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

For moments when a rest is needed, here are some stories and poems to share. The list is by no means exhaustive, but can serve as a guide for the kinds of books we have in the grade school library; those marked with an asterisk (*) are sometimes more difficult to find in public libraries, but can likely be ordered at local bookstores. Enjoy!

**Picture Books: Celebrating the Seasons**

1. *Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow* by Joyce Sidman
2. *Children of the Forest* by Elsa Beskow; also *Around the Year*
3. *A Kitten Tale* by Eric Rohmann
4. *Red Sings from the Treetops: A Year in Colors* by Joyce Sidman
5. *On the Farm* by David Elliott
6. *The Oxcart Man* by Donald Hall
7. *The Snow Day* by Komako Sakai
9. *Welcome to the Ice House* by Jane Yolen
10. *The Year at Maple Hill Farm* by Alice Provensen
11. *Latkes and Applesauce* by Fran Manushkin
12. *Too Many Tamales* by Gary Soto
13. *New Clothes for New Year’s Day* by Hyun-joo Bae
14. *Celebrating the Lantern Festival* by Tan Sanmu
15. *Lin Yí’s Lantern* by Brenda Williams
16. *Celebrate the World: Ramadan* by Hannah Eliot
17. *Celebrate the World: Diwali* by Hannah Eliot

**Picture Books: Family**

1. *Adele & Simon* by Barbara McClintock; also *Adele and Simon in America*
2. *Beatrice’s Goat* by Paige McBrier
3. *Brave Irene* by William Steig
5. *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales
6. *Erandi’s Braids* by Antonio Madrigal
7. *Hazel’s Amazing Mother* by Rosemary Wells
8. Little Hoot by Amy Rosenthal (also Little Oink and Little Pea)
9. Little Oh by Laura Krauss Melmed
10. Peter’s Chair by Ezra Jack Keats
11. Mama’s Secret by Maria Polushkin
12. The Man Who Kept House by Kathleen and Michael Hague
13. *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present by Charlotte Zolotow; also Over and Over and Williams’ Doll
14. The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flournoy
15. There’s An Alligator Under my Beard by Mercer Mayer
16. A Prairie Boy’s Winter (also a Prairie Boy’s Summer) by William Kurelek
17. The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant
18. The Voyage to the Bunny Planet by Rosemary Wells
19. Rosalie by Joan Hewetters by Steve Jenkins
20. On Mother’s Lap by Ann Herbert Scott
21. The Magical Starfruit Tree by Rosalind Want
22. Raising Dragons by Jerdine Nolen
23. Two Dads by Carolyn Robertson
24. Mommy, Mama, and Me by Leslea Newman
25. What Can You Do With a Poleta? by Carmen Tafolla
26. My Dadima Wears a Sari by Kashmira Sheth
27. Me & Mama by Cozbi Cabrera
28. Hush, a Thai Lullaby by Minfong Ho
29. Chachaji’s Cup by Uma Krishnaswami
30. The Nutcracker in Harlem by T.E. McMorrow

**Picture Books: Stories from Around the World**

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

1. Japanese Children’s Favorite Stories by Florence Sakade
2. The Ox of the Wonderful Horns and Other African Folktales by Ashley Bryan
3. The Rain Cat and Other Stories by Rose Fyleman
4. Tales our Abuelitos Told: A Hispanic Folktale Collection by Isabel Campoy and noted bilingual children’s author and scholar Alma Flor Ada
5. I am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes
6. The Blue Roses by Linda Boyden
7. Elizabeti’s Doll by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
8. All the Colors of the Earth by Sheila Hamanka
9. Monsoon Afternoon by Kashmira Sheth
10. Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam by Fawzia Gilani-Williams
11. So Much! by Trish Cooke
12. A Lion’s Mane by Navjot Kaur

**Picture Books: Fantasy, Fairy, and Folk Tales**

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

1. *Baba Yaga and Vasilisa the Brave* retold by Marianna Mayer
2. *The Boy Who Held Back the Sea* by Thomas Locker
3. *Brigid’s Cloak: An Ancient Irish Story* by Bryce Milligan
4. *The Bunyans* by Audrey Wood; also by the author *Silly Sally; King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub; Heckedy Peg;* and *The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear*
5. *Children of the Forest* by Elsa Beskow
7. *The Faerie’s Gift* by Tanya Robyn Batt
8. *Flossie and the Fox* by Patricia McKisssak
9. *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Jan Brett; also by the illustrator *Beauty and the Beast, The Mitten, Gingerbread Baby*
10. *Grandfather Twilight* by Barbara Helen Berger
11. *The Hungry Coat* by Demi; also by the author *A Grain of Rice, The Empty Pot, King of Capri* by Jeanette Winterson, illustrated by Jane Ray; also by Jane Ray *The Apple-Pip Princess, Bold Boy, Moonbird, and The Lost Happy Endings*
12. *In the Land of the Fairies* by Daniela Drescher; also *In the Land of the Elves*
13. *It Could Always be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale* by Margot Zemach
14. *Little Black Hen* by Gennady Spirin; also by the illustrator
15. *Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp* by Mercer Mayer; also by Mercer Mayer *The Bravest Knights*
17. *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain* by Arnold Lobel
18. *Mr. Semolina/Semolinus* by Anthony Manna
19. *Nabulela: A Nguni South African Folk Tale* by Fiona Moodie; also by the author *Boy and the Giants, The Wonder Shoes*
20. *The Nightingale* by Jerry Pinckney
21. *The Pancake the Ran Away* by Loek Koopmans; also by the illustrator *Cinderella, Any Room for Me?, Frog, Bee & Snail Look for Snow*
22. *Pico the Gnome* by Martina Müller
23. *The Princess in the Forest* by Shelley von Olfers
25. *Stone Soup* by Jon Muth; also by the illustrator *Come on, Rain!, Zen Shorts*
26. *Story of Little Babaji*, illustrated by Fred Marcellino; also by this illustrator *Puss in Boots, Steadfast Tin Soldier*
27. *Swamp Angel* by Anne Isaacs
28. *The Three Princes: A Middle Eastern Tale* by Eric Kimmel; also by the author *Three Samurai Cats: A Story from Japan* and *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock*
29. *The Valley of the Mist* by Arcadio Lobato
30. *The Winter Wren* by Brock Cole

**Picture Books: Animal Stories**

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

**Picture Books: Themes of Friendship**

1. *Best Friends for Frances* by Russell Hoban
2. *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes; also by the author *Chester’s Way, A Weekend with*
Wendell, and Sheila Rae, *The Brave*

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

**Picture Books: Poetry and Nursery Rhymes**

1. *Bringing the Rain to the Kapiti Plain: A Nandi Tale* by Verna Aardema
2. *The Glorious Mother Goose* compiled by Cooper Edens
3. *Here’s a Little Poem* compiled by Jane Yolen (also *This Little Piggy*)
4. *It’s Raining Said John Twaining: Danish Nursery Rhymes* compiled by N.M. Brodecker
5. *Jamberry* by Bruce Degan
6. *Lavender’s Blue* compiled by Katherine Lewis
7. *When the Dark Comes Dancing: A Bedtime Poetry Book* by Nancy Larrick
8. *Bippity Bop Barbership* by Natasha Tarpley

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**Read-Aloud Stories: Early Chapter Books**

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

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