



St. Mary's Episcopal School Presents

RECOMMENDED
AND REQUIRED
READING
FOR RISING
1ST & 2ND GRADERS
SUMMER 2025

smes reads around the world!

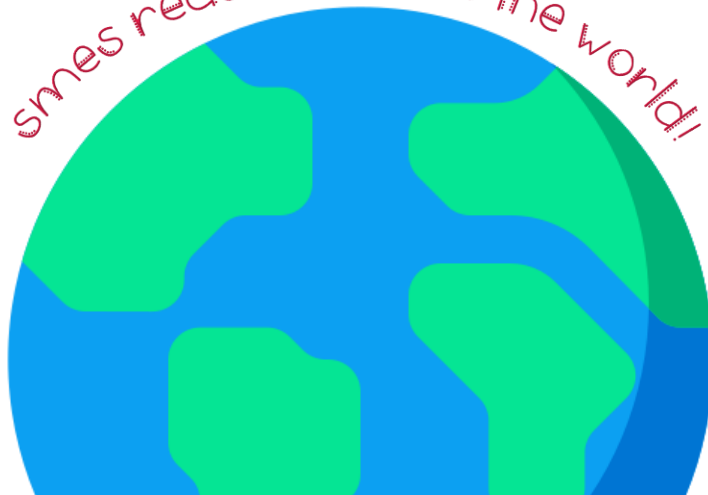


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WELL HELLO THERE!

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 to keep your brain sharp!

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 2025

PS: send me a postcard care of SMES from your summer travels! It'll be so fun seeing where we traveled, near or far! Send 'em to: 505 E. Covell, Edmond, OK 73034

AWARD WINNERS!

THESE WERE THE TIP OF THE TOP FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2024!



RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AWARD

Chooch Helped by Andrea Rogers



THEODORE SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

Vacation by Ame Dyckman



JOHN NEWBERY AWARD

The First State of Being by Erin Entrada Kelly



ROBERT F. SIBERT INFORMATIONAL BOOK AWARD

Life After Whale by Lynn Brunelle



CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

ILLUSTRATOR AWARD: *My Daddy Is a Cowboy* by Stephanie Seales



PURA BELPRÉ AWARD

AUTHOR AWARD: *Lola* by Karla Valenti

ILLUSTRATOR AWARD: *The Dream Catcher* by Marcelo Verdad



THE CHARLOTTE ZOLOTOW AWARD

I Know How to Draw an Owl by Hilary Huppely



THE EZRA JACK KEATS AWARDS

AUTHOR WINNER: *Go Forth and Tell* by Breanna McDaniel

ILLUSTRATOR WINNER: *We Are Definitely Human* by X. Fant



THE NATIONAL BOOK YOUTH AWARD

Kareem Between by Shifa Saltagi Safadi



THE IRMA BLACK AWARD

The King Penguin by Vanessa Roeder



SEQUOYAH AWARD (given by Oklahoma Children)

Dogtown by Katherine Applegate

FANTASTIC FICTION!

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

KEY TO GENRE SYMBOLS:

♡ = a book in picture book format

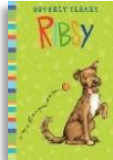
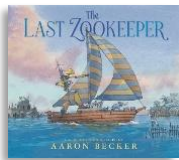
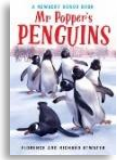
📖 = an early chapter book

🌀 = an "Early Reader" book

% = a chapter book to read together



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



% **Mr. Popper's Penguins**

Richard Atwater

This classic story of a man whose dream to own penguins suddenly comes true is now in its 87th year of finding new fans! Enjoy on a hot day.

♡ **The Last Zookeeper**

Aaron Becker

A wordless retelling of the Noah's Ark story by SMES favorite, Becker. This time, Noah is 'NOA', a robot that does its best to help the animals.

% **Ribsy**

Beverly Cleary

Another classic that is great for reading together not only because it's a fun romp, but the dog lives, happily and healthily all the way through!

📖 **Orris & Timble: The Beginning**

Kate DiCamillo

Owls and rats are usually enemies, but when owl's life is in danger, they discover that they can put aside differences and work together in harmony.

📖 **Once Upon a Tim**

Stuart Gibbs

Tim's goal of being a knight is off to a wonky start. SMES 2nd graders loved this during our lunchtime book club this past year—they highly recommend it!

♡ **A Friend for Eddy**

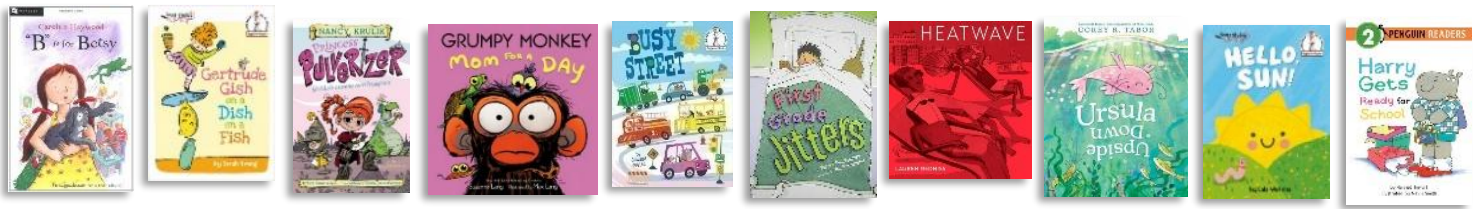
Ann Kim Ha

Eddy the fish is all alone in his bowl, day after day. Until!...a friend on the other side! Eddy takes a mighty leap to meet his new friend...a cat?!?!?!?

♡ **The Good Shepherd and the Stubborn Sheep**

Hannah E. Harrison

Oklahoma author/illustrator and SMES favorite, Harrison has just released this new book on God's love for us and how he is the shepherd we all need.



% **B Is For Betsy**

Carolyn Haywood

For those who might have “first grade jitters”, try this classic about Betsy, who worries that first grade will be too much, but discovers she can’t get enough!

🌀 **Gertrude Gish On a Dish On a Fish**

Sarah Hwang

This brand new book in a new series inspired by Dr. Seuss’ own illustrations is a silly, rhyming romp! Good for lots of laughs.

📖 **Princess Pulverizer: Grilled Cheese and Dragons**

Nancy Krulik

Princess Serena wants to be a Knight so badly that her dad finally agrees to let her try, as long as she completes a “Kindness Quest”. The start of a series!

♥ **Grumpy Monkey: Mom for a Day**

Suzanne Lang

The latest in the favorite series about Jim Panzee and his life in the jungle. This time, he helps the moms in the jungle with funny but happy results!

🌀 **Busy Street**

Edward Miller

Bonnie and her mommy drive around town and Bonnie can’t help noticing so many things on wheels! Cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles...come count with us!

♥ **First Grade Jitters**

Robert Quackenbush

Anxious about starting 1st grade? Just read this and you’ll feel much better!

♥ **Heatwave**

Lauren Redniss

Such a hot, hot, hot day...it seems like the weather is just stuck until...could that be the pitter-patter of rain, coming to relieve everyone? Read and see!

♥ **Ursula Upside-Down**

Corey R. Tabor

Come swim along with Ursula and cool off, but be prepared to swim upside down as some catfish do. An interesting look at our unique habits

🌀 **Hello, Sun!**

Lala Watkins

If you could do nothing but play with the sun all day, what would you do? Join Norbit the Worm as he and the sun do everything all sunny-day long!

🌀 **Harry Gets Ready for School**

Harriet Ziefert

Maybe not to read before August, but follow Harry as he does all the things one must do to get ready for an exciting school year.

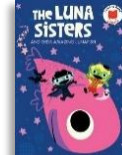
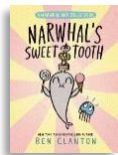
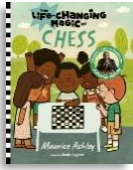
SUPER-DUPER SERIES!

Well-established and emerging readers both love to get into a good 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, go for it!

SERIES NAME	AUTHOR	SERIES NAME	AUTHOR
"Cam Jansen" and more	David Adler	"Song Lee", "Horrible Harry"	Suzy Kline
"The Sisters Eight"	Lauren Baratz-Logsted	"Arthur Chapter Books"	Stephen Krensky
"The Questioners"	Andrea Beaty	"Katie Kazoo", "Magic Bone", "George Brown", etc.	Nancy Krulik
"According to Humphrey"	Betty Birney	"Dragonsitter"	Josh Lacey
"The Bad Guys", "Cat on the Run"	Aaron Blabey	"Catwings"	Ursula K. LeGuin
"Bed and Biscuit"	Joan Carris	"Frog and Toad" & more	Arnold Lobel
"Eerie Elementary" "Mister Shivers"	Jack Chabert	"Gooney Bird Greene"	Lois Lowry
"Matter of Fact Magic"	Ruth Chew	"Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle"	Betty MacDonald
"Matt Christopher Sports Classics"	Matt Christopher and others	"Katie Woo", "Pedro"	Fran Manushkin
"Heidi Heckelbeck"	Wanda Coven	"Diary of a Pug"	Kyla May
"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" and "Unicorn 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
"Rabbit & Bear"	Julian Gough	"Henry & Mudge", "Mr. Putter & Tabby", etc.	Cynthia Rylant
"Adventures of Sophie Mouse"	Poppy Green	"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!



The Life-Changing Magic of Chess

Maurice Ashley

Need a great game to pass the hot days? Learn the ancient game of chess as well as about a real grand-master who started lowly but rose to fame.

Narwhal's Sweet Tooth

Ben Clanton

Jelly worries for best bud, Narwhal, when Narwhal's tusk is starting to look a bit dingy from all those sweets. Luckily, shark is on hand to offer dental advice!

Everyone Gets a Turn

Marianne Dubuc

An egg fallen out of its nest could not have hoped for better help than the four friends who find it and work together to keep it safe and healthy. So sweet!

Action Dude

Andy Riley

A hilarious adventure about "Action Dude" (really a nine-year old boy) who finds action thrills wherever he goes!

Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite

Ashley Spires

Burt is happy to be your guide to learning about his kind: bugs! Burt enthusiastically but humbly shares some amazing talents and secrets!

Detective Sweet Pea

Sara Varon

Sweet Pea, a pup with a talent for art, must put her nose to use sniffing out suspects in the mystery gripping Parkville: who stole the Golden Chew Bone?

The Luna Sisters and Their Amazing Lunafish

Dan Yaccarino

The very different Luna sisters don't agree on much, but when their pet fish vanishes, they work together to solve the mystery.

Amber Brown is Not a Crayon: the Graphic Novel

Victoria Ying

The latest classic to be reborn as a graphic novel. Smart & spunky Amber is going through a lot, but her humor, wits and best pal Justin keep her grounded.

NONFICTION

INCLUDING POETRY AND BIOGRAPHIES



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Nathalie Alonso

A look at our 'National Pastime', from its origins to its present-day popularity around the globe. Includes a QR code to listen to the song as you read!

David Atherton's Baking Book

David Atherton

This winner of "The Great British Baking Show" has lots to share with young chefs! Try out a few of his easy and clear recipes (and save a bite for me!).

Daughter of the Lightfooted People

Belen Medina Cabot

Meet Lorena Ramirez—just 30 years old now and already the winner of many marathons, won while wearing rubber sandals and a traditional skirt.

A Spring Treasury of Recipes, Crafts, and Wisdom

Angela Ferraro-Fanning

One of a great series of year-round activity books with fun stuff to do for all ages, from cooking, to making toys, to gardening and so much more!

Mother Aspen

Annette LeBox

What did the mushroom say to the tree? Read this book about life in an Aspen forest and find out (then go to Colorado to see them in person!).

In Praise of Mystery

Ada Limon

This is a poem now traveling through space on its way to Jupiter, engraved on the Europa Clipper. Read it here and marvel at the universe's mysteries!

Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots

Sharon Lovejoy

This classic will always be on this list because there is *always* a place for gardening in a young one's life! Get your hands dirty and grow something fun!

Time to Make Art

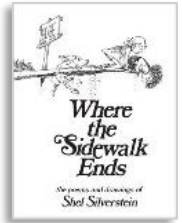
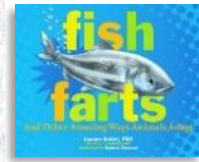
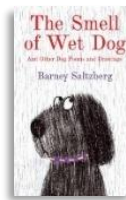
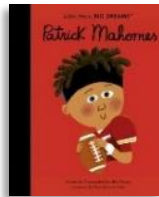
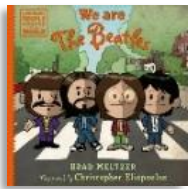
Jeff Mack

A young girl asks questions about what art is, and what it can be and hears answers from actual artists, old and new, near and far. A thinker and keeper.

101 5-Minute Devotions

published by Make-Believe Ideas

Such a sweet and deceptively simple book that invites readers to pause and take a moment to consider all of God's gifts in focused ways.



We Are the Beatles

Brad Meltzer

One of the latest in Meltzer's popular biography series, meet the lads from Liverpool! Describes key childhood events in each life that shaped their future.

Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations

Jacqueline Mitton

While camping out this summer, be sure to grab a hand-held telescope to see the animals hidden amongst the stars.

50 True Tales from Our Great National Parks

Stephanie Pearson

Whether you're planning to visit any of our National Parks this summer or just hoping to someday, you'll love these wild stories!

Patrick Mahomes

Ma Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Even great athletes start life small, and this tells of the inspiring journey Patrick Mahomes from a child with promise to a world-class athlete.

Saint Spotting: Or, How to Read a Church

Christopher Raschka

Told from years of experience at his mother's side comes this lovely guide to understanding what parts of a church are and how to identify some saints.

The Smell of a Wet Dog

Barney Saltzberg

A collection of funny and relatable poems on 'man's best friend'; the amazing, the stinky, and everything in between! Cat-lovers will enjoy this, too!

Fish Farts : and Other Amazing Ways Animals Adapt

Joanne Settler

Your eyes will open wide (& you may also gag) at some of the weird but wonderful ways that animals have learned to adapt and survive.

Where the Sidewalk Ends

Shel Silverstein

The time has come to reacquaint children with this classic...it has dropped out of general knowledge and that is a crying, dirty shame. Must, must read!

My Name: _____

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 and Mrs. Channel 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
-------	--------	------------

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!!**