



Building A Home Library

Ages 4-7



Interested in more book titles? We suggest the following sites for great reading.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/summerreading/recsummerreading/recommendedreading.htm>

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American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
800-545-2433 x 2163

Welcome to the world of books for your home!

Here are suggested contemporary book titles either for a great start to or enhancement of your home library. A home library collection is an ever-present resource for children and adults. The American Library Association/Children's Book Council Joint Committee and the ALSC Quicklists Consulting Committee recommend these titles for children ages 4-7. Three other pamphlets recommend books for children ages 0-3, 8-11, and 12-14. Ask your librarian or bookseller for more suggestions.

Chen, Chih-Yuan.

Guji Guji. Kane/Miller, 2004.

Guji Guji the crocodile is raised by a duck family. When some unsavory crocodiles want his assistance to trap the ducks, Guji Guji tricks them and saves the day. Also available in Spanish.

Capuccilli, Alyssa Satin. Illus. by Pat Schories.
Biscuit. HarperCollins, 1996.

In this first book of the Biscuit series, readers join the yellow puppy as he gets ready for his nighttime routine, makes new friends and learns something new.

Cronin, Doreen.

Diary of a Worm. Illus. by Harry Bliss. HarperCollins, 2003.

A young worm offers his unique view of the world in this amusing picture book.

Diakit , Penda.

I Lost My Tooth in Africa. Illus. by Baba Wagu  Diakit . Scholastic, 2006.

An 8-year-old girl travels from America to visit her father's family in Mali where she loses her tooth. After she hides it under a calabash, she waits for the African Tooth Fairy to replace it with a chicken.

Hatkoff, Isabella, Craig Hatkoff, and Paula Kahumbu. Photos by Peter Greste.

Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship. Scholastic, 2006.

This appealing photo essay tells the true story of an unusual friendship between a baby hippo and a giant tortoise.

Jenkins, Steve.


Actual Size. Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

This breathtaking book offers close-up, life-sized views of eighteen different animals portrayed in colorful cut-paper collages.

McDonald, Megan.

Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid.

Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2005.

Stink, the shortest kid in the class, imagines himself as a superhero. Don't miss the hand-drawn comic strip that he creates featuring his alter-ego. 

Mitton, Tony.

Dinosaurumpus! Illus. by Guy Parker-Rees. Scholastic, 2003.

In this jazzy, silly rhyming tale, Triceratops, Brontosaurus, and even Tyrannosaurus gather in a noisy wild swamp to dance.

Minarik, Else Holmelund.

A Kiss for Little Bear. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. HarperCollins, 1968.

Grandmother sends Little Bear a kiss with Hen. Hen passes the kiss to Frog who passes it to Cat who passes it to Little Skunk until Hen decides there is too much kissing—and finally gives the kiss to Little Bear.

Numeroff, Laura Joffe.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. Illus. by Felicia Bond. HarperCollins/Laura Geringer, 1985.

Ever since this entertaining picture book was published, everyone knows that if you give a mouse a cookie, he'll end up wanting your entire house!

Parish, Peggy.

Amelia Bedelia. Illus. by Fritz Siebel. Greenwillow, 1992.

Amelia Bedelia is a housekeeper who gets into all kinds of trouble just because she always does exactly what people tell her to do.

Recorvits, Helen.

My Name Is Yoon. Illus. by Gabriela Swiatkowska. Farrar, Straus and Giroux/Frances Foster, 2003.

Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," dislikes her name as written in English and tries out different names at her new school in America.

Ringgold, Faith.

Tar Beach. Crown, 1996.

Eight-year-old Cassie Louise Lightfoot dreams of flying above her 1939 Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. A Caldecott Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award winner.

Sendak, Maurice.


Where the Wild Things Are.

HarperCollins, 1963.

Max, a wild and mischievous little boy is sent to bed without his supper. From his room he takes a magical journey to an island and becomes king of the wild things. A Caldecott Medal winner.

Seuss, Dr.

The Cat in the Hat. Random, 1957.

An uninvited guest, the Cat in the Hat, causes chaos and great commotion with the help of his aides Thing 1 and Thing 2 for a boy and a girl who are sitting home and being good on a rainy day. 

Shannon, David.

No, David! Scholastic, 1998.

David's mischievousness gets him into all sorts of troubles as his mother pleads, "No, David!" A Caldecott Honor Book.

Slobodkina, Esphyr.

Caps for Sale. HarperCollins, 1940.

Unable to sell a single cap, a peddler walks out into the countryside, sits down under a tree and falls asleep. When he wakes up, his caps are mysteriously missing.

Yolen, Jane.

How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?

Illus. by Mark Teague. Scholastic, 2000.

Like children, dinosaurs have a nightly routine as they settle down for the night.

Webb, Steve.

Tanka Tanka Skunk! Scholastic, 2007.

Tanka the elephant and his friend Skunk keep the beat using animal names in this rhythmic story just made for marching and clapping.

Wiesner, David.

Flotsam. Clarion, 2006.

In this wordless story, a boy finds a camera which floats up onto the beach and reveals a miraculous world both above and beneath the sea. A Caldecott Medal winner.

 Available in an audio edition from Listening Library