



## **Summer Recommended Reading Lists for ECDS 2020**

### **First Grade**

The following books are listed from easy to difficult by reading levels and can be found at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or Barnes and Noble. Books that are “just right” for your child will be the ones on their level. To build fluency, have your child read books on an easier level. Books above your child’s level will be too difficult. However, a child’s listening level is usually 2-3 grade levels above their reading level. If your child is reading at a first-grade level, they can listen and comprehend books at a third or fourth grade level. Reading aloud to your child will help challenge students by introducing them to more sophisticated vocabulary and increasing their cognitive skills. In addition, reading together is a great time for parents to bond with their children and will provide opportunities for meaningful discussion. It will become a time you and your child look forward to each night! Remember; don’t restrict your child’s reading material to only books. Provide the chance to read other types of materials (magazines, comics, newspapers, atlases, recipes, game instructions, etc.). This will allow them to discover several reading materials of interest.

For more leveled books, check out this website:  
<http://orgs.bloomu.edu/americanreads/leveledbooks/leveledbooks.html>

Also, [www.reallygoodstuffreading.com](http://www.reallygoodstuffreading.com) has a great set of Learn to Read Books for levels A-J.

### **Guided Reading Level A/Readiness – simple, decodable books**

TITLE AUTHOR

At the Zoo Carol Kloes

Legs, Legs, Legs R. Gossett and Margaret Ballinger

Look What I Can Do Jose Aruego

My Class The Royal Family Lynn Salem & J. Stewart

Do You Want to Be My Friend? Eric Carle What Do Insects Do? Susan Canizares and Pamela

Chanko What Has Wheels? Karen Hoenecke Shapes Karen Evans & Kathleen Urmston I Am

Adria Klein Dogs Amy Levin We Like Fruit Millen Lee My Cats Eileen Robinson Lunch Gay Su

Pinnell

### **Guided Reading Level B/ Readiness – simple, decodable books**

TITLE AUTHOR

Have You Seen My Cat? Eric Carle My Cat Muffin Marjorie Gardner Mrs. Wishy-Washy’s Tub

The Story Book – the Wright Group Who Lives in a Tree? Who Lives in the Arctic? Monkeys

Pamela Chanko & Susan Canizares Making Mountains Margaret Ballinger & R. Gossett What’s



for Dinner? Astronaut Snow Spaceship Karen Hoenecke Cat on the Mat Brian Wildsmith Chicken Soup Pamela Fitros My Cat Muffin Marjory Gardner Good Night, Gorilla Peggy Rathmann Hats Around the World Liza Charlesworth I Like Shapes Shane Armstrong Have You Seen My Duckling? Nancy Tafuri In the Forest Melissa Schiller I'm Hungry Pamela Fitros Mother and Me Nancy Louise Spinelle

### **Guided Reading Level C/ Basal 1.1**

#### TITLE AUTHOR

All Fall Down Brian Wildsmith  
What's For Lunch? Eric Carle  
Pig Picnic Patricia Hubbell  
Up Went the Goat Barbara Gregorich  
At the Library Christine Loomis  
Baby Says John Steptoe  
Bo and Peter Betsy Franco  
Gregory's Dog William Stobbs  
Is it Time? J.G. Campbell  
Max's Pet Nancy Leber  
One For You and One For Me Wendy Blaxland  
Raindrops Sandy Gay  
What A Tale! Brain Wildsmith

### **Guided Reading Level D/ Basal Level 1.2**

#### TITLE AUTHOR

Cat Traps Molly Coxe  
Footprints in the Snow Cynthia Benjamin  
Happy Birthday, Danny the Dinosaur Syd Hoff  
Sid and Sam Nola Buck Puppy Mudge Takes a Bath Cynthia Rylant Puppy Mudge Has a Snack Cynthia Rylant How Many Bugs in a Box? David Carter I Love Mud and Mud Loves Me Vicki Stephens I'm Hungry! Judy Tuer Say Please Virginia Austin School Bus Donald Crews Sleepy Dog Harriet Ziefert Wheels Annie Cobb Winter is Here Kimberly Weinberger The Ball Game David Packard Bump, Bump, Bump Leslie Wood Cat Traps Molly Coxe Don't Be Late Akimi Gibson  
Footprints in the Snow Cynthia Benjamin Freight Train Donald Crews

### **Guided Reading Level E/ Basal Level 1.3**

TITLE AUTHOR I See, You Saw Nurit Karlin We All Fall For Apples Emmi S. Herman Bug, a Bear, and a Boy David McPhail Clouds Meredith Costain A Funny Man Patricia Jensen Flying Donald Crews Giants Wendy Blaxland



Is Tomorrow My Birthday? Just a Seed My Brother, the Brat  
Kirsten Hall Paper Bag Trail  
Anne Schreiber and A. Doughty  
The Pet That I Want  
Mary Packard  
Read to Your Bunny  
Rosemary Wells  
Today is Monday  
Eric Carle  
Who Am I?  
Nancy Christensen

Guided Reading Level F/ Basal Level 1.4

TITLE AUTHOR Amy Loves the Snow Julia Hoban Amy Loves the Sun Julia Hoban Are You There, Bear? Ron Maris Beep, Beep Barbara Gregorich Bread, Bread, Bread Ann Morris A Bug, A Bear, and a Boy David McPhail Calico Cat at the Zoo Donald Charles Calico the Cat Donald Charles A Dozen Dogs Harriet Ziefert Friendly Snowman William Joyce Frog's Lunch Dee Lillgard & J. Zimmerman Harry Takes a Bath Harriet Ziefert Hooray for Snail John Stadler Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox Grace Maccarone Jog, Frog, Jog Barbara Gregorich My Dog's the Best! Stephanie Calmenson Soccer Game! Grace Maccarone Tiger is a Scaredy Cat Joan Phillips Who Will Be My Friends? Syd Hoff

Guided Reading Level G/Basal Level 1.4

TITLE AUTHOR

Biscuit

Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Biscuit Finds A Friend

Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Boats

Anne Rockwell

Boris Bad Enough

Robert Kraus

Buzz Said the Bee Wendy Lewison Cat and Dog Else H. Minarik The Great Race David McPhail How Do You Make a Bubble? William H. Hooks Hungry Animals Little Readers Series I'm a Caterpillar Jean Marzollo Just Enough Lynn Salem & J. Stewart More Spaghetti I Say Rita Gelman My Friends Taro Gomi Nine Men Chase a Hen Barbara Gregorich No Mail for Mitchell Catherine Siracusa Sheep in a Jeep Nancy Shaw Shhhh! Suzy Kline Sue Likes Blue Barbara Gregorich Teddy Bears for Sale Gail Herman That's Not All Start to Read Series Three Cheers for Hippo John Stadler When You Were a Baby Ann Jonas Why Can't I Fly Rita Gelman



### **Guided Reading Level H/Basal Level 1.5**

TITLE AUTHOR  
Bee My Valentine! Miriam Cohen  
Building a House Byron Barton  
Buzz, Buzz, Buzz Byron Barton  
The Cake That Mack Ate Rose Robart & Maryann Kolvalski  
Captain Cat Syd Hoff  
A Clean House For Mole and Mouse Harriet Ziefert  
Come Out and Play Little Mouse Robert Kraus  
Danny and the Dinosaur Go to Camp Syd Hoff  
The Giant's Job J. Stewart & Lynn Salem  
Goodnight Moon Margaret Wise Brown  
The Great Big Enormous Turnip Aleksei Tolstoi & Graff  
Nikolaevich If I Had an Alligator Mercer Mayer  
It's George! Miriam Cohen  
Just Me and My Dad Mercer Mayer  
Just Me and My Puppy Mercer Mayer  
A Kiss for Little Bear Tana Hoban  
Put Me in the Zoo Robert Lopshire  
The Rabbit  
John Burningham  
Quack, Said the Billy Goat  
Charles Causley  
Tool Box  
Anne Rockwell  
Two Bear Cubs  
Ann Jonas  
We are Best Friends  
Alik  
Where are You Going, Little Mouse  
Robert Kraus  
You'll Soon Grow Into Them Titch  
Pat Hutchins

### **Guided Reading Level I/Basal Level 1.5**

TITLE AUTHOR  
Airport  
Byron Barton  
Albert the Albatross  
Syd Hoff  
Angus and the Cat  
Marjorie Flack  
All Tutus Should Be Pink  
Sheri Brownrigg  
Are You My Mother?  
Philip D. Eastman  
Ben and the Bear  
Chris Riddell  
Big Bad Rex



Betty Erickson  
Big Dog, Little Dog  
Philip D. Eastman  
Bike Lesson  
Stan & Jan Berenstain  
Busy Buzzing Bumblebees and Other Tongue Twisters  
Alvin Schwartz  
Dogs  
Pat Hutchins  
The Dragon Series: Dragon Gets By Dragon's Fat Cat Dragon's Halloween Dragon's Merry  
Christmas A Friend For Dragon  
Dav Pilkey  
Father Bear Comes Home  
Else H. Minarik  
Fix It  
David McPhail  
Hiccups for Elephant  
James Preller  
Just a Mess  
Mercer Mayer  
Just Grandma and Me  
Mercer Mayer  
Liar, Liar Pants on Fire  
Miriam Cohen  
Lost in the Mueum  
Miriam Cohen  
Mice At Bat  
Kelly Oechsli  
The Napping House  
Don & Audrey Wood  
Noisy Nora  
Rosemary Wells  
Spooky Riddles  
Marc Brown  
Spot's Birthday Party  
Eric Hill  
Teeny Tiny  
Jill Bennett  
The Three Billy Goats Gruff  
Marcia Brown  
The Very Busy Spider



Eric Carle  
Who's Afraid of the Dark  
Crosby Bonsall

**Guided Reading Level J/Basal Level 2.1**

TITLE AUTHOR

Bear Shadow

Frank Asch

Bear's Bargain

Frank Asch

Camp Big Paw

Doug Cushman

Curious George and the Ice Cream

Margaret Rey

Days with Frog and Toad

Arnold Lobel

Don't Eat Too Much Turkey

Miriam Cohen

The Fox Series: Fox All Week Fox and His Friends Fox at School Fox Be Nimble Fox in Love Fox on Stage Fox on the Job Fox on Wheels

Edward Marshall

Froggy Learns to Swim

Jonathan London

Funny Bones

Allan & Janet Ahlberg

Ghosts!

Alvin Schwartz

Green Eggs and Ham

Dr. Seuss

The Henry and Mudge Series: Henry and Mudge and the Best Day of All Henry and Mudge in the Sparkle Days Henry and Mudge Take the Big Test . . . and many more titles!!

Cynthia Rylant

Hop on Pop

Dr. Seuss

Jimmy Lee Did It

Pat Cummings

Little Bear Books: Little Bear Little Bear's Friend Little Bear's Visit

Else H. Minarik

Mouse Soup

Arnold Lobel



Mouse Tales

Arnold Lobel

Mr. Putter and Tabby Books: Mr. Putter and Tabby Bake the Cake Mr. Putter and Tabby Fly the Plane . . . and other titles!

Cynthia Rylant

The Teeny Tiny Woman

Barbara Seuling

There's an Alligator Under My Bed

Mercer Mayer

There's Something in My Attic

Mercer Mayer

Guided Reading Level K/Basal Level 2.1

TITLE AUTHOR

Alison's Puppy

Marion Dane Bauer

A Baby Sister for Frances

Lillian Hoban A Bargain for Frances Russell Hoban Baseball Ballerina Cathryn Cristaldi Best Friends for Frances Russell Hoban The Best Way to Play Bill Cosby Bony-Legs Joanna Cole Bread and Jam for Frances Russell Hoban The Camp Knock Knock Mystery Ann Douglas The Case of the Cat's Meow Crosby Bonsall The Case of the Double Cross Crosby Bonsall Clifford, the Big Red Dog Norman Bridwell Clifford, the Small Red Puppy Norman Bridwell The Commander Toad series: Commander Toad and the Big Black Hole Commander Toad and the Intergalactic Spy Commander Toad and the Space Pirates . . . and other titles! Jane Yolen Four on the Shore Three by the Sea Edward Marshall Frog and Toad are Friends Frog and Toad Together Arnold Lobel Ibis: A True Whale Story John Himmelman If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Laura Numeroff

Madeline Ludwig Bemelmans The Magic Box Barbara Brenner

Molly the Brave and Me

Jane O'Connor

The Nate the Great series of mysteries: Nate the Great and the Lost List Nate the Great and the Phony Clue Nate the Great and the Snowy Trail . . . and many other titles!

Weinman M. Sharmat

Ruby the Copycat

Peggy Rathman

Soccer Cousins

Jean Marzollo

Space Rock

Jon Buller

Treasure of the Lost Lagoon

Geoffrey Hayes



### **Second Grade**

- Magic Tree House series by Mary Pope Osborne
- Stink or Judy Moody series by Megan McDonald
- Frog and Toad series by Arnold Lobel
- Henry and Mudge series by Cynthia Rylant
- Any leveled readers (I Can Read, PYR, Scholastic, etc.)
- Here's Hank series by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver
- Boris series by Andrew Joyner
- Ivy & Bean series by Annie Barrows
- A to Z Mysteries series by Ron Roy
- Kung Pow Chicken series by Cyndi Marko

\*Any books that your child enjoys reading or listening to!





### Third Grade

Dear Parents,

Over the summer, I will expect that your child will READ, READ, READ, as much as possible. The required reading for incoming third graders is as follows:

First choose one of these books. All of these books are themed around friendship. After reading their chosen book, students should build a diorama depicting their favorite scene and they should write a paragraph about how the book (characters) show the traits of a good friend.

Friend or Fiend by Judy Bloom

The Year of the Book by Andrea Cheng

Calvin Coconut by Graham Salisbury

Ellray Jakes is not a Chicken by Sally Warner

Like Bug Juice on a Burger by Julie Sternberg

Justin Case: Shells, Smells, and the Horrible Flip-Flops of Doom by Rachel Vail

The second book your child will need to read is: 8 Class Pets + 1 Squirrel ÷ 1 Dog = Chaos Paperback by Vivian Vande Velde OR Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little by Peggy Gifford

Please have your child read one of these towards the end of summer as we will be working on it when they return from summer break.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Melissa Zeman

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### Fourth Grade

I recommend that you read at least 2 chapter books this summer. Please choose 1 from this list of classic novels, which is in order of reading levels ranging from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Please bring this 1 book from this list to school with you in August. We will begin the school year with a summer reading share, based on this list. Your second book can be any chapter book that you'd like to read. When you finish reading your book from this list, choose 1 project to share with your peers in August.

#### SUMMER READING ACTIVITIES

- Create a diorama that demonstrates the setting of one book.
- Choose your favorite character and write a story about what it would be like to have this character as your best friend.
- Turn your book into a board game! Use the characters, plot, and setting to create a game that your friends can play.
- Create a PowerPoint or iMovie to show the book, think of it as a book preview. Share enough of the book to give your friends a good idea of what the book is about, but don't spoil the ending. Think about a movie trailer and how it shows the story without giving away the main events.
- Other: Create a visual display of the book, make sure you highlight the characters, plot, and setting in a creative way. Your project idea may be different from the list above, and that is great! You can be the creator of this presentation!

#### *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*

by Beverly Cleary, Alan Tiegreen (illus.)

Ramona feels quite grown-up taking the bus by herself, helping big sister Beezus make dinner, and trying hard to be nice to pesky Willa Jean after school. Turning eight years old and entering the third grade can do that to a girl. So how can her teacher call her a nuisance?

#### *How to Eat Fried Worms*

by Thomas Rockwell, Emily A. McCully (illus.)

Billy makes a bet with his friends that he can eat 15 worms in 15 days. Even with a free choice of condiments -- from peanut butter to horseradish -- Billy wonders if he can really do it.

#### *Fudge-a-Mania*

by Judy Blume

Peter Hatcher's summer is not looking good. First of all, Peter's brother, Fudge -- the five-year-old human hurricane -- has a plan: to marry Peter's sworn enemy, Sheila Tubman. Disgusting!



Could anything be worse? Yes. Peter's parents have decided to rent a summer house next door to the Tubmans. Which means Peter will be stuck with Fudge and Sheila the Cootie Queen for three whole weeks! Will Peter be able to survive the summer? It may not be the vacation of Peter's dreams, but as millions of Judy Blume fans know, it won't be dull. When Fudge is around, anything can happen ... and does! Also recommended: *Superfudge* and *Otherwise Known As Sheila the Great*.

*The Indian in the Cupboard*

by Lynne Reid Banks, Brock Cole (illus.)

The first book in this bestselling series begins with young Omri receiving an old family wooden medicine cupboard as a birthday gift. Given to him by his mother in order to house his plastic toy soldiers, the cupboard has a magical power: It can bring Omri's toys to life. When his toy Indian comes alive and befriends him, Omri finds himself involved in all kinds of adventure and excitement.

*The Cricket in Times Square*

By George Selden

Another classic, Newbery award-winning book that is still loved by kids today. Tucker, a New York City mouse, and his best friend Harry the cat welcome Chester Cricket to the big city from his home in the meadows of Connecticut. They befriend a young boy, Mario, and head out on a series of adventures. Sid recommends this book "to anybody who likes fantasy. It is a great and funny story" with "some heart-breaking moments, so be prepared."

*The Mouse and the Motorcycle*

by Beverly Cleary, Louis Darling (illus.)

Ralph the mouse is terrified. All he had wanted to do was ride the little motorcycle someone had left on the table. Instead, both Ralph and the motorcycle have taken a terrible fall -- right into the bottom of the wastepaper basket. He is trapped, left to wait for whatever fate has in store for him. But it turns out to be Ralph's lucky day. Along comes Keith, the owner of the toy motorcycle, who is staying with his family in the hotel room where Ralph lives. Not only does Keith save Ralph's life, but he teaches him how to ride the bike. And when everyone is asleep, he turns Ralph loose in the hotel halls to enjoy the biking adventure of his life. But adventures can be both fun and trouble...as Ralph and Keith soon find out!

*Dear Mr. Henshaw*

by Beverly Cleary, Paul O. Zelinsky (illus.)



When fourth grader Leigh Botts asks Mr. Henshaw to write to him personally, he gets more than he bargained for. Mr. Henshaw's letters are full of questions, and Leigh is getting tired of answering them. But as he continues his correspondence with his favorite author, he not only gets plenty of tips on writing, but he also finds a wise and thoughtful friend to whom he can tell his troubles.

### *Matilda*

by Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake (illus.)

Matilda Wormwood started reading books at the age of four, but her crooked father and bingo-playing mother regard book reading as a waste of time -- and much prefer watching TV. In fact, they take no notice of their genius daughter at all! Only Miss Honey, Matilda's lovely and gentle teacher, recognizes her special gifts. Yet Miss Honey has problems of her own: Her aunt is the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, an evil headmistress who bullies children and parents alike -- and has taken Miss Honey's house and money. Can Matilda use her extraordinary talents to seek revenge -- and make all of the wrong-doing grown-ups pay? Also recommended: *James and the Giant Peach*.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST

Choose one book from each list OR two books from the top list. Books are leveled based on age appropriateness, likely interest, and reader maturity. It is encouraged that you choose books that challenge you, however you are free to choose any book that interests you. Books are leveled on a 5-8 scale where 5 indicates *incoming* Fifth Graders.

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Choose at least one book from this required reading list:

*A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierley, Larry Buttrose (ghostwriter) (grades 7-8) NONFICTION, MEMOIR

Saroo had become lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a couple in Australia. Saroo spends years searching for his hometown on Google Earth, and eventually, miraculously, finds it. Saroo embarks on an incredible adventure to locate his lost family after many years of separation.

*Runs with Courage* by Joan M. Wolf (grades 5-8) Historical Fiction

Ten-year-old Four Winds is a young Lakota girl caught up in the changes brought about by her people's forced move to the reservation. Four Winds is taken from her family and placed in a boarding school who's intent it is to teach her English and assimilate her into white culture. On the Reservation, she had to fight starvation, now she must fight to maintain the core of her identity. Set in the Dakota Territory, it is the year 1880. Four Winds has been taken away from her family and brought to a boarding school run by whites. It is here she is taught English and learns how to assimilate into white culture. But soon she discovers that the teachers at this school are not interested in assimilation but rather in erasing her culture. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is. Set in the Dakota Territory, it is the year 1880. Four Winds has been taken away from her family and brought to a boarding school run by whites. It is here she is taught English and learns how to assimilate into white culture. But soon she discovers that the teachers at this school are not interested in assimilation but rather in erasing her culture. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is. On the reservation, Four Winds had to fight against starvation. Now she must fight to hold on to who she is.

*The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates* by Wes Moore (grades 6-8) NONFICTION, MEMOIR



Two kids with the same name lived in the same decaying city. One went on to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.

*Sylvia and Aki* by Winifred Conkling (grades 5-6) HISTORICAL FICTION

Sylvia and Aki never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Why did their family stories matter then and still matter today? This book reveals the remarkable, never-before-told story-based on true events-of Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education at the national level.

*Helen Keller: The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller (grades 6-8) AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Keller provides a moving description of her struggle to move beyond the limitations of her blindness and deafness to become one of the most gifted and inspiring writers and thinkers of our time.

*The Hiding Place* by Corrie TenBoom (grades 5-8) AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This is the true story of a Dutch family who risk everything to hide a Jewish family from the Nazis in World War II.

*Hold Fast* by Blue Baillett (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION, MYSTERY

When eleven-year-old Early's father mysteriously disappears, the family is forced to live in a shelter. Early takes action to find her father and to campaign for decent housing for all the city's homeless families.

*Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate (grades 5-8) REALISTIC FICTION

This story celebrates the amazing resilience and gratitude of a boy who has fled the violence of his African homeland for a better life in America.

*How to Steal a Dog* by Barbara O'Connor (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION

A homeless child makes a desperate attempt to "earn" money for a real home.

*I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai (grades 6-8) AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

This is the teenaged Nobel Peace Prize winner's account of her attempts to stand up to the Taliban in order to defend the right of all children to pursue an education regardless of gender or culture.

*The Jacket* by Andrew Clements (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION



When a sixth-grader makes a false assumption about a classmate based on the boy's race, he learns the danger and hurtfulness of stereotyping and prejudice.

*La Linea* by Ann Jaramillo (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.

*The Language of Goldfish* by Zibby Oneal (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

This novel probes the interior life of a talented artist/mathematician who struggles with serious mental health issues.

*Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

A National Book Award winner, this novel explores the interior world of a girl with Asperger's Syndrome as she struggles to make sense of the shooting death of her older brother.

*Out of the Dust* by Karen Hesse (grades 5-7) HISTORICAL FICTION, POETRY

This dramatic free-verse presentation of the hardships of a Depression-era teen speaks to the current financial and emotional crises faced by many families in poverty.

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION

Because Melody can't walk or speak, many dismiss her as both mentally and physically disabled. The author takes us inside the mind of this brilliant, sensitive, and courageous girl who eventually wins the admiration of her peers and the heart of any reader.

*Probably Still Nick Swanson* by Virginia Euwer Wolff (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

Nick tries to navigate the world of adolescence as a sensitive special education student who is not only seeking peer acceptance but also still coming to grips with the death of his sister.

*Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION

Neighbors of all ages and ethnicities come together to transform a garbage-strewn empty lot into a productive community garden.

*Souder* by William H. Armstrong (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION, ANIMAL FICTION

A perennial favorite, the story is not only a classic story of the bond between a boy and his dog but a window into the challenges of poverty and racism faced by an African American family in the nineteenth century South.

*The Star Fisher* by Laurence Yep (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION



Based on the childhood experience of the author’s mother, the book shows how a Chinese American family taps their family love, resilience, and humor to manage the tough transition to a new life in a prejudiced West Virginia town.

*Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World* by Sy Montgomery (grades 5-8) BIOGRAPHY

Temple’s close relationship with animals helps the autistic young woman to understand herself and relate to other people.

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis (grades 6-8) HISTORICAL FICTION

An African American family’s trip to Alabama in 1963 proves to be a heart-breaking and eye-opening experience.

*Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* by Rachel Ignotofsky (grades 5-8) BIOGRAPHY

Read about the work of fifty amazing women scientists including Katherine Johnson of *Hidden Figures* and Jane Goodall, the world’s foremost expert on chimpanzees.

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Choose one book (unless you chose two from the list above) from this recommended reading list:

*Faith, Hope, and Ivy June* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (grades 5-6)—REALISTIC FICTION

Ivy June lives in an impoverished small town in the mountains of Kentucky. Just an hour’s drive away, Catherine is living a well-to-do lifestyle in suburban Lexington. When the girls are chosen for a unique school exchange program, both girls wonder if they will be able to adjust to a radically different way of life. Will the girls be able to see past their differences and become friends?

*The Acorn People* by Ron Jones (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION

As a counselor at a summer camp for children with disabilities, Jones comes to learn the meaning of resilience, courage, and empathy.

*Refugee* by Alan Grantz (grades 5-8) HISTORICAL FICTION

One mission in common: ESCAPE. *Refugee* tells the story of three young people, in three different settings and time periods embarking on harrowing journeys in search of safety.

*Red Berries, White Clouds, Blue Sky* by Sandra Dallas (grades 5-8) HISTORICAL FICTION





It's 1942: Tomi Itano, 12, is a second-generation Japanese American who lives in California with her family on their strawberry farm. Although her parents came from Japan and her grandparents still live there, Tomi considers herself an American. She doesn't speak Japanese and has never been to Japan. But after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, things change.

*The Only Road* by Alexandra Diaz (grades 6-7) REALISTIC FICTION

Twelve-year-old Jaime is sitting on his bed drawing when he hears a scream. Instantly, he knows: Miguel, his cousin and best friend, is dead. Everyone in Jaime's small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that's known for violence and drug trafficking. Anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed—like Miguel. With Miguel gone, Jaime fears that he is next. There's only one choice: accompanied by his cousin Ángela, Jaime must flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (grades 5-6) HISTORICAL/REALISTIC FICTION

In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

*The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION

Young Parvana lives with her family under Taliban rule in one room of a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul, Afghanistan. When her father is arrested, her family searches for a new way to survive in dire conditions.

*Lily and Dunkin* by Donna Gephart (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

*Dodger* by Terry Pratchett (grades 5-7) –HISTORICAL FICTION, MYSTERY

In an alternative version of Dickens' Victorian London, Dodger, a bold street kid, unexpectedly rises in life when he saves a mysterious girl, meets the famous author, and unintentionally puts a stop to a famous murder. Printz Honor Award 2013.

*Absolutely Almost* by Lisa Graff (grades 5-7) REALISTIC FICTION

Albie may have academic challenges, but he is, as his mother says, the kindest, most thoughtful boy ever. See how Albie discovers the meaning of real friendship and develops an appreciation of his own self-worth.



*Almost Home* by Joan Bauer (grades 5-6) REALISTIC FICTION

When her parents can no longer provide for her, Sugar ends up in a foster home. She pulls through with the love of her mother, a kindly foster parent, and a rescue puppy.

*Buddha Boy* by Kathe Koja (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION

When they work together on a school project, Justin discovers that the unusual new student, whom the school bullies cruelly call “Buddha Boy,” is really a sensitive and talented artist. But when peer pressure rises, whose side will Justin take?

*The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman (grades 6-7) FANTASY

Toddler Bod, short for Nobody, crawls into a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered. He is then raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen by the graveyard’s ghosts and otherworldly creatures. Newbery Award 2009.

*I Want to Grow Hair, I Want to Grow Up, I Want to Go to Boise: Children Surviving Cancer* by Erma Bombeck (grades 5-7) HUMOR, AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

With wit, wisdom, joy, and empathy, Bombeck presents the hopes, wishes, and dreams of young cancer patients.

*The Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O’Dell (grades 5-7) ADVENTURE

A young girl who has been abandoned on a deserted island must depend on her resourcefulness and courage for her very survival.

*A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (grades 5-7) FICTION, FANTASY

Troubled by the recurring nightmare that started with his mother’s cancer treatments, twelve-year-old Conor is shocked by a monster in the form of a giant yew tree that appears at his window-- a monster who has three stories to tell and who wants “the truth” from Conor. Andrew Carnegie Medal.

*My Life with the Chimpanzees* by Jane Goodall (grades 5-7) AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Goodall recounts her many years studying and befriending the chimps of Africa.

*The Odyssey: A Graphic Novel* by Gareth Hinds (grades 6-8) GRAPHIC NOVEL, MYTHOLOGY

Homer’s epic tale of Odysseus, the ancient Greek hero who encounters witches and other obstacles on his journey home after fighting in the Trojan War, is retold in graphic novel format.

*A Summer to Die* by Lois Lowry (grades 6-8) REALISTIC FICTION



What begins as a story of sibling rivalry is transformed into a story of empathy and understanding when one sister becomes seriously ill.

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson (grades 6-8) ADVENTURE, CLASSIC

A resourceful band of young friends, a one-legged pirate, a story of gold and greed: this classic tale of adventure has it all.

*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne (grades 7-8) SCIENCE FICTION, CLASSIC

This is a nineteenth-century science fiction tale of an electric submarine, its eccentric captain, and an undersea world.

*Where the Red Ferns Grow* by Wilson Rawls (grades 6-8) ANIMAL FICTION, CLASSIC

This novel about a boy and his two hunting dogs has been called one of the most powerful (and certainly one of the most popular) stories of the empathic bond between humans and animals.

*A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (grades 5-7) FANTASY, ADVENTURE

Meg's father had been experimenting with this fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. Can Meg and her friends rescue him? Can they use their resourcefulness and courage to make the long journey into space?