



Recommended Summer Reading for
St. Mary's Rising PreKindergartners
and Kindergartners
Summer 2018



WELCOME!

Hooray for Summer! One of the best parts of summertime is finding time to be together! There are many fantastic ways to have together time, but one way (all year-round, actually) is to *read* together. There are some who say that few things one can do will have as much of an impact in a child's all-around development as setting aside time each day to read to them. Not only does parents' modeling of reading make a *huge* impact on young ones, but taking the time to read together boosts a child's early literacy *tremendously*.

Try, for example, Rosemary Wells' favorite, *Read to Your Bunny*. In the simplest, most loving way, it shows the sheer delight and joy that comes from reading aloud to/with children and is a must for any home library. The joy and delight are in the present but the long-term effects of reading to *your* bunny will be seen for the rest of his or her life.

Just about anything will do. As children develop their own distinct tastes and interests, it is important to allow them to follow their curiosity. Whatever they have a natural passion for will push them onward from within. Of course, that might mean you getting to read books on dinosaurs or princesses for a time, but despair not, o' intrepid reader! You can always introduce a classic to bedtime reading like *Alice in Wonderland* or *Pinocchio* or *The House at Pooh Corner* or Richard Scarry's *What Do People Do All Day?*

We've asked the older St. Mary's students to commit to reading at least five books this summer. I bet you can do that in a week, but please don't let that stop you. Keep reading! Students who turn in a list (or at least a partial list) of the things they read over the summer will be honored at a special reading assembly when we return to school in August.

Please look through this list of recommended reading for some ideas of what you can read with *your* bunny! Happy reading!

--Jennifer England-Burnside

Fantastic Read-Together Picture Books

Oh My Baby, Little One

by Kathi Appelt

Mama bird soothes her baby when he worries about being at school without her; a very sweet reassurance. Similar to *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn.

Hooray for Birds!

by Lucy Cousins

From the creator of beloved “Maisy” books comes a vibrantly colored tribute to birds of all types. Also, find *Hooray for Fish!* for another animal tribute.

Jabari Jumps

by Gaia Cornwall

Jabari is determined to conquer his fear of the diving board and *finally* jump from it. But that feeling of fear keeps creeping up until one glorious leap!

Good Dog, Carl

by Alexandra Day

The delightful, mostly wordless “Carl” series shows the care given by a most gentle Rottweiler to his young charge.

Lots of Spots

by Lois Ehlert

Ehlert’s signature style of cut-paper collage art goes wonderfully well with the many colorations of the animals found in this book of fun poems.

Prayer for a Child

by Rachel Field

If you don’t already have this in your home library, it is a must. Simple words cover the concerns of the day, helping them to rest knowing God is watching.

Go to Sleep in Your Own Bed!

by Candace Fleming

It’s bedtime on the farm and all the animals are trying to get some shut-eye, but different baby animals keep trying to snuggle up with parents.

Read-Togethers, Continued

Give Me Back My Book!

by Travis Foster and Ethan Long

Such a funny book and *begging* to be read aloud! Kids can completely identify with tug-of-wars over things like books, and will love the funny resolution.

Corduroy

by Don Freeman

Remember the classics! Everyone can relate to feeling lost or uncertain as Corduroy feels before being rescued into his “forever home”!

Toot Toot Beep Beep

by Emma Garcia

A fabulous book for making a little noise! Cars and trucks and things that move around abound! Look for Garcia’s other noisy books, too.

Flora and the Peacocks

by Molly Idle

The latest in this beautiful series on Flora and a variety of fascinating birds. The lift-the-flap feature is back and an integral part of the wordless storygelling.

The Bad Seed

by Jory John

Oh that sunflower seed thinks he is so bad, but is he really? This interesting book will help conversations on choosing to be good. Plus, it’s just funny!

I Can Fly!

by Ruth Krauss

A classic “Little Golden Book” that has been republished in full-size for a new generation to love. A girl explores the world through imaginative eyes.

Sleep Like a Tiger

by Mary Logue

Two parents calmly try to entice their daughter to sleep by telling about other animals. *Beautiful* illustrations.

Wag!

by Patrick McDonnell

For fans of the “Mutts” comic strip series, several friends, including Mooch the cat, try to find out what makes Earl the dog’s tail wag.

Read-Togethers, Continued

The Tale of Benjamin Bunny

by Beatrix Potter

Meet Peter Rabbit's cousin! The two must be related for all the mischief they get into in MacGregor's vegetable garden. Another classic to enjoy!

Three Bears in a Boat

by David Soman

Three bear brothers accidentally break something precious of mama bear's and embark on a journey to replace it. Gorgeous illustrations and a sweet message.

I Can Be Anything!

by Jerry Spinelli

An affirming book showing a child imagining a wide variety of aspirations. Full of hope and cheer, reminding us that we are what we put our mind to.

A Child's Garden of Verses

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Stevenson knew how to write a classic adventure novel, but he also had a gift for poetry for children. There are many editions, just be sure you have one!

Owl Babies

by Martin Waddell

In the dark, quiet forest, three baby owls anxiously await mama's return. A calming and sweet classic.

In Your Hands

by Carole Boston Weatherford

Another beautiful prayer told through gorgeous illustrations. The sentiments of the mama are universal and simply lovely.

...and last but not least, the one to remember for its great message:

Read to Your Bunny

by Rosemary Wells

The creator of the favorite "Max & Ruby" books brings us this timeless message in a sweet and loving way.

Concept Books

Concept books are wonderful for reinforcing those ideas that children sometimes pick up on their own but sometimes need examples to see, like colors, shapes, numbers, letters, sizes and their relationships, textures, etc.

Favorite concept book authors

Alan Baker

Sandra Boynton

Donald Crews

Lois Ehlert

Tana Hoban

Pat or Hazel Hutchins

Marthe Jocelyn

Ann Jonas

Bill Martin

Richard Scarry

Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Dr. Seuss

Ellen Stoll Walsh

Harriet Ziefert

My Bus

by Byron Barton

The bus driver picks up his passengers (super colorful dogs and cats) and takes them around, drops them off, etc. Great for counting and grouping.

Billions of Bricks

by Kurt Cyrus

A family's construction site is the perfect place to learn about counting, grouping and visually imagining numbers through bricks.

Food for Thought: the Complete Book of Concepts for Growing by Saxton Freymann

The title does pretty much sum it up—a bit of everything using fun cut and posed fruits and veggies for illustration.

Once Upon an Alphabet

by Oliver Jeffers

Perhaps this is more for the reader, but this most unusual alphabet book features short stories dedicated to each letter.

The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's (The Hard Way)

by Patrick McDonnell

Not just any “ABC” book—each letter is introduced as part of telling the story!

“The Nutshell Library”

by Maurice Sendak

A favorite series from a favorite author. Includes: *Alligators All Around* (alphabet), *One Was Johnny* (numbers) and *Chicken Soup With Rice* (months).

Favorite Folk Tales!

So many of our most beloved stories come from folklore, so here are some more to enjoy!

Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears

by Verna Aardema

A cumulative “pourquoi” tale which not only answers “why?” but shows how one little event can cause a huge chain reaction.

Aesop's Fables

by Aesop

There are many illustrated editions of these thousands of years old stories... try the one by Eric Carle to begin: *Rabbit & Turtle*.

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush

by Tomie dePaola

A Plains Indians' tale of the origin of our own state wildflower, the Indian Paintbrush, or, gaillardia.

Cuckoo: a Mexican Folktale

by Lois Ehlert

This is a Mayan tale of how the cuckoo bird lost her feathers. It's bilingual so you can play with Spanish too!

The Way Meat Loves Salt: A Cinderella Tale from the Jewish Tradition

retold by Nina Jaffe

An engaging variation of a “Cinderella” tale, this one is set in Poland. A father asks his 3 daughters how much they love him. When the youngest replies “the way meat loves salt”, Papa misunderstands and sends her away to make her own way. Fear not, she does just fine and there is a joyous ending for all.

Armadilly Chili

by Helen Ketteman

This amusing re-telling of the classic story, “The Little Red Hen”, is set in the west with critters whose voices beg to be read aloud in fun accents!

How the Camel Got His Hump

by Rudyard Kipling

This is an original story by the creator of *The Jungle Book* and others, but it reads like an old favorite. Great for silly voices.

Cindy Ellen: A Wild-Western Cinderella

by Susan Lowell

We all know the traditional “Cinderella” story, but set it on a ranch with some cattle-roping and horse riding and you have a rip-roaring good story!

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

retold by James Marshall

The (Caldecott Honor-winning) pictures may be silly, but the re-telling is pretty traditional and very easy to read and listen to.

Tikki Tikki Tembo

by Arlene Mosel

According to this legend, Chinese families give their children short, easy-to-say names. Read this and find out why!

The Tortoise and the Hare

retold by Jerry Pinkney

American treasure Pinkney retells the centuries-old fable in glorious watercolors that invite you to stare at the pictures for hours.

Baby Rattlesnake

retold by Te Ata, adapted by Lynn Moroney

This ancient tale from the Chickasaw tells of a baby rattlesnake who wishes for and is granted something before he is quite ready for it. A great moral for all.

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs

by Jon Scieszka

This assumes you are already familiar with the original “Three Little Pigs” (try Paul Galdone’s version if you need a refresher), but this one has an eye-opening twist in that it’s all about the wolf’s point of view, not the pigs’.

Seven Blind Mice

retold by Ed Young

This retelling of an Indian fable shows the mice each using their own senses to determine the identity of a mystery creature.