Elementary Summer Reading List
Primary (Grades K-2)

**THE PERFECT GIFT**
written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
Mei's little brother is turning 100 days old, and Mei is determined to find the perfect gift for his special day.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/-the-perfect-gift)

**THE GARDEN**
written by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
Lily and her friends volunteer to help at the public garden, where they learn that plants need water, sun, and -just like them-time to grow.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/ the-garden)

**THE BUDDY BENCH**
written by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
Padma and her friends create a buddy bench, where kids can sit if they feel lonely and need a friend.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/buddy-bench)

**FOLLOW THAT MAP!**
written by Sheri Tan, illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
Pablo is excited to help his friends find the best route to Coney Island by using different transportation maps.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/ follow-that-map)

**DREAMING UP**
written and illustrated by Christy Hale
A collection of illustrations, concrete poetry, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/dreaming-up)

**UNDER MY HIJAB**
written by Mona Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Rajeel
As a young girl enjoys the many female constructions in her life, readers come to understand and appreciate the hijab and the Muslim women who choose to wear it.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/under-my-hijab)

**ZOMBIES DON'T EAT VEGGIES**
written and illustrated by Megan and Jorge Lacera
In this delightful debut by a talented husband-and-wife team, Mo Romero is a zombie with a deep, dark secret ... he loves vegetables!
Also available in Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/zombies-dont-eat-veggies)

**Galápagos Girl/Galápaguena**
written by Martha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Angela Dominguez
This charming bilingual picture book introducing a fascinating creature of the Galápagos Islands through the life of one very lucky girl.
Bilingual English/Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/galapagos-girl-galapaguena)

**A LIBRARY FOR JUANA**
written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Beatriz Vidal
An inspiring, award-winning biography of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a renowned Mexican scholar, composer, writer, and feminist who defied convention in the pursuit of education.
Also available in Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/a-library-for-juana)

**RAFI AND ROSI**
written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre
Rafi amazes Rosi with magic he finds everywhere in nature, but he needs her help when his hermit crab runs away.
Also available in Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi)

**RAFI AND ROSI CARNIVAL!**
written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre
Rafi and Rosi celebrate Puerto Rico's joyous holiday, Carnival! Also available in Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi-carnival)

**RAFI AND ROSI PIRATES!**
written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre
Rafi and Rosi explore Puerto Rico's famous El Morro Fort and learn about its Spanish history, treasure, and pirates. Also available in Spanish.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/rafi-and-rosi-pirates)

**OUR CELEBRACIÓN!**
written by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Ana Aranda
A town celebrates summer with a joyful parade in this rhyming story written in English with Spanish words sprinkled throughout.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/our-celebracion)

**WHEN AIDAN BECAME A BROTHER**
written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
This sweet story voices picture book celebrates the changes in a transgender boy's life, from his initial coming-out to becoming a big brother.
[link](leelandlow.com/books/when-aidan-became-a-brother)
Elementary Summer Reading List
Intermediate (Grades 3-5)

**STONE RIVER CROSSING**
written by Tim Tingle
From the award-winning author of How I Became a Ghost, a tale of unlikely friendship and miracles. When Martha Tom helps Lil Mo and his family escape from the plantation across the river, it's just the beginning of a fantastic adventure of a lifetime.
[leelandow.com/books/stone-river-crossing](leelandow.com/books/stone-river-crossing)

**ANA MARIA REYES DOES NOT LIVE IN A CASTLE**
written by Hilda Eunice Burgos
In this sparkling middle-grade debut, a Dominican American girl in New York City juggles an upcoming piano showcase and her hopes of entering an elite private school with her big, boisterous family and community.

**THE WIND CALLED MY NAME**
written by Mary Louise Sanchez
In this heartwarming historical middle-grade novel set in the 1930s, Margarita Sandoval and her family navigate the shifting winds of belonging in their new Wyoming town.
[leelandow.com/books/the-wind-called-my-name](leelandow.com/books/the-wind-called-my-name)

**THERE'S NO BASE LIKE HOME**
written by Jessica Mendoza and Alana Mendoza Dusan, illustrated by Ruth McNally Barsham
ESPN baseball analyst and two-time Olympic medalist Jessica Mendoza teams up with her sister Alana Mendoza Dusan for this heartwarming, highly illustrated novel for young readers about Sophia's quest to find her place on a softball team.
[leelandow.com/books/there's-no-base-like-home](leelandow.com/books/there's-no-base-like-home)

Discover Lee & Low's fresh collection of chapter-book biographies focused on historical figures of color!
All books feature informative sidebars, highlighted vocabulary words, a timeline, a glossary, a bibliography, and recommended reading.

**THE STORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS HERO JOHN LEWIS**
written by Jim Haskins & Kathleen Benson, illustrated by Aaron Boyce
Meet John Lewis, a leader in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and a revered Congressman today.
[leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-civil-rights-hero-john-lewis](leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-civil-rights-hero-john-lewis)

**THE STORY OF MOVIE STAR ANNA MAY WONG**
written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Lin Wang
Meet Anna May Wong, whose trailblazing career in Hollywood broke new ground for future generations of Asian American actors.
[leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-movie-star-anna-may-wong](leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-movie-star-anna-may-wong)

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**THE STORY OF THE CAR ENGINEER SOICHIRO HONDA**
written by Mark Weston, illustrated by Katie Yasumasa
Meet Soichiro Honda, the innovative Japanese motorcycle and car manufacturer and business pioneer.
[leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-the-car-engineer-soichiro-honda](leelandow.com/books/the-story-of-the-car-engineer-soichiro-honda)

**THE STORY OF TENNIS CHAMPION ARTHUR ASHE**
written by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Kevin Belford
Meet Arthur Ashe, one of the most compelling tennis players, athletes and humanitarians of the twentieth century.

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**Elementary Summer Reading List**

**Middle School (Grade 6)**

- **All the Stars Denied**
  - Written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
  - Guadalupe Garcia McCall tackles the hidden history of the United States' first mass deportation event, which swept up hundreds of thousands of Mexican American citizens during the Great Depression. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/all-the-stars-denied)

- **Summer of the Mariposas**
  - Written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
  - In this creative retelling of The Odyssey, fifteen-year-old Odilia and her younger sisters embark on a journey to return a dead man to his family in Mexico, and must outwit monsters and witches to make it back home again. Also available in Spanish. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/summer-of-the-marioposas)

- **Grand Theft Horse**
  - Written by G. Neri, illustrated by Corban Wilkin
  - Author G. Neri shares the powerful story of his cousin Gil Ruffo, who stole a racehorse in order to save it, and ended up taking on the whole racing industry to fight for the humane treatment of animals. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/grand-theft-horse)

- **Rebel Seoul**
  - Written by Axie Oh
  - When Jawwon is assigned to partner with super soldier Tae in North Seoul's top weapons development division, he must decide where he stands with the people his rebel father protected or with the totalitarian government that claims it will end all war. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/rebel-seoul)

- **I Am Alfonso Jones**
  - Written by Tony Medina, illustrated by Stacey Robinson and John Jennings
  - Perfect for fans of The Hate U Give, this unflinching graphic novel about the afterlife of a young man killed by an off-duty police officer, co-illustrated by New York Times bestselling artist John Jennings. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/i-am-alfonso-jones)

- **Under the Mesquite**
  - Written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
  - Lupita, a budding architect and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/under-the-mesquite)

- **Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty**
  - Written by G. Neri, illustrated by Randy Oringo
  - A graphic novel based on the true story of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year-old boy from Chicago's South Side who was killed by his own gang members. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/yummy)

- **Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet**
  - Written and illustrated by Andrea Cheng
  - This older biography in verse reveals the life of Dave, an enslaved potter who inscribed his works with sayings and short poems, in spite of the slave anti-literacy sentiment in the years leading up to the Civil War. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/etched-in-clay)

- **Ahimsa**
  - Written by Supriya Kelkar
  - In this historical novel set in India, Gandhi asks one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when Angali's mother is jailed for doing so, Angali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/ahimsa)

- **Cat Girl’s Day Off**
  - Written by Kimberly Pauley
  - Natalie "Cat Girl" Ng, who has the ability to talk to cats, must save the day when she is the only one who can see the true story of a kidnapped celebrity and the impostor who took her place. [Read More](https://www.example.com/books/cat-girls-day-off)