

Green Acres School
Reading Suggestions
for Pre-Kindergarten Students
Updated June 2019

(The books recommended below are part of the Green Acres Library collection.
Reading levels and interests vary greatly, so you may want to look also at the
Reading Suggestions for Students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade.)

Alexie, Sherman; illus. by Yuyi Morales. *Thunder Boy Jr.*

"An expertly crafted, soulful, and humorous work that tenderly explores identity, culture, and the bond between father and son." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Anderson, Airlie. *Neither*

"A sweet story of acceptance for all those who are this, that, neither, either, and everything in between." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Arnaldo, Monica. *Little Brothers & Little Sisters*

"A heartfelt reflection on the trials and joys of sibling dynamics." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Austrian, J.; illus. by Mike Curato. *Worm Loves Worm*

"Two worms in love decide to get married, and with help from Cricket, Beetle, Spider, and the Bees they have everything they need and more, but which one will be the bride and which the groom?" (Publisher)

Barrow, David. *Have You Seen Elephant?*

"A small child plays hide-and-seek with a surprisingly elusive (except to viewers) elephant." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Brooks, Erik. *Polar Opposites*

"Penpals Alex Polar Bear and Zina Penguin are polar opposites, living on opposite sides of the world." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Brown, Lisa. *The Airport Book*

"This good-humored introduction to air travel follows a multiracial family (black dad, white mom, two brown kids) through the airport, down the jetway, and onto their plane." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Carle, Eric. *The Nonsense Show*

"... spread after spread uses nonsensical text and sublimely ridiculous pictures to provoke laughter and head-shaking delight." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Child, Lauren. *The New Small Person*

"How nice to see a familiar story made new with a family of color and a little brother as hero." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Clark, M.H.; illus. by Madeline Kloeppe. *Tiny, Perfect Things*

"A white grandfather and a brown-skinned, biracial child stroll through their neighborhood keeping their 'eyes open for tiny, perfect things.' ... A mindful appreciation of often unnoticed delights enhanced by subtle and stunning illustrations." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Colato Laínez, René. *Señor Pancho Had a Rancho*

"Colato Laínez (*The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez*, 2010) presents a bicultural rendition of 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm,' one of the most widely known and loved children's songs." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Cole, Henry.

Big Bug

"Beginning with a bug, various objects are revealed as being big and small in comparison with other objects on a farm under the big, big sky." (Publisher)

Cole, Henry.

Spot, the Cat

"In this wordless picture book, a cat named Spot ventures out an open window and through a city on a journey, while his owner tries to find him." (Publisher)

Daywalt, Drew; illus. by Oliver Jeffers.

The Day the Crayons Came Home

"Duncan's crayons are back in this comical sequel to *The Day the Crayons Quit* (2013), and this time they need to be rescued." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

de la Peña, Matt.

Last Stop on Market Street

"A young boy yearns for what he doesn't have, but his nana teaches him to find beauty in what he has and can give, as well as in the city where they live." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Denos, Julia; illus. by E. B. Goodale.

Windows

"A warmhearted tale of a child, a dog, and their peaceful, friendly, and inviting neighborhood." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Desmond, Jenni.

Albert's Tree

"A wailing, sad tree poses a problem for a loving bear just waking from hibernation." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Diggs, Taye.

Mixed Me

"Told in rhyming text, Mike is a mixed-race boy, completely comfortable with his identity and his parents--and his wild, curly hair." (Publisher)

Doerrfeld, Cori.

Maggie and Wendel: Imagine Everything!

"Two anthropomorphized elephants play pretend in three minichapters." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Dotlich, Rebecca Kai.

Race Car Count

"The flash and thrill of the race car track—it's all here in a zippy counting book just right for the toddler set." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Elliott, David; illus. by Melissa Sweet.

Baabwaa and Wooliam: A Tale of Literacy, Dental Hygiene, and Friendship

"Wooliam is a sheep who reads... His best friend, Baabwaa, is a sheep who knits... Great for knitters, for readers, for fun-seeking adventurers." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Elliott, Zetta; illus. by Purple Wong.

Benny Doesn't Like to Be Hugged

"A little girl uses rhyming verse to describe the unique traits of her autistic friend." (Publisher)

Elya, Susan Middleton.

Little Roja Riding Hood

"This spirited interpretation of a classic fairy tale successfully mixes magic and reality, as well as Spanish and English words." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Empson, Jo.

Little Home Bird

"Little Bird loves his cozy nest so much that, as winter approaches, he can't bear to leave it. ... Simply lovely." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Fagan, Cary; illus. by Madeline Kloepper.

Little Blue Chair

"A sweet, whimsical tale that chronicles the journey of a chair as it changes hands and uses." (Publisher)

Falwell, Cathryn.

Rainbow Stew

"Awesome Grandpa not only prepares pancakes for breakfast, but also makes the most of a rainy day by gearing up his three grandchildren to harvest his veggies despite the weather." (*School Library Journal*)

Fleming, Candace.

Bulldozer's Big Day

"Bulldozer wants to invite all of his coworkers to a party to celebrate his special day, but to them it's just another day for scooping, sifting, stirring, and more." (Publisher)

Fleming, Denise.

Maggie and Michael Get Dressed

"Michael's mother informs him that it is time to get dressed, but he has other ideas." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Fogliano, Julie; illus. by Christian Robinson. *When's My Birthday?*

"An exuberant ode to children's anticipation for the most special day each year: their birthday." (*School Library Journal*)

Frazee, Marla.

The Farmer and the Clown

In this wordless picture book, a "solitary farmer on an empty plain receives the most unlikely visitor." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Frost, Helen; photographed by Rick Lieder. *Wake Up!*

"Nature's littlest creatures figure large in this poetic portrait of their early movements." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Galing, Ed; illus. by Erin E. Stead.

Tony

"Readers will hear the 'clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop' in every image of this astonishing book." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Ghahremani, Susie.

Stack the Cats

"Counting from one to 10 is the usual math activity in simple picture books, but this one takes on other mathematical operations, too." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Gravett, Emily.

The Odd Egg

"Duck is trying to hatch the oddest egg of all." (Publisher)

Kang, Anna.

That's (Not) Mine

"With expressive illustrations and simple text, this giggle-inducing tale about (not) sharing and (not) being a good friend features the endearing characters from Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner *You Are (Not) Small*." (Publisher)

Kleber, Dori; illus. by G. Brian Karas.

More-Igami

"Joey loves things that fold, like maps, his accordion, and even his foldaway bed, so when he sees a classmate's mother folding an origami crane, he's captivated." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Kuhlman, Evan; illus. by Chuck Groenink. *Hank's Big Day: The Story of a Bug*

"Pill bug Hank's day moves from ordinary to extraordinary when Amelia, a dark-skinned girl with huge eyes and black braids, gives him a ride on her pilot's helmet." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Larsen, Andrew; illus. by Mike Lowery. *A Squiggly Story*

"A positive tale of how a story can emerge organically from an inkling of an idea to an imaginative literary excursion—even at the hands of preliterate kids." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Lindeen, Mary.

A Visit to the Firehouse

"Take a trip to a firehouse. Find out what firefighters' wear, what equipment they use, and what they do when they're not fighting fires. See what's inside a firehouse and what happens when the alarm bell rings." (Publisher)

Love, Jessica.

Julián Is a Mermaid

"Julián knows he's a mermaid. ... a simple yet powerful story of the importance of being seen and affirmed." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

- Lyon, George Ella.** *Planes Fly!*
 "This exciting invitation to take to the air is one energetic and entertaining journey for adventurers and aviation lovers alike." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Mallery, Sydra; illus. by E. B. Goodale.** *A Most Unusual Day*
 "A heartwarming adoption story from a new big sister's perspective." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Mara, Nichole; illus. by Andrew Kolb.** *All Aboard! Let's Ride a Train*
 "This delightful board book unfolds to become a train almost 6 feet long with lots to explore in each car." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Marino, Gianna.** *If I Had a Horse*
 "A young child imagines having a horse for a companion. ... Readers will almost feel the wind in their hair and hear the thunder of hooves as they are inspired to pursue their dreams. Beautiful." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- McBriarty, Patrick.** *Airplanes Take Off and Land*
 "Experience a day in the life of Pilot Stacey and her nephew Little Harry as they take a fascinating flight aboard Crow-Flies Airline flight #6." (Publisher)
- McQuinn, Anna.** *Lola at the Library*
 "Every Tuesday Lola and her mother visit their local library to return and check out books, attend story readings, and share a special treat." (Publisher)
- Miller, Sharee.** *Don't Touch My Hair!*
 "Miller tells it like it is while giving children of color permission to set boundaries when people reach out to touch their curly, kinky, or nappy hair." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Munsch, Robert.** *Zoom*
 "When Loretta tries out a 92-speed, silver and gold, dirt-bike wheelchair, she gets a speeding ticket but also helps out her brother." (Publisher)
- Murray, Diana; illus. by Bryan Collier.** *City Shapes*
 "Rhyming text and brilliant multimedia collage combine to follow a girl's journey through her beloved city." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- O'Leary, Sara; illus. by Qin Leng.** *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*
 "A picture book affirmation of family diversity." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Parr, Todd.** *It's OK to Make Mistakes*
 "Parr encourages readers to see mistakes as opportunities with characteristic élan." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Parr, Todd.** *Teachers Rock!*
 "Parr turns his bold, vibrant colors and simple declarative sentences to teachers, looking at what they do and who they are." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Parr, Todd.** *The Brother Book*
 A celebration of all different kinds of brothers.
- Parr, Todd.** *The Sister Book*
 "This sibling celebration is perfect for sisters of all ages, and for older girls and boys who are expecting a new little one." (Publisher)

- Petty, Dev.** *I Don't Want to Be a Frog*
 "A tiny frog desperately wishes to be any other animal." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Pfeffer, Rubin; illus. by Mike Austin.** *Summer Supper*
 "Vivid colors, a multiracial cast, and seamless alliteration make this book a wonderful read—not once, not twice, but again and again. ... This charming farm-to-table picture book hits all the right spots for the younger set." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Pinkney, Jerry.** *The Grasshopper & the Ants*
 "In this retelling of the classic Aesop fable, hardworking ants stock up for the winter while a fun-loving grasshopper plays all year long, until the cold weather arrives and he realizes his mistake in not planning ahead." (Publisher)
- Pinkney, Jerry.** *The Tortoise & the Hare*
 "With luminous mixed media pictures, a short, carefully meted-out text and a Southwestern U.S. setting, Pinkney (*The Lion and the Mouse*, 2009) takes on another of Aesop's fables—marvelously." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Pinkney, Sandra; photographed by Myles C. Pinkney.** *A Rainbow All Around Me*
 "All the colors of the rainbow come alive in the photographs of children celebrating the emotions that color can evoke." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse.** *Friendshape*
 "Introduces a triangle, circle, square, and rectangle who celebrate the gift of friendship." (Publisher)
- Santat, Dan.** *Are We There Yet?*
 "A boy feels time slowing down so much that it starts going backward--into the time of pirates! Of princesses! Of dinosaurs! The boy was just trying to get to his grandmother's birthday party." (Publisher)
- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro.** *Black? White! Day? Night! A Book of Opposites*
 "Using the same format as her stunning *Hidden Alphabet* (2003), Seeger presents readers with another eye-catching concept book." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Soosh.** *Dad by My Side*
 "Indeed, with a dad like this by a child's side, there is little that cannot be accomplished." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Teague, David.** *The Red Hat*
 "In this almost wordless picture book, a troupe of baby forest animals borrows a child's hat, until all that is left is a long piece of red string." (Publisher)
- Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah; illus. by Ebony Glenn.** *Mommy's Khimar*
 "From a debut author-and-illustrator team comes a glimpse into a young American Muslim girl's family and community as she walks around in 'Mommy's khimar,' or headscarf." (*Kirkus Reviews*)
- Tullet, Hervé; transl. from French by Christopher Franceschelli.** *Let's Play*
 "... Fans of Tullet's *Press Here* (2011) and *Mix It Up* (2014) ... will be entranced by his latest interactive offering. This time, readers are invited to follow a yellow blob through a variety of travails." (*School Library Journal*)
- Tullet, Hervé; transl. from French by Christopher Franceschelli.** *Mix It Up*
 "The primary-colored dots from *Press Here* (2011) are back, but while last time they focused predominantly on motion, this time they plunge headlong into color mixing." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Velasquez, Eric. *Looking for Bongo*

"A little boy searches for his lost toy." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Verde, Susan; illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. *I Am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness*

"A gentle, helpful tool for cultivating kid mindfulness." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Willems, Mo. *The Thank You Book*

"Piggie is 'one lucky pig,' and she's determined to make sure she thanks 'everyone who is important to' her in this, the final Elephant & Piggie book." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Yelchin, Eugene. *Pip & Pup*

"A newly hatched chick befriends a beagle puppy in this humorous, wordless picture book set outdoors on a farm." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Yoon, Salina. *Be a Friend*

"An ordinary boy with an unusual hobby makes a new friend through extraordinary means." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Ziefert, Harriet. *What Ship Is Not a Ship?*

"Clever word groupings list three things that are alike and one that is different." (Publisher)