Welcome to the St. Paul's Summer Reading List for students and families entering Kindergarten. The purpose of this reading list is to offer some ideas for fun and engaging books for your family to share this summer. The books were chosen to reflect popular interest, upcoming curriculum and to highlight interesting new titles and releases by exceptional authors and illustrators. All of the titles in the list can be found through new and used booksellers and some are in e-book format. Many of these books can be checked-out from your local public library. Public libraries are fantastic resources for summer reading and most public libraries sponsor generous summer reading programs. I hope you all enjoy summer and I look forward to our first libraries in the coming school year. Happy Reading! -- Ms. Cosgrove

Make a Prediction -- Tell A Story
Children can use these books to tell you what is happening in the story and predict what the next part of the story might be. Wordless, minimal word and Choose Your Own Adventure books are listed with many appealing illustrations that can be read to develop comprehension skills and exercise imagination.

Becker, Aaron. Journey. Somerville, MA, 2013. In this beautifully illustrated, wordless story, a young girl, escapes from her loneliness through a door she drew on her bedroom wall for an adventure. There are two sequels available entitled Quest and Return.


Montgomery, Anson. Dragon Day. (Choose Your Own Adventure series). Waitsfield, VT: Chooseco, 2011. Choose Your Own Adventures are now for younger readers! Plot-your-own story when young Dragonlarks celebrate Dragon Day, a day when Dragonlarks learn to fly, play games, and become official Dragons.

Raschka, Christopher. *A Ball For Daisy*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2011. Daisy the dog is heartbroken when her favorite toy ball is destroyed while she is playing with another dog, but she realizes she has gained something, too. A worthy winner of the 2012 Caldecott Medal for best illustrations in a children’s book.


Thomson, Bill. *Chalk*. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Children, 2010. This was one of the most popular books in kindergarten this year! A wordless picture book about three children who go to a park on a rainy day, find some chalk, and draw pictures that come to life.

Wiesner, David. *Mr. Wuffles!* New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013. This latest by Caldecott Medal winner Wiesner offers a hilarious wordless (excluding alien language) visual treat as Mr. Wuffles ignores all his cat toys but one, which turns out to be a spaceship piloted by small green aliens. Many Wiesner titles will foster creativity and discovery for readers.

**Picture Books and Short Fiction**


Allen, Debbie. *Brothers of the Knight*. New York: Puffin Books, 1999. In this contemporary retelling of the fairy tale "Twelve Dancing Princesses," a reverend in Harlem endeavors to discover why the shoes of his twelve sons are worn to pieces every morning.

Atinuke. *Splash, Anna Hibiscus!* Tulsa, OK: Kane Miller, 2013. The 7th Anna Hibiscus book finds her enjoying the waves at the beach with her family. These are joyous books featuring colorful and lush illustrations of African landscapes remind us that the best of times are with our families.

Averbeck, Jim. *One Word from Sophia*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015. All Sophie wants for her birthday is a pet giraffe, but as she tries to convince different members of her rather complicated family to support her cause, each tells her she is using too many words until she finally hits on the perfect one. Includes glossary.

Beaty, Andrea. *Ada Twist, Scientist*. New York: Abrams Book, 2016. Ada Twist is a very curious girl who shows perseverance by asking questions and performing experiments to find things out and understand the world.

Birdsong, Bea. *I Will Be Fierce*. New York: Roaring Press, 2019. It's a brand-new day, and a young girl decides to take on the world like a brave explorer heading off on an epic quest. The captivating illustrations were created by Nidhi Chanani, who visited St. Paul’s this spring.

Blackall, Sophie. *Hello Lighthouse*. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2018. This is the winner of the 2019 Caldecott Medal for best illustrated children’s book. Beautiful and detailed illustrations will draw anyone into these pages that explore the life of one lighthouse as it beams its message out to sea through shifting seasons, changeable weather, and its final keeper.

Brown, Peter. *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2013. Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature.

Byers, Grace. *I Am Enough*. New York: Balzer + Bray, 2018. Shares a story of loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another.


Castillo, Lauren. *Nana in the City*. Boston: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. A young boy is frightened by how busy and noisy the city is when he goes there to visit his Nana. She helps by making him a fancy red cape that keeps him from being scared as she shows him how wonderful the city is.


Chin, Oliver. *Julie Black Belt: The Kung Fu Chronicles*. San Francisco: Immedium, 2007. Julie is inspired by her film idol to take Kung fu classes, but soon learns to value the art much more than the color of the belt she might wear.

Cornwall, Gaia. *Jabari Jumps*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2017. It takes courage to take a leap whether in the pool or to any new experience. Jabari is definitely ready and with the patience and support of his Dad, he decides when to jump.

de la Peña, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2015. This is the first picture book to win the Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to children’s literature. Inspired by the illustrations of San Franciscan Christian Robinson, de la Peña told *School Library Journal* that as a writer he [wanted] to, “focus on moments of grace and beauty in working class neighborhoods.” This is a gem of a story in which a young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate everyday things.

Diaz, Junot. *Islandborn*. New York: Dial Books, 2018. Colorful illustrations lure readers to the story of Lola. She was just a baby when her family left the Island, so for a school assignment, she asks her family, friends, and neighbors about their memories of her homeland and in the process, comes up with a new way of understanding her own heritage.


Gall, Chris. *Dear Fish*. New York: Little, Brown, 2006. One afternoon at the beach, a small boy puts an invitation to the fish to come for a visit in a bottle and throws it into the ocean, and the results are unprecedented. Look for the fish puns!

Gonzalez, Maya Christina. *My Colors, My World = Mis Colores, Mi Mundo*. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2007. Maya, who lives in the dusty desert, opens her eyes wide to find the colors in her world, from Papi's black hair and Mami's orange and purple flowers to Maya's red swing set and the fiery pink sunset. Presented in English and Spanish.

Graham, Bob. *Max*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2000. Max, the young son of superheroes, is a late bloomer when it comes to flying, until he is inspired to a falling baby bird. Great deeds are the result of small and quiet acts.


Hall, Michael. *Red: A Crayon’s Story*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2015. Red's factory-applied label clearly says that he is red, but despite the best efforts of his teacher, fellow crayons and art supplies, and family members, nothing seems right until he learns to accept himself with the help of a new friend’s fresh perspective.


Harvey, Jeanne Walker. *Boats on the Bay*. Petaluma, CA: Cameron Kids, 2018. Perfect for identifying different types of boats on a summer day by the bay! This local illustrator creates familiar images of the San Francisco Bay portraying a variety of vessels, from houseboats to dredgers, through the course of a busy day on the bay.

Hatke, Ben. *Julia's House for Lost Creatures*. New York: First Second, 2014. Julia welcomes all lost and homeless creatures into her house, whether they are cats or trolls, ghosts or dragons, but soon realizes that each must have a chore in order for the arrangement to work. Residents enjoy having responsibilities just as kindergartners will enjoy performing class jobs next year.

Himmelman, John. *Katie Loves The Kittens*. New York: Holt, 2008. Sara Ann brings home three little kittens, but Katie the dog’s enthusiasm scares the kittens, until she learns that being more patient brings about friendship.


Leaf, Munro. *The Story of Ferdinand*. New York: Viking, 1964. In this classic children’s book, 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. Shoppers are warned to make sure you find the Viking edition over the abridged version.

Lichtenheld, Tom. *Cloudette*. New York: Henry Holt, 2011. Cloudette, the littlest cloud, finds a way to do something big and important like the other bigger clouds showing that everyone can contribute no matter your size.

Lin, Grace. *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2018. A mother and child’s big moon cookie symbolizes the cycles of the moon as Mama’s request to wait, is ignored and Little Star begins nibbling at it every night.


Lombardi, Kristine. *The Grumpy Pets*. New York: Abrams, 2016. This picture book is one of my favorite discoveries this year. Everyone can have a grumpy day, but some of us are really not cheery and bright all of the time. Meet Billy. His mother takes him and his sister, Sara (a very opposite sunny personality), to the animal shelter one Saturday in hope of cheering him up. But the pets he sees are too happy for his taste until - he finds the grumpy pets. The humorous illustrations from the facial expressions of the grumpy pets to the depiction of Sara made me laugh and I had to buy my own copy! - Ms. Cosgrove

Love, Jessica. *Julian is a Mermaid*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2018. Julian wants to dress up as a beautiful mermaid, emulating three women he saw wearing spectacular and colorful fishtail dresses. When he tries to make his own beautiful creation, his Abuela has something to contribute. The soft illustrations beautifully complement this story of individuality set during a real annual Mermaid Parade in Coney Island.

McQuinn, Anna. *Lola Loves Stories*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2010. Lola loves to hear Daddy read a new library book each night, an activity that spurs her imagination and results in inventive play the next day.

Meomi. *The Octonauts & The Only Lonely Monster*. San Francisco: Immedium, 2006. This is one of the original Octonaut books know for colorful engaging artwork and friendship stories that
inspired the animated show: When the Octonauts, a team of eight animals who explore the ocean, help a lonely monster, everyone learns the value of friendship and individuality.

Miller, Pat. *Be Kind.* New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2018. When a young girl named Tanisha spills grape juice all over her new dress, her classmate wants to make her feel better. The story explores what kindness is, and how any act, big or small, can make a difference.


Myers, Walter Dean. *Looking Like Me.* New York: Egmont USA, 2009. Jeremy sets out to discover all of the different "people" that make him who he is, including brother, son, writer, and runner.


Nolen, Jerdine. *Raising Dragons.* San Diego: Silver Whistle, 1998. A farmer’s young daughter shares numerous adventures with her best friend, that she raises from infancy. She learns that helping someone get where they need to go may also mean letting go.

Novak, B.J. *The Book with No Pictures.* New York: Dial, 2014. With only words, this is by far the silliest book parents and children can read aloud together.

Otoshi, Kathryn. *One.* San Rafael, CA: KO Kids Books, 2008. Red picks on Blue while Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple wonder what they can do until One unites the colors and helps everybody learn about acceptance, tolerance, and boundaries amidst bullying while the reader learns numbers and primary and secondary colors.

Parr, Todd. *The Family Book.* New York: Little Brown, 2002. Describes a variety of families, some big and some small, some with only one parent and some with two moms or dads, some quiet and some noisy, but all alike in some ways, and special no matter what.

Penfold, Alexandra. *Food Truck Fest!* New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018. A family prepares for a day at the food truck festival, while at the same time, the food truck crews get ready for the same event, checking recipes, starting to cook, and driving to the festival site. You'll recognize familiar landmarks and settings courtesy of this book’s Bay Area-based illustrator.

Pinkney, J. Brian. *Max Found Two Sticks.* New York: Aladdin, 1997. Although he doesn't feel like talking, a young boy responds to questions by drumming on various objects, including a bucket, boxes, and garbage cans, echoing the city sounds around him.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *The Big Orange Splot.* New York: Scholastic, 1977. When a seagull drops a can of orange paint on his neat house, Mr. Plumbean gets an idea that brings creativity and individuality to his entire neighborhood.

Piven, Hanokh. *My Dog Is As Smelly As Dirty Socks: And Other Funny Family Portraits.* New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2007. A young girl draws a family portrait, then makes it more accurate by adding common objects to show aspects of each member's personality, such as her father's playfulness, her mother's sweetness, and her brother's strength.

Robinson, Fiona. *What Animals Really Like: A New Song Composed & Conducted by Mr. Herbert Timberteeth.* New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2011. The National Animal Choir performs Mr. Herbert Timberteeth's latest opus, but when his lyrics inaccurately describe what different animals like to do, chaos ensues and threatens the entire production, teaching him a lesson about stereotyping.


Rusch, Elizabeth. *A Day With No Crayons.* Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 2007. A little girl discovers all sorts of artistic possibilities when she has to go a day without crayons.


Selznick, Brian. *Baby Monkey, Private Eye.* New York: Scholastic, 2018. This large illustrated chapter book is the best! It is a very funny story about Baby Monkey, private eye, who will investigate stolen jewels, missing pizzas, and other mysteries—if he can manage to figure out how to put his pants on. Plus, it contains features found in nonfiction books giving children their first experience with a table of contents, a key, index and bibliography. Notice how Baby Monkey's office changes in each story.

Sima, Jessie. *Harriet Gets Carried Away.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2018. Who doesn't like to wear costumes? In this adventure, Harriet wears her favorite penguin costume to the store while shopping with her two dads for supplies for her birthday party. She makes new friends with a waddle of penguins and is swept back to their home. With an imagination to rival Walter Mitty, Harriet uses her problem-solving powers to return back to the store in the city.

Smallman, Steve. *Spot a Lot Animal Escape: And Count a Little Too!* New York: Parragon, 2014. Help the zookeeper find and count the animals that have escaped for play. A Look and Find Book that is sweeter and for a younger audience than *Where’s Waldo.*

Soffer, Gilad. *Duck’s Vacation.* New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2015. In the tradition of fun interactive books like *The Monster at the End of This Book* and *We Are in a Book,* Duck is trying to enjoy a relaxing vacation, but with each turn of the page, the reader causes some calamity.

Stolz, Mary. *Storm in the Night.* New York: HarperCollins, 1988. While sitting through a fearsome thunderstorm that has put the lights out, Thomas hears a story from Grandfather's boyhood, when Grandfather was afraid of thunderstorms.


Uegaki, Chieri. *Suki’s Kimono*. Toronto ON: Kids Can Press, 2003. Suki declares that on the first day of school she will wear the kimono that her grandmother brought her during her visit from Japan, no matter what anyone says.

Van Dusen, Chris. *The Circus Ship*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press, 2009. A circus ship has an accident off the coast of Maine, which leaves the animals stranded. The citizens of a small island fight to protect them from the bullying ringmaster and soon take them in. Try to spot the animals hiding!


Wenzel, Brendan. *They All Saw a Cat*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2016. In simple, rhythmic prose and stylized pictures, a cat walks through the world and we learn how others perceive it. A good lesson on our different points of view.

Willems, Mo. *We Are In A Book!* New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2010. Piggie realizes that she and Gerald the elephant are in a book and that she can make the reader say words, but when Gerald comes to understand the danger of the book ending, Piggie comes up with a solution to get the reader to keep reading.

Williams, Karen. *A Beach Tail*. Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010. When his father tells him not to leave the lion he is drawing on the beach, a little boy starts making a very, very long tail--and a trail to follow back.

Willis, Jeanne. *Daft Bat*. New York: Sterling, 2006. A group of animals decides that Bat says and does daft things, but then they learn that they have not tried to see things from her point of view.

Ziefert, Harriet and Yukiko Kiddo. *Stop Pop* (*Flip-A-Words Series*). New York: Clarion Bks., 2007. A beginner's word and interactive picture book series with colorful artwork and cute anime style characters. This title introduces three word families, “op,” “un,” and “an” and uses die-cut pages and changing letters to make different words and sentences. This is just one title in the Flip-A-Word series.


**Real People and Events**


Andrews, Troy. *Trombone Shorty*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2015. New Orleans jazz musician Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews tells the story of how he got his nickname and his start in jazz music when he was very small and young. Look carefully at the amazing collage illustrations that won Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Awards by Bryan Collier and see if your child can identify which ones are photos.
Blake, Robert. *Togo*. New York: Philomel Books, 2002. In 1925, Togo, a Siberian husky who loves being a sled dog, leads a team that rushes to bring diphtheria antitoxin from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska. Pop culture may overly credit Balto for these dramatic heroics, but the noble face of Togo on the cover of this story of a hero will draw readers into this true tale.


Sánchez Vegara, Ma Isabel. *Frida Kahlo (Little People, Big Dreams Series)*. New York: Frances Lincoln Children’s Books, 2016. This is an engagingly illustrated biography on the Mexican painter. Frida Kahlo could be a challenging subject, but this skillful biography highlights how Frida used art in her life for her own healing and self-esteem.


**Nature, Science, Art and Numbers**


Bruel, Robert. *Bob and Otto*. New Milford, CN. Roaring Brook Press, 2007. Otto the worm is shocked to discover that his best friend Bob is actually a caterpillar who emerges one day as a butterfly.

Cotton, Katie. *Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2015. Astonishingly realistic illustrations (like photographs) introduce different types of animals while counting from one to ten. Includes additional notes on the protection status of each animal.


Hughes, Catherine. *National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Animals.* Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2010. Photographs and easy-to-follow text introduce early readers to animals large and small, with information on their appearance, behavior, and habitat. This is a great first exposure to biomes and maps and parent tips suggest engaging activities for readers.


Polansky, Marisa. *Hello, My Name is--: How Adorabilis Got His Name.* New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2018. A new creature is added to the deep-sea tank, but what will they call this flapjack octopus? Discovered in the Monterey Bay Marine Reserve, this story includes an author's note on Adorabilis and its naming.

Saltzberg, Barney. *Beautiful Oops!* New York: Workman Publ., 2010. Demonstrates the many ways that torn, crinkled, and smudged bits of paper can be transformed into various shapes and images.

