

Summer Packing List

Make sure you check your list for these books!

Ms. Balas' essential reading list for rising JK & K



Picture

- Frog on a Log?***
by Kes Gray and Jim Field
In rhyming text, cat explains why frog has to sit on a log, even if he finds it uncomfortable.
- The Invisible String***
by Patrice Karst
Twins Liza and Jeremy, frightened by a storm, are comforted when their mother tells them about the invisible string that connects people who love each other.
- Mango, Abuela, and Me***
by Meg Medina
Mia's Abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. The night she arrives, Mia tries to share her favorite book with Abuela before they go to sleep and discovers that Abuela can't read the words inside.
- One Family***
by George Shannon
A family can be many things, in this story that introduces numbered groups from one to ten.

Nonfiction

- Pussycat, Pussycat***
by Miles Van Hout
A collection of nursery rhymes and songs for children by Mies van Hout.
- Tell Me a Picture: Adventures in Looking at Art***
by Quintin Blake
Provides guidance for studying paintings and illustrations from the National Gallery in London to find the story within each.
- Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems = Aleteo y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales***
by Julie Paschik
All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch, and slither and leap their way through this collection of poems in English and Spanish.
- Changes: A Child's First Poetry Collection***
by Charlotte Zolotow
Poems and color illustrations show the changing of the seasons.
- Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle***
by Miranda Paul
A spare, poetic picture book exploring the different phases of the water cycle in surprising and engaging ways.

Books to Share

- My Heart is Laughing***
by Rose Lagercrantz
Dani's been trying her best to stay happy ever since her best friend Ella moved away. But when some girls in Dani's class start being cruel to her, it starts a chain of rather unhappy events.
- Lulu and the Hedgehog in the Rain***
by Hilary McKay
When Lulu rescues a wild hedgehog in a storm, she knows she can't keep it as a pet--it wants to roam free. So she and her cousin Mellie come up with the neighborhood Hedgehog Club to keep it safe.
- Beautiful Hands***
by Kathryn Otoshi and Bret Baumgarten
Little hands can do so many wonderful things: plant ideas; lift spirits; stretch imaginations. This colorful concept book rouses children to use their hands for the good and reach for their dreams.

Ms. Balas' extras for rising JK & K

- ☐ ***Goodnight Songs***
by Margaret Wise Brown
A collection of twelve lullabies featuring illustrations by contemporary, award-winning artists. Includes CD.
- ☐ ***See You Next Year***
by Andrew Larsen
Summer vacations can be magical. Especially when you go back to the same place every year. A place where you can learn to dive under the waves. A place where digging a hole to the center of the earth seems possible. A place where nothing ever changes and where each long, lazy day unfolds just as it did the year before. "See You Next Year" is the story of one such place. Only this year, something does change. And sometimes, change turns out to be a good thing.
- ☐ ***Last Stop on Market Street***
by Matt de la Peña
A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.
- ☐ ***Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***
by Lindsay Mattick
A fictionalized account of Captain Harry Coleburn's relationship with a bear cub in 1914, which he rescued while on his way to care for soldiers' horses during World War I and became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.
- ☐ ***Mixed Me!***
by Taye Diggs
A young boy, teased by the other kids because of his mixed racial background, comes to see himself as not mixed up, but mixed just right.
- ☐ ***The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark*** by Jill Tomlinson
Owls are supposed to be night birds, but young Plop is afraid of the dark, despite how much other people and animals tell him they enjoy it.
- ☐ ***Summer Days and Nights***
by Wong Herbert Yee
A little girl enjoys the activities of a warm summer day and night.

