

Summer Reading List

Students Entering 5th 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 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. 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 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	Dalgliesh, 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	
Bunnicula (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	
Bunnica (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	
Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great	Blume, Judy	X	
The Witches	Dahl, Roald	X	
The Indian in the Cupboard (series)	Banks, Lynne Reid	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

<u>LEVEL S - TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>FICTION</u>	<u>NONFICTION</u>
Aldo Applesauce (series)	Hurwitz, Johanna	X	
My Teacher...(series)	Coville, Bruce	X	
Harry (series)	Sheldon, Dyan	X	
Bridge to Terabithia	Paterson, Katherine	X	
The Dollhouse Murders	Wright, Betty Ren	X	
From The Mixed-Up Files Of Mr. Basil E. Frankweiler	Konigsburg, E.L.	X	
The Great Gilly Hopkins	Paterson, Katherine	X	
How Many Days To America?	Bunting, Eve	X	
In The Year Of The Boar And Jackie Robinson	Lors, Bette	X	
Letters From Rifka	Hesse, Karen	X	
Lily's Crossing	Giff, Patricia Reilly	X	
On My Honor	Bauer, Marion D.	X	
The Pinballs	Byars, Betsy	X	
Poppy	Avi	X	
The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal	Harness. Cheryl		X
A Boy Called Slow	Bruchac, Joseph		X
Do Tornadoes Really Twist?	Berger, Melvin		X
Eleanor	Cooney, Barbara		X
A More Perfect Union	Maestro, Betsy		X
My Life In Dog Years	Paulsen, Gary		X
One Day In The Tropical Rain Forest	George, Jean C.		X
Out Of Darkness	Freedman, Russell		X
Sideways Arithmetic From Wayside School	Sachar, Louis		X
Where Do You Think You're Going, Christopher Columbus?	Fritz, Jean		X

<u>LEVEL T - TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>FICTION</u>	<u>NONFICTION</u>
An Angel For Solomon Singer	Rylant, Cynthia	X	
Bridge To Terabithia	Paterson, Katherine	X	
Bud, Not Buddy	Curtis, Christopher Paul	X	
Blubber & Then Again, Maybe I Won't	Blume, Judy	X	
Joey Pigza Swallowed The Key	Gantos, Jack	X	
The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe	Lewis, C. S.	X	
Love That Dog	Creech, Sharon	X	
The Man Who Was Poe & Something Upstairs	Avi	X	
Sees Behind Trees	Dorris, Michael	X	
The Sign Of The Beaver	Speare, Elizabeth G.	X	
Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story Of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy	Reit, Seymour		X
Boy: Tales Of Childhood	Dahl, Roald		X
Earthquakes	Simon, Seymour		X
Freedom Train	Sterling, Dorothy		X
Frozen Man	Getz. David		X
Lightning	Kramer, Stephen		X
Muscles: Our Muscular System	Simon, Seymour		X
Shh! We're Writing The Constitution	Fritz, Jean		X
Woodsong	Paulsen, Gary		X

<u>LEVEL U - TITLE</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>FICTION</u>	<u>NONFICTION</u>
The BFG	Dahl, Roald	X	
Lyddie	Paterson, Katherine	X	
Tucket's Ride & Words	Paulsen, Gary	X	
Report to the Principal's Office	Spinelli, Jerry	X	
Ella Enchanted	Levine, Gail Garson	X	
Flipped	Van Draanen, Wendelin	X	
Julie Of The Wolves	George, Jean C.	X	
My Side Of The Mountain	George, Jean C.	X	
Number The Stars	Lowry, Lois	X	
A Single Shard	Park, Linda Sue	X	
Tangerine	Bloor, Edward	X	
The View From Saturday	Konigsburg, E.L.	X	
The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963	Curtis, Christopher Paul	X	
Wringer & Who Put the Hair in my Toothbrush ?	Spinelli, Jerry	X	
Insects	Bird, Bettina		X
Knots in My Yo-Yo String	Spinelli, Jerry		X
Mandela	Cooper, Floyd		X
Ordinary Genius: The Story Of Albert Einstein	McPherson, Stephanie S.		X
A Place Called Heartbreak	Myers, Walter Dean		X
Rosa Park	Parks, Rosa		X
The Silk Route	Major, John S.		X
The Tarantula In My Purse	George, Jean C.		X
Volcano: The Eruption And Healing Of Mount St. Helens	Lauber, Patricia		X
The Witchcraft of Salem Village	Jackson, Shirley		X

Summer Reading

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

Jasper Dash and the Flame-Pits of Delaware written by M. T. Anderson

In spoof of foreign adventure novels, Jasper, Katie, and Lily (*Whales on Stilts*, *The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen*) again save the world when they set off a chain of events in which the friends help monks retrieve stolen artifacts. 423 pages.

The Magician's Elephant written by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Yoko Tanaka

In this allegorical and surreal novel about the triumph of hope over despair, Peter searches for his sister, instructed by a fortuneteller to "follow the elephant." 202 pages.

The Outlandish Adventures of Liberty Aimes written by Kelly Easton

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

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

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.

Leaving the Bellweathers written by Kristin Clark Venuti (Egmont)

Butler Tristan Benway pens a tell-all tome as he counts down the weeks and days until he's finished serving the unconventional Bellweather family in their lighthouse home. 242 pages.

Ghost Girl: A Blue Ridge Mountain Story by Delia Ray (Clarion)

Eleven-year-old April's isolated life in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains changes when President and Mrs. Hoover start a school in her community. 216 pages.

Bad Girls by Cynthia Voigt (Scholastic)

Two troublemakers, Margalo and Mikey, form a powerful and wickedly entertaining alliance in this deft portrayal of the dynamics of a fifth-grade classroom. 278 pages.

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam)

Lonnie's fifth-grade teacher introduces him to poetry and makes him believe in his writing in this series of artfully composed poems. 102 pages.

Nonfiction

***Shark Life: True Stories about Sharks & the Sea* written by Peter Benchley**

The author of *Jaws* dispels common misperceptions about sharks — offering thrills for those who don't go near the water and some sensible advice for those who do. 196 pages.

***How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming* written by Lynne Cherry and Gary Braasch (Dawn)**

The authors detail significant research projects by both students and professional scientists that reveal and demonstrate changes in ecosystems, driving home the message that change really is occurring at an accelerated rate. 66 pages.

***Pocket Babies and Other Amazing Marsupials* by Sneed B. Collard (Darby Creek)**

This guide to marsupials features detailed explanations of geographic distribution, scientific classification, distinguishing features, a tour of all marsupial families, and profiles of selected species. 72 pages.

***Science Warriors: The Battle Against Invasive Species* written by Sneed B. Collard**

Collard profiles scientists battling two invaders (imported red fire ants in Texas and the Melaleuca tree in Florida) causing ecological devastation.. 48 pages.

***The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming* by Laurie David and Cambria Gordon**

Addressing three points — what global warming is, how it affects the earth and its inhabitants, and what action kids (and adults) can take to halt its progression — the authors speak plainly and clearly to their audience using kid-friendly metaphors. 112 pages.

***Poop: A Natural History of the Unmentionable* written by Nicola Davies**

How poop is used by animals in their everyday lives and by naturalists, paleontologists, and biologists in their studies. 61 pages.

***What's Eating You?: Parasites—The Inside Story* written by Nicola Davies**

Catering to kids who like their science creepy-crawly, the acclaimed duo explore the world of the “more than 430 different kinds of parasites that can live on a human body...or in one.” 64 pages.

***ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room* by Donna M. Jackson (Houghton)**

“Aww”-inspiring photographs, along with pet and doctor profiles, enhance this exploration of the workings of a veterinary emergency room. 88 pages.

***Evolving Planet: Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* written by Erica Kelly and Richard Kissel (Abrams)**

Based on a Field Museum exhibit, this thorough, field guide–like survey of life on Earth from four billion years ago to the present day highlights key animal species. 136 pages.

***Outside and Inside Killer Bees* by Sandra Markle (Walker)**

How European honeybees and killer science lab escapees compare in terms of anatomy, social hierarchy, and honey production. 40 pages.

***Outside and Inside Mummies* by Sandra Markle (Walker)**

The ways mummies provide scientific clues to ancient civilizations' diets, activities, death rituals, and even climate conditions. 40 pages.

***Snakes: Biggest! Littlest!* written by Sandra Markle, illus. with photos by Joe McDonald (Boyd's Mills)**

A friendly narrative with a helpful mix of awe, information, and well-chosen analogies explores various species and sizes of snakes.

***Sneaky, Spinning Baby Spiders* written by Sandra Markle (Walker)**

Guiding readers through the basics of spider reproduction and growth, Markle creates an exemplary interactivity of text and detailed close-up photos.

***Oh, Rats!: The Story of Rats and People* written by Albert Marrin, illus. by C. B. Mordan (Dutton)**

Nine fact-filled chapters enthusiastically present everything you'll ever want to know about rats...and some things you might not. 48 pages.