Kindergarten Suggested Reading

Picturebooks

**J PICBOOK Arnaldo**  Arnaldo, Monica  *Mr S (2023)*
Prepare for plenty of giggles as a kindergarten class arrives for their first day of school, but can't find their teacher--only a delicious-looking sandwich and the words "Mr. S" scribbled on the chalkboard. Chaos ensues as the kids argue whether or not the sandwich must be their teacher. A comical, first day of school book of mayhem and chaos!

**J PICBOOK Barnett**  Barnett, Mac  *John's turn (2022)*
It's John's big day at school today--a performance for Sharing Gifts time. His bag is carefully packed and prepared, his classmates are ready, and the curtain is waiting to open. John is nervous, looking out at all the other children staring back at him. But he takes a big breath and begins and finds the courage to show others his talent for dancing.

**J PICBOOK Barnett**  Barnett, Mac  *Three billy goats gruff (2022)*
Readers may think they know this classic tale, but Barnett and Klassen truly make it their own. Yes, all the major plot points are there, but the magic's in the details and humorous tone. It's hard not to feel a twinge of sympathy for the oafish troll, who has been living off earwax and belly-button lint!

**J PICBOOK Buitrago**  Buitrago, Jairo  *Ways to make friends (2022)*
Friendship can blossom in unexpected ways. How can the little yellow-spotted frog find some new comrades? This whimsical playbook for making friends explores a universal theme in a humorous and appealing way. How can the little yellow-spotted frog find some new comrades?

**J PICBOOK Ciccio**  Ciccio, Adam  *The boy in the orange cape (2021)*
Every day Corey wears his orange cape. Even at bedtime. Even at school. The other children tease him, but Corey doesn’t mind. After all, he wears his cape for a very good reason...

**J PICBOOK CORDELL**  Cordell, Matthew  *Evergreen (2023)*
Evergreen, a young squirrel who lives high in a tree in Buckthorn Forest, is afraid of most things, and when her mother asks her to take an acorn full of soup to Granny Oak, Evergreen is afraid that she won’t be brave enough to do it. But she knows she must. Setting off, the scared squirrel encounters a menagerie of adventures and forest creatures in her journey, delivers the soup to Granny, and returns home with new confidence, ready for another adventure.
**J PICBOOK de la Pena, Matt**  
*Milo imagines the world (2021)*  
While Milo and his sister travel to a detention center to visit their incarcerated mother, he observes strangers on the subway and draws what he imagines their lives to be.

**J PICBOOK Denise, Christopher**  
*Denise, Christopher*  
*Knight Owl (2022)*  
Although young Owl is quite small, he has great dreams of becoming a knight. So, when he sees a parchment advertising Knight School, he knows he has to apply. To the surprise of all, he is accepted, and his journey begins!

**J PICBOOK Drago, Flavia Z.**  
*Drago, Flavia Z.*  
*Vlad, the fabulous vampire (2023)*  
Vlad is a vampire with the misfortune of having rosy cheeks that—gasp!—make him look abysmally alive. But being the fabulous vampire that he is (and hoping to avoid rejection), he hides his rosy complexion behind elaborate vampire outfits in traditional black. That is, until he finds out that his best friend has a pink secret of her own . . .

**J PICBOOK Eady, Antwan**  
*Eady, Antwan*  
*Nigel and the moon (2022)*  
Nigel shares his dreams with the moon: to be an astronaut, a dancer, and a superhero. During career week, he is too afraid of his classmates’ reactions to share his aspirations or the fact that his parents do not have "fancy jobs." Nigel's parents are the true superheroes of this story. They are entirely accepting and supportive of Nigel and his dreams. Speaking to his class, they highlight the value of their jobs, but also proclaim parenting Nigel to be "the best job we've ever had."

**J PICBOOK Evans, Willow**  
*Evans, Willow*  
*My school unicorn (2021)*  
Starting school is an adventure—especially when you have a magical unicorn friend by your side! It's almost time for Evie to go to school, but thinking about it makes her feel all wobbly and anxious. But when Evie puts on her new school uniform, she makes a magical discovery. Hidden inside the pocket of her jumper is Bobby, a tiny school unicorn!

**J PICBOOK Fang, X**  
*Fang, X*  
*Dim Sum Palace (2023)*  
Liddy is so excited about tomorrow's trip to Dim Sum Palace that she can barely sleep! When she smells a delicious aroma coming from down the hall, she follows her nose to a gigantic kitchen where she's the size of a mouse, and a pair of outsized chefs are preparing dumplings. As she climbs up steamers, she slips and tumbles right into a bowl of filling, where she's scooped up and bundled into a dumpling herself!

**J PICBOOK Goade, Michaela**  
*Goade, Michaela*  
*Berry Song (2022)*  
A Tlingit grandmother and her granddaughter celebrate the earth, foraging through the seasons "on an island at the edge of the wide, wild sea." Gently evocative, reiterative lines trace the grandmother teaching the child narrator to gather "slippery seaweed," catch "silvery salmon," and pick a wide variety of forest berries.
The author, a member of the Mvskoke Nation and the U.S. Poet Laureate, urges young readers to remember that they are of the earth, both indebted to and intertwined with the natural world. In an economy of perfectly chosen words, Harjo conveys the ancient Indigenous reverence for nature and the passage of time.

Words tumble, leap, and fly in this clever shape poem about a resilient dandelion. The inspiring story of a dandelion that survives against all odds, ingeniously told through shape poems (also called "concrete poems") full of visual surprises.

This adorable picturebook illustrates the life of a tiny acorn growing up to be a tall oak tree. Told in diary entries of an acorn, it follows a young acorn and its long life as an oak tree, from being buried by a squirrel to towering over the other trees.

A celebration of the joy and comfort to be found in alone time and the joy and comfort that a friend can bring. Sometimes it's nice to be alone. Just you, eating a cookie, alone. But what if a friend drops in?

Readers will want to make room at the table for the snappy anthropomorphic snacks in this brief, greeting card--like book, all of which serve up encouragement and punny jokes galore.

Jeff the bear is sure he has forgotten something when he sets out from home, but none of the animals he meets inform him that he is only wearing his underwear, until he reaches his friend Anders the hare—who quickly thinks of a way to avoid embarrassing Jeff, by starting a fashion trend!

Astronaut Scott Kelly follows his adventure-seeking travels through some of the wild places he’s slept! Young readers will be delighted by the playful text and encouraging message to dream of the stars.

Turtle really likes standing in his favorite spot. He likes it so much that he asks his friend Armadillo to come over and stand in it too. But now that Armadillo is standing in that spot, he has a bad feeling about it...
Imagine a flat cat. How flat? He can slither beneath doors. He can float like a kite among the clouds. He can nap beneath the underwear in a drawer. But one day, he is accidentally sent through the washing machine, along with the dirty clothes. When he emerges from the dryer, Flat Cat is no longer flat. He has become "the most adorable puffy, furry, fuzzy-wuzzy feline you ever did see!"

A little girl and a green-furred, floppy-eared creature are the best of friends. And while "others tried to tell me she that she wasn't real," the narrator counts on her as a reliable, supportive presence, from enjoying playtime to sometimes getting into mild mayhem, "and I can't imagine anything more real than that."

This book of poetic text and beautiful illustrations explores the various ways we as human beings are strong, creative and connected to each other. Each of us is like a tree, with roots and fruit and an enduring link to everything else in nature.

Skip right into this joyful, alphabetic picture book celebrating girls around the world. Girls from 26 different countries are beautifully represented in this A to Z tribute to global girlhood.

Enjoying days spent with animal friends near her home in the Amazon, young Zonia wonders what to do on a day when the rainforest calls out to her for help.

Sixteen figments run the Bureau of Imagination. Sparky, one of the busiest figments, handles all the mail for the building. He soars through the departments with his magic mailbag, delivering ideas, dreams, and other imaginations.

Jake, a reluctant reader, becomes a book lover when the new librarian finds Jake a book about woodworking.

What should we do when things don’t go to plan? We may feel mad, frustrated, or overwhelmed, but by talking it through, compromising, and seeing another point of view, we can start fresh, begin anew.
Phung, Nguyen Quang

My first day (2021)

A Vietnamese boy’s journey starts when he steps from his house into a wooden boat. Equipped with a knapsack and a long pole, he sets out across the Mekong River Delta during flood season, when boats are the only possible transportation. "This is the first time I've made this trip on my own," he confides.

Pliska, Zeena

Egyptian lullaby (2023)

A melodious lullaby reminds an Egyptian child of the sensory delights of the city they left behind. When Ametti Fatma comes to visit from Egypt, her comforting presence and gift of sweet sahlab, as well as the family's increased use of Arabic, make the young narrator miss Cairo, her old home. A lovely ode to geographic, cultural, and familial ties.

Roeder, Vanessa

King Penguin (2023)

King Penguin is off to find subjects who will listen to him— as long as they don't eat him first. In this cheeky tale, Percival the King Penguin doesn't think he's asking for too much when he makes all the rules. But he's tired of the other penguins protesting, so he's off to find subjects who are more obedient and supportive.

Rim, Sujean

Take a chance (2023)

Bob is an anxious little red bird. Now that Bob can fly, he loves visiting his bird friends. But when they invite him to join them in their perching, eating, and splashing, Bob feels afraid and makes excuses to not join in. Will Bob find the courage to try new things?

Ritchie Hadley, Moni

The Star Festival (2021)

In this sweet story, five-year-old Keiko celebrates the Japanese Tanabata Festival, or Star Festival, with her mama and oba (grandmother). The story shows Keiko going through each festival preparation and tradition, including dressing in her summer kimono and hearing the story of the holiday's origins, in which a flock of magpies helped the mythical separated lovers Orihime and Hikoboshi cross the Milky Way to reunite at their annual meeting.

Scharnhorst, Becky

How to get your octopus to school (2023)

It's going to be tricky getting your octopus to school because they're very good at hiding, and their suction cups are powerful when they don’t let you go. So you’ll need this book of advice to help him get ready and dressed. Watch out for when he gets nervous, he might have an ink accident. In the end, it might be you who has a hard time letting him go to school.

Spiro, Ruth

Maxine and the greatest garden ever! (2021)

Maxine and her best friend Leo must find a way to keep animals from eating their new garden, but when they can’t agree on a way to get rid of the unwelcome guests, their friendship might be on the line too.
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. The oblong pages are designed to be turned vertically so the tree trunk forms a continuous band on one side as Mel plummets past wide-eyed owls, swarming bees, an overly ambitious snail, and others before plunging into water where she snags a fish.

The night parade is about to begin . . . The ground thunders in Tokyo. A gust of wind blows. The pitter patter of paws and claws draws closer. The air is thick with swirling, swooping demons. It's Eka's favorite evening of the year, the one night she refuses to miss. But it's become harder to travel to Japan now that she's living across the world in New York.

Walter and Xavier are best friends. They do everything together! But then...quietly...slowly...Xavier becomes best friends with someone else. Walter goes from feeling hurt and left out to feeling confused and angry to feeling just plain lonely. Until one morning he wakes up feeling a tiny bit hopeful. That day, while out for a hike by himself, he meets Ollie. Could this be the beginning of a new friendship?

Poor Pangolin! He's trying to explain who he is, but the other animals keep getting confused. A Pangolin might be a very unusual animal, but in this funny story of mix-ups and misunderstandings, he discovers the rarest creature of all: a friend who really listens and likes you for who you are.

Once, there lived a little girl called Bo. Bo wanted to be just like her brothers and capture a fearsome monster. Bo is small, too small to catch a monster—or so her brothers say. But Bo isn't one to take no for an answer, so she sets off on a quest to catch a monster of her own.

A child has lost their invisible dinosaur! Their dinosaur had been dirty, but after a bath, he disappeared. A squeaky-clean invisible dinosaur could be hiding anywhere!

Graphic novel and picture book merge in this red-hot superhero story! Extraordinary Bobby Beacon has the power to create light and fire at will, and he's a new student at the Academy of Kids with Awesome Abilities, a school for heroes in training, where he hopes to learn how to better control his abilities.
J GRAPHIC CHANANI  Chanani, Nidhi
Shark princess (2022)
Kitana is a whale shark and, as she proudly declares, the first-ever shark princess. Her buddy Mack, a less-than-scary mako shark with sneezing allergies, would love to be a shark princess, too, but is scared he isn't cut out for the job. But Kitana explains that her princess status is self-appointed, and any fish can be a princess; your life is your story and you decide.

J GRAPHIC EBBELER  Ebbeler, Jeffrey
I'm Ogre It (2022)
While rustling through a pile of toys thrown out by her video-game obsessed brother, Izzie finds herself face to face with an immense ogre named Tim, who has taken up residence in a cave in her backyard.

J GRAPHIC EMBERLEY  Emberley, Michael
I did it! (2022)
The thrill and trepidation of trying something new is explored in this graphic story. A catlike critter in striped pajamas tries their hand at childhood skills like building block towers and scaling trees, resulting in frustrating failures. The critter is undeterred, or perhaps spurred to action by frustration, and riding a bicycle becomes the story's central challenge.

J GRAPHIC LERNER  Lerner, Jarrett
Missed meal mayhem (2021)
A group of silly superheroes—a bean, a chip, a tomato, and a wedge of cheddar cheese—come to the rescue of a hungry kid stuck at school in this first book in the silly and adventurous graphic novel chapter book series The Hunger Heroes!

J GRAPHIC MADAN  Madan, Vikram
Owl and penguin (2022)
Three little stories about two little friends. Owl and Penguin may be different but when it comes to helping one another they love each other exactly the same.

J GRAPHIC MEISEL  Meisel, Paul
Boom! (2023)
A cat and dog are lazing around their cozy house when a storm starts to brew outside. There's thunder! Dog is startled, and becomes increasingly agitated as the storm continues, ultimately cowering in the closet and falling fast asleep. While dozing, Dog imagines becoming a superhero who brings back the blue sky!

J GRAPHIC McANNA  McCanna, Tim
Peach and Plum, here we come! (2022)
Ripe with humor and bursting with rhyme, these five short stories and five mini-comics will have newly independent readers wiggling, giggling, and going bananas for best buds Peach and Plum.

J GRAPHIC SHASKAN  Shaskan, Stephen
Pizza and Taco: Rock Out! (2023)
Pizza and Taco have decided to start a band, now all they need is to find some instruments, bandmates, and write a song or two!
EASY READERS

J EZREADER CUSHMAN       Cushman, Doug
Oslo learns to swim (2023)
Rex the warthog and Oslo the oxpecker bird are friends who do everything together. But when Rex wants to go swimming, Oslo objects! The water looks cold and wet. There might be sharks. Will Rex be able to help Oslo overcome his fears and join in the fun?

J EZREADER FENSKE         Fenske, Jonathan
I will not lose in super shoes! (2022)
Sporting shiny yellow-and-red high-top sneakers, Book-It Bunny challenges you to a reading race. And with her brand-new super shoes, she's convinced she will win. Can you pick up the pace and avoid her tricks along the way? Find out in this silly story perfect for emerging readers.

J EZREADER JARVIS         Jarvis, Bear and bird : the picnic and other stories (2023)
Four short, episodic stories about best buds Bear (a cuddly brown bear) and Bird (an adorable bluebird) make up this irresistibly funny beginning chapter book for early fluent readers, the first in a new series.

J EZREADER LERNER         Lerner, Jarrett
Nat the cat takes a bath (2023)
Nat the Cat is pretty smelly, and it is time for a bath. But baths are not Nat's favorite, so despite the fact that one is necessary, Nat will do whatever it takes to delay the inevitable. When every request has been fulfilled--bubbles, toys, and a towel--Nat's mouse friend arrives and demonstrates that baths do not have to be quite so scary after all.

J EZREADER LIKE           David, Arihhonni
Who will Win? (2023)
Kindness wins the day. On a cold walk through the woods, a child asks to hear a story from an elder; both are members of the Akwesasne Community. Treated to a trickster tale, the child hears of a challenge made between a speedy bear and a slow turtle. Turtle is not big or fast but has a quick mind. Bear is bigger, stronger, and confident that they will beat Turtle. So who will win the race across the frozen pond?

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. Bobo and Pup-Pup are making a cake! Pup-Pup reads the ingredients and Bobo gathers them. Sugar and butter, no problem! Bobo brings salt and lemons. But wait, those are not on the ingredient list! Well, it's an experiment! It will still taste great...won't it?

J EZREADER TABOR          Tabor, Corey
Fox has a problem (2023)
Fox has a problem: His kite is stuck in a tree! But every clever plan creates even more problems for him - and for all his friends. Can they work together to fix things before it's too late?
**J EZREADER TRASLERQ**  
Trasler, Janee  
*Best brother ever!* (2022)  
Figgy is a mouse and Boone is a rat. Figgy thinks Boone is the best brother ever. Boone says Figgy is more like a cousin. Either way, Figgy and Boone prove that friends can be like family!

**J EZREADER WILLEMS**  
Pumphrey, Jarrett  
*It's a sign! : an Elephant & Piggie like reading! book* (2022)  
A squad of foxlike characters named One, Two, Kat, and Four start a club. None of them really has a firm idea of what the club should be called; still, their enthusiasm and wide-ranging talents are evident as they brainstorm. *If you find yourself giggling at this goofy story, join the club!*

**J EZREADER WILLEMS**  
Willems, Mo  
*Guess what!?* (2021)  
From Mo Willems comes this breakout beginning-reader series, Unlimited Squirrels. An ensemble cast of Squirrels, Acorns, and pop-in guests hosts a page-turning extravaganza. Each book features a funny, furry adventure AND bonus jokes, quirky quizzes, nutty facts, and so, so many Squirrels.

**NONFICTION**

**J PICBOOK Hamilton**  
Hamilton, Kersten  
*First Friends* (2021)  
We don’t know exactly where. We don’t know exactly when. But we do know that long, long ago somewhere in Europe or Asia, wolves changed into dogs and became our best friends.

**J PICBOOK HODGSON**  
Hodgson, Rob  
*When moon became the moon* (2023)  
Meet Moon! This picturebook introduces the moon and explains its orbit, its light, its occasional "magic" trick (a solar eclipse), how it was formed, how it affects Earth, why it has craters, and much more!

**J PICBOOK HOLUB**  
Holub, Joan  
*Bears are best!* (2023)  
It's panda-monium in this rollicking nonfiction picture book about bears habits, habitats, and more. Perfect for the curious cub in your house!

**J PICBOOK Soontornvat**  
Soontornvat, Christina  
*To change a planet* (2022)  
One person... small, quiet, insignificant. But when one person, and one person, and one person become many, they can change a planet. Spare, poetic text and breathtaking pictures invite readers on a stirring journey that gently illuminates the causes of climate change as well as how our individual and collective actions can make the world better.
J PICBOOK Stockdale  Stockdale, Susan
Bird Show (2021)
This book celebrates the beauty and diversity of some of the world's most remarkable birds, introducing amateur ornithologists to familiar and exotic species and their vibrant colors, patterns and other feathered features.

J 333.95 PIN  Pincus, Meeg
Make way for animals! : a world of wildlife crossings (2022)
All over the world, the traditional routes of animals are now blocked by roads. How will the badgers in the Netherlands find meals and homes? How will the blue fairy penguins of New Zealand make their nests? How will the crabs of Christmas Island get to the ocean to lay their eggs? Wildlife crossings to the rescue!

J 398.45 BAE  Retold by Sam Baer
Stories of pixies, elves and goblins (2022)
Magic and mischief abound in this captivating collection. Meet the cheeky kappa from Japan, a clever duende from the Philippines and the loyal foletto of Florence, all fairy creatures who can help or hinder humans as they please.

J 551.21 KUL  Kulekjian, Jessica
Kaboom!: a volcano erupts
Here's the story of a volcanic eruption -- told from the volcano's point of view! Readers meet the volcano as it slumbers, which it's been doing for thousands of years. Then things begin to stir to life deep inside. First hisses, steam, gas and ash start to gurgle and sputter as hot magma moves into a chamber beneath the volcano. Finally, the volcano shouts, "I'm awake!" as lava, hot rocks and billows of ash erupt out of its vents with a giant kaboom!

J 575.68 POR  Portis, Antoinette
A seed grows (2022)
A seed grows, but on the title page that seed is still in the bird's beak. It falls, settles into the soil, and sun and rain are simply present, part of the process. Soil, sun, water, air, and the seed takes root, grows tall, forms a bud, blossoms into more seeds, which feed more birds, and the cycle is complete.

J 572.4385 KUO  Kuo, Julia
Luminous : living things that light up the night (2022)
This beautifully illustrated picture book introduces readers to bioluminescence, the self-generated light made by some plants and animals. Kuo's radiant art portrays a young child and adult discovering different bioluminescent creatures, accompanied by simple lyrical text and informative sidebars that reveal fascinating scientific facts about each of them.

J 576.83 KRO  Krossing, Karen
One tiny bubble (2022)
ONE TINY BUBBLE is a wondrous and accessible introduction to the idea that every living organism on planet Earth shares the same origin. Imagine: Plant, insect, mammal--we developed from the same basic ingredients. We all evolved from LUCA, which stands for our Last Universal Common Ancestor. ONE TINY BUBBLE distills this large and complex concept into something kids can easily grasp and ponder.
J 577.69 FLE Fleming, Candace
The tide pool waits (2022)
Waves crash on shore and then recede, and in their wake a tide pool is formed. It is filled with wondrous creatures including barnacles, crabs, opaleyes, sea star, sculpin, octopus and more. Soon "the sea can't resist the pull of the moon, the turn of the earth, the sun and the wind" and the waves "sweep towards shore." As the tide pool once again become a part of the ocean, even more remarkable creatures can be seen, such as sea anemones, shrimp, and tubeworms, and the cycle is repeated.

J 591.468 LUN Lunde, Darrin
Whose egg is that? (2023)
A guessing game that explores the connections between an animal, its eggs, and its habitat. Written by a mammalogist at the Smithsonian, this clever preschool page-turner pairs seven eggs with information about the animals' survival mechanisms, asking kids to guess which animal laid which egg.

J 591.5 HEN Henn, Sophy
All kinds of animal friends (2021)
Just like us, animals are friends in all kinds of ways, from hermit crabs who go on adventures with sea anemones to zebras and ostriches who help support each other. Dip in and discover all kinds of animal friends--each one is special in its own unique way.

J 811.608 Rosen, Michael
Ready for spaghetti: funny poems for funny kids (2022)
Fizzing with rhythm, energy, and laughter, these thirty-two irresistible rhymes revel in a child's everyday lives, starting with waking up and ending with the "hush and a shush" of bedtime.

J BIO BRIDGES. R. Bridges, Ruby
I am Ruby Bridges (2022)
Ruby Bridges tells her story as never before and shares the events of the momentous day in 1960 when Ruby became the first Black child to integrate the all-white William Franz Elementary as a six year old little girl -- a personal and intimate look through a child's lens at a landmark moment in our Civil Rights history.

J BIO FALL, T. Fall, Tacko
Tacko Fall: to new heights (2022)
At seven feet, six inches, Tacko Fall is one of the world's tallest people. Growing up in Senegal, some kids teased him about his height, but after discovering basketball, he practiced hard and improved his skills, hoping to play in the NBA someday. When invited to move to America for high school and college, he accepted. Overcoming the challenges of separation from his family and learning a new language, he worked hard and attained his goal by playing for the Boston Celtics.

J Biography Gonzalez, G. Valdez, Patricia
How to hear the universe (2022)
A biography of immigrant scientist Gabriela González, who, armed with modern technology, completed the work that Albert Einstein had begun one hundred years earlier, confirming his theory of gravitational waves and breaking new ground for space-time research.