



LITHGOW KIDS 2025 SUMMER READING Reading List

You are welcome to pick your own books to complete the Summer Reading bingo challenge. If you're looking for some ideas to get started, read on! We have book suggestions for each challenge on the board, including those that don't require reading - just in case you want to get inspired.

Creativity is encouraged! Families are welcome to interpret each challenge in the way that works best for them, and you can always ask library staff for more suggestions.

Read a book with illustrations

Visual literacy is so important, don't you think? ** 🤔 For this challenge, you could try a graphic novel, a wordless picture book, an illustrated chapter book... the possibilities are endless! Maybe try an award-winning illustrator, like someone who has won the Caldecott Medal?

You could try....

A graphic novel

- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft

An illustrated chapter book

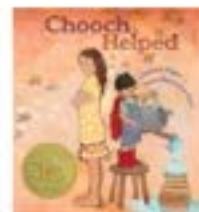
- *Beti and the Little Round House* by Atinuke

An award-winning picture book

- *Chooch Helped* by Andrea Rogers

A nonfiction seek-and-find

- *EcoMazes: Twelve Earth Adventures* by Roxie Munro



Make something from a recipe

Check out a cookbook and hit the kitchen! Or you could interpret this another way - create a LEGO masterpiece using a "recipe." Follow the steps in an origami guide to make something new. What else could you make?

You could try....

A cookbook

- *The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs* from America's Test Kitchen

A picture book

- *Fry Bread* by Kevin Maillard

A how-to book

- *How to Make Super Pop-Ups* by Joan Irvine

A biography

- *The Fabulous Fannie Farmer: Kitchen Scientist and America's Cook* by Emma Bland Smith



LITHGOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

45 Winthrop St, Augusta ME 04330

lithgowlibrary.org | 207-626-2415

Listen to a book read out loud

Of course audiobooks are a great option here. We have them on CD and you can stream them through Hoopla and CloudLibrary with your library card. You could also try one of our new read-along books - physical books with built-in audio players that read the story aloud to you. Or go the original way and listen to someone else - a family member, a friend - read to you. Enjoy!

You could try....

An audiobook on CD

- *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster

An audiobook on Hoopla

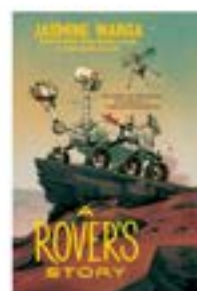
- The *Harry Potter* series by JK Rowling

An audiobook on CloudLibrary

- *A Rover's Story* by Jasmine Warga

A read-aloud picture book

- *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson



Read a book set in another world

There are so many new worlds you can explore through books. Maybe one with magic! Or maybe New York City feels like a whole other world. Try diving back in time. Or venture into outer space! The world (and that one, and that one...) is your oyster.

You could try....

A fantastical picture book

- *Journey* by Aaron Becker

Fantasy fiction

- *The Last Dragon on Mars* by Scott Reintgen

An early reader set in Minecraft

- *Trouble Brewing!* by Arie Kaplan

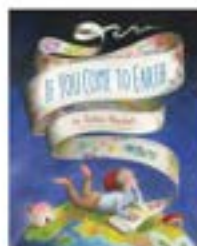
Science fiction

- *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera



Tell someone about a book that you love

We love book recommendations! Library staff is *always* excited to hear about a good book. We're also excited to tell you about some of our favorite reads. Explore staff picks any time by asking us at the desk, or picking up a bookmark with some of our favorite books listed.



You could try....

An early reader that Carolyn loves

- *Charlie & Mouse* by Laurel Snyder

A chapter book that Kate loves

- *Frindle* by Andrew Clements

A picture book that Leane loves

- *If You Come to Earth* by Sophie Blackall

A picture book that Sabrina loves

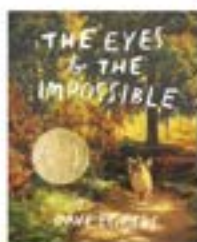
- *How to Party Like a Snail* by Naseem Hrab

An illustrated chapter book that Trish loves

- *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Visit a park, museum, or swimming spot

Aren't we lucky to live in Maine? Here are some stories to get you inspired to hit the great outdoors - and ones that will certainly take you on an adventure if you can't get to a park yourself.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Fatima's Great Outdoors* by Ambreen Tariq

A handbook

- *Treasure Hunter's Handbook* by Liza Gardner Walsh

An outdoor guide

- *Family Friendly Hikes in Maine* by Aislinn Sarnacki

Middle grade fiction

- *The Eyes and the Impossible* by Dave Eggers

Read a book that is set in the past

Reading about the past helps us understand our present. But don't worry, it's not all dusty rooms and fussy clothes - buckle up for some amazing historical adventures!



You could try....

Historical nonfiction

- *Mountains of Fire: The Eruption and Survivors of Mount St. Helens* by Rebecca E.F. Barone

Historical fiction

- *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly

A graphic novel

- *Botticelli's Apprentice* by Ursula Murray

A picture book

- *Overground Railroad* by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Read a book that tells the story of a person's life

...also known as a biography! We have tons of biographies for you to peruse - from presidents and famous musicians to folks you have never heard of who have contributed amazing things to the worlds of science, sports, the arts, and more. You could also try an autobiography or a memoir - the story of someone's life *as told by them*. Or maybe try your hand at writing your own!

You could try....

An autobiography

- *Lost On a Mountain in Maine* by Donn Fendler, as told to Joseph B Egan

A picture book biography

- *World More Beautiful: The Life and Art of Barbara Cooney* by Angela Kunkel

A picture book biography

- *Ode to Grapefruit: How James Earl Jones Found His Voice* by Kari Lavelle

A graphic memoir

- *Uprooted: A Memoir About What Happens When Your Family Moves Back* by Ruth Chan



Play a game or do a puzzle

You could come to our Family Game Night on July 29 to try a new game! We've also got some old favorites out in the Children's Room, and an ongoing puzzle swap right outside our doors. Here are some stories of games and puzzles to get you in the solving spirit!



You could try....

A nonfiction game guide

- *The Life-Changing Magic of Chess* by Maurice Ashley

A sporty picture book

- *Oliver's Game* by Matt Tavares

An early reader

- *The Good Game* by Arihonn David

Middle grade fiction

- *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin

Read a nonfiction book

Let's take a trip into the world of facts and information! There are so many different kinds of nonfiction books: how-to guides, biographies, history, science, and more! Library staff is always excited to go down a rabbit hole (or a wormhole, or even a pothole) with you - ask at the desk if you want help exploring a topic.

You could try....

How-to nonfiction

- *How to Be a Vet: And Other Animal Jobs* by Jess French

Animal nonfiction

- *How Old is a Whale?* by Lily Murray

Middle grade nonfiction

- *The Enigma Girls* by Candace Fleming

Picture book nonfiction

- *The Shape of Things: How Mapmakers Picture Our World* by Dean Robbins



Read a book that has been made into a movie

Which was better: the book or the movie? Try out both and let us know!



You could try....

Middle grade fiction

- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown

A picture book

- *Room On the Broom* by Julia Donaldson

A picture book

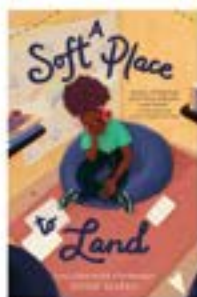
- *The Boss Baby* by Marla Frazee

Middle grade fiction

- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

Read in a blanket fort

Sometimes the space you read in is just as important as the book itself. Here are a few cozy story suggestions to get you ready for a blanket fort.



You could try....

A picture book

- *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

A picture book

- *The Story Blanket* by Ferida Wolff

Middle grade fiction

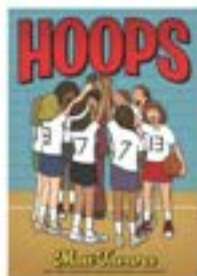
- *A Soft Place to Land* by Janae Marks

A nonfiction guide

- *The Young Adventurer's Guide to (Almost) Everything* by Ben Hewitt

Come to a program at the library

We have something special happening almost every week during Summer Reading! And we've got regular programs happening week in and week out. Here are a few ideas to get you excited to come visit us.



You could try....

A book by Matt Tavares (for the Author visit - July 15)

- *Hoops* by Matt Tavares

A how-to craft guide (for our Crafternoon - June 30)

- *10-Minute Origami Projects* by Christopher Harbo

A nonfiction guide (for the Juggling Workshop - July 23)

- *DIY Circus Lab for Kids* by Jackie Leigh Davis

An early chapter book (for the Stuffed Animal Sleepover - August 8)

- *Ivy Lost and Found* by Cynthia Lord

Read a book in a series

Get to know some characters over a looooooong time. Spend more time with an author who you *know* can make you laugh. Solve another mystery with your favorite sleuth. Try a new series, or continue on with one of your favorites.



You could try....

A middle grade series

- *The One and Only* series by Katherine Applegate

A fantasy series

- *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston

A picture book series

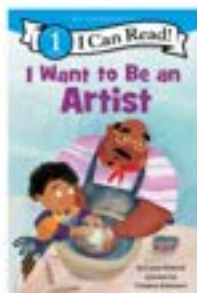
- *Creepy* series by Aaron Reynolds

An early reader series

- *Henry and Mudge* series by Cynthia Rylant

Make a piece of art

You get to choose the medium. Crayon, watercolor, or pencil? Or maybe music? Or dance? Try these artistic stories to spark your creativity.



You could try....

A picture book

- *How Sweet the Sound* by Kwame Alexander

A picture book biography

- *Pocket Full of Colors* by Amy Gueglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville

Middle grade fiction

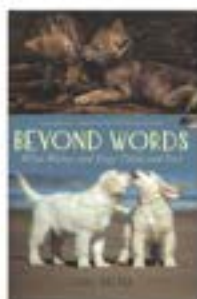
- *Candle Island* by Lauren Wolk

An early reader

- *I Want to Be an Artist* by Laura Driscoll

Read a book about an animal

Maybe you're looking to learn every fact you can about the axolotl. Maybe you're looking for a worm who can make you laugh. Either way, we've got you covered.



You could try....

A picture book

- *Thanks to the Animals* by Allen Sockabasin

Nonfiction

- *Beyond Words: What Wolves and Dogs Think and Feel* by Carl Safina

Read-along nonfiction

- *Apex Predators* by Steve Jenkins

Middle grade fiction

- *Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker

Read a poem, short story, or play

The world is bigger than just fiction and nonfiction. Poems, short stories, and plays are scattered all across our collection, and they're the perfect choice for a short read that will often stay with you for a long time. You know what else is kind of like a play? Graphic novels are often written almost entirely in dialogue. Could you put on a play version of your favorite graphic novel?

You could try....

A collection of short stories

- *Hope Wins: A Collection of Inspiring Stories for Young Readers* edited by Rose Brock

A poetry compilation

- *Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance* by Nikki Grimes

A picture book

- *Sometimes I Feel Like a River* by Danielle Daniel

A novel in verse

- *One Big Open Sky* by Lesa Cline-Ransome



Read a book with NO illustrations

This sounds like a drag, right? Wrong! No pictures means you get to make up your own images to go along with the words. you're in the driver's seat! Maybe you draw your own illustrations to go with this book. Maybe you find a choice with only a few pictures. Maybe you listen as someone reads to you!

You could try....

A picture book

- *The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak

An audiobook

- *Because of Winn-Dixie*
by Kate DiCamillo

Middle grade fiction

- *Boy 2.0* by Tracey Baptiste

A chapter book series

- *Zoey & Sassafras* by Asia Citro

**The
Book
With
No
Pictures**

B.J. Novak

Find a new reading spot (and read there!)

Pack up your picnic blanket and read outside! Find a new nook or cranny to read in at home. Draw a picture of a cozy hobbit hole and imagine reading there. (Psst! Did you know you can also read at the library?)



You could try....

A picture book

- *Ahoy!* by Sophie Blackall

A picture book

- *Once Upon a Book* by Grace Lin

A chapter book

- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Middle grade fiction

- *The Wishing Spell* by Chris Colfer

Read a mystery

Whodunnit? Grab your magnifying glass and a notebook and jump into a story that needs to be solved.



You could try....

Middle grade fiction

- *The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer

An illustrated chapter book

- *Edison: The Mystery of the Missing Mouse Treasure*
by Torben Kuhlmann

A picture book

- *The Detective Dog* by Julia Donaldson

Middle grade fiction

- *Lou Lou and Pea and the Mural Mystery* by Jill Diamond

Write a letter to an author

Do you have a question about a story that just will not leave your head? Or maybe you want some advice about writing or illustration? Or maybe you just want to say thank you to someone who has created a world that you love. Here are some letter-writing stories to get you inspired. Need help sending? Bring your letter to the Children's Room and we can help.

You could try....

Picture book

- *Toot & Puddle* by Holly Hobbie

A picture book

- *Can I Be Your Dog?*
by Troy Cummings



Middle grade fiction

- *To Night Owl from Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

Middle grade fiction

- *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* by Kelly Jones

Read a book set in Maine

There are so many wonderful stories set right here in our backyard. Try a Maine-based story – maybe one created by an author or illustrator who lives in the Pine Tree state!



You could try....

A picture book

- *Burt Dow: Deep-Water Man* by Robert McCloskey

A picture book

- *Penny for a Hundred* by Ethel Pochocki

Middle grade fiction

- *Small as an Elephant* by Jennifer Ricard Jacobson

Middle grade fiction

- *Just Like That* by Gary Schmidt

Read for three days in a row

You can do it! Read a little bit each day. Here are some favorite long stories that will keep you busy for three days, but you can read anything that floats your boat.



You could try....

A picture book series

- The *Mr. Magee* books by Chris Van Dusen

A chapter book series

- The *Ivy and Bean* series by Annie Barrows

A picture book with chapters

- *Little Witch Hazel: A Year in the Forest* by Phoebe Wahl

Middle grade fiction - a long one!

- *The Trials of Morrigan Crow* by Jessica Townsend

Read with a family member

Practice reading aloud to a pet. Listen to someone else reading to you. Take turns reading with a sibling. Here are some favorite family stories.



You could try....

Picture book

- *Madeline Finn and the Shelter Dog* by Lisa Papp

A picture book

- *Mauntie and Me* by Rajani LaRocca

A poetry anthology

- *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman

A graphic novel

- *Chickenpox* by Remy Lai

Library staff is here to help. If you need ideas or suggestions to complete a challenge, come see us, call us, or email us!

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