This Summer, take a Break and Read!

Simple and Fun Suggestions for a Sizzling Summer of Reading

A 2013 Guide for Parents, Caregivers, Teachers, Librarians, and Booksellers

Penguin Young Readers Group
penguin.com/summerreading · penguinclassroom.com
This Summer, Take a Break and Read

Students who read during the summer perform better in the fall.

Everyone looks forward to summer—to warm weather, vacations, and spending free time with family and friends. If you’re a teacher, librarian, bookseller, parent, or caregiver, you know that the summer months are the most crucial connection on a child’s path to a successful school year. Students who read regularly during the summer avoid documented reading achievement losses in the fall. By dedicating time to books during the summer and demonstrating the importance of reading at home, you can help your child maintain the literacy skills he or she developed during the school year, gain additional ground in reading comprehension, and start school in the fall as a confident and eager reader.

Keep in mind that, although there is an expected reading level for each grade, children may be reading below, at, or above this level independently. For this reason, knowing your child’s instructional as well as independent reading level is essential for selecting appropriate summer reading titles. Be sure to refer to the guided reading levels listed throughout this guide by each book, and feel free to choose selections from above or below your child’s grade level depending on his or her individual independent reading level.

This guide is designed to provide book recommendations by grade, reading level, and theme that adults across the country—teachers, librarians, booksellers, parents, and caregivers alike—can use to help the children in their lives participate in (and actually look forward to) summer reading. All titles featured are excellent choices for independent reading selections and also fit well into national standard curriculums, making them perfect for required and suggested summer reading lists and back-to-school assignments. Also included in this guide are tips to help make reading a fun, positive experience, attract reluctant readers to books, incorporate reading into your child’s daily summer routine, and bridge the transition from summer to school.

Visit penguin.com/summerreading for additional helpful tips, book recommendations, downloadable materials, and printables to help enhance your summer reading program! The information on this site can be used during the summer for continued reading comprehension practice and can also be helpful in jumpstarting classroom lesson plan ideas for the new school year.

TEACHERS: Planning for the Fall has never been easier with Penguin’s classroom classics program. Ready-made lesson plans aligned to Common Core State Standards now available for download at penguin/Commoncore.

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DON’T FORGET TO CURL UP WITH A CLASSIC!

You’re never too old or too young to appreciate a wonderful story. Turn to the back of this booklet for some great suggestions that you can enjoy with your child, and download a full list of available classics at penguin.com/summerreading.

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ATTENTION TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS!

THERE’S EVEN MORE HELPFUL RESOURCES, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS, AND FUN STUFF ONLINE! BE SURE TO VISIT US AT PENGUINCLASSROOM.COM TO SEE ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER.

ALL OUR RESOURCES AlIGNED TO THE COMMONCORE CAN BE FOUND AT PENGUINCLASSROOM.COM/COMMONCORE.

HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR BOYS TO READ? CHECK OUT OUR PENGUIN.COM/BOOKS4BOYS WEBSITE FOR GREAT IDEAS AND TIPS ON HOW TO REACH THE MOST RELUCTANT READER.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @ PENGUINCLASS

FACEBOOK.COM/PENGUINCLASSROOM
Penguin Young Readers
a leveled reader program

The Penguin Young Readers program is a great way to build reading competence and confidence. This program applies the standards of Fountas and Pinnell’s Guided Reading program in text layout, vocabulary, sentence structure, design, plot complexity, font size, genre, and themes in a clear, uncluttered approach that will appeal to kids, educators, and parents. To hear what educators and librarians are saying about Penguin Young Readers and to view a complete list of all available titles, visit penguinyoungreaders.com.

Level 1:
Dick and Jane: Go, Go, Go
by Dana Regan
Monkey See, Monkey Do by Dana Regan
Tiny Goes to the Library by Cari Meister, illustrated by Rich Davis
Turtle and Snake Go Camping by Kate Spohn

Level 2:
The Loopy Coop Hens
by Janet Morgan Stoeke
Max & Ruby: Max’s Checkup
by Rosemary Wells

Level 3:
Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day
by Jean Van Leeuwen
illustrated by Ann Schweninger
Gorillas
by Patricia Brennan Demuth
illustrated by Paul Lopez
Pearl and Wagner: Two Good Friends
by Kate McMullan
illustrated by R.W. Alley

Level 4:
Batman: The Brave and the Bold: Day of the Dark Knight!
Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address
by Jean Fritz
illustrated by Charles Robinson
I Am Rosa Parks
by Rosa Parks with Jim Haskins
illustrated by Wil Clay

Teachers! Use the Penguin Young Readers Core Curriculum Guide in the classroom. This 16-page educator’s guide contains 12 extensive lesson plans aligned with Common Core State Standards for grades K–3. The 12 core curriculum plans are organized by levels, and within each level, by Guided Reading bands. Download for free at penguinclassroom.com/commoncore.

The Summer Before . . . Kindergarten

During kindergarten, children often take their first steps toward becoming readers. The summer before, show your almost kindergartner that reading is fun—and that anytime is a good time to curl up with a great book. Use the suggestions below to ensure that your child starts school viewing reading as an enjoyable, entertaining pastime. Remember, at this point you should be focusing on your child’s listening comprehension level and reading aloud to them as much as possible.

Reading as a family and incorporating books into your daily schedule is incredibly important for emerging readers. Develop a consistent reading routine with your child by—for example—always reading before nap or bedtime. Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats is a favorite of this age group. Also try Max and Ruby’s Bedtime Book by Rosemary Wells; this book contains three shorter stories, making it the perfect choice for spending some quick time with a sleepy toddler.

Picture books are a great vehicle for developing vocabulary and oral language skills. Choose books that focus on early concepts like numbers, letters, and colors in addition to books with story elements that feature interesting characters and imaginary play. G is for Goat by Patricia Polacco is a wonderful rhyming alphabet story, and the original Ladybug Girl by David Soman and Jacky Davis is excellent for inspiring imaginary play. Select books with vivid illustrations that lend themselves to rich conversations incorporating new words and concepts.

Capitalize on the theme of summer by selecting books that focus on topics and events your child will encounter. Try Ladybug Girl at the Beach for vacation and The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle for family picnics and to teach nutrition. Read Watty Piper’s classic confidence-building tale The Little Engine That Could to give your young readers an extra boost of enthusiasm for embarking on new experiences.

At the end of the summer, prepare your child for school by reading books with back-to-school themes to ensure an easy transition into the first formal school year. Favorites include Llama Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney, The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing, and Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate. Look for The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School by Laura Murray.

If your child loves a character—like Llama Llama, Skippyjon Jones, Max and Ruby, or Ladybug Girl—stick with it! A well-loved book character can become a friend to the youngest readers and a sure bet to keep them interested in reading! See what other books are available starring that character. Look for activity and sticker books featuring these characters; bring them on car trips and incorporate them into your child’s daily playtime.
The Summer Before... First Grade

Many rising first graders are still acquiring pre-reading skills, such as letter/sound relationships, while others are slowly developing a sight word vocabulary, which enables them to read simple books. But all soon-to-be first graders are anxious to be readers! Use the suggestions below to help your child take the next steps.

After your child has been introduced to reading in kindergarten, make sure to maintain his or her interest and skills during the summer before first grade by knowing your child’s reading level. Being aware of how and when to introduce more difficult texts is crucial for your child’s reading development. Select easy-to-read picture books and simple stories for early readers. Billy & Milly, Short & Silly is a fantastic choice; three- or four-word sentences combine with vivid illustrations to create short stories about two lovable characters. Books with plenty of rhyme, rhythm, and repetition can be good tools for helping early readers gain fluency. Try Oh, Look! by Patricia Polacco and Gingerbread Friends by Jan Brett.

Reread children’s favorite stories so that they can become familiar with the text and master words that they have difficulty reading the first time. To develop reading comprehension skills, talk about the main idea and characters of each story with your child. Pause during the reading and ask your child to predict what might happen next or how the story might end. The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka makes an entertaining read-aloud; comparing and contrasting it to the original version can be a fun activity! A book that is above your child’s independent reading level, but at his or her listening comprehension level, can make a good read-aloud. Move your finger under the line of print as you read aloud so your child can follow along. At this age, many children enjoy the popular Bones mystery series by David A. Adler or the friendship-themed Cork and Fuzz series by Dori Chaconas.

Remember to ask your child to pack a book or two when you go on vacation and always to keep books in your car! Try playing an audiobook while your child follows along with the print version. The Skippyjon Jones books by Judy Schachner are perfect for this, as they come with an audio CD of the author reading the book aloud. This series is also a sure bet for encouraging imaginative play during the summer months. Don’t miss Skippyjon Jones: The Great Bean Caper. Visit skippyjonjones.com for games, printable activity sheets, and more!

Relevant thematic reading selections always make good choices. Caldecott Medal–winner Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann puts a fun spin on learning safety tips. Natasha Wing’s The Night Before series is fantastic for introductions to new holidays and events. Start your summer off with The Night Before Summer Vacation, and if your youngster goes to camp, don’t miss The Night Before Summer Camp. To prep for school near the end of summer try, The Night Before First Grade and Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade by Stephanie Greene.
The Summer Before . . . Second Grade

The summer before second grade is the perfect time to begin to visit your local public library regularly with your child. Allow children to begin to select their own books and distinguish their personal tastes. Rising second graders should have access to different genres, including mysteries, poetry, realistic fiction, nonfiction, and fables. Their reading material should range from early chapter books they can read on their own to more advanced chapter books you can read together.

Try these more advanced picture books as read-aloud selections:

- **Badger’s Fancy Meal** by Keiko Kasza
- **The Other Side** by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- **Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse and Follow Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems** by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Josée Masse

Join Horrible Harry on his misadventures in the popular series by Suzy Kline!

- **A MODERN FABLE FEATURING HUMOR, COOPERATION & CURIOSITY**

Make friends with Jean Van Leeuwen’s Geisel Honor–winning Amanda Pig!

- **LEVEL L**

Solve mysteries with everyone’s favorite super sleuth, Cam Jansen!

The Cam Jansen series by David A. Adler is . . .

- **HUGE!** With more than thirty books in the series, readers are guaranteed a full summer of sleuthing!
- **a classroom classic.** Beloved by teachers—and written by a former teacher, as well—Cam is a great choice for any reading curriculum and library or bookstore recommendation.
- **liked by girls and boys.**
- **part of the popular mystery genre.** Kids love the excitement of solving Cam’s cases as they read along.
- **perfect for practicing the comprehension strategies of predicting and questioning, which enhance active thinking behavior while reading.**
- **diverse in topics and themes.** From school mysteries to dinosaur who-done-its to sports crimes, Cam solves them all.
- **popular enough to have its own fan club!** Visit penguin.com/camjansensleuthsquad to learn more today.

Follow award-winning author Paula Danziger’s Amber Brown as she navigates school, friendship, and family in TWO series at different reading levels.

- **LEVEL M**
- **LEVEL L**

Follow award-winning author Paula Danziger’s Amber Brown as she navigates school, friendship, and family in TWO series at different reading levels.
The Summer Before . . . Third Grade

The summer before third grade is a good time to increase children’s reading stamina—to encourage them to read longer books, for a longer period of time in one sitting. Series books are an ideal tool for sustaining the interest of rising third graders throughout the long summer months. Children at this age respond positively to character-driven books and enjoy getting to know a group of characters that engage in different adventures from book to book. If you get them hooked, they’ll keep on reading, learning, and having fun!

Navigate the third grade and tackle bullying with Ellray Jakes.
- Kids will relate to the realistic playground situations.
- Lighthearted and funny, these books teach lessons about friendship and bullying without getting too heavy.

Take a step in someone else’s shoes (or paws!) with Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo!
- The Katie Kazoo, Switcheroo series by Nancy Krulik is . . .
  - Huge! With more than forty books in the series, fans can have a book on deck all summer long.
  - Popular enough to have its own fan club!
  - Visit katiekazoo.com to learn how you can become a member today!

Follow job-obsessed Frannie B. Miller on her comical journey to find employment in a real-life office.
- A great tool for teaching creative vocabulary and nonsense words.
- A wonderful platform for a unique getting to know you exercise: writing a résumé!

Join Sam, Joe, and Fred on their action-packed adventures in the boy-friendly Time Warp Trio series. The Time Warp Trio series is . . .
- Written and illustrated by the knockout team of Jon Scieszka, the first National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature, and Caldecott Honor—winner Lane Smith.
- The perfect way to give your kids a dose of history disguised as fun.
Reaching Reluctant Readers

NOT EVERY CHILD IS A BORN BOOK LOVER, BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN CHILDREN CAN’T LEARN TO LOVE READING!

Both boys and girls can be equally reluctant to dive into summer reading, but boys are traditionally less eager than girls. Use these suggestions to reach the boys in your life and help them find the fun in reading. Know a boy who doesn’t love books but is obsessed with . . . sports/science experiments/action movie blockbusters/comics/history (particularly war stories)/vampires/anything super gross, including bugs, snakes, and slime? Then suggesting books based on themes or subjects that the boys you know are already fanatical about will be a much easier task and a more effective sell. If you find a local author or series that your child likes, ask your librarian or local bookstore for more titles. Remember, getting your child hooked on a prolific author or large series means they’ll always have a book on deck. And don’t forget to visit penguin.com/summerreading for more recommendations!

For Kids who . . .

DEVOUR GRAPHIC NOVELS.

Dragonbreath
by Ursula Vernon

Dragonbreath: Curse of the Were-Wiener
by Ursula Vernon

Dragonbreath: Attack of the Ninja Frogs
by Ursula Vernon

Dragonbreath: Lair of the Bat Monster
by Ursula Vernon

It’s not easy for Danny Dragonbreath to be the sole mythical creature in a school for reptiles and amphibians—especially because he can’t breathe fire like other dragons. Using a hybrid of comic-book panels and text, author Ursula Vernon has created an irresistible set of characters with a penchant for getting themselves into sticky situations. It’s perfect for both the classroom and fun summer reading selections.

Zombiekins
by Kevin Bolger

Time Wrap Trio: Knights of the Kitchen Table
by Jon Scieszka

Chocolate Fever
by Robert Kimmel Smith

LIVE TO LAUGH.

The George Brown, Class Clown series
by Nancy Krulik

Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger
by Kevin Bolger

The Chronicles of Egg: Deadweather and Sunrise
by Geoff Rodkey

LIKE POTTY HUMOR

Love Chocolate.

Love Pirates:

GUIDED READING LEVELS I–Q

For more awesome book recommendations for boys, supplemental materials for teachers and parents, notes from favorite authors, and materials and suggestions for book clubs, visit penguin.com/books4boys!
For Kids who . . .

ENJOY A LITTLE NONSENSE

- We Are Not Eaten by Yaks by C. Alexander London
- Zorgamazoo by Robert Paul Weston
- Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka

LOVE ACTION MOVIES AND CRIME SHOWS.

- The Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz
- Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham

ARE INTO SWORD FIGHTING AND COMBAT.

- The Ranger’s Apprentice series by John Flanagan
- The Redwall series by Brian Jacques
- The Lost Years of Merlin series by T. A. Barron

ARE INTRIGUED BY DRAGONS AND MAGIC.

LIKE HORIZON FICKS.

- The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod series by Heather Brewer

LIKE HISTORY AND WAR STORIES.

- Heat by Mike Lupica
- Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two by Joseph Bruchac

WISH FOR SUPERPOWERS.

- Hero by Mike Lupica
The Summer Before . . . Fourth Grade

Spend your summer with everyone's favorite class pet, Humphrey the hamster!

The Humphrey series by Betty G. Birney is . . .

- the winner of eight state awards and has been nominated for more than eighteen!
- a good choice for animal lovers and can be enjoyed by both boys and girls.
- filled with humorous stories that kids will relate to (and wish they could be a part of).
- great series for vacations and car trips, as the paperbacks have puzzles in the back!

A One School One Book selection. Learn more at readtothem.org.

Every rising fourth grader should read the first book in Judy Blume's classic Fudge series, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing.

Celebrating it's 40th Anniversary!

Curriculum guide for Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing available at penguin.classroom.com/CommonCore

Introduce your child to the outrageous (and incredibly charming) Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren. What child wouldn't be fascinated by a girl who lives without grown-ups?!

Crack the case with John R. Erickson's Hank the Cowdog on one of his more than FIFTY-SEVEN adventures!

Explore the hazards of the deep in this exciting new series sure to grab the interest of any reluctant reader.

DOWNLOAD THE SHARK WARS APP FOR FUN GAMES.
Fall into the splendiferous world of Roald Dahl!

Roald Dahl is . . . the World’s #1 Storyteller!
★ whose books will hold the attention of any child who loves fantasy and using his or her imagination.
★ the inspirations behind many wonderful movies based on his classic novels. Read the books before you see them!
★ the creator of memorable characters that make excellent models for character studies.
★ the perfect choice for a beginning-of-the-year author study. His books make perfect mentor texts!
★ an inspiration for teaching FUN vocabulary lessons—particularly using The BFG.
★ a crowd-pleasing selection for summer book clubs.

Visit roalddahl.com for discussion questions, games, and more!

Celebrate Reading this summer with Matilda!

Use Matilda, the literacy champion for young readers, to promote your reading program this summer.

Celebrating it’s 25th Anniversary!
★ create “Matilda Recommends” lists and shelves in your classroom and library.
★ create Matilda-themed murals and posters for your walls.
★ have your students pose in Matilda-themed photos (sitting on a stack of your favorite books!).
★ perform a Matilda Musical, just like the one on Broadway!
★ raising money for your library? Have a Matilda bake sale (don’t forget to make chocolate cake!).
★ encourage Dahl-themed book club discussions.

Download the Matilda Core Curriculum Lesson Plans at penguinclassroom.com/CommonCore

Visit roalddahl.com to find out how you can help your school and library participate in Roald Dahl Month each September. Download FREE activities, printables, games, and more! AND: Did you know that there are play versions available of practically every Roald Dahl book? They’re each a ready-made reader’s theater script! Performances help to increase reading fluency and confidence and also boost enjoyment.
The Summer Before...Fifth Grade

LET YOURSELF BE CHARMED BY NEWBERY HONOR BOOK SAVVY BY INGRID LAW

Savvy is...

★ an award-winning book loved by adults and kids alike.
★ a coming-of-age story both boys and girls will easily relate to.
★ filled to the brim with a well-defined, inventive cast of characters perfect for character studies and analysis projects.
★ fantasy, adventure, and just the right dose of realism to make for a page-turning, teachable read.
★ a great prompt for creative writing: imagine that in your family, you receive a special ability when you turn thirteen. Your brothers create electricity and hurricanes and your grandfather could move mountains. What would you want to be able to do?
★ full of thematic connections: family, friendship, conflict resolution, understanding differences, valuing uniqueness.
★ a fantastic choice for fun-filled, dramatic reader’s theater presentations.
★ the perfect book to remind kids that everyone is special in some unique way.

Visit penguin.com/summerreading for printable teaching guides for both Savvy and Scumble. The information in these guides can be used during the summer for continued reading comprehension practice and can also be helpful in jumpstarting lesson plan ideas for the new school year.

Teachers and Librarians

Teach Savvy in your classroom this year! This six-week lesson plan incorporates writing prompts, class discussions, research topics, interactive projects, and more! Each of the suggested activities aligns with Common Core State Standards for grades 4-5 in Language Arts. Download the free Core Curriculum Lesson Plans at penguinclassroom.com/commoncore.

READERS WHO LOVE SAVVY AND SCUMBLE WILL ALSO ENJOY THESE MAGICAL NOVELS

The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson
Which Witch? by Eva Ibbotson
The Ogre of Oglefort by Eva Ibbotson
The Books of Elsewhere series by Jacqueline West

Penguin’s Classroom Classics
Making Curriculum Connections!

INSPIRE • ENGAGE • EDUCATE

The materials in this guide are aligned to Common Core State Standards for grades 4–6

An Educator’s Guide to...
**READ CLASSIC ADVENTURE STORY**

*My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George is . . .

- the perfect selection for classroom lesson plans and library programs.
- the ideal read for wilderness and nature enthusiasts.
- filled with adventure and the fantasy of living on your own.

- a great prompt for creative writing: imagine how you would survive in the wilderness with only a penknife, a ball of cord, forty dollars, and some flint and steel.
- a classic Newbery Honor book and page-turning read that modern-day kids will pick up again and again—and recommend to their friends.

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**SPEND THE SUMMER ON ALCATRAZ WITH MOOSE FLANAGAN AND HIS FRIENDS!**

*Al Capone Does My Shirts* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by Gennifer Choldenko are . . .

- historical fiction set in a time period recent enough for kids to easily relate to the setting.
- set in one of the most famous prisons in the world but are appropriate for younger readers.
- stories that showcase the importance of family, tolerance, and friendship.
- award-winning novels that read like movie scripts.

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**MORE FANTASTIC CHOICES FOR RISING FIFTH GRADERS INCLUDE:**

*When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr

*Nothing’s Fair in Fifth Grade* by Barth the DeClements

*The Cat Ate My Gymsuit* by Paula Danziger

*Locomotion* and *Peace, Locomotion* by Jacqueline Woodson

*A Tale Dark & Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz

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- stories that showcase the importance of family, tolerance, and friendship.
- award-winning novels that read like movie scripts.
The Summer Before . . . Sixth Grade

GET WRAPPED UP IN THE HEARTFELT AND HUMOROUS GRANDMA DOWDEL TRILOGY BY RICHARD PECK.

A Long Way from Chicago, A Year Down Yonder, and A Season of Gifts are . . .

★ filled with laugh-out-loud funny, incredibly endearing, and absolutely unforgettable characters.
★ full of inspiring relationships and tales complete with adventure and action ideal for creative-writing projects.
★ written in a short-story format that is appealing to readers.
★ an excellent literary accompaniment to a unit on the Great Depression.
★ perfect for book club and literature circle discussion groups.

FOR THIS GRADE LEVEL, WE ALSO RECOMMEND

The 21 Balloons by William Pène du Bois
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
The Gilda Joyce, Psychic Investigator series by Jennifer Allison
The Enola Holmes series by Nancy Springer

GUIDED READING LEVEL U
The Shakespeare Stealer by Gary Blackwood
Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham

HISTORICAL FICTION
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor
The Devil’s Arithmetic by Jane Yolen

FANTASY AND ADVENTURE
The Redwall series by Brian Jacques
The Lost Years of Merlin and The Merlin’s Dragon series by T. A. Barron
YEARS OF MERLIN
MERLIN’S DRAGON
The Ruins of Gorlan by John Flanagan

Mystery & Suspense
Download the Theo Boone Curriculum Guide at penguin.com/commoncore
The Summer Before . . . Seventh Grade

Upper middle school and junior high school students will enjoy diving into these stories. By reading widely, students will increase the benefit of their summer reading experience. Encourage them to read across genres and to discover new authors and series.

The Lions of Little Rock
by Kristin Levine
The summer after The Little Rock Nine, The Lions of Little Rock chronicles the secret friendship of two girls—one white and one black—and the risks they take during this politically charged time to remain friends.

Climbing the Stairs
by Padma Venkatraman
Set during World War II and the last days of British occupation in India, Climbing the Stairs is a powerful story about love and loss.

Postcards from No Man’s Land
by Aiden Chambers
Geertrui and Jacob live worlds apart, but their voices blend together to tell one story that transcends time and place and war. By turns moving, vulnerable, and thrilling, this extraordinary Printz Medal–winner takes the reader on a memorable voyage of discovery.

The Schwa Was Here
by Neal Shusterman
Neal Shusterman’s award-winning The Schwa Was Here is an unforgettable story of a unique friendship and an unusual quest for notoriety that middle school students will love.

Red Kayak
by Priscilla Cummings
Priscilla Cummings weaves a suspenseful tale of three teenagers caught in a web of deception in her multistate award-nominated Red Kayak.

My Most Excellent Year: A Novel of Love, Mary Poppins, and Fenway Park
by Steve Kluger
Told in alternating perspectives, this is the hilarious and touching story of T.C., Augie, and Ale’s most excellent year.

The Outsiders
by S.E. Hinton
A groundbreaking classic that reads as if it was written for today’s teens. First published in 1967, The Outsiders immediately resonated with young adults: honest and gritty, it was like nothing else out there and still stands up as one of the greatest modern YA classics.

LOVE THE OUTSIDERS? CHECK OUT ANOTHER GREAT S.E. HINTON READ!

That Was Then, This Is Now
by S.E. Hinton
Continue Antsy’s adventures in Antsy Does Time and Ship Out of Luck
The Summer Before... Eighth Grade

THE CHRONICLES OF VLADIMIR TOD SERIES
by Heather Brewer
Sink your teeth into a boy-friendly vampire series that’s clean (as long as you don’t mind a little blood).

Joan Bauer
Full of humor, unforgettable characters, surprises, and lots and lots of heart, Joan Bauer’s books are perfect for kids coming into their own.

REALISTIC FICTION

Close to Famous
Everyone has a dream, but nobody is even close to famous in the little town of Culpepper.

Almost Home
Twelve-year-old Sugar learns how to make the best of what life gives her.

Peeled
Something’s rotten in the heart of apple country!

Rules of the Road
Meet Jenna Boller, star employee at Gladstone Shoe Store in Chicago.

Hope Was Here
Meet everyone’s favorite waitress in this Newbery Honor–winning novel.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Summer of My German Soldier
by Bette Greene
The story of twelve-year-old Patty Bergen, a Jewish girl from Arkansas who begins a romance with a German prisoner during World War II.

Threads and Flames
by Esther Friesner
A moving novel about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire gives life to the tragedy of this transformative event in American history.

The Final Four
by Paul Volponi
Perfect for college basketball fans! With March Madness in full swing, four players battle to show who has the most skill, the most drive, and the will to win.

Ten Mile River
by Paul Griffin
Gritty realistic fiction about diverse groups of teens living in urban environments. Paul Griffin’s spare moving prose and uncanny ear for authentic dialogue is guaranteed to garner many fans.

Orange Houses
by Paul Griffin
High school is a challenging time in every teen’s life: new school, new classmates, new teachers, new classes. Everything seems bigger, more difficult, and more intense. At this time in students’ lives, their support system—friends, family, teachers—is extremely important. With the increased presence of bullying in schools, it is essential that students learn to treat each other with understanding and compassion.

**Teen Must-Reads for the Summer Before… High School**

**Using Books to Promote Compassion and Camaraderie**

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher is a teen novel that has made a deep impact nationwide since its publication in 2007. The intricate, heartrending, and sensitive story that Clay and Hannah tell through their dual narrative makes for a standout novel that truly illustrates the power that teenagers have over the quality of each other’s lives. *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a book to teach, a book to learn from, and a book that will stay with readers long after they close its cover.

Try *Thirteen Reasons Why* as a One School One Book read. This title is being embraced as the perfect book for adults and teens to read together to broach the sensitive issues faced by high-schoolers today. Use this book to foster discussion and eliminate stigma surrounding these taboo topics by organizing a Community Read. For resources on how to adopt this book in your community, visit penguin.classroom.com

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**Laurie Halse Anderson**

*Wintergirls*  
An emotionally wrenching, lyrically written look at the deadly dangers of anorexia.

*Twisted*  
A thought-provoking exploration of what it means to be a man.

*Catalyst*  
No amount of planning can prepare Kate for her senior year.

*Prom*  
Ashley doesn’t care about her senior prom, but she’s the exception as it’s pretty much the only good thing at her urban Philadelphia high school.

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*Playground* by 50 Cent  
A hard-hitting and inspirational novel about the redemption of a bully from international icon 50 Cent.

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For an educator guide on this title, as well as additional anti-bullying materials, visit penguinclassroom.com.
Read all the books by these favorite teen authors.

Teens love to read about characters and situations that reflect themselves and their own experiences. Finding an author with a sizable backlist gives them an opportunity to read all summer long.

**Gayle Forman**

*If I Stay*  
*Where She Went*  
Critically acclaimed novels that will change the way you look at life, love, and family.

*Just One Day*  
*Just One Year*  
A duet of romantic novels about love, fate, and self-discovery.

**Ally Condie**

*Matched*  
*Crossed*  
*Reached*  
Society matched them, but Love set them free.

**Sarah Dessen**

Read her once and fall in love. Any teen can relate to Dessen's novels of family, friendship, romance, and most of all, self-discovery. Tell your teens to check out sarah-land.com where they can chat with other fans, view trailers, and enter to win prizes! Librarians: See page 25 for the Summer of Sarah Book Club information.

**John Green**

Are you a nerdfighter? Join the fight against suck and fight for awesome by following John Green on tumblr, twitter, and vlog (along with his brother Hank Green). Tumblr: Fishingboatproceeds.tumblr.com • Twitter: @realjohngreen • Vlog: youtube.com/vlogbrothers

**Lesson plans aligned to the Common Core State Standards available!**
Other great high school reads

CLASSIC FICTION

GUIDED READING LEVELS C–I,
LISTENING COMPREHENSION LEVELS A–Q
GUIDED READING LEVELS U–Z
GUIDED READING LEVELS Y–Z

Dracula by Bram Stoker
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories by Edgar Allan Poe
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

GET A HEAD START WITH CURRICULUM FAVORITES

FANTASY

DISCOVER A UNIQUE NEW WORLD

Bitterblue by Kristin Cashore
The sequel to Graceling and companion to Fire, this novel will satisfy fans of the bestselling series.

Fire by Kristin Cashore
The exquisitely romantic and breathtaking companion to bestselling teen fantasy Graceling.

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher

Sapphique by Catherine Fisher
Find out what happens next as Finn’s adventure continues.

Legend & Prodigy by Marie Lu
June is the Republic’s military prodigy. Day is the country’s most wanted criminal. The two quickly join forces in these books full of high stakes, cinematic action, and romance.

HISTORICAL FICTION

TWO COMPELLING NOVELS BY RUTA SEPETYS

Between Shades of Gray
Between Shades of Gray is a novel that will steal your breath and capture your heart as it elegantly delves into a little-known event in history telling the tale of fifteen-year-old Lina, a Lithuanian girl who is sent to a work camp in the coldest reaches of Siberia during World War II.

Out of the Easy
A captivating novel set in 1950s New Orleans about the impact of our decisions, the pursuit of our true passions, and questioning ideas about family.

Core Curriculum Lesson Plans available to download at penguin.com/commoncore. Aligns to the Common Core State Standards for grades 7–10.
# Award Winners
Use these critically acclaimed, award-winning titles to foster a love of reading.

## Newbery Medal Winners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Amos Fortune, Free Man</em></td>
<td>Elizabeth Yates</td>
<td>Nora S. Unwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</em></td>
<td>Mildred D. Taylor</td>
<td>Ted Coconis</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Twenty-one Balloons</em></td>
<td>William Pène du Bois</td>
<td>Hudson Talbott</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Westing Game</em></td>
<td>Ellen Raskin</td>
<td>Ted Coconis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Year Down Yonder</em></td>
<td>Richard Peck</td>
<td>Hudson Talbott</td>
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## Newbery Honor Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>26 Fairmount Avenue</em></td>
<td>Tomie dePaola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>After Tupac &amp; D Foster</em></td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Al Capone Does My Shirts</em></td>
<td>Gennifer Choldenko</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Feathers</em></td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Getting Near to Baby</em></td>
<td>Audrey Couloumbis</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hope Was Here</em></td>
<td>Joan Bauer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>A Long Way from Chicago</em></td>
<td>Richard Peck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Millions of Cats</em></td>
<td>Wanda Gag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>My Side of the Mountain</em></td>
<td>Jean Craighead George</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Savvy</em></td>
<td>Ingrid Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Show Way</em></td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>To Be A Slave</em></td>
<td>Julius Lester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use these critically acclaimed, award-winning titles to foster a love of reading.

**BRONX MASQUERADE** by Nikki Grimes

**The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo** by Tom Feelings

**Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman** by Alan Schroeder

**Miracle’s Boys** by Jacqueline Woodson

**Owl Moon** by Jane Yolen Illus. by John Schoenherr

**Blueberries for Sal** by Robert McCloskey

**The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales** by Jon Scieszka Illus. by Lane Smith

**Swamp Angel** by Anne Isaacs Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky

**When I Was Young in the Mountains** by Cynthia Rylant Illus. by Diane Goode

**Alphabet City** by Steven T. Johnson

**Madeline** by Ludwig Bemelmans

**Seven Blind Mice** by Ed Young

**The Snowy Day** by Ezra Jack Keats

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears** by James Marshall

**Swamp Angel** by Anne Isaacs Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky

**When I Was Young in the Mountains** by Cynthia Rylant Illus. by Diane Goode

**Joseph Had a Little Overcoat** by Simms Taback

**Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China** by Ed Young

**Madeline’s Rescue** by Ludwig Bemelmans

**Make Way for Ducklings** by Robert McCloskey

**Officer Buckle and Gloria** by Peggy Rathmann

**Looking for Alaska** by John Green

**Postcards from No Man’s Land** by Aidan Chambers

**A Step from Heaven** by An Na

**An Abundance of Katherines** by John Green

**Fat Kid Rules the World** by K. L. Going

**John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth** by Elizabeth Partridge

**Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973** by John Barnes

**The Returning** by Christine Hinwood
Nonfiction
This summer, read about:

SCIENCE

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!
By Kathleen V. Kudlinski
illustrated by S. P. Schindler

Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System!
By Kathleen V. Kudlinski
illustrated by John Recco

ANIMALS IN THEIR HABITATS

The Eagles Are Back, The Wolves Are Back, The Buffalo Are Back
By Jean Craighead George

Babies in the Bayou
By Jim Arnosky

FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND CITIZENS OF THE WORLD!

Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books
By Susan L. Roth and Karen Leggett Abouraya

The Emperor's Silent Army
By Jane O'Connor

Boy, More About Boy, and Going Solo
by Roald Dahl

OUR NATION'S HISTORY

The Mayflower and the Pilgrims' New World
By Nathaniel Philbrick

Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider
By Jean Fritz

Marching for Freedom: Walk Together, Children, and Don’t You Grown Weary
By Elizabeth Partridge

FAMOUS MUSICIANS!

This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie
By Elizabeth Partridge

John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth
By Elizabeth Partridge

The Good, the Bad, the Barbie: A Doll's History and Her Impact on Us
By Tanya Lee Stone

GENERAL NONFICTION

The Omnivore's Dilemma for Kids: The Secrets Behind What You Eat
By Michael Pollan

A Strong Right Arm: My Quest for Truth and the Perfect Knuckleball
By R. A. Dickey

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES!

My Quest for Truth and the Perfect Knuckleball
By R. A. Dickey

Throwing Strikes: My Quest for Truth and the Perfect Knuckleball
By R. A. Dickey

What's for dinner?
It's time to become a food detective!

DO YOU KNOW THE SECRETS BEHIND WHAT YOU EAT?

- Where the chicken in your nugget grew up?
- Do you know what that “organic” sticker on your banana actually means . . .
- What happens to a field of potatoes destined to become french fries . . .

“What’s for dinner?” seems like a simple question. But do you really know . . .

IN THIS BOOK, you'll go undercover at the supermarket. You'll delve behind the scenes of your dinner, and by the time you've digested the last page you'll have put together the fascinating (and sometimes disturbing) puzzle of what's on your plate and how it got there.
Discover the lives of famous people with the Who Was? biography series and important events with the new What Was? series!

The Who Was? Series is . . .

- FUN! These books read like fiction but are packed with information.
- a great option for a back-to-school biography unit where each child chooses a different figure to report on.
- diverse in subject and topic—from musicians to explorers to presidents to famous celebrities, there’s something for everyone.
- also available in Spanish to reach bilingual and ESL students.

Teachers! Use the Who Was...? Core Curriculum Lesson Plans in your classroom. Aligned to the Common Core State Standards for grades 3-6 and organized thematically, this brochure has two to three lesson plans and extension activities per theme, plus some additional ideas that may apply to a variety of topics. Download for free at penguinclassroom.com/commoncore.

Explore History with the new What Was? series.

This brand-new series covers momentous events and their impact on the world. In addition to 80 black and white illustrations, these easy-to-read books will include a 16-page insert of photos and reproductions!
ENJOY A LITTLE NONSENSE.

HISTORICAL FICTION

LEVEL W

REALISTIC FICTION

Matched by Ally Condie

LEVEL Z

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

Winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, Mockingbird tells the story of Caitlin, an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger’s. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon has died, and Caitlin’s dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way they were, but she doesn’t know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure, and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be black and white after all.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Mockingbird is told in first person; how would the story be different if someone besides Caitlin were telling it?

Throughout the novel Caitlin tries to understand the meaning of “closure”. What are some of the events that help her achieve closure? How does her understanding of the concept of closure change?

Caitlin states, “You can open and close books a million times and they stay the same. They look the same. They say the same words. The charts and pictures are the same colors. Books are not like people. Books are safe.” (p.34) What can we infer about her statement? Do you agree with Caitlin? Provide some examples from the story to validate her point.

When Josh and Caitlin have an altercation on the playground, their classmates come to Caitlin’s defense, but later, some of these same students laugh and tease Caitlin about her behavior—why would they choose to behave this way?

WRITER’S WORKSHOP: Throughout the novel, Josh struggles greatly because he feels that others blame him for being related to one of the school shooters. Using Josh’s voice, write a journal entry in which you detail the playground event and the altercation with Caitlin. To prepare, create an outline using the five Ws (who, what, when, where, and why). Remember to write in first person and give special attention to sensory imagery (what you saw, smelled, heard, etc.) Visit penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians for a complete discussion guide, including additional questions, activity ideas, and a Q&A with the author.

ADDITIONAL BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

Matched by Ally Condie

Visit www.penguin.com/summerreading for tips on how to start your own book club, additional reading selections, and sample questions and activities.
Classroom Classics Lesson Plans

Teachers and Librarians!

Ready to get a jump start on your curriculum planning for Fall? Penguin has a series of lesson plans aligned to the Common Core State Standards for many of our great titles. Each lesson plan is created by educators for educators and is ready for immediate classroom adoption. Included inside are suggested assignments, writing prompts, extension activities, and more!

**Mirror Mirror:**
*The Book of Reversible Verse*
By Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Josee Masse

**A Tale Dark & Grimm**
By Adam Gidwitz

**Matilda**
By Roald Dahl

**The Green Glass Sea**
By Ellen Klages

**Al Capone Does My Shirts**
By Gennifer Choldenko

**Matched**
By Ally Condie

**Between Shades of Gray**
By Ruta Sepetys

**13 Reasons Why**
By Jay Asher

**Savvy**
By Ingrid Law

**Mirror Mirror:**
*The Book of Reversible Verse*
By Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Josee Masse

**A Tale Dark & Grimm**
By Adam Gidwitz

**Matilda**
By Roald Dahl

**The Green Glass Sea**
By Ellen Klages

**Al Capone Does My Shirts**
By Gennifer Choldenko

**Matched**
By Ally Condie

**Between Shades of Gray**
By Ruta Sepetys

**13 Reasons Why**
By Jay Asher

Download for free at PenguinClassroom.com/CommonCore
Tips for a Sizzling Summer of Reading

While every district has its own literacy program, all schools strongly encourage reading over summer vacation and many require that children read specific titles in the months before they begin a new grade level. The intensity of summer assignments may range from asking children to read books of their own choosing, to selecting several titles from a reading list issued by the school, to reading a group of mandatory stories and then completing a writing assignment. Students’ reactions to summer reading are as broad as the assignments themselves: to some, reading is a welcome activity; to others, and for reluctant or challenged readers in particular, summer reading can seem like a chore. Take advantage of the following tips and suggestions, designed to assimilate reading naturally into your child’s summer routine and help you get personally involved.

Be a Reader and Write Yourself: Children learn by example. Through simple acts like reading a book in the backyard or the newspaper at breakfast, you’re showing your child that reading is both fun and important. Encourage your child to apply this concept to his or her own life by reading the cereal box in the morning, a menu in a restaurant, or signs as you drive in the car. Have your child help you write your weekly grocery list and then read the items to you as you shop together.

Know Your Child’s Reading Level: Remember that each child has an instructional and an independent reading level. Book choices for independent summer reading selections should be at a level where your child can read most of the words and easily understand the story on his or her own. Keep in mind that a child’s independent reading level is slightly lower than his or her instructional reading level. However, when selecting a read-aloud, feel free to choose books at a higher readability level, which may be more in line with your child’s listening comprehension level. Booksellers and librarians, having a handle on the reading level system used at your local schools will assist you in helping your patrons appropriately select books during the summer. This booklet refers to Guided Reading Levels; if your local school uses a different system for leveling books, you can easily find a conversion chart online.

Make Use of Your School, Bookstore, or Public Library’s Reading Incentive Program (Or Create Your Own!): A motivational program—whether you’re counting the number of pages read, hours spent, or books completed—is an excellent way to get kids excited about reading during the summer. Keep track of their progress with a Summer Reading Log, available for download at penguin.com/summerreading.

Encourage Students to Read Widely: Expose your children to a variety of genres, titles, and authors so that they can develop their own reading interests and expand their background knowledge in various subjects.

Summer Writing Is Just as Important as Summer Reading: The ability to write about what one reads is an essential skill that your child will employ in each subject taught in school. In order to maintain the writing skills your child developed over the school year, be or she will need to practice writing over the summer. Visit penguin.com/summerreading for a list of writing activities and prompts for every grade level.

Tie Reading into the Themes of Your Summer Activities: If you’re planning a vacation, read about the destination together. Look for books where the main characters take part in the same activities your child does, like going to camp, taking swimming lessons, visiting family, getting a new pet, etc. Ask your librarian or local bookstore for summer-themed books on your child’s reading level.

Attend Author Events at Your Local Library and Bookstore: Meeting a favorite author is an exciting experience for a child. Bringing books to life in this way will create a lasting connection between your child and reading.

Make Reading a Joint Experience: As you read aloud together, take turns reading pages, or obtain two copies of the book and each read silently. In either case, tell your child what you are thinking as you read and ask your child questions about what he or she reads. Reading and discussing books together will expand your child’s ability to think more deeply about a story, which leads to an increased level of comprehension. Sharing your ideas and enthusiasm about books will serve to nurture a love for reading. Children who engage in recreational reading increase their vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension as they enjoy books. An excellent way to achieve this goal with older children is by starting a book club. Visit www.penguin.com/summerreading for tips on how to get started.

Reading program idea: Summer of Sarah: Spend your summer with Sarah Dessen and get teens into your library. Host book club discussions to a different Dessen book each week! Create quizzes such as “Which Dessen girl are you most like?” and “How well do you know your Dessen?” Encourage the participants to come up with recipes inspired by the books. Get an overview of the program and additional ideas from penguinclassroom.com/summerofsarah.
Fighting the Summer Slump
Ten Reasons to Read for Fun This Summer!

Students are told what to read all year long. Research shows that students lose their reading skills if they do not use them throughout the summer, even testing better at the end of the year than at the beginning. Help them prevent atrophy, encourage students to choose their own books, and Fight the Summer Slump!

WHEREVER YOUR SUMMER PLANS MIGHT TAKE YOU…
PENGUIN WILL HELP YOUR STUDENTS FIGHT THE SUMMER SLUMP!

If you have readers and lovers of adventure, humor, mystery, fantasy, or a combination of all, there is something for every reader.

Visit PenguinClassroom.com for more books, and to download curriculum materials based on Penguin’s books.
Classics
This Summer, Curl Up with a Classic

You’re never too old or too young to enjoy a great story! With eye-catching, modern covers and introductions written by some of today’s most popular children’s and young adult authors, the Puffin Classics line is a wonderful choice for any young reader. Return to these treasured tales or indulge in them for the first time. Choose a classic you loved when you were young and share it with your child—taking turns reading chapters can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for you both! Remember to pause and prompt your child’s reading comprehension skills with questions about plot, setting, characters, and vocabulary.

Visit penguin.com/summerreading for a full list of classics.