A Tween Girl Enters A Mysterious School For Thieves. An elementary-age entrepreneur makes some super-silly mistakes. A bunch of crayons write letters of complaint to their user. The stories that capture our attention as adults are uniquely personal—and the same is true with kids. In the new Kids & Family Reading Report, issued by Scholastic, 92 percent of kids say they are more likely to finish a book if they have chosen it themselves (see page 34). Over summer break, you may not be there to inspire your students to pick up a book, but you can equip them with plenty of captivating options geared toward their abilities and interests. Not sure which ones to suggest? We’ve scoured newly released titles across grade levels and genres to find books that make for perfect summer reading.
5 REASONS KIDS—AND PARENTS—WILL EMBRACE E-BOOKS

1. They're instantly engaging. Many e-book apps come with multimedia features that make reading an interactive experience.

2. They motivate reluctant readers. Because they feel more like games, e-books are likely to motivate below-level readers.

3. They're easy to take traveling. Kids can pack their entire library to bring with them on vacation (no extra suitcase required).

4. They save a trip to the bookstore. There's never "nothing to read." A new title takes just seconds to download.

5. They save money. E-books are, on average, cheaper than printed books. Parents will get more book for the buck.

ILLUSTRATED MASTERPIECES

These wordless (or nearly wordless) books are works of art.

Peace
By Wendy Anderson Halpern. $16.99. This beautifully illustrated book—with quotes incorporated into each drawing—contains a simple recipe for peace. Grades PreK-2

The Bird King: An Artist's Notebook
By Shaun Tan. $19.99. The author of The Arrival shares his sketches and artwork, revealing his creative process. This book is a must-have for the middle-grade art lovers in your life. Grades 3-8

Bluebird
By Bob Staake. $17.99. No words are necessary to tell this powerful story about bullying and an unexpected friendship. The artwork, in a geometric style with blue-gray shades, speaks volumes. Grades K-3

MULTICULTURAL PICKS

Kids can explore far-flung places without leaving their favorite summer-reading hideaways.

The Mighty Lalouche
By Matthew Olshan, illustrated by Sophie Blackall. $17.99. This illustrated work of historical fiction takes you back "one hundred and a few-odd years" to Paris to meet a petite postman turned champion boxer. Grades K-3

Brush of the Gods
By Lenore Look, illustrated by Meilo So. $17.99. Little is known about Wu Daozi, a Tang dynasty-era painter. Look and So have imagined a story about his life and magical disappearance. Grades 1-4

The Girl With a Brave Heart: A Tale From Tehran
By Rita Jalalifarz, illustrated by Vahid Mintz. $7.99. In the tradition of Iranian storytelling, The Girl With a Brave Heart is set in the streets of Tehran. It tells of a young girl who follows her heart and finds beauty where it takes her. Grades 2-5
NOTABLE AUTHORS

You can't go wrong with the newest books from these acclaimed writers.

**That Is Not a Good Idea!**
By Mo Willems. $17.99. From the author of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *Knuffle Bunny* comes another charmingly illustrated, unexpected, and laugh-out-loud story that both parents and children can relate to. Grades PreK-2

**P.S. Be Eleven**
By Rita Williams-Garcia. $16.99. This sequel is a surefire hit for readers who liked *One Crazy Summer*, which earned Williams-Garcia the Coretta Scott King Book Award. Back in Brooklyn after her summer in Oakland, California, Delphine struggles with her mom's advice to "be eleven" when she's already turned 12. Grades 3-6

**Darius & Twig**
By Walter Dean Myers. $17.99. From the author of *Monster* and countless other young adult novels comes *Darius & Twig*, a story of friendship and the search for self. Grades 7 and up

NEW TAKES ON OLD

These classic tales are back—with a twist.

**The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf**
By Mark Teague. $16.99. Teague's picture book will delight readers with its humorous reworking of the beloved fairy tale. (Read an interview with the author on page 27.) Grades PreK-2
**The Best of Summer Nonfiction**

Nothing says summer like the ocean (and its inhabitants) and celebrating all things American.

**Discover More: Sharks**
By David Burnie. $12.99. This informative book is packed with fascinating photos and graphics. A code inside gives readers access to a free digital version of the book. Grades 2-5

**America the Beautiful: Together We Stand**
By Katharine Lee Bates, illustrated by Bryan Collier et al. $17.99. The book weaves together the lyrics of “America the Beautiful,” written by Bates, with inspirational quotes from presidents and stunning illustrations from a number of renowned artists. Grades PreK-5

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**Teague Talks**
Beloved children’s author and illustrator Mark Teague answers our questions about summer reading and his new book, *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf*.

**Q:** Why did you choose to rewrite a classic fairy tale?
**A:** I loved fairy tales as a kid and I returned to them as a parent, sometimes reading them in books, sometimes just telling them to my kids at bedtime. I think one of the reasons fairy tales endure is because they’re so odd. We puzzle over them and that leads to retellings and lots of variations.

**Q:** Of all the classics to retell, why *The Three Little Pigs*?
**A:** *The Three Little Pigs* was my daughters’ favorite, but they never liked the ending, where the wolf ends up in the soup pot. Neither did I. He’s just being a wolf, after all. If he has any real fault in the story, it’s his foolishness in thinking he can blow down a brick house.

**Q:** What does summer reading look like in your house?
**A:** My daughters have moved on to The Hunger Games trilogy and more sophisticated fare, but they were great readers even when they were little. I guess it helped that I was always getting books as part of my job, but they also loved the classics—and the library was a major summer destination.

**Q:** Any suggestions to budding writers for summer activities?
**A:** You don’t need much—paper and pencil (with an eraser) and some free time. Boredom was my friend as a kid. Free time without much distraction helps a mind wander. A wandering mind leads to stories.

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**Favorites**

**Amelia Bedelia’s First Library Card**
By Herman Parish, illustrated by Lynne Avril. $17.99. Believe it or not, Amelia Bedelia turns 50 this year (and she has a whole new look). In this book, part of the spin-off series about Amelia in her younger years, the “punny” protagonist explores her local library. Grades PreK-2

**The Wizard of Oz**
By L. Frank Baum. $7.99. The covers of old-time favorites such as Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, originally published in 1900, have a new look, thanks to the Puffin Chalk Collection. Beautiful custom-chalk designs adorn this and other classics, including *Pippi Longstocking* and *Peter Pan*. Grades 3 and up
These action-packed books are perfect for your most intrepid students.

**The Beginner’s Guide to Running Away From Home**  
By Jennifer Larue Huget, illustrated by Red Nose Studio. $17.99. With its funky clay-sculpture art and sympathetic main character, this guidebook provides everything kids need to know to strike out on their own. Grades PreK-2

**Lawless**  
By Jeffrey Salane. $16.99. Action? Check. Adventure? Check. The book’s main character, M Freeman, finds plenty of both when she arrives at the Lawless School to study criminal mischief. Grades 4-8

**Seven Wonders: The Colossus Rises**  
By Peter Lerangis. $17.99. Lerangis kicks off a new adventure series that follows a group of friends in search of seven magical objects. Grades 3-6

Looking to recommend a tickle-your-funny-bone kind of tale? These are humorous books kids can relate to.

**The Day the Crayons Quit**  
By Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. $17.99. A cohort of quirky crayons have a thing or two to say to the little boy who colors with them. Pair this book with Shane DeRolf’s The Crayon Box That Talked. Grades PreK-2

**The Life of Ty: Penguin Problems**  
By Lauren Myracle, illustrated by Jed Henry. $12.99. From the author of The Winnie Years series comes a book about Winnie’s younger brother, Ty. Early chapterbook readers will get a chuckle out of Ty’s crazy antics. Grades 1-4

**Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made**  
By Stephan Pastis. $14.99. If your young readers liked Diary of a Wimpy Kid, chances are they’ll fall for Timmy Failure. Interspersed with comical drawings, the story follows Timmy on his entrepreneurial adventure. Grades 3-6

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