

**Friends School Haverford**  
**2010**  
**Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 2**

We feel it is important for your child to be read to regularly over the summer. This list suggests just a few good books and authors. This is only the tip of a wonderful iceberg, so explore further on your own! You'll find a lot to share and enjoy with your child.

When reading aloud, try to choose books you like, perhaps your old favorites. Encourage your child to reach for a book when in need of quiet recreation. Be sure to discuss the books together.

**PICTURE BOOKS**

Adler, David: **America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle.** The true story about the first woman to swim the English Channel.

Alexander, Lloyd: **The House Gobbaleen.** Tooley, a farmer who always complains about his bad luck, wants a lucky house brownie; but he foolishly invites a greedy fairy into his house instead. He finally tricks the creature into leaving.

Ardizzone, Edward: **Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain.** This classic old picture book (1936) will still please today's children, especially those who crave adventure and danger. Tim stows away on a ship, ends up working hard as a cabin boy for a kind crew, and barely escapes alive from a shipwreck. He rejoins his family in the end.

Cannon, Janell: **Stellaluna.** The little fruit bat is separated from her mother. Her adventures while her mother searches for her are always a hit with children.

Child, Lauren: **I Am Too Absolutely Small for School.** Lola is worried about all the things that could go wrong at school, but her brother Charlie reassures her in this funny story.

Cole, Joanna: **The Magic School Bus series.** These books present interesting facts about science and nature in a cartoony format.

Cooper, Floyd: **Grandpa's Face.** Grandpa is an actor, and when his granddaughter sees him practicing a mean character, she's frightened and needs reassurance that her "real" grandpa is still there.

Cronin, Doreen: **Diary of a Worm.** Rising second graders should love this clever and humorous look at the life of a worm.

Deans, Karen: **Playing to Win.** The true story of Althea Gibson, the first African American to win at Wimbledon and one of the greatest U.S. tennis players.

Diakit , Penda: **I Lost My Tooth in Africa.** A girl raised in the U.S. goes for a long visit with her father's relatives in Mali, where she hopes to lose a tooth – because the African Tooth

Fairy gives you a real live chicken! This gem was based on the actual family experiences of the author, and illustrated by her father.

Flaherty, A.W.: **The Luck of the Loch Ness Monster**. How did that monster get into Loch Ness? This tall tale will tell you.

Florian, Douglas: **Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars**. A collection of poems about space.

Fraustino, Lisa: **The Hickory Chair**. Louis has a very special relationship with his grandmother, who leaves something special to each grandchild after her death.

Gerstein, Mordicai: **What Charlie Heard**. A picture book biography of Charles Ives, the American composer, and his quirky sense of music.

Greene, Carol: **The Old Ladies Who Liked Cats**. A fun story about how one little thing – in this case, confining the island's cats at night – can have unexpected results. A classic tale of interdependence.

Hatkoff, Juliana, et al.: **Looking for Miza**. A true story of a wild gorilla family in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the rangers who help protect them, and how a gorilla baby was lost and then found again.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, ed.: **Got Geography!** A collection of poems about geography.

Howard, Elizabeth: **Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys**. Based on the history of the author's family. Soon after the Civil War, the children of one education-loving family walk seven miles to attend a Quaker school for freed slaves. The daughter insists on her right to go with her older brothers, and at last she has her chance.

Ichikawa, Satomi: **My Pig Amarillo**. When Pablito's pet pig disappears, his grandfather wisely helps him mourn and accept his loss. Set in Guatemala, with beautiful artwork.

Iyengar, Malathi: **Romina's Rangoli**. Romina needs to bring something to school that will represent her family's heritage – but her mother is from Mexico, and her father is from India. She could bring in something from one country – but she wants to meld both cultures somehow.

Jackson, Ellen: **Earth Mother**. Gloriously illustrated by the Dillons, this book shows that you can't please everyone – and also that ecosystems are interconnected, in an age-appropriate way.

Jeffers, Susan: **My Chincoteague Pony**. After Julie is helped to buy the pony of her dreams by the kind strangers at the auction, she vows to come back the next year to help some other child buy the pony of her dreams. This lovely book isn't only for the horse-mad, but for anyone who will understand the lesson about generosity and gratitude.

Jenner, Caryn: **The Story of Pocahontas**. The true story of Pocahontas, not fictionalized.

Katz, Susan: **Mrs. Brown on Exhibit and Other Museum Poems**. Class trips to museums, told in poems and illustrations. Clearly the author lives around here, because you'll recognize things from various Philadelphia museums in the poems – like the giant heart from the Franklin Institute, and the Soap Lady from the Mutter Museum!

Keller, Laurie: **Do unto Otters: a Book about Manners.** Etiquette always seems to make good fodder for humor – and somehow the lessons about manners actually shine through.

Kirk, Daniel: **Library Mouse.** Sam, the library mouse, loves to read. He also loves to write, and soon he not only finds a way to share his books with the library users, but he also inspires them to start writing stories of their own!

Kloske, Geoffrey: **Once upon a Time, the End.** A sleepy dad reads bedtime stories – but he always shortens the stories, because *he* is too sleepy to read the whole thing. You and your student will enjoy the results!

Lyon, George Ella: **Mother to Tigers.** The true story of Helen Martini, a pioneering zookeeper from New York City.

The **Max Axiom** series. This comic book format series is an excellent and enjoyable introduction to many science and nature topics, such as electricity, food chains, magnetism, light, adaptation etc. Various authors.

McCully, Emily: **The Escape of Oney Judge.** Based on true events in the life of one of Martha Washington's slaves, who fled to New England and resisted several attempts to return her to her "owner".

McFarland, Lyn: **Widget.** Widget is a little lost dog who wants a family. But to find a home, he'll have to pretend to be a *cat*.

Michelson, Richard: **Across the Alley.** Abe and Willie aren't allowed to play together during the day, but at night, they've become best friends because their bedroom windows face each other across a narrow alley. Abe's dream is to play baseball – which Willie is being pushed to do – and Willie's dream is to play the violin, which Abe is being pushed to do. This wonderful story says a lot about racial divisions, stereotypes, and personal dreams versus family pressures.

Munsch, Robert: **David's Father.** David's neighbor really wants to play with him, but she's a little worried about David's father – who turns about to be a (very nice) giant!

Muth, Jon: **Zen Shorts.** A giant panda moves into the neighborhood and tells stories that really make people think. This Caldecott Honor Book from 2005 has already become a great favorite in many families.

Ogburn, Jacqueline: **The Bake Shop Ghost.** It takes a very clever baker to make peace with the bake shop ghost. A thoroughly satisfying story.

Palatini, Margie: **Bad Boys Get Cookie!** Two rather dim wolves try to catch the Gingerbread Man. This funny story will be perfect for this age.

Pearson, Emily: **Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed.** A simple but beautiful story about how a simple act of kindness spreads kindness from one recipient to another all over the world.

Pinkney, Jerry: **Aesop's Fables.** This beautifully illustrated new edition of Aesop's Fables will not only give children a good introduction to these timeless tales, but will give them a preview of their year's theme in Second Grade Library.

- Polacco, Patricia: **Mrs. Katz and Tush.** Elderly Mrs. Katz and Larnel, a neighboring boy, become good friends when they adopt a kitten together.
- Polacco, Patricia: **Thunder Cake.** Based on a story from the author's childhood. The child is afraid of thunder, until her grandmother tells her it's time to bake a "thunder cake". The recipe for the cake is in the back of the book.
- Rathmann, Peggy: **10 Minutes till Bedtime.** This nearly wordless book shows the weird shenanigans of a horde of hamsters that visit a child just at bedtime. Children of all reading levels will enjoy poring over the detailed illustrations.
- Reynolds, Peter: **Ish.** Ramon learns that your art doesn't have to look *exactly* like what you're drawing to be worth saving.
- Rex, Adam : **Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich.** These poems are wonderfully silly, and the pictures are great.
- Richardson, Justin: **And Tango Makes Three.** The true story of two male penguins at the Central Park Zoo who raised a penguin chick together.
- Ringgold, Faith: **Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky.** Don't expect historical facts in this story – though there are some in the afterword. This is a beautiful dreamlike story of one girl's escape, somewhat surrealistic at times, but in an age-appropriate way.
- Robertus, Polly: **The Dog Who Had Kittens.** Baxter the basset hound grows to love and care for the kittens of his fellow pet, Eloise the cat, and Baxter and Eloise forge a better friendship because of it.
- Rovetch, Gerda: **There Was a Man Who Loved a Rat.** These poems are very quirky, and kids love them!
- San Souci, Robert: **Sukey and the Mermaid.** A folktale about a girl, mistreated at home, who is befriended by a beautiful mermaid.
- Sasso, Sandy: **God Said Amen.** When the prince and princess lead their kingdoms to the brink of disaster with their pride and stubbornness, the people take over and make their own agreements. A story about common sense and the dangers of pride.
- Schachner, Judy: **Skippyjon Jones.** Skippyjon is a Siamese cat who drives his mother crazy with his wild imagination.
- Schanzer, Rosalyn: **How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning.** The story of Franklin, concentrating on his experiments with electricity, written in a very light and playful tone.
- Seuss, Dr.: **And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street.** Marco's tall tales get wilder and wilder in this wonderful classic, but fortunately he keeps them all in his imagination!
- Seuss, Dr.: **The Lorax.** Children seem to like this story more than most of the more nonsensical Seuss books, probably because it has a more involved plot. This book has become one of the classic fables about ecology.
- Spier, Peter: **Oh, Were They Ever Happy!** A lovely tongue-in-cheek book with Spier's elaborate and detailed illustrations.

Stanley, Diane: **Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter**. Don't you feel sorry for the subjects of that greedy king in *Rumpelstiltskin*? Well, this tale is for you!

Stanley, Diane: **Shaka, King of the Zulus**. This carefully researched picture biography presents the life of the famous leader from the early 1800s.

Steig, William: **Amos and Boris**. This tale of the friendship between a mouse and a whale, and of how they save each other's lives, deserves its high stature in children's literature.

Sturgis, Philemon: **Bridges Are To Cross**. Great illustrations and short, informative text about different kinds of bridges.

Turkle, Brinton: **The Adventures of Obadiah**. Obadiah is a young Quaker boy in long-ago Nantucket. His penchant for mixing up his wonderful fantasy life with reality gets him into trouble.

Van Allsburg, Chris: **Probuditi!** Calvin gets in big trouble for hypnotizing his little sister... or did he?

Van Dusen, Chris: **If I Built a Car**. What would you put in, if you could have a car with *everything*?

Watt, Melanie: **Scaredy Squirrel**. Scaredy Squirrel is worried about everything, and children love reading the lists he compiles.

Willems, Mo: **Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct**. Everyone loves the kind and generous Edwina, even though she's a dinosaur and really shouldn't exist!

Winter, Jeanette: **Elsina's Clouds**. Elsina, a Basotho girl living in southern Africa, tells about her family's life and how she paints the walls of their house as a prayer for rain.

## CHAPTER BOOKS and COLLECTIONS of POETRY and TALES

Adler, David: **The Many Troubles of Andy Russell**. Andy's troubles are all things that first and second graders can relate to!

**The Barefoot Book of Tropical Tales**. This collection of folktales from many tropical countries is a great introduction to folktales of the world.

Bond, Michael: **A Bear Called Paddington**. A mysterious little bear, claiming to be from "darkest Peru", joins a proper London household and causes all sorts of hilarious mishaps. A much-loved classic.

Brown, Susan Taylor: **Robert Smalls Sails to Freedom**. This short chapter book tells the true story of an American slave who stole a confederate ship during the Civil War and sailed to the North with his friends and family.

Cameron, Ann: **The Stories Julian Tells**. Ann Cameron based these beautifully-illustrated stories on the reminiscences of a friend.

Cleary, Beverly: **Ramona the Pest**, etc. Ramona sees things a bit differently, and always seems to be getting into trouble. There are many sequels for Ramona's many fans.

De Paola, Tomie: **26 Fairmount Avenue**. The author's true and very amusing memoir, this book works well with a wide range of ages.

DiCamillo, Kate: **Mercy Watson** series. Mercy Watson is the pet pig belonging to a very silly couple, and her adventures will amuse children and parents alike.

Draper, Sharon: **Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs** series. This modern mystery series is in the traditional "mystery-solving chums" mold, and will make good read-alouds for students of this age.

Enright, Elizabeth: **The Saturdays**. A New York City set of siblings decides to pool their allowances, so each Saturday one of the children can go do something really special. Originally published in 1941, but still in print and still greatly enjoyed today. There are sequels about the same family, as it moves to the country and deals with World War II.

Estes, Eleanor: **The Moffats**. Like *The Saturdays* above, *The Moffats* is a book decades old, dealing with the life of a family of siblings; and like *The Saturdays*, *All-of-a-Kind Family*, and many others, children still love this book.

Gannett, Ruth: **My Father's Dragon**. An adventure story about a boy who rescues a dragon from enslavement by other animals.

The **Geronimo Stilton** series. This series of light mouse detective adventures appeals to many students of this age. By various unattributed authors.

Greenburg, Dan: The **Zack Files** series. Zack is always getting into silly supernatural adventures – whether with his great-grandfather, reincarnated as a cat; or whether with a ghost, or psychic powers.

Hurwitz, Joanna: **The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein**. David Bernstein is bored with his name and bored with his life, so he asks to be called "Ali Baba" and manages to find all sorts of adventures among the tenants of his apartment building.

Hurwitz, Johanna: **Busybody Nora**. Nora is interested in everything that happens in her apartment building.

Johnson, Crockett: **Ellen's Lion**. Ellen's lion is a stuffed animal, but that doesn't keep her from having many discussions and adventures with it. This quirky old book is still perfect for many of our children.

Kingfisher (publisher): **Treasury of Stories for Seven Year Olds**. This collection and others like it are surprisingly good. The stories may not seem particularly appealing to grown-ups, but they really do appeal to their target audience.

Le Guin, Ursula: **Catwings**. The adventures of a family of winged cats, trying to survive and stay hidden from the humans.

Levy, Elizabeth: **Something Queer** series. Charming short mysteries with pictures on every page; a perfect transition series for children who aren't quite ready to give up their illustrations yet.

Lewis, C.S.: **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. Don't be tempted by those who tell you to read *The Magician's Nephew* first. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is meant for a younger audience than the other books in the series, and works best for 5-7 year olds. I also recommend **Prince Caspian** and **The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** for this age.

Lowry, Lois: **Gooney Bird Greene**. Gooney Bird tells the most outlandish stories to her class, but they all turn out to be true – entirely true, but not in the way her listeners thought!

Lupton, Hugh and Lisa Berkshire: **Freaky Tales from Far and Wide**. These folktales will appeal to children who enjoy the weird.

MacDonald, Betty: **Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle** series. When parents in her little town can't deal with their children's behavior, they call Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle for her outrageous (but always effective) advice.

Osborne, Mary Pope: The **Magic Tree House** series. Children love the magical adventures of Jack and Annie, and their journeys through history often impart interesting facts as well.

Parish, Peggy: The **Amelia Bedelia** series. The sweet but noodle-headed Amelia Bedelia has been a favorite with children for decades.

Pennypacker, Sara: **Clementine**. Clementine is a spirited girl whose impulsiveness can get her into hot water, but who really tries to do the right thing.

Peterson, John: **The Littles** series. The Littles are a family of mouse-sized, mouse-tailed people, and their adventures catch the imagination of students this age.

Prelutsky, Jack: **The Dragons Are Singing Tonight** (poems). Kid-friendly poems about fantasy themes.

Prelutsky, Jack: **New Kid on the Block** (poems). Jack Prelutsky is one of the most famous and beloved writers of poetry for today's children, and this collection will have something to please almost anybody.

Roy, Ron: The **A-Z Mystery** series. A popular mystery series in the traditional "three detective chums" mold.

Schwartz, Alvin: **In a Dark, Dark Room**. Unlike some of Schwartz's scarier folktale collections, this one is meant for the early grades, and is spooky without being frightening.

Selden, George: **The Cricket in Times Square**. The adventures of the metropolitan cricket and his friends are as popular as ever.

Silverstein, Shel: **Where the Sidewalk Ends** (Poems). This collection of Shel Silverstein's poems has become a classic of American children's literature.

Taylor, Sidney: **All-of-a-Kind Family**. The adventures of a Jewish family living in New York City in the early 1900s. This great classic is a perfect read-aloud.

Wesley, Valerie Wilson: **Willimena Rules** series. Willimena is full of plans that get her into difficulties at school and at home.

White, E.B.: **Charlotte's Web**. This classic story of friendship and kindness appeals to nearly every child.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls: **Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie, Farmer Boy**. These three books in the Little House series are very accessible to younger children, who may want to hear them over and over.

## MAGAZINES

**Appleseeds**. Each issue focuses on a single theme, bringing together a number of interesting short articles and activities. A very fine magazine for this age group.

**Ask**. Each issue focuses on one non-fiction topic, and contains non-fiction, comic strips, and activities about the topic. Very pictorial, very informative, very entertaining.

**Spider**. Spider is a literary magazine for 6-9 year olds, full of high-quality fiction and poetry.

**Zoobooks**. Each issue of Zoobooks takes an in-depth, non-fiction look at one animal or animal family.

The report of the Commission on Reading, Becoming a Nation of Readers, states, "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.