



STORY TIME

SUMMER DAYS AND NIGHTS

Story Time Description

Are you ready for summer? We'll get you started by reading *Summer Days and Nights* by Wong Herbert Yee. This story is the tale of a little girl who finds many ways to enjoy nature on a hot summer day by exploring and observing the sights and sounds of the outdoors.

Children's Fiction and Nonfiction Books about Bugs and Insects

- *Summer Visitors* by Karel Hayes
- *Rules of Summer* by Shauna Tan
- *The Backyard Bug Book for Kids* by Laura Davidson
- *Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!* by Bob Barner
- *Cheers for a Dozen Ears: A Summer Crop of Counting* by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky
- *Canoe Days* by Gary Paulsen
- *Bugs A to Z* by Caroline Lawton
- *Mama, is it Summer Yet?* By Nikki McClure
- *Let it Shine* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
- *Bugs Are Insects* by Anne Rockwell
- *Summer* by Gerda Muller
- *The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant
- *Summer Color* by Diane Murray
- *I See Summer* by Charles Ghigna
- *Summer a Pop-Up Book* David A. Carter
- *How Many Bugs in a Box?* by David A. Carter
- *And Then Summer Comes* by Tom Brenner
- *My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis* by Paul Meisel
- *One Hot Summer Day* Nina Crews
- *How I Spent My Summer Vacation* by Mark Teague
- *The Night Before Summer Vacation* by Natasha Wing
- *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn* by Kenard Pak
- *Summer is Here!* by Heidi Pross Gray
- *The Wonders of Summer* by Kealy Connor Lonning

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- *Summer in the Forest* by Rusty Finch
- *Summertime in the Big Woods* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Summer Song* by Kevin Henkes
- *Summer* by Sian Smith
- *Summer: Discovering the Seasons* by Louis Santrey

Other Useful Resources

Yoga for Kids: Getting Buggy with It

www.playfullearning.net/resources/yoga-kids-getting-buggy

Nature is a source of wonder for our children and Yoga provides an engaging and fun means of expression and further exploration of that nature. Children can imagine taking on the qualities of the natural elements that exists around them and, in doing so, deepen their connection.

Buzz About Bees

www.buzzaboutbees.net

Watch and listen to the author of *Some Bugs* Angela DiTerlizzi read this book aloud on YouTube

After listening to this story go outside to look for some bugs!

Noisy Bug Sing-Along by John Himmelman

An amazing concert of sounds is happening every day, made by insects that have no vocal chords! **In the book app**, see them moving different body parts to make sounds, then play the matching game.

Butterfly Field Guide – National Park Services

www.nps.gov PDF download

DIY Science Camp: Start with a Book- Summer Science

www.startwithabook.org

Hands-on, activities, book list, websites, apps, and much more!

Summer Camp at Home – 100 + Best Summer Camp at Home Ideas and Activities

www.naturalbeachliving.com/summer-camp-at-home

Learn the “Goodbye Poem”

Before returning insects and bugs to the places where they were found, have children hold their jars (closed) and recite this goodbye poem.

I'm glad you shared this time with me, but now I'll gently set you free so you can hop, crawl, or fly. It's time for us to say goodbye!

National Wildlife Federation

www.nwf.org

Great resources for turning your outdoor space into a spot that supports local wildlife? Use the tip sheets and videos to guide you in creating a go-to garden for butterflies, birds, and other animals.

Project Learning Tree

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood Curriculum

www.plt.org

Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood provides an introduction to environmental education, encouraging children ages 3 to 6 to explore, discover and communicate in expressive ways. With over 130 experiences that engage young children in outdoor exploration and play, it's no wonder *Learning*® Magazine chose PLT's Early Childhood guide as a Teachers' Choice Award winner!

Project Wild

Growing Up Wild Curriculum

www.fishwildlife.org

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education curriculum that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, *Growing Up WILD* provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.

Children & Nature Network

www.childrenandnature.org

This website will keep you updated on ways to stay connected to the natural world during COVID-19. Each week new resources from incredible partners, tips, tools, blogs and webinars, along with the best and brightest ideas from the field will be posted.

Nature Play at Home

www.naturalearning.org (**download the guide**)

Developed by the Natural Learning Initiative and the National Wildlife Federation, this guide shows easy, affordable ways you can turn your backyard or other types of domestic outdoor spaces into vibrant Nature Play Spaces™ for children so they can reap the physical and mental benefits of playing outside. Creating natural play opportunities can be part of the solution to increasing the amount of time kids spend in the great outdoors for the health of their minds, bodies, and spirits.

Exploration – Take Daily Summer Walks in Your Backyard and Neighborhood (Day & Night)

As you walk around your neighborhood or in your backyard encourage children to observe the difference between day and night, you can ask question such as:

- What do you see?
- What do you hear?
- What do you feel?
- What do you smell?
- How many different colors can you find?
- How is summer different from other seasons?
- Did you see any bugs and insects on trees?
- What do you like most about summer?

Thing to do at Home to Reinforce a Positive Connection between Children and Nature during the Summer Season:

- Go outside to look for bugs and insects in your backyard or neighborhood during the day and night (catch fireflies)
- Go outside to listen to bird songs and calls
- Go outside at night to listen to frog calls, insects, and owls
- Have a picnic at your local park and in your backyard
- Take daily walks to your local park to observe nature
- Use a magnify lens for observations
- Provide non-fiction books and concrete materials about the seasonal changes
- Utilize resources from this post

