

Summer adventures are just a chapter away!



Summer is right around the corner, and while this one may feel a bit different than what we are used to, one silver lining is that we will all have lots of time to discover new worlds, learn about our history, and travel... all through reading! Children are inherently curious, and giving them plenty of opportunities to make these discoveries often leads to a hunger for more.

This list of titles is adapted from the Association for Library Service to Children 2020 Notable Books list and can help guide you as you select books for your child's summer reading adventures. *Many of these titles are available electronically through your local library.*

Grades 3–5

All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World. By Lori Alexander. Illus. by Vivien Mildenerger. HMH. With accessible language and illustrations, this biography introduces readers to the everyday man who invented a powerful microscope that could magnify the living world to an astonishing scale. (Sibert Honor Book)

The Beast Player. By Nahoko Uehashi. Illus. by Yuta Onoda. Tr. by Cathy Hirano. Holt/Godwin. In this complex fantasy, a young girl is caught (pitted?) between the welfare of animals with whom she can communicate and a warring kingdom that only she can save. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Because of the Rabbit. By Cynthia Lord. Scholastic. Emma helps her father rescue a pet rabbit that supports her socialization as she transitions into public school.

The Bridge Home. By Padma Venkatraman. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. Determined to escape their abusive father, Viji and her sister run away and make a new home on a bridge in Chennai, India.

The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree.

By Paola Peretti. Illus. by Carolina Rabei. Tr. by Denise Muir. Atheneum. Fifth-grader Mafalda discovers what is important in life as she loses her sight to a degenerative disease in this thoughtful, coming-of-age novel. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Each Tiny Spark. By Pablo Cartaya. Penguin/Kokila. Emilia faces family challenges when her dad returns from overseas military service.

For Black Girls Like Me. By Mariama J. Lockington. Farrar. Makeda, adopted into a white family, struggles to fit in and find herself at home and in school.

The Forgotten Girl. By India Hill Brown. Scholastic. Two classmates discover an abandoned grave, launching a ghost story that brings the history of segregation to life.

Hector: A Boy, a Protest, and the Photograph That Changed Apartheid. By Adrienne Wright. Illus. by the author. Page Street. The true story of the dramatic photograph of a young boy's tragic death that became a symbol of the injustice of Apartheid.

Indian No More. By Charlene Willing McManis and Traci Sorell. Lee & Low/Tu. In 1954, Regina and her family move from their reservation to Los Angeles after their tribe is terminated by the U.S. government.

It Rained Warm Bread: Moishe Moskowitz's Story of Hope. By Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet and Hope Anita Smith. Illus. by Lea Lyon. Holt/Christy Ottaviano. Spare poetry documents Moishe's struggle for survival during the Holocaust.

Lalani of the Distant Sea. By Erin Entrada Kelly. Illus. by Lian Cho. Greenwillow. A young girl sets out to save her island of Sanlagita, which is struggling with drought and sickness.

Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion. By Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by Gordon C. James. Carolrhoda/Lerner. George Fletcher's rise to fame as a rodeo champion is recounted with colorful language, à la old Westerns, and expressive oil paintings.

Lety Out Loud. By Angela Cervantes. Scholastic. While spending the summer volunteering in an animal shelter, English language learner Lety Muñoz learns to use her voice to stand up for others. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

Pie in the Sky. By Remy Lai. Illus. by the author. Holt. Told with heart and humor, Jingwen adjusts to a new culture and language after his family immigrates to Australia.

Scary Stories for Young Foxes. Christian McKay Heidicker. Illus. by Junyi Wu. Holt. Two fox kits encounter a variety of terrifying episodes in this chilling and skillfully crafted horror book for children. (Newbery Honor Book)

Some Places More than Others. By Renée Watson. Bloomsbury. Amara copes with family tensions during a trip from her home in Oregon to visit her father's family in Harlem.

Stargazing. By Jen Wang. Illus. by the author. First Second. Despite opposite personalities, Moon and Christine develop an unlikely friendship in this lively graphic novel.

Reference: Association for Library Service to Children (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>)

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