

# 2026 GSCD Elementary Suggested Summer Reading List

## K - 1:

**Ackerman, Sara Holly.** *How to Hatch: a goslings guide to breaking free.*

Discover how a gosling hatches into the world, step by step, in this irresistibly cute and funny nonfiction picture book.

**Awan, Jashar.** *Every Monday Mabel.*

Every Monday Mabel takes her breakfast outside and waits for her favorite part of the week: the garbage truck.

**Burgess, Matthew.** *Fireworks.*

Highlights the simple delights of a steamy July day in the city as two siblings eagerly await a spectacular fireworks display.

**Fang, X.** *Broken.*

When Mei Mei accidentally breaks her ama's favorite cup, she's convinced it's the end of the world. What if Ama is angry? What if she yells? What if she kicks Mei Mei out of her house? Mei can't face it. But when Mimi, the innocent cat who witnesses her crime, ends up being blamed, the guilt is too much! Mimi's accusing eyes follow Mei Mei until she just can't take it anymore and the truth comes spilling out.

**Fries-Gaither, Jessica.** *So Rude!: Animals behaving badly.*

Humans have many rules for how to behave, but for animals, breaking those rules can be a matter of survival. Meet rule-breaking animals including kingsnakes, hippos, bowerbirds, and many more!

**Hitchman, Jess.** *Axolotl and Axolittle.*

Axolotl and Axolittle are total opposites through and through, but after a squabble, they learn to make up and get along, as siblings often do.

**Kawa, Katie.** *20 Facts about Independence Day. 32 p.*

Fireworks, picnics, flags, and parades should remind Americans young and old of perhaps the most famous national holiday. Independence Day, also called the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday. While most know that the observance is a celebration of the nation, they might not know what happened on July 4 in 1776 and why this is a now famous date.

**Pallotta, Jerry.** *Ultimate Pterosaur rumble.* 32 p.

This nonfiction reader compares and contrasts sixteen of the fiercest flying pterosaurs. Readers will learn about each pterosaur's unique features, behavior, and more. Then, compare and contrast the battling pterosaurs before finally discovering the winner.

**Pizzoli, Greg.** *The Big Mess and Other Stories.* 69 p.

Earl, a messy bird, and Worm, a quiet and tidy bookworm, overcome their differences by helping each other through their problems and adventures.

**Timmers, Leo.** *Bear's Lost Glasses.*

Bear has lost his glasses and walks to his friend Giraffe's house, where he thinks he left them.

## 2 - 3

**Beckmeyer, Drew.** *Stalactite and Stalagmite: a big tale from a little cave.*

Two little mineral piles, Stalactite and Stalagmite, foster a friendship over millions of years as they grow closer together, figuratively and literally.

**Chin, Jason.** *Hurricane.*

The community of Hatteras Island, North Carolina prepares to weather a category three hurricane, aided by cutting-edge science.

**Daywalt, Drew.** *The Day the Crayons Made Friends.*

Duncan's crayons . . . have disappeared once more. But this time they've gone out into his room to make friends. From Red Crayon who fulfills his dream of driving a firetruck, to Blue Crayon, who meets a fashion doll desperately in need of a head, to fan favorite Esteban, who is off to tame a teddy bear (or as he would call it, a wild beast), each crayon has an exciting story to share about the new objects they've met and the new adventures they've had.

**Graham, Joan Bransfield.** *Awesome Earth: concrete poems celebrate caves, canyons, and other fascinating landforms.*

Concrete poems illustrate how our Earth slowly took shape.

**Hanson, Thor.** *The escape artist: a true story of octopus adventure.*

In rhyming text, the true story of Inky the octopus, who slipped out of his tank at the National Aquarium in New Zealand and into the world's imagination.

**Jenkins, Steve.** *Toes, teeth, and tentacles: a curious counting book.*

This book highlights the numerous strange and fascinating features and appendages, from teeth to toes to tongues, of all kinds of animals.

**Quigley, Dawn. *The super-scary sleepover.* 63 p.**

Spunky Ojibwe first-grader Jo Jo Makoons knows a lot about bravery and boldness. Her cat, Mimi, is very brave when she tries new foods, and Teacher is very bold when he wears his ugly ties to school. When Jo Jo is invited to her very first friend sleepover, it's her turn to be courageous! Only she's not quite sure how. Especially when scary puppets and dolls hide around every corner.

**Reynolds, Aaron. *Troubling tonsils!* 73 p.**

Jasper Rabbit tells the eerie tale of Charlie Marmot, whose decision to keep his tonsils after surgery leads to creepy, mysterious events.

**Sharpson, Neil. *Don't Trust Fish.***

This nature-guide-gone-wrong is a . . . exploration of the seemingly innocent animals that live in the water.

**Shaskan, Stephen. *Pizza and Taco. 10, Go viral!* 58 p.**

Inspired by other food besties' channels, best friends Pizza and Taco borrow Ms. Banana's uncooperative dog, Biscuit, in an attempt to go viral on StewTube.

## 4 - 5

**Applegate, Katherine. *Pocket Bear.* 263 p.**

A teddy bear named Pocket Bear born during World War One as a good luck charm finds himself a century later as the unofficial mayor of Second Chances Home for the Tossed and Treasured, where stuffed toy animals are refurbished and given a fresh opportunity to be loved. He and his best feline friend Zephyrina, known far and wide as 'The Cat Burglar', have seen it all, and then some.

**Castaldo, Nancy. *Whales in the City.***

Spanning from pre-colonization to today, learn how the industrial revolution, overfishing, and pollution drove whales away from New York Harbor and the Hudson River by the early 20th Century. But the story doesn't end there. Passionate citizens were able to band together and clean up the harbor through activism and legislation. The first whales were spotted in the Hudson after over 100 years in 2019! Here is an uplifting environmental success story full of towering skyscrapers and underwater dramatics that highlights the power of community--voicing to readers of all ages that each of us can make a difference. Also includes backmatter on whales and water pollution around the country.

**Glaser, Karina Yan. *The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli.* 420 p.**

In 731 Chang'An, China, Han Yu sells steamed buns in a bustling market full of whispers about his ability to summon tigers. In 1931 Chinatown, New York, Luli Lee gazes out from the roof of her parents' restaurant, dreaming of dim sum and Chinese art. Familiar rhythms rule the contented lives of Han Yu and Luli. But when plague strikes Chang'An and financial crisis threatens Luli's family, each must venture out into the larger world--and into perilous adventure--to save what they love most.

**Green, Dan. *Rocks and Minerals: a gem of a book!* 128 p.**

Provides an illustrated introduction to rocks, gems, crystals, fossils, and other materials that form the foundation of the planet Earth.

**Gutman, Dan. *The Picasso Curse.* 183 p.**

When Edwin Hodge discovers a priceless Picasso sketch hidden in a poster frame, he becomes an overnight celebrity, but it might just ruin his life.

**Harman, Aubrey. *The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest.* 313 p.**

An undead fox serving as the usher of souls has his life upended when a mysterious badger soul appears.

**Hartman, Brooke. *Cute Animals that Could Kill You Dead.***

Profiles seventeen adorable animals like hedgehogs, sea otters, and dolphins, and the killer instincts they use to find food.

**Markle, Sandra. *Dinosaur secrets revealed! : how high-tech tools spark discoveries.* 48 p.**

With the help of advanced technology, scientists are making new discoveries about dinosaurs. From pressure sensors to computer models, lidar scanning to laser-simulated fluorescence, new tools are revealing new information about these prehistoric creatures.

**Sears, Rob. *A Tree is a Time Machine.***

Eunice the yew has been growing in this spot for centuries. Now, she wants to tell us humans what she's learned. After all, she's seen everything. We've just arrived.

**Telgemeier, Raina. *The Cartoonists Club.* 261 p.**

Makayla is bursting with ideas but doesn't know how to make them into a story. Howard loves to draw, but he struggles to come up with ideas and his dad thinks comics are a waste of time. Lynda constantly draws in her sketchbook but keeps focusing on what she feels are mistakes, and Art simply loves being creative and is excited to try something new. They come together to form The Cartoonists Club, where kids can learn about making comics and use their creativity and imagination for their own storytelling adventures!