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 the 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 K–2**

*All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah.* By Emily Jenkins. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Random/Schwartz & Wade. Four-year-old Gertie wants to help her older sisters make the Hanukkah latkes, but she’s just too litt

*Alma and How She Got Her Name.* By Juana Martinez-Neal. Illus. by the author, Candlewick. Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela thinks her name is too long, so her father tells her the story of where it came from. *(Caldecott Honor Book)*


*A Big Mooncake for Little Star.* By Grace Lin. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. Mama bakes a big mooncake, but Little Star can’t wait for it to cool and starts to nibble it away. *(Caldecott Honor Book)*


*Blue.* By Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter. A boy and his dog grow older together in this spare and moving paean to love and attachment.


*The Day You Begin.* By Jacqueline Woodson. Illus. by Rafael López. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. One little girl joins a new class and finds her place as classmates share their unique backgrounds.

*Don’t Touch My Hair!* By Sharee Miller. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. A spunky heroine uses humor to invite readers to understand boundaries and consent.

*Drawn Together.* By Minh Lê. Illus. by Dan Santat. Disney/Hyperion. A boy and his grandfather bridge their cultural and generational divide through their shared love of art.
Dreamers. By Yuyi Morales. Illus. by the author. Holiday/Neal Porter. Morales and her young son discover how they fit into their strange new country when they find the public library in this gorgeous, personal picture book. (Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Book)


Fox the Tiger. By Corey R. Tabor. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray. Playful Fox loves tigers so much he turns into one (with the help of some paint) in this comical early reader. (Geisel Award Book)

Good Rosie! By Kate DiCamillo. Illus. by Harry Bliss. Candlewick. Shy pup Rosie’s adventures at the dog park include funny, sweet, and relatable interactions with enormous Maurice and delicate Fifi.

Hello Lighthouse. By Sophie Blackall. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. A lighthouse keeper and his new wife raise their family and survive the hardships and joys of life offshore in this lovely, idyllic picture book. (Caldecott Medal Book)

How Raven Got His Crooked Nose: An Alaskan Dena’ina Fable. By Barbara J. Atwater and Ethan J. Atwater. Illus. by Mindy Dwyer. Alaska Northwest. Grandmother imparts the importance of patience as she retells the fable of trickster Raven and his missing nose.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness. By Kerascoët. Illus. by the authors. Random/Schwartz & Wade. One girl’s upstanding action inspires her schoolmates to join and support a bullied child in this wordless, important story.

Imagine! By Raúl Colón. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman. A boy’s imagination comes alive during his visit to the Museum of Modern Art in this wordless tribute to the power of art.

In the Past: From Trilobites to Dinosaurs to Mammoths in More than 500 Million Years. By David Elliott. Illus. by Matthew Trueman. Candlewick. Short, pithy poems and dynamic illustrations take the reader through 500 million years of life on earth.

Islandborn. By Junot Díaz. Illus. by Leo Espinosa. Dial. Given a school assignment to draw a picture of her homeland, Lola gathers stories of “the Island” from people in her Dominican neighborhood. (Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

Jerome By Heart. By Thomas Scotto. Illus. by Olivier Tallec. Tr. by Claudia Zoe Bedrick and Karin Snelson. Enchanted Lion. Raphael loves Jerome and, in spite of the response from his parents, he is not afraid to say that he knows his best friend by heart. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Julián Is a Mermaid. By Jessica Love. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Julián’s chance encounter with three mermaids on a subway inspires him to create his own mermaid costume and reveal his inner self to his understanding abuela.

King and Kayla and the Case of the Lost Tooth. By Dori Hillestad Butler. Illus. by Nancy Meyers. Peachtree. When Kayla's tooth goes missing from the tooth fairy pillow, she and her dog, King, investigate the mystery. (Geisel Honor Book)


Let the Children March. By Monica Clark-Robinson. Illus. by Frank Morrison. HMH. A young participant in the children’s crusade shows the world—and young readers—how to stand up for one's beliefs and make changes.


My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder. By Nie Jun. Illus. by the author. Tr. by Edward Gauvin. Lerner/Graphix Universe. Yu'er and her grandfather are amiable guides to their Beijing neighborhood, and Jun’s lush watercolor artwork gives this graphic novel even more charm. (Batchelder Honor Book)

Night Job. By Karen Hesse. Illus. by G. Brian Karas. Candlewick. A boy spends the night cleaning the school with his father. This is a tender and joyful look at work and time spent together.
A Parade of Elephants. By Kevin Henkes. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. Five elephants march in a line, up and down, under and over, and round and round, introducing simple concepts to very young children in this perfectly delightful confection.

The Party and Other Stories. By Sergio Ruzzier. Illus. by the author. Chronicle. Fox and Chick manage to be good friends despite their differences in this uncluttered, laugh-out-loud early reader. (Geisel Honor Book)

The Patchwork Bike. By Maxine Beneba Clarke. Illus. by Van Thanh Rudd. Candlewick. Against a backdrop of dynamic, action-filled paintings, a young girl describes, with tremendous pride, the bike that her brothers made from scrap material and the adventures they have.

The Rough Patch. By Brian Lies. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. The state of Fox's garden mirrors his grieving process as he mourns his best friend. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Saturday Is Swimming Day. By Hyewon Yum. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Yum delicately explores the fear and triumph a little girl feels when facing her Saturday swimming lessons.


Thank You, Omu! By Oge Mora. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. When Omu makes a delicious-smelling dinner, neighbors stop by to sample soup until the pot is empty. (Caldecott Honor Book)

The Wall in the Middle of the Book. By Jon Agee. Illus. by the author. Dial. A small knight assures the reader that the wall in the center of the book protects his side from the dangerous other side, but the pictures tell a different story.


Reference: Association for Library Service to Children (http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb)