

**R**eading can be one of the many fun activities children fill their summer time with. Research has shown it is also much more! Children who participate in public library summer reading programs not only avoid the “summer slide” in learning, but also score higher on reading achievement tests than those who do not participate.

The books on this list come highly recommended by kid readers from all over the country and may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. This summer, encourage your child to participate in the summer programs happening at your library.



The Summer Reading Book List was created by the Quicklists Consulting Committee and the School Age Services and Programs Committee, Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association through a Carnegie Whitney Grant funded by the American Library Association Publishing Committee.



# Summer Reading List

**Big Nate: In a Class by Himself**

by Lincoln Peirce  
HarperCollins, 2010, ISBN: 9780061944345.

Supremely confident middle-school student Nate Wright manages to make getting detention from every one of his teachers in the same day seem like an achievement. *First in a series.*

**The Birchbark House**

by Louise Erdrich  
Hyperion, 1999, ISBN: 9780786814541 (PB).

Omakayas, a young Ojibwa girl living near Lake Superior in the late 1800s, follows her family through the seasons, cares for her baby brother, and experiences the growing settlement of white people on her family's land. *First in a series.*

**Bud, Not Buddy**  
by Christopher Paul Curtis

Random House/Delacorte, 1999, ISBN: 9780385323062.

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father—the renowned bandleader H. E. Calloway.

**Clementine**  
by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee

Hyperion, 2006, ISBN: 9780786838820.

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine tries out several unusual hairstyles and helps her father shoe

pigeons from the front of their apartment building. *First in a series.*

**Dork Diaries: Tales from a Not-So-Fabulous Life**

by Rachel Renée Russell  
Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, 2009, ISBN: 9781416980063.

Fourteen-year-old Nikki Maxwell writes in her diary of her struggle to be popular at her exclusive, new private school. *First in a series.*

**The Grand Plan to Fix Everything**

by Uma Krishnaswami, illustrated by Abigail Halpin  
Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2011, ISBN: 9781416995890.

Bollywood fan Dini is moving to India. Will she get a chance to meet her favorite movie star?

**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**  
by J. K. Rowling, illustrated by Mary GrandPré

Scholastic, 1998, ISBN: 9780590353403.

Harry Potter, a young orphan living with his horrible aunt and uncle, discovers he is a wizard and is taken away to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. *First in a series.*

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret**

by Brian Selznick  
Scholastic, 2007, ISBN: 9780439813785.

In this highly illustrated novel, Hugo Cabret, a Parisian orphan, clockmaker, and thief, tries to fix the automaton that his father discovered.

**Kampung Boy**  
by Lat

First Second, 2006, ISBN: 9781596431218 (PB).

In this funny graphic-novel memoir, Lat tells stories about his childhood in a Malaysian village.

**Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka**

by Jon Scieszka  
Viking, 2008, ISBN: 9780670011063.

Jon Scieszka tells hilarious true stories about growing up with five brothers.

**The Maze of Bones (39 Clues, Book 1)**  
by Rick Riordan

Scholastic, 2008, ISBN: 9780545060394.

At the reading of their grandmother's will, Amy and Dan are given a choice: take a million dollars and walk away, or take the first of thirty-nine clues and begin a quest to discover the source of their family's power. *First in a series.*

**Meanwhile**  
by Jason Shiga

Abrams/Amulet Books, 2010, ISBN: 9780810984233.

In this choose-your-own-adventure-style graphic novel, a boy's choice of chocolate or vanilla ice cream leads to wild adventures.

**The Mysterious Benedict Society**  
by Trenton Lee Stewart; illustrated by Carson Ellis

Little, Brown; 2007; ISBN: 9780316057776.

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

**Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: One Dead Spy**  
by Nathan Hale

Abrams/Amulet Books, 2012, ISBN: 9781419703966.

Just before Nathan Hale is hung as a spy in the Revolutionary War, he tells a British soldier and the hangman some American history.

**No Talking**  
by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Mark Elliott

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2007, ISBN: 9781416909835.

It's the boys against the girls—who can win the no-talking bet? But as silence falls over the school, chaos ensues.

**The One and Only Ivan**  
by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao

HarperCollins, 2012, ISBN: 9780061992254.

When Ivan, a gorilla who lives in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant new to the menagerie, he decides that he must find her a better life.

**100 Most Dangerous Things on the Planet**  
by Anna Claybourne

Scholastic, 2008, ISBN: 9780545069274 (PB).

Describes one hundred of the most dangerous things on the planet and what to do if they happen to you.

**Out of My Mind**  
by Sharon M. Draper

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2010, 9781416971702.

Considered by many to be intellectually disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy is given her voice with a technological device, opening the door to a new life.

**The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy**  
by Jeanne Birdsall

Alfred A. Knopf, 2005, ISBN: 9780375831430.

The Penderwick sisters enjoy a series of adventures as they vacation at the Arundel estate and make the acquaintance of Jeffrey, who lives next door.

**Savvy**  
by Ingrid Law

Dial, 2008, ISBN: 9780803733060.

When Mibs turns thirteen and gets a savvy, a special power, she goes on a quest in hopes of saving her Poppa.

**Sidekicks**  
by Dan Santat

Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, 2011, ISBN: 9780439298117.

When Captain Amazing announces that he will hold tryouts for a new sidekick, his pets decide they want a chance to help save the world.

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**

by Tom Angleberger  
Abrams/Amulet Books, 2010, ISBN: 9780810984257.

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

**To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel**  
by Siena Cherson Siegel, illustrated by Mark Siegel

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2006, ISBN: 9780689867477.

The true story of the author's travels from her home in Puerto Rico to the stage of the New York City Ballet.

**Tuesdays at the Castle**  
by Jessica Day George

Bloomsbury, 2011, ISBN: 9781599906447.

On Tuesdays Castle Glower takes on a life of its own, magically rearranging itself. When the castle is ambushed, it's up to Princess Celie to save the day.

**Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**  
by Grace Lin

Little, Brown; 2009; ISBN: 9780316114271.

Minli and a dragon begin a quest to find the Old Man on the Moon, who has the answers to Minli's family's troubles.