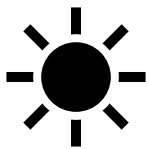


PACE

Summer Reading:



Ideas, Themes,



& Activities



Summer is a great time to relax—and what better way to relax during these long, lazy days...than to read a book!

Help your kids keep their minds active and entertained with these fun book-themed lists and activities from the *PACE* team.

BOOK-THEMED CRAFTS



Here are some crafts to make your summer reading more creative and fun.



1. DIY BOOKMARKS

SUPPLIES	DIRECTIONS
Cardstock/heavy paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut your cardstock or paper into long, thin strips. Use a pencil and ruler if you want a specific size and length for your bookmarks. • Design the bookmark however you want! Use crayons, gel pens, or markers and be creative. • Now punch a hole through the top of the bookmark. If available, laminate the bookmark. • Attach a ribbon or colorful yarn in the hole punch.
Ruler	
Scissors	
Pencils	
Hole punch	
Crayons, gel pens, or markers	
Ribbon or yarn	

2. VOCABULARY JAR: *A great way to improve vocabulary over the summer!*

SUPPLIES	DIRECTIONS
Empty jar or small box	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each time a new word is learned in a book, write it on a piece of small piece of paper and put it in the Vocabulary Jar. • At the end of the week, see if you remember what each word means. • Share the new words with your family • Save all the papers with your new words and review them periodically throughout the summer.
Small pieces of paper	
Pen or pencil	

3. PERSONALIZED BOOK BAG: Carry your own hand-made book bag around—to the library, beach, pool, on road trips, or just around the house!

SUPPLIES	DIRECTIONS
A canvas bag (you can buy an inexpensive one at a Dollar Store, WalMart, etc.) or a piece of heavy fabric (if you have access to a sewing machine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For canvas bags: Visit this website for logs of great ideas: https://gluesticksgumdrops.com/dress-up-plain-canvas-tote-bags/ For fabric bags: Visit this website for lots of great ideas: https://www.diyncrafts.com/23623/crafts/60-gorgeous-diy-tote-bags-free-patterns-every-occasion
Colored pens, gel pens, stencils, fabric paint, markers, iron-on transfers, etc.	

4. BOOK CHART: Put the stickers or stars up on the wall to see what you've accomplished—and track your progress!

SUPPLIES	DIRECTIONS
Cardstock/heavy paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are many ways to make a Book Chart. The simplest is to take a piece of cardstock or heavy paper and write each child's name on the top. Underline the name. There are many options after this: you can make a calendar for each day of the summer, or a lined list of 25-50 lines. Every time your child finishes a book, a star or sticker goes on the line or calendar!
Ruler	
Pen or pencil	
Stickers or stars	

READING ACTIVITIES



PARENTS: The wide-open days of summer present great opportunities for your children to explore new books, topics, reading spots & experiences. Here are our suggestions:



1. FIND A READING NOOK: *Help your children find a cozy nook that they use only for reading—this will become a great place where they can retreat and get lost in their books!*

Some ideas:

- A hammock or swing on the porch
- A “book fort” with spare sheets, pillows, blankets, cardboard boxes, etc.
- A tent
 - put up a little pop-up tent on a deck, porch, or backyard and let your children use it as their own library this summer
- A treehouse
 - find a comfortable cushion or chair, place it in your treehouse and make your own outdoor reading library
- A window seat
 - this is an ideal spot where your child can curl up to read on a sunny or rainy day
- A closet
 - empty out a seldom-used closet in the house and put cushions, pillows, blankets inside, along with a light source

2. SHARE A BOOK: *Ask someone in your family (or among your friends) to read a book with your child—set a date by which they’ll finish it and then talk about the book together! Another option: make it a date—go to an ice cream parlor, café, diner, etc., and discuss the book there. (This will make your child feel very grown up as well as create a wonderful memory of a fun summer of reading!)*

Some discussion questions:

- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Did the book end the way you thought it would? How would you have liked it to end?
- What did you learn while reading this book?
- Would you read another book on this topic or by this author?

3. START A BOOK CLUB: *Let kids come up with a booklist or book themes (see lists below) and create a Book Club—choose the size of the group, the people who will participate, when and where you’ll meet, and the books you will read.*

4. FAMILY READ-ALoud NIGHTS: *Summer is the perfect opportunity to gather, when homework, sports, etc., aren’t taking up a lot of time. Choose some books to read aloud as a family (see list below). This is a great way to expose your children to books that they might not normally read on their own.*

Suggestions for success

- Try to gather in an area of the house that has comfortable places to relax with rugs, pillows, and cozy seating.
- Make sure to adjust your expectations in terms of attention span, especially if you have children of different ages. (You can gradually add minutes as you advance in the book/s.)
- Let the children take turns reading aloud as well.
- Add a special Family Reading Night Snack!
- Think about starting the first book in a series together to encourage further reading, either individually or as a group. See below in “Book Series” for suggestions.

STAND-ALONE READ-ALoud BOOKS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stuart Little</i> by E.B. White (131 pages)</p>	<p>Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell, the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure. Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named “Margalo,” disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the first time in his life, and what he finds is lots of adventure!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Cricket in Times Square</i> by George Selden (132 pages)</p>	<p>Chester Cricket is a country cricket who manages to get stuck in a picnic basket and finds himself stranded in the subway station in Times Square. Chester makes friends: Tucker the Mouse, Harry the Car, and Mario Bellini. A young boy who takes Chester in and keeps him as a pet. This particular cricket is set for big things—especially when his great talent is discovered!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Matilda</i> by Roald Dahl (240 pages)</p>	<p>Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's a nuisance. She expects school to be different, but she has to face the child-hating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, there. When Matilda is attacked by “the Trunchbull,” she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves - and Matilda may be just the one to do it!</p>

<p><i>The Wind in the Willows</i> by Kenneth Graham (224 pages)</p>	<p>The story follows four animal characters – Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad of Toad Hall on adventures throughout rural England. Life’s simplicity & friendships provide deep wealth as Toad learns life lessons.</p>
<p><i>Secret Agents Four</i> by Donald Sobol (140 pages)</p>	<p>After several boys chase a suspicious man who turns out to be a spy, the boys form VACUUM, a society which will aid a national organization of secret agents in apprehending other spies. Tons of action, which will appeal to young people! This is the same author who wrote the <i>Encyclopedia Brown</i> series.</p>
<p><i>The Children at Green Meadows</i> by Enid Blyton (240 pages)</p>	<p>The family at Green Meadows is having difficulties. Granny refuses to sell their ancestral home, Father is an invalid, and Mother has to keep everything going. Things change, though, when a new block of apartments opens nearby and the inhabitants realize that they can't keep their pets there. These pets, inevitably, find their way to Green Meadows and everything spirals from that point. This is a book of wish fulfillment, adventure, and sudden, sharp emotion.</p>
<p><i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain (296 pages)</p>	<p>This novel is full of all the boisterous energy of youth, both American and human, and the humor speaks to people at all levels. Alongside the humor, Mark Twain deals with serious issues such as coming of age, deception, racism and slavery, relations between the sexes, and developing character in unlikely circumstances. This book will lead to many good discussions about important issues present in society today.</p>

5. MAKE A “READING BOAT”: Help your children make their own special “boat” out of pillows, a couch, or mattresses and pretend that they’re at sea for the day (or part of the day). Put lots of books—and snacks—in the “boat” and spend the day reading! See below for suggestions on books about the ocean, islands, etc.

6. READING PICNIC: Have the kids grab a blanket, a few friends, some tasty snacks, and a favorite stack of books. Then they can find a nice place to sit and eat their treats while reading stories—or take turns reading aloud together. See book suggestions below.

7. LIBRARY TRIPS: Take the kids to the library as often as possible. (If they don’t have a library card yet, this is a perfect time to get one.) Let them spend a good amount of time there, wandering through the stacks, choosing books to read there as well as take home.

8. BOOKSTORE VISITS: Take your children to a bookstore and let them choose a book. This outing could take place after they’ve read a certain number of books, or after they’ve finished a particularly challenging one. Beforehand, you can set a price limit as well as type of book, if desired. This is a great incentive for kids to start building their own libraries; it also teaches them that books are a reward for good behavior and habits!

THEMED BOOKLISTS



Here are some suggested summer reading books, grouped by themes. Encourage your child to read a book from each category. Hopefully this list will lead to reading other books about a particular subject or by a favorite author!*



*Note: Many of these books can be found in your local library, used bookstore, chain bookstore, or online. My “go-to” sites for great savings is Thriftbooks (<https://www.thriftbooks.com>) or Better World Books (<https://www.betterworldbooks.com>). I include bookstores because you will most likely want some of these books in your home library! (Also note that some books are available online as YouTube videos or free PDFs.)

1. THEME: CLASSIC SERIES: *if your child hasn't already read these classics, this is a great time to add them to their canon of literature!*

<p><i>Anne of Green Gables</i> by Maud Hart Lovelace (Grades 3-8; 6 books in original series)</p>	<p>At the turn of the century on Prince Edward Island, Matthew Cuthbert and his sister Marilla decide to take on an orphan boy as help for their farm. But they get an unexpected jolt when they're mistakenly sent a girl instead: Anne Shirley. Anne is allowed to stay, but only if she can keep out of trouble. But Anne has a positive genius for trouble! As she falls into a series of scrapes, the youngster makes a bosom friend, searches (and finds) several kindred spirits, and Matthew and Marilla discover that their lives have become a great deal richer, now that Anne is at Green Gables. [Note: There is also a wonderful <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> TV series by Sullivan Entertainment based on the books, made in 1985. A newer series was produced recently, called <i>Anne with an E</i>, which I do not recommend.]</p>
<p><i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> by C.S. Lewis (Grades 4-7; 7 books in the series)</p>	<p>The Chronicles of Narnia journey to the end of the world – complete with fantastic creatures and epic battles between good and evil. What more could any reader ask for in one book? <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> has transcended the fantasy genre to become part of the canon of classic literature. Each book is a masterpiece, drawing the reader into a land where magic meets reality; the result is a fictional world whose scope has fascinated generations.</p>
<p><i>Redwall Series</i> by Brian Jacques (Grades 5+; 22 books in the series)</p>	<p>The Redwall series is set in a medieval English countryside populated entirely by non-human creatures. The books chronicle the adventures and challenges of the animals who inhabit Redwall Abbey and the surrounding countryside of Mossflower Wood, including mice, moles, hares, badgers, and other woodland species. Frequently the peace-loving creatures of Mossflower are called upon to become warriors to defend themselves from marauding bands of "vermin" such rats, weasels, and foxes.</p>
<p><i>The Penderwicks</i> by Jeanne Birdsall (Grades 4-8; 5 books in the series)</p>	<p>In this middle-grade novel, a summer of exciting new experiences awaits the four lively Penderwick sisters at a summer rental cottage on the large Berkshire estate of Mrs. Tifton, a snobby heiress. Along with the owner's musically talented son, Jeffrey, and their trusty dog, Hound, Rosalind, Jane, Skye, and Batty undertake all manner of adventures.</p>

2. THEME: LESSER-KNOWN SERIES: *These books may not be as popular, but they are still worth a read!*

<p><i>The Wingfeather Saga</i> by Andrew Peterson (Grades 5-8; 4 books in the series)</p>	<p>Janner Igiby, his brother, Tink, and their disabled sister, Leeli, are gifted children, loved well by a noble mother and ex-pirate grandfather. But they will need all their gifts and all that they love to survive the evil pursuit of the venomous Fangs of Dang, who have crossed the dark sea to rule the land with malice. The Igiby Children hold the secret to the lost legend and jewels of good King Wingfeather of the Shining Isle of Anniera.</p>
<p><i>The Latsch Valley Farm Series</i> by Anne Pellowski (Grades 4-8; 5 books in the series)</p>	<p>Based on the author's own experiences, these stories vividly describe memorable people and events of the Pellowski family and its Latsch Valley neighbors and descendants. Immersed in the vigorous life of their American-Polish community, the world for young Anna and her friends is filled with fascinating possibilities as well as lots of hard work. Through their many adventures, the children begin to realize what warm security there is to be found in a hardworking family rooted in faith and love.</p>
<p><i>The Happy Hollisters</i> by Jerry West (Grades 1-6; 33 books in the series)</p>	<p>The <i>Happy Hollisters</i> series was written by Andrew E. Svenson under the pen name Jerry West. The Hollister family – Pete, Pam, Ricky, Holly, and Sue – were modeled on Svenson's own children and their family life in Bloomfield, N.J. Mr. Hollister owns The Trading Post, a hardware store and toy shop in fictional Shoreham, and is often assisted at the store by his tight-knit family. The family has fun and adventures together, but when the mysteries arise, the independent Hollister children become amateur sleuths and are allowed to investigate and solve the mysteries on their own. The author also co-authored several other mystery novel series including <i>The Hardy Boys</i> and the <i>Bobbsey Twins</i>.</p>
<p><i>The Rose Cottage Tales</i> by Emily Bearn (Grades 1-4; 7 books in the series)</p>	<p>This fantasy series follows several rousing adventures about homebody mice Nutmeg and Tumtum in their continuing role as unofficial guardians of human children Arthur and Lucy and amusingly immature military rodent General Marchmouse. Each escapade takes them afield—into the village, to the seaside, down the meadow to a stream—to find Christmas gifts, pursue villains or rescue the fame-and adrenaline-seeking General from his risky delusions of grandeur. Similar to <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> and <i>The Borrowers</i>.</p>

3. THEME: IN AND AT THE SEA/ISLANDS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Flotsam</i> by David Wiesner (Grades Pre-K-1)</p>	<p>A young boy comes to the beach eager to collect and examine flotsam - anything floating that has been washed ashore. But nothing among his usual finds compares with the discovery of a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera with its own secrets to share... and to keep. Meet unexpected underseas denizens and enter fascinating worlds within worlds in this entrancing celebration of imagination and creativity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Whale in a Fishbowl</i> by Troy Howell (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>A moving, poetic story about a whale in captivity who longs for the ocean . . . because whales don't belong in fishbowls, do they? Touching, and ultimately uplifting, here is a story about a lonely creature longing to be free—and longing to find someone just like her.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>One Tiny Turtle</i> by Nicola Davies (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>This book is a lovely, simple way for children to learn facts within the story about the life cycle of a turtle. While following the turtle on this journey, the reader watches as the turtle makes her way through the “silver surface,” riding out harsh storms and floating through “the hot calms.” Years later, when she has grown larger, she makes her way to the surface to lay eggs on the beach.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Famous Five: Five on a Treasure Island</i> by Enid Blyton (Grades 3-7)</p>	<p>Three siblings (Julian, Dick, and Anne) are disappointed when their parents announce plans to vacation alone in Scotland. The children quickly change their tune when they learn that they will be spending the summer at their aunt and uncle's house on the coast with their cousin “George” and dog, Timmy. What follows is a glorious summer of swimming, canoeing, and exploring George's private island.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Lost Island</i> by Elis Dillon (Grades 4-7)</p>	<p>Michael Farrell was forced to grow up quickly after his father disappeared hunting for treasure on the fabled lost island of Inishmananan. Struggling to get by, one evening he and his mother receive a mysterious message from a ragged tramp who stops by their farm. The old man has proof that Michael's father is alive. So, although no one seeking the island has ever returned, Michael and his friend Joe board the first boat they can, only to find out it is run by a treacherous gang of sailors. Braving the unknown seas, they embark on a grand search for Michael's missing father, the spectacular fortune, and the island's long-lost secret.</p>

4. THEME: VIRTUES & MORALS

<p><i>How to Heal a Broken Wing</i> by Bob Grama (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p>Have you ever seen a bird with a broken wing and wanted to help it? That is exactly what happens in this story. A boy named Will goes into the big city with his mom and they see a bird lying on the sidewalk with a broken wing. Will gently picks up the bird and brings it home to heal its wing. The illustrations help reveal the true meaning of the book, which is to show compassion to all living creatures.</p>
<p><i>Miss Bridie Chooses a Shovel</i> by Leslie Connor (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>The journey begins for a young immigrant named Miss Bridie. It is a journey of hope and uncertainty, a journey that will take her to a new land, a new home, and - if she has chosen wisely - a good life. With elegant woodcuts, Caldecott medalist Mary Azarian brings to life Leslie Connor's story of a life rich with blessings, yet not without challenges. A lovely story of hard work, perseverance, and courage.</p>
<p><i>The Giving Tree</i> by Shel Silverstein (Grades 2-5)</p>	<p>This moving parable for all ages offers a touching interpretation of the gift of giving and a serene acceptance of another's capacity to love in return. Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk...and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older, he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave and gave. This is a tender story, touched with sadness, aglow with consolation.</p>
<p><i>Marven and the Great North Woods</i> by Kathryn Lasky (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>When the influenza epidemic strikes Duluth, Minnesota, in 1918, Marven's parents send their son far away from the danger of the disease. But a logging camp in the great north woods? A true story of a small Jewish boy and a bearish French-Canadian lumberjack . . . and how they become friends under the most unusual circumstances. Lovely story about a boy learning about friendship, responsibility and accepting what life gives him.</p>
<p><i>Under a War-Torn Sky</i> by L.M. Elliot (Grades 5+)</p>	<p>When Henry Forester is shot down during a bombing run over France, the World War II pilot finds himself trapped behind enemy lines. In constant danger of discovery by German soldiers, Henry begins a remarkable journey to freedom. Relying on the kindness of strangers, Henry moves from town to town--traveling by moonlight, never asking questions, or even the names of the people who help him along the way. Each day brings him closer to home, yet every step in enemy territory invites new dangers. A wonderful story of loyalty, courage, and compassion.</p>

5. THEME: FAIRY TALES & FANTASY

<p><i>Jack and the Beanstalk</i> by Steven Kellogg (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p>Join young Jack as he climbs a giant beanstalk to a magic castle in the clouds. Meet a hen that lays golden eggs and a harp that sings by itself. And don't forget the ogre... A classic fairy tale with rich and dynamic illustrations that will leave you chanting "fee-fi-fo-fum!"</p>
<p><i>Classic Fairy Tales, Vol. 1</i> by Scott Gustafson (Grades K-2)</p>	<p>A lavishly illustrated, enchanting collection of 10 of the best-loved fairy tales, chosen and edited by the artist, who spent more than four years creating the seventy-five oil paintings, reproduced here in full color. Belongs on every child's bookshelf.</p>
<p><i>Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella</i> by Paul Fleischman (Grades K-4)</p>	<p>Capitalizing on the frequently made assertion that Cinderella is the most widely told folktale on earth, the author and illustrator have created a universally pleasing interweaving of variants from 17 distinct cultures. This clever book somehow manages to convey simultaneously the essential sameness of the story and the particularities of the different versions.</p>
<p><i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> by Grace Lin (Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>Minli lives in the Valley of the Fruitless Mountain with her very poor parents. Her father tells her stories about the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon, filling her head with ideas of how they could possibly change their family fortune. One day, Minli discovers the way to the Old Man of the Moon and decides to leave her parents to see if she can find him. On the way, she meets a dragon that can't fly, kings, tigers, and so much more.</p>
<p><i>Circus Mirandus</i> by Cassie Beasley (Grades 4-8)</p>	<p>Even though his awful Great-Aunt Gertrudis doesn't approve, Micah believes in the stories his dying Grandpa Ephraim tells him of the magical Circus Mirandus: the invisible tiger guarding the gates, the beautiful flying birdwoman, and the magician more powerful than any other - the Man Who Bends Light. Finally, Grandpa Ephraim offers proof. The Circus is real. And the Lightbender owes Ephraim a miracle. With his friend Jenny Mendoza in tow, Micah sets out to find the Circus and the man he believes will save his grandfather. The only problem is, the Lightbender doesn't want to keep his promise. And now it's up to Micah to get the miracle he came for.</p>

6. THEME: ANIMALS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Beetle is Shy</i> by Dianna Hutts Aston (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>This beautiful book takes a look at the fascinating world of beetles. From flea beetles to bombardier beetles, an incredible variety of these beloved bugs are showcased here in all their splendor. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, this carefully researched and visually striking book is perfect for sparking children's imaginations!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Animal Architects: Amazing Animals Who Build Their Homes</i> by Julio Antonio Blasco (Grades 2-5)</p>	<p>A fantastic, original exploration of how animals build their homes and the fascinating structures they create. From gladiator frogs to chimpanzees, learn about how animals all over the world build their homes. Each spread contains a beautiful, colorful illustration of each animal and its home, plus a unique fold-out information panel, with stats and a simple architectural diagram showcasing the creation of the 'architect'. Look inside chimpanzee nests, beaver dams, termite mounds, stork nests and many more - and get to know the clever animals who build them!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Snail and the Whale</i> by Julia Donaldson (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>When a tiny snail meets a humpback whale, the two travel together to far-off lands. It's a dream come true for the snail, who has never left home before. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her new friend? This is a touching tale of adventure and friendship. With vibrant illustrations and rhymes that are both playful and lyrical, here is a story that shows us that even the smallest creatures can help others in a big way.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Story of Doctor Doolittle</i> by Hugh Lofting (Grades 4-7)</p>	<p>Doctor Dolittle is one-of-a-kind. Not only can he talk to animals, but he can understand them too! One day Doctor Dolittle receives a message from Africa: the monkeys there need his help. So, he sails off from his home, bringing along all his pals: Dab-Dab, the duck; Jip, the dog; Gub-Gub, the baby pig; Polynesia, the parrot; and Too-Too, the owl. Join the doctor and his animal friends on their amazing adventures!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Big Red</i> by Kim Kjelgaard (Grades 5-8)</p>	<p>Big Red is a classic boy-and-dog story of adventure and friendship in the wild mountains of Pennsylvania. This is a timeless children's classic adventure story that explores the devotion and love between man and dog's unconditional love for each other.</p>

7. THEME: WEATHER

<p><i>The Wonder of Thunder: Lessons from a Thunderstorm</i> by Sharon Purtil (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p>This book is a terrific resource for parents and teachers who wish to introduce children to the topic of thunderstorms and start a conversation about weather and nature. This picture book introduces the topic of storms, thunder, lightning and rain in a fun and non-threatening way. Children will adore Sally Storm, a lovable character who excitedly shares all the good she can do as she swirls and tumbles overhead. Colorful and captivating illustrations pull children into the story and hold their attention through to the end, where Sally shares more fun facts about thunderstorms and engages children through direct questions.</p>
<p><i>Time of Wonder</i> by Robert McCloskey (Grades K-2)</p>	<p>McCloskey weaves a tale of a summer spent at the family cottage on an island in Maine's incredibly beautiful Penobscot Bay. You follow the siblings in the story like their shadow as they listen to a rain approaching the shore, they spend a foggy morning on the edge of nowhere, and sail near "porpoises puffing". But the mood changes as the community starts to prepare for a late summer hurricane. You'll find that the book becomes a page turner as the storm nears its landfall.</p>
<p><i>What is a Tornado?</i> by Robin Johnson (Grades 1-3)</p>	<p>What is tornado alley and where in the world is it? Why are tornadoes called "twisters"? This dynamic title answers these questions - and more - as readers discover what tornadoes look like, how, when, and where they most often form, how scientists predict and track them, and the safety steps they can take before, during, and after a tornado touches down.</p>
<p><i>Volcanoes and Earthquakes</i> by Ken Rubin (Grades 3-7)</p>	<p>Insiders brings volcanoes & earthquakes to life, with the most up-to-date information and state-of-the-art 3-D illustrations that practically leap off every page, stimulating minds and imaginations in a whole new way.</p>
<p><i>Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code</i> by Amy Cherrix (Grades 5-7)</p>	<p>Ten million Americans live in hurricane danger zones, but how do we know if or when to evacuate? We must predict both <i>when</i> a storm will strike and <i>how strong</i> it will be. A daring NASA earth science mission may have finally found a way to crack this hurricane code. Dr. Scott Braun is the principal investigator for the Hurricane and Severe Storm Sentinel mission (HS3), which flies repurposed military drone over hurricanes so that scientists can gather data. But the stakes are high and time is running out.</p>

8. THEME: BIOGRAPHIES

<p><i>Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau</i> by Jennifer Berne (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>Jacques Cousteau fell in love with the sea when he was a little boy. He dreamed of breathing beneath the waves and swimming as gracefully as a fish. In fact, he longed to become a manfish! Jacques grew up to become a champion of the seas and one of the best-known oceanographers in the world. In this lovely biography, poetic text and gorgeous paintings come together to create a portrait of Cousteau that is as magical as it is inspiring.</p>
<p><i>The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin</i> by Julia Finley Mosca (Grades 1-5)</p>	<p>When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe!</p>
<p><i>The Shape of the World: A Portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright</i> by K.L. Going (Grades 1-5)</p>	<p>When Frank Lloyd Wright was a baby, his mother dreamed that he would become a great architect. She gave him blocks to play with and he learned that shapes are made up of many other shapes. As he grew up, he loved finding shapes in nature. Wright went on to study architecture and create buildings that were one with the natural world around them. He became known as one of the greatest American architects of all time. [Note: If older children find this topic interesting, you might want to watch the Ken Burns documentary about Wright. It contains mature themes.]</p>
<p><i>Elizabeth Leas the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote</i> by Tanya Lee Stone (Grades 1-5)</p>	<p>Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood up and fought for what she believed in. From an early age, she knew that women were not given rights equal to men. But rather than accept her lesser status, Elizabeth went to college and later gathered other like-minded women to challenge the right to vote. Here is the inspiring story of an extraordinary woman who changed America forever because she wouldn't take "no" for an answer.</p>
<p><i>Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit up the World</i> by Elizabeth Rusch (Grades 2-6)</p>	<p>This is a wonderful artistic book illustrating the achievements of one of history's greatest scientific geniuses, Nikola Tesla. Tesla gave the world alternating electricity (AC), and was the inventor of AC generators and motors that make modern life possible as we know it. His ideas included lasers and many other technical achievements that were not within reach of the technology of his time. We owe our modern life to this master of electrical insight, imagination, and design. The book includes additional information about Tesla, scientific notes and explanations, source notes, a bibliography, and suggestions for further reading.</p>
<p><i>Heroine of Newgate: The Story of Elizabeth Fry</i> by John Milsome (Grades 5+)</p>	<p>From the faith and fame series, Milsome introduces the reader to Elizabeth Fry, who from an early age felt the need to help the poor and suffering. Her work in relieving conditions for women prisoners in Newgate and those being transported to Australia has made her famous.</p>

9. THEME: HUMOR

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic</i> by Emily Jenkins (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>Here is the first book in the highly acclaimed Toys trilogy which chronicles the unforgettable adventures of three brave and loving toys. In these stories, readers will meet three extraordinary friends: a stuffed buffalo, a stuffed stingray, and Plastic... well, Plastic isn't quite sure <i>what</i> she is. Together they face dogs, school, television commercials, the vastness of the sea, and the terrifying bigness of the washing machine. You'll laugh over their choice of birthday presents and hold your breath over Plastic's encounter with the Possible Shark.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mr. Popper's Penguins</i> by Florence Atwater (Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>A classic of American humor - the adventures of a house painter and his brood of penguins have delighted children for generations. The book was written in the 1930s and reflects traditional values. It includes a married couple, children who respect their father despite his foibles, and the typical small-town characters from taxi drivers to the dowager on the street. Short and sweet but there's a reason this classic children's book is still so popular 80 years on. Absolutely charming!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i> by Norton Juster (Grades 3-7)</p>	<p>Enriched by Jules Feiffer's splendid illustrations, the wit, wisdom, and wordplay of Norton Juster's offbeat fantasy are as beguiling as ever. For Milo, everything's a bore. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, things seem different. Milo visits the Island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason. Somewhere along the way, Milo realizes that life is far from dull. Anyone who has a passion for words and wordplay will enjoy reading <i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i>.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fantastic Mr. Fox</i> by Roald Dahl (Grades 4-8)</p>	<p>Someone's been stealing from the three meanest farmers around, and they know the identity of the thief: it's Fantastic Mr. Fox! Working alone they could never catch him; but now fat Boggis, squat Bunce, and skinny Bean have joined forces, and they have Mr. Fox and his family surrounded. What they don't know is that they're not dealing with just any fox - Mr. Fox would rather die than surrender. Only the most fantastic plan can save him now. [Also a great read-aloud book.]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i> by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. (Grades 5-8)</p>	<p>What do you get when you put twelve lively kids together with a father - a famous efficiency expert - who believes families can run like factories, and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline? You get a hilarious tale of growing up that has made generations of kids and adults alike laugh along with the Gilbreths in <i>Cheaper by the Dozen</i>. Translated into more than fifty-three languages and made into a classic film in 1950, this memoir is a delightfully enduring story of family life at the turn of the 20th century.</p>

10. THEME: ADVENTURE

<p><i>The Boxcar Children</i> by Gertrude Chandler Warner (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p><i>The Boxcar Children</i> books have started many children on the path of reading mysteries as well as series. Four young orphans discover an abandoned boxcar and move in, embarking on a life of self-reliance and hard work — but they also enter a world of freedom and adventure. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny are afraid of the grandfather they've never met, and to escape his custody, they set out on their own, working odd jobs to make money for necessities. The books teaches practical wisdom, teamwork, trust—and a can-do spirit!</p>
<p><i>The Mouse and the Motorcycle</i> by Beverly Cleary (Grades 2-5)</p>	<p>When the ever-curious Ralph spots Keith's red toy motorcycle, he vows to ride it. So, when Keith leaves the bike unattended in his room one day, Ralph makes his move. But with all this freedom (and speed!) come a lot of obstacles. Whether dodging a rowdy terrier or keeping his nosy cousins away from his new wheels, Ralph has a lot going on! And with a pal like Keith always looking out for him, there's nothing this little mouse can't handle.</p>
<p><i>Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse</i> by Ursula Moray Williams (Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>When Uncle Peder the toymaker falls on hard times, his little wooden horse must go out into the world to seek his fortune. But whether he's working in a coal mine, sailing the seven seas with a band of pirates, or walking the tightrope in a circus, the loyal little horse only has one wish: to return to his beloved master. First published in 1938, <i>Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse</i> is well-loved modern children's classic.</p>
<p><i>The First Two Lives of Lukas-Kasha</i> by Lloyd Alexander (Grades 4-7)</p>	<p>Transported to a far-distant sea by a seedy-looking magician, young Lukas is barely able to escape, and arrives on the shore of Abadan, where he is instantly hailed as king. Lukas must grow up, learn to govern, and stick to his morals in a kingdom of very few morals. (Killing is the norm for many of the people in this new land.) The plot is fast-paced and the characters are enjoyable. Lukas learns many important, moral lessons during his adventures.</p>
<p><i>The Secret of Platform 13</i> by Eva Ibbotson (Grades 4-7)</p>	<p>A forgotten door on an abandoned railway platform is the entrance to a magical kingdom--an island where humans live happily with mermaids, and other wonderful creatures. Carefully hidden from the world, the Island is only accessible when the door opens for nine days every nine years. When the beastly Mrs. Trottle kidnaps the Island's young prince, it's up to a strange band of rescuers to save him. But can the rescuers--an ogre, a hag, a wizard, and a fey-sneak around London unnoticed? Fans of Roald Dahl, Lewis Carroll, and E. Nesbit will delight in this fantasy adventure.</p>

11. THEME: NATURE

<p><i>The Forever Garden</i> by Laurel Snyder (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p>This is a heartwarming picture book about gardening and friendship. Every day, Honey tends her garden, and Laurel, the little girl next door, likes to help. But one day there is a FOR SALE sign in Honey's front yard. Her mother is sick and she is moving away! What will happen to her garden? And what will Laurel do without her friend? Here is a touching story that beautifully illustrates how friendship, just like a garden, grows.</p>
<p><i>Miss Rumphius</i> by Barbara Cooney (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>"You must do something to make the world more beautiful." Barbara Cooney's story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, lives in a house by the sea, and does something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went. <i>Miss Rumphius</i> received the American Book Award in the year of its publication.</p>
<p><i>Over and Under the Pond</i> by Kat Messner (Grades 1-3)</p>	<p>In this book, readers will discover the plants and animals that make up the rich, interconnected ecosystem of a mountain pond. Over the pond, the water is a mirror, reflecting the sky. But under the water is a hidden world of minnows darting, beavers diving, and tadpoles growing. These secrets and many others are waiting to be discovered - over and under the pond.</p>
<p><i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett (Grades 4-8)</p>	<p>Bratty and spoiled Mary Lennox is orphaned when her parents fall victim to a cholera outbreak in India. As a result, Mary becomes the ward of an uncle in England whom she has never met. As she hesitantly tries to carve a new life for herself at secluded Misselthwaite Manor, Mary befriends a high-spirited boy named Dickon and investigates a secret garden on the Manor grounds. She also discovers a sickly young cousin, Colin, who has been shut away in a hidden Manor room. Together Mary and Dickon help Colin blossom, and in the process, Mary finds her identity and melts the heart of her emotionally distant uncle.</p>
<p><i>The Kid's Guide to Exploring Nature</i> by Brooklyn Botanic Garden Educators (Grades 5+)</p>	<p>Created by the experts at the renowned Brooklyn Botanic Garden, this book teaches children how to observe environments as a naturalist does and leads them on 24 adventures that reveal the complex ecosystems of plants and animals in the woods, at the beach, and in a city park. Detailed, scientifically-based drawings help young scientists identify hundreds of North American plants and animals, while dozens of fun projects include keeping a journal, conducting field experiments, and exploring nature with all five senses.</p>

12. THEME: MUSIC & ART

<p><i>Animals in Art</i> by Sabrina Hahn (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p>Learn the alphabet through animals <i>and</i> fine art! Spark your child’s creativity and curiosity with this delightful alphabet book featuring some of the world’s most popular animals and iconic paintings. In this collection, your child will discover artwork by Vincent van Gogh, Winslow Homer, Clara Peeters, and many others. With a fun rhyming scheme and large, colorful text, <i>Animals in Art</i> will inspire your budding art lovers as they learn the about the alphabet, animals, and new words by finding objects in paintings.</p>
<p><i>Meet the Orchestra</i> by Ann Hayes (Grades Pre-K-3)</p>	<p>There are not a lot of books about orchestras that are aimed at young children. This book does a few things really well. We see adorable illustrations of an animal orchestra and realistic pictures of each instrument of an orchestra. Simple, clear text describes how each instrument is played, held, and how it sounds. <i>Meet the Orchestra</i> is a helpful and enjoyable way to learn about the various types of instruments.</p>
<p><i>Becoming Bach</i> by Tom Leonard (Grades K-3)</p>	<p>For Johann Sebastian there was always music. His family had been musicians, or “bachs” as they were called in Germany, for 200 years. Taught to play the harpsichord, trumpet, violin, flute and organ at a young age, his musical education was continued by his eldest brother, Johann Christoph, after his parents died. A lover of patterns, which he observed in music, in the natural world, and in everything he encountered, he began to work those patterns into the music he was writing. His music lives on today, and Johann Sebastian Bach is considered one of the most important and celebrated musical composers of all time. Hear the voice of Johann Sebastian, and learn about his life, in this beautifully-illustrated book!</p>
<p><i>Henri’s Scissors</i> by Jeannette Winter (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>In a small weaving town in France, a young boy named Henri-Emile Matisse drew pictures everywhere, and when he grew up, he moved to Paris and became a famous artist who created paintings that were adored around the world. But late in life a serious illness confined him to a wheelchair, and amazingly, it was from there that he created among his most beloved works—enormous and breathtaking paper cutouts.</p>
<p><i>The Story of Paintings: A History of Art for Children</i> by Mick Manning (Grades 5+)</p>	<p>Get ready to feast your eyes on an exhibition of fantastic art! Kids can time-travel through the centuries and learn all about 39 paintings, from a galloping horse drawn in the Lascaux Caves during the Stone Age, to Botticelli’s <i>The Birth of Venus</i> and Velázquez’s <i>Las Meninas</i>, to masterpieces by Dalí, Picasso, Kahlo, and Basquiat. [Note: This book includes some nudity, as well as biographies that deal with mature themes, such as suicide (Van Gogh).]</p>

13. THEME: READING & WRITING

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Library Mouse</i> by Daniel Kirk (Grades K-3; part of a series)</p>	<p>Sam's home was in a little hole in the wall in the children's reference books section of the library, and he thought that life was very good indeed. For Sam loved to read. He read picture books and chapter books, biographies and poetry, ghost stories, and mysteries. Sam read so much that finally one day he decided to write books himself! Sam shared his books with other library visitors by placing them on a bookshelf at night. Until there came the time that people wanted to meet this talented author. Whatever was Sam to do?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ralph Tells a Story</i> by Abby Hanlon (Grades 1-3)</p>	<p>Nothing ever happens to Ralph. So, every day when it's time to write stories, Ralph thinks really hard. He stares at his paper. He stares at the ceiling. But he has no stories! With the help of his classmates, Ralph realizes that a great story can be about something very little...and that maybe he really does have some stories to tell. Debut author/illustrator Abby Hanlon's endearing text and charming watercolor and colored pencil illustrations prove that writing can be fun!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Best Story Ever</i> by Eileen Spinelli (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>The library is having a contest for the best story, and the quirky narrator of this book just has to win that rollercoaster ride with her favorite author! But what makes a story the best? Her brother Tim says the best stories have lots of action. Her father thinks the best stories are the funniest. And Aunt Jane tells her that the best stories have to make people cry. A story that does all these things doesn't seem quite right, though, and the one thing the whole family can agree on is that the best story has to be your own.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>What Do Author's Do?</i> by Eileen Christelow (Grades 3-7)</p>	<p>A sprightly text and colorful illustrations follow two creative people-and a talkative dog and cat-through the writing process step by step, from the inspiration for a story to the satisfaction of sharing the book with readers. Eileen Christelow based this instructive picture book on questions children asked during her classroom talks around the country. Simple enough for young children to understand, with the entertainment value of fiction.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Q&A a Day for Kids: A Three-Year Journal</i> by Betsy Franco (All grades)</p>	<p>Children's author Betsy Franco poses a question each day with only a few lines provided for a response, making this journal the ultimate no-fuss record keeper. Simply turn to today's date and record your answer. When you finish the year, move on to the next section. The diary can be started on any day of the year and makes a terrific keepsake or gift for parents.</p>

14. THEME: SCIENCE & INVENTION

<p><i>A Tree is a Plant</i> by Clyde R. Bulla (Grades Pre-K-3)</p>	<p>Did you know that a tree is the biggest plant that grows? How does a tree get the food it needs? What happens to trees in the winter? Read and find out about an apple tree's life cycle through every season. This is a clear and appealing environmental science book that will engage budding botanists. (It also includes instructions for two simple experiments: about evaporation and tree rings.)</p>
<p><i>Pasteur's Fight Against Microbes</i> by Beverly Birch (Grades 1-4)</p>	<p>Imagine having a question put to you that leads you to a discovery impacting the world and forever changing how people think! Scientist Louis Pasteur had this exact thing happen. At first, he was unsure, but he kept on experimenting. And due to his hard work, patience, and clear thinking, diseases that killed people for centuries were finally defeated. This book tells the story of how Pasteur revolutionized medicine and biology - and transformed our world forever.</p>
<p><i>A Child's Introduction to the Night Sky</i> by Meredith Hamilton (Grades 3-6)</p>	<p>This is a beautifully designed book for little stargazers. Readers will find out what astronomers have learned (and are still discovering), what astronauts and scientists explore, and what they can find by gazing up into the sky at night. The book explains how stars are born, the achievements of the great scientists, the history of space exploration, the story of our solar system, the myths behind the constellations, how to navigate the night sky, and more. Handy definitions and sidebars help engage younger readers and develop their interest. Also included are a star finder tool and fun glow-in-the-dark stickers.</p>
<p><i>Grand Canyon</i> by Jason Chin (Grades 2-5)</p>	<p>Terrific book about the Grand Canyon, one of the geological wonders of the world. Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals that have lived and evolved within its walls for millennia, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both present and past. Weave in and out of time as perfectly placed die cuts show you that a fossil today was a creature much long ago, perhaps in a completely different environment. Complete with a spectacular double gatefold, an intricate map, and extensive back matter.</p>
<p><i>Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space</i> by Dominic Walliman (Grades 4+)</p>	<p>Professor Astro Cat begins with the Big Bang and the subsequent formation of stars and galaxies. He then sails past the sun to present the Earth and moon, space travel from Apollo to the International Space Station, and the other planets in succession with their major moons and distinctive features. Going beyond the solar system, he explores constellations and telescopes and finally speculates about alien life and our future travels to other worlds. Astro Cat's bursts of information are generally accurate—with memorable notes about, for instance, diamonds on Uranus or how dirty laundry on the ISS is consigned to fiery destruction in the atmosphere.</p>

15. THEME: SPORTS

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Winners Never Quit</i> by Mia Hamm (Grades Pre-K-2)</p>	<p><i>Winners Never Quit!</i> can help with the emotional side of playing sports—how to deal with a loss without getting angry or quitting, and how to be a good teammate. Soccer superstar Mia Hamm knows the value of teamwork and perseverance. She shares this lesson, paired with energetic illustrations by Carol Thompson, in this motivational story.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sports (Around the World)</i> by Margaret C. Hall (Grades K-2)</p>	<p>This book presents an overview of sports played around the world, mentioning indoor, outdoor, land, and water sports, along with their rules and gear.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Baseball’s Greatest Players: 10 Baseball Biographies for New Readers</i> by Andrew Martin (Grades 2-5)</p>	<p>From legendary sluggers to civil rights heroes, the game of baseball has seen a lot of amazing players—and this book features 10 of the very best. Perfect for new fans or those who already know a thing or two about baseball, this kid-friendly guide is packed full of fun facts and essential stats that will teach them all about the incredible careers of these sports superstars.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Sporting Chance: How Ludwig Guttmann Created the Paralympic Games</i> by Lori Alexander (Grades 4+)</p>	<p>Telling the inspiring human story behind the creation of the Paralympics, this biography showcases a riveting narrative to honor the life of Ludwig Guttmann, whose work profoundly changed so many lives. Dedicating his life to helping patients labeled "incurables," Ludwig Guttmann fought for the rights of paraplegics to live a full life. The young doctor believed—and eventually proved—that physical movement is key to healing, a discovery that led him to create the first Paralympic Games.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>True Heroes of Sports: Discovering the Heart of a Champion</i> by Steve Riach (Grades Grades 6+)</p>	<p><i>True Heroes of Sports</i> provides a unique look at favorite athletic champions-both past and present. Combining the brilliant images of renowned sports photographer Tom DiPace with essays by sports author Steve Riach, this book profiles the greatest heroes in sports with candid insights into their triumphs and set-backs. Featured athletes have been selected for their excellence in their sport and their contributions as a positive example in exhibiting sportsmanship, character, and champion hearts.</p>