

Friends School Haverford
2008
Summer Reading for Students Entering Kindergarten

We feel it is important for your child to be read to regularly over the summer. This list suggests some books and authors. This is only the tip of a wonderful iceberg, but we've tried to present a good sampling.

When reading aloud, try to choose books you like, perhaps your own 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

Babbitt, Natalie: **Bub, or the Very Best Thing**. In this charming book, a king and a queen wander through their castle, asking people what the best thing is for their little prince. Children enjoy the pattern of the story, and love the detailed pictures.

Base, Graeme: **Animalia**. Each page of this alphabet book is full of things starting with the page's featured letter – a fascinating book for children learning their letter sounds.

Burton, Virginia: **Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel**. Steam shovels may be a thing of the past, but this classic is truly evergreen.

Christelow, Eileen: **Where's the Big Bad Wolf?** Your child will figure it out long before the somewhat dim dog detective, and that's what makes this book so much fun!

Cooney, Barbara: **Miss Rumphius**. Miss Rumphius wonders all her interesting life what to do to make the world a better place, and finally does something in her old age. This fine story gently urges children to want to make the world better themselves.

Crews, Donald: **Shortcut**. When the children decide to take a shortcut along the train tracks, they have a suspenseful encounter with a freight train – but they get off the tracks safely, and watch the train go by.

Gag, Wanda: **Millions of Cats**. This tall tale is very accessible to young children.

Hong, Lily Toy: **Two of Everything**. This excellent retelling of a Chinese folktale will easily lead to discussions – “What would YOU do with the magic pot?”

Keats, Ezra Jack: **Whistle for Willie**. This excellent city story highlights the joy of learning something new – how to whistle, in this case. It's a rare child who won't start working on his/her whistle while listening to the story.

Kimmel, Eric: **Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins**. This slightly spooky traditional trickster tale isn't just for Hanukkah. Children love the illustrations, and love to hear how Hershel outwits the foolish Goblins.

London, Jonathan: **Froggy Plays Soccer**, etc. Froggy learns to do different things that interest children in this recent series.

McCloskey, Robert: **Burt Dow, Deep Water Man.** This tall tale, set in Maine, is a big favorite both with young children and their parents.

McPhail, David: **Edward and the Pirates.** Edward's imagination and love of books send him on an adventure.

Meddaugh, Susan: **Harry on the Rocks.** Harry the dog is shipwrecked on a desert island, and finds a very unusual friend there.

Michelin, Linda: **Zuzu's Wishing Cake.** Zuzu, an energetic, optimistic girl, wants to get to know her new neighbor.

Minarik, Else: **Little Bear** series. Young children really enjoy these gentle stories.

Munsch, Robert: **The Paper Bag Princess.** When Princess Elizabeth's home is burnt by a dragon, she outwits the dragon to save her fiancé.

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!

Nolen, Jerdine: **Raising Dragons.** What happens when a little girl on a farm hatches a dragon? Only good things, in this pleasant adventure.

O'Neill, Alexis: **Loud Emily.** Little Emily is too loud for her family and her town, but she finds her perfect niche in this amusing tale.

Peet, Bill: **The Wump World.** The vile little Pollutians take over the Wump World, but in the end they leave, and the Wumps can return.

Robertson, M.P.: **Big Brave Brian.** Brian isn't afraid of all sorts of wonderfully illustrated monsters, but he is afraid of... cleaning his room!

Rylant, Cynthia: **Henry and Mudge** series. These easy readers have realistic plots that young children enjoy.

Schwartz, David: **How Much Is a Million?** If your child is fascinated by big numbers, try this entertaining book.

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. The greedy Onceler wreaks havoc on a local ecosystem with the help of his relatives and big goofy machines.

Singer, Marilyn: **On the Same Day in March: a Tour of the World's Weather.** Each page shows a different place in the world and describes what the inhabitants are doing on the same day.

Stanley, Diane: **Rumpelstiltskin's Daughter.** Our heroine outwits the greedy king, and tricks him into making his kingdom a better place for everyone.

Steig, William: **Dr. DeSoto.** The award-winning story of a mouse dentist and his wife, who outwit a fox.

Steig, William: **The Toy Brother.** Two brothers, who don't get along too well, are brought together by a magical misadventure.

- Sturgis, Philemon: **Bridges Are To Cross.** Great illustrations and short, informative text about different kinds of bridges.
- Turkle, Brinton: **Do Not Open.** Our heroine finds a genie bottle on the beach and opens it, then outwits the evil genie.
- Turkle, Brinton: **The Adventures of Obadiah.** Obadiah is a young Quaker lad on long-ago Nantucket. He is so fond of telling wild stories that his family doesn't believe him when something fantastic actually happens to him!
- Wells, Rosemary: **Emily's First 100 Days of School.** Each day, Emily does something involving the day's number. Children love the pictures, the mild and realistic plot, and the idea of someone else's kindergarten experience.
- Wells, Rosemary: **Noisy Nora.** This rhyming book about impatient, noisy Nora is a pleasure to read aloud, a pleasure to look at, and (judging from personal experience) a pleasure for the children who hear it.
- Willems, Mo: **Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct.** Edwina is a favorite with all her neighbors, except the one boy who knows she shouldn't even be there!
- Willems, Mo: **Knuffle Bunny.** When Trixie and her Daddy go to the Laundromat, something important is left behind – but Trixie is too little to talk. Just about everyone likes this unusual and funny book.
- 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.

SHORT STORIES AND NOVELS

- Baum, L. Frank: **The Wizard of Oz.** There are few read-alouds that 4-6 year olds enjoy more than the unabridged Wizard of Oz. If you want to begin reading longer stories with fewer pictures to your child, or if you want to read to an older sibling and your kindergartner at the same time, this is a fine choice.
- Cleary, Beverly: **Beezus and Ramona, Ramona the Pest.** These first two Ramona books are just right for many kindergartners to listen to.
- Garis, Howard: **Uncle Wiggly** books. Children still adore these old chestnuts.
- Hurwitz, Joanna: **Rip-roaring Russell.** Russell's preschool adventures are funny, and will give your new kindergartner a pleasant sense of being "more grown-up than that".
- Kingfisher (publisher): **Treasury of Stories for Five 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; and they're a fine transition to longer, less-illustrated fiction.

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.

WORDLESS BOOKS

Wordless books are a great transitional step for early readers. Have your child tell the plot to you, and let him/her turn the pages.

Baker, Jeannie: **Home.**

Bang, Molly: **The Gray Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher.**

Day, Alexandra: **Good Dog, Carl.**

Mayer, Mercer: **A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog.**

Rathmann, Peggy: **Good Night, Gorilla.**

Schories, Pat: **Breakfast for Jack.**

Turkle, Brinton: **Deep in the Forest.**

Weitzman, Jacqueline: **You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum.**

Wiesner, David: **Tuesday.**

MAGAZINES

Click. In my opinion, this is absolutely the best magazine for this age group. Each issue focuses on a non-fiction topic (such as rain, or working animals, or islands), and contains fiction and non-fiction about the topic. Very pictorial, very informative, very entertaining.

Ladybug. Poems, stories and songs for 3-6 year olds. If your child is beginning to get tired of **Ladybug**, try **Spider**, for 6-9 year olds.

Ranger Rick. Nature magazine for the young.

Your Big Backyard. Another nature magazine, aimed at a slightly younger age than **Ranger Rick**, but still appropriate for kindergartners.