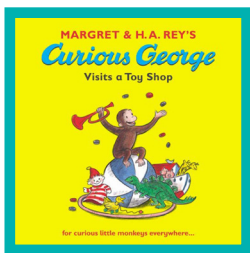


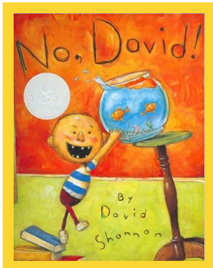
hands[®] across the sea

Summer Reading 2021

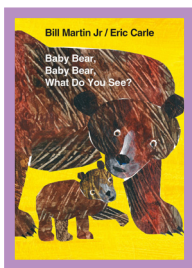
Good summer reading habits may have a lifetime of impact. Not only is reading a fun and portable way to experience the world, but staying ahead of the “summer slide” could be the difference between up to two-years of reading achievement loss for young students. We’re sharing a few of our favorite books for all ages so that you can keep reading active all summer long.



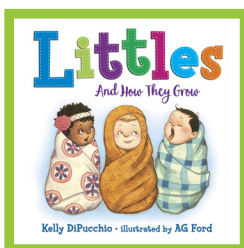
Curious George Visits a Toy Store By Margaret & H.A Rey: Enna Bullock of St. Vincent and the Grenadines loves the excitement she can bring to reading time with K-3 readers with *Curious George Visits a Toy Store*. “The children love to see George doing all kinds of tricks, and oh how they love to see all the toys.” She brings the book to life by asking plenty of questions along the way.



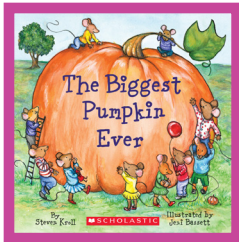
The David Series by David Shannon: Enter any Antiguan primary school and there is a good chance you will find walls with children’s artful renderings of a boy named David who is full of antics. Hyacinth Gonsalves-Barriero and Vernest Mack agree that the *David Series* is a summer must-have. For Hyacinth, the large print, size of the books, bold illustrations and the storylines are a winning combination when it comes to classroom read-alouds.



Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle: When it comes to early literacy, Hands Across the Sea’s resident expert Bernadette John of Grenada has things covered. Her pick for little ones is *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle. “It is a wonderful book for phonemic awareness. The use of repetition supports active listening and brain development in emergent learners.” We love that this is her granddaughter J’nae’s favorite, too.



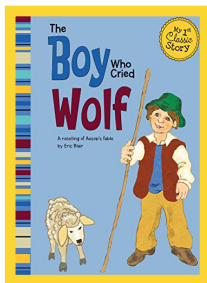
Littles: And How They Grow By Kelly DiPucchio: Yah-Hanna Jenkins Leys is a Director on Hands’ Board. A native to St. Kitts, she now calls West Michigan home. Her current favorite book is *Littles: And How They Grow*. “We love reading together, and we intentionally select BIPOC books that offer a variety of perspectives while presenting images that reflect our reality. As an Afro-Caribbean living in the US married to an Anglo/German American man, our multicultural biracial children need to see themselves represented in texts we read.”



The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steven Kroll: Yvette Pompey of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' vote this summer is for *The Biggest Pumpkin Ever* by Steven Kroll. This book, which she loves for her Grade 2 students, is filled with bold and exciting illustrations. "It shows what can be accomplished with a little cooperation and the spirit of teamwork. The story also gives a little magical fun."



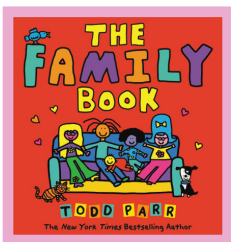
Choose Your Own Adventure Series: Giselle Laurent of Dominica wants students to check out of *Choose Your Own Adventures*, a series of books that includes multiple authors and is for a wide age group. She loves that the children get to determine the fate of characters. "The character is given two or three scenarios and the reader is asked picked which option the character should follow. My favorite part is going back, after following the first timeline, to find out what would have happened if I had chosen differently."



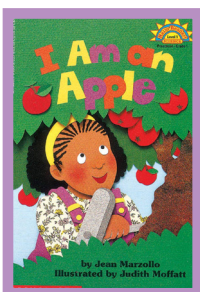
The Little Boy Who Cried Wolf By Eric Blair: Clara Paul, of St. Lucia is a fan of *The Little Boy Who Cried Wolf* for students Grade 2 and older. "The children are able to role play the parts of various characters, and to discover lessons and morals which people should learn from the story. I love how the story is a simple one with an easy concept of teaching children to always speak the truth, take responsibility for their actions, and make wise, good choices."



Alice in Wonderland By Lewis Carroll: Lize Bardouille, of Dominica recommends a classic this summer. For children 8 and above seeking some whimsy, look no further than to Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. For Lize, all of the literacy techniques and themes of honor, absurdity, and the friction make this must-read.



The Family Book By Todd Parr: Dr. Rhonel Citterbart, a native of St. Vincent and Hands Board Director, loves that her three children (7, 6, and 4) can all come together around *The Family Book*. "I love reading this to my children because it teaches them about variety in family structures. It teaches differences like color and gender, how some families adopt or are blended, that some families may be far away. But all these families celebrate together, feel sad together, do things together."



I am an Apple By Jean Marzallo: Travel to St. Lucia and Sheila Serville will tell you that *I Am an Apple* is an absolute for your summer list. She loves how this book simplifies things for young ones –especially Preschool and Kindergarten age children. "The children are amazed at how they can relate with their favorite fruit as they take the journey with the apple from planting of the seed through pollination to budding, picking, selling and even the table."

Learn more about how we're encouraging literacy in the Caribbean at HandsAcrossTheSea.org