



SUMMER READING LIST* Libraries ROCK! ~ Grades K-2

*Suggested music-themed summer reading
compiled for the Connecticut Department of Education
by Linda Williams, Connecticut State Library*

PICTURE BOOKS

Tap Tap Boom Boom by
*Elizabeth Bluemle illustrated by G.
Brian Karas*

As a thunderstorm sweeps into the city,
the people of the neighborhood rush into
the subway to wait out the wind and
weather. | [ALA](#), [NCTE](#) | Lexile:

**The Rooster Who Would
Not Be Quiet!** by Carmen Agra
*Deedy, illustrated by Eugene
Yelchin*

Elected mayor of La Paz for his promise
to make things more peaceful, Don Pepe
outlaws singing until a rooster begins
crowing persistently and will not stop,
even though Don Pepe makes life very difficult for him.. |
[NCTE](#), [Nutmeg 2019](#) Lexile: 550

**Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage
Changed Music** by Margarita Engle, illustrated
by Rafael López

Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a
drummer, despite being continually reminded that only
boys play the drums, and that there has never been a
female drummer in Cuba. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#), [NCSS](#)

Gabriella's Song by Candace Fleming,
illustrated by Giselle Potter

A young girl finds music all around her as she walks about
the city of Venice, Italy, and she shares her song with
everyone she meets. | [NCTE](#) | Lexile: 630

The Sound of Silence by Katrina Goldsaito
Yoshio delights in the everyday sounds of Tokyo, but
when a musician tells him that her favorite sound is ma,
the Japanese word for silence, Yoshio sets out to hear this
sound for himself among the hustle and bustle of the city.
Includes information on the Japanese concept of ma. |
[ALA](#), [NCTE](#) | Lexile: 700

Ben's Trumpet by Rachel Isadora

Ben wants to be a trumpeter, but plays only an imaginary
instrument until one of the musicians in a neighborhood
night club discovers his ambition. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 530



The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield

A bear finds a piano in the woods,
learns to play it, and travels to the big
city to become rich and famous, but
ultimately discovers that his old friends
in the forest back home are still the best
audience of all. | Lexile: 620

Moses Goes to a Concert by
Isaac Millman

Moses and his schoolmates, all deaf,
attend a concert where the orchestra's
percussionist is also deaf. Includes
illustrations in sign language and a page
showing the manual alphabet. | [NCSS](#) |
Lexile: 670

Ketzel, the Cat Who

Composed by Leslea Newman,

illustrated by Amy June Bates

Enjoying life in a noisy city where everything he hears is
music, composer Moshe Cotel adopts a stray tuxedo kitten
who walks across his piano keys, inspiring a celebrated
one-minute composition. | [Sydney Taylor Award](#) |
Lexile: 730

**If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to
the Beach, Don't!** by Elise Parsley

Magnolia is a little girl with a big idea, determination,
and one very heavy upright piano that she insists on
taking with her to the beach, but in a series of mishaps,
Magnolia quickly learns that a piano does not mix well
with sand, sun, and seagulls. | [ILA](#) | Lexile: 510

I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-
Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison (2014)

On a trip to the park with her mother, a young girl hears a
rhythm coming from the world around her and begins to
move to the beat, finally beginning an impromptu dance
in which other children join her. | Lexile: 170

The Man with the Violin by Kathy Stinson,

illustrated by Dusan Petricic

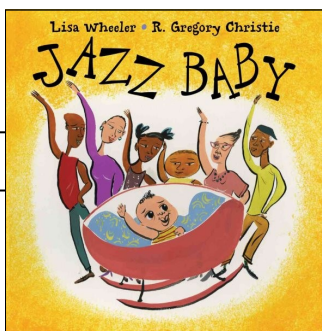
When Dylan hears someone playing their violin in the
subway he wants to stop and listen, but his mother and
other commuters ignore the violinist completely. | [ILA](#) |
Lexile: 620

SUMMER READING LIST*

PICTURE BOOKS (continued)

Jazz Baby by Lisa Wheeler

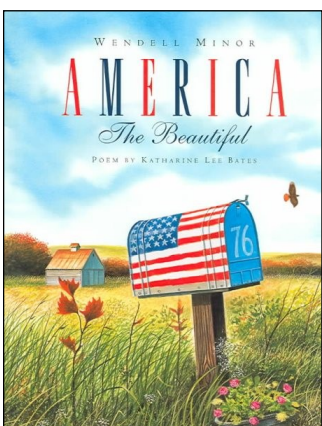
Baby and his family make some jazzy music. | [ALA](#) |



SONGS

America the Beautiful by Katharine Bates, illustrated by Wendell Minor

An illustrated edition of the nineteenth-century poem, later set to music, celebrating the beauty of America. | [NCSS](#), [Connecticut Illustrator](#) | Lexile: 500



The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk by Kabir & Surishtha Sehgal, illustrated by Jess Golden

In this twist on the classic song "The Wheels on the Bus," the wheels on the tuk tuk go round and round all over the city in India. | [NCSS](#) | Lexile: 370

NONFICTION

Music Everywhere! by Maya Ajmera (2014)

Photographs from around the world celebrate the universal joy that kids get from making music, whether they're playing instruments, clapping their hands, stomping their feet, or singing. Music can help express one child's feelings—or it can bring a whole community together. | Lexile: 330

Frog Song by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Gennady Spirin

Discusses the songs of many different frogs from all parts of the globe. | [NCSS](#), [NSTA](#) | Lexile: 950

Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

A town built on a landfill. A community in need of hope. A girl with a dream. A man with a vision. An ingenious idea. | [Nutmeg 2019](#), [E.B.White Read Aloud Award](#), [Connecticut Author](#) | Lexile: 820

BIOGRAPHY

Trombone Shorty by Troy

Andrews, illustrated by Bryan Collier
A Grammy-nominated headliner for the New Orleans Jazz Fest describes his childhood in Trem   and how he came to be a bandleader by age six. | Lexile: 760

Tito Puente: Mambo King / Rey del Mambo by Monica Brown, illustrated by Rafael L  pez

A celebration of the life and music of the man known as the "King of the Mambo" and the "Godfather of Salsa" covers his boyhood in New York and his years as a musician and bandleader, and highlights the pleasure he gave listeners. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#) | Lexile: 620

Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka

Introduces the famous saxophonist and his style of jazz known as bebop. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#) | Lexile: 250

Little Melba and her Big Trombone by Katheryn Russell-

Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison

A biography of African American musician Melba Doretta Liston, a virtuoso musician who played the trombone and composed and arranged music for many of the great jazz musicians of the twentieth century. | [ALA](#), [ILA](#) | Lexile: 780

Listen: How Pete Seeger Got America Singing by Leda Schubert, illustrated by Ra  l Col  n

A tribute to legendary musician and activist Pete Seeger, highlighting the major musical events in Mr. Seeger's life as well important moments of his fight against social injustice.

Esquivel!: Space-Age Sound Artist by Susan Wood, illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

Describes how Juan Garcia Esquivel, a Mexican composer popular in the 1950s and 1960s, developed his experimental style of music, based on mariachi and other Mexican music, jazz, the human voice, and the use of unusual instruments. | [ALA](#) | Lexile: 910

*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 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.



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

Miss Nelson is Missing! by Harry Allard

The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears and they are faced with a vile substitute. | Lexile: 340

Ten, Nine, Eight by Molly Bang

Numbers from ten to one are part of this lullaby which observes the room of a little girl going to bed.

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers — until the weather takes a turn for the worse. | Lexile: 730

The Mitten by Jan Brett

One by one, animals in a snowy forest crawl into Nicki's lost white mitten to get warm until the bear sneezes, sending the animals flying up and out of the mitten. On each turn page, signature borders inspired by Ukrainian folk art hint at what animal is coming next. | Lexile: 800

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight to each of the objects in the great green room: goodnight chairs, goodnight comb, goodnight air. | Lexile: 360

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Eric Carle

Children see a variety of animals, each one a different color, and a teacher looking at them. | Lexile: 440

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands, and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want. | Lexile: 160

Strega Nona: An Old Tale by Tomie de Paola

When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic

pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. | Lexile: 800

Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía una Llamita by Angela Dominguez

In this bilingual version of the classic rhyme, Maria takes her llama to school one day.

Abuela by Arthur Dorros

While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of New York City. | Lexile: 520

Millions of Cats by Wanda Gág

How can an old man and his wife select one cat from a choice of millions and trillions? | Lexile: 730

Honey I Love: and Other Love Poems by Eloise Greenfield

Titles include "I Look Pretty," "Fun," "Riding on the Train," "Harriet Tubman," and "By Myself." | Lexile: 290

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Harold goes for an adventurous walk in the moonlight with his purple crayon. | Lexile: 490

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

The adventures of a little boy in the city on a very snowy day. | Lexile: 500

The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss

Despite everyone's dire predictions, a little boy has faith in the carrot seed he plants. | Lexile: 230

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same! by Grace Lin

Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different. | Lexile: 390

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Frederick, the poet mouse, stores up something special for the long cold winter. | Lexile: 500



SUMMER READING

Favorites & Classics

For Kindergarten to Grade 2

The Poky Little Puppy by Janette Sebring Lowrey

One night a puppy, who is always late coming home, finds there is no dessert for him. | Lexile: 640

George and Martha by James Marshall

Relates several episodes in the friendship of two hippopotamuses. | Lexile: 500

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin

An alphabet rhyme/chant that relates what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. | Lexile: 530

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Mr. and Mrs. Mallard proudly return to their home in the Boston Public Garden with their eight offspring. | Lexile: 630

The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper

Although she is not very big, the Little Blue Engine agrees to try to pull a stranded train full of toys over the mountain. | Lexile: 680

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Adventurous Peter Rabbit disobeys his mother and wanders into Mr. McGregor's garden. | Lexile: 660

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

An unobservant zookeeper is followed home by all the animals he thinks he has left behind in the zoo.

Henry and Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures by Cynthia Rylant

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other

children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. | Lexile: 420

The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

The wolf gives his own outlandish version of what really happened when he tangled with the three little pigs. | Lexile: 570

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes their king. | Lexile: 740

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree. | Lexile: 480

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst

On a day when everything goes wrong for him, Alexander is consoled by the thought that other people have bad days too. | Lexile: 970

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place. | Lexile: 120

Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson

On a cold winter night many animals gather to party in the cave of a sleeping bear, who then awakes and protests that he has missed the food and the fun. | Lexile: 280

FAVORITE AUTHORS

Byron Barton
Margaret Wise Brown
Anthony Browne
Eric Carle
Donald Crews
Tomie de Paola
P. D. Eastman
Ed Emberley

Mem Fox
Ezra Jack Keats
Jon Klassen
James Marshall
Robert McCloskey
Jon Muth
Jerry Pinkney
Peggy Rathmann

Dr. Seuss
Maurice Sendak
David Shannon
Williams Steig
David Wiesner
Mo Willems
Karma Wilson
Jacqueline Woodson