

Friends School Haverford
2008
Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 1

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

Alexander, Lloyd: **The Fortunetellers**. With your help, your child will see that the "fortunes" told in this book are nothing of the kind! The funny plot and the wonderful illustrations, set in Cameroon, make this book special.

Brett, Jan: **Trouble with Trolls**. The heroine outwits the mountain trolls who want to steal her beloved dog.

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.

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.

Crews, Donald: **Bigmama's**. Crews tells about his childhood summers at his grandparents' farm.

Graham, Bob: **Max**. Max is the child and grandchild of superheroes, who all keep hoping that he will start to fly – but it doesn't happen, until Max sees someone who really needs his help.

Havill, Juanita: **Brianna, Jamaica, and the Dance of Spring**. Brianna loves her ballet class, and is excited to have the chance to dance an important role at the recital – until she becomes sick. This very real disappointment, and how Brianna deals with it, make this book worthwhile.

Havill, Juanita: **Jamaica's Find**. Jamaica finds a stuffed toy at the park, and decides to keep it - but her conscience won't let her, and she returns it to the lost and found. Her delight when the real owner comes in and is reunited with her toy shows her that doing the right thing can be rewarding.

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.

King-Smith, Dick: **I Love Guinea Pigs**. Facts about guinea pigs, and anecdotes about the author's own experiences with them. Whether you own a guinea pig or not, you will enjoy this book.

- King-Smith, Dick: **Puppy Love**. Like I Love Guinea Pigs above, this book contains general facts about puppies alongside anecdotes of the author's own experiences, and is a truly charming book.
- McCloskey, Robert: **Burt Dow, Deep Water Man**. This tall tale, set in Maine, is a big favorite both with young children and their parents.
- McLerran, Alice: **Roxaboxen**. Children make an elaborate play town together, using rocks and found objects.
- 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.
- 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: **Angela's Airplane**. Angela gets in big trouble when she accidentally flies an airplane, but everything turns out fine in this funny story – and there's a twist at the end that your child will love!
- Munsch, Robert: **Show and Tell**. What happens when Ben decides to take his baby sister to school for show and tell? Something silly!
- 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.
- Pilkey, Dav: **Dogzilla**. Children never get tired of this ridiculous book, with the author's mild corgi starring as the terrible monster.
- Reynolds, Peter: **Ish**. Ramon learns that your art doesn't have to look *exactly* like what you're drawing to be worth saving.
- Santore, Charles: **A Stowaway on Noah's Ark**. The little mouse hero stows away with Noah. Outstanding illustrations.
- 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.
- Sis, Peter: **Komodo!** The hero is fascinated by dragons, and on a vacation trip to the island of Komodo, he gets to see one.
- 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.

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

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!

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

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

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 first grader at the same time, this is a fine choice.

Brown, Jeff: **Flat Stanley.** The amusing adventures of a flat boy.

Cameron, Ann: **The Stories Julian Tells.** Julian's adventures with his little brother, Huey.

Cleary, Beverly: **Ramona** series.

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.

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

Hurwitz, Joanna: **Busybody Nora.** Nora's adventures with her neighbors in her big apartment building.

King-Smith, Dick: **Dick King-Smith's Animal Friends.** True, short vignettes about animals the author has owned in his life, beautifully illustrated.

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.

Lovelace, Maud: **Betsy-Tacy**. A classic story about the friendship between two little girls.

Warner, Gertrude: **The Boxcar Children**. This mystery about four orphans is an excellent read-aloud for 5-7 year olds.

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.