

Wesleyan School

Summer Reading Suggestions for Rising Kindergarten Students

Students must read a minimum of ten books

Numbers following each annotation are reading levels which are determined by commercial reading management programs. Creating reading levels is not an exact science. There is not a consensus among experts on the best way to determine a reading level for a book. Remember that the best books are those that are read and enjoyed by your child. These levels are guidelines only and should never be the sole consideration in determining if a book is appropriate for your child.

AR=Accelerated Reader: managed by Renaissance Learning

RC=Reading Counts: managed by Scholastic

Lexile = Lexile Framework for Reading: managed by MetaMetrics

The ♥ symbol indicates a “highly recommended” endorsement from one or more review sources.

The term “Notable Book” indicates that the book is highly recommended by the American Library Association.

The Caldecott Medal/Honor is given for outstanding illustrations.

ABC Books

Bayer, Jane: *A My Name is Alice*

The well-known jump rope ditty which is built on letters of the alphabet is illustrated with animals from all over the world. AR 2.2, RC 2.4, 370L

Carlson, Nancy: *ABC, I Like Me!*

An alphabet book that explores self-esteem. RC 1.5, 190L

Demarest, Christ L.: *Firefighters A TO Z*

Large bold pictures combine alphabet lesson with fire fighting.

Marshall, Janet: *Look Once, Look Twice*

Pairs the alphabet and patterns from the natural world in a playful guessing game.

Martin, Bill: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. RC 1.9, 530L
Notable Book

McLeod, Bob: *Superhero ABC*

Humorously-named superheroes such as Goo Girl and The Volcano represent the letters of the alphabet from A to Z. AR 2.4 RC 2.3 ♥

Van Allsburg, Chris: *The Alphabet Theatre Proudly Presents the Z Was Zapped : A Play in Twenty-Six Acts*

Depicts how A was in an avalanche, B was badly bitten, C was cut to ribbons, and the other letters of the alphabet suffered similar mishaps. RC 2.9 Notable Book

Colors

Ehlert, Lois: *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*

A child describes the growth of a maple tree from seed to sapling. AR 2.6, RC 3.3, 680L

Hoban, Tana: *Is It Red? Is It Yellow? Is It Blue? An Adventure in Color*

Illustrations and brief text introduce colors and the concepts of shape and size.

Serfozo, Mary: *Who Said Red?*

A dialogue between two speakers, one of whom must keep insisting on an interest in the color red, introduces that hue as well as green, blue, yellow, and others. RC 2.1, 120L

Walsh, Ellen Stoll: *Mouse Paint*

Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color. AR 2.2, RC 2.2, 250L

Counting

Christelow, Eileen: *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*

A counting book in which one by one the little monkeys jump on the bed only to fall off and bump their heads.
RC 1.6, 310L ♥

Crews, Donald: *Ten Black Dots*

A counting book which shows what can be done with ten black dots--one can make a sun, two a fox's eyes, or eight the wheels of a train. RC 1.4, 310L

Duke, Kate: *One Guinea Pig is Not Enough*

A little guinea pig is quite lonely until, one by one, nine others, plus ten of their moms or dads, add to the general excitement.

Ehlert, Lois: *Fish Eyes*

A counting book depicting the colorful fish a child might see if he turned into a fish himself. RC 1.5

Giganti, Paul: *Each Orange Had 8 Slices*

An illustrated introduction to counting and simple addition. AR 2.3, RC 2.5, 400L

LeSieg, Theo. *Ten Apples Up On Top*

A lion, a dog, and a tiger balance apples on their heads.

Martin, Bill: *Chicka, Chicka, 1, 2, 3*

Numbers from one to one hundred climb to the top of an apple tree in this rhyming chant.

Family

Brown, Margaret Wise: *Goodnight, Moon*

A little bunny says goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room before falling asleep. AR 1.8 RC 1.5

Everitt, Betsy: *Mean Soup*

Horace feels really mean at the end of a bad day, until he helps his mother make Mean Soup. AR 1.7, RC 1.1, 310L

Joose, Barbara: *Mama, Do You Love Me?*

An Inuit child learns that her mother's love is unconditional when she disobeys and journeys across the Arctic, from village to ice floe, in search of her puppy. AR 2.3 RC 1.9, 420L ♥

Mayer, Mercer: *Just Grandma and Me*

A trip to the beach with Grandma provides lots of fun and surprises. AR 1.9, RC 2.3, 400L

Folk Tales & Tall Tales

Galdone, Paul: *The Gingerbread Boy*

The Gingerbread Boy eludes the hungry grasp of everyone he meets until he happens upon a fox more clever than he.
AR 3.2, RC 3.7, 580L

Galdone, Paul: *The Three Bears*

Three bears return from a walk and find a little girl asleep in baby bear's bed. AR 3.6, RC 3.7, 610L

Galdone, Paul: *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*

Three clever billy goats outwit a big ugly troll that lives under the bridge they must cross on their way up the mountain.
AR 3.0, RC 2.6, 580L

Hayward, Linda: *All Stuck Up*

Based on the Uncle Remus story by Joel Chandler Harris. Brer Fox makes a tar baby in order to catch Brer Rabbit.
AR 1.9, RC 1.7

Kellogg, Steven: *Paul Bunyan, A Tall Tale*

Recounts the life of the extraordinary lumberjack whose unusual size and strength brought him many fantastic adventures.
AR 5.7, RC 3.8

McDermott, Gerald: *Arrow to the Sun*

An adaptation of the Pueblo Indian myth which explains how the spirit of the Lord of the Sun was brought to the world.
AR 2.1, RC 2.6 Caldecott Medal

Mosel, Arlene: *Tikki Tikki Tembo*

Adaptation of a Chinese folktale. When the eldest son fell in the well and most of the time getting help was spent pronouncing the name of the one in trouble, the Chinese, according to legend, decided to give all their children short names.
AR 4.2, RC 3.7

Pinkney, Jerry: *Noah's Ark*

Retells the biblical story of the great flood and how Noah and his family faithfully responded to God's call to save life on earth. AR 3.3 Caldecott Honor ♥

Pinkney, Jerry: *The Little Red Hen*

A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals that learn a bitter lesson from it. AR 3.1 ♥

Taback, Simms: *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*

An ingenious man named Joseph finds numerous ways to make use of his overcoat as it wears away over time. AR 1.7, RC 1.9 Caldecott Medal ♥

Zelinsky, Paul: *Rumpelstiltskin*

A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. AR 4.0, RC 4.1 Caldecott Honor

Zemach, Margot: *It Could Always Be Worse: A Yiddish Folk Tale*

Unable to stand his overcrowded and noisy home any longer, a poor man goes to the Rabbi for advice. AR 3.7, RC 4.5 Caldecott Honor

General Picture Books

Barracca, Debra: *The Adventures of Taxi Dog*

A stray dog in New York City is adopted by a taxi driver, with whom he thereafter rides and shares adventures each day. AR 3.0, RC 2.1

Brown, Marc: *D.W. All Wet*

D.W. bosses her brother Arthur into carrying her on his shoulders at the beach because she maintains that she hates the water, until she gets a big wet surprise. AR 1.4, RC 1.6

Carle, Eric: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*

Follows the progress of a hungry little caterpillar as he eats his way through a varied and very large quantity of food until, full at last, he forms a cocoon around himself and goes to sleep.

De Paola, Tomie: *Strega Nona: An Original Tale*

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. AR 3.9 RC 4.4 Caldecott Honor

Eastman, P. D.: *Are You My Mother?*

A little bird asks animals, planes, and boats, "Are you my mother?" until he finds his own mother. AR 1.5, RC 1.5

Everitt, Betsy: *Mean Soup*

Horace feels really mean at the end of a bad day, until he helps his mother make Mean Soup. AR 1.7, RC 1.1

Fleming, Candace: *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*

After planting the garden he has dreamed of for years, Mr. McGreely tries to find a way to keep some persistent bunnies from eating all his vegetables. AR 2.4, RC 2.6 ♥

Freymann, Saxton: *How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods*

Brief text and photographs of carvings made from vegetables introduce the world of emotions by presenting leading questions such as "Are you feeling angry?" RC 1.9 ♥

Frith, Michael: *I'll Teach My Dog 100 Words*

A youngster plans all the things he will teach his puppy. AR 2.0, RC 1.8

Henkes, Kevin: *Chrysanthemum*

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children make fun of it. RC 4.2 ♥

Hoffman, Mary: *Amazing Grace*

Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is African-American, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do. AR 3.5, RC 4.1 ♥

McCarty, Peter: *Hondo & Fabian*

Hondo the dog gets to go to the beach and play with his friend Fred, while Fabian the cat spends the day at home. AR 1.2, RC 1.4, 180L Caldecott Honor

McMullan, Kate: *I Stink!*

A big city garbage truck makes its rounds, consuming everything from apple cores and banana peels to leftover ziti with zucchini. AR 1.6 RC 1.7 ♥

McPhail, David: *Emma's Pet*

Emma's search for a soft, cuddly pet has a surprising ending. AR 1.6, RC 1.7

Palmer, Helen: *A Fish Out of Water*

When a little boy overfeeds his new pet goldfish, the fish grows to be quite a problem, and only Mr. Carp, the pet shop owner, can save the day for the boy and his pet. AR 1.7, RC 2.3

Rathman, Peggy: *Officer Buckle and Gloria*

The children at Napville Elementary School always ignore Officer Buckle's safety tips, until a police dog named Gloria accompanies him when he gives his safety speeches. AR 3.4, RC 2.5 Caldecott Medal

Rey, H.A.: *Curious George*

The curiosity of a newly-captured monkey gets him into continuous trouble, but he is saved by his friend, the man in the yellow hat. AR 2.6, RC 2.4

Sendak, Maurice: *Where the Wild Things Are*

After he is sent to bed without supper for behaving like a wild thing, Max dreams of a voyage to the island where the wild things are. AR 3.4, RC 4.4 Caldecott Medal

Ungerer, Tomi: *CriCTOR*

CriCTOR the boa constrictor lives in the home of a schoolteacher named Madame Bodot, in France, and makes friends with the schoolchildren and captures a burglar. AR 3.4, RC 2.9

Wells, Rosemary: *Bunny Cakes*

Max makes an earthworm cake for Grandma's birthday and helps Ruby with her angel surprise cake. At the store, the grocer can't read all of the shopping list, until Max solves the problem by drawing a picture. RC 1.9 ♥

Nonfiction

Aliki: *Dinosaur Bones*

Discusses how scientists, studying fossil remains, provide information on how dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. AR 3.7, RC 2.5

Arnold, Katya: *Elephants Can Paint, Too!*

Contains the story of an artist who teaches Asian elephants to paint and raise funds and awareness for their endangered plight. Presented in simple text with illustrations. AR 3.3, RC 3.5 Notable Book

Aston, Dianna: *An Egg is Quiet*

Describes many different kinds of eggs and how they support the lives growing inside of them. AR 2.9, RC 3.5 ♥

Brennan-Nelson: *My Teacher Likes to Say*

Presents visual interpretations of what a child might be thinking when his or her teacher uses amusing and confusing expressions such as "Put on your thinking cap," or "Two heads are better than one." AR 4.4

Calmenson, Stephanie: *Rosie: A Visiting Dog's Story*

Tells the story of Rosie, a therapy dog whose job is to cheer up the people she visits. RC 3.5 ♥

Cole, Joanna: *The Magic School Bus* (series)

The Magic School Bus transports Ms. Frizzle and her class to a variety of unique destinations on class field trips.

Cowley, Joy: *Chameleon, Chameleon*

A colorful chameleon encounters friend and foe while making his way from one tree to another in search of a tasty insect dinner. AR 3.0, RC 1.3

Cowley, Joy: *Red-Eyed Tree Frog*

This frog found in the rain forest of Central America spends the night searching for food while also being careful not to become dinner for some other animal. ♥

Davies, Jacqueline: *The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon*

John James Audubon, living in Pennsylvania far from his home and father in France, continues his obsession with birds, and comes up with the idea of banding the legs of his pewee bird friends to see if they will return in the spring to the nests they abandoned in the fall. AR 4.4, RC 4.5 ♥

Demuth, Patricia: *Johnny Appleseed*

Recounts the story of the man who traveled west planting apple seeds to make the country a better place to live.
AR 1.8, RC 1.4

Ehlert, Lois: *Waiting for Wings*

Simple text and bright pictures show how butterflies use flowers and identify several types of butterflies.
AR 2.8, RC 1.9 Notable Book ♥

Freyman, Saxton. *Fast Food*

Playful rhyming text about different modes of transportation accompanies colorful sculptures of vegetables and fruits on the move. ♥

Gibbons, Gail: *My Baseball Book*

An introduction to baseball, describing the equipment, playing field, rules, players, and process of the game. A companion volume is My Soccer Book. AR 2.9, RC 2.8

Houston, Gloria: *My Great-Aunt Arizona*

An Appalachian girl, Arizona Houston Hughes, grows up to become a teacher who influences generations of school children.
RC 3.9 Notable Book

Jenkins, Steve: *I See a Kookaburra! : Discovering Animal Habitats Around the World*

Presents a colorful children's book that describes the various animals and, insects, and sea life that inhabit various environments. ♥

Kudlinski, Kathleen: *Boy, Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs!*

Describes how information and ideas about prehistoric dinosaurs are constantly changing as new discoveries are made.
AR 5.0, RC 3.7 Notable Book

McNulty, Faith: *If You Decide to Go to the Moon*

Presents a children's book for early readers that describes what a trip to the moon would be like for a would-be astronaut.
AR 4.1, RC 2.7 ♥

Neubecker, Robert: *Izzy Followed After-- Wow! America!*

Maps on endpapers. Presents vividly illustrated facts on the U.S.'s landscape, landmarks, and natural resources, each picture featuring adventurous Izzy and her little sister, Jo. AR 2.0♥

Piper, Watty: *The Little Engine That Could*

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. AR 3.5
RC 3.9, 680L ♥

Pallotta, Jerry: *The Airplane Alphabet Book*

An alphabet book that presents interesting facts about different kinds of airplanes. AR 4.3, RC 4.2

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro: *First The Egg*

Die-cut pages show the transformations of various animals and objects, such as a seed to a flower, paint to a picture, and a caterpillar to a butterfly. Notable Book, AR 2.0 ♥ Caldecott Honor

Winter, Jeanette: *The Tale of Pale Male: A True Story*

Tells the true story of two red-tailed hawks, Pale Male and Lola, who made their home atop an apartment building in New York City and sparked a protest by those who loved them when the apartment board had their eight-foot-wide nest cleared away. AR 4.5 ♥

Patterned Text

Beaumont, Karen: *Move Over, Rover!*

When a storm comes, Rover expects to have his doghouse all to himself but finds that various other animals, including a skunk, come to join him. AR 2.3

Carlstrom, Nancy: *Jesse Bear What Will You Wear?*

Rhymed text and illustrations describe Jesse Bear's activities from morning to bedtime. AR 2.5

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

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. AR 2.3 RC 1.3, 160L Caldecott Honor ♥

Guarino, Deborah: *Is Your Mama a Llama?*

A young llama asks his friends if their mamas are llamas and finds out, in rhyme, that their mothers are other types of animals.
AR 1.6, RC 1.6, 290L

Martin, Bill: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. RC 1.4, 440L

Peek, Merle: *Mary Wore Her Red Dress, And Henry Wore His Green Sneakers*

Each of Katy Bear's animal friends wears a different color of clothing to her birthday party. RC 1.8

Rathmann, Peggy: *Good Night, Gorilla*

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo. RC 1.2 Notable Book

Sendak, Maurice: *Chicken Soup with Rice: A Book of Months*

Describes how nice it is to eat chicken soup with rice during every month of the year AR 3.2, RC 2.5

Tafari, Nancy: *Have You Seen My Duckling?*

A mother duck leads her brood around the pond as she searches for one missing duckling. RC 1.5, 20L

Van Laan, Nancy: *Possum Come A-Knockin'*

A cumulative tale in verse about a mysterious stranger that interrupts a family's daily routine. AR 2.4, RC 3.5

Poetry

Belle, Jennifer: *Animal Stackers*

Presents an illustrated collection of children's poems about animals in which the first letters from each line of verse spell the animal's name. AR 2.5

Florian, Douglas: *Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings*

A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets. AR 3.1 ♥

Franco, Betsy: *Counting Our Way to the 100th Day!: 100 Poems*

Presents a collection of one hundred poems that follow a school year to the hundredth day, each featuring the number one hundred. AR 2.9

George, Kristine O'Connell: *Little Dog Poems*

Short poems present a day in the life of a little dog and its owner. AR 2.2 RC 2.4 Notable Book

Lillegard, Dee: *Hello School!: A Classroom Full of Poems*

Presents more than thirty, illustrated, short poems about the many different material things that can be found, and used, throughout a day at school, including crayons, glue, swings, chairs, and the teacher's desk. AR 2.7

Nash, Ogden: *Custard the Dragon and the Wicked Knight*

In this humorous poem, Custard the cowardly dragon saves the fair maiden Belinda from the wicked Sir Gargoyle. RC 2.6 Notable Book

Prelutsky, Jack: *It's Raining Pigs and Noodles: Poems*

A collection of humorous poems such as "The Dancing Hippopotami," "You Can't Make Me Eat That," "My Father's Name is Sasquatch," and "Dear Wumbledeedumble." RC 2.6 ♥

Rhyming Text

Ahlberg, Janet: *Each Peach, Pear, Plum*

Rhymed text and illustrations invite the reader to play I spy with a variety of Mother Goose and other folklore characters. RC 2.5

Degen, Bruce: *Jamberry*

A little boy walking in the forest meets a big lovable bear that takes him on a delicious berry-picking adventure in the magical world of Berryland. RC 2.5

Raffi: *Down By the Bay*

In this song, two children imagine their mothers asking, "Did you ever see a goose kissing a moose, a fly wearing a tie, or llamas eating pajamas down by the bay?" RC 2.5

Seuss: *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*

Nonsense rhymes for beginning readers. AR 1.7, RC 1.1, 180L

Seuss: *The Cat in the Hat*

Two children sitting at home on a rainy day are visited by the Cat in the Hat, who shows them some tricks and games. AR 2.1, RC 1.2, 260L

School

Crews, Donald: *School Bus*

Follows the progress of school buses as they take children to school and bring them home again. RC 1.2

Davis, Katie: *Kindergarten Rocks!*

Dexter knows everything there is to know about kindergarten and is not at all scared about his first day there, but his stuffed dog, Buster, is very nervous. AR 2.6

Hamilton-Merritt, Jane: *My First Days of School*

Five-year-old Kate relates the experiences of her first day in kindergarten.

Henkes, Kevin: *Wemberly Worried*

A mouse named Wemberly, who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about when she faces the first day of nursery school. AR 2, RC 2.1, 170L ♥

London, Jonathan: *Froggy Goes to School*

Froggy is nervous about his first day of school, but, even though it's hard to sit still, he has a wonderful time. AR 2.4, 490L

Slate, Joseph: *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*

Introduces the letters of the alphabet as Miss Bindergarten and her students get ready for kindergarten. AR 1.5, 490L ♥

Wells, Rosemary: *My Kindergarten*

Emily and her classmates learn many new things as they journey through the months of their kindergarten year of school ♥

Wells, Rosemary: *Timothy Goes to School*

Timothy learns about being accepted and making friends during the first week of his first year at school. AR 2.4, RC 1.8, 300L