



SUMMER READING LIST*

A Universe of Stories! ~ Grades K-2

Suggested space-themed summer reading
compiled for the Connecticut State Department of Education
by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library

PICTURE BOOKS

Life on Mars by Jon Agee

A young astronaut is trying to find life on Mars, but he's made a very big oversight. | ALA | Lexile: 470

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed

When young Mae Jemison is asked by her teacher what she wants to be when she grows up, African American Mae tells her mostly white classmates that she wants to be an astronaut, a dream that her parents wholeheartedly support. | NSTA | Lexile: 580

The Moon Over Star by Dianna Hutts Aston

On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing and dreams that she might one day be an astronaut, too. | ALA

Tiny Little Rocket by Richard Collingridge

A little rocket takes its yearly trip through outer space. | Lexile: 620

How to Bicycle to the Moon to Plant Sunflowers by Mordicai Gerstein

Too busy with school, soccer, and other activities, a young boy who wants to cheer up the sad, lonely moon presents the reader with a step-by-step plan for becoming the the first human to bicycle to the moon. | Lexile: 690

Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes

When Kitten mistakes the full moon for a bowl of milk, she ends up tired, wet, and hungry trying to reach it. | ALA | Lexile: 450

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

Reimagines the cycles of the moon as a mother bakes a Big Moon Cookie and, despite Mama's request to wait, Little Star begins nibbling at it every night. | ALA

The Moon is Going to Addy's House by Ida Pearle

The moon follows Addy all over the city before finally settling in at her house for bedtime. | ALA | Lexile: 260

Best Frints in the Whole Universe by Antoinette Portis

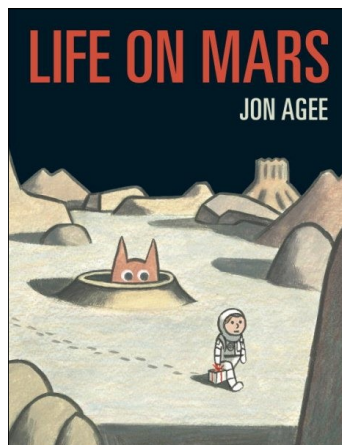
Yelfred and Omek of planet Boborp are best frints, even when they have disagreements. | ALA

Out There by Tom Sullivan

Two children looking up at the night sky wonder what kind of creatures and planets exist in other parts of the universe.

Many Moons by James Thurber

Though many try, only the court jester is able to fulfill Princess Lenore's one wish. | ALA | Lexile: 700



EARLY READERS

Fly Guy and the Alienzz by Tedd Arnold

Buzz is filming a movie about aliens from Outer Space, who capture Fly Guy and Buzz Boy—and our two heroes must outsmart the aliens, with some help from Dragon Dude and Fly Girl. | Lexile: 530

Go, Otto, Go! by David Milgrim

Otto the robot builds a spaceship to take him home. | ALA | Lexile: 80

GRAPHIC NOVELS

CatStronauts #1: Mission Moon by Drew Brockington

Alerted to a global energy crisis, the President consults with the World's Best Scientist, who suggests sending a special group of astronauts to turn the Moon into a solar power plant. | Lexile: 410

The Glorkian Warrior Delivers a Pizza by James Kochalka

No mission is too small for an inept intergalactic hero and his talking backpack. | ILA | Lexile: 430

SUMMER READING LIST*

NONFICTION

The Stuff of Stars by Marion Dane Bauer

Describes the void that existed before the Big Bang generated life throughout the galaxy, making it possible for wondrous human children to evolve. | ALA

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh

Commemorating the 40th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon, this book is a tribute that transports readers to the stars, where they will experience the moon landing just as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did. | NCTE, NSTA | Lexile: 470

A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars by Seth Fishman

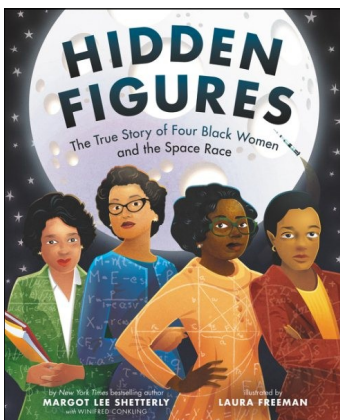
A look at the numbers that surround us, big and small, on earth and in outer space. | NCTM

Earthrise: Apollo 8 and the Photo That Changed the World by James Gladstone

Describes the story behind the famous "Earthrise" photograph taken from the Apollo 8 mission in 1968, detailing how the photograph had a galvanizing effect on a world of unrest. | Lexile: 590

ABCs From Space by Adam Voiland

An alphabet book of photographs of Earth taken from outer space that look like each letter. | NSTA | Lexile: NP



Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13 by Helaine Becker

An introduction to the boundary-breaking mathematician, Katherine Johnson, reveals how her love of mathematics started at a young age led her to a job at NASA where she calculated the course of moon landings and helped save the Apollo 13 mission. | ALA, NCTM, NSTA | Lexile: 710

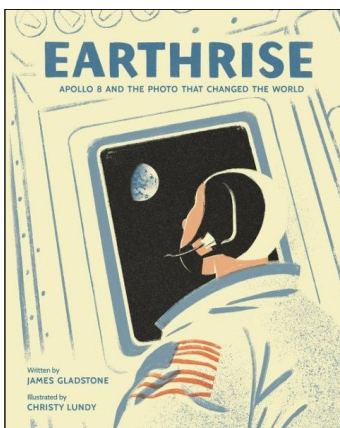
My Journey to the Stars by Scott Kelly

A picture book memoir about NASA astronaut Scott Kelly takes readers on a journey through his childhood as an average student to his record-breaking year among

the stars. | NSTA | Lexile: 680

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Universe by Stephanie Roth Sisson

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record. | ALA, NCTE, NSTA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 760



Caroline's Comets: A True Story by Emily Arnold McCully

Caroline Herschel was the first woman to discover a comet and the first woman to be paid as a scientist. | NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 800

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

A picture book adaptation of the story of four mathematicians who were pivotal to the success of America's space program. It describes how they overcame the limitations imposed on black women in the segregated

1960s. | ALA, NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 980

When Sparks Fly: The True Story of Robert Goddard, the Father of US Rocketry by Kristen Fulton

Presents the life and accomplishments of the American scientist, describing his quest to discover the basic principles of rocketry, his successful invention of the first rockets in the 1920s, and his influence on the American space program. | NSTA | Lexile: 690

BIOGRAPHY

Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing by Dean Robbins

An introduction to the woman mathematician who saved the first lunar landing describes her childhood love of numbers that led to her education and contributions at NASA. It explains how her handwritten codes proved essential throughout numerous space missions. | NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 630

*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY). Other awards as noted.



SUMMER READING

New Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

READ NUTMEG AWARD NOMINEES!

Find the Elementary Nutmeg list at: <http://nutmegaward.org>

FAVORITES & CLASSICS

The Wall in the Middle of the Book* by Jon Agee

A knight who feels secure on his side of the wall that divides his book discovers that his side is not as safe as he thought, and the other side is not as threatening. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 390

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed. | ALA | Lexile: 450

The Skunk* by Mac Barnett

A man is followed by a skunk all day until the tables turn. | ALA | Lexile: 390

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers — until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: 730

Hello Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall

Explores the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and the tenure of its final keeper. | ALA | Lexile: 510

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile: 360

Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* by Peter Brown

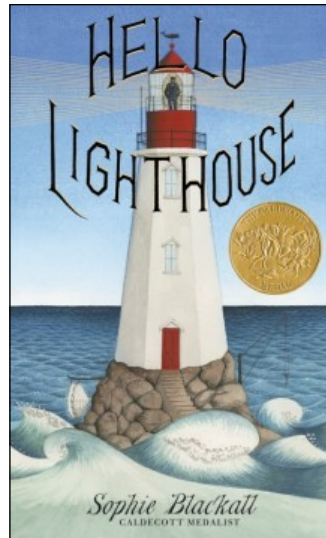
Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature. | ALA | Lexile: 170

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile: 200

Gravity* by Jason Chin

Introduces the scientific principles of gravity using researched, simple explanations of its essential role in the universe. | Lexile: 300



Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | ALA | Lexile: 160

Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme, set in Peru, Maria takes her llama to school one day. | ALA | Lexile: 380

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York

City. | ALA | Lexile: 510

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág

How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions? | Lexile: 730

Honey I Love: and Other Love Poems by Eloise Greenfield

Titles include "I Look Pretty," "Fun," "Riding on the Train," "Harriet Tubman," and "By Myself." | Lexile: NP

All Different Now* by Angela Johnson

In 1865, members of a family start their day as slaves, working in a Texas cotton field, and end it celebrating their freedom on what came to be known as Juneteenth. | NCSS | Lexile: 830

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: 490

Drawn Together* by Minh Le

A boy and his grandfather cross a language and cultural barrier using their shared love of art, storytelling, and fantasy. | ALA, NCTE



SUMMER READING

New Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

George and Martha by James Marshall

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | ALA | Lexile: 500

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | ALA | Lexile: 530

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. | ALA | Lexile: 710

A Different Pond* by Bao Phi

Bao Phi and his father wake up early in the morning to fish for food on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis and Bao's father tells him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 620

The Tortoise & the Hare* by Jerry Pinkney

Illustrations and minimal text relate the familiar fable of the race between a slow tortoise and a quick but foolish hare. | ALA, ILA

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo. | Lexile: 50

School's First Day of School* by Adam Rex

Everyone's a little nervous on the first day of school, including the school building. | ALA | Lexile: 580

Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures by Cynthia Rylant

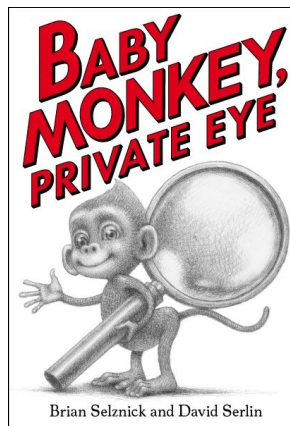
Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. | Lexile: 460

After the Fall* by Dan Santat

After falling off the wall, Humpty Dumpty is very afraid of climbing up again, but is determined not to let fear stop him from being close to the birds. | Lexile: 550

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | ALA | Lexile: 510



Baby Monkey, Private Eye* by Brian Selznick

Baby Monkey, private eye, will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries—if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 210

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: 480

The Princess and the Warrior* by Duncan Tonatiuh

When the warrior Popoca returns to find his love, the princess Izta, deep asleep and unable to be awoken, he stays by her side just as he promised. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | ALA | Lexile: 280

Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter & Shane W. Evans

As an elderly woman, Lillian recalls that her great-great-grandparents were sold as slaves in front of a courthouse where only rich white men were allowed to vote, then the long fight that led to her right—and determination—to cast her ballot since the Voting Rights Act gave every American the right to vote. | ALA, NCSS | Lexile: 1030

FAVORITE AUTHORS

Byron Barton	P. D. Eastman	Robert McCloskey	David Shannon
Margaret Wise Brown	Ed Emberley	Jon Muth	Williams Steig
Anthony Browne	Mem Fox	Jerry Pinkney	David Wiesner
Eric Carle	Ezra Jack Keats	Peggy Rathmann	Mo Willems
Donald Crews	Jon Klassen	Dr. Seuss	Karma Wilson
Tomie de Paola	James Marshall	Maurice Sendak	Jacqueline Woodson