

Home Media Recommendations from Paley Education Social Studies/English Language Arts

Grades PK-2

Arthur (Amazon Prime Video)

Based on the books by author/illustrator Marc Brown, Arthur is an animated series featuring a bespeckled aardvark. Arthur's goals are to help foster an interest in reading and writing, to encourage positive social skills, and to model age-appropriate problem-solving strategies.

Backyardigans (YouTube)

Pablo, Tyrone, Uniqua, Tasha and Austin are five colorful animal pals with big imaginations. They team up to journey to imaginary places in their backyard. Episodes feature catchy songs from different musical genres and dancing.

Dogs with Jobs (Amazon Prime Video)

Dogs with Jobs is a documentary television series about working dogs and show dogs. Each half-hour episode includes stories about individual dogs from around the world. This family-friendly series has featured service dogs, search and rescue dogs, police dogs, and herding dogs.

Molly of Denali (Amazon Prime Video)

The daily adventures of 10-year-old Alaska native Molly Mabray, her family, her dog Suki and her friends Tooley and Trini.

Sesame Street (HBO)

This pioneering educational television show has taught generations of young children the alphabet and how to count. Featuring Jim Henson's Muppets, animated shorts, and a cast of human characters it is the most widely viewed educational children's program in the world.

Wordgirl (Amazon Prime Video)

Becky Botsford is an average fifth-grader who, when duty calls, is transformed into Wordgirl. Wordgirl flies to the rescue when there is trouble in The City, and uses vocabulary to defeat outlaws. This satirical yet educational animated series is about a young superhero, armed with superhuman strength, abilities, and a skilled vocabulary.

Grades 3-5

Animaniacs S1E2 "Yakko's World" (Hulu)

Blending wit, slapstick and pop culture references, this variety show features a large cast of characters, whose predominant personalities are the Warner brothers, Yakko, Wakko, and their sister, Dot. In this beloved episode, Yakko sings the name of every country in the world to the tune of 'Jarabe Tapatio', better known as the 'Mexican Hat Dance'.

Animaniacs S1E20 "The Flame/Wakko's America" (Hulu)

In "Wakko's America", Wakko names all fifty states and their capitals in a made up song. Next, Chicken Boo plays the famed frontiersman, "Davey Omelette." Later, "The Flame" of a candle comes to life and guides the audience through a special night in American history. Finally, President Abraham Lincoln attempts to write his Gettysburg Address with the "assistance" of the Warner siblings.

Animaniacs S3 E8 "The Presidents Song/Don't Tread on Us/ The Flame Returns" (Hulu)

This episode salutes U.S. history. The Warners begin by singing, "Presidents Song" about all the US presidents. In colonial America, Pinky & Brain cry "Don't Tread On Us" as they try to switch their own document with the real Declaration of Independence.

Happily Ever After Tales for Every Child (HBO)

This series features famous fairy tales retold with a cast of animated characters from many ethnic backgrounds.

Histeria! (YouTube)

This short lived series might be the only animated sketch comedy educational series ever made, Hosted by Father Time, the cartoon cast careens through time to deliver historical facts from Siberia to Sumeria, despite the efforts of Miss Information.

Liberty's Kids (Starz)

This animated historical fiction series is told from the perspective of young people in the colonies during the years 1773 and 1789. Episodes in the series provide viewers with an exciting way to travel through this amazing era.

Middle School

The Breadgiver (Netflix)

An animated drama produced by Cartoon Saloon based on the best-selling novel by the same name written by Deborah Ellis. The film follows Parvana, an 11-year-old girl living in Kabul, Afghanistan, under Taliban rule.

Ruby Bridges (Disney+)

This film presents the real-life tale of young Ruby Bridges, one of the first African-American children to attend an integrated school in New Orleans in 1960.

Schoolhouse Rock (YouTube)

Schoolhouse Rock! is a series of animated musical educational short films that aired during Saturday morning cartoons on ABC in the 1980s. Check out the classics, "Conjunction Junction", "I'm Just a Bill" and "Suffering 'till Suffrage."

White Fang (Disney+)

Based on Jack London's novel *White Fang*, this movie tells the story of a friendship between a young Klondike gold prospector and a wolfdog.

The Who Was? Show (Netflix)

This live-action sketch comedy show based on the best-selling "Who Was?" book series brings some of history's most famous names to life.

Young Riders (Amazon Prime Video)

This series revolves around a group of young Pony Express riders, based in the Nebraska Territory prior to the Civil War.

High School

4 Little Girls (Amazon Prime Video)

4 Little Girls is a 1997 American historical documentary film, directed by Spike Lee, about the 1963 case of four African-American girls (Addie May Collins, Carol Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Rosamond Robertson) in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama.

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross (Amazon Prime Video)

This six-part documentary miniseries written and presented by Henry Louis Gates Jr., chronicles the full sweep of the African-American experience, from the origins of the transatlantic slave trade to the reelection and second inauguration of President Barack Obama.

American Experience: New York (Amazon Prime Video)

An incredible eight-part, eighteen hour, American documentary film on the history of New York City directed by Ric Burns.

Baseball: A Film by Ken Burns (Amazon Prime Video)

This ten part documentary series tells the story of America through the story of Baseball. It is an epic overflowing with heroes and hopefuls, scoundrels and screwballs. It is a saga spanning the quest for racial justice, the clash of labor and management, the transformation of popular culture, and the unfolding of the national pastime.

Friday Night Lights TV Show (Hulu/Starz)

Based on the award-winning novel of the same name, this outstanding high school drama follows the Dillon, Texas community and high school football team.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (HBO)

Based on the true story of an African-American woman who becomes an unwitting pioneer for medical breakthroughs when her cells are used to create the first immortal human cell line in the early 1950s.

Ken Burns: The Dust Bowl (Amazon Prime Video)

This documentary chronicles the worst man-made ecological disaster in American history, in which the frenzied wheat boom of the "Great Plow-Up," followed by a decade-long drought during the 1930s nearly swept away the breadbasket of the nation.

Romeo and Juliet (Starz)

The 1996 version of Shakespeare's famous tragedy is updated to a modern version of Verona but still retains its original dialogue.

To Kill a Mockingbird (Amazon Prime Video)

A 1962 American drama film directed by Robert Mulligan based on Harper Lee's 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch.

The Twilight Zone "The Monsters are Due on Maple Street" (Netflix)

One in the famous science-fiction series featuring creator/narrator Rod Serling. In this McCarthyesque episode, a pair of invaders manipulate electricity, create havoc for a small community and expose humanity's self-destructive prejudices.

The Twilight Zone "Eye of the Beholder" (Netflix)

One in the famous science-fiction series featuring creator/narrator Rod Serling. In this Cold War era episode, a woman's natural beauty makes her a freak in a futuristic society where people must conform or face consequences.

The Twilight Zone "The Shelter"(Netflix)

One in the famous science-fiction series featuring creator/narrator Rod Serling. After they hear reports of a missile attack, the hosts of a party barricade themselves into their bomb shelter, leaving their guests unprotected.