

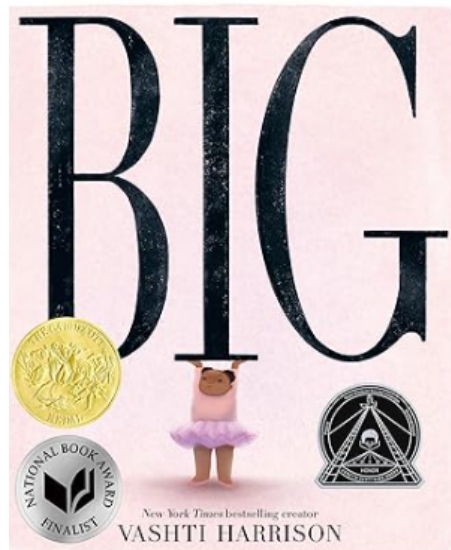


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# METAIRIE PARK COUNTRY DAY

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## 2024 Suggestions for K, 1, 2 Summer Reading



NOTE TO PARENTS: Some of these books can be read independently by your child, some are for you to read aloud. This list is revised annually to include some of our favorites, but it is only a list of suggestions. Many of these authors have written several good books. We encourage you to explore your public library and/or local Bookstores.

### **ALL LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READ:**

*Orris and Timble: The Beginning* by Kate DiCamillo. This is a story that we hope to have all our Lower School students read this summer as a shared student read. We plan to start our year off with a discussion and activities from this beautiful book!

## “BEST BOOKS OF 2023-2024”

**Books from at least one list of “best” books, which were compiled by The American Library Association and leading journals in the field of children’s literature.**

Awan, Jashar. **I’M GOING TO BUILD A SNOWMAN**. Awakening to discover freshly fallen snow, a child joyfully heads outside to build the best snowman ever.

Balkan, Gabrielle. **WHAT A MAP CAN DO**. A raccoon narrator introduces maps of all kinds, from houses, cities, stars, and even the human body, and teaches how to read and create them

Bailey, Jenn. **HENRY, LIKE ALWAYS**. When Henry is thrown off balance by a change to his routine, he learns strategies to cope and participate. (\*Geisel Honor Book.)

Berger, Carin. **IN THE NIGHT GARDEN**. In this bedtime story, a black cat explores the sights, smells, and sounds of a cottage garden at night.

Bergstrom, Adriana Hernandez. **TUMBLE**. This nonfiction picture book combines simple text with vibrant art to show the journey of a lone tumbleweed as it rolls through the desert.

Blackall, Sophie. **IF I WAS A HORSE**. In this book with detailed illustrations, a young child explores the possibility of being a horse for the day!

Cordell, Matthew. **EVERGREEN**. Evergreen the squirrel faces her fears as she journeys through Buckthorn Forest to deliver soup to sick Granny Oak. (\*Caldecott Honor Book.)

Cummins, Lucy Ruth. **OUR POOL**. A joyful picture book, filled with bright and colorful illustrations brings summer alive at a community pool where everybody is welcome.

Donaldson, Julia. **THE BADDIES**. Using their special powers, a troll, a witch, and a ghost compete to be the first to steal from a girl, with

surprising results. Rhyming text.

Abdel-Fattah, Rana. **ELEVEN WORDS FOR LOVE: A JOURNEY THROUGH ARABIC EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE**. As her family settles in a new country, a young girl poetically names the different ways to say “love” in their language.

Fleiss, Sue. **CICADA SYMPHONY**. This exuberantly illustrated book introduces the sounds and fascinating life cycle of the cicada.

Frazer, Marla. **IN EVERY LIFE**. Precious and diverse life experiences, big and small, are captured in luminous illustrations and spare, evocative text. (\*Caldecott Honor Book.)

Harrison, Vashti. **BIG**. A young girl confronts the shifting meaning of being called “big” as she grows up, ultimately owning the adjectives that feel right and rejecting the hurtful ones. (\**The 2024 Caldecott Medal Winner.*)

Lanan, Jessica. **JUMPER: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BACKYARD SPIDER**. Detailed illustrations with various perspectives depict a day in the life of a backyard spider which is able to jump five times their body length. (\*Sibert Honor Book.)

Lerner, Jarrett. **NAT THE CAT TAKES A NAP**. All Nat The Cat wants is to take a nap, but it is hilariously interrupted by the narrator of the story.

Leung, Julie. **THE TRUTH ABOUT DRAGONS**. A biracial boy learns to connect to his two cultures and embrace his grandmothers through dragon stories. (\*Caldecott Honor Book.)

Li, Hui. **SCROLL**. A young girl’s grandfather introduces her to ancient calligraphy in this

celebratory story where the Chinese characters come to life.

Markel, Michelle. **TOMFOOLERY!: RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AND THE RAMBUCTIOUS COMING OF AGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS.** A picture book biography of Randolph Caldecott, who revolutionized children's literature through illustration.

Medina, Juana. **ELENA RIDES.** Elena the elephant learns to ride a bicycle in this rhyming tale of perseverance and gumption.

Michalak, Jamie. **DAKOTA CRUMB AND THE SECRET BOOKSHOP: A TINY TREASURE HUNT.** Dakota, a treasure-hunting mouse, follows ingenious clues in her search for a rare book.

Nelson, SD. **GRANDMA'S TIPI: A PRESENT-DAY LAKOTA STORY.** Clara learns about her rich tribal heritage while spending the summer on the reservation with her grandmother. (Extensive author's note included.)

Paley, Dan. **THEY HOLD THE LINE: WILDFIRES, WILDLANDS, AND THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO BRAVE THEM.** Factual details and bold illustrations introduce the teams that protect people and wildlife from fires.

Rylant, Cynthia. **HORNBEAM ALL IN.** With the help of his friends, Hornbeam, the lovable moose, learns valuable life lessons in three short stories.

Rylant, Cynthia. **THERE WAS A PARTY FOR LANGSTON.** Inspired by a found photograph, lyrical prose and illustrations full of words pair to depict a joyous celebration of Langston Hughes. (\*Caledcott Honor Book.)

Savage, Chloe. **THE SEARCH FOR THE GIANT ARCTIC JELLYFISH.** Dr. Morley and her crew search the Arctic Ocean in hopes of encountering the fabled giant jellyfish.

Sayre, April Pulley and Jeff. **IN BETWEEN.** With crisp nature photography and gentle prose, this book highlights moving from one state of being to another.

Strickland, Shadra. **JUMP IN!** From Double

Dutch to hip hop, all movement styles are welcome in effervescent jump rope play in a diverse neighborhood. Free verse with and offbeat rhythm.

Tabor, Corey. **FOX HAS A PROBLEM.** Fox's attempts to free his kite from a tree create increasing problems for him and his friends. Can they work together to find a solution? (\**The 2024 Geisel Award Book.*)

Thermes, Jennifer. **THE INDESTRUCTIBLE TOM CREAN: HEROIC EXPLORER OF THE ANTARTIC.** The tale of Irish seaman, Tom Crean, who made three dangerous voyages to Antarctica where his strength and determination proved crucial to survival.

Trejo, Jesus. **PAPA'S MAGICAL WATER-JUG CLOCK.** Jesus learns that there's no shortcuts to a full day's work when he spends a day with his landscaper father. (A Pura Belpre Author and Illustrator Honor Book.)

Windness, Kaz. **WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS.** Lushly illustrated graphic novel that celebrates friendship. How will worm react to caterpillar's metamorphosis? Humor and heartfelt conversations create a page turning plot. (\*Geisel Award Honor Book.)

Wilson, Anna. **GRANDPA AND THE KINGFISHER.** While they observe river birds through the seasons, a grandfather gently teaches his grandchild that no one lives forever, but nature and the world abide.

Wong, Jack. **WHEN YOU CAN SWIM.** Poetic text and inclusive illustrations celebrate swimming and the magic of spending time in the water.

Wynter, Anne. **NELL PLANTS A TREE.** The past and present of a family are connected by the planting and growing of a tree.

Yoon, Helen. **HAVE YOU SEEN MY INVISIBLE DINOSAUR?** A young child with an invisible dinosaur laments about the struggle of finding something lost.

**FOR BEGINNING READERS:**

Applegate, Katherine. **DOGGO AND PUPPER.** Doggo is used to things being a certain way in his family. He likes routine. Cat says he's become boring. That is, until Pupper shows up! (\*series)

Emberley, Michael. **LET'S GO!** How will we get to the party? Let's make cars and drive, or make boats and float! Let's go! This easy reader kindergarteners and first graders can read on their own.

Fenske, Jonathan. **NOTHING FITS A DINOSAUR!** From award-winning author and illustrator Jonathan Fenske comes a funny, rhyming book that will have everyone asking the question: so what does fit a dinosaur? It's time to get ready for bed, but this silly dinosaur can't find anything that fits!

George, Kallie. **DOT THE LADYBUG: DOT DAY** Dot the ladybug can't wait to celebrate her Dot Day with her friends. But when she goes to Spots' house, she doesn't spot anyone. Not here. Not there. Not anywhere! Dot must follow the clues to solve the mystery.

Jackson, Mo. **DON'T THROW IT TO MO!** Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins, his football team. His classmates don't mind, but the kids on their rival team tease him for being a "butterfingers" who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins! (\*series)

Lyons, Kelly. **TY'S TRAVELS: ALL ABOARD!** Ty wishes his family would play with him, but everyone is too busy before dinnertime. Luckily, Ty knows just what to do... Time for fun. (\*series)

Otheguy, Emma. **REINA RAMOS WORKS IT OUT.** Reina Ramos is a loyal friend whose high-spirited antics sometimes cause chaos, but who always finds a way to make things right. (\*series)

Marchesani, Laura. **PIG AND PUG.** Pig lives on a farm with lots of other animals. All the animals have friends, but Pig does not. One day a new animal comes to the farm. Pug has a curly tail like

Pig. Pug plays in the mud like Pig. Pug even snorts like Pig. Pug is not a pig, but maybe, just maybe, Pig and Pug can be friends! (\*series)

Milgrim, Dan. **SEE OTTO.** Meet Otto, an excitable robot who seeks adventure—and finds it—when he falls off his spaceship and lands on Earth, directly in front of a very cranky rhinoceros. Otto runs, but the rhino runs faster...Run, Otto, run! (\*series)

Ruzzio, Sergio. **FISH AND WAVE.** When a tiny wave grows bigger and bigger, what's a fish to do? *Fish and Wave* by Sergio Ruzzier is a playful exploration of what it really means to go with the flow.

Tabor, Corey R. **FOX THE TIGER.** Fun-loving, mischievous Fox wishes he were a tiger. Tigers are big and fast and sneaky. So he decides to become one! (1st in a series.)

**SHORTER CHAPTER BOOKS:**

Allen, Kari. **MADDIE AND MABEL.** Meet Maddie and Mabel, two spunky sisters who navigate their relationship with humor and heart. Maddie is the big sister. Mabel is the little sister. But who is actually in charge? Mabel, who never stops asking questions? Or Maddie, who can be bossy and demanding? (\*series)

Bell, Cece. **CHICK AND BRAIN: SMELL MY FOOT!** Meet Chick and Brain. And their friend Spot. Chick likes to follow the rules. Brain might not be as he looks. And Spot just wants to eat lunch. (\*series)

Cordell, Matthew. **CORNBREAD AND POPPY.** Caldecott medalist Matthew Cordell debuts his first early reader series about two best friends who are as different from each other as can be.

Hest, Amy. **BILLY & ROSE.** Billy and Rose, friends with different ideas, always end up coming together in these charming stories from masterful creators Amy Hest and Kady MacDonald Denton. (\*series)

Iwai, Melissa. **GIGI AND OJIJI: FOOD FOR THOUGHT.** A young girl from a multicultural family strengthens her relationship with her Japanese grandfather by preparing breakfast and sharing it with him.

Jarvis. **BEAR AND BIRD: THE PICNIC AND OTHER STORIES.** Bear and Bird are best friends, and they spend a lot of time together. They don't always understand each other, but both agree that all they want is for their friend to be happy.

Lin, Grace. **LING & TING.** Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different. (\*series)

Lobel, Arnold. **FROG AND TOAD ARE FRIENDS.** Five tales recounting the adventures of two best friends--Frog and Toad. (\*series)

Rylant, Cynthia. **HENRY AND MUDGE.** By Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. (\*series.)

Snyder, Lauren. **CHARLIE & MOUSE.** Charlie and Mouse, two young brothers, enjoy a day out together, attending an imaginary party and collecting rocks. (\*series.)

Tabor, Corey. **SIR LADYBUG.** A graphic novel series for newly independent readers, following the adventures of a ladybug knight and his pals in the dandelion patch. (\*series)

## LONGER CHAPTER BOOK SERIES:

Adler, David. **CAM JANSEN.**

Barrows, Annie. **IVY AND BEAN.**

Citro, Asia. **ZOEY AND SASSAFRASS.**

DiCamillo, Kate. **MERCY WATSON.**

Daly, Niki. **LOLO**

Lupica, Mike. **THE ZACH AND ZOE MYSTERIES.**

McDonald, Megan. **JUDY MOODY** and **STINK.**

McKay, Hilary. **LULU.**

Osborne, Mary Pope. **MAGIC TREEHOUSE.**

Park, Barbara. **JUNIE B. JONES.**

Scieszka, Jon. **FRANK EINSTEIN.**

## FOLK AND FAIRY TALES:

Barnett, Mac. **THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF.**

Bowles, David. **ANCIENT NIGHT.**

Cousins, Lucy. **YUMMY: 8 FAVORITE FAIRY TALES.**

DePaola, Tomie. **STREGA NONA.**

Galdone, Paul. **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS.**

Louie, A Ling. **YEH SHEN: A CINDERELLA STORY FROM CHINA.**

McDermott, Gerald. **ANANSI THE SPIDER.**

Pinkney, Jerry. **THE LITTLE MERMAID. THE LION AND THE MOUSE.**

Santore, Charles. **AESOP'S FABLES.**

Sheir, Rebecca. **A TASTE OF HONEY: KAMALA OUTSMARTS THE SEVEN THIEVES.**

## CHILDREN'S FAVORITES

Allard, Henry. **MS NELSON IS MISSING.**

Barnett, Mac. **SAM AND DAVE DIG A HOLE.**

Becker, Bonnie. **A VISITOR FOR BEAR.**

Cordell, Matthew. **WOLF IN THE SNOW.** (Caldecott Winner.)

Cornwall, Gaia. **JABARI JUMPS.**

Denise, Christopher. **KNIGHT OWL.**

Fan, Terry and Eric. **IT FELL FROM THE SKY.**

Daywalt, Drew. **THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT.**

Dyckman, Annie. **WOLFIE THE BUNNY.**

Feiffer, Jules. **BARK, GEORGE.**

Feiffer, Kate. **DOUBLE PINK.**

Henkes, Kevin. **A WEEKEND WITH WENDELL.**

Higgins, Ryan T. **WE DON'T EAT OUR CLASSMATES.**

Jeffers, Oliver. **STUCK.**

Klassen, Jon. **THIS IS NOT MY HAT. THE ROCK FROM THE SKY.**

Martin, Bill. **CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM.**

Miller, Pat Zietlow. **SOPHIE'S SQUASH.**

Miller, Sharee. **PRINCESS HAIR.**

Pizzoli, Greg. **GOOD NIGHT OWL.**

Reidy, Jean. **TRUMAN.**

Reynolds, Aaron. **CREEPY CARROTS!**

Rubin, Aaron. **DRAGONS LOVE TACOS!**

Salati, Brian. **HOT DOG!** (Caldecott Winner.)

Salley, Coleen. **EPOSSUMONDAS.**

Stieg, William. **SYLVESTER AND THE MAGIC PEBBLE.**

Stein, David Ezra. **INTERRUPTING CHICKEN.**

Stead, Phillip. **A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE**

Tabor, Corey. **MELL FELL.**

Willems, Mo. **PIGEON SERIES. ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE SERIES.**

## **INFORMATION BOOKS**

Barr, Catherine. **THE WOLVES OF YELLOWSTONE: A REWILDING STORY.**

Bishop, Nic. **FROGS. and SPIDERS.**

Berne, Jennifer. **ON A BEAM OF LIGHT: A STORY OF ALBERT EINSTEIN.**

Carvlin, Alec. **HOW TO BAKE A UNIVERSE**

Cox, Lynne. **YOSHI, SEA TURTLE GENIUS: A TRUE STORY ABOUT AN AMAZING SWIMMER.**

Dunlap, Julie. **I BEGIN WITH SPRING: THE LIFE AND SEASONS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU.**

Fleming, Candace. **THE TIDE POOL WAITS and CUBS IN THE TUB: THE TRUE STORY OF THE BRONX ZOO'S FIRST WOMAN ZOOKEEPER.**

Floca, Brian. **LOCAMOTIVE.**

Hodgson, Rob. **WHEN CLOUD BECAME A CLOUD.**

Ignatofsky, Rachel. **WHAT'S INSIDE A FLOWER?: AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURE.**

Jenkins, Steve. **ACTUAL SIZE. and ALMOST GONE: THE WORLD'S RAREST ANIMALS.**

Judge, Lisa. **THE WISDOM OF TREES and DOGS: A HISTORY OF OUR BEST FRIENDS.**

Karas, Brian. **ON EARTH.**

Kulman, Maira. **FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF THE JOHN T. HARVEY.**

Montgomery, Sy. **THE BOOK OF TURTLES.**

McNulty, Faith. **IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MOON.**

Portis, Antoinette. **HEY, WATER!**

Rappapot, Doreen. **MARTIN'S BIG WORDS.**

Sayre, April. **SEAGULLS SOAR.**

Shannon, George. **WHITE IS FOR BLUEBERRY.**

Shetterly, Margot Lee. **HIDDEN FIGURES: THE TRUE STORY OF FOUR BLACK WOMEN AND THE SPACE RACE.**

Romita, Dee. **THE LAST PLASTIC STRAW: A PLASTIC PROBLEM AND FINDING WAYS TO FIX IT**

Stewart, Melissa. **SUMMERTIME SLEEPERS.**

Wade, Jess. **NANO: THE SPECTACULAR SCIENCE OF THE VERY SMALL.**

Walker Harvey, Jeanne. **MAYA LIN: ARTIST-ARCHITECT OF LIGHT AND LINES.**

Winter, Jeannette. **WANGARI'S TREES OF PEACE. and THE WATCHER: JANE GOODALL'S LIFE WITH CHIMPS.**

Zommer, Yuval. **THE BIG BOOK OF BUGS.**

## **BOOKS TO READ ALOUD**

Atwater, Florence and Richard. **MR POPPER'S PENGUINS.**

Avi. **POPPY.**

Beaty, Andrea. **ROSIE REVERE, ENGINEER.**

Cleary, Beverly. **RAMONA and THE MOUSE AND THE MOTORCYCLE.**

Cordell, Matthew. **EVERGREEN.**

Dahl, Roald. **JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH.**

Dicamillo, Kate. **THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE.**

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. **MY FATHER'S DRAGON.**

Lewis, C.S. **THE LION THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE.**

McDonald, Betty. **MS. PIGGLE WIGGLE**

Perkins, Lynn Rae. **NUTS TO YOU.**

Rex, Adam. **THE STORY OF GUMLUCK THE WIZARD.**

Sachar, Louis. **SIDEWAYS STORIES FROM WAYSIDE SCHOOL.**

Silverstein, Shel. **WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS.**

Viorst, Judith. **LULU AND THE BRONTOSAURUS.**

White, E.B. **CHARLOTTE'S WEB**