

Summer Reading List

Students Entering 4th Grade

By maintaining an active literacy life over the summer, you ensure your child the best start to the next grade level! ☺ Happy Reading and Writing!

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS: PLEASE DON'T BECOME CONCERNED OVER READING LEVELS

- In Elementary school, each child is developing on their own continuum, and it is useless to assess your child's strengths as a reader by his/her reading level alone. To develop strength as a reader, *children need lots of time to read lots of books* that are "just right" for their abilities.

FAQ: WILL HAVING MY CHILD READ HARDER BOOKS HELP THEM GET STRONGER AT READING?

Nope! *Exactly the opposite can happen!*

- It is **critically** important that children ***not*** read books that are too difficult for them. Research has shown that reading books that are at the "frustration level" can actually stunt a readers' growth, or send them backwards in their development.
- When in doubt, help your child select books that feel "friendly/familiar" to other books they have enjoyed. Also, check out series books - many of the books in this packet are part of a series. Not only is it fun to follow familiar characters through new adventures and experiences, but reading through a book series can help readers grow!

FAQ – MY CHILD REALLY CAN READ HARDER BOOKS THROUGH – AND WANTS TO! THEY CAN READ ALL THE WORDS ON THE PAGE WITHOUT MAKING MISTAKES. THEY EVEN SEEM TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON THE IN STORY. ARE YOU SURE I SHOULDN'T GIVE THEM MUCH HARDER BOOKS?

*Good question, but **proceed with caution!***

- "Harder books" often deal with themes and issues that are more mature. These texts, while perhaps "readable" or "decodable" by your child, may not be developmentally appropriate for your child's age. Also, please keep in mind that just because readers can read each word on the page smoothly and without error, does not mean that they are able to comprehend the sophisticated themes and layered plot lines that these texts may contain.
- If your child is desperate to read a harder book, read it aloud together! ☺ Their ability to comprehend a story by listening to it read aloud is much higher than their ability to understand it alone. Plus, it's a lovely way to bond with your child over your shared love of reading!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Please help your child select books that you are 100% confident your child can read independently *with ease*, and that are clearly written for readers the age of your child. You will see the results of this important, careful book selection work in September! ☺

GREAT WEBSITES FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS: <http://www.hornbookguide.com>, <http://www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/>, <http://www.nsta.org/publications/ostb/> and <http://www.nsta.org/recommends/>

| <u>LEVEL M - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Alexander and the...(series) | Viorst, Judith | X | |
| Arthur (series) | Brown, Marc | X | |
| Sports Stories (series) | Christopher, Matt | X | |
| Bailey School Kids (series) | Dadey, Debbie | X | |
| Polk Street School (series) | Giff, Patricia Reilly | X | |
| Magic Treehouse (series) | Osborne, Mary Pope | X | |
| Junie B Jones (series) | Park, Barbara | X | |
| Russell (series) | Hurwitz, Johanna | X | |
| Berenstain Bears (series) | Berenstain, S and J | X | |
| Mary Marony (series) | Kline, Suzy | X | |
| Freckle Juice | Blume, Judy | X | |
| Molly's Pilgrim | Cohen, Barbara | X | |
| The One In The Middle Is The Green Kangaroo | Blume, Judy | X | |
| Too Many Tamales | Soto, Gary | X | |
| Abe Lincoln's Hat | Brenner, Martha | | X |
| Buddy, The First Seeing Eye Dog | Moore, Eva | | X |
| Five True Dog Stories | Davidson, Margaret | | X |
| George Washington's Mother | Fritz, Jean | | X |
| How A House Is Built | Gibbons, Gail | | X |
| Kate Shelley And The Midnight Express | Wetterer, Margaret K. | | X |
| A Picture Book Of Rosa Parks | Adler, David A. | | X |
| Titanic: the Disaster That Shocked The World | Dubowski, Mark | | X |

| <u>LEVEL N - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| A-Z Mysteries (series) | Roy, Ron | X | |
| Amber Brown (series) | Danziger, Paula | X | |
| Encyclopedia Brown (series) | Sobel, David | X | |
| The Stories Julian Tells (series) | Cameron, Ann | X | |
| Herbie Jones (series) | Kline, Suzy | X | |
| Chicken Sunday | Polacco, Patricia | X | |
| The Chocolate Touch | Catling, Patrick Skene | X | |
| How to Be Cool in the 3 rd Grade | Douglas, Ann | X | |
| My Name Is Maria Isabel | Ada, Alma F. | X | |
| Shoeshine Girl | Bulla, Clyde R. | X | |
| All Pigs Are Beautiful | King-Smith, Dick | | X |
| Helen Keller: Courage In the dark | Hurwitz, Johanna | | X |
| How A Book Is Made | Aliki | | X |
| Jackie Robinson And the Story Of All-Black Baseball | O'Connor, Jim | | X |
| Just A Few Words, Mr. Lincoln | Fritz, Jean | | X |
| Louis Braille, The Boy Who Invented Books For The Blind | Davidson, Margaret | | X |
| My Great-Aunt Arizona | Houston, Gloria | | X |
| Pompeii - Buried Alive! | Kunhardt, Edith | | X |
| Shark Attack! | Dubowski, Cathy East | | X |
| The Titanic: Lost.....And Found | Donnelly, Judy | | X |

| <u>LEVEL O - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Babysitters Club (series) | Martin, Ann M | X | |
| Baseball Saved Us | Mochizuki, Ken | X | |
| The Boxcar Children (series) | Warner, Gertrude C. | X | |
| Chocolate Fever | Smith, Robert K. | X | |
| Class Clown, Class President, Baseball Fever | Hurwitz, Johanna | X | |
| The Courage Of Sarah Noble | Dagliesh, Alice | X | |
| Aldo Applesauce (series) | Hurwitz, Johanna | X | |
| Henry (series) | Cleary, Beverly | X | |
| The Mouse And the Motorcycle (series) | Cleary, Beverly | X | |
| Pippi Longstocking (series) | Lindgren, Astrid | X | |
| Ramona (series) | Cleary, Beverly | X | |
| Ant Cities | Dorros, Arthur | | X |
| Baseball's Best: Five True Stories | Gutelle, Andrew | | X |
| Corn Is Maize | Aliki | | X |
| How My Family Lives In America | Kuklin, Susan | | X |
| I Am Rosa Parks | Parks, R and Haskins, J | | X |
| Is there Life In Outer Space? | Branley, Franklyn M. | | X |
| The Story Of Ruby Bridges | Coles, Robert | | X |
| Ten True Animal Rescues | Betancourt, Jeanne | | X |
| What's The Big Idea, Ben Franklin? | Fritz, Jean | | X |
| Space Station Plot and Other Cases | Simon, Seymour | | X |
| Gigantic Ants and Other Cases | Simon, Seymour | | X |

| <u>LEVEL P - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hank the Cowdog (series) | Erickson, John | X | |
| Fantastic Mr. Fox and The Twits | Dahl, Roald | X | |
| Magic School Bus (series) | Joanna Cole | X | |
| Time Warp Trio (series) | Scieszka, Jon | X | |
| Wayside School (series) | Sachar, Louis | X | |
| Flat Stanley (series) | Brown, Jeff | X | |
| Skinnybones (series) | Park, Barbara | X | |
| Bunnica (series) | Howe, James | X | |
| Best School Year Ever | Robinson, B | X | |
| Best Enemies | Leverich, Kathleen | X | |
| Tar Beach | Ringgold, Faith | X | |
| Through Grandpa's Eyes | MacLachlan, Patricia | X | |
| Andrew Carnegie: Builder Of Libraries | Simon, Charman | | X |
| Balto And The Great Race | Kimmel, Elizabeth C. | | X |
| Brainstorm | Tucker, Tom | | X |
| Dinosaur Bones | Aliki | | X |
| The Land I Lost | Huynh, Quang Nhuong | | X |
| The Magic School Bus Lost in The Solar System | Cole, Joanna | | X |
| Rosa, Parks | Greenfield, Eloise | | X |
| Tut's Mummy Lost.... And Found | Donnelly, Judy | | X |
| Water Buffalo Days | Huynh, Quang Nhuong | | X |
| What Are You Figuring Now? A Story About Benjamin Banneker | Ferris, Jeri | | X |

| <u>LEVEL Q - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Aliens Ate My Homework | Coville, Bruce | X | |
| Help! I'm Trapped In...(series) | Strasser, Todd | X | |
| Bunnacula (series) | Howe, James | X | |
| Dear Mr. Henshaw | Clearly, Beverly | X | |
| Little House in the Big Woods (series) | Wilder, Laura I | X | |
| James And The Giant Peach | Dahl, Roald | X | |
| Just Juice | Hesse, Karen | X | |
| Mr. Popper's Penguins | Atwater, Richard | X | |
| The War with Grandpa | Smith, Robert | X | |
| Superfudge, Fudge-a-Mania, Double Fudge | Blume, Judy | X | |
| Tales Of A Fourth Grade Nothing | Blume, Judy | X | |
| There's a Boy In The Girl's Bathroom | Sachar, Louis | X | |
| The True Story Of The 3 Little Pigs | Scieszka, Jon | X | |
| Black Diamond: the Story Of Negro Baseball Leagues | McKissack, Patricia | | X |
| Finding The Titanic | Ballard, Robert | | X |
| Great Black Heroes: Five Notable Inventors | Hudson, Wade | | X |
| If You Lived At The Time Of ... | Various Authors | | X |
| If Your Name Was Changed At Ellis Island | Levine, Ellen | | X |
| A Medieval Feast | Aliki | | X |
| Sarah Morton's Day | Waters, Kate | | X |
| Walking The Road To Freedom | Ferris, Jeri | | X |

| <u>LEVEL R - TITLE</u> | <u>AUTHOR</u> | <u>FICTION</u> | <u>NONFICTION</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Amos (series) | Paulsen, Gary | X | |
| Because Of Winn-Dixie | DiCamillo, kate | X | |
| Brian's Winter | Paulsen, Gary | X | |
| Charlie And The Chocolate Factory | Dahl, Roald | X | |
| Charlotte's Web | White, E.B. | X | |
| Every Living Thing | Rylant, Cynthia | X | |
| Frindle | Clements, Andrew | X | |
| Hatchet | Paulsen, Gary | X | |
| How To Eat Fried Worms | Fleischman, Sid | X | |
| Shiloh | Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds | X | |
| The Whipping Boy | Fleischman, Sid | X | |
| All For The Better | Mohr, Nicholasa | | X |
| Amelia Earhart: Young Adviator | Gormley, Beatrice | | X |
| And Then What Happened, Paul Revere? | Fritz, Jean | | X |
| Can't You Make Them Behave, King Geroge? | dePaola, Tomie | | X |
| Can it Rain Cats and Dogs? Question And Answers | | | X |
| About The Weather | Berger, Melvin | | X |
| Flight: The Journey Of Charles Lindbergh | Burleigh, Robert | | X |
| The Great Migration | Lawrence, Jacob | | X |
| Mummies Made In Egypt | Aliki | | X |
| Mummies! Secrets Of the Dead | Griffey, Harriet | | X |
| Sadako And the Thousand Paper Cranes | Coerr, Eleanor | | X |

Summer Reading

Need suggestions for beach reading or books to bring to camp? Check out these hand-picked titles that are ideal for the season.

***The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aimes* written by Kelly Easton, illustrated by Greg Swearingen (Lamb/Random)**

In this contemporary fantasy, Libby does everything from communicating with animals to discovering “lifting soda,” which carries her into a city filled with adventures. 201 pages.

***The Dream Stealer* written by Sid Fleischman, illustrated by Peter Sis (Greenwillow)**

An omniscient narrator describes eight-year-old Susana’s encounters with the nightmare capturing Dream Stealer, who grows weary of his mission and starts collecting *happy* dreams. 90 pages.

***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters* written by Lenore**

Look, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Schwartz & Wade/Random)

In his second book, second grader Alvin, little sister Anibelly, and their dad go camping, coming face-to-face with the troubles, hilarities, and joys of the outdoors. 170 pages

***Thumb and the Bad Guys* written by Ken Roberts, illustrated by Leanne Franson (Groundwood)**

Thumb and his friend Susan try sleuthing in their isolated Canadian village, encountering fishy characters like Old Kirk McKenna and a new teacher who wears thick makeup and an obvious wig. 120 pages.

***Mudville* written by Kurtis Scaletta (Knopf)**

After twenty-two years of rain in Moundville, the sun has finally come out, and twelve-year-old baseball lover Roy assembles a team that brings life to a whole town. 266 pages.

***Frindle* written by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Brian Selznick (Simon)**

When Nick reinvents the name for *pen*, a hilarious student-teacher battle ensues. 105 pages.