

## Summer Reading Essentials:

1. Each child should read, or hear read aloud, at least five books.
2. Read to your pre-reader or beginning reader for at least twenty minutes every day.
3. Students entering grades three through seven must read the book required for their grade level, plus four others. Check the corresponding grade-level list for the specific title.
4. Use the Reading Record (below) and challenge yourself to keep track of the books you read. Feel free to share your reading record with your new teachers in August. They will be excited to see which books you chose!

## Summer Reading Record

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers: \_\_\_\_\_

Use this list to keep track of the books you read. Put a star next to the ones you liked the best or create your own ranking system. Be sure to share your list with your teachers in August!

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Dear Parents:

The summer reading list has arrived! Briefly: the list for rising fourth and fifth graders is organized into three broad genres, while the list for rising sixth and seventh graders is meant to be used as a digital document. That list is also organized loosely by genre, with links directly to the IndieBound website or Amazon.

Each list contains a mix of recent titles and older ones as well. Children's books tend to go "out of print" pretty quickly, so some of these titles may only be available used or from your public library, but they are still great books!

Please keep in mind that this list is provided as a starting point and a helpful resource. Research shows that children read more when they are allowed to choose what they read, so we encourage you to give your child as much independence as possible when selecting books. If your child's taste in books runs counter to your own, keep in mind that whatever phase it is will not last forever, and try to be as supportive as possible. Children read for just as many different reasons as adults do – to laugh, learn, get goosebumps, find comfort, puzzle over a mystery or visit other worlds.

If your child needs extra incentive to read, consider participating in a summer reading program offered by your public library or local bookstore. Little Shop of Stories in Decatur is one of our favorite bookstores and they have a reading program as well as story times and book clubs for kids of all ages.

Please note that **students starting third through seventh grade have one required book** to read, plus four others of their choice. The title of the required book can be found on the corresponding grade-level list.

Have a wonderful summer!

Callie Benson  
Librarian  
The Children's School

Summer Reading Recommendations  
For students entering pre-primary or pre-kindergarten

**Picture books for parents to read aloud:**

*Every-Day Dress-Up*

Alko

A young girl imagines her own future as she puts on costumes and pretends to be great women from history, including Amelia Earhart, Lucille Ball, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

*Good Little Wolf*

Andres

Good Little Wolf tries to be a big bad wolf, but his true nature always shines through.

*Builder Goose: It's Construction Rhyme Time!*

Ashburn

Nursery rhymes are refashioned to feature construction projects.

*Too Many Frogs!*

Asher

Rabbit's comfortable nightly routine is disturbed by exuberant Froggie, who settles in for a snack and a story without being invited.

*Chicks Run Wild*

Bardhan-Quallen

When her little chicks refuse to settle down for the night, Mama decides to surprise them with an unusual request.

*I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!*

Beaumont

In the rhythm of the folk song "It Ain't Gonna Rain No More," a child who loves to paint the walls and everything else he sees cannot resist adding one more dab of paint to some surprising places.

*Digger Dog*

Bee

Digger Dog loves to dig up bones, the bigger the better. But for the biggest bone in the world, what will Digger Dog need? The biggest digger in the world, of course!

*Finding Spring*

Berger

Upset when his mother tells him he has to hibernate through his first winter before he experiences his first spring, a baby bear cub leaves the den to search for spring by himself.

*Z is for Moose*

Bingham

Moose, terribly eager to play his part in the alphabet book his friend Zebra is putting together, then awfully disappointed when his letter passes, behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him.

*Flashlight*

Boyd

A boy leaves his tent to explore the night with his trusty flashlight in this wordless picture book.

*Vampire Boy's Good Night*

Brown

When Morgan, a young vampire, and his witchy friend Bela set out one night to see if human children really exist, they find themselves at a Halloween party.

*Goodnight Songs*

Brown

From Margaret Wise Brown, author of the beloved *Goodnight Moon*, comes a previously unpublished collection of charming lullabies, gorgeously illustrated by 12 award-winning artists.

*Bad Kitty*

Bruel

When a kitty discovers there is no cat food in the house, she decides to become very, very bad.

*Have You Seen My New Blue Socks?*

Bunting

The reader is invited to help Duck and his animal friends find a missing item.

*Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten*

Buzzeo

Even though there are rules to follow, a little girl who loves adventure has an exciting first day of kindergarten.

*Stay Close to Mama*

Buzzeo

A curious baby giraffe keeps wandering away from his mother to explore the interesting sights and smells that surround them. Includes a note on giraffes.

*Peepsqueak!*

Clark

A baby chick named Peepsqueak does not listen to the advice of Big Brown Cow, Big Sheep, Yellow Duck, and Baby Bunny, and tries again and again unsuccessfully to fly, until Old Gray Goose gets involved.

*When Pigs Fly*

Coulman

Ralph, a cow who wants a bicycle more than anything, is determined to get one when his father tells him he can have one in the unlikely event that pigs fly.

*Thump, Quack, Moo: A Whacky Adventure*

Cronin

The annual Corn Maze Festival is coming and every day the chickens, cows, and Duck help Farmer Brown--with a few bribes--to create a special Statue of Liberty corn maze, and every night Duck works hard recreating his own surprise.

*Mini Racer*

Dempsey

Animals in a variety of fanciful vehicles, including a snail on a skateboard and rabbits in a carrot-car, race over a difficult course with a suspenseful and surprising outcome.

*Llama, Llama, Mad at Mama*

Dewdney

A young llama wants to play but must go shopping with his mother instead, and so he gets angry and makes a mess at the store.

*The Snatchabook*

Docherty

The woodland animals of Burrow Down are ready for a bedtime story, but where are the books?

*Boy + Bot* Dyckman  
A boy and a robot strike up a friendship despite their differences.

*The Adventures of Max and Pinky: Superheroes* Eaton  
When Max and Pinky decide to play superheroes, Pinky gets stuck with all of the unappealing sidekick duties, until Max finds himself in real trouble.

*If You're a Monster and You Know It* Emberley  
Monsters sing their own version of this popular song that encourages everyone to express their happiness through voice and movement.

*Bulldozer's Big Day* Fleming  
Bulldozer wants to invite all of his co-workers to a party to celebrate his special day, but to them it is just another day for scooping, sifting, stirring, and more.

*The Cow Who Clucked* Fleming  
When a cow loses her moo, she searches to see if another animal in the barn has it.

*Oh, No!* Fleming  
A series of animals falls into a deep hole, only to be saved at last by a very large rescuer.

*Five Trucks* Floca  
Trucks of different shapes and sizes share one important purpose in this classic picture book from the bestselling creator of *Moonshot* and *Locomotive*.

*Boot & Shoe* Frazee  
Boot and Shoe are dogs that live in the same house, eat from the same bowl, and sleep in the same bed but spend their days on separate porches until a squirrel mixes things up.

*Say Hello to Zorro!* Goodrich  
Mister Bud, the family dog, has a satisfying routine to his life, but when another dog joins the family and disrupts his schedule, Mister Bud must learn to adapt.

*Dog in Boots* Gormley  
After reading "Puss in Boots," an adventurous dog sets out to find the perfect pair of shoes to suit his every need.

*Toys in Space* Grey  
A group of toys, left out at night for the first time, begins to be afraid but the WonderDoll distracts them by weaving a story of lost toys, space travel, and a strange alien.

*Ollie and Claire* Haber  
Bored with her ho-hum routine with her best friend Ollie, Claire secretly plans a new adventure with a mystery person.

*Maybe a Bear Ate It!* Harris

At bedtime, a young boy who cannot find his favorite book imagines the various creatures that might have taken it from him.

*Little White Rabbit*

Henkes

As he hops along a little rabbit wonders what it would be like to be green as grass, tall as fir trees, hard as rocks, and flutter like butterflies.

*When Spring Comes*

Henkes

Animals and children alike watch as the world transforms from the dead of winter to a full and blooming spring.

*Duck and Goose*

Hills

Duck and Goose learn to work together to take care of a ball, which they think is an egg.

*Don't Want to Go!*

Hughes

Lily's mother is sick and her father must go to work, but she does not want to stay with a babysitter, even if it means playing with cute baby Sam, sweet little dog Ringo, and fun big brother Jack.

*My Little Train*

Ichikawa

A little train goes for a ride, taking all the stuffed animals where they want to go.

*Flora and the Flamingo*

Idle

In this wordless book with interactive flaps, a friendship develops between a girl named Flora and a graceful flamingo, as they learn to dance together.

*I Hear a Pickle*

Isadora

Children explore their five senses, learning what they can see, smell, hear, touch and taste.

*We Love School!*

Janovitz

Simple rhymes and illustrations describe what kittens like about going to school.

*How to Catch a Star*

Jeffers

A boy makes many attempts to catch a star of his own and finally succeeds in an unexpected way.

*Finders Keepers*

Kasza

When a squirrel uses his red hat to mark the spot where he buried an acorn, he sets off a chain of events involving other creatures, each of which finds an unusual use for the chapeau.

*Come Back, Moon*

Kherdian

A sleepless bear hides the moon, much to the displeasure of his forest animal friends who miss dancing under its light.

*How to Cheer Up Dad*

Koehler

Little Jumbo just can't understand why his dad is having such a bad day. It couldn't be the raisins Little Jumbo spit out at the ceiling or the bath he refused to take--after all, Little Jumbo's dad *knew* he hated raisins and had already taken a bath that week! Luckily, Little Jumbo is such a thoughtful elephant that he decides to turn his dad's bad day around with some of his--ahem, his *dad's*--favorite things.

*Wolf's Coming!*

Kulka

All of the animals in the forest go into hiding because the wolf is coming, but why they are hiding is the big surprise.

*Tell Me the Day Backwards*

Lamb

As he gets into bed, Timmy Bear asks his mother to play a game with him in which they remember everything he did during the day, but in reverse order.

*It's a Tiger!*

LaRochelle

A child imagines that he is in a story where he encounters a tiger at every turn.

*Sleep Like a Tiger*

Logue

At bedtime a young girl asks "Does everything in the world go to sleep?" 2013 Caldecott Honor Book.

*Jackhammer Sam*

Mandel

A jackhammer operator boasts about his loud, sidewalk-blasting skills.

*I'm Dirty!*

McMullan

A busy backhoe loader describes all the items it hauls off a lot and all the fun it has getting dirty while doing so.

*Bad Dog*

McPhail

Forgiveness and love triumph at the end of this charming, easy-to-read story of a family dog who is rarely on his best behavior.

*Lola Reads to Leo*

McQuinn

Lola reads story books to her new baby brother Leo, and even though Mommy and Daddy are busy, they still have time to read to Lola at bedtime.

*Hugless Douglas*

Melling

Douglas the bear wakes up one morning wanting a hug. He unsuccessfully tries hugging a rock, a tall tree, and an odd-feeling bush that runs away. Won't anyone give him a hug?

*City Shapes*

Murray

A young girl explores her neighborhood and identifies many exciting shapes.

*Mañana, Iguana*

Paul

Iguana, Conejo, Tortuga, and Culebra are excited about having a spring party, but only Iguana is willing to do any of the work. Includes a glossary of Spanish words used.

*Sleeping Cutie*

Pinkney, A.

Cutie LaRue is perfect in nearly every way, but her sleeplessness causes problems for her parents until they send for a new toy that introduces Cutie to the Dreamland Nightclub.

*The Lion and the Mouse*

Pinkney, J.

In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable set in the African Serengeti, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when she rescues the King of the Jungle. 2010 Caldecott Medal.

*Bun Bun Button*

Polacco

Paige Darling loves the stuffed rabbit her grandmother has made for her, but when she ties a helium-filled balloon to Bun Bun Button the toy gets loose and goes floating away, and it may take some Darling luck to bring her home.

*Not a Box*

Portis

To an imaginative bunny, a box is not always just a box.

*Dinosaur Farm*

Preston-Gannon

A farmer keeps busy taking care of the many needs of prehistoric creatures.

*A Ball for Daisy*

Raschka

A wordless picture book showing the fun a dog has with her ball, and what happens when it is lost. 2012 Caldecott Medal.

*How to Babysit a Grandma*

Reagan

A girl provides tips for keeping grandma busy, fun things to do at the park and more while “babysitting” her grandmother.

*Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*

Rinker

At sunset, when their work is done for the day, a crane truck, a cement mixer, and other pieces of construction equipment make their way to their resting places and go to sleep.

*Friendshape*

Rosenthal

A triangle, circle, square, and rectangle celebrate the gift of friendship.

*Yes Day!*

Rosenthal

A little boy gets everything he asks for on Yes Day, a special day that only comes once a year.

*Maggie's Monkeys*

Sanders-Wells

When Maggie reports that pink monkeys have moved into the refrigerator, her mother and father play along and accommodate the invisible visitors, much to the frustration of Maggie’s older, reality-obsessed brother.

*Star of the Week*

Saltzberg

Excited about being "star of the week" at school, Stanley spends a lot of time choosing and preparing his favorite things to share, but becomes discouraged when his classmates make fun of what he likes.

*Supertruck*

Savage

When the city is hit by a colossal snowstorm, only one superhero can save the day. But who is this mysterious hero, and why does he disappear once his job is done?

*One Busy Day: A Story for Brothers and Sisters* Schaeffer  
Mia's big brother Spencer never seems to have time to play with her. But with a little imagination and lot of love, Mia shows Spencer it's a lot more fun to be busy together.

*Little Blue Truck* Schertle  
A blue truck gets help from the farm animal friends he has made while traveling along a country road when he gets stuck in the mud.

*What If?* Seeger  
What if a boy found a beach ball and kicked it into the ocean? What if two seals found it and began to play? What if a third seal appeared on the beach looking for a friend? Enjoy this visit to the beach and the chance to guess what happens when different choices are made.

*Bumble-Ardy* Sendak  
A mischievous pig, who has never before had a birthday party, invites all his friends to a masquerade party.

*Too Many Toys* Shannon  
After he finally concedes that he has far too many toys, Spencer agrees to give many of them away, but realizes that there is one special toy that he absolutely cannot part with.

*Oh, Daddy!* Shea  
A young hippopotamus shows his father the right way to do things, such as getting dressed, watering the flowers, and especially giving big hugs.

*Wombat Walkabout* Shields  
Rhyming text follows six little wombats on walkabout and a hungry dingo following, envisioning them as his lunch until the wombats turn the tables on him.

*Three Bears in a Boat* Soman  
Afraid to face their mother after breaking her beautiful blue seashell, three bears set out on a high seas adventure to try to find a replacement.

*Because Amelia Smiled* Stein  
A little girl's smile as she skips down the street in New York inspires a neighbor to send cookies to her grandson in Mexico, and the good will soon spreads around the world.

*Ol' Mama Squirrel* Stein  
Ol' Mama Squirrel has raised many babies and kept them all safe from predators, but she may have met her match when a determined grizzly bear threatens to eat her entire family tree.

*The House in the Night* Swanson

Illustrations and easy-to-read text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light.

*Along a Long Road*

Viva

Speed off on an eventful bicycle ride along the bold yellow road that cuts through town, by the sea, and through the country. Ride up and around, along and through, out and down.

*I Love Birthdays*

Walker

Ollie's birthday party will include green balloons and party tunes.

*The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?*

Willems

Pigeon is very angry when the duckling gets a cookie just by asking politely.

*The Bog Baby*

Willis

When two sisters go fishing in a magic pond, they find a winged blue bog baby and take it home with them.

*The Cow Loves Cookies*

Wilson

While all the other animals on the farm enjoy eating their regular food, the cow chooses to eat the one thing that she loves best.

*Night Owl*

Yuly

A little owl who loves the night time listens to all of the many sounds in the forest, hoping to hear the sound of his mother.