

Suggested Reading for Pre-K – Kindergarten 2022

Picture Book Fiction

Allenby, Victoria. Shape Up, Construction Trucks! 2020

Full-color photographs feature construction vehicles. Geometric shapes discernable on the vehicles are digitally highlighted for easy identification, and rhyming text names both the shape and the truck. A final spread directed at caregivers shares age-appropriate enrichment activities for toddlers learning to identify shapes.

E ALLENBY

Archer, Micha. Wonder Walkers. 2021

When two curious kids embark on a wonder walk, they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. They have thought-provoking questions for everything they see. Short, simple text with abstract concepts. A Caldecott Honor Book.

E ARCHER, eBook

Biedrzycki, David. Invasion of the Unicorns. 2021

Special Agent Bubble07 is undercover on planet Earth. His mission: to decide whether his team of alien unicorns should invade Earth. Posing as a stuffed animal, he infiltrates the home of Earthling Daughter, where he puts up with dog slobber, tea parties, and show and tell. Will the unicorn blow his cover and call for backup? Or will his alien heart be won over by storytime, snow days, and snuggles? A silly book to read aloud with children who are ready for longer stories.

E BIEDRZYCKI, E POP NOW BIEDRZYCKI, eBook

Brannen, Sarah S. A Perfect Day. 2021

The sky is blue, the sun is warm, the breeze is cool--it's a perfect day for Seagull, perched on a rock in the sea. That is, until crabby Crab comes along and points out all of the day's flaws! There's a cloud in the sky, a smelly boat in the distance, and the rock that they're sitting on is covered in barnacles. In this sweet and funny story about finding happiness amidst flaws,

Seagull and Crab learn that nothing is more perfect than spending time with friends. Silly read-aloud with simple text.

E BRANNEN, eBook

Cole, Lo. We Want a Dog. 2021

This hilarious rhyming text takes us through twenty-seven unexpected and amusing varieties of dogs that one could have, like "one that begs, one that sheds, one that rips things into shreds." And while the book is sure to delight any dog lover, the narrator's choice at the end will make readers laugh out loud! Great read-aloud with simple, repetitive text and plenty of action words to help with vocabulary building for our youngest readers.

E COLE, eBook

Del Rizzo, Suzanne. Birds on Wishbone Street. 2021

Moe's neighbors on Wishbone Street come from all over the world, and she's excited to meet the new boy who just arrived from Syria. Sami isn't quite ready to talk about his past, but he loves birds just as much as Moe does. When the children discover a female cardinal stunned by the cold, Sami uses his experience taking care of pigeons in Syria to help rescue the bird. Illustrated with Del Rizzo's signature polymer clay art, this book demonstrates the power of an act of kindness and tells a story about finding home and making friends in new places. A longer book that can lead to a discussion of kindness, friendship, and immigration, or can be paired with a nonfiction book about birds.

E DEL RIZZO, E POP NOW DEL RIZZO

Diaz, Lucky. Paletero Man. 2021

What is the best way to cool off on a summer day? Paletas (ice pops)! Celebrating the strength of community and the tastes of summer, fans of *Thank You, Omu* and *Carmela Full of Wishes* will be hungry for what Paletero Man has in store. Fun rhyming text with Spanish vocabulary throughout. Energetic read-aloud for all ages, with repeated refrain that everyone can shout or sing together.

E DIAZ, eBook

Eady, Antwan. Nigel and the Moon. 2021

When Nigel looks up at the moon, his future is bright. He imagines himself as an astronaut, a dancer, a superhero, too! But it's Career Week at school, and Nigel can't find the courage to share his dreams. It's easy to whisper them to the moon, but not to his classmates—especially when he already feels out of place. A lyrical book about being confident in yourself, for children who are ready for longer stories.

E EADY, eBook, eAudiobook

Epstein, Adam Jay. Have You Seen Gordon? 2021

The narrator wants to play hide and seek with Gordon and the reader, but Gordon just wants to stand out. Packed with vibrant artwork, this hilarious story cleverly riffs on classic seek-and-find books and will have young ones laughing out loud as the narrator struggles to get the characters to play along.

E EPSTEIN, eBook

Flies, Sue. Sadie Sprocket Builds a Rocket. 2021

Sadie Sprocket is a girl with a big dream—to go to Mars! No one has been to Mars (yet!), so of course that's where Sadie sets her sights. She learns everything she can about the planet and space, then assembles her crew of trusty stuffed animals. Together they build a rocket and prepare for the historic journey. And then finally—blastoff! A longer book about girls in STEM for fans of *Rosie Revere, Engineer*.

E FLIES, E POP NOW FLIES

Hall, Michael. House Mouse. 2021

When a clever and resourceful mouse looks for a safe place to settle down, she learns that home is wherever you make it. A book about home, friendship, empathy, and construction. Hall's bright, bold mixed-media artwork will catch the eye of even the youngest readers, as will the busy mouse's tool collection and construction work.

E HALL

Higgins, Ryan T. Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did). 2021

Norman was a porcupine. Mildred was a tree. Can I make it any more obvious? Norman and Mildred are best friends. Just the two of them. And only the two of them. But when a surprise pops up, life will never be the same again. Another great story from the author of *Mother Bruce* and *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*. Fun read-aloud for children who are ready for longer stories.

E HIGGINS, E POP NOW HIGGINS, eBook

Ho, Joanna. Eyes that Speak to the Stars. 2022

A young Asian boy notices that his eyes look different from his peers' after seeing his friend's drawing of them. After talking to his father, the boy realizes that his eyes rise to the skies and speak to the stars, shine like sunlit rays, and glimpse trails of light from those who came before—in fact, his eyes are like his father's, his agong's, and his little brother's, and they are visionary. This empowering and beautifully illustrated companion to *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* is a great choice for children who are ready for longer stories.

E HO, E POP NOW HO, READALONG HO, eAudiobook

John, Jory. Cat Problems. 2021

What could a pampered house cat possibly have to complain about? The sun spot he's trying to bathe in won't stop moving. He keeps getting served dry food instead of wet. And don't even get him started on the vacuum--it's an absolute menace--and the nosy neighbor squirrel that just can't seem to mind its own business. Will this cat ever find the silver lining? Silly read-aloud for all ages.

E JOHN, eBook

Klein, Cheryl B. Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates. 2021

Two hamster roommates with wildly different personalities crammed in one cage--what could go wrong in this hilarious story about introverts versus extroverts? Hilarious and heartfelt read-aloud which can inspire discussion of friendship, communication, and compromise.

E KLEIN, E POP NOW KLEIN, eBook

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. Ocean Lullaby. 2021

A soft and soothing good night journey through an ocean filled with sleepy sea creatures, perfect for bedtime in the summer or year-round. Rhyming text and lush illustrations make this a great read-aloud for all ages. Try pairing with non-fiction books about ocean animals.

E KVASNOSKY, eBook

Lawler, Janet. Oceans of Love. 2022

Enjoy gentle rhymes and watercolor illustrations in this book of mothers and children who live in the ocean. A relaxing read-aloud for younger children.

E LAWLER, E POP NOW LAWLER, eBook

Lebeuf, Darren and Ashley Barron. My City Speaks. 2021

A young girl, who is visually impaired, finds much to celebrate as she explores the city she loves. The girl and her father spend a day in the city, traveling to the places they frequently go together: the playground, the community garden, the market, an outdoor concert. As they do, the girl describes what she senses in precise, poetic detail. Sensory language, rhymes, and onomatopoeia, make this a great read-aloud. After reading, take a walk or go outside and discuss what you can hear, smell, and feel.

E LEBEUF, eBook

Luby, Brittany. Mii maanda ezhi-gkendmaanh = This Is How I Know: A Book about the Seasons. 2021

In this lyrical story-poem, a contemporary Anishinaabe grandmother answers her grandchild's questions about the four seasons by sharing observations about the natural world. We accompany them through warm summer days full of wildflowers, bees and blueberries, then fall, when bears feast before hibernation and forest mushrooms are ripe for harvest. Winter mornings begin in darkness as deer, mice and other animals search for food, while spring brings green shoots poking through melting snow and the chirping of peepers. Text is presented in side-by-side English and Anishinaabemowin.

E LUBY eBook

Maclear, Kyo. Hello, Rain! 2021

A picture book celebrating all the reasons to love the rain! Flowers bloom in the garden. Umbrellas bloom on the streets. There are puddles for jumping and, later, a cozy home for hot chocolate and books. Poetic, rhyming language and onomatopoeia make this a great read-aloud for younger children.

E MACLEAR, eBook

Marlow, Layn. Noah's Seal. 2021

Noah waits on shore while Nana fixes their sailboat. The boat will take them out to sea where the seals live, and Noah can hardly contain himself. In the meantime, he sculpts his own seal out of sand. He lies beside his new friend to watch the rolling sea until a storm blows in and Noah must take cover. Later, he wonders: did his seal swim away? A beachy read-aloud for all ages that might inspire you to do your own sculpting activity.

E MARLOW, E POP NOW MARLOW

Martin, Bill. Armadillo Antics. 2022

A previously unpublished work by beloved late author Bill Martin about the nighttime escapades of an armadillo. Throughout the evening, it feasts on grubs, jumps over rocks, and outfoxes a dog before settling back into its burrow with the rising sun. The simple rhyming text and striking collage illustrations make this a fun read for children of all ages.

E MARTIN, E POP NOW MARTIN

Moises, Yesenia. Stella's Stellar Hair. 2021

It's the day of the Big Star Little Gala, and Stella's hair just isn't acting right! What's a girl to do? Simple! Just hop on her hoverboard, visit each of her fabulous aunties across the solar system, and find the perfect hairdo along the way. This book celebrates the joy of self-empowerment, shows off our solar system, and beautifully illustrates a variety of hairstyles from the African diaspora. Back matter provides more information about each style and each planet.

E MOISES, eBook

Monsen, Avery. Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme. 2022

Chester wakes up and discovers he has lost his special talent—he can no longer rhyme! The text quips that “it baffled poor Chester. He felt almost queasy. / To match up two sounds, it was always so . . . / . . . simple for him.”

E MONSEN, E POP NOW MONSEN

Penfold, Alexandra. Big Feelings. 2021

A diverse group of children convert an empty lot into a playground. Simple sentences and detailed illustrations provide an excellent opportunity to discuss emotions with your child.

E PENFOLD, E POP NOW PENFOLD, eBook

Prahn, Andrew. Ship in a Bottle. 2021

All Mouse wants to do is eat gingersnaps, lie in the sun, and enjoy her ship in a bottle. All Cat wants to do is eat Mouse. This is a problem. So one day, Mouse sets off in her ship in a bottle in search of a new home. But the great big world is a scary place for one small mouse. As she sails downriver, she faces grabby seagulls, selfish rabbits, and stormy waters before finally finding refuge in a park on the shores of an enormous city, where she is welcomed by friends of all shapes and sizes. This book offers a subtle allegory for refugees and immigration, and can be a way to talk to children about these issues, or simply used as a read-aloud about perseverance and adventure. Longer text and beautiful illustrations for children who are ready for longer stories.

E PRAHIN, E POP NOW PRAHIN, eBook

Saito, Maki. Animals Brag About Their Bottoms. 2020

All bottoms are wonderful! Don't you agree? Each animal in this adorable book has a different reason for loving their behind—from cute and round to fashionable and striped. Charming, silly, and simple, this is a great choice for younger children.

E SAITO, eBook

Sauer, Tammy. Lovebird Lou. 2021

Lovebird Lou adores life with his family and friends on the island they call home. But when he travels to the other side of the island and sees the amazing abilities on display by different

birds, Lou feels unfulfilled with the laidback lovebird lifestyle. With his adoring parents cheering him on, Lou tries flying like a pelican, wading like a flamingo, and singing like a nightingale. This unbelievably charming and funny story is a great jumping-off point to talk about individuality, self-esteem, and learning to recognize and embrace your strengths. It could be paired with a self-portrait craft activity.

E SAUER, E POP NOW SAUER

Singer, Marilyn. Best Day Ever!. 2021

This playful puppy thinks she's having the best day ever! She's so happy to be out with her friend, she doesn't even realize that she's being a little naughty. But then he scolds her, and suddenly—Worst. Day. Ever. Will puppy be able to make amends and turn their day back around? A sweet dog-loves-kid/kid-loves-dog story, in which the kid uses a wheelchair.

E SINGER, eBook

Smith, Monique Gray. When We Are Kind. 2020.

In simple repetitive text suitable for the youngest readers, this picture book makes clear statements of how we take care of ourselves and others, and the world around us, and how we receive in return.

E SMITH, eBook, eAudiobook

Swenson, Jamie A. Chirp! Chipmunk Sings for a Friend. 2021

Chipmunk spends her days sitting on her rock and chirping her song—sometimes it's happy, sometimes it's bittersweet, and sometimes it's very sad indeed. When Chipmunk goes off to find a companion that will sing along with her, she encounters some bumps (and pine cones) along the way, and finds friends (and harmonies) in unexpected places. A beautifully illustrated book that provides an opportunity to talk about emotions and the way things make you feel.

E SWENSON, eBook

Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah. Abdul's Story. 2022

Abdul loves to tell stories. But writing them down is hard. His letters refuse to stay straight and face the right way. And despite all his attempts, his papers often wind up with more eraser smudges than actual words. Not to mention that the books he reads at school do not feature

people who look like him or the people in his neighborhood. Abdul decides his stories just aren't meant to be written down...until a special visitor comes to class and shows Abdul that even the best writers—and superheroes—make mistakes. Charming and encouraging book for creative children who are ready for longer stories.

E THOMPSON-BIGELOW, eBook

Wang, Andrea. Watercress. 2021

Driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family wades into the muck to collect as much of the muddy, snail covered watercress as they can. At first, the girl is embarrassed. Why can't her family get food from the grocery store? But when her mother shares a story of her family's time in China, the girl learns to appreciate the fresh food they foraged. Newbery Honor book, Caldecott Medal Winner.

E WANG, E POP NOW WANG, eBook

Wheeler, Lisa and Loren Long. Someone Builds the Dream. 2021

This is an exploration of the many types of work that go into building our world--from the making of a bridge to a wind farm, an amusement park, and even the very picture book that you are reading. An architect may dream up the plans for a house, but someone has to actually work the saws and pound the nails. This book is a thank-you to the skilled women and men who work tirelessly to see our dreams brought to life. A great read-aloud for kids who are into trucks and tools.

E WHEELER, eBook, eAudiobook

Non-fiction

Alexander, Elaine M. Anglerfish: The Seadevil of the Deep. 2022

Dive thirteen thousand feet below the ocean's surface, where no ray of sunlight can penetrate. Resources are scarce, and fellow inhabitants scarcer. This is life in the midnight zone—life for the anglerfish, known as the Seadevil of the Deep. Still largely a mystery to scientists, the deep-sea anglerfish is a true source of fascination and awe.

J 597.67 ALEXANDER

Burleigh, Robert. Trapped! A Whale's Rescue. 2015

In the icy waters of the Pacific Ocean, a massive humpback whale unexpectedly finds herself tangled in a net abandoned by fishermen. She is saved when a rescue boat with a convoy of divers arrives to help the struggling humpback. Endnotes include information about humpbacks and the dangerousness of whale rescues.

J 599.525 BURLEIGH, eBook, eAudiobook

Eaton, Maxwell. The Truth About Dolphins. 2018

Did you know that dolphins find their dinners by using sound to track down the location of their prey? Did you know that baby dolphins are born tail-first? Did you know that each dolphin has a unique whistle (like human fingerprints) that makes them recognizable to other dolphins? Learn all this and more in this funny and informative book.

J 599.532 EATON, eBook

Fleming, Candace. The Tide Pool Waits. 2022

Twice a day when the tide goes out, an astonishing world is revealed in the tide pools that form along the Pacific Coast. Some of the creatures that live here look like stone. Others look like plants. Some move so slowly it's hard to tell if they're moving at all, while others are so fast, you're not sure you really saw them. The biggest animals in the pool are smaller than your hand, while the smallest can't be seen at all without a microscope.

J 578 FLEMING, eBook

Paul, Miranda. Water is Water. 2015

Drip. Sip. Pour me a cup. Water is water unless...it heats up. Whirl. Swirl. Watch it curl by. Steam is steam unless...it cools high. This spare, poetic picture book follows a group of kids as they move through all the different phases of the water cycle.

J 551.48 PAUL

Portis, Antoinette. Hey, Water! 2019

Join a young girl as she explores her surroundings and sees that water is everywhere. Water doesn't always look the same, it doesn't always feel the same, and it shows up in lots of

different shapes. Water can be a lake, it can be steam, it can be a tear, or it can even be a snowman. A Sibert Honor Book.

J 553.7 PORTIS, eBook

Rayner, Catherine. My Pet Goldfish. 2021

Follow Richard the growing goldfish from an indoor tank to an outdoor pond. Drawn in by the expressive illustrations and child-friendly tone, readers will emerge with a new appreciation for the beauty and personality of these classic pets. Kids inspired to care for a goldfish of their own will find a list of things they will need in the back matter.

J 639.3748 RAYNER, eBook

Swinburne, Stephen R. Run, Sea Turtle, Run. 2020

Follow a hatchling's treacherous journey from nest to sea. Longtime science writer Stephen Swinburne creates an engaging first-person narrative from the sea turtle's perspective. Gorgeous photographs by Guillaume Feuillet capture the drama of the hatchlings' race to safety.

J 597.9289 SWINBURNE, eBook, eAudiobook

Tsui, Bonnie. Sarah and the Big Wave. 2021

Have you ever seen a big wave? One that's twenty, thirty, forty, even fifty feet tall? Here's a better question: Would you ever surf a big wave? Sarah Gerhardt did--and this is her story.

J BIO GERHARDT, eBook