

Acton Memorial Library Children's Department

1st Grade Suggested Reading

PICTURE BOOKS

J PicBook Baptist Baptist, Kelly

The Electric Slide and Kai (2021)

Everyone in the Donovan family can dance--and has a dance nickname--except Kai, but his family helps him practice his moves to prepare for his aunt's wedding reception.

J PicBook Baek Baek, Heena

Moon Pops (2021)

A charming bedtime story, based on a Korean folktale, that is sure to prompt sweet dreams. One "very, very hot night in the middle of summer," the moon begins to melt.

J PicBook Biedrzycki Biedrzycki, David

Invasion of the Unicorns (2021)

He's just a cute little unicorn who wants to take over the world! Special Agent Bubble07 is undercover on planet Earth. His mission: to decide whether his team of alien unicorns should invade Earth.

J PicBook Blackall Blackall, Sophie

If You Come to Earth (2020)

If visitors came to Earth, what would they need to know? A young boy looking up from Earth, drawing on a long roll of paper that spirals into the sky, writes a letter to the occupants of a spaceship, hovering close to the sun.

J PicBook Brown Brown, Dolores

The Truly Brave Princesses (2018)

Princess Nin is a firefighter, Princess Gilda is a supermarket cashier, Princess Agnes is retired, and Princess Liang is in a wheelchair. This gallery of princesses gives visibility to a lot of women who do not fit with the traditional conception of a princess. Maybe it's time to realize that each and every one of us could be a princess.

J PicBook Chan Chan, Ruth

Thank You, Neighbor! (2021)

Celebrate all the people, places, and things that make our neighborhoods special! Join our narrator and her dog on their daily walk as they greet the people in their neighborhood--from the mail carrier and bus driver to the sanitation workers and grocery clerks and more.

J PicBook Chen Chen, Eva

I am Golden (2021)

This joyful and lyrical picture book is a moving ode to the immigrant experience, as well as a manifesto of self-love for Chinese American children.

J PicBook de la Pena de la Pena, Matt
Carmela Full of Wishes (2018)

Carmela, finally old enough to run errands with her brother, tries to think of the perfect birthday wish, while his wish seems to be that she stayed home.

J PicBook De Seve De Sève, Randall
Zola's Elephant (2018)

A little girl hesitates to initiate a friendship with her new neighbor Zola because she imagines Zola is busy with another friend--an elephant.

J PicBook DiCamillo DiCamillo, Kate
Good Rosie! (2018)

One day George takes Rosie to the dog park, but the park is full of dogs that Rosie doesn't know, which makes her feel lonelier than ever. When big, loud Maurice and small, yippy Fifi bound over and want to play, Rosie's not sure how to respond. Is there a trick to making friends? And if so, can they all figure it out together?

J PicBook Dorleans Dorléans, Marie
The Night Walk (2021)

A family of four—two parents and two children—takes a blissful summer night walk into the countryside that gives way to a breathless conclusion.

J PicBook Engle Engle, Margarita
A Song of Frutas (2021)

A young girl visits her abuelo in Cuba and accompanies him as he sells delicious frutas, calling out in song and inviting everyone they pass to come and have a look.

J PicBook Epstein Epstein, Adam Jay
Have You Seen Gordon? (2021)

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. Have you seen Gordon? Oh. There he is. Gordon isn't very good at hiding, is he?

J PicBook Fan Fan, Larissa
Ten Little Dumplings (2021)

In the city of Tainan, there lives a very special family - special because they have ten sons who do everything together. Their parents call them their ten little dumplings, as both sons and dumplings are auspicious. But if you look closely, you'll see that someone else is there, listening, studying, learning and discovering her own talent - a sister!

J PicBook Gianferrari Gianferrari, Maria
Be a Tree! (2021)

A lyrical, gorgeously illustrated look at the majesty of trees--and what humans can learn from them.

J PicBook Higgins Higgins, Ryan

We Don't Eat Our Classmates (2018)

When the class pet bites the finger of Penelope, a tyrannosaurus rex, she finally understands why she should not eat her classmates, no matter how tasty they are.

J PicBook Hobbie Hobbie, Holly

Elmore (2018)

Elmore is a porcupine desperate to make friends. But it is hard to seek closeness with others when you're covered with spikes that shoot off your back every so often. Elmore suffers rejection and heartbreak, but the goodness of his forest community ultimately shines through as the animals find a way to connect with this prickly bundle of love.

J PicBook Irten Irten, Gökçe

Can You See Me? : A Book About Feeling Small (2021)

For kids starting to think about their place in the world, here's a unique look at point of view. Being small --- or big --- is not always what we think it is!

J PicBook John John, Jory

Something's Wrong!: A Bear, a Hare, and some Underwear (2021)

Jeff the bear has definitely forgotten something. He ate his breakfast, he watered his plant, he combed his fur . . . what could it be? Why does he feel so oddly off? So he asks his friend Anders the rabbit what could possibly be wrong. It couldn't have anything to do with the fact that he's wearing underwear . . . over his fur . . . could it?

J PicBook Kerascoet Kerascoët

I Walk With Vanessa (2018)

An elementary school girl witnesses the bullying of another girl, but she is not sure how to help.

J PicBook Khan Khan, Naaz

Room for Everyone (2021)

A young boy on a crowded bus discovers that, after some wiggles and giggles, there's room for everyone in this lighthearted rhyming picture book set in Zanzibar.

J PicBook Klassen Klassen, Jon

The Rock from the Sky (2021)

Turtle has a favorite spot to stand in, but his friend Armadillo has a bad feeling about it and isn't sure why. It may have something to do with the huge rock hurtling through the sky toward that exact spot!

J PicBook Le Lê, Minh

Drawn Together (2018)

When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens - with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words.

J PicBook Lendroth Lendroth, Susan

Hey-Ho, To Mars We'll Go! (2018)

Explore the science behind a trip to Mars, from launch to landing on the Red Planet.

J PicBook Lilly Lilly, Elizabeth

Let Me Fix You a Plate: A Tale of Two Kitchens (2021)

A girl describes her family's annual visit with Mamaw and Papaw in West Virginia, then Abuela and Abuelo in Florida, especially the foods and cultural elements that make each kitchen unique.

J PicBook Lin Lin, Grace

A Big Mooncake for Little Star (2018)

When Little Star's mother bakes a delicious-looking mooncake, she leaves it in the night sky to cool. But it looks so tasty that Little Star can't wait, and every night she must take a little nibble of the perfectly round confection until instead of a glowing, round cookie, there is only a shining trail of crumbs!

J PicBook MacKay MacKay, Elly

Red Sky at Night (2018)

Red sky at night, sailor's delight. And, the next morning, when the dew is on the grass, no rain will come to pass. These are the perfect conditions for a grandfather to take his grandchildren out on a fishing trip. Especially since, as the saying goes, when the wind is from the West, then the fishes bite the best.

J PicBook Mora Mora, Oge

Thank You, Omu! (2018)

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

J PicBook Morales Morales, Yuyi

Dreamers (2018)

An illustrated picture book autobiography in which award-winning author Yuyi Morales tells her own immigration story.

J PicBook Salmieri Salmieri, Daniel

Bear and Wolf (2018)

Bear and Wolf become unlikely companions one winter's evening when they discover each other out walking in the falling snow. They're young and curious, slipping easily into friendship as they amble along together. Together they spy an owl overhead, look deep into the frozen face of the lake, and contemplate the fish sleeping below the surface. Then it's time to say goodbye: for Bear to go home and hibernate with the family and for Wolf to run with the pack.

J PicBook Scanlon Scanlon, Liz Garton

Dear Substitute (2018)

In a series of letters a student laments the absence of her teacher and daily routine, but she soon realizes there are benefits to mixing things up, and that perhaps having a substitute teacher is not so bad after all.

J PicBook Shea Shea, Bob

Chez Bob (2021)

A lazy alligator comes up with a plan to lure his prey by opening up a restaurant for birds--until he realizes that birds are even better as friends.

J PicBook Sierra Sierra, Judy

The Great Dictionary Caper (2018)

When the words in the dictionary get bored and leave to attend a convention in Hollywood, it is up to Noah Webster to restore (alphabetical) order.

J PicBook Soundar Soundar, Chitra

You're Safe with Me (2018)

When the moon rises high and the stars twinkle, it is bedtime for the baby animals of the Indian forest. But tonight, when the skies turn dark and the night grows stormy, the little ones can't sleep.

J PicBook Sriram Sriram, Meera

A Gift for Amma: Market Day in India (2020)

A young girl explores the vibrant rainbow of items for sale in a southern Indian street market as she searches for a gift for her mother.

J PicBook Stead Stead, Philip

Vernon is on His Way (2018)

Today is a very nice day. There has never been a day so nice as this, except for maybe yesterday. Join Vernon and his friends Skunk and Porcupine on a series of three enchanting adventures entitled Waiting, Fishing, and Gardening, as they comb the forest floor for trinkets and go fishing in their own unconventional way.

J PicBook Sterer Sterer, Gideon

From Ed's to Ned's (2020)

What starts with just two kids quickly escalates into a rhyming, rollicking romp through the neighborhood, where all the kids are invited!

J PicBook Tabor Tabor, Corey R.

Mel Fell (2021)

While Mama is away on an errand, Mel the bird decides to learn how to fly. Off the branch she goes, thus beginning a fall that gets really long--and really suspenseful. A Caldecott Honor Book.

J PicBook Underwood Underwood, Deborah
Every Little Letter (2020)

This is an adorable way to introduce the fear of the unknown and those that are different from us. Every Little Letter is a great example of breaking down established barriers to really look at each other.

J PicBook Wenzel Wenzel, Brendan
Hello, Hello (2018)

In simple text a set of animals, each one linked to the previous one by some trait of shape, color, or pattern, greet and interact with one another.

J PicBook Woodson Woodson, Jacqueline
The Day You Begin (2018)

There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look, talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

EASY READERS

J EZreader Brunetti Brunetti, Ivan
Three Times Four with Annemarie (2018)

Annemarie and eleven other classmates find various ways to draw sets of twelve and learn about multiplication along the way.

J EZreader Fenske Fenske, Jonathan
Nothing Fits a Dinosaur (2021)

When “Mommasaurus” says it's time to settle in for the night after his bath, a young boy must find some pajamas, sparking dino drama and the question: how do you dress a dinosaur?

J EZreader LaRochelle LaRochelle, David
See the Dog: Three Stories About a Cat (2021)

What happens when a cat tries to be a dog? With this second book, the creators of See the Cat return to demonstrate that standing in for a friend can be trickier than expected.

J EZreader Lyons Lyons, Kelly Starling
Zip, Zoom! (2020)

Ty can't wait to ride his brand-new scooter at the park. Other kids zip and zoom by like race cars, but all Ty can do is wobble! Ty wants to give up, but a new friend helps Ty give it another try. A 2021 Geisel Honor Book!

J EZreader Madan Madan, Vikram
Let's Make Cake! (2021)

A hilarious new series about best friends Bobo and Pup-Pup--a monkey and a dog with very different personalities. This graphic chapter book series is perfect for fans of Elephant & Piggie.

J EZreader Milgrim Milgrim, David

See Pip Flap (2018)

Part of the Adventures of Otto series, Otto and his friends are back. Pip wants to fly too--flap, flap, flap! Can Otto help Pip find a way to soar in the sky?

J EZreader Ruzzier Ruzzier, Sergio

Fox and Chick: The Party And Other Stories (2018)

Fox and Chick don't always agree. But Fox and Chick are always friends. With sly humor and companionable warmth, Sergio Ruzzier deftly captures the adventures of these two seemingly opposite friends.

J EZreader Selznick Selznick, Brian

Baby Monkey, Private Eye (2018)

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.

J EZreader Tabor Tabor, Corey

Fox at Night (2021)

Equipped with a pair of binoculars, Fox encounters nocturnal forest creatures who offer to help Fox realize the night is full of friends, not monsters—but are they correct?

J EZreader Tharp Tharp, Jason

Bunny Will Not Jump (2020)

This purple bunny drawn in a cartoon style has foot-stompin' attitude in this entry in the "Ready-to-Read" series.

J EZreader Willems Tsurumi, Andrea

I'm On It! (2021)

Goat likes to lead. Goat also likes Frog to follow. When Goat jumps on it, Frog does, too. Soon Goat and Frog are on it, along it, above it, inside it, beside it, around it, and under it--phew! How can their friendship get through it? Part of Mo Willems's Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! series.

J EZreader Willems Willems, Mo

Guess What? (2021)

A breakout beginning-reader series by the author of Elephant and Piggie: Unlimited Squirrels! An ensemble cast of Squirrels, Acorns, and pop-in guests hosts a page-turning extravaganza.

GRAPHIC

J Graphic Applegate Applegate, Katherine

Doggo and Pupper (2021)

An old dog has to welcome a new puppy to the household. New Pupper is playful and messy, and turns the house upside down. Can an old dog rediscover what it means to have fun?

J Graphic Cathon Cathon
Poppy & Sam and the Leaf Thief (Book 1 2018)

It's a beautiful day in the garden when Poppy and her panda friend, Sam, hear a commotion. Their friend Basil--who has always been known for his elegance--is in tears, because somebody nibbled his leaves last night! Poppy puts her detective skills to work, with help from Sam, and together they set out to find the culprit.

J Graphic El Toro Raúl the Third
Tag Team (2021)

Following their debut in Training Day, wrestling partners El Toro and La Oink Oink are back, and cleaning up has never been so much fun.

J Graphic Feuti Feuti, Norm
Beak & Ally. Unlikely Friends (2021)

What do you get when you cross a crusty alligator and a perky bird? A surprising friendship.

J Graphic Fenske Fenske, Jonathan
Hello, Crabby! (Book 1 2019)

Crabby is NOT happy. Sun is in Crabby's eyes. Salt is in Crabby's teeth. Sand is in Crabby's shell. Plankton tries again and again to cheer Crabby up -- with laugh-out-loud results! Will Crabby ever crack a smile?

J Graphic Gravel Gravel, Elise
King of the Birds (2020)

King of the Birds is the first in a new early graphic chapter book series about the friendship between Arlo, an arrogant crow, and a sarcastic little bird named Pips.

J Graphic Ruzzier Ruzzier, Sergio
Fish and Sun (2021)

One day, a bored little fish journeys up to the surface of the ocean, where it meets the sun. A wonderful friendship blooms... Only, right in the middle of their fun, the sun starts to set!

J Graphic Song Song, Mika
Donut Feed the Squirrels (2020)

Two squirrel best friends meet their match: a donut food truck!

J Graphic Tiger Tetri, Emily
Tiger vs. Nightmare (2018)

Tiger is a very lucky kid: she has a monster living under her bed. Every night, Tiger and Monster play games until it's time for lights out. Of course, Monster would never try to scare Tiger--that's not what best friends do. But Monster needs to scare someone...it's a monster, after all. So while Tiger sleeps, Monster scares all of her nightmares away.

J Graphic Waldo Waldo, Steph
Tiny Tales : Shell Quest (2021)

When a little slug finds new friends in the backyard, she notices they look a lot like her...except they have shells! Maybe a shell is exactly what she needs to fit in--but finding one is a lot harder than it sounds!

FICTION

J Fic Arnold Arnold, Elana K.
Starla Jean (2021)

Introducing Starla Jean! She's full of moxie, clever as a fox, and obsessed with catching a chicken she finds at the park.

J Fic Auxier Auxier, Jonathan
Willa the Wisp (2020)

Young Auggie has a job that many children will covet: he cares for the magical, mysterious, and "just plain weird" creatures at the Fabled Stables, located on an island at the top of the world.

J Fiction Castillo Castillo, Lauren
Our Friend Hedgehog (2020)

Hedgehog lives on a teeny-tiny island with only her stuffed dog, Muttie, for company. When a great storm carries Muttie away, she embarks on a quest to find her friend.

J Fiction Krulik Krulik, Nancy
Hide and Go Beak (2020)

Chirpy is a young chicken stuck in the family coop. But she's not like the other chickens who just sit around peck peck pecking all day. She's intrigued by the children who come home from a place called school. So Chirpy sneaks onto the bus one morning, hides in the classroom . . . and discovers a true love of math.

BIOGRAPHY

J Biography Cristofori, B. Rusch, Elizabeth
The Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori and the Invention of the Piano (2018)

Bartolomeo Cristofori coaxes just the right sounds from the musical instruments he makes. Some of his keyboards can play piano , light and soft; others make forte notes ring out, strong and loud, but Cristofori longs to create an instrument that can be played both soft and loud. His talent has caught the attention of Prince Ferdinando de Medici, who wants his court to become the musical center of Italy.

J Biography Hopper, G. Wallmark, Laurie
Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code (2018)

Who was Grace Hopper? A software tester, workplace jester, cherished mentor, ace inventor, avid reader, naval leader-- AND rule breaker, chance taker, and troublemaker.

J Biography Hurston, Z. Williams, Alicia D.
Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher
Zora Neale Hurston (2021)

A shimmering picture book that shines the light on Zora Neale Hurston, the extraordinary writer and storycatcher extraordinaire who changed the face of American literature.

J Biography Montague, R. Mosca, Finley
The Girl with a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague (2018)

Meet Raye Montague--the hidden mastermind who made waves in the U.S. Navy! After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer.

J Biography Monet, C. Rosenstock, Barb
Mornings with Monet (2021)

Claude Monet is one of the world's most beloved artists. He rejected a traditional life laid out clean and smooth before him. Instead he chose a life of art. But not just any art: a new way of seeing that came to be called impressionism.

J Biography Shahn, B. Levinson, Cynthia
The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art (2021)

This profile of Jewish artist and activist Ben Shahn, who emigrated from Lithuania to America in 1906, highlights the threads of compassion and social justice that ran through his work.

J Biography Tubman, H. Meltzer, Brad
I Am Harriet Tubman (2018)

This volume in this exceptional series focuses on Harriet Tubman's brave heroism as part of the movement to abolish slavery. As one of the key players in the Underground Railroad, she helped enslaved African-Americans escape slavery.

J Biography Walker, M. Hubbard, Rita
The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read (2020)

Mary Walker, born into slavery, learned to read at the age of 116! We are introduced to her amazing life in this inspiring and lovingly illustrated picture book.

NONFICTION

J 551.5 T255 Teckentrup, Britta
Look at the Weather (2018)

This immersive illustrated nonfiction book is an invitation for readers to ponder weather and approach it with a newfound sense of understanding, awe, and wonder.

J 574.51 B988 Butterfield, Moira
Look What I Found In The Woods (2021)

Open your senses to a world of wonder by taking a walk through the woods! Set off on an outdoor adventure and find natural treasures, from prickly pine cones to swirly snails' shells, then learn more about the plants and creatures of the forest in this fact-filled guide to the outdoors.

J 582.13 I24 Igotofsky, Rachel

What's Inside a Flower? (2021)

A new nonfiction picture book ready to grow young scientists by nurturing their curiosity about the natural world--starting with what's inside a flower.

J 591.563 HEN Henn, Sophy

All Kinds of Animal Families (2021)

This cheerful picture book depicts animals' devotion to their young. The text begins with illustrations of diversity within human families, following with a discussion of creatures in the animal kingdom.

J 598.2 O61 Opie, David

All The Birds in the World (2020)

What makes a bird a bird? All birds have feathers, wings, and beaks. But birds come in many varieties of colors, shapes, and sizes, with different habits and homes.

J 599.53 E14 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?

J 595.799 K43 Ketchum, Liza

Begin With A Bee (2021)

A beautiful book on the life cycle of the endangered rusty-patched bumblebee.

J 599.82 S851 Stewart, Melissa

Fourteen Monkeys: A Rainforest Rhyme (2021)

Travel to a tropical rainforest where fourteen species of monkeys live in harmony in this playful, fact-filled book,

J 970.3 N318 McGinty, Alice

The Water Lady: How Darlene Arviso Helps a Thirsty Navajo Nation (2021)

This inspiring picture book tells the true story of a woman who brings desperately needed water to families on the Navajo reservation every day.