

Princeton Public Schools - Summer Reading Recommendations 2024

Pre-Kindergarten-Kindergarten

The Princeton Public School librarians created these lists of books popular with PreK and Kindergarten children. In addition to the following lists, we highly recommend sharing a variety of alphabet books, counting books and rhyming books with your child.

Some popular books to read with PreK and Kindergarten children:

[*A Ball for Daisy*](#) by Chris Raschka
[*Bee-bim-Bop!*](#) By Linda Sue Park
[*A Big Mooncake for Little Star*](#) by Grace Lin
[*The Camping Trip*](#) by Jennifer K. Mann
[*City Shapes*](#) by Diana Murray
[*Fabulous Frogs*](#) by Martin Jenkins
[*Fry Bread*](#) by Kevin Noble-Maillard
[*Gracias Thanks*](#) by Pat Mora
[*Hot Dog*](#) by Doug Salati
[*I Did It!*](#) by Michael Emberley
[*Jabari Jumps*](#) by Gaia Cornwall
[*Julián Is a Mermaid*](#) (series) by Jessica Love
[*Lift*](#) by Minh Lê
[*Lion, Lion*](#) by Miriam Busch
[*The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's \(the Hard Way\)*](#) by P. McDonnell
[*Maybe Something Beautiful*](#) by F. Isabel Campoy
[*Me & Mama*](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera
[*Mel Fell*](#) by Corey R. Tabor
[*Peanut Butter's Tasty Opposites*](#) by Terry Border
[*Pete the Cat*](#) (series) by Eric Litwin and James Dean
[*Press Here*](#) by Hervé Tullet
[*The Proudest Blue*](#) by Ibtihaj Muhammad
[*There's a Bear on My Chair*](#) by Ross Collins
[*You Hold Me Up*](#) by Monique Gray Smith

Some favorite authors and illustrators of PreK and Kindergarten children:

[Mac Barnett](#), [Eric Carle](#), [Donald Crews](#), [Lois Ehlert](#), [Susan Middleton Elya](#), [Kevin Henkes](#), [Jon Klassen](#), [Steve Jenkins](#), [Ezra Jack Keats](#), [Yuyi Morales](#), [Jerry Pinkney](#), [Christian Robinson](#), [Laura Vaccaro Seeger](#), [Mo Willems](#), and [Ed Young](#).

For emergent readers:

[*Don't Throw It to Mo!*](#) (series) by David Adler
[*Elephant and Piggie*](#) (series) by Mo Williams
[*Fly Guy*](#) (series) by Tedd Arnold
[*King & Kayla*](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler (mystery)
[*Ling & Ting*](#) (series) by Grace Lin
[*Meet Yasmin*](#) (series) by Saadia Faruqi
[*Pedro*](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin
[*See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*](#) by David LaRochelle
[*Ty's Travels*](#) (series) by Kelly Starling Lyons
[*Where's Baby?*](#) by Anne Hunter

Princeton Public Schools - Summer Reading Recommendations 2024

First Grade - Second Grade

The Princeton Public School librarians created these lists of books popular with first and second grade children. In addition to the following lists, we highly recommend sharing a variety of fairy tales from different cultures as well as non-fiction books about favorite topics.

Some favorite authors and illustrators of first and second grade children:

[Eric Kimmel](#), [Pat Mora](#), [Robert Munsch](#), [Cynthia Rylant](#), [Dan Santat](#), [David Ezra Stein](#), [Melissa Sweet](#), [Chris Van Dusen](#), [National Geographic Kids](#), [Lisa Wheeler](#), [Mo Willems](#) and [Vera B. Williams](#).

For emergent readers:

[Fox Has Problems](#) (Fox series) by Corey R. Tabor
[Gigi And Ojiji](#) (series) by Melissa Iwai
[Don't Throw It to Mo!](#) (series) by David Adler
[King and Kayla](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler
[Meet Yasmin](#) (series) by Saadia Faruqi
[Simon And Chester](#) (series) by Cale Atkinson
[Princess in Black](#) (series) by Dean and Shannon Hale
[Robot and Rico](#) (series) by Anastasia Suen
[See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog](#) (series) by David LaRochelle
[Sofia Martinez: My Family Adventures](#) (series) by Jacqueline Jules
[Ty's Travels](#) (series) by Kelly Starling Lyons
[Where's Baby?](#) by Anne Hunter

For independent readers:

[Anna, Banana](#) (series) by Anica Mrose Rissi
[Bramble and Maggie](#) (series) by Jessie Haas
[Breyer Stablemates](#) (series) by various authors
[Dragon Masters](#) (series) by Tracey West
[Frankie's Magic Soccer Ball](#) (series) by Frank Lampard
[Jada Jones \(Series\)](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons
[Jasmine Green](#) (series) by Helen Peters
[Planet Omar](#) (series) by Zanib Mian
[Katie Woo](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin
[Lotus Lane](#) (series) by Kyla May
[Notebook of Doom](#) (series) by Troy Cummings
[Pedro](#) (series) by Fran Manushkin
[Piper Green and the Fairy Tree](#) (series) by Ellen Potter
[The Owl Diaries](#) (series) by Rebecca Elliott
[The Questioners](#) (series) by Andrea Beaty
[Sadiq and the Desert Star](#) (series) by Siman Nuurali
[Super Turbo](#) (series) by Lee Kirby

Princeton Public Schools Summer Reading Recommendations 2024

Third Grade - Fifth Grade

The Princeton Public Schools Pre-K-5 librarians have created the following lists of book recommendations because the children typically ask us to recommend books based on a genre (e.g., fantasy, non-fiction, mystery, etc.). Recommended books are some of our personal favorites as well as some of our students' favorites. Each genre has three categories: 'Just starting out' is for those readers who may never have tried a particular genre or who have just gained independence in reading; 'In the middle of the road' books are for independent readers or for families who read together who want a longer story; 'looking for a challenge' books are for strong readers who are ready for emotionally challenging or complex topics (in other words, the 'challenging' scary stories truly are scary). Please visit the Princeton Public Library for even more ideas on what to read!

FICTION

Fantasy / Science Fiction

For those just starting out:

- [*Captain Awesome*](#) (series) by Stan Kirby
- [*Dragonbreath*](#) (series) by Ursula Vernon
- [*Dragon Masters*](#) (series) by Tracey West
- [*Frankie's Magic Soccer Ball*](#) (series) by Frank Lampard
- [*The Owl Diaries*](#) (series) by Rebecca Elliott
- [*Secrets of Droon*](#) (series) by Tony Abbott

For those in the middle of the road:

- [*Dragon Slayer's Academy*](#) (series) by Kate McMullan
- [*Eagle Drums*](#) by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson
- [*Elf Dog and Owl Head*](#) by M.T. Anderson
- [*The Eyes and the Impossible*](#) by Dave Eggers
- [*Fuzzy*](#) and [*Fake Mustache*](#) by Tom Angleberger
- [*Goddess Girls*](#) (series) by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams
- [*House of Robots*](#) (series) by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein
- [*How Oscar Indigo Broke the Universe \(and Put it back together again\)*](#) by David Teague
- [*The Land of Stories*](#) (series) by Chris Colfer
- [*Mañanaland*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan
- [*The Menagerie*](#) (series) by Tui Sutherland
- [*Order of the Majestic*](#) by Matt Myklusch
- [*Peter and the Starcatchers*](#) (series) by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson
- [*Tuesday McGillycuddy*](#) (series) by Angela Banks
- [*Unicorn Rescue Society*](#) (series) by Adam Gidwitz
- [*The Wild Robot*](#) (series) by Peter Brown
- [*Wildwood Chronicles*](#) (series) by Colin Meloy

For those wanting a challenge:

- [*Anya and the Dragon*](#) (series) by Sofiya Pasternack

[*The Girl Who Drank the Moon*](#) by Kelly Barnhill
[*Gregor the Overlander*](#) (The Underland Chronicles series) by Suzanne Collins
[*Icebreaker*](#) (series) by Lian Tanner
[*The Last Fallen Star*](#) (series) by Graci Kim
[*Mapmakers*](#) (series) by S. E. Grove
[*The Ogress and the Orphans*](#) by Kelly Barnhill
[*Princess Academy*](#) (series) by Shannon Hale
[*A Rover's Story*](#) by Jasmine Warga
[*Show Us Who You Are*](#) by Elle McNicholl
[*Starry River of the Sky*](#) by Grace Lin
[*The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*](#) by Adrianna Cuevas
[*The Unwanteds*](#) (series) by Lisa McMann
[*A Wish in the Dark*](#) by Christina Soontornvat

Historical Fiction

For those just starting out:

[*I Survived*](#) (series) by Lauren Tarshis (traditional as well as [graphic novels](#))
[*Magic Tree House*](#) (series) by Mary Pope Osborne (traditional as well as [graphic novels](#))
[*Ranger in Time*](#) (series) by Kate Messner

For those in the middle of the road:

[*Baseball Card Adventures*](#) (series) by Dan Gutman
[*Before the Ever After*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
[*The Birchbark House*](#) (series) by Louise Erdrich
[*Bud, Not Buddy*](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis
[*Freewater*](#) by Amina Luqman Dawson
[*Front Desk*](#) and [*Three Keys*](#) by Kelly Yang
[*Full of Beans*](#) by Jennifer Holm
[*The Hero Two Doors Down*](#) by Sharon Robinson
[*Nory Ryan's Song*](#) by Patricia Reilly Giff
[*One Crazy Summer*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia
[*Paper Wishes*](#) by Lois Sepahban
[*Prairie Lotus*](#) by Linda Sue Park
[*Show Me a Sign*](#) by Ann Clare LeZotte
[*The War That Saved My Life*](#) and [*The War I Finally Won*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
[*We Dream of Space*](#) by Erin Entrada Kelly
[*The Wind Called My Name*](#) by Mary Louise Sanchez

For those in need of an emotional and/or thought-provoking challenge:

[*The Blackbird Girls*](#) By Anne Blankman
[*Cloud and Wallfish*](#) by Anne Nesbet
[*Echo*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan
[*The Enemy*](#) by Sara Holbrook
[*Esperanza Rising*](#) by Pam Muñoz Ryan

[*Fever*](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson

[*The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Dog*](#) by Adam Gidwitz

[*Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

[*Lifeboat*](#) by Susan Hood

[*The Lost Year*](#) by Katherine Marsh

[*The Night Diary*](#) by Veera Hiranandani

[*Refugee*](#) by Alan Gratz

[*A Single Shard*](#) by Linda Sue Park

[*Towers Falling*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes

[*White Bird: A Wonder Story*](#) by R.J. Palacio

[*Wolf Hollow*](#) by Lauren Wolk

[*The Wolf Wilder*](#) by Katherine Rundell

Mysteries

For those just starting out:

[*A-Z Mysteries*](#) and [*Capital Mysteries*](#) (series) by Ron Roy

[*Geronimo Stilton*](#) and [*Thea Stilton*](#) (series) by Geronimo and Thea Stilton

For those in the middle:

[*The Bad Books Series*](#) and [*The Secret Series*](#) by Pseudonymous Bosch

[*The Book Scavenger*](#) (series) by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

[*Brixton Brothers*](#) (series) by Mac Barnett

[*Chasing Vermeer*](#) by Blue Balliett

[*Elvis and the Underdogs*](#) (series) by Jenny Lee

[*From the Desk of Zoe Washington*](#) by Janae Marks

[*Gilda Joyce Psychic Investigator Series*](#) by Jennifer Allison

[*Malcolm at Midnight*](#) (series) by W.H. Beck

[*Puzzling World of Winston Breen*](#) (series) by Eric Berlin

[*Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars*](#) (series) by Michael and Tracy Mack

[*Under the Egg*](#) by Laura Marx Fitzgerald

For those in need of a challenge:

[*The Goldfish Boy*](#) by Lisa Thompson

[*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*](#) by Brian Selznik

[*The Parker Inheritance*](#) by Varian Johnson

[*Serafina and the Black Cloak*](#) (series) by Robert Beatty

[*The Shakespeare Stealer*](#) by Gary L. Blackwood

Realistic Fiction

For those just starting out:

[*Anna, Banana*](#) (series) by Anica Mrose Rissi

[*Chasing the Dream*](#) (series) by Hena Khan

[*Jasmine Green*](#) (series) by Helen Peters

[*Juana and Lucas*](#) by Juana Medina
[*Lola Levine*](#) (series) by Monica Brown
[*Lotus Lane*](#) (series) by Kyla May
[*Piper Green and the Fairy Tree*](#) (series) by Ellen Potter
[*The Questioners*](#) (series) by Andrea Beaty
[*Rainbow Street Pets*](#) (series) by Wendy Orr
[*The No 1 Car Spotter*](#) (series) by Atinuke

For those in the middle:

[*A Boy Called Bat*](#) (series) by Elana K. Arnold
[*Fish in a Tree*](#) by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
[*Garvey's Choice*](#) by Nikki Grimes
[*Jasmine Toguchi Drummer Girl*](#) (series) by Debbi Michiko Florence
[*Maizy Chen's Last Chance*](#) by Lisa Yee
[*Merci Suárez Changes Gears*](#) by Meg Medina
[*Love, Sugar, Magic: a Dash of Trouble*](#) by Anna Meriano
[*Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*](#) by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed (Editor)
[*Ways to Make Sunshine*](#) by Renée Watson
[*A Whole New Ballgame*](#) (Rip & Red series) by Phil Bildner
[*Year of the Dog*](#) (Pacy Lin series) by Grace Lin

For those in need of an emotional and/or thought-provoking challenge:

[*As Brave As You*](#) and [*Ghost*](#) (Track series) by Jason Reynolds
[*Black Brother, Black Brother*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes
[*Blended*](#) by Sharon Draper
[*The Crossover*](#) and [*Rebound*](#) by Kwame Alexander
[*Efrén Divided*](#) by Ernesto Cisneros
[*Ellen Outside the Lines*](#) by A.J. Sass
[*Escape from Aleppo*](#) by N. H. Senzai
[*Fighting Words*](#) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
[*Hello, Universe*](#), [*The Land of the Forgotten Girls*](#) and [*Blackbird Fly*](#) by Erin Entrada Kelly
[*Home Town Hero*](#) (series) by Mike Lupica
[*King and the Dragonflies*](#) by Kacen Callender
[*The Jake Shows*](#) by Joshua S. Levy
[*A Mango-Shaped Space*](#) by Wendy Mass
[*The Only Road*](#) and [*The Crossroads*](#) by Alexandra Diaz
[*Out of My Mind*](#) & [*Out of My Heart*](#) by Sharon Draper
[*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise*](#) by Dan Gemeinhart
[*Ruby Lost and Found*](#) by Christine Li
[*Simon Sort of Says*](#) by Erin Bow
[*Two Degrees*](#) by Alan Gratz
[*We Still Belong*](#) by Christine Day
[*When You Trap a Tiger*](#) by Tae Keller
[*Wishing Season*](#) by Anica Mrose Rissi

Scary Stories

For those just starting out:

[*Eerie Elementary*](#) (series) by Jack Chabert and Sam Ricks

[*The Haunted Library*](#) (series) by Dori Hillestad Butler

[*The Notebook of Doom*](#) (series) by Troy Cummings

For those wanting to feel a bit creeped out:

[*Undead Pets*](#) (series) by Sam Hay

[*The Year of Shadows*](#) by Claire Legrand

[*Not Quite a Ghost*](#) by Anne Ursu

For those who crave a really, really scary story...

[*The Bellwoods Game*](#) by Celia Krampien

[*Breathe: A Ghost Story*](#) by Cliff McNish

[*Doll Bones*](#) and others by Holly Black

[*The Graveyard Book*](#) and others by Neil Gaiman

[*The Jumbies*](#) (series) by Tracey Baptiste

[*Ophie's Ghosts*](#) by Justina Ireland

[*Scary Stories for Young Foxes*](#) (series) by Christian McKay Heidicker

NON-FICTION

Non-fiction is such a diverse category that we recommend reading books, magazine and newspaper articles, and encyclopedia entries about significant current topics or places your family may visit or have visited in the past. Also any book by [Seymour Simon](#), [National Geographic Kids](#), [Steve Jenkins](#), and [Dianna Hutts Aston](#) are popular.

Just starting out:

[*Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball*](#) by Jen Bryant

[*Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an All-Brother Baseball Team*](#) by Audrey Vernick

[*The Cat Man of Aleppo*](#) by Irene Lantham and Karim Shamsi-Basha

[*Digging for Words: José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built*](#) by Angela Burke Kunkel

[*Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*](#) by Suzanne Slade

[*Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*](#) by Candace Fleming

[*Inky's Amazing Escape*](#) by Sy Montgomery

[*It Began with a Page*](#) by Kyo Maclear

[*The Marvelous Thing That Came From a Spring*](#) by Gilbert Ford

[*The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read*](#) by Rita Lorraine Hubbard

[*Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*](#) (series) by Isabella Hatkoff

[*Redwoods*](#) by Jason Chin

[*Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas*](#) by Gwendolyn Hudson Hooks

[*Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival*](#) by Kirby Larson

and Mary Nethery

[*Your Place in the Universe*](#) by Jason Chin

In the middle of the road:

[*Becoming Muhammad Ali*](#) by Kwame Alexander and James Patterson

[*History Smashers*](#) (series) by Kate Messner

[*I Survived True Stories: Five Epic Disasters*](#) by Lauren Tarshis

[*The Magic School Bus Rides Again*](#) (series)

[*Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions*](#) by Don Wulffson

[*Who Was? What Was? Where Is?*](#) (series)

[*You Choose*](#): Interactive History adventures (multiple series)

For those looking for some more complex subjects:

[*All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team*](#) by Christina Soontornvant

[*Bomb: The Race to Build-and-Steal-the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*](#) by Steve Sheinkin

[*Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

[*Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors and Submarines in the Pacific*](#) by Deborah Hopkinson

[*The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild*](#) by Lawrence Anthony

[*Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls*](#) (series)

[*Houses with a Story*](#) by Seiji Yoshida

[*How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure*](#) by John Rocco

[*Mexikid*](#) by Pedro Martin

[*Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales*](#) (graphic novel series) by Nathan Hale

[*Outcasts United Adapted for Young People*](#) by Warren St. John

[*Stamped \(For Kids\): Racism, Antiracism, and You*](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi,
Adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul

[*The Mona Lisa Vanishes*](#) by Nicholas Day

[*When Stars Are Scattered*](#) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Resources for Discussing Antiracism and Social Justice 2024

PreK-5

We have curated this list of resources to facilitate family discussions on antiracism and social justice. The list is not all inclusive.

Resources Specifically Related to Discussing Racial Injustice and the News with Children

[*Something Happened in Our Town: A Story of Racial Injustice*](#) By Marianne Celano, PhD, ABPP, Marietta Collins, PhD, and Ann Hazzard, PhD, ABPP.

[*The Breaking News*](#) by Sarah Lynne Reul [Parent Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)

[*Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness*](#) by Anatasia Higginbotham (PDF download available through June 19th)

[*How to Talk Racism With Your Family: Ask Code Switch*](#)

[*Racism and Violence in the News: How to Help Kids Handle the News*](#) by the Child Mind Institute

[*Talking to Kids about Discrimination*](#) by the American Psychological Association

[How to Explain Racism - CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall](#)

Picture Books for All Ages to Facilitate Discussions on Identity/Diversity

[*I am Perfectly Designed*](#) by Karamo Brown

[*Black Is a Rainbow Color*](#) by Angela Joy

[*The Bug Girl: A True Story*](#) by Sophia Spencer

[*The Day You Begin*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)

[*Double Bass Blues*](#) By Andrea J. Loney

[*Flash and Gleam: Light in Our World*](#) by Sue Fliess

[*Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*](#) by Joanna Ho

[*Hey Black Child*](#) by Useni Eugene Perkins

[*I Am Enough*](#) by Grace Byers [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)

[*I Am Every Good Thing*](#) by Derrick Barnes

[*If Dominican Were a Color*](#) by Sili Recio

[*In My Mosque*](#) by M.O. Yuksel

[*Just Ask!: Be Different. Be Brave. Be You*](#) by Sonia Sotomayor

[*Laxmi's Mooch*](#) by Shelly Anand

[*Mango, Abuela and Me*](#) by Meg Medina

[*The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh*](#) by Supriyah Kelkar

[*My Hair Is a Garden*](#) by Cozbi A. Cabrera [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)

[*Nana Akua Goes to School*](#) by Tricia Elam Walker

[*The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story*](#) by Tina Cho

[*Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race*](#) by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli

[*Papa, Daddy and Riley*](#) by Seamus Kirst

[*Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family*](#) by Ibtihaj Muhammad

[*Saffron Ice Cream*](#) by Rashin Kheiriyeh

[*Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children*](#) by Sandra L. Pinkney

[*Sing a Song: How 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' Inspired Generations*](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons [Activity Guide](#) (pdf)

[*Sing, Don't Cry*](#) by Angela Dominguez

[*Skin Again*](#) by bell hooks

[*The Undefeated*](#) by Kwame Alexander
[*What Riley Wore*](#) by Elana Arnold
[*We Are Grateful Otsaliheliga*](#) by Traci Sorell
[*Yaffa and Fatima*](#) by Fawzia Gilani-Williams and Chiara Fedele
[*You Matter*](#) by Christian Robinson [Activity Sheets](#) (pdf)

Picture Books for All Ages to Facilitate Discussions on Antiracism and Social Justice

[*Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball*](#) by Jen Bryant
[*Anti-Racist Baby*](#) by Ibram X. Kendi (available June 16th)
[*A is for Activist*](#) by Innosanto Nagara
[*The Book Rescuer*](#) by Sue Macy
[*Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford
[*Get Up, Stand Up*](#) by Cedella Marley
[*Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All*](#) By Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi.
(PDF Download available through June 19).
[*I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*](#) by Debbie Levy
[*It Began with a Page*](#) by Kyo Maclear
[*A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart*](#) by Zetta Elliott
[*Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*](#) by Rob Sanders
[*Say Something*](#) by Peter H. Reynolds
[*Sing a Song: How 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' Inspired Generations*](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons [Activity Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Sulwe*](#) by Lupita Nyong'o [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*The Undefeated*](#) by Kwame Alexander
[*Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre*](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford
[*We Are Still Here: Native Americans Truths Everyone Should Know*](#) by Traci Sorell
[*We March*](#) by Shane W. Evans

Middle Grade Novels that Explore Identity/Diversity (best for ages 8+)

[*American as Paneer Pie*](#) by Supriya Kelkar [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*As Brave As You*](#) by Jason Reynolds [Discussion Guide](#)
[*Black Brother Black Brother*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*A Boy Called Bat*](#) (series) by Elana K. Arnold
[*Chasing the Dream*](#) (series) by Hena Khan [Discussion Questions](#)
[*Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Clean Getaway*](#) by Nic Stone [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*First Rule of Punk*](#) by Celia C. Pérez [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Front Desk*](#) and [*Three Keys*](#) by Kelly Yang [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Garvey's Choice*](#) by Nikki Grimes [Educator's Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Harbor Me*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Jasmine Toguchi Drummer Girl*](#) (series) by Debbi Michiko Florence
[*Look Both Ways*](#) by Jason Reynolds [Discussion Questions](#)
[*Love, Sugar, Magic: a Dash of Trouble*](#) (series) by Anna Meriano [Educator's Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices*](#) by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed
(Editors)
[*Other Words for Home*](#) by Jasmine Warga

[*A Place at the Table*](#) by Saadia Faruqi and Laura Shovan [Conversation Starters with Elders](#)
[*Stars Beneath Our Feet*](#) by David Barclay Moore [Discussion Questions](#) (pdf)
[*Stella Diaz*](#) (series) by Angela Dominguez
[*This Is Just a Test*](#) by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang
[*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*](#) by Kwame Mbalia [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Two Naomis*](#) and [*Naomis Too*](#) by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich and Audrey Vernick
[*Ways to Make Sunshine*](#) by Renée Watson [Guide](#) (pdf)
[*When You Trap a Tiger*](#) by Tae Keller [Mythology Guide](#) (pdf) [Author's Note](#) (pdf)
[*The Year of the Book*](#) (series) by Andrea Cheng
[*Year of the Dog*](#) (Pacy Lin series) by Grace Lin [Discussion Questions](#) (pdf)
[*You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*](#) by Alex Gino [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)

Middle Grade Books that Explore Antiracism/Social Justice (best for ages 8+)

[*Black Brother Black Brother*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Blended*](#) by Sharon Draper [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Clean Getaway*](#) by Nic Stone [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*](#) by Rita Williams-Garcia [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Efrén Divided*](#) by Ernesto Cisneros
[*Front Desk*](#) and [*Three Keys*](#) by Kelly Yang [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Ghost Boys*](#) by Jewell Parker Rhodes [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*A Good Kind of Trouble*](#) by Lisa Moore Ramée [Education Guide](#) (pdf)
[*Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls*](#) (series)
[*Harbor Me*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*King and the Dragonflies*](#) by Kacen Callender [Discussion Questions](#)
[*New Kid*](#), [*Class Act*](#) and [*School Trip*](#) by Jerry Craft [Discussion Guide](#) (pdf)
[*The Only Road*](#) and [*The Crossroads*](#) by Alexandra Diaz [Reading Group Guide](#)(*The Only Road*) (pdf)
[Reading Group Guide](#) (*The Crossroads*) (pdf)
[*The Parker Inheritance*](#) by Varian Johnson [Story Behind the Story](#) and [Discussion Questions](#)
[*The Power Book: What Is It, Who Has It, and Why?*](#) by Claire Saunders, Hazel Songhurst, Georgia Amson-Bradshaw, Minna Salami, Mik Scarlet
[*Prairie Lotus*](#) by Linda Sue Park [Discussion Questions](#)
[*Save Me a Seat*](#) by Gita Varadarajan and Sarah Weeks
[*Stamped \(For Kids\): Racism, Antiracism, and You*](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, Adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul
[*We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices*](#) by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson
[*When Stars Are Scattered*](#) by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed [Educator Guide](#) (pdf)

Princeton Public Schools
Extended Summer Reading List 2024
Pre-K to 5

Did you read through the whole list and need more suggestions?!? Below are a few of our book award winners and favorite lists of book recommendations created by others. While perusing the lists, bear in mind that most of the lists include books for children up to age 14 which may not be appropriate for younger readers.

[Jane Addams Children's Book Award](#) - peace, social justice, global community and equity books

[American Indian Youth Literature Award](#) - books by and about Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America

[Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature](#) promoting Asian American cultures and heritages

[Batchelder Award](#) books originally published in another country and also translated to English

[Pura Belpré Award](#) celebrating the Latinx experience

[Amelia Bloomer Book List](#) feminist themes

Book Riot's [50 Must Read Middle Grade Graphic Novels](#)

[Caldecott Award](#) - distinguished picture books (including graphic novels)

[Children's Choice Awards](#) and [Children's Choices Reading List](#) chosen for kids by kids

[Geisel Award](#) distinguished beginning to read books

[Charlotte Huck Award](#) - National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for fiction

[Ezra Jack Keats Award](#) new picture book authors and illustrators

[Coretta Scott King Award](#) African American culture and universal human values

[Mathical Award Winners](#) - books with a mathematical theme

NSTA's [Outstanding Trade Books in Science](#) and [Best STEM Books](#)

[New York Public Library's Best Books for Children for 2020](#)

[New York Times 2019 Notable Children's Books](#)

[Newbery Award](#) distinguished contributions to children's literature (usually middle grade fiction)

[Orbis Pictus Award](#) National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)'s award for non-fiction

[Scott O'Dell Award](#) historical fiction

[Princeton Public Library's Staff Picks](#) for Kids

[Schneider Family Book Award](#) artistic representation of the disability experience

[Sibert Informational Book Award](#) distinguished non-fiction

[Stonewall Award](#) LGBTQ+ books

[Sydney Taylor Book Award](#) authentic portrayal of the Jewish experience

[Charlotte Zolotow Award](#) best picture book text