



## **BILL E. RICA, SUMMER READING MASCOT**

June 2024

Dear Billerica Families,

Thanks for all your support this year! While summer break is an important time for children to rest, relax, and re-energize, it is equally important that they continue to read. Here's why. Students who read over the summer may *gain* a month of reading proficiency. Those who don't may *lose* two to three months of reading proficiency. Over the course of a child's elementary schooling, those months--win or lose--really add up. You can help us prevent the summer reading slide by making sure your child reads or is read to 30 minutes a day during the vacation months.

This summer Bill E. Rica, the elementary reading mascot, has returned to keep students reading through the summer. Each grade has a custom bingo board filled with different opportunities for students to practice reading. Students are expected to complete at least one row in any direction marking completed squares with an X. They may complete additional squares or, if they wish, they may fill the entire card. The choice is theirs. In addition to the bingo card, students are also expected to complete a book log documenting books read during the summer. Feel free to make additional copies of the online book log if your child completes the one provided. If you need book suggestions, please check out grade level reading lists on the district home page or visit the Billerica Public Library. The librarians there are always happy to help.

In September, completed book logs and bingo boards will be passed in to your child's new classroom teacher during the first week of school. Students who participated in the summer reading program will be recognized with a certificate of participation. On behalf of the Summer Reading Committee, I hope students and families have a wonderful summer and enjoy playing *Summer Reading BINGO!* together. Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Marian Dyer, Interim Assistant Superintendent

# BILLERICA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## ENTERING GRADE 4 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

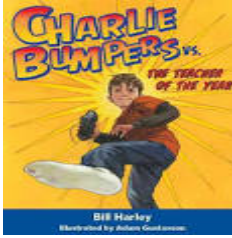
READ OUTSIDE FOR 30 MINUTES	READ A BIOGRAPHY OF SOMEONE YOU ADMIRE	READ TWO POEMS WITH A PERSEVERANCE THEME	READ A NEW TITLE FROM THE BILLERICA PUBLIC LIBRARY	READ A BOOK OR ARTICLE ON THE SOLAR SYSTEM
READ THE DIRECTIONS TO MAKE A CRAFT AND MAKE IT	READ A MYTH	READ ABOUT A REGION IN THE US	READ A FANTASY BOOK	READ A RECIPE AND MAKE IT
READ A BOOK BY KATE DICAMILLO	READ A POURQUOI TALE	FREE CHOICE 	EXPLORE THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM WEBSITE	READ A BOOK ABOUT A PLACE YOU WANT TO VISIT
READ AN ORBIS PICTUS NON-FICTION BOOK	READ A BOOK BY A MASSACHUSETTS AUTHOR	READ AN ONLINE BOOK FROM THE EPIC WEBSITE	READ A BOOK ABOUT IMMIGRATION AND ASK ABOUT YOUR HISTORY	READ A NEWBERY AWARD BOOK
READ REALISTIC FICTION	READ A BOOK IN A SERIES	READ A GRAPHIC NOVEL	READ A BOOK THAT MAKES YOU LOL! 	READ FOR 30 MINUTES IN A HAMMOCK OR A TENT

*BILL E. RICA SAYS, "MAKE SURE TO MARK ALL COMPLETED SQUARES WITH AN X."*



## Suggested Book Titles Summer 2023

### Entering Grade 4



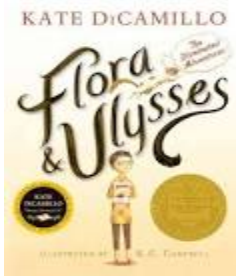
#### **Charlie Bumpers vs. The Teacher of the Year by Bill Harley**

Shortly before school starts, Charlie Bumpers learns that he will have the strictest teacher in the whole school for fourth grade. It doesn't matter that she's been named Teacher of the Year. He's still afraid of her. Last year when he was horsing around in the hall, he accidentally hit her in the head with his sneaker (don't ask). How will he survive a year with a teacher who is just waiting for him to make another mistake?



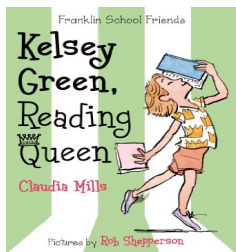
#### **Fish Finelli: Seagulls Don't Eat Pickles**

When bully Bryce Billings bets Fish Finelli that he can't find Captain Kidd's legendary long-lost treasure, Fish and his friends embark on a quest to find real-life pirate treasure. Between sneaking into the library to track down Captain Kidd's map, stowing away on a boat, and trespassing on an island, Fish and his friends have their work cut out for them. But will Fish actually be able to find Captain Kidd's booty and win the bet? Appropriate for both boys and girls, this first book in the Fish Finelli series will inspire readers to use their imaginations, learn about the world around them, and appreciate the bonds of friendship.



#### **Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo**

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, is just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry—and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart.



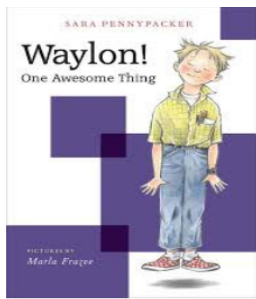
#### **Kelsey Green, Reading Queen by Claudia Mills**

Kelsey Green is the best reader in the third grade--well, maybe tied for best with know-it-all Simon Ellis. When the principal Mr. Boone announces a school-wide reading contest, she knows she's just the person to lead Mrs. Molina's third graders to victory. But how can they win when her classmate Cody Harmon doesn't want to read anything, and even Kelsey's best friends Annika and Izzy don't live up to her expectations?



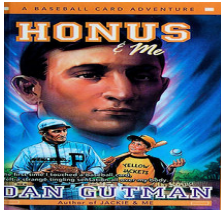
#### **Mistakes that Worked by Charlotte Jones**

Popsicles, potato chips, Silly Putty, Velcro, and many other familiar things have fascinating stories behind them. In fact, dozens of products and everyday items had surprisingly haphazard beginnings. Mistakes That Worked offers forty of these unusual tales, along with hilarious cartoons and weird and amazing facts. Readers will be surprised and inspired!



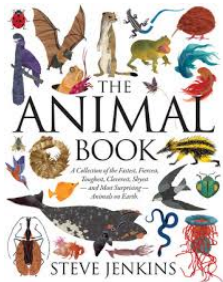
### [Waylon! One Awesome Thing](#) by Sara Pennypacker

Waylon has lots of ideas for making life more awesome through science, like teleportation, human gills, and attracting cupcakes by controlling gravity. But it's impossible for him to concentrate on his inventions when he's experiencing his own personal Big Bang. Arlo Brody is dividing the fourth grade boys into two groups. Waylon would rather be friends with everyone. Well, everyone except the scary new kid, Baxter Boylen. Waylon's older sister, Neon, is shooting away from the family. He wishes everything would go back to the way it was before she started wearing all black and saying "What's the point?" all the time. Just when it looks as though Waylon's universe is exploding, something happens to bring it all together again, and it is, without a doubt, One Awesome Thing.



### [Honus and Me](#) by Dan Gutman

When young baseball nut Joe Stoshack finds the most valuable baseball card in the world, a Honus Wagner T-206, in a pile of garbage, he thinks he's struck it rich. It turns out the card is worth more than money. It's his ticket to an amazing time-travel adventure to a historic world series game, with one of the greatest baseball players who ever lived.



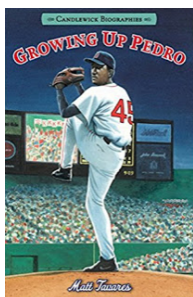
### [The Animal Book](#) by Steve Jenkins

Animals smooth and spiky, fast and slow, hop and waddle through the pages of the Caldecott Honor artist Steve Jenkins's most impressive nonfiction offering yet. Sections such as "Animal Senses," "Animal Extremes," and "The Story of Life" burst with fascinating facts and infographics that will have trivia buffs breathlessly asking, "Do you know a termite queen can produce up to 30,000 eggs a day?" Jenkins's color-rich cut- and torn-paper artwork is as strikingly vivid as ever.



### [Book Uncle and Me](#) by Umi Krishnaswami

Nine-year-old Yasmin intends to read a book a day for the rest of her life. Book Uncle, who runs a free lending library on the street corner, always has the perfect book for her. But when Book Uncle seems to be in trouble, Yasmin has to take her nose out of her book and do something. With the elections coming up and the grown-ups busy with their own affairs, what difference can Yasmin and her friends possibly make? Will they get help from Karate Samuel, the eccentric superstar who's standing for Mayor? Yasmin gets to work, ideas begin to fly like feathers, and soon everything starts to spin - out of control.



### [Growing Up Pedro](#) by Matt Tavares

Before Pedro Martínez pitched the Red Sox to a World Series championship, before he was named to the All-Star team eight times, before he won the Cy Young three times, he was a kid from a place called Manoguayabo in the Dominican Republic. Pedro loved baseball more than anything.