

Summer Reading At A Glance:

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. Rising 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders must read the book required for their grade level, plus four others. Check the corresponding grade-level list for the specific title.
4. List books on the Reading Record (below).
5. Bring the completed Reading Record to teachers by August 28.

Summer Reading Record

Name: _____

Teachers (fall): _____

Each student should read, or hear read aloud, at least five books. Please list the titles of your five books below. If you read or listened to more than five, please write those down, too.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

This page should be returned to your classroom teachers no later than Friday, August 28.

Dear Parents:

The summer reading list has arrived! We have made a few changes that we hope will make it easier for you to find books that appeal to your child. First, the lists of books for the youngest grade levels are still quite lengthy, since pre-readers really need a steady stream of delicious books for parents to read aloud to them. The list for rising third and fourth graders has been shortened and organized into three broad genres, while the list for rising fifth and sixth graders is meant to be used as a digital document. That list is also organized loosely by genre, and instead of descriptions of each book, there are 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 in third through sixth 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 & Katie
The Children's School Library

Summer Reading Recommendations
For students entering 3rd or 4th grade

Required reading for rising 3rd graders:

The Chocolate Touch

Catling

When John Midas acquires a magical gift, everything his lips touch turns into chocolate.

Required reading for rising 4th graders:

Shredderman: Secret Identity

Van Draanen

Fifth-grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity – Shredderman!

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This year we have organized the reading list into genres, in the hopes that it will be easier than ever to identify appealing books!

Realistic Fiction – school stories, friendship stories and life as we know it. Lots of humor here, too!

Starring Jules (As Herself)

Ain

Jules is an ordinary seven-year-old girl, concerned with school and friends and other ordinary things--until a chance meeting with a casting director leads to an audition for a television commercial.

How Tia Lola Came to Stay

Alvarez

Although ten-year-old Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, Tia Lola, when she comes to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with his mother, his sister, and him after his parents' divorce, he learns to love her. Series.

Snarf Attack, Underfoodle and the Secret of Life

Amato

Keeping themselves entertained is not a problem to Orville and Wilbur Riot as these two mischievous brothers can make an adventure out of the silliest things. Others about the Riot brothers.

The One and Only Ivan

Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. 2013 Newbery medal.

Ellie McDoodle: Have Pen, Will Travel

Barshaw

Eleven-year-old Ellie McDoodle illustrates her sketchbook with chronicles of her adventures and mishaps while camping with her cousins, aunt, and uncle. Series.

My Last Best Friend

Bowe

After her best friend moves away, fourth-grader Ida May is determined not to make another best friend, despite the efforts of a new girl in her class. Series.

Lost and Found

Clements

Twelve-year-old identical twins Jay and Ray have long resented that everyone treats them as one person, and so they hatch a plot to take advantage of a clerical error at their new school and pretend they are just one.

Help! I'm a Prisoner in the Library

Clifford

Two girls spend an adventurous night trapped inside the public library during a terrible blizzard.

Free Baseball

Corbett

Angry with his mother for having too little time for him, eleven-year-old Felix takes advantage of an opportunity to become bat boy for a minor league baseball team, hoping to someday be like his father, a famous Cuban outfielder.

Ukulele Hayley

Cox

Everyone has a talent, right? Hayley is sure she has one, but she's having trouble pinpointing it. Then Hayley buys a ukulele at a yard sale. Learning to play takes practice, but it's fun, fun, fun. Before long Hayley is strumming up a storm, and her classmates want in on the action. Then terrible news threatens not only the new uke band, but the whole school music program. Now it's up to Hayley and her band to come up with a creative plan to keep their school rocking.

Liberty Porter: First Daughter

DeVillers

On her first day at the White House, nine-year-old Liberty exuberantly explores her new home while making new friends and giving unique tours of her own. Series.

The Sloppy Copy Slipup

DiSalvo

Fourth-grader Brian Higman worries about how his teacher Miss Fromme--nicknamed The General--will react when he fails to hand in a writing assignment, but he ends up being able to tell his story after all.

Phineas L. MacGuire Erupts!: The First Experiment

Dowell

Fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning. Series.

Campfire Mallory

Friedman

Nine-and-a-half-year-old Mallory's trepidation about going to sleepaway camp is multiplied when she and her best friend are assigned to different cabins, and a new "friend" seems determined to get Mallory in trouble. Series.

Sophie Simon Solves Them All

Graff

Sophie Simon, a third-grade genius, wants a graphing calculator so she can continue to study calculus while she rides the bus to school, but her parents are more concerned that she does not have any friends.

Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel

Grimes

Spunky third-grader Dyamonde Daniel misses her old neighborhood, but when she befriends a boy named Free, another new student at school, she finally starts to feel at home. Series.

Cupcake Cousins

Hannigan

During a family vacation at Lake Michigan, nine-year-old cousins Willow and Delia, desperate to avoid being flower girls in their aunt's wedding, try to demonstrate that they would do better as chefs for the reception.

Just Grace Goes Green

Harper

Just Grace uses her empathy superpower to figure out ways to make her best friend feel better, and she makes a difference for the environment too as her class "goes green." Book #4 in the *Just Grace* Series.

Ruby Goldberg's Bright Idea

Humphrey

Ruby wants first prize at the fifth grade science fair—and she thinks her quirky, creative, Rube Goldberg–esque invention is just the way to get it!

Melonhead

Kelly

In the Washington, D.C., neighborhood of Capitol Hill, Lucy Rose's friend Adam "Melonhead" Melon, a budding inventor with a knack for getting into trouble, enters a science contest that challenges students to recycle an older invention into a new invention. Series.

Raymond and Graham Rule the School

Knudson & Wilkinson

Best friends Raymond and Graham have looked forward to being the "oldest, coolest, toughest" boys at East Millcreek Elementary School, but from the start of fourth grade everything goes wrong, from getting the scary teacher to not getting the lead in the school play. Series.

Year of the Dog

Lin

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

Look

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

Ten Rules for Living With My Sister

Martin

Nine-year-old Pearl and her popular, thirteen-year-old sister, Lexie, do not get along very well, but when their grandfather moves in and the girls have to share a room, they must find common ground.

The Doll Shop Downstairs

McDonough

When World War I breaks out, nine-year-old Anna thinks of a way to save her family's beloved New York City doll repair shop.

Capture the Flag

Messner

When the original Star Spangled Banner is stolen, seventh-graders Anne, José, and Henry, all descendants of the Silver Jaguar Society, pursue suspects on airport carts and through baggage handling tunnels while stranded at a Washington, D.C., airport during a snowstorm. Series.

How Oliver Olson Changed the World

Mills

Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system.

Izzy Barr, Running Star (Franklin School Friends series)

Mills

Izzy Barr is the star athlete of third grade and hopes her father will be there to cheer her on when she faces her biggest rival on field day.

Saving the Team (The Kicks series)

Morgan

After moving to California, seventh-grader Devin is afraid she will not make the soccer team but finds, instead, the team is so bad that she is compelled to take the lead and turn it into something the players and coach can all be proud of.

When Life Gives You O.J.

Perl

Zelly Fried wants a dog more than anything, so at the urging of her grandfather, during the summer before sixth grade she takes care of a "practice dog" made out of an orange juice jug to show her parents that she is ready for the responsibility, even though she is sometimes not entirely sure about the idea.

The Great Cake Mystery: Precious Ramotswe's Very First Case

Smith

Before becoming the first female private investigator in Botswana, eight-year-old Precious Ramotswe tracks down a thief who has been stealing her classmates' snacks.

Justin Case: School, Drool and Other Daily Disasters

Vail

Justin is disappointed to discover that he is not in the same third grade class as his best friend. Series.

Pie

Weeks

After the death of Polly Portman, whose award-winning pies put the town of Ipswich, Pennsylvania, on the map in the 1950s, her devoted niece Alice and Alice's friend Charlie investigate who is going to extremes to find Aunt Polly's secret pie crust recipe. Includes fourteen pie recipes.

Freedom's Wings: Corey's Diary, Kentucky to Ohio 1857

Wyeth

A nine-year-old slave keeps a diary of his journey to freedom along the Underground Railroad in 1857. Others about Corey in the *My America* series.

Bobby Vs. Girls (Accidentally)

Yee

When Bobby inadvertently gets into a fight with his best friend Holly, their disagreement develops into a boys-versus-girls war involving their whole fourth-grade class.

Action and Adventure books

The Sword in the Tree

Bulla

After his father is reported dead and his wicked uncle takes over the castle, eleven-year-old Shan hides his father's precious sword and, after escaping with his mother, makes his way to King Arthur's court to seek help in winning back his inheritance.

Skeleton Island (Sam Silver Undercover Pirate series)

Burchett

Join Sam Silver aboard the pirate ship Sea Wolf for a rip-roaring adventure on the high seas! Can Sam lead the crew to buried treasure, or will he be forced to walk the plank?

Doc Wilde and the Frogs of Doom

Byrd

Twelve-year-old Brian, ten-year-old Wren, and their father, Doc Wilde, risk their lives in a South American rainforest as they seek the eldest member of their famous family of adventurers, Grandpa, amidst a throng of alien frogs.

Thomas and the Dragon Queen

Crum

When the princess is kidnapped by a dragon queen, thirteen-year-old Thomas, a new--and very small--squire-in-training boldly sets out on a quest to rescue her.

Jack the Castaway (The Berenson Schemes)

Doan

Jack's parents have been chased out of Tokyo, gone broke in Greece, and hosted Nairobi's least successful safari. Next they're taking Jack on a Caribbean vacation—whether Jack wants to go or not. The Berensons are about to start a snorkeling business. It's their latest get-rich-quick scheme. With these experienced world travelers at the helm, what could go wrong?

The Vengekeep Prophecies

Farrey

A magical tapestry prophesies doom for the town of Vengekeep, and to everyone's surprise twelve-year-old Jaxter Grimjinx and his family of con artists appear to be the town's saviors.

Earthquake Terror

Kehret

When an earthquake hits the isolated island in northern California where his family had been camping, twelve-year-old Jonathan Palmer must find a way to keep himself, his partially paralyzed younger sister, and their dog alive until help arrives.

Flight of the Phoenix

LaFevers

In 1928, when timid ten-year-old Nate learns that his parents have been lost at sea, he joins his father's cousin on a flight to Arabia where they must oversee the death and rebirth of the phoenix, thus beginning his training as a "beastologist." Series.

City of Dogs

Michael

Jenny, a mysterious dog, shows up on Sam's birthday and pulls many of the other dogs in the neighborhood into her quest to prevent the destruction of the world.

The Menagerie

Sutherland

When twelve-year-old Logan Wilde wakes up to discover a baby griffin hiding under his bed, he suddenly finds himself thrown into a mystery involving his classmate Zoe Kahn and a magical menagerie right in the middle of his sleepy Wyoming town.

Fantasy Fiction – anything can happen in these books about talking animals, magical abilities and other worlds.

The Book of Three

Alexander

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper to a famous oracular sow, sets out on a hazardous mission to save Prydain from the forces of evil. The first of the *Prydain Chronicles*.

Poppy

Avi

Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. Also *Poppy and Rye*, *Ragweed* and others.

Enchanted Emporium: Suitcase of Stars

Baccalario

Have you heard of Cinderella's glass slipper? What about Sinbad the Sailor's Flying Carpet? In this world, there are many magical items -- but only one place where they're safe: the Enchanted Emporium.

Blast Off (Alien in My Pocket series)

Ball

The adventure begins in this exciting new chapter book series, complete with a do-it-yourself science experiment! When a four-inch-tall alien crash-lands through Zack McGee's bedroom window, Zack is sure he's about to become the first victim in a new War of the Worlds. But when the alien turns out to have weapons that are more ticklish than terrifying, Zack realizes that rather than protect the world from the alien it's up to him to protect the alien in his pocket from the world.

The Magic Half

Barrows

Eleven-year-old Miri Gill feels left out in her family, which has two sets of twins and her, until she travels back in time to 1935 and discovers Molly, her own lost twin, and brings her back to the present day.

Peter and the Starcatchers

Barry and Pearson

Soon after Peter, an orphan, sets sail from England on the ship *Never Land*, he befriends and assists Molly, a young Starcatcher, whose mission is to guard a trunk of magical stardust from a greedy pirate and the native inhabitants of a remote island. Series.

Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies

Beaty

At Camp Whatsitooya, twins Joules and Kevin and new friend Nelson face off against large, rabbit-like creatures from the Mallow Galaxy who thrive on sugar, but are not above hypnotizing and eating human campers.

The Fran That Time Forgot

Benton

When her embarrassing middle name is revealed at school, mad scientist Franny K. Stein experiments with time in order to return to the past and give herself a more dignified name. Series.

Masterpiece

Broach

After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an eleventh birthday gift for James, a human with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work together to help recover a Durer drawing stolen from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Secret Zoo

Chick

When his sister disappears, Noah, along with their best friends, Ella and Richie, sneak into the neighborhood zoo and delve into the unknown world of the animals, where they discover a great secret that the zoo is protecting. Series.

How to Train Your Dragon

Cowell

Chronicles the adventures and misadventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third as he tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon. Series.

Obi, Gerbil on the Loose

Delaney

Obi the gerbil must fend for herself in a dangerous household, consisting of a dog, three cats, a parrot, and a mouse hidden in the attic, when the Armstrongs go on vacation and instructions for taking care of Obi get lost.

Falling In

Dowell

Middle-schooler Isabelle Bean follows a mouse's squeak into a closet and falls into a parallel universe where the children believe she is the witch they have feared for years, finally come to devour them.

The Gollywhopper Games

Feldman

Twelve-year-old Gil Goodson competes against thousands of other children at extraordinary puzzles, stunts, and more in hopes of a fresh start for his family, which has been ostracized since his father was falsely accused of embezzling from Golly Toy and Game Company.

Remarkable: A Novel

Foley

Ten-year-old Jane Doe, the only student average enough to be excluded from the town of Remarkable's School for the Remarkably Gifted, is joined at her public school by the trouble-making Grimlet twins, who lead her on a series of adventures involving an out-of-control science fair project, a pirate captain on the run from a mutinous crew, a lonely dentist, and a newly constructed bell tower that endangers Remarkable's most beloved inhabitant--a skittish lake monster named Lucky.

Alistair Grim's Odditorium

Funaro

In Victorian England Grubb, an orphan about twelve years old, escapes his life of drudgery as a chimney sweep's apprentice and finds himself in a very strange house filled with magical objects and creatures, but soon he learns that there are dark forces seeking his new master.

Odd and the Frost Giants

Gaiman

An unlucky twelve-year-old Norwegian boy named Odd leads the Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants who have taken over Asgard.

Fortunately, the Milk

Gaiman

A father's errand to buy milk for his children's breakfast turns into a fantastical tale of dinosaurs, aliens, pirates and time travel.

Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library

Grabenstein

In this cross between *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *A Night in the Museum*, Kyle wins a spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the newly designed town library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.

Tuesdays at the Castle

George

Eleven-year-old Princess Celie lives with her parents, the king and queen, and her brothers and sister at Castle Glower, which adds rooms or stairways or secret passageways most every Tuesday, and when the king and queen are ambushed while travelling, it is up to Celie--the castle's favorite--with her secret knowledge of its never-ending twists and turns, to protect their home and save their kingdom.

A Ghost Named Wanda (Zack Files series)

Greenburg

Zack feels that a supernatural force is at work in his apartment when he encounters floating television sets, pancakes that flip by themselves, and a ghost named Wanda.

Witch Twins

Griffin

Troubled about being separated at school and preoccupied with sabotaging their father's marriage, ten-year-old witches, Claire and Luna, have little time to think of something good, smart and tricky to do that will finally make them one-star witches. Series.

The 13-Story Treehouse

Griffiths

Andy and Terry are finding it difficult to write their next book, because there are just so many distractions in their treehouse, which includes a bowling alley, a see-through swimming pool, a secret underground laboratory, and a marshmallow machine that follows you around and automatically shoots marshmallows into your mouth whenever you are hungry.

Minerva Mint: The Order of the Owls

Guerra

No one knows for sure where Minerva Mint came from. She just appeared in a London train station one day as a baby in a bag. Since then she's been living with Mrs. Flopps, the woman who found her, in a rundown mansion called Lizard Manor. It's been nine years now, and Minerva is no closer to finding her parents. Fortunately, her two new friends, Thomasina and Ravi, have turned the mystery of finding her identity into a wonderful adventure.

Athena the Brain

Holub

Athena learns that she is a goddess when she is summoned to Mount Olympus by her father, Zeus, and she must quickly adjust to her new status, make friends with the other

godboys and goddessgirls, and catch up with all the studies she missed while attending mortal school. Series.

Guinea Dog

Jennings

When his mother brings home a guinea pig instead of the dog he has always wanted, fifth-grader Rufus is not happy--until the rodent starts acting exactly like a dog.

The Tail of Emily Windsnap

Kessler

After finally convincing her mother that she should take swimming lessons, twelve-year-old Emily discovers a terrible and wonderful secret about herself that opens up a whole new world. Series.

The Dragon in the Sock Drawer

Klimo

Cousins Jesse and Daisy always knew they would have a magical adventure, but they are not prepared when the "thunder egg" Jesse has found turns out to be a dragon egg that is about to hatch.

Dragonling

Koller

Finding a baby dragon accidentally left alive after his older brother's dragonquest, Darek risks death and the anger of his people in trying to return it to the Valley of the Dragons.

Lone Wolf

Lasky

Abandoned by his pack, a baby wolf with a mysterious mark on his deformed paw survives and embarks on a journey that will change the world of the wolves of the Beyond.

The Two Princesses of Bamarre

Levine

With her adventurous sister Meryl suffering from the grey death, meek and timid Princess Addie sets out to find a cure.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

Lin

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon that cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River. 2010 Newbery Honor.

The Doll People

Martin

A family of porcelain dolls that has lived in the same house for one hundred years is taken aback when a new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor. Sequel: *The Meanest Doll in the World*.

Spirit Animals Book 1: Wild Born

Mull

Four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual, watched by cloaked strangers. Four flashes of light erupt, and from them emerge the unmistakable shapes of incredible beasts -- a wolf, a leopard, a panda, a falcon. Suddenly the paths of these children -- and the world -- have been changed forever.

Rowan of Rin

Rodda

Because only he can read the magical map, young, weak, and timid Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and try to restore their water supply, as fears of a dragon and other horrors threaten to drive them back.

Magyk

Sage

When Princess Jenna is pursued by a dark wizard, it is the apprentice, Septimus Heap, who must save her while enduring such terrors as a night in the Forest with hungry wolverines and carnivorous trees. Series.

Sidekicks

Santat

When Captain Amazing feels he is getting too old to be a reliable superhero, he tries to hire a new sidekick, but his pets have different ideas.

Wishworks

Tolan

When he is granted his wish for a dog from Wishworks, Inc., third-grader Max is disappointed to find that his new pet is nothing like the dog of his imagination.

Dragonbreath

Vernon

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks--and learn about standing up to bullies in the process. Series.

The Mysterious Howling

Wood

Fifteen-year-old Miss Penelope Lumley, a recent graduate of the Swanburne Academy for Poor Bright Females, is hired as governess to three young children who have been raised by wolves and must teach them to behave in a civilized manner quickly, in preparation for a Christmas ball. Series.