Summer adventures are just a chapter away!

Summer is upon us, and with it comes the perfect opportunity for budding young minds to expand their horizons without ever leaving their zip code. Reading gives us all the ability to “travel the world” and learn more about topics that we are already interested in as well as those we’ve yet to discover. Children are inherently curious, and giving them plenty of opportunities to make these discoveries often leads to a hunger for more.

This list of titles is adapted from the Association for Library Service 2019 Notable Books list and can help guide you as you select books for your child’s summer reading adventures!

**Grades 3–5**

*Ana María Reyes Does NOT Live in a Castle*. By Hilda Eunice Burgos. Lee & Low/Tu. Ana María Reyes tries to win a scholarship to a prestigious New York academy, only to find herself facing obstacles. In the process, she discovers herself and the importance of family.


*Aru Shah and the End of Time*. By Roshani Chokshi. Disney/Hyperion. In this story inspired by the ancient Indian epic, the Mahabharata, Aru Shah discovers she must enter the Kingdom of Death to save the world.


*Beavers*. By Rachel Poliquin. Illus. by Nicholas John Frith. HMH. Wit and fact intertwine in an enjoyable guide to the frequently overlooked beaver.


*The Book of Boy*. By Catherine Gilbert Murdock. Greenwillow. In 1350, Boy, an orphaned servant, is hired to accompany a pilgrim seeking the seven relics of St. Peter. *(Newbery Honor Book)*


*Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild*. By Catherine Thimmesh. HMH. What does a panda suit have to do with species conservation? As this comprehensive book about a panda rehabilitation program in China reveals, quite a lot. *(Sibert Honor Book)*
Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship. By Irene Latham and Charles Waters. Illus. by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko. Carolrhoda. A school writing assignment is the catalyst for conversations around race, class, and privilege in this illustrated poetic conversation between two fifth-graders who learn to honor each other’s differences.

Dragons in a Bag. By Zetta Elliott. Illus. by Geneva B. Random. When nine-year-old Jaxon is left in the care of an eccentric old witch, he begins training as her new apprentice by leaving Brooklyn to return three dragons to a magical world.


The Eye that Never Sleeps: How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln. By Marissa Moss. Illus. by Jeremy Holmes. Abrams. Modern illustrations and lively text combine to relate the early history of the Pinkerton Detective Agency and how they thwarted an attempt to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

Finding Langston. By Lesa Cline-Ransome. Holiday. After his mother’s death, lonely Langston and his emotionally distant father migrate from rural Alabama to Chicago, where he finds solace in the poetry of his namesake.

Front Desk. By Kelly Yang. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. Mia not only helps manage the front desk of the motel where her immigrant Chinese parents work; she also helps keep secrets about the guests, whose immigration status puts everyone at risk.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams. By Lesa Cline-Ransome. Illus. by James Ransome. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. This engaging picture-book biography of tennis’ greatest superstars focuses attention on the ways they changed the game by their attitude, power as athletes, personal strength, and relationship with each other.


Knights vs. Dinosaurs. By Matt Phelan. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. Merlin sets a new challenge for the Knights of the Round Table when he sends them back in time to battle dinosaurs.

Louisiana’s Way Home. By Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick. Louisiana finds her own inner strength when her granny abandons her in a run-down motel while they attempt to lift a curse that has plagued their family for generations.

Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish. By Pablo Cartaya. Viking. After Marcus is suspended from school for fighting, his frustrated mother takes him and his brother to Puerto Rico for a week to reconnect with family he didn’t know existed.

Martin Rising: Requiem for a King. By Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Scholastic. Dr. King’s final months of life and the emotional aftermath of his assassination are recounted in this collection of poignant poetry.


Merci Suárez Changes Gears. Meg Medina. Candlewick. Eleven-year-old Cuban American Merci Suárez balances the demands of her multi-generational family with the challenges of being a scholarship student at a private school in Florida. (Newbery Medal Book)

No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas. By Tonya Bolden. Illus. by Don Tate. Knopf. Junius G. Groves went from being enslaved in Kentucky to owning 500 acres in Kansas and making his fortune by growing potatoes.
Pass Go and Collect $200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented. By Tanya Lee Stone. Illus. by Steven Salerno. Holt/Christy Ottaviano. This picture-book history offers a spirited account of the evolution of the popular board game and the people who were involved over the years in its creation.

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere. By Barb Rosenstock. Illus. by Katherine Roy. Little, Brown. Daring aquanauts Otis Barton and Will Beebe designed and dove in a leaky bathysphere that allowed them to explore 800 feet below the ocean surface.

The Parker Inheritance. By Varian Johnson. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. Issues of race, bullying, and identity are interwoven in this buried-treasure mystery that spans multiple decades as tween Candice unravels a series of puzzles in her community.

Saving Winslow. By Sharon Creech. HarperCollins/Joanna Cotler. Through vignettes of sparse text, this story follows 10-year-old Louie as he takes on the challenge of saving a fragile, newborn mini-donkey that has been rejected by its mother.

The Season of Styx Malone. By Kekla Magoon. Random/Wendy Lamb. Despite their father's attempts to keep them safe in small town Indiana, brothers Caleb and Bobby Gene go on a wild adventure with new neighbor Styx Malone as they attempt the fabled "Escalator Trade."


Tiger vs. Nightmare. By Emily Tetri. Illus. by the author. First Second. Tiger relies on her friend, Monster, to keep her nightmares at bay each night, until one nightmare slips through, causing Tiger to rethink the arrangement. (Geisel Honor Book)

Thirty Minutes over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story. By Marc Tyler Nobleman. Illus. by Melissa Iwai. Clarion. This is the little-known story of a Japanese WWII pilot who unsuccessfully attempted to bomb the Oregon coast, and years later reconciled with Oregonians he had targeted.

The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle. By Leslie Connor. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen. In this poignant and powerful mystery, Mason, a seventh-grade boy who can barely read and write, finds a way to finally tell the truth about what happened the day his best friend died.

The United States v. Jackie Robinson. By Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Although he is well known for breaking the color barrier in baseball, Jackie Robinson went to court years earlier to integrate troops while serving in the U.S. Army.
