



**school on wheels** inc.  
[www.schoolonwheels.org](http://www.schoolonwheels.org)

## 2018 Summer Program Book List

### Instructions

**Note:** Books on this list are sorted by grade level; however, *keep your student's reading level in mind when selecting a book*. If you are working with a student in grades K-3, we recommend selecting more than one book. If you are working with a high school student, please be aware that several books have challenging and sensitive subject matter; use your discretion in selecting a book that you and your student are both comfortable with.

**Next, choose your book(s).** Search for a library nearby: [librarytechnology.org/libraries](http://librarytechnology.org/libraries)

You are also welcome to visit one of our offices to pick up a book:

#### Fletcher Square Resource Center

3150 N San Fernando Rd, Ste B, Los Angeles, CA 90065

#### Skid Row Learning Center

600 East 7th Street, Ste 109, Los Angeles, CA 90021

#### Ventura Resource Center

303 N Ventura Ave, Unit D, Ventura, CA 93001

If you would like help selecting a book, email [summer@schoolonwheels.org](mailto:summer@schoolonwheels.org).

For more information, visit: [schoolonwheels.org/programs/summer](http://schoolonwheels.org/programs/summer)

# Kindergarten

***Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, Bill Martin, Jr., John Archambault.** The 26 characters in this rhythmic, rhyming book are a lowercase alphabet with attitude. "A told b, and b told c, 'I'll meet you at the top of the coconut tree', which probably seemed like a good idea until the other 23 members of the gang decided to follow suit. The palm tree standing straight and tall on the first page begins to groan and bend under its alphabetical burden. First the coconuts fall off, then ("Chicka chicka... BOOM! BOOM!") all the letters also end up in a big heap underneath.

***Goodnight Moon*, Margaret Wise Brown.** Before going to sleep, a little rabbit says goodnight to all his familiar possessions as his big, green bedroom slowly darkens. Tucked away in bed, the little bunny says "Goodnight room, goodnight moon." And to all the familiar things in the softly lit room – to the picture of the three little bears sitting in chairs, to the clocks and his socks, to everything one by one. In this classic of modern children's literature, beloved by generations of readers, lulling illustrations combine to make a perfect book for storytime.

***Yo, Yes?*, Chris Raschka.** This Caldecott Honor classic is a simple yet dramatic story about friendship. Two lonely boys who don't know each other meet on a city street. Brought together with a simple "Yo!" answered by the other one's "Yes?" and the bounce of a basketball, this modern classic will strike a chord with every child who's ever longed for a friend. This unique book uses only 34 words to show how a friendship between two boys develops.

***If You Give A Mouse A Cookie*, Laura Numeroff.** If a hungry little mouse shows up on your doorstep, you might want to give him a cookie. And if you give him a cookie, he'll ask for a glass of milk. He'll want to look in a mirror to make sure he doesn't have a milk mustache, and then he'll ask for a pair of scissors to give himself a trim... This book is a great first introduction to Mouse, the star of the "If You Give..." series and a favorite among children.

*Also recommended for: 1st Grade, 2nd Grade.*

***Scruffy and the Egg*, Angela M. Sanchez.** An abandoned dog, a lost egg, and their search for family. The adventure is just beginning! When Scruffy, a family dog, is left behind by his owners, he is shocked. Not giving up, he embarks on a journey to reunite with his family. Written and illustrated by a former School on Wheels, Inc. student. Published in 2017.

# 1st Grade

***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Judith Viorst & Ray Cruz.**

This is a classic picture book designed to sympathize with any child who has ever had a horrible day. The story is about a young boy, Alexander, who is having a particularly bad day. A film adaptation was released in 2014. Judith Viorst followed this book up with two sequels.

*Also recommended for: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade.*

***Chrysanthemum*, Kevin Henkes.** Chrysanthemum loves her name — until she starts kindergarten. But it's her classmate Victoria who really makes Chrysanthemum wilt, offering that she was named after her grandmother, which is much more important than being named after a flower. In this award-winning picture book, favorite author/illustrator Henkes once again demonstrates his talent for capturing the difficult dramas of childhood in a sweet storybook.

*Also recommended for: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade.*

***Where the Wild Things Are*, 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. The book has been adapted into other media several times, including an animated short in 1974 (with an updated version in 1988); a 1980 opera; and, most recently, a live-action 2009 feature-film adaptation.

*Also recommended for: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade.*

***Splat the Cat*, Rob Scotton.** It's Splat the cat's first day of school and he's worried. Very worried. What if he doesn't make any new friends? Just like anyone, this fuzzy kitty can have an occasional case of the jitters. Whether he's starting school, rehearsing for a play, or trick-or-treating, Splat's nerves sometimes get the better of him. So what does he do? He relies on the support of his trusty companion, Seymour. Seymour may be small (he's a mouse, after all), but he's the biggest friend Splat could ask for. Together this adorable duo reminds readers, and each other, that kindness, encouragement, and laughter go a long way.

*Also recommended for: Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade.*

## 2nd Grade

***Harry the Dirty Dog*, Gene Zion & Margaret Bloy Graham.** There's never been another dog as delightful – or dirty – as Harry. Whether he's a white dog with black spots, or a black dog with white spots, Harry is sure to steal your heart (and your scrub brush, too, if you're not careful).

*Also recommended for: Kindergarten, 1st Grade.*

***Anansi the Spider*, Gerald McDermott.** Anansi the Spider is one of the great folk heroes of the world. He is a rogue, a mischief maker, and a wise, lovable creature who triumphs over larger foes. In this traditional Ashanti tale, Anansi sets out on a long, difficult journey. Threatened by Fish and Falcon, he is saved from terrible fates by his sons. But which of his sons should Anansi reward? In adapting this popular folktale, Gerald McDermott merges the old with the new, combining bold, rich color with traditional African design motifs and authentic Ashanti language rhythms. *Anansi the Spider* is a 1973 Caldecott Honor Book.

*Also recommended for: 1st Grade.*

***Jamaica and Brianna*, Juanita Havill.** Jamaica has to wear her brother's worn-out boots one snowy day. She is not happy about this, and is not helped by Brianna's unfeeling comments. Nor does she appreciate her friend's mean remarks when she gets new boots. Both girls are upset and angry, but they are able to find reconciliation. Never preachy or overly dramatic, Havill's sensitive story can be used to help young children deal with negative feelings.

*Also recommended for: 1st Grade.*

***Grace for President*, Kelly DiPucchio.** Excited about the idea of becoming the country's first female president, Grace joins the school's presidential campaign to get her career on track, but when her competition seems to have the support of all male voters, Grace must use all her campaigning skills to win them over by showing how she is truly the best person for the job.

*Also recommended for: 3rd Grade.*

# 3rd Grade

**Strega Nona, Tomie DePaola.** Strega Nona's meddling assistant Big Anthony is determined to prove to the townspeople his knowledge of the magic secrets contained in the pasta pot of Strega Nona. In so doing, he unleashes a torrent of pasta which threatens to engulf their little town! Strega Nona teaches, in a fun way, about unintended consequences of our actions.

**Julian, Secret Agent, Ann Cameron.** From rescuing a dog stuck in a hot car to saving a toddler from drowning, secret agents Julian, Huey, and Gloria have done a nice bit of crime busting. But what they really want is to nab a real-live bank robber and earn the \$25,000 reward. Just when it looks as if they might get their man, the police chief steps in, and the supersleuths find that they're the ones who are in trouble, with a capital T!

*Also recommended for: 4th Grade.*

**Blizzard of the Blue Moon, Mary Pope Osborne.** In this exciting new Merlin Mission, Jack and Annie go back in time to New York City, during one of the darkest periods in the city's history — the Great Depression. Even worse, the city is in the grip of a terrible snowstorm. To stop the blizzard, Jack and Annie must save the unicorn made famous in the Cloisters' medieval tapestries. But will that be enough to help a city that faces so many troubles?

*Also recommended for: 4th Grade.*

**A Bad Case of Stripes, David Shannon.** Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her school don't like them. Camilla Cream is very worried about what other people think about her, but at the very moment she most wants to fit in, she becomes completely covered in colorful stripes! When the class says the Pledge of Allegiance, she turns red, white, and blue! Instead of blending in, she's standing out. Is there anyone who can help Camilla remember what it means to be herself? This is an engaging book that imaginatively explores the risks of trying to be like everyone else.

*Also recommended for: 4th Grade, 5th Grade.*

# 4th Grade

***Charlotte's Web, E. B. White.*** *Some Pig. Humble. Radiant.* These are words in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spider web tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. E. B. White's Newbery Honor Book is a tender novel of friendship, love, life, and death. White's elegant style creates a lucid text that makes this novel accessible for even the most struggling reader.

Also recommended for: 3rd Grade.

***Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Judy Blume.*** Two is a crowd when Peter and his little brother, Fudge, are in the same room. Grown-ups think Fudge is absolutely adorable, but Peter and his pet turtle, Dribble, know the truth. From throwing temper tantrums to smearing mashed potatoes on the wall, Fudge causes mischief wherever he goes! Peter has put up with Fudge for too long. How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change?

***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl.*** Four children's selfish ways get them into hilariously odd situations, which determine their own doom, while Charlie's characteristic integrity, honesty, and general sweetness afford him an opportunity to fulfill his dreams. This fantasy allows readers to explore how character and certainly behavior may affect the course of one's life in a way that is fun and imaginative. It has been adapted to film several times.

Also recommended for: 5th Grade.

***Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger, Louis Sachar.*** There are laughs galore in this perennial favorite! Before you enter Wayside, you should know that it's a thirty-story building with one classroom on each floor. Mrs. Jewls teaches the class on the 13th. Miss Zarves teaches the class on the 19th...except there is no 19th story, so there is no Miss Zarves. Understand? Good. Explain it to Calvin. More than nine millions readers have laughed at the wacky stories of Wayside School. So what are you waiting for? Come visit Wayside School!

Also recommended for: 5th Grade.

## 5th Grade *(Also recommended for: 6th Grade and up.)*

***Esperanza Rising*, Pam Muñoz Ryan.** Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico – she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home... But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances – Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

***The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster.** 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) and even embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason! Along the way, Milo realizes something astonishing. Life is far from dull. In fact, it's exciting beyond his wildest dreams. This quirky fantasy story reveals how a restless and precocious ten-year-old boy learns to appreciate the ordinary things in life after he embarks on a wondrous journey.

***Wonder*, R.J Palacio.** The hero of *Wonder* is Auggie Pullman, who has an extremely rare medical facial deformity. After having undergone many facial surgeries, Auggie has been homeschooled by his mother, but soon he will be attending mainstream school for the first time. This lovely story of acceptance will have every pre-teen rooting for Auggie the “wonder.” This brilliant, sensitive story, narrated not only by August, but also by his older sister, his classmates, and other kids in his life, takes an insightful look at how one person's differences can affect the lives of so many others. This story was adapted to film in 2017.

***Smile*, Raina Telgemeier.** Raina just wants to be “normal”. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth, and what follows is a frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear... And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. This coming-of-age true story is sure to resonate with any child who studies in a school setting, and especially those who have ever had a bit of their own dental drama!

## 6th to 8th Grade (Middle School)

***Caminar*, Skila Brown.** Carlos knows that when the soldiers arrive with warnings about the Communist rebels, it is time to be a man and defend the village. But Mama tells him not yet—he's still her quiet moonfaced boy. The soldiers laugh at the villagers. Before they move on, a neighbor is found dangling from a tree, a sign on his neck: *Communist*. Mama tells Carlos to run and hide, then try to find her. Numb and alone, he must join a band of guerillas as they trek to the top of the mountain where Carlos' *abuela* lives. Will he be in time, and brave enough, to warn them about the soldiers? A novel inspired by actual events during Guatemala's civil war.

***Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, Jeff Kinney.** Kinney brilliantly re-creates the typical humor and logic of middle school boys sidling into adolescence. 6th grader Greg Heffley doesn't understand his annoying younger brother, obnoxious older one, or well-meaning parents. But he knows enough to record his daily thoughts in a manly journal—not some girly diary. In a unique novel with laugh-out-loud moments, Greg chronicles his first turbulent year of middle school.

***Inside Out and Back Again*, Thanhhai Lai.** Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama, this novel has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls. They board a ship headed toward hope: America. This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing is enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny.

***Serafina's Promise*, Ann Burg.** Serafina is an 11-year-old Haitian struggling to keep her dream of becoming a doctor alive. Living in a desolate mountain village, Serafina toils at her daily chores while planning to attend school. Serafina has a warm family, a true friend in Julie, and an encouraging doctor, who all come to support her vision. Then a flood washes away the family home, and the roaring stampede of an earthquake devastates the city of Port-au-Prince, where Serafina's father works and Julie Marie lives. In Burg's lyrical tale, Serafina is a force of nature in her own right who carries her family, friends, and dreams to safe ground.



## 9th to 12th Grade (High School)

***The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas.** Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, even a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

***I am Malala (Young Reader's Edition)*, Malala Yousafzai.** Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive. Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this Young Reader's Edition of her bestselling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world, and did. Malala's story will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles and the possibility that one person can inspire change in her community and beyond.

***Matched*, Ally Condie.** For Cassia, nothing is left to chance--not what she will eat, the job she will have, or the man she will marry. In *Matched*, the Society Officials have determined optimal outcomes for all aspects of daily life, thereby removing the "burden" of choice. When Cassia's best friend is identified as her ideal marriage Match it confirms her belief that Society knows best, until she plugs in her Match microchip and a different boy's face flashes on the screen. This improbable mistake sets Cassia on a dangerous path to the unthinkable--rebellious against the predetermined life Society has in store for her. As author Ally Condie's unique dystopian Society takes chilling measures to maintain the status quo, *Matched* reminds readers that freedom of choice is precious, and not without sacrifice.

***Mexican Whiteboy*, Matt de la Peña.** Danny's tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. 95-mile an hour fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound he loses it. But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. Danny's brown. Half-Mexican brown. Growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged. But it works the other way too. Danny's convinced it's his whiteness that sent his father back to Mexico. That's why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. Only, to find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see, in front of him, and open up to a friendship he never saw coming.