St. Mary's Episcopal School Presents...

Recommended Summer Reading for New Preschool, PreKindergartners and Kindergartners

Summer 2019
Hurrah 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 is to read together. Many experts say there are few things one can do that 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. There is so much competing for their attention and your attention, but studies have shown nothing quite takes the place of books.

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 and 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 any book 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 on their own this summer. I bet you can read five books in a day, 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 our first 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, May 2019
**Some Super-Duper Read-Together Books**

*The Patchwork Bike*  
by Maxine Beneba Clarke  
A story of a group of kids in a land far from things to do who put their imagination to work by creating a bike under the eye of a patient mum.

*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. This is the classic beginning.

*Zola’s Elephant*  
by Randall de Seve  
The narrator of this lushly illustrated story describes a new girl who has moved to the block and all the huge boxes which must, of course, contain an elephant.

*Rain Fish*  
by Lois Ehlert  
Ehlert’s turns her beautiful mixed-media and collages to a sweet idea of “fishes” that appear after a rain. A sweet celebration of creativity.

*When’s My Birthday?*  
by Julie Fogliano  
Birthdays are a really big deal to kids and deserve a book of their own! You’ll love this bouncy, fun, relatable, and irresistibly charming book on birthdays.

*We Are the Gardeners*  
by Joanna Gaines  
The star of HGTV’s hit show “Fixer Upper” turns to writing about home life, with the help of her children. A beautiful book on resilience and compassion.

*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.

*A Parade of Elephants*  
by Kevin Henkes  
Another book of elephants, but this time, they’re real *and* they help us with our counting, recognizing opposites, and other crucial concepts.*Flora and the
Chicks by Molly Idle
Inspired by the “Flora and…” series in which dancer Flora enjoys the friendship of several birds, this board book is wonderfully sweet and a must-see!

Saffron Ice Cream by Rashin Kheiriyeh
All over the world, kids love visits to the beach during summer. On her first trip to a beach in the US, a girl from Iran observes differences and similarities.

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.

Black Bird Yellow Sun by Steve Light
As you turn the pages, you’ll see a simple black bird change its shape and perspective just by how the paper is folded—really neat!

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin
This sweet bedtime story honors the Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival with beautiful illustrations and a story of love between mother and child.

Sleep Like a Tiger by Mary Logue
Two parents calmly try to entice their daughter to sleep by telling about other animals. Beautiful illustrations.

High Five by Adam Rubin
From the dynamic duo that brought us Dragons Love Tacos, enjoy this brand new silly book on how to give (and receive) the best high-fives ever! So fun!

Blue by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
In this gorgeous companion to Seeger’s Green (2012), Seeger explores the color blue but also the friendship between a boy and his dog.

Hello! Hello! by Brendan Wenzel
From Caldecott-award winning Wenzel comes a fun interactive book about animals from all over the world! So colorful and a fun book to read!
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 House  by Byron Barton
A friendly and cheery look through a house, led by Jim the Cat who checks out the parts and places to know in everyone’s own home.

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.

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!

100 Bugs!: A Counting Book  by Kate Narita
This takes counting beyond simple straight 1-10 counting but introduces different ways to count as well. And of course, bugs.

Vivid: Poems & Notes About Color  by Julie Paschkis
A sort of modern Hailstones and Halibut Bones, a vibrant look at color.

“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).

A Busy Creature’s Day Eating  by Mo Willems
Similar to The Little Red Cat, enjoy this new story from beloved Mr. Willems. It’s an “abecedary” which is a story told using words in order from the alphabet.
Favorite Folk Tales

So many of our most beloved stories come from folklore around the world. Please enjoy this global selection!

*Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema
A cumulative tale with a bouncy rhyme. Taken from the Nandi tradition in Africa, readers see the dry land as it eagerly anticipates a much-needed rainfall.

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

*Flower Fairies of the Summer* by Cicely Mary Barker
Plucked from the British countryside, enjoy this classic collection of poems about the flowers one can see in summer & the fairies that care for them.

*The Three Bears* by Byron Barton
The story we all remember but told in easy-to-understand text with Barton’s super-colorful illustrations. A super remake of a classic!

*Yummy! Eight Favorite Fairy Tales* by Lucy Cousins
The author of the “Maisy” books brings us some of the most well-known stories that we should all know by heart with bright illustrations.

*Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola
The old lady who lives at the edge of her Italian village is known for having a way with magic, as we learn in this first of a series based on Italian folktales.

*The Gingerbread Boy* retold by Richard Egielski
Egielski retells the beloved folktale but this time, it’s set in New York City! Read as the characters end their chase with a run through Central Park!
The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble
This Caldecott Medal winning book tells of a girl who loves her family, but who prefers to be among the wild horses where she can feel freedom.

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock retold by Eric Kimmel
The “spider-man” Anansi is a popular folklore character around the world, and our students at St. Mary’s love reading about him and acting out his antics!

Just-So Stories by Rudyard Kipling
Kipling was stationed in both India and Africa while in the British Army, which is how he was inspired to write these original tales.

The Twelve Dancing Princesses retold by Marianna Mayer
There are many retellings of this classic from the Brothers Grimm, but this one with luminously beautiful illustrations by K.Y. Craft is well told.

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!

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.

Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue retold by Virginia Schomp
There are many retellings of this homegrown tall tale, but this new version is quite nice in capturing it’s outrageous essence.

Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise by David Ezra Stein
Okay, this is not a traditional folktale but it is the sequel to the hilarious Interrupting Chicken. Papa is trying to instill a love of classic folktales in little Chicken, but she has a new way of looking at things.
This year’s Kindergarten students wanted to encourage the new Kindergartners by offering some reading suggestions based on their favorite books. Some are a leeeeeeeetle bit spooky for all audiences, but they are all heartfelt recommendations. Enjoy!

Jack B. says: the “Henry & Mudge” series by Cynthia Rylant
Hayes B. says: *Bunnicula* by James Howe
Mylee C. says: the “Curious George” books by H.A. Rey
Jack C. says: the “Pig the Put” books by Aaron Blabey
Jaxson D. says: books about “Anansi the Spider” like by Eric Kimmel or Gerald McDermott
Teo G. says: *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherri Rinker
Adam J. says: *Minecraft Construction Handbook* by Matthew Needler
Caitlyn K. says: the “Elsa & Anna” series by Erica David
Alex K. says: anything “Minecraft”!
Ade L. says: *Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run* by Mike Twohy
Mason M. says: *Are You My Mommy?* by Joyce Wan
Hannah M. says: the “Bear and Mouse” books by Kady Denton
Clayton M. says: *Journey* (and sequels) by Aaron Becker
Ella P. says: *6 Sticks* by Molly Coxe
Wyatt R. says: the “Charlie and Lola” books by Lauren Child
Cami S. says: the “Pigeon” series by Mo Willems
Parker S. says: *We Are Growing* by Laurie Keller
James S. says: the “Captain Underpants” series by Dav Pilkey
Sunny S. says: *Cool City* by Sean Kenney
Jack T. says: *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell
Emily T. says: the “Bob” books by Lynn Maslen Kertell
Flynn W. says: the “Pete the Cat” series by James Dean and Eric Litwin
Jaden W. says: *Hap-Pea All Year* by Keith Baker
Leilah W. says: *Friendshape* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Happy Reading and Happy Summer!