

Reading List for Arts and Humanities, Grades K-5

Title/Author	Description
<i>Degas and the Dance: The Painter and the Petits Rats, Perfecting Their Art</i> by Susan Goldman Rubin	Explores the life and work of the nineteenth-century French artist who devoted most of his artwork to the subject of ballet.
<i>Frida</i> by Jonah Winter	Explores the childhood of Frida Kahlo and how it influenced her art.
<i>Leonardo da Vinci</i> by Ibi Lepscky	Describes the childhood of the famous artist and inventor, whose early interests in engineering, architecture, natural science, and painting were encouraged by his father.
<i>Picasso</i> by Mike Venezia	Briefly examines the life and work of the renowned twentieth-century artist, describing and giving examples from his various periods or styles.
<i>The Yellow House: Vincent van Gogh & Paul Gauguin Side by Side</i> By Susan Goldman Rubin	Tells the story of the two famous painters who were also friends.
<i>Bunnies in My Head</i> By Tricia Tusa	A young girl -- representing children of all ages -- explores her world, both real and imagined, with her paints and crayons.
<i>The Dot</i> by Peter Reynolds	Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.
<i>The Incredible Painting of Felix Clousseau</i> By Jon Agee	An unknown artist becomes an overnight sensation when his painting comes to life.
<i>Paper Bird</i> by Arcadio Lobato	A drawing of a bird tries without success to learn to fly, until the artist completes his original design and makes flight possible for it.
<i>Ah, Music!</i> By Aliko	Surveys the history and components of music, concentrating on Western musical traditions.
<i>Cat in the Hat Song Book: 19 Seuss-Songs for Beginning Singers</i> by Dr. Seuss	Contains a collection of Seuss-songs for beginning singers
<i>Fishing for a Dream: Ocean Lullabies and Night Verses</i> by Kate Kiesler	A collection of lullabies centered on a theme of the sea, ships, and fishes.
<i>Slave Spirituals and the Jubilee Singers</i> by Michael L. Cooper	Michael L. Cooper illuminates the lifestyle of "bondsmen" before the Civil War--and the expansion of this lifestyle by post-Civil War freedmen. His discussion of Fisk University's famous Jubilee Singers begins with an analysis of African-American music fixed in dance, shouts and religion.

<i>The Story of the Incredible Orchestra</i> by Bruce Koscielniak	Describes the orchestra, the families of instruments of which it is made, and the individual instruments in each family.
<i>Anna and the Bagpiper</i> by Thomas Locker	A young girl hears the strange but beautiful music of a bagpiper and wonders if it was just a dream.
<i>The Heart of the Wood</i> by Marguerite W. Davol	A cumulative tale in which a tree that is home to a singing mockingbird continues to be a source of music after it is fashioned into a fiddle.
<i>Manuelo the Playing Mantis</i> by Don Freeman	A praying mantis who longs to make music gets help from a spider named Debby Webster.
<i>Pages of Music</i> by Tony Johnston	A childhood visit to Sardinia haunts a composer, who returns there one Christmas to repay with his music the kindness of the island's inhabitants.
<i>Yellow Submarine</i> by Charlie Gardner	At the request of a befuddled emissary from Pepperland, four lads from Liverpool take a ride in a yellow submarine and use music to aid Pepperland's besieged residents in their battle against the Blue Meanies.
<i>Music, Music for Everyone</i> by Vera B. Williams	When her grandmother is sick, Rosa and her friends form the Oak Street Band. The girls earn money by playing for an anniversary party, and then splitting the proceeds. By putting her share into the family's money jar, Rosa helps to pay for the family's medical bills and expenses.
<i>Aida</i> by Leontyne Price	Retells the story of Verdi's opera in which the love of the enslaved Ethiopian princess for an Egyptian general brings tragedy to all involved.
<i>The Magic of Mozart</i> Ellen Switzer	A retelling of Mozart's <i>The Magic Flute</i> , including a biographical section about Mozart and a behind-the-scenes account of a performance of the work by the Salzburger Marionetten theater, illustrated with photographs.
<i>The Magic Flute</i> by Anne Gatti	Retells the story of the Mozart opera in which the noble Prince Tamino saves the fair Pamina against a backdrop of the battle between darkness and light.
<i>Bantam of the Opera</i> Mary Jane Auch	Luigi the rooster wins fame and fortune when the star of the Cosmopolitan Opera Company and his understudy both come down with chicken pox on the same night.
<i>The Bear Who Loved Puccini</i> by Arnold Sundgaard	Barefoot, a young brown bear in the deep forests of Minnesota, falls in love with the music of Puccini and goes to the city to pursue a career as an opera singer.
<i>Opera, What's All The Screaming About?</i> Roger Englander	Traces the development of opera, presents plots of fifty popular operas, and provides an in-depth study of "Carmen." This book includes lists of composers and their works, opera companies, opera terms, etc.
<i>Westward Ho, Carlotta!</i> By Candace Fleming	Tired of opera houses, world-famous singer Carlotta Carusa travels to the American West, where her magnificent voice tames even the most hardened bad guys.

<i>Belinda the Ballerina</i> by Amy Young	When Belinda auditions for the Spring Ballet Recital and the judges tell her she can not be a ballerina because her feet are too big, she tries to forget about dancing.
<i>Kathleen: The Celtic Knot</i> by Siobhan Parkinson	Twelve-year-old Dubliner Kathleen Delaney is given the chance to take Irish dancing lessons in 1937 and discovers she has a talent for it.
<i>Dancing the Ring Shout!</i> By Kim Siegelson	It is the first year that Toby is old enough to attend the Ring Shout, a celebration when the hard work of harvest is done, but he cannot find an object that makes a noise which will speak from his heart to God's ears
<i>Trading Places with Tank Talbott</i> by Tori Hillestad Butler	Jason, who would rather work on his horror movie screenplay than learn to swim, finds an unlikely ally in Tank, the class bully, who is being forced to take ballroom dance lessons.
<i>Got to Dance</i> by Mary-Claire Helldorfer	A young city girl dances away the summertime blues with her grandfather. It's a hot summer day in the city, and with Momma off to work, and big brother off to day camp, the little girl of this joyous story has the summertime blues. The remedy: dancing, and lots of it! Whether flipping pancakes for breakfast, wandering through the zoo, riding the city bus, or enjoying a sudden shower, the little girl dances her way to a fun-filled day. And Grandpa is her lucky companion.
<i>Theatre Magic</i> by Cheryl Walsh Bellville	Follows the Children's Theatre Company as it produces an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Nightingale," describing how the play is planned, designed, cast, and rehearsed for its opening.
<i>Theater Shoes</i> by Noel Streatfeild	During World War II in England, three motherless children, whose father is reported missing in action, go to live with their grandmother in London and join the members of their talented theatrical family in a school for stage training.
<i>Amazing Grace</i> by Mary Hoffman	Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.
<i>Angelina on Stage</i> by Katharine Holabird	When Cousin Henry gets all the attention in the grown-up musical in which they have roles, Angelina becomes jealous, but she demonstrates her fondness for him when a crisis occurs on opening night.
<i>Beverly Billingsly Takes A Bow</i> by Alexander Stadler	When she auditions for the school musical, Beverly is too frightened to make a sound, but she ends up being very important to the class's performance.
<i>Looking at Theater</i> by Robin May	An introduction to the theater and its history, discussing ballet, opera, musicals, puppets, theater buildings, actors, sets, costumes, rehearsals, and opening nights.
<i>Pamela's First Musical</i> by Wendy Wasserstein	Pamela has the best birthday ever when her glamorous Aunt Louise takes her to see a Broadway musical.
<i>Theatre</i> by Howard Loxton	An overview of theater as an art form with emphasis on the English-speaking theater. This story includes information on the history of the theater, acting methods, staging, putting on a play, and theater careers.

<i>When Aunt Lena Did the Rhumba</i> by Eileen Kurtis-Klienman	When her aunt, who loves Broadway musicals, is confined to bed with a sprained ankle, Sophie convinces the rest of the family to put on a show for her.
<i>Made in Mexico</i> by Peter Laufer	High in the mountains of Mexico is the village of Paracho. In Paracho, guitars are everywhere. They're made in factories and workshops and sold all around the world.
<i>Casey at the Bat</i> by Ernest Lawrence Thayer	"The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville Nine that day." These familiar lines are from a published work by a sportswriter in San Francisco in 1888.
<i>Zat Cat</i> by Chesley McLaren	This is the tale of a scruffy stray cat tossed into a fashion design world of hats, frilly pink dresses and fanciful tresses.
<i>Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina</i> by Maria Tallchief with Rosemary Wells	Music flowed through young Maria Tallchief as naturally as the wind in her hair. She had only to hear a melody and out it came through her fingers on the piano or through her body in dance
<i>Leonardo's Horse</i> by Jean Fritz	Leonardo da Vinci always dreamed of capturing the power and beauty of a horse in motion. Today in Milan, there stands a horse three times the size of a living horse.
