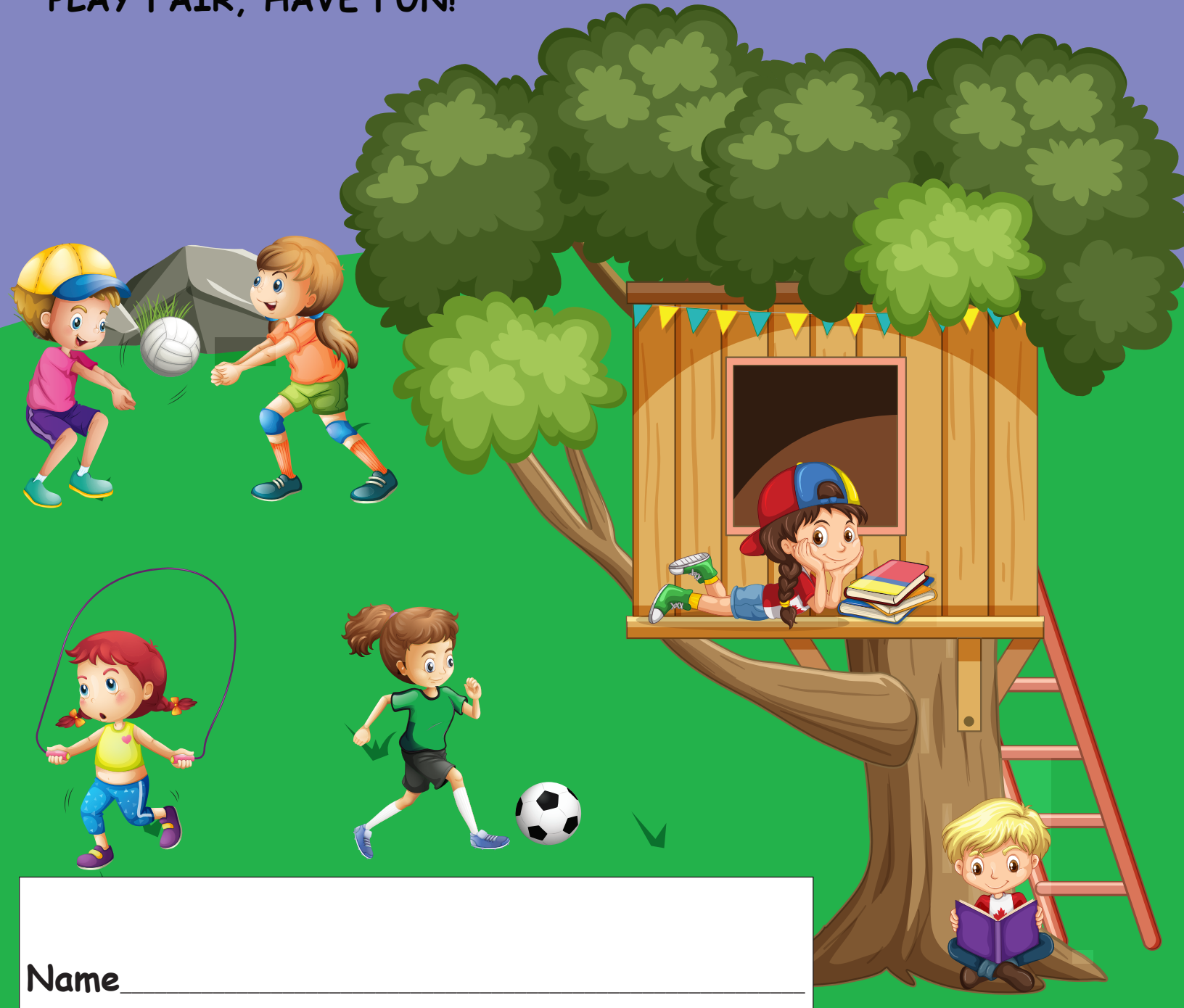


# 2023 SUMMER READING AND FITNESS CHALLENGE



## P.E. GANG

PLAY FAIR, HAVE FUN!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# 2023 Summer Reading and Fitness Challenge



Dear Parents,

Children should use summer vacation as a time to stay active both physically and mentally. Studies have shown that children who continue to read during the summer perform better academically in the fall. To encourage children and their parents to exercise both their mind and body during the summer months, we have created a Summer Fitness and Reading Challenge.

The Summer Fitness and Reading Challenge is open to all students from kindergarten through 5th grade. Each child must read at least 30 minutes for 50 days, and perform as many physical activities as they wish. We are also encouraging all family members to participate in the challenge. The different physical activities are assigned varying point values, which count toward each student's score.

Mark the enclosed calendar for each day in June, July and August that you and your child read together and exercise. If the child reads each day for 30 minutes, he or she will check that day.



For each day the child exercises, they will mark the coordinating letter(s) for the activity or activities performed from the list.

We also ask that the parents initial each day's entry and total up all the points for activities done.

Please check out our facebook page and a link to the pegang website ([www.pegang.com](http://www.pegang.com)). The facebook page will provide stories that promote character, along with a monthly fitness calendar.

Have a great summer and stay healthy and active!



# LETS GET FIT TOGETHER!

"We pledge to read together for at least 30 minutes for 50 days and exercise during the months of June, July and August. For each day we read together we will mark the attached calendar with a checkmark (x). For each day we exercise together we will mark the corresponding letter in that day's box. I will also have my parents initial each day that reading and exercise are done."

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| A. Thoughtful and Kind Calendar                                   | 20points  |
| B. P.E. Gang Fitness Video, <a href="#">click here!</a>           | 20 points |
| C. P.E. Gang Adventure Game, <a href="#">click here!</a>          | 20 points |
| D. P.E. Gang Sports Calendar                                      | 20 points |
| E. P.E. Gang Fitness Calendar                                     | 20 points |
| F. Bike riding/Skateboarding/Scootering                           | 10 points |
| G. Soccer/Football/Baseball/<br>Basketball/Hockey/Softball/Tennis | 10 points |
| H. Jump rope  | 10 points |
| I. Hopscotch  | 10 points |
| J. Tag/Manhunt  | 10 points |
| K. Dancing  | 10 points |
| L. Swimming   | 10 points |
| M. Walk around the block (with parent)                            | 10 points |
| N. Yardwork (with parent)   | 5 points  |
| O. Bowling  | 5 points  |
| P. Walking  | 5 points  |
| Q. Jogging/Running/ (for 10 minutes)                              | 10 points |
| R. Shoot 25 foul shots  | 10 points |
| S. 25 push-ups or 25 sit-ups or 25 curl-ups                       | 10 points |
| T. Ice/Roller Skating   | 10 points |
| V. Hiking   | 10 points |
| U. Swingset/Playground  | 5 points  |





# LETS GET FIT TOGETHER

**EXAMPLE:** For each day you read together you will mark the attached calendar with a checkmark ☒. For each day you exercise together you will mark the corresponding letter in that day's box. Record the letter and point value for each activity you completed for that day. Add the points together at the end of the week for your weekly total. Below is a example of how to record your activities and score. Use the chart below to see how you did!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	WEEKLY TOTAL
☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	190 points
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
G. Soccer 10pts H. Jump Rope 10pts I. Hopscotch 10 pts Parents Initials: _____	A. Yardwork 5pts G. Basketball 10pts M. Karate 10 pts Parents Initials: _____	Q. Jogging 10pts F. Bike Riding 10pts G. Baseball 10 pts Parents Initials: _____	S. Push Ups 10pts S. Sit Ups 10pts K. Dancing 10 pts Parents Initials: _____	V. Hiking 10pts B. Yardwork 5pts A. Swingset 5pts Parents Initials: _____	Q. Jogging 10pts F. Bike Riding 10pts J. Tag 10pts Parents Initials: _____	K. Dancing 10pts B. Yardwork 5 pts H. Jump Rope 10pts Parents Initials: _____	



**SUPERHERO LEVEL**  
any number over  
150 points



**GOOD JOB LEVEL**  
50 to 95 points



**OUTSTANDING LEVEL**  
100 to 145 points



**LITTLE MORE EFFORT LEVEL**  
0 to 45 points



# SUMMER FITNESS AND READING CHALLENGE

## JUNE 2023

WEEKLY  
TOTAL

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--

--



# SUMMER FITNESS AND READING CHALLENGE

## JULY 2023

**WEEKLY  
TOTAL**

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

1

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

2

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

3

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

4

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

5

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

6

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

7

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

8

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

9

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

10

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

11

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

12

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

13

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

14

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

15

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

16

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

17

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

18

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

19

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

20

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

21

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

22

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

23

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

24

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

25

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

26

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

27

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

28

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

29

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

30

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

31

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_



# SUMMER FITNESS AND READING CHALLENGE

## AUGUST 2023

WEEKLY  
TOTAL

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

3

4

5

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

27

28

29

30

31

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Initials: \_\_\_\_\_





# THOUGHTFUL AND KIND CHALLENGES



Thank a friend for the joy they bring into your life

Smile and be friendly, even while you're social distancing

Show your appreciation to those who are helping others

Create a list of your favorite memories you feel grateful for

Enjoy trying a new recipe or cooking your favorite food

Be kind to yourself the way you would treat a friend

Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

Eat food that makes you feel good and really savour it

Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh

Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to them)

Notice how positive emotions are contagious between people

Go outside and find the joy in doing something active

Notice three things that are beautiful in the world around you

Say "Good Morning" to everyone at the start of the day

Take a small step towards an important goal

Find a fun way to do an extra 10 minutes of physical activity

Have an arts and craft day with your family

Make popcorn/special snack and watch a family movie - outside or inside

Pick an activity that the family enjoys together and do it today

While lying in bed place your hands on your stomach and pay attention to the up and down of your belly as you breathe

Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

Play a board game with your family

Spend less time sitting down today - get up and move more!

Can you go without your tablet, TV or internet? Try to go device free for 4 hours.

Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!

See how many different people you can smile at today

Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

Today give someone a compliment. Examples: I like your hairstyle I like how you're helpful

Do something helpful for a friend or family member

Find a caring, calming phrase to say to yourself when feeling low

Notice the things you do well today, however small

Enjoy moving to your favorite music. Really go for it!

Do something active and fun like air guitar or a silly walk

# SPORTS CHALLENGES



## BASKETBALL HOCKEY SOCCER FOOTBALL VOLLEYBALL BASEBALL OTHER/SPORTS

### 50 JOBS!

- Dribble 10 times with right hand
- Dribble 10 times with left hand
- Dribble 10 times while alternating hands

### WITH A PARTNER (10' away)

- Make 10 chest passes to partner
- Make 10 bounce passes to partner

### 50 JOBS!

- Stickhandle in place for 10 seconds
- Stickhandle while moving for 10 seconds

### WITH A PARTNER (10' away)

- Make 10 forehand passes to partner
- Make 10 backhand passes to partner
- Stickhandle around partner 10 times (keep head up!)

### 50 JOBS!

- 10 alternating toe taps on top of ball
- 10 foundations (tap ball side to side)
- Dribble while moving for 10 seconds

### WITH A PARTNER (10' away)

- Make 10 inside of the foot passes to partner
- Make 10 outside of the foot passes to partner

### 50 JOBS!

- Jog in place for 10 seconds, carrying football in right hand
- Jog in place for 10 seconds, carrying football in left hand

### WITH A PARTNER

- Throw/catch football 10x's to partner
- Center football 10x's to partner
- Jog around partner with football 10x's

### 50 JOBS!

- Set balloon (volleyball) 10 times
- Bump balloon (volleyball) 10 times
- Alternate setting and bumping 10 times

### WITH A PARTNER (10' away)

- Make 10 set passes to partner 10x's
- Make 10 forearm passes to partner 10x's

### 50 JOBS!

- WITH A PARTNER (10' away)**
- Make 10 underhand throws to partner
  - Make 10 overhand throws to partner.
  - Roll 10 grounders to partner
  - Toss 10 pop-ups to partner
  - Toss to a partner on the move 10 times.

## OTHER/SPORTS

Invent a sport that moves a ball from partner to partner!

Practice dribbling a basketball with 1 or 2 people guarding you.

For 5-10 minutes, practice sending and receiving a hockey ball or puck with a family member while moving.

Face a partner 15' away and see how many exchanges the two of you can make with a soccer ball in 1 minute.

Face a partner 15' away and see how many exchanges the two of you can make with a football in 1 minute.

Practice passing a balloon or volleyball with a partner while both of you are moving.

Face a partner with a baseball/softball. Take turns throwing the ball back and forth, taking a step back after making 10 successful throws.

Find and read a sports story from a magazine or book. Then go and play that sport!

Find a basketball and a goal, and work on setting a new personal record for consecutive baskets.

Practice shooting a hockey ball or puck.

- 10 wrist shots
- 10 backhand shots
- 10 slap shots
- 10 snap shots

Show a partner dribbling a soccer ball. Switch after 30 seconds and repeat 3 times!

Find a partner. Use an empty plastic bottle as a pin and agree on a challenge, like 10 jumping jacks. See who can beat the challenge and knock down the pin while carrying a football.

Find a balloon and play a volleyball game over a chair or place a towel on floor.

For 10 - 15 minutes, practice sending and receiving a baseball or softball with a family member.

Practice a sport you can play when you become an adult.

Practice dribbling a basketball with your head up while jogging (running) for 5 minutes.

Practice passing with a hockey ball or puck with a partner while both of you are moving.

Practice dribbling with the inside of your big toes while jogging (running) for 5 minutes.

For 10 - 15 minutes, practice sending and receiving a football with a family member.

The challenge is to volley a balloon 10 times in a row without the balloon hitting the ground. Each person must contact the balloon at least twice but may not strike it twice in a row.

Practice tossing a baseball upward. Can you catch it above your head? Can you catch it below your waist? Can you catch while running?

Pick a sport. Organize a family game!

### BASKETBALL CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER (20' away)

Partners must be standing behind a line. On the go signal the children must make 20 successful chest passes in 60 seconds while moving back and forth (dribbling) between the lines.

### HOCKEY CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER (20' away)

Partners must be standing behind a line. On the go signal the children must make 20 successful passes in 60 seconds while moving back and forth (stickhandling) between the lines.

### SOCCER CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER (20' away)

Partners must be standing behind a line. On the go signal the children must make 15 successful passes in 60 seconds while moving back and forth (dribbling) between the lines.

### FOOTBALL CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER (20' away)

Partners must be standing behind a line. On the go signal the children must make 25 successful throws and catches in 60 seconds while moving back and forth (carrying the football) between the lines.

### VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER

The challenge is to volley a balloon 20 times in a row (volleyball 10 times) without the balloon hitting the ground. Each person must contact the balloon at least twice but may not strike it twice in a row.

### BASEBALL CHALLENGE! WITH A PARTNER (20' away)

Throw and catch a baseball with a partner, 30 times in a row without a miss. If the throw or catch is dropped the task must be started again. Each partner will complete 15 throws and 15 catches for a total of 30.

Play a one-step-back game with a partner or friend. Each time you catch a ball, take a step back,



# FITNESS CHALLENGES



How much do you weigh? Subtract your age. Can you perform the difference in jumping jacks in 2 minutes.

**Underhand Toss Target Practice**  
Using an empty laundry basket or bucket, practice tossing a small object inside. Each time you make it take a step back.

**Crazy 8's**  
8 jumping jacks  
8 silly shakes (just shake as silly as you can)  
8 high knees  
8 scissor jumps

**You're a Frog!**  
Practice your frog jumps by traveling as far as you can in 30 sec. Repeat 5 times trying to get farther each time.



**Cow-Cat Pose**  
Try your cow and cat yoga poses together.



Do bicycle legs with a family member or friend for 60 seconds.



**Clap and Catch**  
Throw a soft object up into the air. See how many times you can clap before you catch it.

Put your favorite song on and make up a dance or fitness routine!



Take a 5 minute fast walk. Now alternate walking and jogging at your own pace for 10 more minutes. Bring a grown up!

**Musical Frogs**  
This game is just like musical chairs except players hop around like frogs and sit on lily pads (pillows).



Practice tossing and catching a rolled-up sock while sitting on a chair with a family member.

Make up a dance routine using 8-12 steps.  
  
Practice the dance then teach it to someone else!

Print the alphabet while in a push-up position.



Do 20 front lunges per leg with a family member or friend.



Challenge a family member or friend to a "plank without laughing" competition.



**Commercial Stroll**  
During a commercial break take a walk around your entire house. Still a commercial? Go again this time speed walking so you don't miss a thing!

Challenge someone to a "Who Can Go the Longest" contest each time a TV commercial comes on. Who can sit with arms & legs raised or stand on one foot the longest!

Who in your family can do the most jumping jacks in 20 seconds?



Hold hands with a family member or friend and do 25 squats together.



**Measure off 50 feet.**  
Practice sprinting the distance 10 times



Find a partner. Use an empty plastic bottle as a pin and agree on a challenge, like 10 jumping jacks. See who can beat the challenge and knock down the pin first.

Jump side-to-side over an object or line for 1 minute straight. Go again but jump front to back. Repeat each jump twice.

**High Knees & Stretch**  
High knees for 30 seconds then stretch a body part. Repeat stretching a new bodypart each time.

**Exercise or dance to 3 of your favorite fast songs.**



Find a jump rope and a family member. Can both of you jump the same rope?



Jog in place while watching 3 commercials on T.V.



**Grab hands with a partner and see who can touch the other partner's foot 10 times first. Play safe!**

**Limbo**  
Grab a broom stick and have 2 people hold it. Take turns going under the stick arching backwards. Lower the stick after each successful pass. How low can you go?

What time is it? Perform a jumping jack for each minute after the hour. For example, 8:35 - 35 jumping jacks.



With a real or an imaginary jump rope, jump in place for 3 minutes



**I, Spy Walk**

Go for a 10 minute walk with your family while playing a game of I, Spy.

Do 20 push-ups with a family member or friend.



Go outside and toss a ball around with a family member or friend. Can you catch and throw 100 times?



Challenge a family member or friend to a "balance on one foot with eyes closed without losing balance" contest.



Face a partner with a ball. Take turns passing the ball back and forth, taking a step back after each successful catch.







# READING LIST

Grades  
K–2

## BOOKS

### BIG SHARK, LITTLE SHARK, AND THE SPOOKY CAVE

BY ANNA MEMBRINO,  
ILLUSTRATED BY TIM BUDGEN

RANDOM HOUSE, 2021  
ISBN: 9780593302071

In this beginning-reader book, Big Shark is afraid to explore the dark and spooky cave, but Little Shark is excited for a new adventure!

### BURT THE BEETLE DOESN'T BITE!

BY ASHLEY SPIRES

KIDS CAN PRESS, 2021  
ISBN: 9781525301469

Some bugs seem to have superpowers, like strength and speed, but what can Burt the june beetle do? Includes insect super facts.

### CREEPY CRAYON!

BY AARON REYNOLDS,  
ILLUSTRATED BY PETER BROWN

SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2022  
ISBN: 9781534465886

A "purple, pointy, perfect" crayon seems to be the answer to all of Jasper's frustrations and failures at school, until the crayon begins making its own demands.

### DARK ON LIGHT

BY DIANNE WHITE,  
ILLUSTRATED BY FELICITA SALA

BEACH LANE, 2022  
ISBN: 9781534487895

As the sun sets, three young children pull on their boots and grab their flashlights, ready to explore the wonders of the world at night. Lyrical text and rich illustrations underscore the magic of discovery.

### EMILE AND THE FIELD

BY KEVIN YOUNG,  
ILLUSTRATED BY CHIOMA EBINAMA

MAKE ME A WORLD, 2022  
ISBN: 9781984850423

A young Black child feels companionship with a field, running through it in warm weather, and missing it when it is snow-covered in winter. Watercolor illustrations add to the dreaminess of the story.

### GIGI AND OJJI

BY MELISSA IWAI

HARPERCOLLINS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063208063

Gigi, a biracial six-year-old girl, seeks ways to connect with her Japanese grandpa when he comes to live with her family.

### HANA'S HUNDREDS OF HIJABS

BY RAZEENA OMAR GUTTA,  
ILLUSTRATED BY MANAL MIRZA

BAREFOOT BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781646866205

A problem-solving story that touches on identity, creativity, and pride of one's culture and traditions.

### HOLD THEM CLOSE: A LOVE LETTER TO BLACK CHILDREN

BY JAMILAH THOMPkins-BIGELOW,  
ILLUSTRATED BY PATRICK DOUGHER WITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMEL SHABAZZ

HARPERCOLLINS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063036178

Through vivid collaged and gold-painted pages, this poetic picture book encourages Black children to hold onto the good moments.

### IDA B. WELLS, VOICE OF TRUTH: EDUCATOR, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-LYNCHING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

BY MICHELLE DUSTER,  
ILLUSTRATED BY LAURA FREEMAN

HENRY HOLT, 2022  
ISBN: 9781250239464

A picture-book biography told by Wells' great-granddaughter, adding a wonderful personal perspective.

### IT FELL FROM THE SKY

BY TERRY FAN AND ERIC FAN

SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2021  
ISBN: 9781534457621

Whimsical yet sophisticated, this picture book provides a look at structures of power and welcoming newcomers.

### A LAND OF BOOKS: DREAMS OF YOUNG MEXIHCAH WORD PAINTERS

BY DUNCAN TONATIUH

ABRAMS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781419749421

Explore the rich history of Mexihcah bookmaking through a child's perspective. Features Nahuatl-infused text, an author's note, and glossary.

### LILY LEADS THE WAY

BY MARGI PREUS,  
ILLUSTRATED BY MATT MYERS

CANDLEWICK, 2022  
ISBN: 9781536214031

Lily, a small sailboat, helps the larger cargo ships navigate the harbor around them. An author's note describes different kinds of boats and bridges.

### LITTLE WITCH HAZEL: A YEAR IN THE FOREST

BY PHOEBE WAHL

TUNDRA, 2021  
ISBN: 9780735264892

Delve into the forest for a year and explore creatures, habitats, and flora. The tiny witch tends to all to ensure comfort and health. Lyrical writing makes for a lovely journey.

### MY PET FEET

BY JOSH FUNK,  
ILLUSTRATED BY BILLY YONG

SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2022  
ISBN: 9781534486003

In this silly picture book, a little girl discovers that her pet ferret is now her pet feet. Someone has taken all the



r's! Through clever wordplay, readers will follow along and hope that the missing letters are found.

## NOTHING SPECIAL

**BY DESIREE COOPER,  
ILLUSTRATED BY BEC SLOANE**

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780814349731

A picture-book tribute to Black American families who travel south each summer to stay connected to family and history. The memorable illustrations were created entirely with recycled textiles.

## REINA RAMOS WORKS IT OUT

**BY EMMA OTHEGUY,  
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDRÉS LANDAZÁBAL**

HARPERCOLLINS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063223110

In this beginning reader, Reina has a dilemma to solve. When their teacher announces that the class will be creating a "wax museum" for open house day, she and her best friend choose the same person to portray. Also available in Spanish.

## SIR LADYBUG

**BY COREY R. TABOR**

BALZER + BRAY, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063069060

Sir Ladybug, along with his trusty friends, must rescue a caterpillar from a hungry chickadee in the first book in this sweet graphic novel series.

## A TASTE OF HONEY: KAMALA OUTSMARTS THE SEVEN THIEVES

**BY REBECCA SHEIR,  
ILLUSTRATED BY CHAAYA PRABHAT**

STOREY PUBLISHING, 2022  
ISBN: 9781635864922

A retelling of a folktale from India and Pakistan in which a young woman learns to rely on herself to solve her problems. Includes a QR code to listen to a podcast of the story as well as other creative storytelling activities.

## TÍA FORTUNA'S NEW HOME: A JEWISH CUBAN JOURNEY

**BY RUTH BEHAR,  
ILLUSTRATED BY DEVON HOLZWARH**

KNOPF, 2022  
ISBN: 9780593172414

Estrella learns about her Cuban and Jewish heritage as her Tía Fortuna packs up and moves from her pink casita to an assisted-living home.

## WAYS TO MAKE FRIENDS

**BY JAIRO BUITRAGO,  
ILLUSTRATED BY MARIANA RUIZ JOHNSON**

GREYSTONE KIDS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781771649759

In this tongue-in-cheek guide to friendship, a hapless toad tries out all kinds of methods, from the innocuous to the bizarre, in his quest to make a connection. Also available in Spanish.

## THE WORLD BELONGED TO US

**BY JACQUELINE WOODSON,  
ILLUSTRATED BY LEO ESPINOSA**

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780399545498

A group of children in Brooklyn experience endless possibilities on their block when summer arrives, and they are free to play together until sundown.

## YELLOW DOG BLUES

**BY ALICE FAYE DUNCAN,  
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS RASCHKA**

EERDMANS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780802855534

Young Bo Willie's beloved puppy has gone missing, and his search traces the path of landmark spots in the development of blues music. Features unique hand-stitched illustrations.

## DIGITAL

### CIRCLE ROUND

[wbur.org/podcasts/circleround](https://wbur.org/podcasts/circleround)

This podcast retells folktales from around



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

the world, exploring themes like friendship, generosity, and creativity, and always ends with an activity.

### SEEK BY INATURALIST

[inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

Get outside, explore, and identify plants and animals around you with the Seek app. Participate in challenges and earn badges.

### SKYSCI FOR KIDS

[scied.ucar.edu/kids](https://scied.ucar.edu/kids)

Learn about climate- and weather-related science through games, articles, and videos on this interactive website created for children ages five to ten.

### STORY PIRATES

<https://www.storypirates.com/podcast>

Young people's original stories are adapted into sketches by professional comedians and musicians, offering inspiration for podcast listeners to create their own stories.

### TINYBOP: THE HUMAN BODY

<https://tinybop.com/apps/the-human-body>

Learn how the human body works in this interactive, entertaining app made for children ages six to eight.

[www.ala.org/alsc](https://www.ala.org/alsc)

The 2023 Summer Reading Book List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/booklists](https://www.ala.org/alsc/booklists).

© 2023 American Library Association



# READING LIST

Grades  
3—5

## BOOKS

### CAT KID COMIC CLUB: COLLABORATIONS

BY DAV PILKEY

GRAPHIX, 2022  
ISBN: 9781338846621

This fourth installment in the graphic novel series again utilizes madcap antics to deliver gentle wisdom as Flippy the fish's exuberant children share their latest collection of mini-comics with a television reporter's audience.

### CHESTER KEENE CRACKS THE CODE

BY KEKLA MAGOON

WENDY LAMB BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781524715991

Chester is convinced his dad is a spy. After receiving a clue from his dad, Chester and his classmate Skye embark on a puzzle-filled scavenger hunt that ends up having higher stakes than he originally thought.

### CLASSIFIED: THE SECRET CAREER OF MARY GOLDA ROSS, CHEROKEE AEROSPACE ENGINEER

BY TRACI SORELL,  
ILLUSTRATED BY NATASHA DONOVAN

MILLBROOK PRESS, 2021  
ISBN: 9781541579149

Mary Golda Ross, a Cherokee citizen, stayed true to her heritage throughout many accomplishments as an engineer. Four Cherokee values are explained, showing their spelling and pronunciation as well as a definition translated in English.

### COUNTING IN DOG YEARS AND OTHER SASSY MATH POEMS

BY BETSY FRANCO,  
ILLUSTRATED BY PRISCILLA TEY

CANDLEWICK, 2022  
ISBN: 9781536201161

Amusing and silly poems that can be enjoyed as fun prompts for math conversations and practice.

### ENDLESSLY EVER AFTER: PICK YOUR PATH TO COUNTLESS FAIRY TALE ENDINGS!

BY LAUREL SNYDER,  
ILLUSTRATED BY DAN SANTAT

CHRONICLE BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781452144825

Choose your own path through this adventuresome, dramatic, and sometimes grisly twist on classic fairy tales. Perfect for multiple, ever-changing read-alouds.

### FINALLY SEEN

BY KELLY YANG

SIMON & SCHUSTER, 2023  
ISBN: 9781534488335

Lina Gao adjusts to life in America, traveling from Beijing to reunite with her family in California after five years apart, supporting her family's bath-bomb business to raise their back rent, finding her place at a new school, and discovering the power of books and raising her voice.

### THE FIRST CAT IN SPACE ATE PIZZA

BY MAC BARNETT,  
ILLUSTRATED BY SHAWN HARRIS

KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063084087

Rats are eating the moon, and it's up to a zany crew of a cat, a moon queen, and a toenail-clipping robot to save the world—and maybe eat some pizza.

### THE HIDDENSEEK

BY NATE CERNOSEK

PUTNAM, 2021  
ISBN: 9781984816764

Holly and Hector thought they were playing an innocent game of hide-and-seek, but instead they are transported to a dark, cursed world frozen in time. Trapped in an endless game of hide-and-seek, there are dire consequences if they're found.

### HOOKY

BY MÍRIAM BONASTRE TUR

CLARION, 2021  
ISBN: 9780358468301

When twins Dorian and Dani miss the bus to magic school, they are plunged into a world of tensions in the magical realm in this engaging, fast-paced graphic novel.

### MARYA KHAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HENNA PARTY

BY SAADIA FARUQI,  
ILLUSTRATED BY ANI BUSHRY

ABRAMS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781419761164

When her classmate Alexa describes the fancy party she's having for her birthday, Marya decides to make her own big impression with a fabulous henna party. But first she needs to convince her family to go along with this great idea.

### MEGA-PREDATORS OF THE PAST

BY MELISSA STEWART,  
ILLUSTRATED BY HOWARD GRAY

PEACHTREE, 2022  
ISBN: 9781682631096

The spotlight in this nonfiction book is on the other huge prehistoric beasts that dinosaur-centric titles might overlook. Learn fascinating facts and theories about giant insects, birds, and more.

### RILEY REYNOLDS CRUSHES COSTUME DAY

BY JAY ALBEE

STONE ARCH, 2022  
ISBN: 9781666344042

Fourth-grader Riley and their friends are excited to create their own costumes for Dress like Your Favorite Character Day. When other kids struggle with their costumes, Riley's creative problem-solving helps their friends succeed. This is the first book in the Riley Reynolds series.

### A ROVER'S STORY

BY JASMINE WARGA

BALZER + BRAY, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063113923

Resilience, a Mars rover, has learned some of the intricacies of human emotion through scientists and a young girl, Sophie, who writes letters to Res. Readers can join Res on the journey to explore Mars in this science fiction graphic novel.

### SWIM TEAM

BY JOHNNIE CHRISTMAS

HARPERALLEY, 2022  
ISBN: 9780063056770

A graphic novel about what it means to be the new kid at

school. Bree is thrust out of her comfort zone and learns how to swim, ultimately joining her new school's swim team.

### THREE STRIKE SUMMER

BY SKYLER SCHREMPF

MARGARET K. MCELDERRY BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9781534499140

Feisty Gloria Mae aspires to join an all-boys baseball team, while her pa is determined to protest the unfair conditions at the peach orchard where her family works in this novel set during the Dust Bowl.

### TOO SMALL TOLA AND THE THREE FINE GIRLS

BY ATINUKE,  
ILLUSTRATED BY ONYINYE IWU

CANDLEWICK, 2022  
ISBN: 9781536225174

Three short chapters follow Tola through the streets of Lagos, Nigeria, as she learns how to get along with her siblings, tends to her grandmother's health, and calms feelings of jealousy of a peer whose family has more money than hers.

### TRAILBLAZERS: LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA: RAISING THEATER TO NEW HEIGHTS

BY KURTIS SCALETTA

RANDOM HOUSE, 2021  
ISBN: 9780593124468

This book is about the life of Puerto Rican musical creator and lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda and how he became one of the most popular and successful performers in recent years.

### THE TRYOUT

BY CHRISTINA SOONTORNVAT,  
ILLUSTRATED BY JOANNA CACAO

GRAPHIX, 2022  
ISBN: 9781338741308

With the start of seventh grade, Christina, an Asian American girl in Texas, is hoping to become popular by making the cheerleading squad. However, she worries that she is too different from the other girls in her school.

### THE UNIVERSE IN YOU: A MICROSCOPIC JOURNEY

BY JASON CHIN

NEAL PORTER BOOKS, 2022  
ISBN: 9780823450701

Explore the infinitesimal particles—cells, atoms,

molecules, and those that we can't even yet measure—that make up all the world's physical matter in this well-researched and captivating informational picture book. Back matter provides notes and additional resources for extending learning.

### VIOLET AND JOBIE IN THE WILD

BY LYNNE RAE PERKINS

GREENWILLOW, 2022  
ISBN: 9780062499691

Two mice leave the comforts of human-adjacent life and try to survive in the forest. Spot illustrations and lots of white space make this chapter book inviting for younger readers.

### VOICES OF JUSTICE: POEMS ABOUT PEOPLE WORKING FOR A BETTER WORLD

BY GEORGE ELLA LYON,  
ILLUSTRATED BY JENNIFER M. POTTER

HENRY HOLT, 2020  
ISBN: 9781250263209

A lyrical collection of portraits and poems that celebrate changemakers such as Nelson Mandela and Dolores Huerta and emerging heroes such as the Parkland shooting survivors.

## DIGITAL

### 4-H AT HOME

<https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>

This website provides guides to learn and explore different topics including gardening, baking, and even aeroscience through activities that can be done at home.

### ART FOR KIDS HUB

<https://www.youtube.com/@artforkidshub>

Step-by-step YouTube videos for kids to learn to draw.

### EXPLORE LIVE CAMS

<https://explore.org/livecams>

Watch animals from around the world on dozens of live cams, including manatees, sloths, elephants, eagles, and more!

### GOOD NIGHT STORIES FOR REBEL GIRLS

<https://www.rebelgirls.com/audio>

Listen to inspiring stories about women from all



ALSC reading lists are created by children's librarians as a resource to share with patrons. These titles may also be available in ebook, audio book, braille, and large print formats. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to explore this list to find resources that may match or spark their child's interest. Connect with your local library to find out what's happening this summer.

over the world. While a lot of the stories on this app require a subscription, there are some free ones available in English and Spanish.

### KIDS ASK AUTHORS

<https://www.kidsaskauthors.com>

The weekly podcast is hosted by children's book author Grace Lin. Children submit questions that authors answer to learn more about their writing process, inspiration, and craft.

### MAKING SPACE WITH CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzW\\_SBxroAj5hcID4q5KwZw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzW_SBxroAj5hcID4q5KwZw)

A YouTube series by award-winning children's author-illustrator Christian Robinson in which he leads young people in exploring big feelings, creativity, and self-expression.

### MATHSTORY.COM

<https://mathstory.com/>

Find many ways on this website to explore and enjoy math and science from math stories, poems, and videos to practice worksheets.

### SMASH BOOM BEST

<https://www.smashboom.org/>

Aliens versus robots, flowers versus rainbows, ice cream versus french fries—which is best? Debaters on the podcast present the merits of two cool things, and a kid judge decides the winner.

### TYPING CLUB

<https://www.typingclub.com/>

Learn to type accurately without looking at the keyboard. This free website includes fun lessons for all ages.

[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

The 2023 Summer Reading Book List was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit [www.ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://www.ala.org/alsc/booklists).

© 2023 American Library Association