2nd – 3rd Grade Summer Reading Recommendations 2026

* designates OTTER Award nominees

Chapter Books

***Ava Lin, Best Friend** by Vicky Fang
***Felix Powell, Boy Dog** by Erin Entrada Kelly
***How to Save and Otter** by Kate Messner
***Murray the Viking** by Adam Stower
***Tuck and Tina and the Lost Fortune** by Jess Brallier
***Rise of the Green Flame (Kwame's Magic Quest #1)** by Bernard Mensah
Ballpark Mysteries by David A. Kelly
First Day, Worst Day (The Very Worst Ever, Book 1) by Andy Nonamus
Orris and Timble: The Beginning by Kate DiCamillo
Shermy & Shake, the Not-So-Nice Neighbor by Kirby Larson
Welcome to Scare School (Scare School Diaries 1) by Jarrett Lerner
Wildfire Rescue: A Branches Book (Disaster Squad #1) by Rekha S. Rajan
Henry, Like Always by Jenn Bailey
King of the Ice by Kelly Starling Lyons
The Skull by Jon Klassen
Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend by Dawn Quigley
Mac Undercover by Mac Barnett
My Furry Foster Family: Truman the Dog by Debbi Michiko
Monster and Boy by Hannah Barnaby
Freddy's Amazing Bakery: The Cookie Mystery by Harriet Whitehorn
Trouble at Table 5: The Candy Caper by Tom Watson
The Fabled Stables: Willa the Wisp by Jonathan Auxier
Klawde: Evil Alien Warlord Cat by Johnny Marciano
Good Dog, McTavish by Meg Rosoff
Farah Rocks Fifth Grade by Susan Muaddi Darraj
Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson
Dave the Unicorn: Welcome to Unicorn School by Pip Bird
Megabat by Anna Humphrey
High and Dry by Eric Walters
Genius Jolene by Sara Cassidy
Jake Maddox sports series
Astrid the Astronaut by Rie Neal
Nick and the Brick Builder Challenge by Jen Malia
Micah Hudson: Football Fumble by Tanisia Moore
Aven Green, Sleuthing Machine by Dusti Bowling
Abby in Orbit: Blast Off! By Andrea J. Loney
Pets Rule: My Kingdom of Darkness by Susan Tan

The Underdogs by Tracey West
Awesome Orange Birthday by Mitali Banerjee Ruths
Anisa's International Day by Reem Faruqi
Twins vs. Triplets: Back to School Blitz by Jennifer Torres
Riley Reynolds Crushes Costume Day by Jay Albee
The Dragon in the Library by Louie Stowell
Salma Makes a Home by Danny Ramadan
Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson
Horace and Bunwinkle by P.J. Gardner
Bo and the Spooky House by Elliott Smith
Dragons and Marshmallows by Asia Citro
The Secret of the Jade Bangle by Linda Trinh
Jake the Fake Keeps it Real by Craig Robinson
Odder by Katherine Applegate
Rachel Friedman Breaks the Rules by Sarah Kapit
The Great Pet Heist by Emily Ecton
Legends of Lotus Island: The Guardian Test by Christina Soontornvat
The Terribles: Welcome to Stubtoe Elementary by Travis Nichols
Zara's Rules for Record-Breaking Fun by Hena Khan
Just Right Jillian by Nicole D. Collier
Manatee Summer by Evan Griffith
The Area 51 Files by Julie Buxbaum
The Unlikely Aventuras of Ramon and El Cucuy by Donna Barba Higuera
Troubling Tonsils by Aaron Reynolds

<u>Graphic Novels</u>
Wombats Go Camping by Maddie Frost
Things in the Basement by Ben Hatke
Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths by Graham Annable
Sloth Sleuth by Cyndi Marko
Housecat Trouble by Mason Dickerson
Max Meow: Cat Crusader by John Gallagher
Bug Boys by Laura Knetzger
Monster Friends by Kaeti Vandorn
The Great Pet Escape by Victoria Jamieson
Fitz and Cleo by Jonathan Stutzman
Investigators by John Green
Donut Feed the Squirrels by Mika Song
Fox & Rabbit by Beth Ferry
Stargazing by Jen Wang
Allergic by Megan Wagner Lloyd

This Was Our Pact by Ryan Andrews
The Hunger Heroes: Missed Meal Mayhem by Jarrett Lerner
Red Panda & Moon Bear by Jarod Rosello
City Under the City by Dan Yaccarino
Grace Needs Space by Benjamin A Wilgus
Pawcasso by Remy Lai
Waffles and Pancake: Planetary – YUM by Drew Brockington
Clementine Fox and the Great Island Adventure by Leigh Luna
Garlic and Vampire by Bree Paulsen
Officer Clawsome: Lobster Cop by Brian "Smitty" Smith
Squished by Megan Wagner Lloyd
Things in the Basement by Ben Hatke
Mr. Wolf's Class by Aron Steinke
The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza by Mac Barnett

Non-fiction
A Life of Service: The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth by Christina Soontornvat
We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell
Blue: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond
What Do You Celebrate? Holidays and Festival Around the World by Whitney Stewart
Harvesting Hope by Kathleen Krull
Everything Awesome About Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Beasts! By Mike Lowery
How to Promenade with a Python (and Not Get Eaten): A Polite Predators Book by Rachel Poliquin
Hop to It: Poems to Get You Moving by Sylvia Vardell
Her Fearless Run: Katherine Switzer's Historic Boston Marathon by Kim Chaffee
The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs by Chana Stiefel
How Do You Spell Unfair? MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee by Carole Boston
She Persisted: Maria Tallchief by Christine Day
Fact vs. Opinion vs. Robot by Michael Rex
The Bug Club by Elise Gravel
The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field by Scott Riley
The Worry (Less) Book by Rachel Brian
Orca Rescue! by Donna Sandstrom
Yoshi and the Ocean by Lindsay Moore
Tenacious: Fifteen Adventures Alongside Disabled Athletes by Patty Cisneros Prevo
The Girl Who Heard the Music: How One Pianist and 85,000 Bottles and Cans Brought New Hope to an Island by Marni Fogelson
The World is Not a Rectangle by Jeanette Winter