

**Friends School Haverford**  
**2010**  
**Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 3**

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.

Adler, David: **Picture Book** biography series. David Adler has written many fine biographies, most about important figures in American history. Each book in the series is nicely illustrated, by various illustrators.

Alexander, Lloyd: **The Fortunetellers**. This simple but clever story is enjoyable for a wide variety of ages, and Trina Schart Hyman's intricate illustrations are set in Cameroon,.

Base, Graeme: **The Eleventh Hour**. A picture book mystery. While the animals were enjoying their party, someone came in and ruined the birthday feast! The reader must pore over the pages for clues to deduce the identity of the guilty guest.

Berne, Jennifer: **Manfish: a story of Jacques Cousteau**. A good pictorial introduction to the life of an extremely important and influential inventor and naturalist.

Boulton, Jane: **Only Opal: The Diary of a Young Girl**. Excerpts from the poetic memoir of a girl raised by foster parents in early 1900s Oregon, with lovely illustrations by Barbara Cooney.

Child, Lauren: **I Will Never NOT EVER Eat a Tomato**. Lola states that she will not eat tomatoes, or carrots, or peas – but when her brother Charlie makes them sound glamorous with new names, that's a different story!

Cole, Brock: **Good Enough to Eat**. The homeless woman is despised by everyone in town, but when they try to feed her to a monster that threatens the town, she turns out to be clever enough to come out on top.

Coppinger, Tom: **Curse in Reverse**. The hungry, tired old witch wants to reward the poor couple who help her – but a witch can only bestow curses. The couple lives in fear of her curse until they finally realize that it was, in a very unexpected way, a blessing.

Cronin, Doreen: **Diary of a Worm**. A 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.

Demi: **Gandhi**. A simple picture-book biography of the Indian leader.

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

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

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

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.

Lewin, Ted: **Sacred River**. A picture book celebration of the Ganges river, illustrated with Lewin's wonderful watercolor paintings.

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".

Meddaugh, Susan: **Martha Speaks**. Martha the dog gains the power of speech when she eats alphabet soup. This leads to situations that are partly good, partly bad, but always funny.

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.

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.

Nobisso, Josephine: **John Blair and the Great Hinckley Fire**. This is a true story of a heroic railroad porter who, in 1894, saved many train passengers from a forest fire that engulfed their train. This story is appropriate for most rising third graders, but please preview it and decide whether your own student is ready for it at this time.

- Provensen, Alice: **My Fellow Americans: a Family Album**. Each page or two-page spread celebrates a different category of historical Americans – writers, financiers, architects, musicians, abolitionists, suffragists, etc.
- Rex, Adam : **Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich**. These poems are wonderfully silly, and the pictures are great.
- Reynolds, Susan: **The First Marathon: The Legend of Pheidippides**. Carefully researched from ancient writings, this retelling of the classical Greek story includes dramatic illustrations.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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!
- Singer, Marilyn: **Bottoms Up!** A factual survey of interesting animal bottoms, with a description of how they are useful in the animal’s lives.
- Stanley, Diane: **Shaka, King of the Zulus**. This carefully researched picture biography presents the life of the famous leader from the early 1800s.
- Van Allsburg, Chris: **Probuditi!** Calvin gets in big trouble for hypnotizing his little sister... or did he?
- Watt, Melanie: **Scaredy Squirrel**. Scaredy Squirrel is worried about everything, and children love reading the lists he compiles.
- Zschock, Martha Day: **Journey around Philadelphia from A to Z**. A wonderful picture book celebration of things you can see in Philadelphia right now – I can think of no one book that is more likely to interest our students in touring and enjoying their own home city.

## **CHAPTER BOOKS and COLLECTIONS of POETRY or TALES**

- Abbott, Tony: **The Secrets of Droon** series. These are just slightly harder to read than the *Magic Treehouse* books, and although they lack the historical and nature facts that give the *Magic Treehouse* books extra value, they are full of magical adventures.
- Adler, David: The **Andy Russell** series. Andy's troubles and adventures are endlessly interesting to students of this age.
- Bellairs, John: **The House with a Clock in Its Walls**. This very creepy supernatural mystery is perfect for some rising third graders, but too much for some, so be aware of your own student's comfort level before recommending it.
- 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.
- Dahl, Roald: **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. This combination of rags-to-riches and over-the-top silliness makes for a very satisfying read-aloud.
- 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.
- Dunrea, Olivier: **Hanne's Quest**. Hanne is a little brown hen, who goes on a quest for a magic power that can save her beloved farm. Children this age are really fascinated by her journey and by the strange supernatural places and creatures she encounters.
- 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.

Hale, Bruce: The **Chet Gecko** series. These humorous mysteries for children have a school setting.

Herriot, James: **James Herriot's Treasury for Children**. Herriot's many years as a country vet in England yielded a trove of stories, and these illustrated tales are much enjoyed by animal-loving children.

Kingfisher (publisher): **Treasury of Stories for Eight 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.

Lewis, C.S.: **The Chronicles of Narnia**. I particularly recommend *Prince Caspian*, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, and *The Silver Chair* for this age.

Look, Lenore: **Ruby Lu, Brave and True**. Ruby lives in the Pacific Northwest and has a lively time with her neighborhood friends, her Chinese School friends on Saturdays, and her grandparents – who she loves and understands, even though Ruby can't understand their Cantonese yet.

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.

McDonald, Megan: **Judy Moody** series. These books are a great favorite of third, fourth and fifth grade girls.

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.

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.

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 on the Prairie, Farmer Boy, On the Banks of Plum Creek.** I particularly recommend these three of Wilder's books for this age.

## 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.

**Kids Discover.** Like **Ask** above, but concentrating on facts and photographs, rather than including comic strips and activities. Some children prefer one, some the other.

**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.