

Summer Reading Selections for Grades 2-6

This is a list of titles from which you may choose your summer reading. These books should be easily available at the public library or in local bookstores.

Grades 2-3

ADLER, DAVID: Easy mystery and detective stories. Some titles - *Cam Jansen Adventure Series*.

ARNOLD, TEDD Has written over 50 books including very popular *Fly Guy* books

BERENSTAIN, STAN and JAN: Chapter books about the *Berenstain Bears*.

BROWN, MARC: Chapter books about *Arthur* the aardvark and his friends.

BLUME, JUDY: Funny novels about children. Titles include - *Freckle Juice; The One in the Middle is a Kangaroo*.

CLEARY, BEVERLY: Characters include *Ramona Quimby* and *Henry Huggins* who deal with everyday problems in a delightful way.

CLEMENTS, ANDREW. *Frindle*. Fictional school hijinks that third graders love to read about.

CUMMINGS, TROY: *Notebook of Doom* Series. Alexander Bopp and the Super Secret Monster Patrol battle the monsters from their monster notebook in this popular series.

DADEY, DEBBIE: Adventures of the Bailey School Kids including *Angels Don't Know Karate* and *Mermaids Don't Run Track*.

DE LA PENA, MATT: *Last Stop on Market Street*. During CJ's journey on the bus with his grandmother, she helps him become a better witness to what is beautiful.

DEPAOLA, TOMIE: His many folk characters provide laughter and enjoyment for young readers. Titles include - *Strega Nona; Nana Upstairs; Big Anthony and the Magic Ring*.

DICAMILLO, KATE: The Mercy Watson series follows the misadventures of an adorable little pig and her family. Titles include - *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride; Mercy Watson to the Rescue; Mercy Watson Fights Crime*.

ELLIOTT, REBECCA: *The Owl Diaries*. Eva Wingdale, the main owl character, learns valuable lessons during her adventures. Vibrant colored pictures, small format and reading comprehension questions at the end of the book make this an ideal beginning chapter book for grades 1-3.

FLOCA, BRIAN: *Locomotive*. In 1869, not long after the golden spike is driven into the rails at Promontory Summit, a mother and her two children climb aboard the Transcontinental Railroad, leaving behind their old life in Omaha for a new one in California, where Papa awaits.

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY: Casey Valentine and Tracy in funny stories of friendship. Titles include - *Casey Valentine* series; *Rat Teeth; Gift of the Pirate Queen*.

GUTMAN, DAN: *The Weird School Series*. Read about A.J. and his friends and their hijinks at Ella Mentry School.

HENKES, KEVIN: *The Year of Billy Miller*. Billy starts second grade with lots of problems and worries.

HOWE, JAMES: Stories from the animals' point of view. Titles include - *Bunnica; Howliday Inn; The Celery Stalks at Midnight*. KLEIN, SUSIE: The *Horrible Harry and Song Lee* series follow the antics of their fellow second grade classmates.

LIN, GRACE - *The Year of the Dog* is a story of a Taiwanese American girl growing up in a New York town.

MARSHALL, JAMES: Funny fairy tale retellings include - *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Little Pigs*.

MCDERMOTT, GERALD: Retells and illustrates many folktales from around the world such as *Anansi, the Spider; Arrow to the Sun; The Knight and the Lion*.

MCDONALD, MEGAN: *Judy Moody Series*. There are 6 books in the series of funny adventures.

OSBORNE, MARY POPE: Climb the ladder to adventure by reading the *Magic Tree House* series.

PARK, BARBARA: The hysterically funny *Junie B. Jones* series.

PENNYPACKER, SARA: In *Clementine* and *The Talented Clementine* the author creates a new hilarious heroine.

PETERSON, JOHN: Stories of a group of tiny creatures called the Littles. Titles include - *The Littles Take a Trip; The Littles and the Trash Tinies*.

POLACCO, PATRICIA: The author draws on her childhood memories and stories her grandparents told her in many semi-autobiographical stories including *Thank You, Mr. Falker; Thunder Cake; and Chicken Sunday*.

PRELUTSKY, JACK: Explores poetry through many situations. Some titles include - *The New Kid on the Block; Tyrannosaurus Was a Beast*.

RYLANT, CYNTHIA: Stories about *Henry and Mudge* that show the special friendship between a boy and his dog.

SHARMAT, MARJORIE: Numerous stories that will hold the interest of young children. Some titles include the *Nate the Great* series.

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL: Explores life through poems and illustrations. Titles include - *A Light in the Attic; Where the Sidewalk Ends; Falling Up*.

SOBOL, DONALD: Match wits with *Encyclopedia Brown* who can solve cases that stump his father, the police chief.

STEPTOE, JOHN: Retells African folktales such as *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*.

STILTON, GERONIMO: Engaging series about a mouse publisher who often finds himself in the middle of an adventure, includes titles such as *The Curse of the Cheese Pyramid, Attack of the bandit cats, Geronimo and the gold medal mystery*.

WEATHERFORD, CAROLE BOSTON. *Freedom in Congo Square*. As they work throughout the week, slaves look forward to their afternoon of music, hope, and community in Congo Square, New Orleans.

NON-FICTION

COLE, JOANNA: The science adventures of Miss Frizzle on the *Magic School Bus*.

GIBLIN, JAMES CROSS: *The Many Rides of Paul Revere*. Get to know the man behind the legend.

Kamkwamba, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Picture book version. Amazing true story about William Kamkwamba, a boy in a Malawi village who, after reading a 5th grade science textbook “Using Energy” in the local library, builds a windmill out of junkyard scraps to pump water to the crops in his drought-ridden town. Also comes in a chapter book version for older readers. Kamkwamba’s story is the subject of a documentary film and a feature film on Netflix. Students interested in STEM will especially want to check out William’s story!

PATTERSON, FRANCINE: Adventures of a gorilla named Koko. Titles include *Koko’s Story* and *Koko’s Kitten*.

RAY, DEBORAH KOGAN: *Down the Colorado: John Wesley Powell, the One-Armed Explorer*. An exciting true story of Powell’s life and explorations.

SIMON, SEYMOUR: Books about outer space. Some titles include - *Mars; The Moon; Galaxies*.

Grades 4-6

ALEXANDER, KWAME: *The Crossover*. Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off *the* court as their father ignores his declining health.

APPLEGATE, KATHERINE: *The One and Only Ivan*. When *Ivan*, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-*and*-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to *the* mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

AVI: Adventure novels. Titles include - *The Fighting Ground; Crispin and the Cross of Lead; See You Later, Traitor; Old Wolf*.

BABBITT, NATALIE: Novels which combine fantasy and melodrama including *Eyes of Amaryllis* and *Tuck Everlasting*.

BARNHILL, KELLY. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Xan, a kindhearted witch, lives in the woods with a swamp monster, Glerk. Every year she finds a new home for a baby the sorrowful people of the Protectorate leave in the woods. One year, she accidentally "enmagicks" a baby with moonlight, so they decide to raise her as their own, their Luna. But Luna's magic is strong, and before her 13th birthday, events unfold that will change everything she has known.

BERLIN, ERIC: The *Winston Breen* series. Winston is a puzzle fanatic and he uses his talents to solve mysteries.

BLACK, HOLLY: *Doll Bones*. Zach plays with dolls. Never mind that they're action figures, heroes in a wild, improvisational saga he acts out with friends Poppy and Alice. Never mind that he's a solid student and rising basketball star. Zach is 12, and his father has decided this must stop.

BRADLEY, KIMBERLY BRUBAKER: *The War That Saved My Life*. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

CHOLDENKO, GENNIFER: *Al Capone Does My Shirts* and *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*. Moose Flanagan's father works as a prison guard at Alcatraz in 1935.

CLEMENTS, ANDREW: The author of *Frindle* about a boy who invents a new word has also written a number of other entertaining books including - *School Story; A Week in the Woods; No Talking; Things Not Seen*.

COMPESTINE, YING CHANG: *Revolution is not a Dinner Party* - a story of life in China during the Cultural Revolution.

COVILLE, BRUCE: Science fiction novels including *My Teacher is an Alien*.

CURTIS, CHRISTOPHER PAUL: *Elijah of Buxton*. Elijah Freeman is the first "free" child born in a settlement in Canada in the 1850s. Elijah's courage is tested when bad news comes from America.

DAHL, ROALD: British author who writes wonderful adventures about children from fantasy to reality including - *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; James and the Giant Peach; Matilda*.

DEAR AMERICA SERIES: Historical fiction written in the form of diaries and journals.

DICAMILLO, KATE: *Because of Winn-Dixie* tells the story of a young minister's daughter and the stray dog she finds who helps her to adjust to her new town. *The Tale of Despereaux* follows the adventures of a young mouse who loves a princess. *Flora and Ulysses* - rescuing a squirrel after an incident with a vacuum cleaner, Flora finds that animal has astonishing powers.

FUNKE, CORNELIA: Intriguing and elaborate fantasy novels such as *Dragon Rider*; *Eragon*; *Inkheart and Inkspell*.

GANTOS, JACK: *Dead End in Norvelt*. Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore.

GIDWITZ, ADAM. *The Inquisitor's Tale or The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*. In 1242 France, weary travelers at an inn trade stories about three miraculous children and their dog, Gwenforte, who has returned from the dead. The children-Jeanne, a peasant girl who has visions of the future; William, an oblate of partial African heritage with uncanny strength; and Jacob, a Jewish boy with the power to heal the sick and injured-are the subject of much rumor and debate. Are they saints, frauds, or in league with the devil?

KINNEY, JEFF: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Hilarious books about middle school told as a diary with pictures.

KORMAN, Gordon. Humorous, creative books with depth. Korman is a prolific, clever writer, who writes about a variety of topics. Titles include: *Restart*, *Swindle*, *No More Dead Dogs*, and a Titanic series, among many others. Korman wrote his first novel *This Can't Be Happening at Macdonald Hall* in 1978 when he was a 7th grader doing his English class writing assignment!

LIN, GRACE: *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

LOWRY, LOIS. *Number the Stars*. Annemarie Johansen is living in Copenhagen, Denmark during World War II. She and her family try to rescue her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

LUQMAN-DAWSON, AMINA. *Freewater*. Fascinating historical fiction novel about slaves who run away to live in a swamp community (the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia and North Carolina) with other formerly enslaved and freeborn children. Winner of the 2023 Newbery Award.

NAYLOR, PHYLLIS REYNOLDS: Stories for those who love animals. Titles include - *Shiloh; Josie Trouble; Shiloh Season*.

PATTERSON, JAMES: A series of humorous books about middle school including *My Brother is a Big Fat Liar* and *I, Funny*.

PAULSEN, GARY: *Hatchet*, the story of a boy's survival in the wilderness after a plane crash.

RIORDAN, RICK: The *Percy Jackson* series and the *Kane Chronicles* series. Exciting adventure books based on Greek and Egyptian mythology.

ROWLING, J.K: The adventures of *Harry Potter*. There are 7 books in the series about a boy wizard and his fight to destroy the evil Lord Voldemort.

RUSSELL, RACHEL RENEE: Middle school is chronicled through the eyes of Nikki Maxwell in the popular and engaging series, *The Dork Diaries*.

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ: *Echo*. Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.

SACHAR, LOUIS. *Holes*. A modern classic and Newbery-award winner, Sachar's *Holes* centers on Stanley, a boy who is unjustly accused of stealing and sent to Camp Green Lake where he serves a detention sentence by digging holes.

SCIENZKA, JON: Humorous stories of three friends transported through time in the *Time Warp Trio* series.

SELZNICK, BRIAN: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Part picture book, part novel, this gorgeous book won a Caldecott Award. *Wonderstruck* combines a story told entirely in pictures with a connecting story told in words.

SILVERSTEIN, SHEL: Explores life through poems and illustrations. Titles include *A Light in the Attic; Where the Sidewalk Ends; Falling Up*.

SPINELLI, JERRY: The author has written numerous heartfelt books including *Maniac McGee; Knots in My Yo-Yo String*, and the moving story of a young boy's life in the Warsaw ghetto - *Milkweed*.

TARSHIS, LAUREN: *I Survived Books*. Each book tells the story of real historical events through the eyes of a child.

TIMBERLAKE, AMY: *One Came Home*. In 1871 Wisconsin, thirteen-year-old Georgia sets out to find her sister Agatha, presumed dead when remains are found wearing the dress she was last seen in, and before the end of the year gains fame as a sharpshooter and foiler of counterfeiters.

VAWTER, VINCE: *Paperboy*. When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

WILLIAMS-GARCIA, RITA: *One Crazy Summer*. In the summer of 1968, Delphine and her younger sisters travel from Brooklyn to California to spend the summer with the mother they barely know.

WOLK, LAURA. *Wolf Hollow*. Twelve-year-old Annabelle must learn to stand up for what's right in the face of a manipulative and violent new bully who targets people Annabelle cares about, including a homeless World War I veteran

WOODSON, JACQUELINE: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Written in verse, Woodson's collection of childhood memories provides insight into the Newbery Honor

author's perspective of America, "a country caught between Black and White," during the turbulent 1960s.

YANG, KELLY: *Front Desk*. A 10 year old girl and her family run a motel. Winner of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature. Other titles in the series include: *3 Keys*, *Room to Dream* and *Key Player*.

YELCHIN, EUGENE: *Breaking Stalin's Nose*. In the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, ten-year-old Sasha idolizes his father, a devoted Communist, but when police take his father away and leave Sasha homeless, he is forced to examine his own perceptions, values, and beliefs.

NON-FICTION

FLEISCHMAN, SID: *Escape: The Story of the Great Houdini*. An excellent biography of the famous magician and escape artist.

FRADIN, JUDITH BLOOM: *5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight From Slavery* tells the story of the couple's ingenious escape from slavery.

FREEDMAN, RUSSELL: *The Adventures of Marco Polo*. Was Marco Polo a liar and a charlatan or did he really travel the world for 20 years? *Who Was First? Discovering the Americas*. Surprising facts about Columbus and other explorers.

FRITZ, JEAN: Biographies with an original approach to history. Including - *And Then What Happened to Paul Revere? Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?*

HOOSE, PHILLIP: *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*. Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little-known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956, once by refusing to give up a bus seat, and again, by becoming a plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case against the bus company

Kamkwamba, William. *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. Chapter book version. Amazing true story about William Kamkwamba, a boy in a Malawi village who, after reading a 5th grade science textbook “Using Energy” in the local library, builds a windmill out of junkyard scraps to pump water to the crops in his drought-ridden town. Also comes in a picture book version for younger readers. Kamkwamba’s story is the subject of a documentary film and a feature film on Netflix. Students interested in STEM will especially want to check out William’s story!

MONTGOMERY, SY: *Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea*. A fascinating profile of Lisa Dabak, a woman who dedicated her life to studying the tree kangaroo of New Guinea.

SHEINKIN, STEVE: *Bomb: The Race to Build - and Steal - the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*. The author weaves together tales of scientific and technological discovery, back-alley espionage, and wartime sabotage in a riveting account of the race to build the first atomic weapon.

THIMMESH, CATHERINE: *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*. The stories of some of the 400,000 people who worked behind the scenes to get the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon.