Summer is an opportunity for students of all ages to enjoy reading in a relaxed and leisurely setting. Summer reading is a vital way for students to keep their skills sharp for the upcoming school year. Maret recommends that students spend at least 20 minutes reading each day during the summer. Students should select books and other reading materials that interest and challenge them, and families should consider ways that they can read together or make discussing books a part of their lives over the summer months. We recognize that there is a range of readers at each grade level. If books on this list do not match your child’s reading ability, you may choose to read them aloud to your child.

**Starred** titles **ARE** available for checkout online from Maret as e-books or audiobooks through **Sora**. Use your student’s Maret email address and password to log in.

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**Dinosaur Lady: The Daring Discoveries of Mary Anning, the First Paleontologist by Linda Skeers**

Mary Anning loved scouring the beach near her home in England for shells and fossils. She fearlessly climbed over crumbling cliffs and rocky peaks, searching for new specimens. One day, something caught Mary’s eye.

Bones. Dinosaur Bones.

Mary’s discoveries rocked the world of science and helped create a brand-new field of study: paleontology. But many people believed women couldn’t be scientists, so Mary wasn’t given the credit she deserved. Nevertheless, Mary kept looking and learning more, making discoveries that reshaped scientific beliefs about the natural world.

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**Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl’s Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle**

Girls cannot be drummers. Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream—bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.

Inspired by the childhood of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba’s traditional taboo against female drummers, Drum Dream Girl tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere.
Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed*
When Little Mae was a child, she dreamed of dancing in space. She imagined herself surrounded by billions of stars, floating, gliding, and discovering.

She wanted to be an astronaut.

Her mom told her, "If you believe it, and work hard for it, anything is possible."

Little Mae’s curiosity, intelligence, and determination, matched with her parents’ encouraging words, paved the way for her incredible success at NASA as the first African American woman to travel in space.

Magic Ramen The Story of Momofuku Ando by Andrea Wang
Every day, Momofuku Ando would retire to his lab—a little shed in his backyard. For years, he'd dreamed about making a new kind of ramen noodle soup that was quick, convenient, and tasty for the hungry people he'd seen in line for a bowl on the black market following World War II. Peace follows from a full stomach, he believed.

Day after day, Ando experimented. Night after night, he failed. But Ando kept experimenting.

With persistence, creativity, and a little inspiration, Ando succeeded. This is the true story behind one of the world's most popular foods.

Stay Curious! by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer*
As a young boy, Stephen Hawking loved to read, stargaze, and figure out how things worked. He looked at the world and always asked, Why?

He never lost that curiosity, which led him to make groundbreaking discoveries about the universe as a young man. Even being diagnosed with ALS didn't slow Stephen down. Those questions kept coming. As his body weakened, Stephen's mind expanded—allowing him to unlock secrets of the universe and become one of the most famous scientists of all time.

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson, Peter Parnell*
At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.
**Bird Builds a Nest: A First Science Storybook** by Martin Jenkins

It's time for Bird to build her nest! Follow her as she pulls a worm out of the ground, lifts some twigs that are just the right size, and pushes the twigs into place. Uh-oh! One of the twigs falls to the ground! But after a day of hard work, Bird's nest is ready and waiting. Can you guess what it's waiting for?

**In the Past: From Trilobites to Dinosaurs to Mammoths in More Than 500 Million Years** by David Elliot

Care to meet a dunkleosteus? An apatosaurus? How about the dragonflyesque meganaura? In a collection that's organized chronologically by epoch and is sure to intrigue everyone from armchair dino enthusiasts to budding paleontologists, David Elliott and Matthew Trueman illuminate some of the most fascinating creatures ever to evolve on the earth. Combining poems both enlightening and artful with illustrations perfect for poring over, this volume ensures fascinating trips back to a time as enthralling and variable as any in our planet's evolutionary history.

**Let Freedom Sing** by Vanessa Newton

Using music to discuss the civil rights movement with little ones makes "Let Freedom Sing" one of our top picks on our list of best history books for kids. Its stories highlight historical figures from the African American community, including Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges and Martin Luther King Jr. Their tales of influence are interwoven with a variety of songs and rousing hymns like "This Little Light of Mine."

**Pizza!: A Slice of History** by Greg Pizzoli*

Do YOU like PIZZA? Because right now, somewhere in the world, someone is eating it. Did you know that in the United States we eat 350 slices of pizza every second? Or that in Sweden they serve pizza with bananas and peanuts? All over the world, people love pizza—but where did it come from? And who made the first pizza?
The Big Bath House by Kyo Maclear*

You’ll walk down the street / Your auntsies sounding like clip-clopping horses / geta - geta - geta / in their wooden sandals / Until you arrive… / At the bath house / The big bath house.

In this celebration of Japanese culture and family and naked bodies of all shapes and sizes, join a little girl —along with her auntsies and grandmother —at a traditional bath house. Once there, the rituals leading up to the baths begin: hair washing, back scrubbing, and, finally, the wood barrel drumroll. Until, at last, it’s time, and they ease their bodies—their creased bodies, newly sprouting bodies, saggy, jiggly bodies—into the bath. Ahhhhhhh!

The Capybaras by Alfredo Soderguit*

Hens and their chicks are living safe and secure in their coop, or at least it seems that way. They are happy with life as it is, and each hen knows her job. They don’t even seem to notice when one of them is carried off from time to time.

Until the day the capybaras appear. To the hens, they are too hairy, too wet, and too big. They don’t even follow the rules! But it’s hunting season, and the capybaras need refuge.

As time passes and days change, minds begin to open and new possibilities appear. Can the hens accept the capybaras after all?

Drawn Together by Minh Le*

When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as 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.

Grandma’s Records by Eric Velasquez*

Every summer, Eric goes to live with his grandmother in El Barrio (Spanish Harlem) while his parents work. Through the long hot days, Grandma fills her apartment with the blaring horns and conga drums of Bomba y Plena, salsa, and merengue—the music she grew up with in Puerto Rico—sharing her memories and passions with Eric.

But Eric sees Grandma in a new light when she gets them tickets to hear their favorite band in concert. The music sounds so different than it does at home on their scratchy records. And then the lead singer serenades Grandma right in front of the whole audience!
**I Just Ate My Friend** by Heidi McKinnon*
A little creature is looking for a new friend, but he’s not having any luck.

*Why* is he looking for a new friend?
Because he ate his old one.

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**I Need a Hug** by Aaron Blabey*
In *I Need a Hug* a tiny porcupine just wants a cuddle. All of the other animals turn him away because of his prickly spikes. But finally the porcupine meets an animal who’s happy to hug—a snake! Rich with author-illustrator Aaron Blabey’s signature rhyming text and unforgettable splendid illustrations, *I Need a Hug* is a sweet story about friendship and learning not to judge a book by its cover.

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**Laxmi’s Mooch** by Shelly Anand*
Laxmi never paid much attention to the tiny hairs above her lip. But one day while playing farm animals at recess, her friends point out that her whiskers would make her the perfect cat. She starts to notice body hair all over—on her arms, legs, and even between her eyebrows.

With her parents’ help, Laxmi learns that hair isn’t just for heads, but that it grows everywhere, regardless of gender.

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**The Midnight Fair** by Gideon Sterer
Far from the city, but not quite the countryside, lies a fairground. When night comes and the fair is empty, something unexpected happens. Wild animals emerge from the forest, a brave raccoon pulls a lever, and the roller coasters and rides explode back into bright, neon life. It’s time for the woodland creatures to head to the fair!

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**Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Peña*
Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. There's the whiskered man with the crossword puzzle; Milo imagines him playing solitaire in a cluttered apartment full of pets. There’s the wedding-dressed woman with a little dog peeking out of her handbag; Milo imagines her in a grand cathedral ceremony. And then there’s the boy in the suit with the bright white sneakers; Milo imagines him arriving home to a castle with a drawbridge and a butler. But when the boy in the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can’t really know anyone just by looking at them.
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<td><em>Magic Candies</em> by Heena Baek</td>
<td>Tong Tong could never have imagined what everyone around him was thinking. But when he gets hold of some magic candies, suddenly there are voices everywhere. He can hear how his couch feels, what upsets his dog, that his demanding dad loves him. He even gets to catch up with his dead grandmother. It turns out, these voices in Tong Tong's life have A LOT to say! Is Tong Tong ready to hear it?</td>
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<td><em>The Old Boat</em> by Jarrett Pumphrey*</td>
<td>Off a small island, a boy and his grandmother set sail in their beloved fishing boat. They ride the waves, dreaming, catching fish, and seeing the wonders of the ocean. But soon the boy is sailing the boat himself, venturing further from shore as the waters grow dirty and polluted. When a storm washes him ashore and wrecks the old boat, he sees home in a new light. He decides to turn the tides of his fortune, cleaning the island’s waters and creating a new life with a family to call his own. With an eye-catching design and masterfully detailed illustrations, The Old Boat is an exquisite story about caring for the places we call home.</td>
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<td><em>On Account of the Gum</em> by Adam Rex*</td>
<td>So, you got bubblegum in your hair—and before you know it, a pair of scissors, some butter, your rabbit, and the cat are also stuck up there. And to make matters worse, it's picture day! With each turn of the page in On Account of the Gum, the situation gets stickier, sillier, and more desperate. Kids will love this all-too-familiar story, told in verse and propelled by charming illustrations, about one family's best efforts to get the gum unstuck —by any means necessary.</td>
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<td><em>Outside In</em> by Deborah Underwood*</td>
<td>Outside In reminds emerging readers of the ways nature creates and touches our lives in homes, apartments, and cars, and is the perfect homeschooling tool to reflect on the world's connectedness. Outside is waiting, the most patient playmate of all. The most generous friend. The most miraculous inventor. This thought-provoking picture book poetically underscores our powerful and enduring connection with nature, not so easily obscured by lives spent indoors.</td>
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**Over the Shop by JonArno Lawson**

A lonely little girl and her grandparent need to fill the rundown apartment in their building. But taking over the quarters above their store will mean major renovations for the new occupants, and none of the potential renters can envision the possibilities of the space—until one special couple shows up. With their ingenuity, the little girl’s big heart, and heaps of hard work, the desperate fixer-upper begins to change in lovely and surprising ways.

In this bustling wordless picture book, JonArno Lawson’s touching story and Qin Leng’s gentle illustrations capture all angles of the building’s transformation, as well as the evolving perspectives of the girl and her grandparent. A warm and subtly nuanced tale, *Over the Shop* throws open the doors to what it means to accept people for who they are and to fill your home with love and joy.

**The Patchwork Bike by Maxine Beneba Clarke*  

When you live in a village at the edge of the no-go desert, you need to make your own fun. That’s when you and your brothers get inventive and build a bike from scratch, using everyday items like an old milk pot (maybe Mum is still using it, maybe not) and a used flour sack. You can even make a license plate from bark if you want. The end result is a spectacular bike, perfect for whooping and laughing as you bumpetty bump over sand hills, past your fed-up mum and right through your mud-for-walls home.

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

When the three billy goats Gruff are hungry, they see bountiful grass to eat across an old bridge. But the bridge is home to a terrible troll, who is peckish himself, and looking for a tasty morsel to gobble up. In his interpretation of the timeless tale, Jerry Pinkney shows there’s little good to come from greed—but in the end, redemption for even the most trollish bully is possible. A dramatic gatefold heightens the climax of this brilliant rendition.

**When My Cousins Come to Town by Angela Shanté*  

Fitting in can be hard, but standing out isn’t easy either! Every summer a young girl eagerly waits for her cousins to come visit and celebrate her birthday. All her cousins are unique in their own ways and have earned cool nicknames for themselves—except for the girl. But this year things are going to be different. This year before summer ends, she’s determined to earn her own nickname!
Wonder Walkers by Micha Archer*

When two curious kids embark on a “wonder walk,” they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: *Is the sun the world’s light bulb? Is dirt the world’s skin? Are rivers the earth’s veins? Is the wind the world breathing?* I wonder... Young readers will wonder too, as they ponder these gorgeous pages and make all kinds of new connections. What a wonderful world indeed!