

Summer Reading At A Glance:

1. Each child should read, or hear read-aloud, at least five books.
2. Read to your pre-reader or beginning reader for at least twenty minutes every day.
3. Rising 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders must read the book required for their grade level, plus four others. Check the corresponding grade-level list for the specific title.
4. List books on the Reading Record (below).
5. Bring the completed Reading Record to teachers by August 28.

Summer Reading Record

Name: _____

Teachers (fall): _____

Each student should read, or hear read aloud, at least five books. Please list the titles of your five books below. If you read or listened to more than five, please write those down, too.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

This page should be returned to your classroom teachers no later than Friday, August 28.

Dear Parents:

The summer reading list has arrived! We have made a few changes that we hope will make it easier for you to find books that appeal to your child. First, the lists of books for the youngest grade levels are still quite lengthy, since pre-readers really need a steady stream of delicious books for parents to read aloud to them. The list for rising third and fourth graders has been shortened and organized into three broad genres, while the list for rising fifth and sixth graders is meant to be used as a digital document. That list is also organized loosely by genre, and instead of descriptions of each book, there are links directly to the IndieBound website or Amazon.

Each list contains a mix of recent titles and older ones as well. Children's books tend to go "out of print" pretty quickly, so some of these titles may only be available used or from your public library, but they are still great books!

Please keep in mind that this list is provided as a starting point and a helpful resource. Research shows that children read more when they are allowed to choose what they read, so we encourage you to give your child as much independence as possible when selecting books. If your child's taste in books runs counter to your own, keep in mind that whatever phase it is will not last forever, and try to be as supportive as possible. Children read for just as many different reasons as adults do – to laugh, learn, get goosebumps, find comfort, puzzle over a mystery or visit other worlds.

If your child needs extra incentive to read, consider participating in a summer reading program offered by your public library or local bookstore. Little Shop of Stories in Decatur is one of our favorite bookstores and they have a reading program as well as story times and book clubs for kids of all ages.

Please note that **students in third through sixth grade have one required book** to read, plus four others of their choice. The title of the required book can be found on the corresponding grade-level list.

Have a wonderful summer!

Callie & Katie
The Children's School Library

Summer Reading Recommendations
For students entering 1st grade

Picture books for parents to read aloud:

My Rhinoceros

Agee

A young boy is disappointed that his pet rhinoceros can only do two things, pop balloons and poke holes in kites, until an unexpected event leads to a big surprise.

Calvin Can't Fly: The Story of a Bookworm Birdie

Berne

A young starling chooses to read books when his cousins are learning to fly, and the knowledge he acquires comes in handy when a hurricane threatens the flock's migration.

Henry Holton Takes the Ice

Bradley

Henry Holton comes from an ice hockey-obsessed family, but despite his comfort on the ice, his aspirations lead him to pursue another sport--ice dancing.

The Curious Garden

Brown

Liam discovers a hidden garden and with careful tending spreads color throughout the gray city.

Can't Scare Me!

Bryan

A fearless little boy ignores Grandma's warning about nighttime monsters until he runs away and meets the two-headed giant's three-headed brother.

The Little House

Burton

A country house is unhappy when the city, with all its buildings and traffic, grows up around her. Also *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* and *Katy and the Big Snow*.

Let's Do Nothing

Fucile

After playing actively all day two friends learn something when they try to do nothing at all.

The Storyteller's Candle

Gonzalez

During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta.

How to Heal a Broken Wing

Graham

When Will finds a bird with a broken wing, he takes it home and cares for it, hoping in time it will be able to return to the sky.

Traction Man Meets Turbodog

Grey

Traction Man, an action figure, teams up with the high-tech but not-so-bright Turbodog to rescue Scrubbing Brush, his missing sidekick, from the terrible underworld of the bin.

When Elephant Met Giraffe

Gude

Loud, boisterous Elephant learns how to be friends with calm, quiet Giraffe.

Julia's House for Lost Creatures

Hatke

Julie welcomes all lost and homeless creatures into her house, whether they be cats or trolls, ghosts or dragons, but soon realizes that each must have a chore in order for the arrangement to work.

The Dog Who Belonged to No One

Hest

The hard-working daughter of two bakers and a perfectly nice stray dog live lonely lives in the same town, until they meet one very stormy day.

Stuck

Jeffers

When Floyd's kite gets stuck in a tree, he tries to knock it down with increasingly larger and more outrageous things.

Lemonade in Winter: A Book About Two Kids

Jenkins

Counting Money

Pauline and her brother John-John set up a stand to sell lemonade, limeade, and lemon-limeade one cold, wintry day, then try to attract customers as Pauline adds up their earnings.

Ready for Anything

Kasza

Raccoon is nervous about all of the things that could spoil a picnic, from bees to dragons, until Duck convinces him that surprises can be fun.

Sloppy Joe

Keane

Sloppy Joe determines to do everything he can to surprise his family by becoming Neat Joe.

Señorita Gordita

Ketteman

Resets the tale of the Gingerbread boy in the southwest, where the scrumptious Gordita eludes her pursuers until she meets a clever owl. Includes glossary of Spanish terms and a gorditas recipe.

Lindberg: The Tale of a Flying Mouse

Kuhlmann

An intrepid mouse, determined to escape the peril of mousetraps and predators by emigrating to America, devises a series of flying contraptions based on what he has read in human libraries.

Bridget's Beret

Lichtenheld

When Bridget loses the beret that provides her with artistic inspiration like other great artists, she thinks she will never be able to draw again.

Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons

Litwin

Pete the cat loves the buttons on his shirt so much that he makes up a song about them, and even as the buttons pop off, one by one, he still finds a reason to sing.

Brush of the Gods

Look

During the Tang dynasty, master painter Wu Daozi creates an extraordinary mural for the emperor.

Me... Jane

McDonnell

Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals. Includes biographical information on the prominent zoologist. 2012 Caldecott Honor book.

Precious and the Boo Hag

McKissack

Home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces up to the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.

Are the Dinosaurs Dead, Dad?

Middleton

Touring the museum's dinosaur exhibit, Dave's father remains oblivious as the prehistoric animals spring to life.

Ananse's Feast: An Ashanti Tale

Mollel

Unwilling to share his feast, Ananse the spider tricks Akye the turtle so that he can eat all the food himself, but Akye finds a way to get even.

This Is a Moose

Morris

Director Billy Waddler is trying to film a documentary about moose, but the moose in question has no intention of spending his life in the woods and his animal friends, who have dreams of their own, help him prove his point.

Captain Raptor and the Space Pirates

O'Brien

Captain Raptor and the crew of the Megatooth are called back into action to save the planet Jurassica from rogue space pirates.

I Wanna New Room

Orloff

Through a series of brief letters to his parents, Alex presents all the reasons why he should not have to share a room with his younger brother.

Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed

Phillipps

Although ninjas should be silent and use stealth, Wink finds his enthusiasm gets him into trouble with his teacher until he finds the perfect way to express both traits.

Jojo's Flying Side Kick

Pinkney, B.

Everyone gives Jojo advice on how to perform in order to earn her yellow belt in tae kwon do class, but in the end she figures it out for herself.

The Little Red Hen

Pinkney, J.

A newly illustrated edition of the classic fable of the hen who is forced to do all the work of baking bread and of the animals who learn a bitter lesson from it.

Puss in Boots

Pinkney, J.

A clever cat wins for his master a fortune and the hand of a princess.

The Watermelon Seed

Pizzoli

After swallowing a watermelon seed, a crocodile imagines a scary outcome.

Archie and the Pirates

Rosenthal

When Archie the monkey finds himself on a strange island, he makes a multitude of new friends who help him defend their home from intruding pirates.

Chopsticks

Rosenthal

When a pair of chopsticks get separated, after some traumatic moments the two friends eventually learn to stand on their own.

Bandit

Rostoker-Gruber

When Bandit's family moves to a new house, the cat runs away and returns to the only home he knows, but after he is brought back, he understands that the new house is now home.

Max and the Won't Go to Bed Show

Sperring

Max does magic tricks to delay bedtime as long as possible.

The Most Magnificent Thing

Spires

A little girl and her canine assistant set out to make the most magnificent thing. But after much hard work, the end result is not what the girl had in mind. Frustrated, she quits. Her assistant suggests a long walk, and as they walk, it slowly becomes clear what the girl needs to do to succeed.

Seven Chinese Sisters

Tucker

When a dragon snatches the youngest of seven talented Chinese sisters, the other six come to her rescue.

Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin

Uegaki

When Hana Hashimoto signs up for the school talent show after only three violin lessons, her brothers laugh, but with diligent practice, she learns to make some surprising sounds.

Randy Riley's Really Big Hit

Van Dusen

Randy Riley, a science genius who loves baseball but is not very good at it, needs to use both his interests to save his town from a giant fireball that is heading their way.

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed

Willems

Wilbur, a naked mole rat who likes to wear clothes, is forced to go before the wise community elder, who surprises the other naked mole rats with his pronouncement.

The 3 Bears and Goldilocks

Willey

Goldilocks, ignoring her father's warning not to rush in where she does not belong, enters a cabin in the woods, cleans it to meet her standards, plucks from the porridge items unappealing to her before eating a bowlful, and falls asleep on the bed that suits her best.

Books for beginning readers:

Buzz Boy and Fly Guy

Arnold

Buzz creates a comic book that features Buzz Boy and Fly Guy as the superheroes.

- Ruby and the Booker Boys: Brand New School, Brave New Ruby* Barnes
When Ruby Booker starts third grade at Hope Road Academy, the same school her three illustrious older brothers attend, she tries hard to make an impression of her own. Series.
- Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover* Bell
Rabbit is excited about the sleepover he has carefully planned for his friend Robot, but Robot has some different ideas about how things should go.
- Brain Freeze! (DC Super Friends)* Bright
Batman, Superman, Cyborg, the Flash, and the Green Lantern must battle Mr. Freeze when he encases Metropolis's central computer in ice and shuts down the city.
- Frog and Friends (I Am a Reader series)* Bunting
Frog and his friends are alarmed by a strange object that appears on his pond, share a thoughtful--if scratchy--gift, and meet a hippopotamus that has run away from the zoo.
- Short and Tall (Cork and Fuzz series)* Chaconas
The friendship between Cork, a muskrat, and Fuzz, a possum, is in trouble when Cork decides that since he is older, he has to be taller than Fuzz.
- Tumbleweed Stew* Crummel
Jack Rabbit tricks the other animals into helping him make a pot of tumbleweed stew.
- The Big Something* Giff
When Jilli and Jim see a big red structure being built next door, they imagine all kinds of frightening things before finding out the truth.
- Me Too!* Gorbachev
Chipmunk and Bear spend a snowy day together and discover that they like to do all of the same things.
- Chicken Said, "Cluck!" (My First I Can Read)* Grant
Earl and Pearl do not want Chicken's help in the garden, until a swarm of grasshoppers arrives and her true talent shines.
- Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade* Greene
Posey's fear of starting first grade is alleviated when her teacher invites the students to wear their most comfortable clothes to school on the first day. Series.
- A Pet Named Sneaker* Heilbroner
Sneaker the snake is not only a good pet for Pete, he becomes a good student at Pete's school and a hero at the public swimming pool.
- Penny and Her Song* Henkes
Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies.

- Boris on the Move* (Scholastic Branches) Joyner
Boris lives in Hogg Bay, in an old bus that used to travel all over the world, but now just sits there--until one day when his parents take him on an adventure.
- Max and Mo's First Day at School* (Ready to Read) Lakin
When Max and Mo, two class hamsters, return to school and are placed in the Art Room, they use supplies found there to spell out their names for the students.
- Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same!* Lin
Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.
- Small Pig* (I Can Read) Lobel
Because the farmer's wife insists on cleaning his mud puddle, a little pig runs away to the city where he becomes permanently stuck in what he thought was a mud puddle.
- Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey* Milway
The last member of a line of explorers, unfailingly optimistic Pigsticks hires a hapless delivery hamster named Harold to be his companion for a quest that wends through jungles, deserts, and mountains in search of the Ends of the Earth.
- Fancy Nancy: The Show Must Go On* O'Connor
Nancy, who likes to use fancy words, is dismayed to be partnered with shy classmate Lionel for the school talent show until she comes up with an act perfectly suited for both of them.
- Amelia Bedelia Bakes Off* Parish
Amelia Bedelia inadvertently enters a baking contest and goes from being a smart cookie to a fortune cookie.
- Loose Tooth* (My First I Can Read) Schaefer
A young child experiences a loose tooth for the first time and eagerly waits for it to come out.
- Tales for Very Picky Eaters* Schneider
A father tells outlandish stories while trying to get his young son, who is a very picky eater, to eat foods he thinks he will not like. 2012 Theodore Seuss Geisel Award.
- Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa* Silverman
Cowgirl Kate and her cowhorse Cocoa, who is always hungry, count cows, share a story, and help each other fall asleep.
- Mac and Cheese* Weeks
Two cats that are as different as night and day are nevertheless best friends.
- There Is a Bird on Your Head!* Willems
Gerald the elephant discovers that there is something worse than a bird on your head--two birds on your head! Piggie will try to help her best friend.

Mouse and Mole: Fine Feathered Friends

Yee

When spring arrives, Mole and Mouse find a unique way to bird watch. 2010 Geisel Honor.

Short graphic novels:

Stinky (A Toon Book)

Davis

Stinky is a swamp monster who loves his smelly, squishy home and is surprised to learn that the boy he has feared loves it, too.

Benny and Penny in the Big No-No! (A Toon Book)

Hayes

Two mice meet their new neighbor and discover that she is not as scary as they feared. 2010 Geisel Award.

Clues in the Attic (My First Graphic Novel)

Meister

Ben must face his fear of the attic in order to find an item he lost that belonged to his sister.

Go Bot, Robot! (A Comic Reader)

Rau

A young girl makes so many demands on the robot she has constructed that he runs away