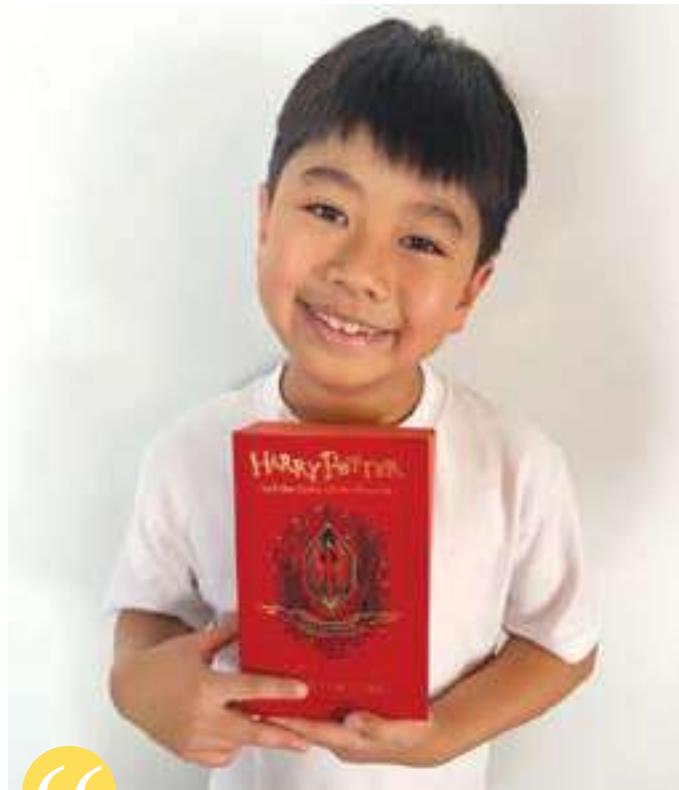


INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY: KIDS' BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

To celebrate International Literacy Day, we asked nine children from our BAMBI community (ranging from toddlers to tweens) to tell us about their all-time favorite book. The answers ranged from picture books about noisy babies to junior novelizations of Netflix hits, and every recommendation came with its own reasons: a favorite character, a page they ask to reread, a scene that makes them laugh every single time. Read on to find out, in their own words, what they had to recommend.



Samuel Rayson, age 9

Book: Harry Potter by J. K. Rowling

I recommend Harry Potter because honestly, it pulls you in and won't let go. Harry thinks he's just a normal kid stuck with a mean family, then finds out he's a wizard. The world feels so real that I keep thinking, if Hogwarts actually existed somewhere, I'd want to go and be a wizard like Harry. What I really like is that the brave, loyal kids aren't always the popular ones at first, and it doesn't matter. From Ron, I learn that friendship matters more than being the strongest, and Hermione proves girls can be the smartest in the room. It's a bit scary in some parts, but the good, exhilarating kind. Read it slowly so you notice all the clues before watching the movies. You won't regret it.



Samantha Arden Rayne, age 6

Book: Dog Man by Dav Pilkey

I am obsessed with dogs so my favorite book is Dog Man and I love it so, so much. Dog Man is a policeman with a dog's head and a man's body, which is already so funny before anything even happens. He catches bad guys like Petey the cat, but Petey isn't all bad, and that's the part I like. Sometimes people do mean things when they feel sad inside. The pictures make me laugh and the words are easy so I can read lots by myself, which makes me feel proud of myself. My mom laughs too when I read it to her. If you like silly stuff and dogs, you should read it. It's the best.





Ben Briet, age 4

Books: *Bizzy Bear series, Thomas the Tank Engine, Het Gouden Voorleesboek*



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Ben's favorite books are the Bizzy Bear series, Thomas the Tank Engine, and Het Gouden Voorleesboek (Dutch for "The Golden Read-Aloud Book"). He has loved them since he was one year old and still asks us to read them, even though he is almost four years old. His favorite stories are De Gele Taxi (The Taxi That Hurried) and Meneer Mooi Weer (The Good Humor Man). He loves turning the pages, pointing at the pictures, and talking about the characters. He can now identify individual letters. This helps him learn how to spell words. These books have helped him develop a love of reading, and reading together has become one of our favorite daily routines.



Millie Nagasawa, age 6

Book: *Lulu and the Noisy Baby by Camilla Reid and Ailie Busby*

I like Lulu and the Noisy Baby because it is a fun story. I like Lulu's name because it sounds cute. My favorite part is when Daddy is cooking. He helps Lulu's mommy. I also like the pictures in the book. My favorite pictures are the cats. I like the colors of the cats because they are bright and beautiful. The story is easy to read, and I enjoy reading it with my family. I like Lulu because she is kind and cute. This book makes me feel happy every time I read it. I want to read it again and again because it is one of my favorite books. I think other children will like it too.



Shota Tsuyuki, age 2

Book: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? is a colorful picture book that children love. Each page shows an animal and asks what it sees, leading to the next surprise. The simple words and bright pictures help kids learn colors and animals while enjoying reading. It is perfect for English study, too. One heartwarming scene is when older brothers or sisters read it aloud to younger ones. Children often memorize which animal comes next, so it also strengthens memory skills. The repeating question makes reading fun, and families enjoy sharing the story together.





Avira Jain, age 4

Book: *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury is my all-time favorite book! I love the way the family is so brave as they go through the swishy grass, the deep cold river, the oozy mud and the dark forest. Every time we read it, I join in with all the sounds—swishy swashy, splash splosh, squelch squerch, stumble trip! My favorite part is when they finally find the bear and have to run all the way back home. It always makes me laugh! This book makes me feel excited and happy, and I love reading it over and over again. I hope every child gets to go on a bear hunt too!



Ezekiel Barandon, age 7

Book: *Spy School Secret Service* by Stuart Gibbs

One book that I really love is Spy School Secret Service by Stuart Gibbs. The story is about a spy named Benjamin Ripley who pretends to be friends with the president's son, even though the president's son is a real jerk. Benjamin pretends to be his friend so that he can find out if anyone is going to do something to the president. And just so you know, the president knows that he's a spy. I like it because it has a lot of action scenes in it. I would recommend this book to people who like undercover stories.



Liam Kai M. Barandon, age 10

Book: *Stranger Things: The Junior Novelization* adapted by Matthew J. Gilbert

One of my favorite books is Stranger Things: The Junior Novelization, adapted by Matthew J. Gilbert from the Netflix series. I like this book because after I watched Stranger Things, I wanted to read the book too. In the story, Mike, Dustin, and Lucas look for their friend Will, but one night while searching the forest they find a mysterious girl instead. I recommend this book because the writing is very descriptive and it creates a vivid scene in your head. I recommend it for people who like mystery and action thriller books.



Sebastian Gerard Delevaux, age 6

Book: *Minecraft Creative Handbook*

My favorite book is the Minecraft Creative Handbook. I also have the other editions, like Combat and Survival, but the Creative Handbook is my favorite. The book teaches you what's different when you play in creative mode. Like, you have no health or hunger bar, you can fly, and you can mine in one tap. But what I like the most is that you have unlimited resources, so you can practise building anything before you play in the other modes. It helps me get better at making cool things. If you love Minecraft like me, this is the best book to read.

