I'M A DUMBO OCTOPUS! A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO CEPHALOPODS

BY ANNE LAMBELET

LERNER/GRAPHIC UNIVERSE, 2025
ISBN: 9798765661376

Don't let your brain turn to mush this summer! Can you guess how many brains an octopus has? Nine! Learn more about octopuses in this conversational graphic novel with light humor and lots of facts.

JOURNEY OF THE HUMPBACKS

BY JULIANA MUÑOZ TORO, ILLUS. BY DIPACHO

EERDMANS, 2025
ISBN: 9780802856432

Did you know that humpback whales are the most acrobatic of all whales? Readers will learn fascinating facts about the humpback in this beautifully illustrated nonfiction book. Includes infographics, back matter, and a special note from the creators.

JUST IN CASE: SAVING SEEDS IN THE SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT

BY MEGAN CLENDENAN, ILLUS. BY BRITTANY CICCHESE

CHARLESBRIDGE, 2025
ISBN: 9781623544805

Keep cool this summer by learning about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway, where more than 580 million seeds are kept safe deep underground. With a new conservation perspective—it is not just animals that need our help—this seed vault makes sure unused seeds from all over the world do not become extinct.

OASIS

BY GUOJING

HOLT/GODWIN, 2025
ISBN: 9781250818379

In this powerful graphic novel for middle-grade readers, two siblings befriend an intelligent robot in a dystopian desert world.

ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

OCTOPUS MOON

BY BOBBIE PYRON

PENGUIN/NANCY PAULSEN, 2025
ISBN: 9780593616291

Fifth-grader Pearl loves watching the sea life at the local aquarium. If only life was as calm and easy as swimming around and around. Pearl feels that life is changing too much, making it too hard to do things she used to enjoy. This novel in verse explores depression in children and the healing that is possible.

A SEA OF LEMON TREES: THE CORRIDO OF ROBERTO ALVAREZ

BY MARÍA DOLORES ÁGUILA

ROARING BROOK, 2025
ISBN: 9781250342614

Young Roberto loves school, even though he knows he's sometimes treated differently because he is the son of Mexican immigrants. When the school board decides to send the Mexican children to a separate school and provide them with fewer resources, Roberto and his family stand up for what's right. This novel is based on the true story of the first successful desegregation suit, Roberto Alvarez v. the Board of Trustees of the Lemon Grove School District.

SECRETS OF THE SNAKESTONE

BY PIU DASGUPTA

NOSY CROW, 2025
ISBN: 9798887771939

Zélie is stuck as a maid for an odious woman in 1890's Paris, torn away from her beloved Baba, who was left behind in India. Trouble is afoot when she discovers that an exotic locket belonging to her father has been found in the Paris sewers. Can she save her father and, thus, the world?

XOLO

BY DONNA BARBA HIGUERA, ILLUS. BY MARIANA RUIZ JOHNSON

LEVINE QUERIDO, 2025
ISBN: 9781646147021

In this creation tale from Aztec mythology, Xolo, a dog-headed god of lightning, death, and misfortune is an unlikely hero. Illustrations in the style of the Codex Borgia, an ancient Mexican manuscript, are rich in color and capture the reader's curiosity.

DIGITAL

GREEKING OUT

nationalgeographic.com/podcasts/greeking-out

National Geographic's podcast Greeking Out introduces children to stories of ancient Greece.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

kids.nationalgeographic.com

Fun trivia, puzzles, quizzes, and video games for STEM-loving kids on this interactive website.

WOW IN THE WORLD

tinkercast.com/wow-in-the-world

This weekly Tinkercast podcast gets kids excited about science and technology.

www.ala.org/alsc

The 2026 Summer Reading List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit www.ala.org/alsc/booklists.

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