



**Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader.**



Summer Reading

The books on this list come highly recommended by kid readers from all over the country and may also be available in eBook, audio book, braille, and large formats.

Reading can be one of many fun activities children can choose to fill their summer time and to combat summer slide.

SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER READING LIST GRADES 3-5



***The Year I Flew Away* by Marie Arnold
VERSIFY, 2021**

When 10-year-old Gabrielle moves from Haiti to Brooklyn, she finds that America isn't quite what she expected. With the help of a magical friend, Marie transforms into the perfect American girl but makes sacrifices in the process.

***Each Kindness* Jacqueline Woodson
Illustrated by EB Lewis
PENGUIN 2012**

When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.

***Rain Reign* by Ann M. Martin
MACMILLAN 2014**

When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places in order to search for him.

***Fish in a Tree* by Linda Mullaly Hunt
PUFFIN 2015**

An uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

***The Thing About Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin
HATCHETTE 2015**

Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and *hope right next door*.

***A Boy Called Bat* by Alana K. Arnold
HARPERCOLLINS 2017**

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter.

***Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina,
CANDLEWICK PRESS 2019**

Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different.

***We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac
CHARLESBRIDGE, 2021**

A creatively organized picture book gives both Native and non-Native readers an overview of important topics including forced assimilation, sovereignty, and language.

***Blood on the River* by Elisa Lynn Carbone
VIKING 2006**

Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.

***Clementine* by Sarah Pennypacker
DISNEY/HYPERIAN 2008**

Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week. But maybe can she find a way to make it better.

***The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
HATCHETTE 2016**

As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.

***Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
SCHOLASTIC 2000**

Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers.

***The New Kid* by Jerry Craft
HARPERCOLLINS 2019**

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

***Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty
Illustrated by David Roberts
ABRAMS 2019**

Sofia tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter.

***Black Brother, Black Brother* Jewel Parker Rhodes
HACHETTE 2018**

A powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition -- now in paperback

***One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams- Garcia
HARPERCOLLINS 2011**

In this Newbery Honor novel, New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them. A strong option for summer reading—take this book along on a family road trip or enjoy it at home.

