

Summer Reading List Important Information

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS: In Elementary school, each child is developing on their own continuum. To develop strength as a reader, *children need lots of time to read lots of books that are "just right" for their abilities.*

Here are some frequently asked questions about summer reading.

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 on this list 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!

MY CHILD REALLY CAN READ HARDER BOOKS THOUGH – AND WANTS TO! THEY CAN READ ALL THE WORDS ON THE PAGE WITHOUT MAKING MISTAKES. THEY EVEN SEEM TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE 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.

SHOULD MY CHILD READ ON THEIR OWN OR SHOULD I READ TO THEM?

Both!

- It is important to read to your child this summer! Choose a book from the read aloud list or a book that you loved as a child. Reading to your child helps your child know what a good reader sounds like, builds vocabulary, and opens up conversations about the theme and underlying meaning in the book they may miss if reading it alone. Plus, reading aloud to your child is a great way to bond with your child over your shared love of reading.
- It is also important for your child to read on their own or to you. Be sure your child is reading a book that is "just right" for them. (See notes above about harder books.)

HOW LONG SHOULD MY CHILD READ EACH DAY?

- It is recommended that your child read at least 30 minutes each day. Have your child set a goal of how many books he/she will read this summer. (There are 9 weeks of summer.) Set aside a time daily for your child to read. Take a trip to the public library and stock up on great fiction and non-fiction books. Most books on the list can also be downloaded using the Kindle app on your device.

Reading to your child, reading with your child and listening to your child read aloud to you are essential ways for your child to continue to grow as a reader. Reading should be a fun activity for you and your child this summer.



Happy Summer and Happy Reading!

Entering 1st Grade Summer Reading List

Types of Books to read with your child

ABC Books

AlphaOops: The Day that Z Went First by Aletha Kontis

Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom by Bill Martin, Jr.

Dr. Seuss ABCs by Dr. Seuss

Rhyming books

Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom by Bill Martin, Jr.

Llama, Llama Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.

Silly Sally by Audrey Wood

Nursery Rhymes and any other books that have rhythm and rhyme

Song books

Five Little Duck by Raffi Cavoukian

I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont

There Was An Old Lady that Swallowed a Fly by Simms Taback

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

Authors of great picture books to read with your child

Laura Numeroff (If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, and more)

Bill Martin, Jr. (Brown Bear, Brown Bear, and more)

Ezra Jack Keats (Snowy Day, Goggles, Peter's Chair, and more)

Alyssa Capucilli (Biscuit books)

James Marshall (great fairy tale books)

Mo Willems (Knuffle Bunny, Pigeon books)

Rosemary Wells (Bunny Cakes, Yoko, and more)

David Shannon (No David!, The Bad Case of Stripes, and more)

Dr. Seuss (Green Eggs and Ham, The Cat in the Hat and more)



Below are topics to be explored in 1st Grade science or social studies. Your child may enjoy building background knowledge by during the summer to enhance fall learning by exploring books on the following topics:

light and sound

plants and plant adaptations

animals and animal adaptations

sun, moon and stars

past and present transportation,

historical events in Alabama

community leaders

Entering 2nd Grade Summer Reading List

Early Chapter Books Series

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Mr. Putter and Tabby by Cynthia Rylant

Iris and Walter by Elissa Haden Guest

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Young Cam Jansen by David Adler

Poppleton by Cynthia Rylant



Authors of great picture books

Kevin Henkes (Chrysanthemum, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, etc.)

Marc Brown (Arthur, D.W. and friends)

Ezra Jack Keats (Snowy Day, Goggles, Peter's Chair, etc.)

Norman Bridwell (Clifford books)

Mary Hoffman (Amazing Grace, Boundless Grace, etc.)

James Marshall (Fox and Friends, fairy tale books)

Mo Willems (Knuffle Bunny, Pigeon books)

Great books to read to your child

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett

Clementine and Completely Clementine by Sara Pennypacker

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White (or any books by this author)

The BFG by Roald Dahl (or any books by this author)

Below are topics to be explored in 2nd Grade science or social studies. Your child might enjoy building background knowledge by during the summer to enhance fall learning:

matter and how it changes types of living things and their habitats

physical features of Earth and how they change comparing the past to the present

historical people and events in Alabama and the United States

natural and human-made resources

rights and responsibilities of US citizens.

Entering 3rd Grade Summer Reading List

Most of these books are the first books in a series. If you love these books be sure to check out the other books in the series.

The Lost Treasure of Emerald Eye (Geronimo Stilton series) by Geronimo Stilton -

It all started when my sister, Thea, discovered a *mysterious* map. It showed a secret treasure on a faraway island. And before I could let out a *squeak* of protest, Thea dragged me into her treasure hunt! In no time at all, we'd set sail for the island. It was an adventure I'd never forget... (for kids who like adventure books.)

The Chocolate Touch by Patrick Catling - If he could, John Midas would eat nothing but chocolate all the time, and he'd never share it with anyone. Then one day, John finds a strange coin on the sidewalk and uses it to buy a box of chocolate at a mysterious new candy store. Suddenly, everything John's lips touch turns to chocolate! Chocolate toothpaste and chocolate water fountains are great, but things get complicated when John can't play the trumpet or bob for apples. Worst of all, he forgets and kisses his mother! (for kids who like classics and humor)

The Absent Author (A-Z Mysteries Series) by Ron Roy - Dink writes to his favorite author, mystery writer Wallis Wallace, and invites him to visit Green Lawn. To Dink's amazement, Wallace says he'll come! But when the big day arrives, Wallace is nowhere to be found. The police think he just missed his plane, but Dink suspects foul play. It's up to Dink and his two best friends, Josh and Ruth Rose, to find the famous writer — before it's too late! (for kids who like mysteries)

Dinosaurs Before Dawn (Magic Tree House Series) by Mary Pope Osborne - Jack didn't expect to have much fun hanging out with his kid sister Annie. But then she discovered the tree house in the woods. It's a normal-looking tree house, a bit high up, nothing out of the ordinary though — and no one's home. So Jack and Annie climb up for a peek. What they find inside is an enormous library. When Jack opens a book about dinosaurs, he points to a picture, makes a wish, and suddenly the world of the book becomes the world they are in. Come along for the magic and the fun in this fiercely entertaining read. (for kids who like adventure *This series should be read in order. So if you love this book, be sure to check out book #2 next!*)

Horrible Harry and the Ant Invasion (Horrible Harry series) by Suzy Kline - It's a busy time in Room 2B — an ant observation project is beginning, Miss Mackle is teaching square dancing, and class pictures are being taken. Then one of the fish from the 2B fish tank goes belly-up! Is Harry to blame? (for kids who like humor)

The Fenway Foul-up (Ballpark Mysteries series) by David A. Kelly - Thanks to Kate's mom, a sports reporter, cousins Mike Walsh and Kate Hopkins have tickets to the Red Sox game and All Access passes to Fenway Park. But as they're watching batting practice before the game, the lucky bat of Red Sox star slugger Big D is stolen, right in front of dozens of people. Without the bat, Big D can't seem to hit a thing. Can Kate and Mike figure out who pinched the bat before Big D and the Sox chalk up a loss? (for kids who like sports)

Below are topics to be explored in 3rd Grade science or social studies. Your child might enjoy building background knowledge by during the summer to enhance fall learning:

objects in motion magnets life cycles of plants and animals fossils and environments from long ago
Earth's geographical features Declaration of Independence and Constitution of US Native Americans in AL

Entering 4th Grade Summer Reading List

Most of these books are the first books in a series. If you love these books be sure to check out the other books in the series.

This book is required summer reading for all students entering 4th Grade.

Tales of the Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume - Life with his little brother, two-year-old Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Fudge is actually a tiny terror in disguise, causing mischief everywhere he goes. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he's never far from trouble. He's an almost three-year-old terror who gets away with everything, and Peter's had it up to here! When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge for too long. Way too long! How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change? (for kids who like humor and realistic fiction)

Other Great book for Summer Reading

Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar – Wayside School was supposed to be built with 30 classrooms all next to each other in a row. Instead, it is an architectural accident that was built sideways. The classrooms were stacked one on top of the other — 30 stories tall! Here are some hilarious and fun stories about the school, the teachers, and the students. (for kids who like humor books)

The Doll People by Ann M. Martin - Annabelle Doll is eight years old; she has been for over a hundred years. Not much has happened, cooped up in the same dollhouse, with the same doll family day after day, year after year...but all that changes when the Funcrafts move in! (for kids who like fantasy books)

Time Warp Trio, Knights of the Kitchen Table by Jon Scieszka - Joe's been caught up in a book before, but this is ridiculous! *Joe's Book*, a gift from his magician uncle, doesn't just tell stories, it zaps Joe and his friends Sam and Fred right into the middle of them. And when these thoroughly modern kids meet King Arthur and become Knights of the Round Table, the result can only be thoroughly amusing mayhem. (for kids who like fantasy and historical books. This series is similar to The Magic Treehouse series.)

The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies - Evan and his sister Jessie usually get along just fine, until he finds out that she's skipping third grade. That means she'll be in his fourth grade class next year, showing him up every day with her perfect grades. Now Evan doesn't want her help with his lemonade stand, even though he could really use her math skills to make a profit. Jessie, who sometimes finds people more puzzling than math problems, doesn't understand why Evan won't team up with her, so she starts her own lemonade stand. Soon brother and sister are waging an all-out war for customers. Can Evan figure out the math to make more than he's spending? And can Jessie attract customers and navigate a new friendship without Evan's help? (for kids who like realistic fiction)

Play Ball by Matt Christopher - Eleven-year-old cousins catcher Liam McGrath and pitcher Carter Jones grew up playing baseball together. Now, their team is on the verge of winning the greatest championship of all: the Little League Baseball @ World Series. To reach the title match, however, they must first beat their number one rivals from Southern California. Little do they know that the game will prove to be just the first challenge they'll face on their road to the championships. (for kids who like sports)

Below are topics to be explored in 4th Grade science or social studies. Your child might enjoy building background knowledge by during the summer to enhance fall learning:

famous Alabamians geography of Alabama settlement of Alabama Civil Rights Movement in Alabama
sound, light, heat and electrical energy rocks and fossils
body systems of animals internal and external plants systems

Entering 5th Grade Summer Reading List

This book is required summer reading for all students entering 5th Grade.

No Talking by Andrew Clements - The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. (for kids who like realistic fiction)

Other Great book for Summer Reading

Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix - Thirteen-year-old Jonah has always known that he was adopted, and he's never thought it was any big deal. Then he and a new friend, Chip, who's also adopted, begin receiving mysterious letters. Jonah, Chip, and Jonah's sister, Katherine, are plunged into a mystery that involves the FBI, a vast smuggling operation, and people who seem to appear and disappear at will. The kids discover they are caught in a battle between opposing forces that want very different things for Jonah and Chip's lives. Do Jonah and Chip have any choice in the matter? And what should they choose when both alternatives are horrifying? (for kids who like suspense and adventure stories First book in the Missing series.)

Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo - Walking through the misty Florida woods one morning, twelve-year-old Rob Horton is stunned to encounter a tiger — a real-life, very large tiger — pacing back and forth in a cage. What's more, on the same extraordinary day, he meets Sistine Bailey, a girl who shows her feelings as readily as Rob hides his. As they learn to trust each other, and ultimately, to be friends, Rob and Sistine prove that some things — like memories, and heartaches, and tigers — can't be locked up forever. (for kids who like books about friendships)

The Lost Hero by Rick Riordan - There's a whole new group of heroes at Camp Half-Blood, the summer camp for kids who are half human, half Greek god. In this first book in the new series, we learn that after defeating the evil Titan Lord Kronos, Percy Jackson and his friends rebuilt Camp Half-Blood for the next generation of demigods. Now these new half-bloods are facing a deadly prophecy of their own, and to fulfill the dangerous quest they must undertake, they'll need the help of some familiar demigods! (for kids who like fantasy- book #1 in the Hero of Olympus series)

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli - He wasn't born with the name Maniac Magee. He came into this world named Jeffrey Lionel Magee, but when his parents died and his life changed, so did his name. And Maniac Magee became a legend. Even today kids talk about how fast he could run; about how he hit an inside-the-park "frog" homer; how no knot, no matter how snarled, would stay that way once he began to untie it. But the thing Maniac Magee is best known for is what he did for the kids from the East Side and those from the West Side. (for kids who like realistic fiction)

I Survived the Battle of Gettysburg 1863 by Lauren Tarshis - It's 1863, and Thomas and his father are slaves in South Carolina. But in the chaos of the Civil War, they manage to break free and head north. Through the Underground Railroad, they make their way to Pennsylvania. But they can't escape the war, and soon Thomas finds himself in the middle of a harrowing battle. He's come so far, but does he have what it takes to survive the Battle of Gettysburg? (for kids who like historical fiction)

Two-Minute Drill by Mike Lupica - Chris Conlan is the coolest kid in sixth grade and the quarterback of the football team. Scott Parry is the new kid — a brainiac. These two boys may seem like an odd couple, but each has a secret that draws him to the other. (for kids who like sports)

Below are topics to be explored in 5th Grade science or social studies. Your child might enjoy building background knowledge by during the summer to enhance fall learning:

US Geography

Migration and Early Settlement of North America

Major Native American Tribes

Colonial Life

American Revolution

Structure and Properties of Matter

Earth's Systems

Stars and Solar System

Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems