

SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 1ST GRADE

This recommended reading list provides a wide array of reading choices for students. The books on this list do not indicate reading level or achievement, but will hopefully spark discussion between you and your children and inspire an interest in stories and reading.

Starting on Tuesday, June 20, you can stop by the Youth Desk at Beebe Library and sign up for Summer at the Library 2023. It's FREE to sign up and to participate in all of the summer programs and activities at the library. To learn more, you can inquire at the Youth Desk or visit www.wakefieldlibrary.org/summer-reading. Want to get involved? Just visit the Youth Desk and tell a librarian you want to be a part of Summer at the Library!

Happy reading! Your friends in the Youth Room,
Casey, Annie, Molly, Heidi, & Holly

PICTURE BOOKS

***Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer**

When two curious kids embark on a "wonder walk," they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see: *Is the sun the world's light bulb? Is dirt the world's skin? Are rivers the earth's veins? Is the wind the world breathing? I wonder . . .*

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ar

***I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes**

An ode to all the good that a kid can be, even when the world tells him otherwise.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ba

***The Stuff of Stars* by Marion Dane Bauer**

Before the universe was formed, there was nothing. Then BANG! Stars, light, and dust flying everywhere, forming planets, and then forming people. We are all the stuff of stars.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ba

***Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty**

Sofia Valdez is a real go-getter, so when her Abuelo gets hurt on the neighborhood trash heap, Sofia leads the way to get it cleaned up so the community can have a park.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Be

***A Library Book for Bear* by Bonnie Becker**

Bear has all the books he will ever need: three knight books, three honeybee books, and a pickle book. When his friend Mouse drags him to the library, Bear discovers that his bookshelf may have space for books on more topics.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Be



***Song in the City* by Daniel Bernstrom**

A young girl, filled with the sounds of her beloved city, shares a song with her grandmother that changes the two forever. After helping Grandma realize that the city makes music as beautiful as the sounds they hear in church on Sunday morning, the two sit down and take in all the sounds of the city...together.

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Be*

***Leave Me Alone!* by Vera Brosgol**

Grandmother badly needs peace and quiet to finish knitting for her grandchildren, so she leaves her tiny home and her big family to journey to the moon and beyond.

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Br*

***How to Bake a Universe* by Alec Carvlin**

Both scientifically accurate and also completely silly, this is a full recipe for making your own universe. Just set your oven to Absolute Hot and get started!

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Ca*

***The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* by Drew Daywalt**

You've played the game, now find out how Rock, Paper, and Scissors came to be the last remaining warriors in a never-ending battle for supremacy.

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Da*

***American Desi* by Jyoti Gopal**

A young girl longs to know where she fits in: Is she American? Or is she Indian? Does she have to pick or can she be both? With bright, joyful rhyme, and paired with an immersive art style using American and Indian fabrics, *American Desi* celebrates the experiences of young children growing up first and second generation Indian American: straddling the two cultural worlds they belong to, embracing all they love of both worlds and refusing to be limited by either.

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Go*

***Milo Imagines the World* by Matt de la Peña**

As Milo and his sister ride the subway, Milo draws his ideas of how the people around him on the train live. As they reach their destination, Milo realizes that sometimes you can't tell what someone's life is like by looking at them.

Call #: *Children's Picture Book De*

***Gaston* by Kelly DiPucchio**

Raised in a poodle family, Gaston works hard to meet his mother's standards of propriety, but her lessons do not come easily to him. When his family meets a bulldog family in the park, the mothers realize that they may have made "a terrible mistake."

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Di*

***Grandma and the Great Gourd: a Bengali folk tale* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

Grandma wants to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, but dangerous creatures live there. Can she outwit foxes, bears, and tigers in order to make her journey there and back?

Call #: *Children's Picture Book Di*



***Pokko and the Drum* by Matthew Forsythe**

The worst mistake Pokko's parents ever made was giving her the drum. Now she has to wrangle a band of wild animals without anyone eating each other.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Fo

***Lucía the Luchadora* by Cynthia Leonor Garza**

Lucía loves playing superhero on the playground, but the boys won't let her play with them. They think girls can't be heroes. Lucía's Abuela knows the boys are wrong, because once upon a time, she was a special superhero – a Luchadora!

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ga

***Hello Goodbye Dog* by Maria Gianferrari**

Zara's dog, Moose, is a master of escaping and rushing to Zara's side. Unfortunately, dogs aren't allowed in school! Can the two friends find a way to keep Moose by Zara's side?

Call #: Children's Picture Book Gi

***Pretty Perfect Kitty-Corn* by Shannon Hale**

Unicorn is perfect – everybody thinks so! Unicorn is especially eager for Kitty to see the perfection, but what happens when Unicorn makes a big fumble? Will Kitty even want to be his friend anymore?

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ha

***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho**

Her friends might have eyes that are sapphire pools, but this young girl loves her eyes that kiss in the corners and are like warm tea in this ode to Asian eyes.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ho

***Say Hello!* by Rachel Isadora**

A little girl greets people in her neighborhood in many different languages.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Is

***The Good Egg* by Jory John**

He's a good egg. A verrrrrry good egg. Practically perfect. And it starts getting a little hard to be so very good when all the other eggs are all so very rotten. When the egg starts to crack under the pressure of being so perfect, he decides it's time for a big change.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Jo

***I Walk with Vanessa* by Kerascoet**

In this wordless picture book, a young girl takes steps to stop bullying and make a friend. Her simple act of kindness grows until the whole town is walking with Vanessa.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ke

***Summer is for Cousins* by Rajani LaRocca**

Ravi can't wait to spend summer vacation at the lake house with his family—especially his cousins! Summer vacation is for days at the beach, long hikes, paddleboarding, and—of course—ice cream. Ravi and his oldest cousin, Dhruv, had the same favorite flavor last year, but everything feels different now. Dhruv's much taller and his voice is deeper. Ravi's worried that Dhruv won't be interested in spending time with him, the little cousin. The ice cream shop doesn't even have their favorite flavor this year. But on the last night of vacation, the cousins decide to make dinner, and Ravi's in charge of dessert. He only has one special thing in mind!

Call #: Children's Picture Book La



***Sleepover at the Museum* by Karen LeFrak**

For Mason's birthday, he's having a sleepover at the Museum of Natural History! And if he and his friends can finish the scavenger hunt through the museum, he'll get to choose which room they'll be sleeping in. This mystery invites the reader to help solve the clues.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Le

***This is a Good Story* by Adam Lehrhaupt**

A young writer tries to tell a story, but the characters soon take on a life of their own! Can she turn it into a *good* story? You'll find out!

Call #: Children's Picture Book Le

***Drawn Together* by Minh Lê**

A young boy and his grandfather search for common ground; they don't speak the same language, eat the same foods, or watch the same television shows, but they do share a love of drawing that brings them together.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Le

***Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal**

Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has such a long name that it never fits! But when her father tells the story of her names, Alma may find them a better fit than she imagined.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ma

***A New Day* by Brad Meltzer**

When Sunday quits suddenly, the other days of the week need to come up with a replacement – quick! Auditions begin and the possibilities seem endless: Pieday! Superheroday! Acrobaturday! But is there anyone who can take the place of Sunday?

Call #: Children's Picture Book Me

***Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora**

Omu is cooking up a stew that will be the best she's ever had. The neighbors smell the scrumptious scent and it's not too long before they're asking for a taste. Omu is happy to share, but when the neighbors keep coming, Omu is in danger of running out of soup.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Mo

***The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihah Muhammad**

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Mu

***Sulwe* by Lupita Nyong'o**

Sulwe is darker than anyone in her family, and anyone in her school. She feels like she doesn't fit in, until a magical journey in the sky opens her eyes to the beauty found in the darkness and in the light.

Call #: Children's Picture Book Ny



***A Family is a Family is a Family* by Sara O’Leary**

When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, they have very different answers—but those answers share a common, important theme.

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Ol

***All Are Neighbors* by Alexandra Penfold**

Moving to a new place can be hard, but when your neighbors welcome you with open arms, there are *so* many things to discover and celebrate. Come along with the kids from the bestsellers of *All Are Welcome* and *Big Feelings* as they introduce the new kid to a community where everyone has a place and is loved and appreciated—no matter what.

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Pe

***The Lion and the Mouse* by Jerry Pinkney**

In this wordless retelling of the Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse rescues the King of the Jungle, proving that even small creatures are capable of great deeds.

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Pi

***Rescuing Mrs. Birdley* by Aaron Reynolds**

A teacher’s natural habitat is the classroom. Animal expert Miranda has to employ all the tricks she knows to return Mrs. Birdley to her natural habitat after seeing she has escaped to the grocery store.

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Re

***The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires**

The girl has a wonderful idea. “She is going to make the most MAGNIFICENT thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. All she has to do is make it, and she makes things all the time. Easy-peasy!” But making her magnificent thing is anything but easy, and the girl tries and fails, repeatedly. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But after her dog convinces her to take a walk, she comes back to her project with renewed enthusiasm and manages to get it just right.

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Sp

***The Storyteller* by Evan Turk**

In a time of drought in the Kingdom of Morocco, a storyteller and a boy weave a tale to thwart a Djinn and his sandstorm from destroying their city.

Call #: Children’s Illustrated Fiction Tu

***Luli and the Language of Tea* by Andrea Wang**

When five-year-old Luli joins her new English as a Second Language class, the playroom is quiet. Luli can’t speak English, neither can anyone else. That’s when she has a brilliant idea to host a tea party and bring them all together..

Call #: Children’s Picture Book Wa

***The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson**

Sometimes beginning something new can be scary, especially when no one else in the room looks or sounds like you. But with a touch of courage, you can find a way to make connections.

Call #: Children’s Illustrated Fiction Wo



NONFICTION

***May Among the Stars* by Roda Ahmed**

Inspired by the true-life story of Mae Jemison, the first Black woman to go to space, this is a sweet story about following your dreams!

Call #: Children's Biography Jemison

***The Story of Climate Change: A first book about how we can help save our planet* by Catherine Barr**

Follow the story of Earth's changing climate from the beginning to now, and see how humans are doing their part to both hurt and help the environment.

Call #: Children's 363.73 Barr

***Blastoff! Readers* series by various authors**

These leveled nonfiction books cover a variety of awesome topics, from baby animals to monster trucks. They guide readers as they transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Call #: Children's First Reader - Nonfiction Section (look for the rocket on the spine!)

***Bullfrog Books* series by various authors**

The publisher, Jump, dubs these books, "Beautiful nonfiction for beginning and struggling readers." They are! These high-interest, low reading level titles help young readers learn to read and, more specifically, learn to decode nonfiction.

Call #: Children's First Reader - Nonfiction Section (look for the bullfrog on the spine!)

***Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré* by Anika Denise**

When Pura Belpré first arrives in NYC in 1921, she finds that none of the stories she grew up with in Puerto Rico have made their way to the library shelves. In an effort to change that, she introduces stories from her native land, in her native language, to the citizens of New York.

Call #: Children's Biography Belpré

***Curious Critters* by David FitzSimmons**

Detailed photographs accompany little vignettes told from the perspective of curious critters that live in our world.

Call #: Children's 591.97 FitzSimmons

***Shaped by Her Hands: Potter Maria Martinez* by Anna Harber Freeman & Barbara Gonzales**

Maria started as a girl who wanted to learn to make clay pots from her aunt. She grew into the most famous Native American Indian potter, known for her special firing technique that turned her pots into shiny, black works of art.

Call #: Children's Biography Martinez

***Do unto Otters: A Book about Manners* by Laurie Keller**

Mr. Rabbit wonders if he will be able to get along with his new neighbors, who are otters, until he is reminded of the golden rule.

Call #: Children's 395.122 Keller



***This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World* by Matt Lamothe**

From where they live, to what they're called, to how they spend their free time, these seven real kids from around the world show us how they live.

Call #: Children's 305.23 Lamothe

***Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner**

A young girl and her Nana tend the vegetables and flowers up in the garden, while the worms, bugs, and animals play down in the dirt.

Call #: Children's 635 Messner

***We Are Still Here!: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* by Traci Sorell**

Twelve Native American kids present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: We are still here!

Call #: Children's 970.1 Sorell

***The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps* by Jeannette Winter**

Follow Jane Goodall's life with the chimpanzees in Africa as she earns their trust, becomes their friend, and works to save their habitat and their lives.

Call #: Children's Biography Goodall

FIRST READERS

(PERFECT FOR THE CHILD WHO IS JUST BEGINNING TO READ ON THEIR OWN)

***Mo Jackson* series by David Adler**

Mo may not be the tallest player on his team, or the fastest or the strongest, but that never stops him from trying his best no matter what shape that takes.

Call #: Children's First Reader Adler

***Rhyming Word Families* series, by Marv Alinas**

This series uses simple sentences and bold pictures to tell stories using rhyming word families.

Call #: Children's First Reader Alinas

***Flip-a-Word* series by various authors**

Humorous illustrations and die-cut pages introduce short vowel sounds, consonant blends, and word families in these Flip-a-Word books.

Call #: Children's First Reader Flip

***Beginning to Read* series by Margaret Hillert**

Simple, easy to read retellings of well-known fairy tales, like Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, and Hansel and Gretel.

Call #: Children's First Reader Hillert

***Horse and Buggy* series by Ethan Long**

Horse and Buggy are best friends who get up to all kinds of antics in this fun - and funny - series!

Call #: Children's First Reader Long



The Adventures of Otto series by David Milgrim

Join Otto the robot as he navigates friendship here on Earth.

Call #: Children's First Reader Milgrim

Puppy Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant

Mudge is Henry's puppy, and he's full of mischief and energy. He's also full of love!

Call #: Children's First Reader Rylant

The Giggle Gang series by Jan Thomas

These wacky animals get up to all sorts of misadventures! Whether it's searching for a missing toothbrush or baking a birthday cake for a friend, you can count on the Giggle Gang to give you a few laughs!

Call # Children's First Reader Thomas

CHAPTER BOOKS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

(PERFECT FOR FAMILY READ-ALOUDS!)

The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure by Doreen Cronin

The Chicken Squad is ready to fight crime and solve mysteries - especially the mystery of the alien spacecraft! But what if the aliens want the chickens for - gulp! - dinner?

Call #: Children's Early Chapter Cronin

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Gannett

Elmer Elevator heads off on an adventure to rescue a dragon from its cruel captors.

Call #: Children's Early Chapter Gannett

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea by Ben Clanton

In this new graphic novel series, a happy-go-lucky, waffle-loving narwhal and a cynical, no-nonsense jellyfish forge an unlikely friendship and share adventures in the ocean.

Call #: Children's Comics Clanton

Jump into Chapters series by various authors

Join Andy, Mr. Ball, and others on their silly adventures in these early reader comics.

Call #: Children's Comics various

Johnny Boo by James Kochalka

In this graphic novel series, Johnny Boo, the best little ghost in the whole world, and his pet ghost named Squiggle have the world's greatest ghost adventures.

Call #: Children's Comics Kochalka

Lulu and the Duck in the Park by Hilary McKay

The rule about pets at Lulu's house is simple: The more the merrier - as long as Lulu cleans up after them! But does Lulu get in over her head when she brings a duck egg to school?

Call #: Children's Early Chapter McKay

