



St. Mary's Episcopal School Presents

Summer^{the} Reading Guide

2024

Recommended and required reading for
rising 1st & 2nd Graders

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2	Welcome
Page 3	Award Winning Books, 2023
Pages 4-5	Fantastic Fiction
Page 6	Super Series
Page 7	Groovy Graphic Novels
Page 8-9	Nifty Nonfiction, Poetry, Biographies
Page 10	A note on Summer reading
Page 11-12	Reading Log

HOWDY, Y'ALL!

Ready for swimming, biking, watermelon-eating contests and more? I am! I'm also excited to read some great new books because summer is FUNNER when great books take you on journeys only books can take you on. Here are some great books for you to carry on your travels or right at home in your own backyard!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

- ☼ reading is fun!
- ☼ reading is very good for you—for you now and the future you!
- ☼ St. Mary's wants everyone to read over the summer—it helps you remember what you just learned and be ready for more!

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:

- ☼ read—at *least* **5** books on or near your reading level.
- ☼ use this guide to make finding good books easy, but don't limit yourself to this guide—read what you can, where you can!
- ☼ if you'd like a Bookworm Award (aka: a Certificate of Accomplishment), turn in a reading log by the first day of school. Luckily, there's a built-in log right in this guide!

Happy Reading! Mrs. England-Burnside, May 2024

AWARD WINNERS!

THESE WERE THE TIP OF THE TOP FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2023!



RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AWARD

Big by Vashti Harrison



THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

Fox Has a Problem by Corey R. Tabor



JOHN NEWBERY AWARD

The Eyes and the Impossible by Dave Eggers



ROBERT F. SIBERT INFORMATIONAL BOOK AWARD

The Mona Lisa Vanishes by Nicholas Day



CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

ILLUSTRATOR AWARD: *An American Story* by Kwame Alexander



PURA BELPRÉ AWARD

Mexikid: a Graphic Memoir by Pedro Martin



THE CHARLOTTE ZOLOTOW AWARD

Just Like Grandma by Kim Rogers



THE EZRA JACK KEATS AWARDS

AUTHOR WINNER: *Nell Plants a Tree* by Anne Wynter

ILLUSTRATOR WINNER *The Only Way to Make Bread* by Sarah Gonzales



THE NATIONAL BOOK YOUTH AWARD

A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat



SEQUOYAH AWARD (given by Oklahoma Children)

Cookies and Milk by Shawn Amos



THE OKLAHOMA BOOK AWARD – Children's Award

Benita and the Night Creatures by Mariana Llanos

FANTASTIC FICTION!

HERE ARE AMAZING NEW BOOKS,
AWESOME CLASSICS, AND PLENTY IN BETWEEN!

KEY TO GENRE SYMBOLS:

🌀 = an "Early" reader book

📖 = a book in picture book format % a chapter book to read together



Dear reader, just read, even if it's not from the following pages. Just read. Always read.



The Thingamajig 📖

Rilla Alexander

Oh no! Something's gone missing! Elephant decides to help his neighbors each find their missing thingamajig, or whoo-see-whatsit, etc. with a surprise ending!

If I Was a Horse 📖

Sophie Blackall

If summer is for play and for play you need imagination, then you need to read this silly imagining of what life would be like as a horse! Great illustrations!

Ancient Night 📖

David Bowles

This enchanting folktale from Mexico combines two legends into one tale of creation and harmony. The illustrations alone are reason to read this—*amazing!*

The Stories Julian Tells %

Ann Cameron

A classic and favorite SMES read-aloud and for good reasons—Julian is a natural-born storyteller, sending us into laughter over and over again!

Evergreen 🌀

Matthew Cordell

From Caldecott winning Cordell comes a story of family, adventure, and magic soup! Evergreen journeys through Buckthorn Forest to deliver much needed help.

Princess In Black and the Prince in Pink 🌀

Shannon Hale and Dean Hale

The latest in a SMES favorite series! This time, Princess Magnolia's ball is at risk of being trampled by a rampaging emu until a valiant prince saves the day!



***Dory Fantasmagory* %**

Abby Hanlon

Summer is a great time to start on a new series, and Dory is a great for everyone. Dory is the youngest kid in the family but has the biggest imagination!

***Poopsie Gets Lost* 📖**

Hannah E. Harrison

SMES was lucky enough to host Mrs. Harrison this past fall and this book was a huge hit! Poopsie's adventures are laugh-inducing and a cautionary tale, too.

***Nat the Cat Takes a Bath* 🐾**

Jarrett Lerner

Cat + bath = not a great time. But this time Nat is *super* stinky so it's up to the narrator to get Nat ready to wash. Super funny and great for reading aloud.

***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* %**

Lenore Look

The "Alvin Ho" book club was immensely popular with 2nd graders at SMES this year, so go ahead and check out this first of a fabulous series!

***Winnie the Pooh* %**

A. A. Milne

Let this be the summer to get to know Winnie the Pooh, Christopher Robin, Piglet, and all the friends in the 100 Acre Wood. This is compulsory reading for life :)

***Jo Jo Makoons: Snow Day* %**

Dawn Quigley

Jo Jo and her friends are excited about the Olympics—the *Winter* Olympics, that is! Jo Jo wants her community to stay healthy, so devises lots of fun games.

***The Story of Gumluck the Wizard* %**

Adam Rex

Gumluck, a well-meaning but bumbling noodlehead of a wizard does his best to help the town all year. Super funny but wise with lots of learnable moments.

***Once Upon an Apple Cake* %**

Elana Rubinstein

Saralee's "supernose" can sniff out ingredients in any recipe—a help for the family restaurant but she just can't figure out what makes Zadie's cake the best.

***Very Good Hats* 📖**

Emma Straub

Though she usually writes for grownups, Straub puts on her silly-hat and helps us have a few hearty laughs imagining all the things that need or can be hats!

SOME SUPER SERIES!

Humans are creatures of habit and when we find something that works, we tend to go back for more of that thing. Emerging readers especially love series and if I had a list of *all* of the great series for this age group, it would be the size of a small phone book. But here are some favorites—some tried and true classics and some new ones as well. If you find something that encourages reading, read more and more of it!

SERIES NAME	AUTHOR	SERIES NAME	AUTHOR
"Cam Jansen" "Mo", and more	David Adler	"Song Lee", "Horrible Harry"	Suzy Kline
"The Sisters Eight"	Lauren Baratz-Logsted	"Arthur Chapter Books"	Stephen Krensky
"According to Humphrey"	Betty Birney	"Katie Kazoo", "Magic Bone", "George Brown", etc.	Nancy Krulik
"The Bad Guys"	Aaron Blabey	"Dragonsitter"	Josh Lacey
"Bed and Biscuit"	Joan Carris	"Catwings"	Ursula LeGuin
"Eerie Elementary"	Jack Chabert	"Frog and Toad" & more	Arnold Lobel
"Matt Christopher Sports Classics"	Matt Christopher and others	"Gooney Bird Greene"	Lois Lowry
"Heidi Heckelbeck"	Wanda Coven	"Katie Woo", "Pedro"	Fran Manushkin
"Chicken Squad"	Doreen Cronin	"Desmond Cole, Ghost Patrol"	Andres Miedoso
"Bailey School Kids"	Debbie Dadey	"Amelia", "Max Disaster"	Marissa Moss
"Charlie the Ranch Dog"	Ree Drummond	"Missy's Super Duper Royal Deluxe"	Wanda Nees
"Mercy Watson", "Tales of Deckawoo Dr.", "Bink & Gollie"	Kate DiCamillo	"Amelia Bedelia"	Peggy or Herman Parish
"Owl Diaries"	Rebecca Elliott	"Piper Green", "Big Foot & Little Foot"	Ellen Potter
"My Father's Dragon"	Ruth Stiles Gannett	"A to Z Mysteries", "Calendar Mysteries"	Ron Roy
"Polk Street School"	Patricia Reilly Giff	"Henry & Mudge", "Mr. Putter & Tabby", etc.	Cynthia Rylant
"Rabbit & Bear"	Julian Gough	"Time Warp Trio"	Jon Scieszka
"Princess Posey"	Stephanie Greene	"Nate the Great"	Marjorie Sharmat
"My Weird School", etc.	Dan Gutman	"Cowgirl Kate & Cocoa"	Erica Silverman
"Princess in Black"	Shannon Hale	"Encyclopedia Brown"	Donald Sobol
"Dory Fantasmagory"	Abby Hanlon	"Keena Ford"	Melissa Thomson
"Penny" books	Kevin Henkes	"Phoebe & Her Unicorn"	Dana Simpson
"Ready, Freddy"	Abby Klein	"Ellray Jakes", "Absolutely Alfie"	Sally Warner

GREAT GRAPHIC NOVELS!

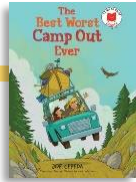
GRAPHIC NOVELS ARE A GREAT WAY TO LEARN TO EMBRACE
READING—BRIDGING PICTURE BOOKS AND CHAPTER BOOKS!



Cranky Chicken: Crankosaurus

Katherine Battersbey

Speedy the Worm (Chicken's BFF) is trying to help Chicken not be so cranky, but Speedy's ideas don't always match Chicken's. Super silly and sweet.



The Best/Worst Camp Out Ever

Joe Cepeda

How many things can go wrong in one weekend on one camping trip? A *lot* but that doesn't stop this dad and son from agreeing it was the best trip ever!



Babysitter's Little Sister: Karen's Sleepover

Katy Farina

The latest in this popular re-imagining of the classic series by Ann M. Martin. It's Karen's first time to host a sleepover but it's not going great...what to do?



Babymouse: Queen of the World!

Jennifer Holm

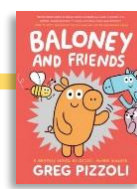
A beloved series that now has several spinoffs, but start here with the very first one and meet spunky but sometimes shy, always loveable Babymouse!



Super Pancake

Megan Wagner Lloyd

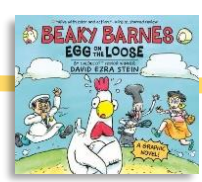
A super silly series about Peggy. On her way to Career Day at Winifred Waffle Elementary, she defends another student and gets superpowers!



Baloney and Friends

Greg Pizzoli

Meet Baloney and his pals as they have adventures like learning to swim and do magic tricks, but also serious stuff like dealing with meanies. Bright & cheery!



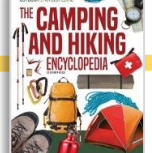
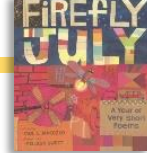
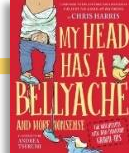
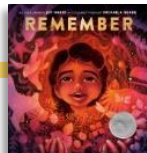
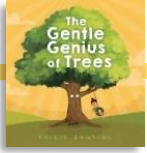
Beaky Barnes: Egg on the Loose!

David Ezra Stein

Okay, two graphic novels about chickens might seem like a lot, but David Ezra Stein wrote the book on chicken stories! Four, actually...the "Interrupting Chicken" series, so we know this will be cracking good fun!

NONFICTION

INCLUDING POETRY AND BIOGRAPHIES



The Gentle Genius of Trees

Phillip Bunting

One of several books recently on the amazingness of trees that we are only now coming to understand. Learn of talking trees, fungi friendships, and more!

Welcome to the Wonder House

Rebecca Kai Dotlich

A true house of “wonder” as in “I wonder why, or how, or if...” Poems of different styles represent “rooms” in an imaginary house where questions are encouraged! Perfect for developing curiosity.

Remember

Joy Harjo

From the United States Poet Laureate (Tulsa born and raised) comes a poetic invitation to find joy in the beauty of the universe and all its wonder.

Jim Thorpe: Greatest Athlete in the World

Jennifer Fandel

Get ready for this summer’s Olympics by learning about Oklahoma’s own Jim Thorpe—a versatile athlete who brought home gold in athletics *and* character.

Sunday Funday

Katherine Halligan

A *brilliant* book featuring 52 activities, one for each Sunday of the year, ranging from cooking to exercises to arts & crafts and more! Fundays ahead!

My Head Has a Bellyache

Chris Harris

From SMES favorite for his earlier book, *I’m Just No Good at Rhyming*, comes a new collection of must-read, hilarious and often genius rhymes. *Please* read!

The Camping and Hiking Encyclopedia

Kathryn Hulick

When you go camping this year, be sure to take a handy guide like this along with you. Remember: always be prepared!

Firefly July: a Year of Very Short Poems

edited by Paul Janeczko

Just when you need to take your mind off of very serious life problems comes soothing poetry like this. Dip your toes into a little verse and be refreshed!



Butt or Face?

Kari Lavelle

Despite its perhaps slightly controversial title, this book (or is it a game?) will enchant and delight readers by inviting them to guess what end of an animal they're seeing while sharing lots of facts about the animals. Sneaky but smart!

Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots

Sharon Lovejoy

This perennial (get it?!?) classic will always be on this list because there is *always* a place for gardening in a young one's life! Start small and grow big!

Poems From When We Were Very Young

A.A.Milne & Rosemary Wells

To complement *Winnie the Pooh* from the "Fantastic Fiction", try this collection of Milne's sweet and timeless poems, perfect for young ears and hearts.

Paul Writes a Letter

Christopher Raschka

St. Paul wrote much of the New Testament and in these pages which Raschka illustrated, read the essence of many of them. Lovely messages for us all.

Give Me Grace: a Child's Daybook of Prayers

Cynthia Rylant

From Newbery winner Rylant comes this lovely collection of prayers to say each day of the week, modeled after medieval books of days. And she illustrated it with bright blocks of primitive art, perfect for the simple but profound words.

The Bedtime Book of Incredible Questions

Isabel Thomas

We all have asked "why" and this is a great collection to keep up the innate human habit of curiosity & reminder that science is about asking the right questions, not just having facts. Live on, curiosity!

Simone Biles

Maria Sanchez Vegara

Need more Olympic excitement? Don't miss the biography of multiple gold-medal winning American gymnast Biles!

National Monuments of the U.S.A.

Cameron Walker

Before you head out on that road trip, grab a copy of this amazing collection of facts, maps, and history on our nation's amazing monuments! Thorough & fun.

REQUIRED READING

Experts who study learning and brain development say that if you read at *least 4-5 books on your reading level* over the summer, you will be ***much*** better prepared to begin the new school year ready to learn. Plus, it's fun!

FIRST GRADE:

Mrs. Braid, Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Thomason don't *require* that you read these, but strongly suggest that you read a few titles from these series:

TITLE/SERIES NAME	AUTHOR	FORMAT
"Fly Guy"	Tedd Arnold	ER
"Clifford"	Norman Bridwell	ER & PB
"Biscuit"	Alyssa Satin Capucilli	ER
"Pete the Cat"	James Dean/Eric Litwin	ER & PB
"Charlie the Ranch Dog"	Ree Drummond	ER & PB
"Noodles the Dog"	Hans Wilhelm	ER
"Elephant & Piggie"	Mo Willems	ER
"Pigeon"	Mo Willems	PB

ER=Early Reader

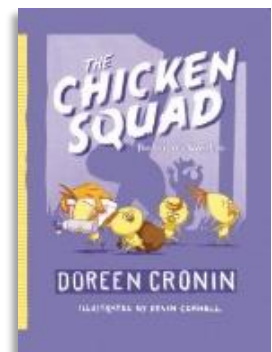
PB=Picture Book

SECOND GRADE:

The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure by Doreen Cronin

And now is the time to take a look at the book that *is* required (not just recommended) for all new 2nd graders. All 2nd graders will need to *read it by the first day of school*. It's so good you'll be glad you read it! You can buy it, borrow it, read it in print or digitally—it doesn't matter as long as you read it before the first day of school.

The teachers have chosen a fun book that you'll really enjoy. It's about life on a farm, focusing on four chicks: Peep, Little Boo, Poppy, and Sweet Coconut Louise (Sweetie for short) as they get up to some pretty sly mystery-solving mischief under the (occasionally) watchful eye of farm dog, JJ Tully. As soon as you finish this first in the series, you'll want to keep reading! Luckily we have the whole series in the library for you to borrow! Enjoy!



My Name: _____

MY READING LOG!

Here's the place to record what you've read over the summer and even what you thought of it! You can give a book 0 – 5 stars, if you like. Remember to fill in the Required Reading Books!

TITLE	AUTHOR	# of Stars
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1. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

2. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

3. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

4. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

5. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

Read at least this many to get a Bookworm Award!

MY READING LOG, CONTINUED!

TITLE _____ AUTHOR _____ # of Stars _____

6. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

7. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

8. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

9. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

10. _____

My favorite character: _____

My favorite part of the story: _____

Would I recommend this to my friends? Yes No (circle one)

don't stop here!! **keep reading!!**