



Suggested Summer Reading for rising

Second Graders

Dear soon-to-be Second Graders,

We have enjoyed so many books together over the past nine months. I hope that you will visit the library as often as possible this summer. You may want to choose books from the following list, or ask your librarian for suggestions. It is okay to read a book more than once if you enjoy it! Remember to use the five-finger rule when choosing your independent reading books! I have suggested books with a range of difficulty.

Susi Zedlacher, First Grade teacher

***Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish**

Amelia Bedelia is a loveable maid who experiences one comical disaster after another, all due to her insistence on taking directions literally. There are several books in this series.

***Bedtime for Frances* by Russell Hoban**

Frances is a badger who cannot get to sleep. Every well-known trick is tried to avoid bedtime, all treated with humor by Hoban. Other Frances books include *A Bargain for Frances*; *A Baby Sister for Frances*; and *A Birthday for Frances*.

***Cam Jansen and the Ghostly Mystery* by David A. Adler**

Cam has a special talent for solving mysteries. This challenging series of books by David Adler will lead the reader on many adventures, and keep everyone guessing until Cam solves the mystery.

***Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel**

Using easy-reader vocabulary, Lobel developed an award-winning series of books depicting the warm, personal relationship between two friends. The stories are humorous and loved by children everywhere. Other books in the series are *Days with Frog and Toad*; *Frog and Toad All Year*, and *Frog and Toad Together*.

***Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik**

The author uses simple vocabulary to tell poignant stories of a young bear's childhood and relationship to family and friends. Other books by Minarik include *A Kiss for Little Bear*, *Father Bear Comes Home*, *Little Bear's Friend*, *Little Bear's Visit*, and *No Fighting, No Biting*.

***Marvin Redpost* by Louis Sachar**

This redhead has one humorous adventure after another. Young children are entertained and can relate to the childhood challenges Marvin faces. The Newberry Award-winning author has written several books in a series about Marvin Redpost.

***My Father's Dragon* by Ruth S. Gannett**

This three-volume series for good readers is filled with fantasy, hair-raising escapes, and evil creatures. The events are exciting for children, without being too frightening.

***Nate the Great* by Marjorie Weinmann Sharmat**

Nate, the boy detective, likes to work alone. In this series of books, Nate's friends call on him to help solve their mysteries. Students will enjoy this series of chapter books.

***Curious George* by H.A. Rey**

This humorous story of a curious monkey and the man in the yellow hat provides young readers with many adventures. Other books in the series are favorites also.

***Danny and the Dinosaur* by Syd Hoff**

This easy read book is a funny story of a boy whose trip to a museum turns into an unexpected adventure. Syd Hoff authored several humorous books for beginning readers such as *Stanley*, *Chester*, and *Sammy the Seal*.

***Dinosaurs Before Dark* by Mary Pope Osborn**

This is the first book in the *Magic Tree House* series. These books lead readers to other places and events in history. The first four books in the series should be read in order, but there are now many books that have been published on a variety of historical topics.

***Flash, Crash, Rumble and Roll* by Franklyn M. Branley**

This nonfiction book about thunderstorms is informative, simple and reassuring. All of the books in the "Let's Read and Find Out Science Books" series are excellent for beginning readers.

***Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume**

Young Andrew wants to have freckles like so many of his classmates. So, in this short novel, he endures ridicule, peer pressure, and swallowing a friend's secret recipe in an effort to grow freckles. Other books by Blume includes *The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo*.

***The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss**

This classic book for beginning readers should not be overlooked. The humor, rhyme and delightful illustrations have been enjoyed by generations of children. Dr. Seuss was a prolific author. Many of his books make wonderful read-alouds, while others can be read and reread by young children.

READ-ALOUDS

Dear Parents:

The benefits of reading aloud to children of all ages are well documented. Not only does it install a love of books and reading, but it also provides a model of fluency and proper inflection, while increasing comprehension skills and developing a strong vocabulary. I recommend reading books that are two to three years above their independent reading level. Beginning picture books are typically written at a Third Grad reading level. There are so many wonderful books written for children. I have shared the works of these authors with hundreds of children over the years, and I never tire of reading them. Here are just a few suggestions.

***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst**

Everyone has a bad day on occasion, but Alexander has one when everything seems to go wrong. This story describes that day from one mishap to another, reminding us of similar days we have all experienced. Also by the author: *Alexander Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday; If I Were in Charge of the World and Other Worries.*

***Brave Irene* by William Steig**

Irene's mother is a dressmaker, asked to make a gown for the duchess. When Irene's mother falls ill, Irene volunteers to deliver the gown in time for the ball. But on the long walk, she encounters a blizzard, making the delivery very difficult. This is a tale of bravery and perseverance. Also by the author: *Amos and Boris; The Amazing Bone; Sylvester and the Magic Pebble.*

***Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White**

I have read this story to my First Graders every year. They love it! It is a model of good writing, and encourages the children to visualize and empathize! I also recommend White's other well-known book, *Stuart Little.*

***Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett**

Chewandswallow is a fantasy land where the weather changes three times a day, raining food each time! Also by the author, *Animals Should Definitely Not Act Like People.*

***The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter**

These classic tales continue to entertain children. All of Potter's stories, as well as her illustrations, are charming. These books should not be overlooked!

Hans Andersen's Fairy Tales

These classic stories have entertained children for generations. They are sensitive tales, which can be wonderful springboards for discussion with young children.

***Jumanji* by Chris Van Allsburg**

Two children experience unimagined adventures when they play what appears to be a harmless board game. It is very important for them to read the directions carefully! I highly recommend all of Van Allsburg's books, including *The Polar Express, Two Bad Ants, The Wreck of the Zephyr.*

***Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey**

This Caldecott Award-winning classic follows Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings through the traffic-filled streets of Boston. Also by McCloskey: *Blueberries for Sal*, *One Morning in Maine*, *Lentil*.

***Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney**

This poignant tale of one woman's quest to fulfill her grandfather's wish that she do something to make the world a more beautiful place.

***King Bidgood's in the Bathtub* by Audrey Wood**

This King enjoys his baths so much, all the powers in the kingdom must be summoned to convince him to get out of the tub. Other books by this talented husband and wife team are *The Big Hungry Bear*, *Quick as a Cricket*, and *Bright and Early One Tuesday Evening*.

Don't forget poetry!

Here are some respected resources:

***Now We are Six* by A.A. Milne**

These poems celebrate good children and naughty children, imaginary characters and silly kings. Of course, your children will enjoy *Winnie the Pooh*, *The House at Pooh Corner* and *When We Were Very Young*.

***The Random House Book of Poetry* selected by Jack Prelutsky**

This is an excellent anthology of poetry for children. It includes contemporary poems as well as the most loved classics.

***Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein**

Children laugh out loud at the humorous poems by Silverstein. Be sure to enjoy other books by this talented author/illustrator: *A Light in the Attic* and *The Giving Tree*.

Read, Read, Read and Enjoy!