

Ray Elementary Summer Reading List

Visual Arts, Third- through Fifth-Grade

Butterflies For Kiri

by Cathryn Falwell

Kiri, a Japanese American girl who loves to draw and paint, tries to use the origami set she received for her birthday. Includes instructions for making an origami butterfly.

K 1 2 3

Eggbert, the Slightly Cracked Egg

by Tom Ross

A cracked egg with a talent for painting goes through some painful experiences before realizing that being cracked can be something to be proud of.

K 1 2 3

The Wonderful Towers of Watts

by Patricia Zelter

Describes how an Italian immigrant built three unusual towers in his backyard in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles.

K 1 2 3

Who Stole Mona Lisa?

by Ruthie Knapp

Tells the story of the famous Leonardo Da Vinci portrait known as the Mona Lisa, including its 1911 theft from the Louvre in Paris, from the point of view of the subject of the painting.

K 1 2 3

You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum

by Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman

In this wordless story, a young girl and her grandmother view works inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art, while the balloon she has been forced to leave outside floats around New York City causing a series of mishaps that mirror scenes in the museum's artworks.

K 1 2 3

The Boy Who Drew Cat

by Margaret Hodges

Retelling of a folktale about Akiro, a young Japanese boy whose obsession with drawing cats leads him to an adventure that would change his life. Based on a legend about the Japanese artist Sesshū Tōyō.

K 1 2 3 4

My Name Is Georgia

by Jeanette Winter

From the time she was just a young girl, Georgia O'Keeffe viewed the world in her own way. While other girls played with toys and braided their hair, Georgia practiced her drawing and let her hair fly free. As an adult, Georgia followed her love of art from the steel canyons of New York City to the vast plains of New Mexico. There she painted all day, and slept beneath the stars at night. Throughout her life Georgia O'Keeffe followed her dreams – and so found her way to become a great American artist.

K 1 2 3 4

Kids' Crazy Art Concoctions: 50 Mysterious Mixtures for Art & Craft Fun

by Jill Frankel Hauser

Provides instructions for making a variety of artistic concoctions involving water color cakes, soap paint, crazy dough, pastes, papers, and earthworks.

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

How the Sphinx Got to the Museum

by Jessie Hartland

Inside New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the sphinx of the Pharaoh Hatshepsut holds court. But how did this ancient artifact get to the museum?

1 2 3 4

When Clay Sings

by Byrd Baylor

The daily life and customs of prehistoric southwest Indian tribes are retraced from the designs on the remains of their pottery.

1 2 3 4 5

Action Figures: Paintings Of Fun, Daring, And Adventure

by Bob Raczka

Eighteen paintings, and not a bowl of fruit in sight. Whether it is the knockout punch of George Bellows's "Dempsey and Firpo" or the fiery blasts of Diego Rivera's "The Conquest of Mexico", this art is not about sitting still. Raczka threads selections together using few words: "Dragon Slayers/Baseball Players/Big Top Swingers/Stone Slingers."

1 2 3 4 5 6

Tar Beach

by Faith Ringgold

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder

by Tanya Lee Stone

Story of artist Sandy Calder's moveable circus created out of found materials such as wire, cork and paper.

2 3 4

When Pigasso Met Mootisse

by Nina Laden

Pigasso, a talented pig, and Mootisse, an artistic bull, live across the road from one another, but when conflicts arise they build fences that ultimately become modern art masterpieces. Includes biographies of the real-life artists, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso.

2 3 4

Anna's Art Adventure

by Bjørn Sortland

On her search for the art museum's bathroom, Anna meets famous artists, becomes part of some of their paintings, and makes her own art.

2 3 4 5

Just Behave, Pablo Picasso!

by Jonah Winter

Pablo Picasso may have been a world-famous artist, but that doesn't mean no one ever called his artwork "ugly." Any kid who's been told what to draw, or heard mean things about something they made, will relate to this story about how Pablo faced down his critics and made something truly original.

2 3 4 5

Adventures in Cartooning

by James Sturm

Once upon a time...a princess tried to make a comic. And with the help of a magical cartooning elf, she learned how--well enough to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near-death by drowning, and into her very own adventure!

2 3 4 5 6

Pish, Posh, Said Hieronymus Bosch

by Nancy Willard

The weird creatures which inhabit a medieval painter's home drive his housekeeper away, until a change of heart sends her back to the beasts and to Bosch in a new and loving relationship.

3 4 5 6 7 8

Where in the World?: Around the Globe in 13 Works of Art

by Bob Raczka

Through the works of some of the world's most famous artists, the reader can pay a virtual visit to 13 different places and times without even getting up. The world tour begins in Japan and then hops over to Australia, followed by a stop on the beautiful island of Tahiti.

3 4 5 6 7 8

Art Fraud Detective: Spot the Difference, Solve the Crime!

by Anna Nilsen

A spot-the-difference game, mystery story, and art book in which readers try to tell which paintings are genuine and which are forgeries. Includes magnifying glass and split-page format.

4 5 6 7 8

The Dreamer

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes poems and odes written by the poet.

4 5 6 7 8

The Great Art Scandal: Solve the Crime, Save the Show!

by Anna Nilsen

Introduces twentieth century art through thirty-two paintings by sixteen artists, within which are hidden details taken from the works of such masters as Currie, Seurat, Hockney, and Lichtenstein.

4 5 6 7 8

Chasing Vermeer

by Blue Balliett

When strange and seemingly unrelated events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal. Includes extra material at the end of the book including biographical information, activities and thought-provoking questions.

5 6 7 8

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

by E.L. Konigsburg

Having runaway with her younger brother to live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, twelve-year-old Claudia strives to keep things in order in their new home and to become a changed person and a heroine to herself.

5 6 7 8