

Summer Reading Ideas for Kindergarteners

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- ***The Man Who Wore All His Clothes*** by Allan Ahlberg – The Gaskitt family’s experience on a December day involves a bunch of clothing layers for Mr. Gaskitt, having a bank robbery suspect get in her taxi for Mrs. Gaskitt, and having that robber board Gus and Gloria’s school bus. There is humor, adventure, and mystery in this 10-chapter book. The illustrations will bring laughter, too.
- ***Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*** by Judi Barrett – The weather in the town of Chewandswallow is among the most unique anywhere! As you read and look at this book, imagine such a place in real life!
- ***Ivan the Terrier*** by Peter Catalanotto – The narrator of this book is determined to tell a traditional tale, but each time a story is started, the naughty dog Ivan interrupts and chases away the characters. After numerous interruptions, Ivan finally decides to take a nap!
- ***Fred Stays With Me!*** by Nancy Coffelt – Sometimes the narrator of this book lives with her mom, and sometimes she lives with her dad. Her dog Fred, however, stays wherever she stays! Fred is not always the best-behaved pooch, and his behavior irritates both her parents (like barking at other dogs or eating her dad’s socks). In an effort to make peace, she helps discover ways to curb Fred’s bad habits.
- ***Even Steven and Odd Todd*** by Kathryn Cristaldi – Even Steven is quite happy with his balanced, even life. He likes to have even numbers of everything: library books, pets, food. When his cousin Odd Todd comes to visit, Steven’s even life takes an odd turn. This is a great book for practicing the even/odd number concept.
- ***Summersaults: Poems & Paintings*** by Douglas Florian – What does summer mean to you? Perhaps it is the time for popsicles, hiking, diving into a cool lake, or swinging high at the park. Are there things you don’t enjoy about summer (like mosquitoes, flies, and sunburn)? The poems and artwork in this book take readers through the good and bad of the warm season. Some are concrete poems (shaped like what they are)!
- ***I.Q. Gets Fit*** by Mary Ann Fraser – Mrs. Furber’s class is on a quest for good health, and their class mouse, I.Q., is joining in the excitement. He wants to eat better (no more junk food), exercise more, and sleep well! As in the previous books about I.Q. and Mrs. Furber’s class, the mouse participates in the class activities and strives to be like his human classmates.
- ***Growing Frogs*** by Vivian French – The mother and daughter in this story decide to explore the mysteries of tadpoles and frogs after reading a book on the subject. The two investigate the life-cycle process from frog spawn to tadpoles to growing frogs. Use this book to observe frog growth this summer!
- ***Ginger Bear*** by Mini Grey – In this twist on the famous “Gingerbread Man” story, a boy bakes a lovely ginger bear and leaves it in a tin while he sleeps. The bear, however, desires some excitement and bakes a bunch of circus performers! When the bear needs to escape and hide, a bakery display provides the perfect safe spot for a delicious ginger cookie to blend in with the scenery.
- ***The Castle on Hester Street*** by Linda Heller – Julie loves to hear her grandparents’ memories of arriving in America from Russia. The problem is, her grandma’s very practical memories differ greatly from the tall tales her grandpa tells her. Read along to discover the truth about their immigrant experience. Originally published 25 years ago, this story’s updated illustrations bring to it even more wit and humor.
- ***A Little Peace*** by Barbara Kerley – Spreading the spirit of peace involves simple things we all can do: waving, extending a hand, or saying something kind. We can share peace in our daily lives by taking time, celebrating, making friends, and looking at people with compassion. Facts about world peace follow the photographs and text.
- ***M is for Music*** by Kathleen Krull – This unique alphabet book has a musical focus. For each of the letters, a sentence tells about one or several people, terms, instruments, or styles beginning. The illustrations highlight even more things and people that begin with that letter.
- ***Looking for Loons*** by Jennifer Lloyd – Early one autumn morning, Patrick is the first to awaken in his family’s cottage by the lake. As each family member joins him in the morning’s chilly air, they wait for sounds and signs of the loons, discovering all sorts of other creatures in the stillness.
- ***Aaaarrgghh! Spider!*** by Lydia Monks – The spider-narrator of this book desperately wants to be the family pet, but each time she is spotted, the family members scream, “Aaaarrgghh! Spider!” and toss her outside! She’s a clever one, this spider, and without intending it, she lures the family into her web of kindness.
- ***The Glorious Flight: Across the Channel with Louis Blériot*** by Alice and Martin Provensen – On a drive one morning in 1901, Louis Blériot hears a strange sound in the sky. He spots a flying machine and begins his quest to construct the perfect flying machine. After several disastrous attempts in very creative contraptions, he flies across the English Channel. This book won the Caldecott Medal in 1983.
- ***No One Saw: Ordinary Things Through the Eyes of an Artist*** by Bob Raczka – Gaze at the famous paintings in this book and consider how artists view everyday things in different ways. Andy Warhol had quite a view of Campbell’s Soup. Edgar Degas saw lovely dancers. Biographical information about each artist is included.
- ***What Do Parents Do? (When You’re Not Home)*** by Jeanie Ransom – The cover of this book should give readers a clue about what one boy believes his parents do when they’re alone. Imagine them eating whatever

they like, jumping on their bed, and sliding down the stairs. Amazingly, when the boys return from their grandparents' home, all evidence of the parents' fun is cleared!

- **Sam Tells Stories** by Thierry Robbrecht – Sometimes telling stories can get a person in trouble, especially when those stories are not quite the truth. That's what happens to Sam, the main character in this book. He really wants new friends at school, and a story seems like the perfect way to be liked!
- **The OK Book** by Amy Rosenthal – There are many things we do each day, and some of them result in huge successes. Others, however, might just be okay. But it is perfectly acceptable for a task to be OK, and that is the premise of this creative book. With the letters OK turned on their sides, the characters for the book emerge to fly a kite (and get it stuck in the tree), roast marshmallows (a bit darkly), and other everyday things. Readers can consider the OK things in their lives with this book.
- **Every Season** by Shelley Rotner and Anne Love Woodhull – Travel through the seasons with the beautiful photographs in this book. Each season's pictures are accompanied by simple text describing important markers of that season. Use the idea to create a season book of your own!
- **This is Texas** by Miroslav Sasek – Originally published in 1967, this book teaches readers all about the Lone Star State in a unique way. Learn about the cities of Dallas, Austin, and Houston. Discover oil wells, rattlesnakes, rodeos, cowboys, and the Alamo. A special section at the end of the book tells about the changes in Texas in the present day.
- **Vulture View** by April Pulley Sayre – The cut-paper illustrations by Steve Jenkins add to the attractive nature of this nonfiction book about a rather unattractive creature, the turkey vulture. The author tells about the bird's place in the food chain and explains how it helps in the ecological process.
- **Millions to Measure** by David M. Schwartz – Marvelosissimo the Mathematical Magician helps a group of children travel back in time to understand how measuring methods have evolved throughout history. The children learn to measure distance, weight, and volume in interesting, comparative ways. This book would be a great starting point for measuring things during summer vacation. Pair it with his book *How Much is a Million?*
- **When is a Planet Not a Planet?: The Story of Pluto** by Elaine Scott – In 2006, Pluto went from being the ninth planet in our solar system to being called a dwarf planet. This book discusses the processes of planetary discovery and the demotion of other celestial objects. The artwork, photographs, and images help with understanding the concepts.
- **Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf** by Judy Sierra – Big Bad Wolf is living in a retirement community when a children's librarian invites him to tea. He must learn his good manners quickly and practices saying the right things. Other storybook creatures aren't so sure it is safe to be around him, however! This is a funny story!
- **Someday** by Eileen Spinelli – Kindergartners can think of all sorts of things they want to do someday. The main character in this sweet book longs to do many interesting things, like becoming an archaeologist or an Olympic gymnast. The book is structured so that readers see her dreams on one side and her present-day experiences on the other. Those everyday activities will prepare her for her future endeavors.
- **Minerva Louise** by Janet Morgan Stoeke – When Minerva Louise, a barnyard hen, makes her way into the farmhouse, her farm experiences help her describe the things she encounters. The flowery bedspread is the meadow. The cat is the friendly cow. There are several other books about this funny chicken!
- **To Be Like the Sun** by Susan Marie Swanson – When a young girl holds a sunflower seed in her hand, she imagines what it holds inside. As she carefully places it in the soil and tends the growing plant, readers witness the cycle of seasons. The artist's prints bring the process to life! Grow a sunflower like the narrator of this book!
- **How Big is the World?** by Britta Teckentrup – Little Mole is certain his mole hill is not the extent of the world, so he sets off to discover things about this large planet, discovering, of course, that the home he has is the place he wants to stay. The artwork in this book is bright and full of light!
- **The Apple Pie That Papa Baked** by Lauren Thompson – The beginning of this book is actually the end. A young girl holds the sweet apple pie her papa baked for her. The cumulative story (think "The House That Jack Built") story then explains how the apples grew and how they were eventually baked into that pie. Pair this book with a nonfiction title about apples (like Ken Robbins' *Apples*) and bake your own apple pie.
- **Amanda Pig, First Grader** by Jean Van Leeuwen – First grade is definitely different than kindergarten, and Amanda Pig is eager for her first day in the new grade. Things do not go as smoothly as she had hoped, however. She gets lost going to the office, and she encounters some mean bigger kids. In four short chapters, Amanda learns that being a first grader is great!
- **Look! Seeing the Light in Art** by Gillian Wolfe – Using famous pieces of art, the author guides readers through the process of seeing light, drawing attention to the patterns it creates, the shapes it illuminates, and the variety of ways it can be seen and experienced. Light can be hot or cold, dramatic or mysterious. Take time to work through an exercise of light analysis with a painting.
- **Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry** collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters – These simple poems, accompanied by soft, large illustrations, center on several themes perfect for young readers: "Me, Myself, and I", "Who Lives in My House?", "I Go Outside", and "Time for Bed". Share rhymes about cat kisses, ice cream cones, mud, stargazing, and more.