**PICTURE BOOKS**

**Armstrong:** The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon by Torben Kuhlmann
A mouse decides to fly to the moon. | Lexile: 730

** CHAPTER BOOKS**

**Herbert's Wormhole** by Peter Nelson
When almost-sixth-grader Alex, a video game fanatic, is forced on a "playdate" with his neighbor Herbert, an inventor, the two travel to the twenty-second century and face off against aliens, who are not as beneficent as most people think. | Nutmeg 2012 | Lexile: 780

**Planet Earth is Blue** by Nicole Panteleakos
On the autism spectrum and nearly nonverbal, twelve-year-old Nova is happy in her new foster home and school, but eagerly anticipates the 1986 Challenger launch, for which her sister, Bridget, promised to return. | Lexile: 740

**To the Moon!** by Paul A. Reynolds
Twin mice Sydney and Simon compete to create the most interesting project about the Earth's moon for their elementary school, and win the first prize—a chance to meet a real astronaut.

** Cody and the Mysteries of the Universe** by Tricia Springstubb
When Cody's best friend Spencer moves to her street, an excited Cody asks for Spencer's help tackling the mystery of a neighbor who has a skull-and-crossbones sign in his window, while a new school year ushers in "new school jitters" for Spencer, and for Cody, a newly forged bond with a teacher who shares her love for Mozart. | Nutmeg 2019 | Lexile: 460

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Jedi Academy** by Jeffrey Brown
When Roan's application to pilot school is rejected, he finds he has been invited to study under Master Yoda at the Jedi Academy. | ALA , Nutmeg 2016 | Lexile: 650

**Leo Geo and the Cosmic Crisis** by Jon Chad
Armed with his knowledge of science, Leo Geo becomes an astronaut and heads into space, where he encounters pirates and tries to stop a comet that is headed toward his brother's science laboratory on Earth.
**S u m m e r  R e a d i n g  L i s t**

*Many of the listed books were selected as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY). Other awards as noted.*

**Zita the Spacegirl: Far From Home** by Ben Hatke
Zita rushes to the rescue after her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, and, before long, finds herself hailed as an intergalactic hero. | ALA, Nutmeg 2015 | Lexile: 310

**Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth** by Judd Winick
When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. | Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 460

**POETRY**

**The Day the Universe Exploded My Head** by Allan Wolf
With poetry that is equal parts accurate and entertaining, accompanied by lively, whimsical and energetic illustrations, amateur stargazers and budding astrophysicists will be enthralled by the many wonders of the universe as presented in this picture book that includes notes about the poems, a glossary and a list of resources.

**NONFICTION**

**Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11** by Brian Floca
Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 830

**Impact!: Asteroids and the Science of Saving the World** by Elizabeth Rusch
Asteroids come in all shapes and sizes--and hit our planet in them, too. But what happens if a catastrophically large one approaches earth? By looking on the ground at historical asteroid craters and present-day falls, and up into space for the big ones yet to come, a wide variety of scientists are trying to figure out how to track asteroids--and how to avoid devastating impacts in the future. | ALA | Lexile: 1070

**Exoplanets** by Seymour Simon
Introduces exoplanets, examining the planets outside of our solar system, discussing what makes them habitable, and exploring the efforts to discover new life. | NSTA

**BIOGRAPHY**

**Look Up!: Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer** by Robert Burleigh
An illustrated portrait of astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt traces the years she spent measuring stars from her position at the Harvard College Observatory and her important discoveries that enabled the scientific community to gain a fuller understanding of the universe's vast size. | NCSS | Lexile: 600

**Mission to Space** by John B. Herrington
Chickasaw astronaut, John Herrington, shares his flight on the space shuttle Endeavour and his thirteen-day mission to the international Space Station. | ALA

**Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy** by Richard Michelson
An uplifting picture book portrait of the late actor best known as Spock from Star Trek describes his upbringing as the child of immigrant parents, his early dreams of becoming an entertainer and the ways his famous character reflected his experiences of being different. | NCSS | Lexile: 920

**Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician, Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei** by Peter Sis
Describes the life and work of the courageous man who changed the way people saw the galaxy, by offering objective evidence that the earth was not the fixed center of the universe. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 830

**A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon** by Suzanne Slade
Shares the story of the pioneering African American mathematician, Katherine Johnson, who helped calculate America's first manned flight into space, its first manned orbit of Earth, and the world's first trip to the moon.

**To the Stars!: The First American Woman to Walk in Space** by Carmella Van Vleet
Shares the story of renowned astronaut and distinguished scientist Kathryn Sullivan, describing how she defied the conventions of her childhood to pursue interests previously limited to boys and how she became the first woman to walk in space. | NCSS | Lexile: 680
Mr. Popper’s Penguins by Richard Atwater
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. | ALA | Lexile: 910

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older. | ALA | Lexile: 770

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. | ALA | Lexile: 330

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne
Follows the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories. | ALA | Lexile: 680

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. | Lexile: 870

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie. | ALA | Lexile: 670

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. | ALA | Lexile: 970

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf
Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: 760

The Tales of Uncle Remus as told by Julius Lester
A retelling of the African American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. | ALA | Lexile: 780

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey — but without any parents — at the edge of a Swedish village. | Lexile: 870

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. | ALA | Lexile: 660

Firefly Hollow* by Alison McGhee
Because their dreams of daring adventures go against the cautious teachings of their nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own, find a home with kindly Vole, and together help a grieving "miniature giant" named Peter. | Lexile: 690

Juana & Lucas* by Juana Medina
A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place. | ALA, Nutmeg 2019 | Lexile: 780

Archer's Quest by Linda Sue Park
Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time. | ALA, Nutmeg 2010 | Lexile: 690

Pax* by Sara Pennypacker
After being forced to give up his pet fox Pax, a young boy named Peter decides to leave home and get his best friend back. | ALA | Lexile: 760

*New to the list in 2019
**Summer Reading**

New Favorites & Classics

*For Grades 3-4*

---

**Pink and Say** by Patricia Polacco
Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. | Lexile: 600

**Tar Beach** by Faith Ringgold
A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. | **ALA** | Lexile: 790

**The Noisy Paint Box** by Barb Rosenstock
An exuberantly illustrated introduction to the early life of abstract painter Vasya [Wassily] Kadinsky describes how his creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called "synesthesia," which caused him to experience colors as sounds, and sounds as colors. | **ALA, NCTE, NCSS** | Lexile: 630

**Grandfather's Journey** by Allen Say
A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he also undertakes later, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. | Lexile: 650

**Where the Sidewalk Ends** by Shel Silverstein
A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in this collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings.

**Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** by John Steptoe
Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. | **ALA** | Lexile: 790

---

**Gooney Bird** by Lois Lowry
**Lulu** by Hilary McKay
**Magic Treehouse** by Mary Pope Osborne
**Junie B. Jones** by Barbara Park
**Clementine** by Sara Pennypacker
**Calvin Coconut** by Graham Salisbury
**The Time Warp Trio** by Jon Scieszka
**EllRay Jakes** by Sally Warner
**Commander Toad** by Jane Yolen