



Dear Antilles Families,

Summer reading is an important part of your child's reading education. Research has shown that reading over the summer helps children maintain the skills and strategies they have developed during the school year and puts them on the right track for the upcoming school year.

Students entering the Toddler Program-Grade 3 are not required to complete summer reading; however, our Suggested Summer Reading List is listed below. We encourage reading as a family - even accomplished readers enjoy having someone read to them.

The list below also includes books for children in grades 4-12. We have included a widely diverse selection. Please help your child find books that interest them and to which they can relate.

SUGGESTED BOOKS FOR SUMMER READING:

Suggested Level: Ages 3-5

- *All Are Welcome*, Alexandra Penfold and Suzanna Kaufman; A warm, welcoming picture book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all kids.
- *Alma and How She Got Her Name*, Juana Martinez-Neil; A book about a little girl and her many names which connect her to her ancestors and their amazing stories.
- *Annie's Plaid Shirt*, Stacy S. Davids; Annie wears her plaid shirt everywhere until she has to wear a dress to her uncle's wedding.
- *Awesome Science Experiments for Kids*, Crystal Chatterton; Hands on projects to get young kids excited about Science.
- *Black White Just Right!* Marguerite W. Davol; This simple story celebrates how the differences between one mother and father blend to make the perfect combination in their daughter.
- *Hip Hop Speaks to Children*, Nikki Giovanni; Poetry; Children will be encouraged to put their words to poetry and beats.
- *I Love My Purse*, Belle DeMont; Charlie loves the bright red purse that his grandmother let him have. One day, he decides to take it to school.
- *I Walk with Vanessa*, Kerascoet; This picture book tells the story of one girl who inspires a community to stand up to bullying.
- *It's Okay to be Different*, Todd Park; This book delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format.
- *Ivy and Bean*, Annie Barrows; The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends.
- *Julian Is a Mermaid*, Jessica Love; This book tells the story of a boy who wants to become a mermaid and participate in the Coney Island Mermaid Parade.
- *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea*, Meena Harris; Based on a true story, this picture book is about two sisters working together to create change in their community.
- *My First Book of Planets: All About the Solar System for Kids*, Bruce Betts; Blast off on an exploration of our solar system.
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*, Isabel Quintero; With vivid illustration and text bursting with heart, this picture book is a young girl's love letter to her hardworking dad and to memories of home that we hold close in the midst of change.

- *National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs*, Catherine Hughes; The prehistoric world comes alive with dinosaurs small, big, giant, and gigantic.
- *Our Favorite Day of the Year*, A.E. Ali; This picture book tells a heartwarming story of friendship and celebrating differences, when a little boy is feeling anxious about starting Kindergarten.
- *Pink is for Boys*, Robb Pearlman; An empowering and educational picture book that proves colors are for everyone, regardless of gender. Pink is for boys . . . and girls . . . and everyone!
- *Scribble Stones*, Diane Alber; A heartwarming story about a little stone who was able to spread kindness to the world.
- *Swimmy*, Leo Leonli; This book is the story of a very small fish who stands out because he is a different color from all his school.
- *The King of Kindergarten*, Derrick Barnes; This picture book is a joyful and empowering story that will give new Kindergarteners a reassuring confidence boost.
- *The Name Jar*, Yangsook Choi; Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her.
- *The Paper Bag Princess*, Robert Munsch; When the fiercest dragon in the whole world smashes Princess Elizabeth's castle, burns all her clothes, and captures her fiancé, Prince Ronald, Elizabeth takes matters into her own hands.
- *The Paper Kingdom*, Helene Ku Rhee; Expresses the joy and spirit of a loving family who turns a routine experience into something much more.
- *The Story of Ferdinand*, Munro Leaf; Ferdinand is the world's most peaceful--and--beloved little bull. While all of the other bulls snort, leap, and butt their heads, Ferdinand is content to just sit and smell the flowers under his favorite cork tree.
- *There's a Bee in My Book Bag: A Tale with Two Sides*, Lisa Martin Suber; This charming book, told from two perspectives, reveals what happens when an unexpected guest visits a classroom.
- *We Are Water Protectors*, Carole Lindstrom; Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America.
- *What Can I Be? STEM Careers from A to Z*, Tiffani Teachey; This book is an inspiring and easy-to-read alphabet picture book that teaches our next generation about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers.
- *Where Are You From?* Yamile Saied Mendez; A book about how an unkind question becomes an opportunity for conversation and self-acceptance- thanks to a wise grandpa.
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, Shel Silverstein; Poetry; A collection of poems and drawings that stretches the bounds of imagination.
- *William's Doll*, Charlotte Zolotow; A book about a boy who wants a doll.

Suggested Level: Ages 6-8

- *All Because you Matter*, Tami Charles; Fiction; A poignant, timely and emotionally stirring picture book, this ode to Black and brown children provides a message of hope, assurance and love.
- *Alvin Ho* chapter book series, Lenore Look; Fiction; Alvin Ho is a second grader who is scared of everything, especially school. Watch him conquer his fears.
- *Beatrice Zinker Upside Down Thinker*, Shelley Johannes; Fiction; Beatrice does her best thinking upside down - Hanging from trees by her knees, doing handstands...
- *Bink and Gollie*, Kate DiCamillo; Fiction; Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls — one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter and pancakes, they share comical adventures.

- *Dear Dragon*, Josh Funk; Fiction; A sweet and clever friendship story in rhyme, about looking past physical differences to appreciate the person (or dragon) underneath.
- *Enemy Pie*, Derek Munson; Fiction; In this funny and endearing story, one little boy learns an effective recipe for turning a best enemy into a best friend.
- *Five Thousand Awesome Facts*, National Geographic Kids; Non-Fiction; Filled with photographs this beautifully designed book is organized into two-page spreads on each topic, making it easy and fun to read.
- *Flat Stanley* series, Jeff Brown; Fiction; Stanley Lampchop is squished flat by a bulletin board. He makes the best of being flat while on many action-packed adventures.
- *Fly Guy* series, Tedd Arnold; Fiction; Boy and fly meet and so begins a funny friendship filled with hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings.
- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*, Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal; Fiction; An evocative depiction of a modern Native American family.
- *I Have a Secret! ¡Tengo un Secreto: Yunito's Adventures-Las Aventuras de Yunito, Maritere Bellas*; Fiction; What happens when a young boy not only doesn't want to speak his native language of Spanish, he doesn't want anyone to speak Spanish to him, even at home, and doesn't want anyone at his school to know that he is of Spanish descent?
- *Knights vs. Dinosaurs Hardcover*, Matt Phelan; Fiction; This heavily illustrated novel is a hilarious, rip-roaring tale of derring-do perfect for reluctant readers,
- *Mercy Watson series*, Kate DiCamillo; Fiction; Mercy Watson's (a pig) disarming personality and hilarious hijinks are captivating early chapter-book readers everywhere.
- *National Geographic Readers* series, various authors; Non-Fiction; This series has something for everyone with a combination of photos, facts and fun on many subjects from animals to space.
- *One Hundred African-Americans Who Shaped American History*, Chrisanne Beckner; Non-Fiction; Teeming with interesting nuggets of facts and information.
- *Poop Happened!: A History of the World from the Bottom Up Paperback*, Sarah Albee; Non-Fiction; Did lead pipes cause the fall of the Roman Empire? How many toilets were in the average Egyptian pyramid? How did a knight wearing fifty pounds of armor go to the bathroom?
- *Princess in Black* series, Shannon Hale and Dean Hale; Fiction; A beginning chapter book series about an adventurous princess.
- *Princess Truly in I am Truly*, Kelly Greenawalt; Fiction; Celebration of individuality, girl power, and diversity.
- *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*, Dav Pilkey; Fiction; Fourth graders George Beard and Harold Hutchins are a couple of class clowns. The only thing they enjoy more than playing practical jokes is creating their own comic books. And together they've created the greatest superhero in the history of their elementary school:
- *The Adventures of Max and Levi: The Alpha League Book Series*, Portia Smith and Michael Johnson; Fiction; The heroic series follows 5 unlikely kids who subsequently become friends and heroes in their community.
- *The Backyard Bug Book for Kids*, Lauren Davidson; Non-Fiction; Take your child on an educational adventure bursting with colorful photographs.
- *The Crazy Case of Missing Thunder*, Tony Abbot; Fiction; Best friends, Mara, Kelly, Brian and Jeff are self-styled Goofball private eyes who solve unusual mysteries.
- *The Dragonsitter*, Josh Lacey; Fiction; The first title in a new chapter book series, written completely in e-mails, that will have readers laughing out loud and begging for more!
- *The Gumazing Gum Girl! Chews Your Destiny*, Rhode Montijo; Fiction; Gabby Gomez loves to chew bubble gum even though her mother has warned her against it. It's not like she will turn *into* gum . . . except, that's exactly what happens!

- *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*, Dana Alison Levy; Fiction; The start of the school year is not going as the Fletcher brothers hoped. Each boy finds his plans for success veering off in unexpected and sometimes disastrous directions
- *The Proudest Blue-A Story of Hijab and Family*, Ibtihaj Muhammad; Fiction; A universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.
- *The Rhino who Swallowed a Storm*, LeVar Burton; Fiction; In this poetic book-within-a-book, a happy little rhinoceros is overwhelmed by a storm that sweeps away everything he loves.
- *The Skin You Live In*, Michael Taylor; Fiction; Friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted.
- *The Tree Lady*, H. Joeseeph Hopkins; Non-Fiction; The true story of how one tree-loving woman changed a city forever. This book is about a female scientist who became a gardener in San Diego and transformed it to a city of trees.
- *Violet Mackerel's Outside-the-box set*, Anna Branford; Fiction; Violet Mackerel is quite a small girl with quite brilliant ideas. Once you read *one* of these charming chapter books, you'll want to read them all!

Suggested Level: Ages 9-12

- *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.*, Judy Blume; Fiction; Margaret shares her secrets and her spirituality in this iconic novel now a motion picture.
- *Blended*, Sharon M. Draper; Fiction; Eleven-year-old Isabella's blended family is more divided than ever in this story about divorce and racial identity.
- *Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)*, Lisa Yee; Fiction; Bobby Ellis-Chan has a really big secret: His best friend is a girl. But now he's in fourth grade, and things are changing.
- *Crenshaw*, Katherine Applegate; Fiction; As Jackson and his family are about to lose everything, a seven-foot-tall talking, skateboarding cat appears that could be the answer to his problems.
- *Fish in a Tree*, Lynda Mullaly Hunt; Fiction; A novel about three kids: Ally, Keisha, and Albert, who "set the world on fire" as they overcome challenges and conflicts. The plot begins with Ally refusing to try at school because of her learning disabilities.
- *Henry's Freedom Box*, Ellen Levine; Historical Fiction; Based on the true story of Henry Brown and his escape from slavery.
- *How Red Ants Got Their Color*, I. Carole Husbands; Folk Tale; Take a trip back to the Caribbean days of old when things were still simple, and people knew the answers to big questions like How did Red Ants get their Color? Take a ride from the north side of St. Thomas island to see the sights of downtown Charlotte Amalie.
- *Hurricanes*, Gail Gibbons; Non-Fiction; Informational book about hurricanes.
- *Hurricane Child*, Kacen Callender (Antilles alum & native Virgin Islander); Fiction; Born during a hurricane, 12-year-old Caroline has her share of challenges including losing her mother, being bullied, and developing a crush on her best friend Kalinda.
- *I am Malala; How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*, Malala Yousafzai; Biography; A memoir from when Malala was 10 years old and the Taliban took control of her region.
- *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*, Vashti Harrison; Biography; A beautifully illustrated mini-biographies of 40 black female trailblazers are meant to be inspiring for all readers.
- *Moonshot*, Brian Floca; Non-Fiction; Tells about the Flight of Apollo 11.
- *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, John Steptoe; Fairytale/Folktale; Teaches the importance of being kind.
- *My Name is Yoon*, Helen Recorvits; Fiction; A story about a Korean child who left her home and immigrated to America.

- *My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito*, Amanda Irma Pérez; Fiction; Five little brothers, two parents, and a house full of visiting relatives make a young Mexican American girl feel crowded.
- *National Geographic Kids-Chapters-Courageous Canine*, Kelly Millner Halls; Non-Fiction; these true stories feature fearless animals who risk their tails to save human lives
- *No Voice too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History*, Lindsay H. Metcalf; Biographic Poetry; An inspirational collection of poems that share the stories of young activists who each saw a problem or an injustice and acted to make the world better.
- *One Crazy Summer*, Rita Williams Garcia; Historical Fiction; An award-winning book written with insight and humor about family and identity.
- *Powwow*, Karen Pheasant Neganigwane; Non-Fiction; This book provides wonderful information about the history of Native American culture and customs with beautiful full-color photos on every page.
- *Roll With it*, by Jamie Sumner; Fiction; This heartwarming book tells the story of an irrepressible girl with cerebral palsy whose life takes an unexpected turn when she moves to a new town.
- *Too Many Tamales*, Garo Soto and Ed Martinez; Fiction; Maria learns a valuable lesson about telling the truth.
- *The Case for Loving*, Selina Alko; Nonfiction; This is the story of one brave family who fought an unfair law against interracial marriage, taking their case all the way to the Supreme Court—and winning!
- *The Hero Two Doors Down*, Sharon Robinson; A young sports fan gets the chance of a lifetime when baseball star Jackie Robinson becomes his next-door neighbor...and his friend! Based on a true story.
- *The One and Only Ivan*, Katherine Applegate; Fiction; Told from the point of view of Ivan, a gorilla, who tries to piece together his past with the help of an elephant named Stella as they hatch a plan to escape from captivity.
- *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster; Fiction; Bursting with imagination and smarts, this is the tale of a little boy who takes an unrestrained joyride through an unpredictable realm where words and numbers are at war with each other.
- *The Supadupa Kid*, Ty Allen Jackson; Fiction; Javon Williams was just a normal kid until a freak accident gave him amazing superpowers.
- *Thirst*, Varsha Bajaj; Fiction; This riveting story of a heroic girl who fights for her belief that water should be everywhere.
- *We are Grateful*, Traci Sorell; Non-Fiction; An informative book about Cherokee life and culture.
- *Who Was/Who Is* series, various authors; Non-Fiction; Biographies of famous people, including famous women, inventors, activists, important historical figures, past and present.
- *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio; Realistic Fiction; Auggie has had numerous surgeries to correct facial anomalies, but when he enters school in fifth grade after years of homeschooling, he still has a face that draws nicknames like Freak and Freddy Krueger.
- *Young, Fearless, Awesome: 25 Young People Who Changed the World*, Kay Woodward; Non-Fiction; From Greta Thunberg to Malala Yousafzai, these 25 amazing young people stood up for what they believed in, spoke out against injustice, and overcame huge obstacles to make a change.

Suggested Level: Ages 13-18

- *A Year to the Day*, Robin Benway; Fiction; Told in reverse chronological order, a story of love, loss, and sisterhood.
- *Abuela, Don't Forget Me*, Rex Ogle; Poetry; Life affirming poems that honor a grandmother's legacy with humor, heartbreak, and hope.
- *All Boys Aren't Blue*, George M. Johnson; Biography; In a series of personal essays, this prominent journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist explores his childhood, adolescence, and college years in New Jersey and Virginia.

- *All My Rage*, Sabaa Tahir; Fiction; Misbah is newly married to Toufiq in an arranged match. After their young life is shaken by tragedy, they come to the US hoping for a new start.
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People*, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Debbie Reese; Non Fiction; This history of North America's native tribal nations offers school-aged children a different perspective on the colonization of the United States.
- *Ashfall*, Mike Mullin; Fiction; When the Yellowstone super volcano erupts, Alex's hometown becomes a nightmare of darkness, ash, and disaster.
- *Fadeaway*, E.B. Vickers; Fiction; When a high school basketball star goes missing, a town's secrets are exposed in this edge of-your-seat, addictive read.
- *Felix Ever After*, Kacen Callender; Fiction; A revelatory Young Adult novel about a transgender teen grappling with identity and self-discovery while falling in love for the first time.
- *Fourteen Ways to Die*, Vincent Ralph; Fiction; A suspenseful crime thriller for the social media age.
- *How Moon Fuentes Fell in Love with the Universe*, Raquel Gilliland; Fiction; An irresistible romance starring a Mexican American teen who discovers love and truth about the universe.
- *Hunting by Stars*, Cherie Dimaline; Fiction; A 2022 American Indian Library Association honor book about hope and survival.
- *Hurt You*, Marie Myung-Ok Lee; Fiction; A tragic story of a Korean teen who fights to protect herself and her neurodivergent brother from a hostile community.
- *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, Erika L. Sanchez; Fiction; A teenager coming terms with losing her sister and finding herself amid the pressures, expectations, and stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican American home.
- *I Must Betray You*, Ruta Sepetys; Historical Fiction; A gut-wrenching thriller about communist Romania and the citizen spy network that devastated a nation.
- *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, Trevor Noah; Biography; Trevor Noah shares his personal story and the injustice he faced while growing up half black, half white in South Africa.
- *Letters to a Young Athlete*, Chris Bosh and Pat Riley; Biography; A legendary NBA player and beloved teammate shares his hard-earned wisdom about finding your true purpose and mastering your inner game.
- *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel; Fiction; After the sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains with the only survivors who are a sixteen year old boy, a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan, and a tiger.
- *Lioness of Punjab*, Anita Jari Kharbanda; Fiction; A fiery Sikh woman warrior leads her people with loyalty, devotion, and her sword.
- *Ms. Marvel: Beyond the Limit*, Samira Ahmed; Graphic Novel; The greatest hero of the new generation returns!
- *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison; Fiction; A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity that asks questions about race, class, and gender with characteristic subtlety and grace.
- *The Edge of Anything*, Nora Shalaway Carpenter; Fiction; A vibrant debut novel about grief, mental health, and the transformative power of friendship.
- *The Getaway*, Lamar Giles; Fiction; In this thriller/horror a teen and his friends contend with unwittingly being trapped into serving the rich clientele at a end-of-the-world oasis.
- *The Hate You Give*, Angie Thomas; Fiction; Sixteen year old Starr Carter's life is turned upside down after she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer.

- *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan; Fiction; Four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who is telling the stories.
- *The Lord of the Rings Series*, J.R.R. Tolkien; Science Fiction; A classic fantasy complete with its own geography, history, languages, and legends.
- *The New David Espinoza*, Fred Aceves; Fiction; This story examines steroid abuse and male body dysmorphia.
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky; Fiction; A coming of age story that takes a sometimes heartbreaking, often hysterical, and always honest look at high school in all its glory.
- *They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei; Biography; A graphic memoir recounting activist George Takei's childhood imprisoned within an American concentration camp during WWII.
- *Tonight, We Rule the World*, Zack Smedley, Fiction; An explosive examination of identity, voice, and the indelible ways our stories are rewritten by others.
- *We Can Be Heroes*, Kyrie McCauley, Fiction; A powerful novel about the lasting bonds of friendship and three girls fighting for each other in the aftermath of a school shooting.

Are you looking for more? Here are a few additional websites to browse:

<https://www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists/summer-2026>

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/book-lists>

<https://www.leeandlow.com/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading.html>

<https://www.socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/>