Reading is Awesome!

A. Ward Spaulding Elementary School
Recommended Book Lists
and Reading Activities
Summer 2015

“Reading gives us some place to go when we have to stay where we are.”
— Mason Cooley
Here are the top book picks from our classroom teachers and our library media specialist. Remember, students can choose any books for summer reading. We hope you enjoy many of the books on the lists and find other exciting books at the library during the summer. So choose a book and get reading! Remember reading makes us happy!

How to Choose a Good Book

1. What makes a good book is your child’s reaction to it!

2. Look for books that:
   * Rhyme
   * Have predictable stories and repeated phrases
   * Have colorful illustrations
   * Extend personal experiences

3. Look at the cover and read the summary on the back of the book. Does it sound interesting?

4. Ask your friends, brothers or sisters if they have read this book or other books by this author. Did they enjoy reading this book or books by this author?

5. Look through the book. Do the illustrations, photographs, and print make you think that you would enjoy reading this book?

6. Open the book to any page. Read it carefully. Can you easily understand and discuss what’s going on?
Grade Level Favorites

Preschool Teacher Favorites

Bear Snores On - Karma Wilson
Duck On A Bike - David Shannon
Mouse Paint - Ellen Stoll Walsh
The Doorbell Rang - Pat Hutchins
Cock-a-doodle-doo Barnyard Hullabaloo - Giles Andreae
Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed - Eileen Christelow
How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? - Jane Yolen & Mark Teague
The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry, and The Big Hungry Bear - D. and A. Wood

Kindergarten Teacher Favorites

Blueberries for Sal - Robert McCloskey
Swimmy - Leo Lionni
Bedtime for Frances - Russell Hoban
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile - Bernard Waber
A Pocket for Corduroy - Don Freeman
A House for Hermit Crab - Eric Carle
Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse - Kevin Henkes
Mister Seahorse - Eric Carle
Pancakes for Breakfast - Tomie DePaola
My Five Senses - Aliki
Truck - Donald Crews
A Tree is a Plant - Clyde R. Bulla
Little Bear - Else H. Minarik
What Do you Do With a Tail Like This? - Steve Jenkins
First Grade Teacher Favorites

Knuffle Bunny - Mo Willems
The Giving Tree - Shel Silverstein
The Extraordinary Egg - Leo Leoni
Koala Lou - Mem Fox
Crysanthemum - Kevin Henkes
Birds - Kevin Henkes
Dear Mr. Blueberry - Simon James
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon - Patty Lovell
All the Places to Love - Patricia MacLaughlin

Second Grade Teacher Favorites

Love You Forever - Robert Munsch
Practically Perfect Pajamas - Erik Brooks
Chester's Way - Kevin Henkes
No Roses for Harry - Gene Zion
Green Eggs and Ham - Dr. Seuss
Benny: An Adventure Story - Bob Graham
The Berenstain Bears and The Spooky Old Tree - Stan & Jan Berenstain
The Important Book - Margaret Wise Brown
Ants National Geographic Reader Level 1

Third Grade Teacher Favorites

Horrid Henry - Francesca Simon
Smarter than Squirrels - Lucy A. Nolan
Bed, Bats, & Beyond - Joan Holub
Jake Drake, Class Clown - Andrew Clements
Animals and Me - Marie Greenwood
Maybelle in the Soup - Katie Speck
Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas - Meghan McCarthy
Puppy Power - Judy Cox
Picks for Reading and Listening

Recommended Picture Books

*Bear Snores On* (or any *Bear* book) - Karma Wilson  
*Boom Snot Twitty* - Doreen Cronin  
*Chrysanthemum* - Kevin Henkes  
*Count The Monkeys* - Mac Barnett and Kevin Cornell  
*Cowpoke Clyde And Dirty Dawg* - Lori Mortensen  
*Dragons Love Tacos* - Adam Rubin  
*Flora And The Flamingo* - Molly Idle  
*Help! We Need A Title* - Herve Tullet  
*I Want My Hat Back* - Jon Klassen  
*Journey* - Aaron Becker  
*Lucky Ducklings* - Eva Moore  
*Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* - Peter Brown  
*My Lucky Day* - Keiko Kasza  
*My New Friend Is So Fun* - Mo Willems (series)  
*The Numberlys* - William Joyce and Christina Ellis  
*Open Very Carefully: A Book With A Bite* - Nick Bromley  
*The Pigeon Needs A Bath* - Mo Willems  
*Ribbit* - Rodrigo Folgueira  
*This Is Not My Hat* - Jon Klassen  
*The Three Pigs* - David Weisner  
*Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great* - Bob Shea  
*The Watermelon Seed* - Greg Pizzoli  
*Corduroy* - Freeman  
*Arthur* - Brown  
*Clifford* - Bridwell  
*Henry and Mudge* - Rylant (series)  
*Franklin* - Bourgeois  
*If You Give a...* - Numeroff (series)  
*Max and Ruby* - Wells
Recommended Chapter Books

*The Miniature World Of Marvin And James* - Elise Broach (series)
*Secrets According To Humphrey* - Betty Birney (series)
*Cam Jansen* – David A. Adler (series)
*Magic Tree House* - Mary Pope Osbourne (series)
*Horrible Harry* - Suzy Kline (series)
*Nate the Great* – Sharmat (series)
*Bailey School Kids* - Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones (series)
*Amber Brown* - Paula Danziger (series)
*Nate the Great* – Marjorie Weinman Sharmat (series)
*Dory Fantasmagory* - Abby Hanlon
*J.J Tully Mysteries* - Doreen Cronin (series)
*Dog Diaries* - Betsy Byars
*Cat Diaries* - Betsy Byars
*Socks* - Beverly Cleary
*Ribsy* - Beverly Cleary
*The Seven Treasure Hunts* - Betsy Byars
Recommended Informational Books

Gail Gibbons – any title
Seymour Simon – any title
Who Was Series- any title
Have You Ever Series- Etta Kaner
Ivan- the Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla-
Katherine Applegate
Creature Features: 25 Animals explain why they look the way they
do-Steve Jenkins
Pebble Plus Series– any title
National Geographic Series – any title
Blastoff Readers Series – any title
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This- Steve Jenkins
Share the books you read this summer with a grownup! Choose at least one task to complete from the choices below!

**Students entering first and second grade**

Who is the main character?
What happened in the book?

Where did the book take place?
What was the lesson you learned from your book?

Make a list of new words you found while reading—ask an adult to explain the meaning of each word.

Read one book that gives you information and read one book that tells you a story. Explain how the books were the same and how they were different.

Read your story to a grownup. Use different voices to show when different characters are talking!

Choose your favorite picture from a book. Describe it to an adult. What does the picture tell you about the story?
Who was your favorite character out of all of the books you read this summer? Describe them or draw a picture.

Students entering third grade

Have a conversation about the books you read with a grownup! Choose one box to complete!

Who is the main character?
What happened in the book?
Where did the book take place?
Were there any problems in the story?
Be sure to use lots of details from the text when sharing your answers!!!
Make a list of new words you found while reading—put a check mark next to a word you found more than once—write down the meaning of words that received a check mark. You can ask an adult, consult a dictionary, or use a different tool to find the meaning of the words.

Give one of the characters in your story a voice. Write a journal from the point of view of one of your characters that shares the events in the story. Be sure to use first person.
First person: I just ate breakfast.
Third person: Amelia Bedelia just ate breakfast.

Read a fiction or non-fiction chapter book. Explain what chapter was your favorite and why. Be sure to share where the chapter fits into the text!

Watch an online video about a topic you read about.
Watch the video with a grownup and share with the grownup what new information you learned from watching the video about the topic of your book.

Here are some good videos about animals:
http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/
Here are some good videos about sports and current events:
http://www.timeforkids.com/photos-video
You can also check out the online databases available through our school library!
This summer your child should:

* Log the books they read at home on our school’s Summer Reading Log.

* At the start of the 2015-2016 school year your child will return their Summer Reading Log to their new teacher.

* They will bring a favorite summer book to school by September 4, 2015.

* Your child will be asked to participate in a classroom book discussion to share summer reading with new classmates.

* This experience will provide your child with the opportunity to get to know new classmates and start the year off with meaningful literacy conversations.

All students who return their log and share their favorite book will earn a special reward!

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For online resources visit
http://destiny.suffield.org