rest of their friends in Room 3B every day at school is a chance for fun, mystery, and adventure. And Harry is always at the center of it all!

**It’s Shoe Time! (*Elephant & Piggie Like Reading Series*)** by Mo Willems.

Elephant and Piggie read a book about a girl deciding what shoes to wear for a “Daddy-and-Me Day!” She picks a boot and a flip-flop but her choice is okay when they see that her father is wearing two different shoes, too!

**Katie Woo Series** by Fran Manushkin. **Multi**

Katie and her friends deal with hurt feelings and lost animals and navigating the ever-changing social situations at school.

**Kingdom of Wrenly Series** by Jordan Quinn.

Journey to the magical Kingdom of Wrenly and join Prince Lucas and his best friend Clara on plenty of adventures with this fantastical illustrated chapter book series!

**King & Kayla Series** by Dori Hillestad Butler. **Multi**

King, a lovable dog, helps Kayla, his human girl, solve mysteries.

**Ling & Ting Series** by Grace Lin. **Multi**

Ling and Ting are Chinese-American identical twins. They may look alike, but they are not exactly the same. These girls are fun, sweet, and silly.

**Mercy Watson Series** by Kate DiCamillo.

Pig hero. Porcine wonder. Fan of toast with a great deal of butter on it. Mercy Watson’s disarming personality and hilarious hijinks are captivating

**Narwhal and Jelly Series** by Ben Clanton.

Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do love waffles, parties and adventures.

**Nate the Great Series** by Marjorie Sharmat.

Nate takes on the most pressing mysteries in his neighborhood. From finding a lost cat on Halloween, to a missing cookie recipe, no mystery is too big or too small for Nate and Sludge.

**Noodleheads Series** by Tedd Arnold.

Twin brothers Mac and Mac are Noodleheads—nothing upstairs!—but kids can use their own noodles to see where the brothers' ideas go wrong.

**Pedro Series** by Fran Manushkin. **Multi**

Join Pedro and his friends as he enjoys adventures at school, on the soccer field, and at home with his sometimes pesky, younger brother Paco!

**Pete the Cat Series** by James Dean.

Pete the cat has fun learning while moving, grooving, and singing and invites readers to join!

**The Princess in Black Series** by Shannon Hale.

Who says princesses don't wear black? Not Princess Magnolia, whose monster-fighting alter ego saves the kingdom from monsters again and again.

**Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot Series** by Dav Pilkey.

Ricky Ricotta, a small mouse, is bullied at school, but when he rescues a powerful robot from its evil creator, he acquires a friend and protector — and saves the city.

**Sadiq Series** by Siman Nuurali **Multi**

Sadiq lives in a middle class neighborhood in Minnesota with his family, which is Somali, though Sadiq has only been to Africa twice himself. Sadiq faces relatable problems and includes aspects of Somali culture.

**Sophia Martinez Series** by Jacqueline Jules.

Growing up in a big family, 7-year-old Sofia Martinez is used to fighting for attention. Her outgoing personality, mixed with her confidence and fiery passion gets her that attention—even if it's sometimes mixed with trouble.

**Violet Mackerel Series** by Anna Branford.

Violet was named after the flower but she is partial to fuchsias. Violet's mother is learning French, her father is absent, and her brother and sister have all the requisite problems and delights that older siblings bring.

**We Are Growing (Elephant & Piggie Like Reading Series)** by Mo Willems.

Walt and his friends are growing up fast! Everyone is the something-est. But what about Walt? He is not the tallest, or the curliest, or the silliest. As a BIG surprise inches closer, Walt discovers something special of his own!

**Yasmin Series** by Saadia Faruqi. **Multi**

Yasmin is a spirited second-grader who's always on the lookout for those "aha" moments to help her solve life's little problems. Taking inspiration from her surroundings and her big imagination, she boldly faces any situation—assuming her imagination doesn't get too big!

**Young Cam Jansen Series** by David Adler.

Cam Jansen can find a mystery everywhere she goes. With her amazing memory can Cam Jansen put the clues together to solve the mystery?



## ***Share a book with your child!***

*Children benefit from listening to stories even if they are reading on their own. It helps to develop their vocabulary and they get to explore new worlds with you!*

**Independent readers looking for more challenging books  
can enjoy them on their own.**

**The Chocolate Touch** by Patrick Catling.

A boy gets a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

**Flat Stanley Worldwide Adventures Series** by Josh Greenhut.

Ever since Stanley was flattened by a bulletin board, he has the ability to travel by mail. Now, he's off on a global tour with geography-themed adventures to different countries.

**Lulu and the Dog from the Sea (Series)** by Hilary McKay.

Seven-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach. Read the series.

**Magic Tree House Series** by Mary Pope Osborne.

The Magic Tree House books are perfect to read aloud. With a blend of time-travel magic, adventure, history, science, and danger... there is something for everyone!

**Mr. Popper's Penguins** by Richard and Florence Atwater. *Newbery Honor Book*.

Mr. Popper starts out with one penguin in his house, but soon, there are twelve!

**My Father's Dragon** by Ruth Stiles Gannett.

A boy is determined to rescue a baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river. Also read **Elmer and the Dragon** and **The Dragons of Blueland**.

**My Life in Pictures (Bea Garcia Series)** by Deborah Zemke.

When budding artist Bea Garcia's best friend moves to Australia and a loud, rambunctious boy moves into her old house, Bea must learn to make new friends. Readers who like doodling will relate to the way Bea creates art everywhere she goes.

**Ranger in Time Series** by Kate Messner.

Ranger, a golden retriever, has been trained as a search-and-rescue dog, but can't pass the test because he always gets distracted by squirrels. He finds a mysterious first aid kit in the garden and is transported to different time periods in each book to save the day.





## Nonfiction

*Visit your local public library to explore more nonfiction!*

**Can an Aardvark Bark?** by Melissa Stewart.

Can an aardvark bark? No, but it can grunt. Barks, grunts, squeals — animals make all kinds of sounds to communicate and express themselves.

**Day and Night** by Shira Evans.

What causes day and night? What happens to plants and animals during these different times? These questions are answered in this simple and interactive book intended for beginning readers to enjoy with an adult. Read any title in the series: Level 1-3.

**Don't Let Them Disappear: 12 Endangered Species Across the Globe** by Chelsea Clinton. Young animal lovers learn about 12 species, what makes them special, what threatens their survival, and how we can help.

**Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World** by Steve Jenkins.

A look at many different animals' eyes and their fascinating uses. *Best Children's Books.*

**Fact vs. Opinions vs. Robots** by Michael Rex.

A group of robots teach kids about the differences between facts and opinions. Most importantly, it explains the importance of respecting the opinions of others.

**Fly Guy Presents: Castles (Series)** by Tedd Arnold.

It's time for a field trip! Fly Guy and Buzz are going to learn all about castles: from drawbridges and dungeons, to knights and jesters! Read the series: Dinosaurs, Firefighters, Insects, Sharks, Snakes, Space, and The White House. Fun Facts!

**Gravity** by Jason Chin.

What keeps objects from floating? What if your feet drifted away from the ground? What stops everything from floating into space? What would happen without gravity?

**I Am Human: A Book of Empathy** by Susan Verde.

When we are human...we make mistakes, we learn to make good choices, we can be kind, we can say, "I'm sorry." A book of compassion and empowerment.

**Jet Plane: How It Works (How It Works Series)** by David Macaulay.

Facts about how a jet plane works and what makes it fly. From the engine and wings to the cockpit controls and passenger cabin, see what makes them stay in the air.

**Let's Read-and-Find-Out: How Deep Is the Ocean? (Series).**

The ocean covers almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Earth, but how deep does it go? Put on your scuba gear and explore the ocean, from its shallowest waters to its deepest, most mysterious parts.

**Magic School Bus: Ocean Adventure (Series)** by Mary Kay Carson.

This is a great introduction to the Magic School Bus for early readers. Ms. Frizzle's class will teach you everything you ever wanted to know about the deep sea.

**My First Coding Book** by Kiki Prottsman.

Playful, hands-on introduction to offline coding and programming. Filled with puzzles, mazes, and games to teach the basic concepts of sequences, algorithms, and debugging, this book will help develop critical thinking, logic, and other skills.

**National Geographic Kids Chapter Series.**

True stories packed with humorous tales and weird-but-true facts for young animal lovers who are ready for short chapters and true stories.

**Say Something** by Peter Reynolds.

Do you have an idea? Say something. Do you see an injustice? Say something. The world needs to hear everyone's voice, and there are many ways to make your voice heard.

**This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World** by Matt Lamothe. One day in the lives of 7 kids around the world- Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia. **Multi**

**Things That Float and Things That Don't** by David Adler.

It can be surprising which objects float and which don't. An apple floats, but a ball of aluminum foil does not. But if that same ball of foil is shaped into a boat, it floats! Why?

**What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet** by Jess French.

Where does our trash go? Did you know there's a mass of garbage twice as big as Texas floating in the Pacific Ocean? Readers learn what we all can do to help the environment.

**What Can a Citizen Do?** by Dave Eggers.

What in the world can a citizen do? Even very young citizens can help a neighbor, join a cause, plant a tree, help right a wrong — because being a citizen is what you do.

**What Do You Do With a Chance?** by Kobi Yamada.

What do you do with a chance that might seem too big or just out of reach? With a little bravery and a "yes" to new experiences, a child can make a new friend, enjoy an exciting opportunity, and make a daring discovery. Also read **What Do You Do With an Idea?** and **What Do You Do With a Problem?** for inspiration to tackle new opportunities.

**When You Are Brave** by Pat Zietlow Miller.

When a girl looks inside herself and finds her courage, she remembers the times she has been brave before, and realizes she can be brave and optimistic again.

**Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game** by Steve Jenkins.

Readers are given clues about an animal's characteristics and must use them to guess the identity of the creatures revealed when they turn the page.

**Read any titles in the "Step into Reading" Series and "I Can Read" Series.**



## Picture Book Biographies

**Becoming Bach** by Tom Leonard.

The story of Johann Sebastian Bach and his family of musicians (“*bachs*” in German.) He always wanted to be a *bach* and became one of the most important composers in history.

**Before She Was Harriet** by Lesa Cline-Ransome. *Coretta Scott King Honor Book*.

Harriet Tubman was called by many names. As General Tubman she was a Union spy. As Moses she led people to freedom. As Minty she was a slave whose spirit could not be broken.

**Dreamers** by Yuyi Morales *Pura Belpre Award*. **Multi**

She dreamed of her baby, and he appeared, full of “resplendent life.” She dreamed of a new life, and discovered a new land and a surprising place to read her dreams into reality.

**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race** by Margot

Shetterly. **Multi** Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were good at math...really good! These four African American women mathematicians helped NASA put the first astronauts in space.

**Look Up with Me: Neil deGrasse Tyson A Life Among the Stars** by Jennifer Berne,

**Multi** Dr. Tyson’s interest in astrophysics began when he was a boy saving money for a telescope so he could explore the cosmos. He grew up to become a renowned astrophysicist who encourages everyone to follow their sense of wonder and “look up.”

**Malala’s Magic Pencil** by Malala Yousafzai. **Multi**

As a child in Pakistan, Malala wished for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy. But as she grew older, she saw more important things to wish for and fix in the world.

**Margaret and the Moon** by Dean Robbins. **Multi**

Margaret Hamilton loved numbers as a young girl. She loved algebra, geometry and calculus and using math to solve problems. A true story of one of the women of NASA.

**Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace** by Jen Cullerton Johnson. **Multi**

A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman and first environmentalist to win a Nobel Peace Prize for her work planting trees in Kenya.

**Yayoi Kusama: From Here to Infinity** by Sarah Suzuki. **Multi**

Yayoi dreamed of becoming an artist when she was growing up in Japan, imagining the world around her as clusters and arrays of dots. “Polka dots are a way to infinity,” says the now-famous artist who shows her work all over the world.



## Poetry

**Beastly Verse** by Joohee Yoon.

Sixteen animal verses transport the reader into a world of tigers, hummingbirds, owls, elephants, pelicans, yaks, snails, and telephones through verse, rhyme, and images.

**Blue Sky White Stars** by Sarvinder Naberhaus.

Each page spread features descriptive phrases paired with illustrations that depict all types of Americans who enjoy the freedoms that the flag represents.

**Bookjoy, Wordjoy** by Pat Mora. **Multi**

Reading favorite books in the library, celebrating holidays, writing poems, singing a duet — words and books can bring us joy and inspire creative wordplay.

**Cat Talk** by Patricia MacLachlan.

In this collection of children's poems, different cats describe themselves and their opinions about other animals and their human friends. Great read-aloud.

**Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs** by Carol Murray.

Poetry about cool insects with surprising facts about bugs of all kinds.

**Friends and Foes: Poems About Us All** by Douglas Florian.

There are all kinds of friends, and poet Douglas Florian offers an honest, touching, and humorous collection of poems about relationships, both good and bad, happy and silly.

**Imagine** by Juan Felipe Herrera. **Multi**

If a young boy finds a new home far away, learns a new language and uses it to create poems, stories, and songs, and becomes a renowned poet...*imagine what you could do.*

**My Dog May Be a Genius** by Jack Prelutsky.

Poems that will have tongues twisting, imaginations soaring, and sides aching with laughter.

**Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together** by Mary Ann Hoberman.

Short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices designed especially for children and adults to read together. **You Read to Me, I'll Read to You** series.



## Fairy Tales and Folktales

**After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again** by Dan Santat.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall and Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened after falling off the wall? He is afraid of climbing up again, but won't let fear stop him.

**The Boy Who Cried Wolf** by B. G. Hennessy.

A boy tending sheep on a mountainside thinks it a fine joke to cry "wolf" and watch the people come running — until one day a wolf is really there, but no one answers his call.

**Cendrillon** by Robert D. San Souci. **Multi**

A Creole variant of the familiar Cinderella tale set in the Caribbean and narrated by the godmother who helps Cendrillon find true love.

**The Gingerbread Man** by Jim Aylesworth.

A freshly baked gingerbread man escapes when he is taken out of the oven and eludes a number of pursuers, until he meets a clever fox.

**Leola and the Honeybears** by Melodye Benson Rosales. **Multi**

A classic fairy tale with an African American twist about a headstrong little girl, a deep, dark forest, and three honeybears. Do you know this fairy tale?

**Monkey: A Trickster Tale from India** by Gerald McDermott. **Multi**

Monkey is hungry for the mangoes on the island in the river, but he can't swim! Crocodile wants to feast on Monkey and Monkey must outsmart him.

**Rumpelstiltskin** by Paul Zelinsky.

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child.

**The Three Pigs** by David Wiesner. *Caldecott Medal Winner.*

The three pigs escape the wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon.

**Three Billy Goats Gruff** by Jerry Pinkney.

Three billy goats must outwit the big, ugly troll that lives under the bridge they have to cross on their way up the mountain.

**Tikki Tikki Tembo** by Arlene Mosel. **Multi**

When the eldest son fell in the well and most of the time getting help was spent pronouncing the name of the one in trouble, the Chinese decided to give all their children short names.

**The Ugly Duckling** by Jerry Pinkney.

Hans Christian Andersen tale retold. A duckling spends an unhappy year ostracized by the other animals before he grows into a beautiful swan.

# ***The Pingry Lower School***

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