

Extended Break Reading List

Visual Arts, Kindergarten through Second-Grade

Blue Goose

by Nancy Tafuri

When Farmer Gray goes away for the day, Blue Goose, Red Hen, Yellow Chick, and White Duck get together and paint their black and white farm.

P K 1

Sky Color

Peter H. Reynolds

Marisol loves to paint. So when her teacher asks her to help make a mural for the school library, she can't wait to begin! But wait – how can Marisol ever make a sky without blue paint? After gazing out the bus window and watching from her porch as day turns into night, she closes her eyes and starts to dream.

P K 1 2

Harold and the Purple Crayon

by Crockett Johnson

With the aid of his purple crayon, Harold draws a moon, a path and everything else he wants for his walk in the moonlight.

P K 1 2

Green

by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text explore the many shades of the color green; Caldecott Medal Winner.

P K 1 2

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P K 1 2

Mouse Paint

by Ellen Stoll Walsh

Three white mice discover jars of red, blue, and yellow paint and explore the world of color.

P K 1 2

A Day with No Crayons

by Elizabeth Rusch

A little girl discovers all sorts of artistic possibilities when she has to go a day without crayons.

P K 1 2

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!

by Karen Beaumont

In the rhythm of a familiar folk song, a child cannot resist adding one more dab of paint in surprising places.

P K 1 2

The Day the Crayons Quit

by Drew Daywalt

When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them.

P K 1 2 3

Zoom

by Istvan Banyai

A wordless picture book presents a series of scenes, each one from farther away, showing, for example, a girl playing with toys which is actually a picture on a magazine cover, which is part of a sign on a bus, and so on.

P K 1 2 3

Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors

by Joyce Sidman

The names of colors are woven into unrhymed poems that celebrate the seasons.

P K 1 2 3

It Looked Like Spilt Milk

by Charles G. Shaw

A continuously changing white shape silhouetted against a blue background challenges the reader to guess what the shape is.

P K 1 2 3

Iggy Peck, Architect

by Andrea Beaty

Ever since he was a baby, Iggy Peck has built towers, bridges, and buildings, which comes in handy when his second grade class is stranded on an island during a picnic.

K 1 2

Jeremy Draws a Monster

by Peter McCarty

A young boy who spends most of his time alone in his bedroom makes new friends after the monster in his drawing becomes a monstrous nuisance.

K 1 2

Perfect Square

by Michael Hall

A perfect square that's perfectly happy is torn into pieces, punched with holes, crumpled, and otherwise changed, but finds in each transformation that it can be something new, and just as happy.

K 1 2

The Art Lesson

by Tomie dePaola

Having learned to be creative in drawing pictures at home, young Tommy is dismayed when he goes to school and finds the art lesson there much more regimented.

K 1 2

The Pencil

by Allan Ahlberg

A lonely pencil timidly draws a boy, a dog, and other items but soon faces a problem as his creations begin demanding changes, and when he draws an eraser to make them happy, the real trouble begins.

K 1 2

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 Zilver

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 Akio, 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.



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!

