

ELEMENTARY Summer Reading List

These summer reading lists are created with our best efforts and research. Ultimately, what you read is a decision between you and your parents. Please talk with them about your book choices.



Elana K. Arnold

A Boy Called Bat

Recommended for Grades 3-6

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. But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

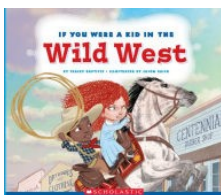


Elana K. Arnold

Far From Fair

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Odette Zyskowski has a list: Things That Aren't Fair. At the top of the list is her parents' decision to take the family on the road in an ugly RV they've nicknamed the Coach. There's nothing fair about leaving California and living in the cramped Coach with her parents and exasperating younger brother, sharing one stupid cell phone among the four of them. And there's definitely nothing fair about what they find when they reach Grandma Sissy's house, hundreds of miles later. Most days it seems as if everything in Odette's life is far from fair. Is there a way for her to make things right?

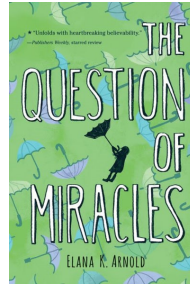


Tracey Baptiste

If You Were a Kid in the Wild West

Recommended for Grades K-3

A fun picture-book exploration of what it was like to be a kid in the Wild, Wild, West.



Elana K. Arnold

A Question of Miracles

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Sixth-grader Iris Abernathy hates life in Corvallis, Oregon, where her family just moved. It's always raining, and everything is so *wet*. Besides, nothing has felt right since Iris's best friend, Sarah, died.

When Iris meets Boris, an awkward mouth-breather with a know-it-all personality, she's not looking to make a new friend, but it beats eating lunch alone. Then she learns that Boris's very existence is a medical mystery, maybe even a miracle, and Iris starts to wonder why some people get miracles and others don't. And if one miracle is possible, can another one be too? Can she possibly communicate with Sarah again?



Tracey Baptiste

The Jumbies

Recommended for Grades 3-6

The jumbies are coming! Corinne La Mer isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not jumbies. She knows that jumbies aren't real; they're just creatures parents make up to frighten their children. But on All Hallows' Eve, Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden woods. Those shining yellow eyes that follow her to the edge of the trees, they couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they? Corinne begins to notice odd occurrences after that night. First she spots a beautiful stranger speaking to the town witch at the market. Then this same beauty, called Severine, turns up at Corinne's house, cooking dinner for her father. Danger is in the air. Sure enough, bewitching Corinne's father is the first step in Severine's plan to claim the entire island for the jumbies. Corinne must call on her courage and her friends *and* ancient magic to stop Severine and to save her island home.

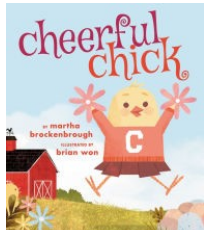


Tracey Baptiste

Minecraft: The Crash

Recommended for Grades 3-6

Bianca has never been good at following the plan. She's more of an act-now, deal-with-the-consequences-later kind of person. But consequences can't be put off forever, as Bianca learns when she and her best friend, Lonnie, are in a terrible car crash. Waking up in the hospital, almost paralyzed by her injuries, Bianca is faced with questions she's not equipped to answer. She chooses instead to try a new virtual-reality version of Minecraft that responds to her every wish, giving her control over a world at the very moment she thought she'd lost it. As she explores this new realm, she encounters a mute, glitching avatar she believes to be Lonnie. Bianca teams up with Esme and Anton, two kids who are also playing on the hospital server, to save her friend. But the road to recovery isn't without its own dangers. The kids are swarmed by mobs seemingly generated by their fears and insecurities, and now Bianca must deal with the uncertainties that have been plaguing her: Is Lonnie really in the game? And can Bianca help him return to reality?



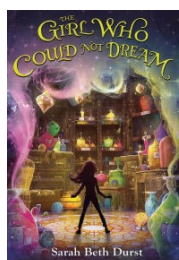
Martha Brockenbrough

Cheerful Chick

Recommended for Grades K-3

Right from the moment Chick is born, she wants to lead the other animals in cheer!

Unfortunately, the rest of the barnyard just isn't quiiiiite as enthusiastic. Lucky for little Chick she has a whole squad of siblings who are backing her up (even when she doesn't realize it)!

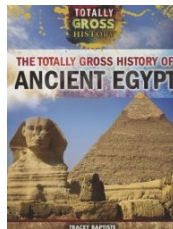


Sarah Beth Durst

The Girl Who Could Not Dream

Recommended for Grades 3-6

Sophie loves the hidden shop below her parents' bookstore, where dreams are secretly bought and sold. When the dream shop is robbed and her parents go missing, Sophie must unravel the truth to save them. Together with her best friend—a wisecracking and fanatically loyal monster named Monster—she must decide whom to trust with her family's carefully guarded secrets. Who will help them, and who will betray them?

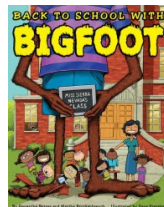


Tracey Baptiste

The Totally Gross History of Ancient Egypt

Recommended for Grades 5-8

How did the ancient Egyptians get rid of poop without toilets? What bizarre medical procedures did they have? Did they have tattoos, piercings, and colorful hair? What were their war tactics; were they gruesome? Find these answers and more in this in-depth look at the gross history of ancient Egypt.



Martha Brockenbrough

Back to School with Bigfoot

Recommended for Grades K-3

The first day of school is right around the corner! And everything is bigger for Bigfoot -- especially back to school problems like getting a haircut, trying on new clothes, and finding new shoes that fit! Told from a giant (and very hairy) point of view, *Back to School with Bigfoot* deftly tackles the worries kids face as that first day of school draws closer, and ends on a colossal high note!

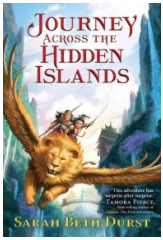


Martha Brockenbrough

Shark Week: Everything You Need to Know

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Gliding through the water at breakneck speeds—a fin, just skimming the surface of the water. The biggest jaws you've ever seen. These are the iconic images that flash through all our minds when we think of sharks, but there's so much more to know about these majestic predators of the sea. If you're already a fan of the Discovery's phenomenon Shark Week, then you will love this book! From the unique look of the prehistoric Whorl shark, to the hunting techniques of the Great White, all the thrills and chills of Shark Week are now here for year-round reading. Filled with photos, first-hand accounts of shark attacks, and unbelievable facts (Did you know that there are sharks that live in volcanoes?), this book is for every shark fanatic who wants to get even more up close and personal. Now you really can live every week like it's shark week.

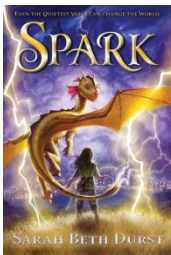


Sarah Beth Durst

Journey Across the Hidden Islands

Recommended for Grades 5-8

The traditional Emperor's Journey should be uneventful. But as the princesses Seika and Jin—twin sisters—travel to pay respects to their kingdom's dragon guardian, unexpected monsters appear and tremors shake the earth. The Hidden Islands are threatened as old rituals fail. With only their strength, ingenuity, and flying lion to rely on, can the sisters find a new way to keep their people safe?

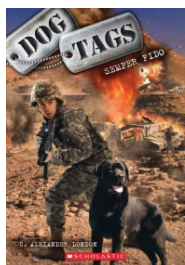


Sarah Beth Durst

Spark

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Storm beasts and their guardians create perfect weather every day, and Mina longs for a storm beast of her own. But when the gentle girl bonds with a lightning beast—a creature of fire and chaos—everyone's certain it's a mistake. Everyone but Mina and the beast himself, Pixit. Quickly enrolled in lightning school, Mina struggles to master a guardian's skills, and she discovers that her country's weather comes at a devastating cost—a cost powerful people wish to hide. Mina's never been the type to speak out, but someone has to tell the truth, and, with Pixit's help, she resolves to find a way to be heard.

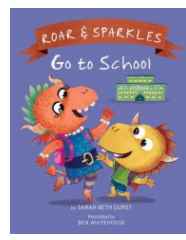


C. Alexander London

Dog Tags: Semper Fido

Recommended for Grades 5-8

When Gus Dempsey joins the US Marine Corps, he knows without a doubt that he will make a great dog handler. He's always been good with dogs. In fact, he's often better with dogs than he is with people. But Loki is not the dog that Gus was expecting. Fun-loving and playful, Loki acts more like a pet than the well-trained, bomb-sniffing Marine that he's supposed to be. When Gus and Loki deploy to Afghanistan, though, they have no choice but to learn to work together. Because in war, getting along is a matter of life and death.



Sarah Beth Durst

Roar and Sparkles Go to School

Recommended for Grades K-3

Roar is worried about his first day at school. He's worried that he'll have to do really hard things, like molt his scales and fly over a volcano. And what if his teacher doesn't like dragons? Big sister Sparkles reassures Roar That school is fun. And when the first day of school arrives, Roar finds his worries melt away. He meets new friends, plays dragon games, listens to fun stories, and finds a way to thank his sister for support.



Sarah Beth Durst

The Stone Girl's Story

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Mayka and her stone family were brought to life by the stories etched into their bodies. Now time is eroding these vital marks, and Mayka must find a stonemason to recarve them. But the search is more complex than she had imagined, and Mayka uncovers a scheme endangering all stone creatures. Only someone who casts stories into stone can help—but whom can Mayka trust? Where is the stonemason who will save them?

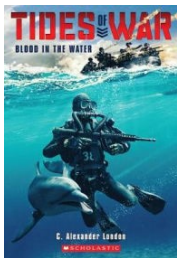


C. Alexander London

The Adventures of Wring Man and Power Girl

Recommended for Grades K-3

When trouble is brewing, Wrong Man is there to make it worse. When someone needs help, Wrong Man does just the opposite of what's needed. And when situations go awry, Wrong Man helps them go awry-er. Luckily, Wrong Man's daughter is there to *really* save the day. In this comic-book inspired picture book, our hero accidentally melts stinky cheese all over the city, lets sharks loose, and turns one big meteor into many little ones! But all Wrong Man wants to do is help -- and try to help he does, until he finally gets it right. He may be laden with mishaps, but Wrong Man is also full of heart.



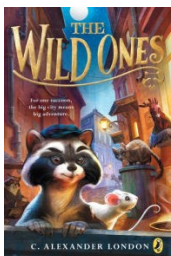
C. Alexander London

Tides of War: Blood in the Water

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Cory McNab wanted to be a Navy SEAL, but he washed out of the program. Now he is a member of the Navy's Marine Mammals

Program, where he is partnered with a search-and-recovery dolphin named Kaj. Together, Cory and Kaj are the Navy's best hope when a US spy submarine is lost in enemy waters. With the help of Kaj's bio-sonar, they should be able to locate the submarine before its secrets fall into the wrong hands. But the mission gets complicated when a team of Navy SEALs runs into trouble. Can Cory succeed where his heroes have failed . . . or is he in too deep?



C. Alexander London

The Wild Ones

Recommended for Grades 3-6

Kit is a young raccoon who has lived his whole life under the Big Sky. But when a pack of hunting dogs destroy his home and kill his parents, Kit needs to escape. He finds himself in Ankle Snap Alley, a city in the midst of a turf war between the Wild Ones and the people's pets who call themselves The Flealess. There he uncovers the secret that they died for—an ancient truce that gives Ankle Snap Alley to the Wild Ones. But the Flealess will stop at nothing to keep that secret buried forever, and Kit is in serious danger. Only the brave of heart and quick of paw can save the Wild Ones now.

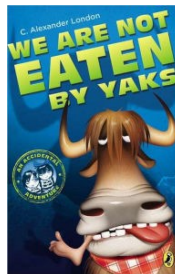


Barry Lyga-

The Secret Sea

Recommended for Grades 5-8

One day Zak is standing on the subway platform when the tunnel starts to fill with water. He sees it before anyone else. The voice warns him to run. His friends Moira and Khalid believe this is more than a premonition, and soon all three find themselves in an alternate universe that is both familiar and seriously strange. As Zak unravels the mystery behind the voice, he faces decisions that may mean the end of their world at home—if they can even get home!



C. Alexander London

We Are Not Eaten by Yaks

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Eleven-year-old twins Oliver and Celia Navel could care less about adventure and they really do not like excitement. They'd rather

be watching television. Unfortunately for them, their thrill-seeking parents have dragged them from continent to continent their entire lives. But when their mother goes missing and their father makes a bet with the devious explorer Sir Edmund, the twins are forced into action. They head to Tibet where they fall out of airplanes, battle Yetis, poison witches, and encounter one very large yak. If they can unravel the mysteries and outwit Sir Edmund, they might just make the discovery of a lifetime...and get cable television!



Barry Lyga

The Flash

Recommended for Grades 5-8

In a timeline where Flashpoint never happened, The Flash (aka Barry Allen) must face a mysterious villain who can control the minds and actions of citizens. But when Hocus Pocus, as he calls himself, takes control of Barry, it's up to Team Flash to help the Scarlet Speedster before he's forced to do the unthinkable. Written by *New York Times* bestselling author Barry Lyga, this is one adventure fans of the TV series won't want to

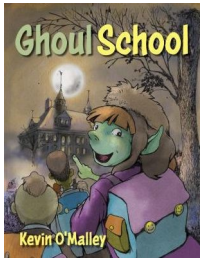


Kevin O'Malley

Captain Raptor and the Moon Mystery

Recommended for Grades K-3

When a mysterious object lands on one of Jurassic's moons, Captain Raptor and his crew set out in their spaceship to investigate. Will the dinosaurs be able to survive their alien encounter?

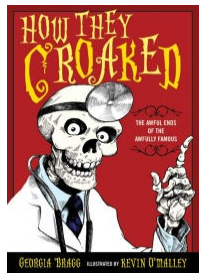


Kevin O'Malley

Ghoul School

Recommended for Grades K-3

Bea A. Fraid goes to an all-ghoul school where students learn how to make haunted houses, paint terrifying pictures, and eat lady fingers and spare ribs for lunch. But Bea doesn't want to be scary; she wants to dance and sing and tell jokes, which frequently lands her in the principal's office. Find out how Bea becomes the scariest ghoul of all in this delightful Halloween caper.



Kevin O'Malley (illustrator)

How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Over the course of history, men and women have lived and died. In fact, getting sick and dying can be a big, ugly mess—especially before the modern medical care that we all enjoy today. From King Tut's ancient autopsy to Albert Einstein's great brain escape, *How They Croaked* contains *all* the gory details of the awful ends of nineteen awfully famous people.

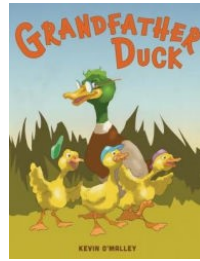


Kevin O'Malley

The Perfect Dog

Recommended for Grades K-3

When your parents say you can get a dog, you feel so LUCKY. And after you finally figure out what kind of dog you want, that feels even LUCKIER. But when the perfect dog chooses you—it feels like you're the LUCKIEST kid in the world! Dogs come in all shapes, sizes, and personalities. But which one is perfect for you?

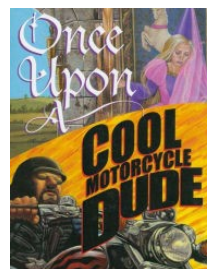


Kevin O'Malley

Grandfather Duck

Recommended for Grades K-3

When Mother Duck calls on Grandfather Duck to entertain her three ducklings, Grandfather Duck obliges with a riotous visit to a nearby pond, where the ducklings tempt fate by taunting a cat, trying to eat a poisonous plant, and attempting to fly off of a very large rock. In each case Grandfather Duck comes to the rescue and teaches the ducklings a valuable life lesson.



Kevin O'Malley

Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude

Recommended for Grades K-3

When their teacher gives a joint story-telling assignment, a boy and a girl have different ideas of how their fairy tale should evolve. Can they agree on who will live happily ever after? With a cool motorcycle dude and a beautiful princess the possibilities are endless!

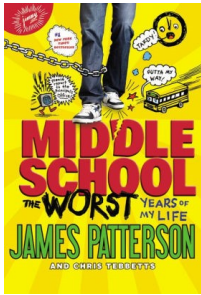


Kevin Sands

The Blackthorn Key

Recommended for Grades 5-8

"Tell no one what I've given you." Until he got that cryptic warning, Christopher Rowe was happy, learning how to solve complex codes and puzzles and creating powerful medicines, potions, and weapons as an apprentice to Master Benedict Blackthorn—with maybe an explosion or two along the way. But when a mysterious cult begins to prey on London's apothecaries, the trail of murders grows closer and closer to Blackthorn's shop. With time running out, Christopher must use every skill he's learned to discover the key to a terrible secret with the power to tear the world apart.

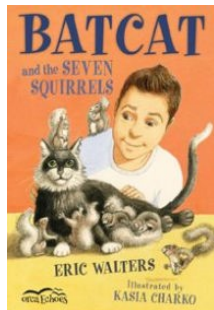


Chris Tebbetts (with James Patterson)

Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life

Recommended for Grades 3-6

Rafe has enough problems at home without throwing his first year of middle school into the mix. Luckily, he's got an ace plan for the best year ever, if only he can pull it off: With his best friend Leonardo awarding him points, he tries to break every rule in the oppressive Code of Conduct. Chewing gum in class--5,000 points! Running in the hallway--10,000 points! Pulling the fire alarm--50,000 points! But when Rafe's game starts to catch up with him, he'll have to decide if winning is all that matters, or if he's finally ready to face the rules, bullies, and truths he's been avoiding.

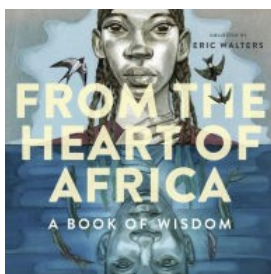


Eric Walters

Batcat and the Seven Squirrels

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Nathan has always loved animals and longs for a pet. When a baby squirrel shows up at Nathan's door, he wonders what could have happened to its mother. It isn't long before his family discovers six more orphaned baby squirrels in need of food and shelter. With help from Batcat, a neighborhood cat who is fed by many but owned by no one, Nathan learns to care for the squirrels. But all babies must leave the nest eventually. Will Nathan finally find a pet to call his own?

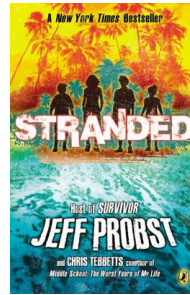


Eric Walters

From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom

Recommended for Grades K-3

A collection of African wisdom illustrated by artists from Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada, the United States and more. Aphorisms are universal. They give guidance, context and instruction for life's issues, and they help us understand each other and the world around us. We use them every day, yet never think about where they came from or why they exist. This collection, brings us classic sayings from the places where this shared wisdom began.



Chris Tebbetts (with Jeff Probst)

Stranded

Recommended for Grades 3-6

A family vacation becomes a game of survival!

It was supposed to be a vacation--and a chance to get to know each other better.

But when a massive storm sets in without warning, four kids are shipwrecked alone on a rocky jungle island in the middle of the South Pacific. No adults. No instructions. Nobody to rely on but themselves. Can they make it home alive? A week ago, the biggest challenge Vanessa, Buzz, Carter, and Jane had was learning to live as a new blended family. Now the four siblings must find a way to work as a team if they're going to make it off the island. They're all in this adventure together--but first they've got to learn to survive one another.



Eric Walters

Elephant Secret

Recommended for Grades 5-8

Sam was born and raised in an elephant sanctuary. When a beloved elephant dies giving birth, Sam develops a connection with baby Woolly—who isn't actually an elephant but was cloned from woolly mammoth DNA. And the billionaire genius behind the cloning experiment will stop at nothing to protect his investment. Smart, determined, and loving, Sam stands up to this powerful adversary to protect the sanctuary and her herd. In the best tradition of child-animal friendship stories, *Elephant Secret* explores the strong and complex bond between Sam and her elephants while offering a fascinating, authentic glimpse into elephant—and human—behavior.