2026 Summer Book Recommendations

Hand-picked by Ms. Hopkins!

Picture Books

(for readers of all ages)

- *Where Are You, Bronte?* by Tomie dePaola
- *The Future Book* by Mac Barnett
- *Aggie and the Ghost* by Matthew Forsythe
- *The Whale's Tale and the Otter's Side of the Story* by Kate Messner
- *Menudo Sunday: A Spanglish Counting Book* by Maria Dolores Aguila
- *A Pocket Full of Rocks* by Kristin Mahoney
- *POP! Goes the Nursery Rhyme* by Betsy Bird
- *Late Today* by Jungyoon Huh

Beginning Readers

(simple text with illustrations)

- *Earl and Worm* by Greg Pizzoli
- *Bat, Cat, and Rat: The Sick Day* by Ame Dyckman
- *Fox Plays Ball* by Corey R. Tabor
- *Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends* by Kaz Windness
- *Reina Ramos: Neighborhood Helper* by Emma Otheguy
- *The Tunneler Tunnels in the Tunnel* by Michael Rex
- *I Like Hoops* by Juwanda G. Ford

Short Chapter Books

(illustrated with fast-paced plot)

- *Ratnip: Lost and Found in the City* by Cam Higgins
- *You're a Winner, Gracie Wei* by Kristen Mei Chase
- *Orris and Timble: The Beginning* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Murray the Viking (Murray & Bun)* by Adam Stower
- *Amina Banana and the Formula for Friendship* by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
- *Fairy Door Diaries* by Megan McDonald
- *The Outer Space Mystery Club* by Bruce Hale

Middle Grade Books

(longer books with complex characters and plot)

- *The Experiment* by Rebecca Stead
- *Pocket Bear* by Katherine Applegate
- *The Unlikely Tale of Chase and Finnegan* by Jasmine Warga
- *Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest* by Aubrey Hartman
- *The Bletchley Riddle* by Ruta Sepetys & Steve Sheinkin
- *The Beat I Drum* by Dusti Bowling
- *The Trouble with Heroes* by Kate Messner
- *Busted* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Will's Race for Home* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Graphic Novels

(Yes, these count!)

- *Chickenpox* by Remy Lai
- *A Fishboy Named...Sashimi!* by Dan Santat
- *The Cartoonists Club* by Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud
- *Band Camp* (Series) by Brian "Smitty" Smith
- *Detective Stanley and the Mystery of the Museum* by Hannah Tunnicliffe
- *Jazzy the Witch in Broom Doom* by Jessixa Bagley
- *Mixed-Up* by Kami Garcia

Non-Fiction and Biographies

(fun and fascinating facts)

- *Butt or Face: Ador-A-Butts!* by Kari Lavelle
- *Safe Crossing* by Kari Percival
- *A Gift of Dust* by Martha Brockenbrough
- *A World Without Summer* by Nicholas Day
- *Truth or Lie: Dogs!* by Erica S. Perl
- *Seven Million Steps: The True Story of Dick Gregory's Run for the Hungry* by Derrick Barnes
- *The Big Book of Pi: The Famous Number You Can Never Know* by Jean-Baptiste Aubin