Looking for some new back to school books to share with your child? There are lots out there, and I've made a list of some of my favorites. Reading these together and talking about going back to school or starting school for the first time can be a wonderful opportunity to reduce jitters and build excitement. And, even though school may look a lot different this year, its start still marks the beginning of new experiences, new people, and new routines—perfect to read and talk about together.

**School’s First Day of School** by Adam Rex and Christian Robinson (K -2)

It’s not just kids and teachers who are nervous about the first day. The school itself is too. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him? This sweet book shows that all of us, even buildings, can be apprehensive. It also gives a chance to imagine being back in school together.

**The Pigeon Has to Go to School!** By Mo Williams (PreK - 2)

No one doesn’t like Mo Willems’ pigeon. He’s cranky, stubborn, loud, defiant, and funny. Find out why the Pigeon thinks he doesn’t need to go to school.

**The King of Kindergarten** by Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley - Newton (PreK - K)

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone—and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark. He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a
whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm. When I read this to the Kindergarten class last year, they loved it!

**We Don’t Eat Our Classmates** by Ryan T. Higgins (PreK - 1)

Penelope Rex is nervous about starting school and has lots of questions. She wonders what her classmates will be like, whether they will be nice, how many teeth they have, and whether the 300 tuna sandwiches her dad packs her will be enough. This would be a great springboard to talk with your child about questions and anxieties they have about their big adventure.

**If I Built a School** by Chris Van Dusen (K - 3)

While this isn’t technically about starting school, it’s a wonderful way to fantasize about what the perfect school would be like. A boy imagines his school, from hover desks to a robot-chef in the cafeteria. Every class I have read this has loved it, and students were eager to design their own ideal schools.

This is the first in a series of monthly columns about kids and books. You’ll see that I tend to like books that are funny, and that I highly approve of graphic novels. I’d love to hear from you with book suggestions and comments. If you need a custom book list or a gift idea, I’m happy to help. You can reach me at anne@marinhorizon.org.