

Pembroke Public Library

Summer Reading Suggestions 2025

Grades K - 2

On this list you'll find books that are equal parts enjoyable, accessible, and challenging for your reader. The best book is the one that your child chooses!

With this list you can explore books in these categories:

- **Beginning Readers**
 - Learning the sounds of letters and how to sound out words.
- **Progressing Readers**
 - Learning how to blend sounds to form longer words and sentences.
- **Transitional Readers**
 - Solid knowledge of sounding out words. Learning to follow more in-depth plots and read paragraphs.
- **Independent Readers**
 - Ready to read solo with the knowledge of how to sound out new words and follow more complex plots.

► **Let kids choose the books they want to read:**

93% of kids say their favorite books are the ones they picked out themselves.

92% of kids say they are more likely to finish reading a book that they have picked out themselves.

The number one thing that gets kids reading and *finishing* books is being able to choose.

Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report: 8th Edition

Reading should be fun, offering an escape or a challenge when the reader needs it most. Titles even beyond this list can and should be explored. Your library is here to help you find what you need and we love answering questions!

This list has been curated by:

Miss Melissa McCleary

Youth Services Librarian

Pembroke Public Library



Where is that book?

Location/ Call Number	Ask a Staff Member for help or find me in...
PT Kit	Parent/Teacher Kit
PT EDU	Parent/Teacher Education
J ER	Easy/Early Reader
J CB	Chapter Books



Just Right Reads

The following books are available at the Pembroke Public Library and are categorized by how “decodable” the text is. This means that the text builds on a child’s knowledge of phonics and helps them practice putting sounds together to form words, followed by building comprehension of sentences and stories!

Some of these books your child will be able to read independently, some that they will need a bit of support to read, and some are more challenging books that you can read aloud to your child.

What is a “Just Right” Book?

A “just right” book is a book that stretches the child’s abilities just a bit — not so much as to make them frustrated but enough to continue their growth as a reader.


You can help your child find “just right” books with the **five finger rule**. Please remember that your child might choose books that are too difficult for them to read independently - and that’s OKAY! You can always enjoy those books together by reading them aloud to your child.

Young children love to re-read familiar, easy books and they should be encouraged to do this. Repetition increases fluency and in turn improves comprehension. When reading out loud, encourage your child to read with expression, attend to punctuation, and adjust tone to convey meaning.

5 FINGER RULE FOR READING

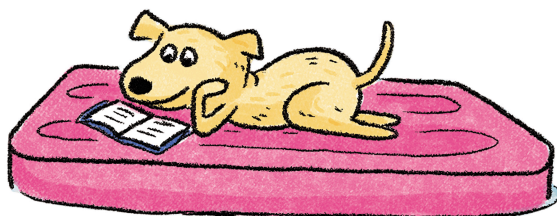
1. Choose a book that you want to read.
2. Open the book up to any page and begin reading.
3. Put one finger up for every word you do not know or cannot pronounce.
4. Use the guide below to decide if the book is the just-right choice for you!

0-1	Too easy
2-3	Just right
3-4	Challenge
5+	Too hard



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Need help finding a book? Ask Miss Melissa or a library staff member for help searching for suggestions. You can visit <http://pembrokepubliclibrary.org/> to access our library catalog and for book recommendations.



Beginning Readers

Learning the sounds of letters and how to sound out words.

Example:

I see a cat.

A Bed for Ten	J ER Renando, T.
A Fish for Cam	J ER Scully, E.
Ben and His Ducks	J ER Scully, E.
BOB Books Set 1: Beginning Readers Set 2: Advanced Beginners Set 3: Word Families	J ER Maslen, B. PT Kit Maslen, B.
Cat and Friends (series) Cat Has a Plan Dog Can Hide Frog Can Hop Cat Sees Snow Goat Wants to Eat	J ER Gehl, L.
Cat Got a Lot	J ER Henry, S.
Cat Likes Red	J ER Russo, C.
DK Phonics <i>Ask Staff for Assistance</i>	PT EDU 372.46 DK
Dot the Ladybug	J ER George, K.
I Can Run	J ER Head, M.
I Had Ten Hats	J ER McPhail, D.
I Have a Garden	J ER Barner, B.
I Hop	J ER Cepeda, J.
I Hug	J ER McPhail, D.
I Like My Bike	J ER Ferrari, A.
I Like My Car	J ER Robertson, M.
I Like the Farm	J ER Rotner, S.
I See a Bat	J ER Meisel, P.
I See a Cat	J ER Meisel, P.
It is a Tree	J ER Batori, S.
Jip and Jam (series)	J ER Scully, E.
Let's Play	J ER Neuman, S.
My Baby Elephant	J ER Gates, M.

On the Red Bus	J ER Minden, C.
PhonicBooks Launchers Kits 1 - 6 <i>Ask Staff for Assistance</i>	PT EDU 372.46 PB
See Me Go	J ER Meisel, P.
Supersonic Phonics - Pink (series) I Am Big <i>and</i> The Map Tick Tock! <i>and</i> I Can Spot It! The Tub of Bugs <i>and</i> A Big Kid	J ER Super Pink
Supersonic Phonics - Red (series) Bed Bugs <i>and</i> Bad Hen Sam and Dot <i>and</i> A Troll and a Doll	J ER Super Red
Tad the Cat	J ER Scully, E.
Tib's Big Rig	J ER Thompson, K.

Progressing Readers

Learning how to blend sounds to form longer words and sentences.

Example:

"I am scared," says Fern. "Scared to fly."

2nd Street Sports (series)	J ER Troupe, T.
A Crab in the Cab	J ER Alinas, M.
Arfy and the Stinky Smell	J ER Cummings, T.
Baby Animals (series) Super Cute Puppies Super Cute Kittens	J ER 636.7 CUL J ER 636.8 CUL
Be an Expert (series) Construction Trucks Dinosaurs Farm Animals Kittens Puppies Super Sharks	J ER 629.225 BEH J ER 597.9 KEL J ER 636 EDG J ER 636.8 KEL J ER 636.7 KEL J ER 597.3 KEL
Best Buddies (series)	J ER Fang, V.
BOB Books Set 4: Complex Words Set 5: Long Vowels	J ER Maslen, B. PT Kit Maslen, B.
Bumble and Bee (series)	J ER Burach, R.

Bunny Will Not (series)	J ER Tharp, J.
Camp Daisy	J ER Thompson, K.
Fern Finds Her Flock	J ER Pincus, M.
Firefly with No Glow	J ER Smallberg, R.
Five Mice	J ER Scully, E.
Flubby (series)	J ER Morris, J.
Fly Guy (series)	J ER Arnold, T.
Fox the Tiger (series)	J ER Tabor, C.
Hello, Crabby! (series)	J ER Fenske, J.
Hello, Hedgehog! (series)	J ER Feuti, N.
Ice Cream Soup	J ER Ingalls, A.
Moose the Dog (series)	J ER Friedman, I.
Nick and Nack (series)	J ER Budzi, B.
Oh, No, Hippo!	J ER Pindar, H.
Pete's Pet (series)	J ER Bureau, V.
Phonics Fun (series) The Slug and the Pug Jake Makes a Cake Price of a Slice Witch Has an Itch Reach for a Peach Mom Looks at the Books The Heard Came Third	J ER Cleary, B.
Polar Animals	J ER 591.70911 PET
Puppy Mudge (series)	J ER Rylant, C.
School of Monsters (series)	J ER Ripon, S.
See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog	J ER LaRochelle, D.
See the Dog: Three Stories About a Cat	J ER LaRochelle, D.
Silly Kitty and the Sunny Day	J ER Lopetz, N.
Silly Milly (series)	J ER Friedman, L.
Snail and Worm (series)	J ER Kugler, T.
Speed to the Reef	J ER Thompson, K.
Supersonic Phonics - Blue (series) The Land in the Jar Orla and the Midnight Wing The Trolls in the Forest	J ER Super Blue
Supersonic Phonics - Green (series) The Night of the Elephants Ray Round and the Cloud Hunters	J ER Super Green

Supersonic Phonics - Yellow (series) Bonza the Monster <i>and</i> Sing! SSing! Sing! I am Izza <i>and</i> Chuck is on a Quest Thing Will Sing <i>and</i> King Biff and the Gong Queen Gail Waits <i>and</i> Wait!	J ER Super Yellow
Three Bears	J ER Hillert, M.
Toads Make Loaves	J ER Thompson, K.
Toucan with Two Cans	J ER Stemple, H.
Unicorn and Yeti (series)	J ER Burnell, A.

Transitional Readers

Solid knowledge of sounding out words. Learning to follow more in-depth plots and read paragraphs.

Example:

Zonks the pig glanced up from his trough and shuffled over.

Bad Guys	Characters always seen as the Bad Guys (like Big Bad Wolf) try to show everyone they can be good.	J GN Blabey, A.
Ballpark Mysteries (series)	Super-fans solve baseball themed mysteries.	J CB Kelly, D.
Bear and Bird (series)	Two friends have their share of misadventures and sweetness.	J CB Jarvis
Betty the Yeti (series)	Betty's yeti family moves to the city where she tries many new things.	J CB Marx, M.
Captain Awesome (series)	A boy and his superhero squad see and do the SUPER in everyday life.	J CB Kirby, S.
Carlos and Carmen (series)	A set of twins find all sorts of adventures in their house.	J CB McDonald, M.
Code Breakers (series)	Something strange is happening at school and it's up to three friends to investigate.	J CB Gebhardt, A.
Cornbread and Poppy (series)	Two friends are opposites in so many ways, but they still have fun together.	J CB Cordell, M.
Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol (series)	A fearless eight-year-old looks for ghosts and monsters.	J CB Miedoso, A.
Field Trip Mysteries (series)	Four kids have a mystery to solve on every school field trip they take!	J CB Brezenoff, S.

Good Dog (series)	This can-do dog is ready for anything on the farm.	J CB Higgins, C.
Heidi Heckelbeck (series)	Heidi deals with everyday challenges with help from magic.	J CB Coven, W.
Henry Heckelbeck (series)	Henry discovers a Book of Spells and learns to control his magic.	J CB Coven, W.
Isla of Adventure (series)	Isla Verde explores her island home and uses her special ability to talk to animals to make friends.	J CB Costa, D.
Ivy and Bean (series)	The adventures, and disasters, created by two unlikely friends.	J CB Barrows, A.
Meg and Greg (series)	Meg and Greg make the most of their summer by helping others.	J FIC Rae, E.
Narwhal and Jelly (series)	Positive messages from a hilarious and charming duo.	J GN Clanton, B.
Pizza and Taco (series)	Two foods become best friends and make life awesome every day.	J GN Shaskan, S.
Party Diaries (series)	Priya is a thoughtful girl who loves to plan parties!	J CB Ruths, M.
Princess in Black (series)	Smashing adventures with a superhero princess.	J CB Hale, S.
Pup Detectives (series)	Solve school mysteries with a trio of pups.	J GN Gumpaw, F.
Puppy Place (series)	Foster families help pups find forever homes.	J CB Miles, E.
Rainbow Magic Fairies (series)	Magical, thematic fairy stories.	J CB Meadows, D.
Sophie Mouse (series)	Join Sophie and her woodland friends in these cozy stories.	J CB Green, P.
Supersonic Phonics - Orange (series) The Enchanted Cornet The Monster Cookbook The Parts of the Pure Stone	Three short adventures filled with magic.	J CB Super Orange
Tails from History (series) The Cat Who Ruled the Town Pony with Her Writer Raccoon at the White House Sea Otter to the Rescue	Learn about famous animals and their unique stories.	J ER 636.98 NAK J ER 636.16 HEN J ER 636.978 DOU J ER 599.769 FEL
Tales of Sasha (series)	Sasha the horse discovers she has a special talent and goes on magical adventures.	J CB Pearl, A.
Thunder and Cluck (series)	Two dinosaurs become unlikely friends in sweet and silly stories.	J ER Esbaum, J.

Unicorn Diaries (series)	Meet Rainbow Tinseltail and the unicorns of Sparklegrove Forest.	J CB Elliott, R.
Yasmin (series)	Spirited second grader adventures with her family and saves the day.	J CB Faruqi, S.

Independent Readers

Ready to read solo with the knowledge of how to sound out new words and follow more complex plots.

A to Z Mysteries (series) A to Z Animal Mysteries (series)	Excitement and curiosity abound as friends solve everyday mysteries.	J CB Roy, R.
Bad Kitty (series)	A housecat causes lots of trouble for her owners (but they still love her, of course).	J CB Bruel, N.
Big Nate (series)	Nate is a faithful friend whose antics crack up his classmates.	J GN Pierce, L.
Critter Club (series)	Four friends help rescue lost and lonely animals.	J CB Barkley, C.
Diary of a Pug (series)	Sweet adventures of a pug and his favorite human.	J CB May, K.
Disaster Squad (series)	Travel the country to natural disasters as the Jacksons help people and animals along the way.	J CB Rajan, R.
Dragon Masters (series)	Kids can become dragons masters in a series with magic and more.	J CB West, T.
Eerie Elementary (series)	Sam's school is alive... and it's hungry for students!	J CB Chabert, J.
Galaxy Zack (series)	Planet hop with Zack on his galactic adventures.	J CB O'Ryan, R.
Good Dog (series)	This can-do dog is ready for anything on the farm.	J CB Higgins, C.
Haunted Library (series)	A not-too-scary mystery series that follows the adventures of Claire and her ghost friend, Kaz.	J CB Butler, D.
Hilo (series)	Hilo can't remember how he landed on earth, but now he has to protect it from evil robots!	J GN Winick, J.
Inspector Flytrap (series)	Decode secret messages and investigate tasty mysteries.	J FIC Angelberger, T.

InvestiGators (series)	Meet the InvestiGators, a super spy alligator duo, as they travel through the sewers and fight evil.	J GN Green, J.
Jake Maddox Sports (series)	Sports stories with swimmers, baseball players, snowboarders, and more.	J CB Maddox, J.
Kondo and Kezumi (series)	Two best friends seek out adventures on their island.	J CB Goodner, D.
Lola Levine (series)	A girl navigates through life as her high energy sometimes gets the best of her.	J CB Brown, M.
Magic Tree House (series)	Travel around the world, through history, and into magical stories with two friends.	J CB Osborne, M.
Mia Mayhem (series)	Follow Mia as she learns to balance her ordinary life and superhero life.	J CB West, K.
My Weird School (series)	Wacky adventures in a super strange elementary school.	J CB Gutman, D.
Owl Diaries (series)	Life as told through the eyes of a young owl girl, in diary form.	J CB Elliott, R.
Pets Rule (series)	Pets plan world domination.	J CB Tan, S.
Super Facts for Super Kids (series) Alligators and Crocodiles Can't Chew! Elephants Don't Like Ants! Polar Bear Fur Isn't White!	Learn amazing facts about animals through infographics, comics, photos, and more!	J 597.98 FEL J 599.67 FEL J 599.786 FEL
Super Turbo (series)	Class pets form a superhero league and protect the school.	J GN Powers, E.
The Alien Next Door (series)	Zeke and Harris embark on space adventures full of humor and friendship.	J CB Newton, A.
The Lighthouse Family (series)	Two lone sea-loving mice learn to be a family.	J CB Rylant, C.

