

SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

Summer is the best time to get outside and read! Grab your favorite book—or one of our favorites—and head to a park, nature center, or even the Missouri Botanical Garden to read in the outdoors.

BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
<i>The Hike</i>	Alison Farrell	preschool–K	Three girls and a dog set out on a hike and spot trees, forest animals, and birds.
<i>Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You</i>	Sonia Sotomayor	preschool–3	Sonia and her friends, who all have different disabilities, are planting a garden. Readers learn how the children have overcome their challenges.
<i>Rain School</i>	James Rumford	preschool–3	Children in Chad prepare for the first day of school, but they must build their school before a kind teacher can instruct them to read and write. The next year they find themselves rebuilding the school again after rain and wind have destroyed it.
<i>Wild Berries</i>	Julie Flett	preschool–3	A grandma and grandson spend time in nature and learn and say their Swampy Cree names.
<i>Gator, Gator, Gator!</i>	Daniel Bernstrom	preschool–3	A little girl searches the bayou for an alligator and discovers many creatures along the way.
<i>The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin</i>	Julie Finley Mosca and Daniel Rieley	preschool–3	A true story, told in rhyme, about a young girl with autism. She thinks in pictures and feels a connection with farm animals. Later she is able to create safe and better farms for them.
<i>As an Oak Tree Grows</i>	G. Brian Karas	K–3	Follow an oak tree from 1775 to 2000 as it experiences how seasons and land change.
<i>Herbaria: A Guide for Young People</i>	Kelly LaFarge	3–6	This picture book helps kids visualize themselves as botanists gathering, preserving, and unlocking the mysteries of plants.
<i>Our Only May Amelia</i>	Jennifer L. Holm	3–7	A young girl, May Amelia, feels lost as the only girl in her family of seven older brothers. Follow her as she looks for adventure as a pioneer in Washington in 1899.
<i>Pilu of the Woods</i>	Mai K. Nguyen	4–6	A graphic novel about Willow, a girl who gets overwhelmed by her emotions and takes refuge in the woods. There she meets Pilu who is a lost tree spirit. Willow learns to help Pilu and confront her feelings.
<i>Wishtree</i>	Katherine Applegate	4–6	Red is an old wishtree with 216 rings. People write wishes on pieces of cloth and hang them on the tree's branches. A new family moves into Red's neighborhood and is not welcomed.

BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
<i>Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers</i>	Celia C. Pérez	4–7	Four girls form a bond and change an outdated Scout tradition.
<i>Scat</i>	Carl Hiaasen	5–6	When their biology teacher disappears, Nick and Marta go on an adventure in the Everglades to find her.
<i>Hatchet</i>	Gary Paulsen	5–9	A classic book about a 13-year-old boy who is stranded in a Canadian forest. He learns survival skills while reflecting on his life.
<i>Track of the Cat</i>	Nevada Barr	9+	Anna Pigeon, a park ranger, moves to Guadalupe Mountains National Park, where a series of mysterious deaths are blamed on a mountain lion.

EBOOK RESOURCES

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