

Acton Memorial Library Children's Department
2nd Grade Suggested Reading

PICTURE BOOKS

J PicBook Alexander Alexander, Kwame

How to Read a Book (2019)

Suggests a method of reading that begins with planting oneself beneath a tree and leads to a book party one hopes will never end.

J PicBook Angleberger Angleberger, Tom

The Princess and the Pit Stop (2018)

Once upon a time there was a Princess who made a pit stop. While the Birds and Beasts changed her tires, her Fairy Godmother told her she was in last place! With just one lap left! She might as well give up! Give up? Not THIS princess! Instead, she hit the gas!

J PicBook Bauer Bauer, Marion Dane

The Stuff of Stars (2018)

Before the universe was formed, before time and space existed, there was . . . nothing. But then . . . BANG! Stars caught fire and burned so long that they exploded, flinging stardust everywhere. And the ash of those stars turned into planets. Into our Earth. And into us.

J PicBook Brosgol Brosgol, Vera

The Little Guys (2019)

The Little Guys might be small acorns, but together they can conquer anything through teamwork.

J PicBook Covell Covell, David

Run Wild (2018)

"Hey, you! Sky's blue!" a girl shouts as she runs by the window of a boy bent over his digital device. Intrigued, the boy runs out after her, leaving his shoes (and phone) behind, and into a world of sunshine, dewy grass, and warm sand.

J PicBook Diaz Díaz, Junot

Islandborn (2018)

Every kid in Lola's school was from somewhere else. Hers was a school of faraway places. So when Lola's teacher asks the students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited. Except Lola. She can't remember The Island--she left when she was just a baby.

J PicBook Flett Flett, Julie

Birdsong (2019)

When a young girl moves from the country to a small town, she feels lonely and out of place. But soon she meets an elderly woman next door, who shares her love of nature and art.

J PicBook Funk Funk, Josh
How to Code a Sandcastle (2018)

All summer, Pearl has been trying to build the perfect sandcastle, but out-of-control Frisbees and mischievous puppies keep getting in the way! Pearl and her robot friend Pascal have one last chance, and this time, they're going to use code to get the job done. Using fundamental computer coding concepts like sequences and loops, Pearl and Pascal are able to break down their sandcastle problem into small, manageable steps.

J PicBook Gay Gay, Marie-Louise
Mustafa (2018)

Mustafa and his family traveled a long way to reach their new home. Some nights Mustafa dreams about the country he used to live in, and he wakes up not knowing where he is. Then his mother takes him out to the balcony to see the moon -- the same moon as in their old country. In the park, Mustafa sees ants and caterpillars and bees -- they are the same, too.

J PicBook Raúl the Third Raúl the Third
¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market (2019)

Little Lobo, a Mexican American, and Bernabe, his dog, deliver supplies to vendors at the Mercado, a busy border town market.

J PicBook Hare Hare, John
Field Trip to the Moon (2019)

In this wordless picture book, a girl is accidentally left behind on a class trip to the moon.

J PicBook Kerascoet Kerascoët
I Walk With Vanessa (2018)

This simple yet powerful picture book tells the story of an elementary school girl named Vanessa who is bullied and a fellow student who witnesses the act and is at first unsure of how to help. *I Walk with Vanessa* shows how a single act of kindness can lead to an entire community joining in to help.

J PicBook Kramer Kramer, Jacob
Noodlephant (2019)

Kangaroos have enacted many laws that discriminate against other animals but when they make it illegal for elephants to eat noodles, pasta-loving Noodlephant and her friends invent a machine to fight back.

J PicBook Lindstrom Lindstrom, Carole
We are Water Protectors (2020)

An Indigenous girl explains why water is sacred, before she speaks of the foretold black snake that will destroy the land, referring to the polluting oil pipelines that course through the earth.

J PicBook Love Love, Jessica

Julián Is A Mermaid (2018)

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume.

J PicBook Maillard Maillard, Kevin Noble

Fry Bread : a Native American Family Story (2019)

As children help a Native American grandmother make fry bread, delves into the history, social ways, foodways, and politics of America's 573 recognized Indian tribes.

J PicBook Martinez-Neal Martinez-Neal, Juana

Alma and How She Got Her Name (2018)

If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name?

J PicBook McNamara McNamara, Margaret

The Dinosaur Expert (2018)

Future scientist Kimmy eagerly shares information about dinosaurs during a school field trip until classmate Jake tells her "girls aren't scientists," but Mr. Tiffin sets him straight.

J PicBook Montgomery Montgomery, S.

Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home (2018)

Inky, an octopus, had been at the New Zealand aquarium since 2014 after being taken in by a fisherman who found him at sea. Then one night in 2016 Inky, about the size of a basketball, decided he'd had enough. He slithered eight feet across the floor and down a drainpipe more than 160 feet long to his home in the sea.

J PicBook Muhammad Muhammad, Ibtihaj

The Proudest Blue : A Story of Hijab and Family (2019)

Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school.

J PicBook Newman Newman, Jeff

Found (2018)

Jenn's beloved dog was lost some time ago. She still misses her friend. One day she finds a lost dog. She takes him in and despite a rocky start, she grows to love him. Until she spots his picture on a missing poster. His name is Roscoe, and he's someone else's best friend. Will Jenn do the right thing and return Roscoe?

J PicBook Paul Paul, Baptiste

The Field (2018)

Children form teams, build a pitch, and play a joyous game of soccer, in a book with English and Creole (as spoken in Saint Lucia) vocabulary words.

J PicBook Polacco Polacco, Patricia

Holes in the Sky (2018)

There will never be anyone like her grandmother, Patricia Polacco thinks, when her grandmother passes away. But when she and her family move to California--in the middle of a drought--she meets a new friend, the irrepressible Stewart, and his amazing grandmother, Miss Eula, who not only takes Trisha under her wing, but, with Trisha and Stewart, steps up to lead their entire extraordinarily diverse neighborhood to help a hurting neighbor

J PicBook Reynolds Reynolds, Peter

The Word Collector (2018)

Some people collect stamps. Some people collect coins. Some people collect art. Jerome collected words . . . he discovers the magic of the words all around him - short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower.

J PicBook Scott Scott, Jordan

I Talk Like a River (2020)

Sometimes a few words can transform a child's life. In this autobiographical story , a boy who stutters is given a new way to think about his speech.

J PicBook Smith Smith, Heather

The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota's Garden (2019)

In the wake of a devastating tsunami, Makio watches as his neighbor builds a phone booth in his garden and talks to his son, who was snatched by the ocean.

J Picbook Sorell Sorell, Traci

Powwow Day (2022)

When River first wakes up on tribal powwow day, she feels a surge of excitement before remembering that there will be "no dancing./ No jingle dress competition for me./... I can't dance like I could before I got sick." A tender and inspiring view of Indigenous traditions.

J PicBook Stead Stead, Philip C.

All the Animals Where I Live (2018)

The author lives in the country and jubilantly takes us on a tour of his home, pointing out all the animals that share his space. There are stuffed bears and quilted chickens. His dog Wednesday watches cranes, frogs, and dragonflies live their lives. Coyotes and chipmunks come and go, and the world around where he lives is full of life, until winter comes, and there is nothing but snow.

J Picbook Sturgell Sturgell, Todd

Except Antarctica! (2021)

Turtles are found on every continent EXCEPT Antarctica. But not for long! Follow along as a rogue group of determined animals embark on an adventure in this funny animal picture book for kids!

J PicBook Wang Wang, Andrea

Watercress (2021)

Based on the author's own memories of being the child of Chinese immigrants in Ohio, the story follows a young girl and a memorable car trip with her family. Caldecott Medal Winner

J PicBook Woodson Woodson, Jacqueline

The Day You Begin (2018)

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 READER BOOKS

J EZreader American Girl Melody Alston, Bria

Melody Lifts Her Voice (2022)

Melody Ellison loves singing and gardening, and is inspired by friends and family and the Civil Rights Movement to make changes in her community.

J EZreader Anderson Anderson, Derek

The Shark Report (2020)

Benny McGee has learned a lot about sharks for his report, but he is bewildered when a great white shark follows him home from school. He decides to let him in and learns even more things about sharks.

J EZreader Kugler Kugler, Tina

Snail & Worm All Day (2019)

Follows best friends Snail and Worm through three adventures involving how one defines a good day, an encounter with a dragon, and storytelling.

J EZreader Ruzzier Ruzzier, Sergio

The Party and Other Stories (2018)

Fox and Chick don't always agree. But Fox and Chick are always 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 Snyder Snyder, Laurel

Charlie & Mouse Even Better (2019)

It is Mom's birthday, and Charlie and Mouse and their Dad want everything to be perfect--so when the cake gets burnt the boys have to come up with a new plan, pronto.

J EZreader Willems Willems, Mo

Harold & Hog Pretend for Real (2019)

Hog is careful. Harold is not. Harold cannot help smiling. Hog can. Hog worries so that Harold does not have to. Harold and Hog are best friends. But can Harold and Hog's friendship survive a game of pretending to be Elephant & Piggie?

FICTION BOOKS

J Fic Archer **Archer, Dosh**

Detective Paw of the Law (series) (2018)

Old-fashioned dog Detective Paw and his young partner, Patrol Officer Prickles, a porcupine armed with the latest in police equipment, are called to solve whodunits.

J Fic Atinuke **Atinuke**

Too Small Tola (2022)

Three delightful tales from a renowned Nigerian storyteller introduce a heroine who is every bit as mighty as she is small.

J Fic Barnett **Barnett, Mac,**

Mac B. Kid Spy (series) (2018)

One day, Mac (smartest boy in his class) receives a telephone call from the Queen of England, recruiting him to find the crown jewels!

J Fic Beaty **Beaty, Andrea**

Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters (2018)

Rosie Revere is no stranger to flops and fails, kerfuffles and catastrophes. After all, engineering is all about perseverance! But this time, Rosie has a really important project to tackle--Rosie's beloved Aunt Rose and her friends need help inventing something new.

J Fic Brallier **Brallier, Max**

Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories (2019)

The kids at school dare John to visit the old house on the hill at night, and when he and his sister go in they find a book open like it is waiting for a reader, and something hiding under the bed in the attic--and that is only one of the five scary stories with unexpected twists that are included in this collection.

J Fic Colfer **Colfer, Eoin**

The Dog Who Lost His Bark (2019)

In this story of friendship and belonging, a mistreated dog and a persistent boy forge a relationship based on kindness and patience.

J Fic Cordell **Cordell, Matthew**

Cornbread & Poppy (2022)

Best friends Cornbread and Poppy, two mice, are as different from each other as can be. Cornbread LOVES planning. Poppy does not. Cornbread ADORES preparing. Poppy does not. Cornbread IS ready for winter. Poppy...is not.

J Fic Elliott **Elliott, Zetta**

Dragons in a Bag (2018)

In Brooklyn, nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.

J Fic Faruqi **Faruqi, Saadia**

Meet Yasmin! (series) (2019)

Plucky second-grader Yasmin approaches life's problems with imagination and verve in four separate stories.

J Fic Goodner **Goodner, David**

Kondo & Kezumi Visit Giant Island series (2020)

Kondo is big. Kezumi is little. They live on an island with fruit trees and berry bushes and flutter-birds and fluffle-bunnies. When a surprise bottle washes ashore, they discover a map with a mysterious message: WE ARE NOT ALONE.

J Fic Kuipers **Kuipers, Alice**

Polly Diamond and the Magic Book (2018)

Polly loves words. And she loves writing stories. So when a magic book appears on her doorstep that can make everything she writes happen in real life, Polly is certain all of her dreams are about to come true!

J Fic MacLachlan **MacLachlan, Patricia**

Barkus (2018)

Barkus is a large and very smart dog who comes to live with seven-year-old Nicky when Nicky's Uncle Everton goes traveling--and soon he is a family and school favorite.

J Fic Medina **Medina, Juana**

Juana and Lucas: Muchos Changes (2021)

Juana lives in Bogotá, where she enjoys life with her family and dog, Lucas, but big changes are coming--Juana has a stepfather (Luis) now, and her mom is expecting a baby! (series)

J Fiction Messinger **Messinger, Jonathan**

The Fuzzy Apocalypse (2020)

Eight-year-old Finn is the first kid born in space and he spends his days looking for a new planet to inhabit with his three best friends and his robot, Foggy.

J Fic Patterson **Patterson, James**

Dog Diaries (series) (2018)

When the evil Mrs. Stricker threatens to send Junior, Rafe Khatchadorian's dog, back to the pound, Junior and Rafe go to obedience school to learn how to follow the rules.

J Fic Sheth **Sheth, Kashmir**

Nina Soni, Master of the Garden (2021)

Nina Soni is a lovable, distractible Indian American girl with big plans and a cast of family and friends to help her make her realize her dreams--or resolve the chaos that often results.

GRAPHIC

J Graphic Applegate **Applegate, Katherine**

Doggo and Pupper (2021)

Nudged by a new friend, an older dog rediscovers how to let loose in this goofy illustration-driven early reader.

J Graphic Bell **Bell, Cece**
Smell my Foot! (2019)

You would not expect a book called Smell My Foot! to be about good manners! Pleases and thank-yous are at a high premium, though, as Chick (a baby chicken) instructs his friend Brain (a large underwear-clad human) in social niceties.

J Graphic Bliss **Bliss, Harry**
Grace For Gus (2018)

Grace is the quiet girl in the class. And Gus is the class guinea pig. Grace knows that Gus is lonely, and so she sets off one night to help out her furry friend.

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 you'll be sure to cheer for!

J Graphic Gerstein **Gerstein, Mordicai**
I am Hermes! (2018)

Bursting with self-confidence, golden from helmet to winged sandals, Hermes literally outshines a multihued, caricatured supporting cast of gods, demigods, mortals, and monsters parading through this graphic novel.

J Graphic Nick **Whamond, David**
Nick the Sidekick (2018)

When Nick signed up to be a superhero, it seemed like a terrific idea. He was flattered to be chosen by Super Fantastic Guy - picked for his intelligence, his investigative skills and his super-amazing hearing abilities. But as Super Fantastic Guy's assistant, Nick didn't realize that he would have to do all of the work - and get none of the credit.

J Graphic Pilkey **Pilkey, Dav**
Cat Kid Comic Club (2020)

Dog Man sidekick Li'l Petey and tadpole Molly are running a weeklong comics workshop for 21 quarrelsome froggies while the frogs' father, bionic fish Flippy, tries to enforce decorum.

J Graphic P.U.R.S.T. **Spires, Ashley**
Gordon: Bark To The Future (2018)

HOLY FUZZBUTT! Aliens have invaded, and Gordon's fellow space pets have been captured! It's all up to Gordon now. His partner has been captured. His superior officer has been neutralized. And his distress calls to P.U.R.S.T. (Pets of the Universe Ready for Space Travel) have gone unanswered. That means he must fight the aliens alone!

J Graphic Smith **Smith, Brian**
Pea, Bee, & Jay (2020)

Get ready to roll with Pea, Bee, & Jay in this brand-new early reader graphic novel series, perfect for fans of Narwhal & Jelly, emerging readers, and comic lovers alike!

J Graphic Tiger Tetri, Emily

Tiger vs. Nightmare (2018)

Tiger always has been protected from nightmares by her friend, the monster under her bed, but some nightmares are so big they require teamwork.

BIOGRAPHIES

J Biography Biebow, N. Biebow, Natascha

The Crayon Man : The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons

Celebrating the inventor of the Crayola crayon! This gloriously illustrated picture book biography tells the inspiring story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of one of the world's most beloved toys.

J Biography Brooks, G. Slade, Suzanne

Exquisite : The Poetry And Life Of Gwendolyn Brooks (2020)

A picture-book biography of celebrated poet Gwendolyn Brooks, the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize.

J Biography Carson, R. Sisson, Stéphanie Roth

Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Environmental Movement (2018)

As a child, Rachel Carson lived by the rhythms of the natural world. Spring After Spring traces Rachel's journey as scientist and writer, courageously speaking truth to an often hostile world, and ultimately paving the way for the modern environmental movement.

J Biography Fujikawa, G. Maclear, Kyo

It Began with a Page : How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way (2019)

Gyo Fujikawa's iconic children's books are beloved all over the world. Now it's time for Gyo's story to be told--a story of artistic talent that refused to be constrained by rules or expectations.

J Biography Germain, S. Bardoe, Cheryl

Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain (2018)

The true story of eighteenth-century mathematician Sophie Germain, who solved the unsolvable to achieve her dream.

J Biography Grandin Guglielmo, Amy

How to Build a Hug : Temple Grandin and Her Amazing Squeeze Machine (2018)

Presents the story of Grandin's "squeeze machine," describing her childhood love of building and design, as well as her sensitivities.

J Biography Jemison, M. Ahmed, Roda

Mae Among the Stars (2018)

When young Mae Jemison is asked by her teacher what she wants to be when she grows up, African American Mae tells her mostly white classmates that she wants to be an astronaut, a dream that her parents wholeheartedly support.

J Biography Johnson, K. Slade, Suzanne
A Computer Called Katherine (2019)

The inspiring story of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson. Katherine Johnson grew up during a time when women were not encouraged to excel in the fields of math and science, and when African-Americans were heavily discriminated against.

J Biography Mitchell, M. Barrett, Hayley
What Miss Mitchell Saw (2019)

Discover the amazing true story of Maria Mitchell, America's first professional female astronomer. Every evening, from the time she was a child, Maria Mitchell stood on her rooftop with her telescope and swept the sky. And then one night she saw something unusual--a comet no one had ever seen before!

J Biography Morales, A. Morales, Areli
Areli Is A Dreamer : A True Story (2021)

Areli loves the mountains and sun of her Mexico home, her abuela and her cousins, and school friends. The only part of her life that is missing is her parents, who are in New York and will soon send for her and her brother. When Areli's turn arrives to make the journey to America, she is forced to leave all that she loves behind to travel to a new, faraway home.

J Biography Nedimyer, K. Messner, Kate
The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding The World's Coral Reefs (2018)

A brilliant chronicle of the groundbreaking efforts of coral restoration pioneer, Ken Nedimyer, from his first optimistic experiment of transplanting coral to actually rebuilding coral reefs.

J Biography Procter, J. Valdez, Patricia
Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles (2018)

Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas--and while other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles. When Joan grew older, she became the Curator of Reptiles at the British Museum and went on to design the Reptile House at the London Zoo.

NONFICTION BOOKS

J 323.4 C594 Clark-Robinson, M.
Let The Children March (2018)

Under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, children and teenagers march against segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963.

J 324.6 S528 Shamir, Ruby
What's the Big Deal about Elections? (2018)

Describes how Americans choose leaders, local and federal, and why elections should matter.

J 333.7 C979 Curtis, Jennifer K.
The Lizard Lady (2018)

Join the Lizard Lady as she cuts her way through thick Caribbean forests searching for critically endangered St. Croix ground lizards. Readers learn that a day in a life of a woman scientist can be anything but boring.

J398.21 C539 Pinkney, Jerry

The Little Mermaid (2020)

In this captivating reimaging of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, Caldecott medalist and bestselling artist Jerry Pinkney conjures a poignant friendship story and an epic tale of redemption.

J 428.2 S275 Sayre, April Pulley

Did You Burp?: How the Ask Questions . . . or Not! (2019)

Teaches kids what a question is, when to ask one, and how to form one!

J 530.8 C539 Chin, Jason

Your Place In The Universe (2020)

Page-turn cliffhangers build a pleasing buzz of suspense as Chin guides readers from ostriches to redwood trees, past skyscrapers and Mount Everest, through Earth's layered atmosphere to the moon, and beyond the solar system to the edges of the observable universe.

J 550 G543 Gladstone, James

When Planet Earth Was New (2017)

It has taken billions of years for Earth to become the planet it is today. *When Planet Earth Was New* looks back to the very beginning, using a poetic approach grounded in scientific fact to give an overview of how the planet has changed over time: from hot lava to the formation of oceans to the evolution of living things in water and on land.

J 551.46 R815 Rosenstock, Barb

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere (2018)

The suspenseful, little-known true story of two determined pioneers who made the first dive into the deep ocean. On June 6, 1930, engineer Otis Barton and explorer Will Beebe dove into the ocean inside a hollow metal ball of their own invention called the Bathysphere.

J 568.9 N787 Nolan, Dennis

Dinosaur Feathers (2019)

A rhyming, nonfiction picture book about how dinosaurs evolved into birds.

J 582 P133 Page, Robin

Seeds Move! (2019)

Every seed needs sunlight, water, and an uncrowded place to put down roots. But how do seeds get to the perfect place to grow? This exploration of seed dispersal covers a wide range of seeds and the creatures that help them move.

J PicBook 591.18 G433 Gianferrari, Maria

Terrific Tongues! (2018)

This fascinating picture book uses humorous comparisons and playful artwork to teach children the unusual ways that a variety of animals--from woodpeckers to snakes to bats--use their tongues to find food, eat, and clean themselves.

J 597.8 S275 Sayre, April Pulley

Being Frog (2020)

The author's spare verse walks the reader through detailed photographs of a frog's typical day, including lots of waiting, swimming, and leaping.

J 599.61 D464 Desmond, Jenni

The Elephant (2018)

From Africa to Asia, the elephant makes its home. Despite their great weight, these magnificent creatures appear light and graceful because they're always walking on their tip-toes. They have excellent hearing and can detect the rumblings of other elephants from six miles away.

J 599.744 B368 Eaton, Maxwell

The Truth about Bears (2018)

Did you know that polar bears smell seals through the ice and snow in order to find and eat them? Did you know that when a bear is born, it weighs less than a picture book? Did you know that bears sleep all winter and don't go to the bathroom while they hibernate?

J 600.03 F536 Fisher, Valorie

Now You Know How it Works (2018)

A bright and stimulating introduction to the mechanics and makeup of everyday objects and phenomena, from toilets to zippers to flashlights and lightbulbs.

J PicBook 641.3 M14 McGinty, Alice B

Pancakes to Parathas: Breakfast Around the World (2019)

Breakfast varies from country to country, but it's how all children begin their day. Explore the meals of twelve countries in this playful approach to the world!

J 808.81 P965 Janeczko, Paul B.

The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog: and Other How-To Poems (2019)

In this charmingly illustrated collection, poets classic and modern offer a variety of how-to poems, providing young readers with instructions both jocular and sincere.

J 811.54 H318 Harrison, David L.

A Place to Start a Family: Poems about Creatures that Build (2018)

Many animals build remarkable structures in order to attract mates, lay eggs, give birth, and otherwise perpetuate their species. Fish, insects, reptiles, mammals, and birds are included in poems and artwork that to bring these animals to life for kids.