

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 kindergarten

Picture books for parents to read aloud:

It's Only Stanley

Agee

Very strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night have an even stranger source.

Previously

Ahlberg

The adventures of various nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters are retold in backward sequence with each tale interrelated to the other. Includes Goldilocks, Jack and the beanstalk, Jack and Jill, the frog prince, Cinderella, and the gingerbread man.

I Had a Favorite Hat

Ashburn

At the end of summer, a girl's mother wants to put away her favorite beach hat but the girl asks to keep it out, then decorates it for each holiday and season from autumn through spring.

Max's Words

Banks

When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

Shark Vs. Train

Barton

A shark and a train compete in a series of contests on a seesaw, in hot air balloons, bowling, shooting baskets, playing hide-and-seek, and more.

Journey

Becker

Using a red marker, a young girl draws a door on her bedroom wall and through it enters another world where she experiences many adventures, including being captured by an evil emperor.

You Are What You Eat

Bloch

A boy who does not like trying new foods receives many confusing words of advice in the form of such phrases as "people need three square meals a day" and "I knew you were a tough cookie."

Children Make Terrible Pets

Brown

When Lucy, a young bear, discovers a boy lost in the woods, she asks her mother if she can have him as a pet, only to find him impossible to train.

Picnic

Burningham

In a charmingly understated tale with child-friendly illustrations and a hint of sly humor, John Burningham evokes a perfect summer day with a fresh new picture book.

One Cool Friend

Buzzeo

Elliot, a very proper young man, feels a kinship with the penguins at the aquarium and wants to take one home with him.

Ella the Elegant Elephant

D'Amico

Ella is nervous about the first day of school in her new town, but wearing her grandmother's good luck hat makes her feel better--until the other students tease her and call her names.

Here Comes Trouble!

Demas

Emma's dog, Toby, does not like cats, and when the neighbor's cat, Pandora, moves in with them he is the only one who notices all the trouble she causes--and the only one who notices when she gets stuck in a tree.

Superworm

Donaldson

Superworm's bug friends attempt to free him from the clutches of Wizard Lizard who, having heard of Superworm's wondrous and heroic deeds, captures him and forces him to dig for treasure.

Little Roja Riding Hood

Elya

A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. Includes glossary of Spanish words.

Tell Me About Your Day Today

Fox

What could be more wonderful than sharing bedtime with beloved friends? This little boy loves to talk to his stuffed animals at the end of the day, and share with them all the things that happened to him that day--and to hear about their day, too.

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever

Frazee

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation.

The Perfect Nest

Friend

Jack the cat gets much more than he bargained for when he decides to build the perfect nest to attract the perfect chicken.

Flip & Fin: We Rule the School

Gill

Flip, a sandshark, practices all week for Joke Day at school, but when the time comes and he faces a big crowd, Flip freezes until his twin brother, Fin, comes to the rescue.

The Bossy Gallito

González

In this cumulative Cuban folktale, a bossy rooster dirties his beak when he eats a kernel of corn and must find a way to clean it before his parrot uncle's wedding. Includes a glossary of Spanish words and information about the different birds in the story.

How to Be Friends With a Dragon

Gorbachev

A girl tells her younger brother all of the rules he must follow in order to befriend a dragon.

Chicken Big

Graves

A giant chicken hatches from an enormous egg, but the other chickens cannot accept that he is one of them.

Red: A Crayon's Story

Hall

Red's factory-applied label clearly says that he is red, but despite the best efforts of his teacher, fellow crayons and art supplies, and family members, he cannot seem to do anything right until a new friend offers a fresh perspective.

The Princess and the Peas

Hart

Lily-Rose May will not eat her peas. Even when her father turns them into the most fabulous smoothies, shakes, or cupcakes, Lily can always tell they are there and turns her little nose up at them. Luckily, the doctor knows exactly what to do. He diagnoses an incurable case of princess-itus and sends Lily to live at the palace. Unfortunately for Lily-Rose May, the perfect food for a princess is... well... that would be telling!

Pigs to the Rescue

Himmelman

All week long the pigs help out around the farm in unexpected ways.

Duck, Duck, Moose

Horowitz

With no prospect of any friends around for the winter, Moose decides to travel south with Duck and Other Duck.

Water in the Park: A Book about Water and the Times of the Day

Jenkins

Relates how the water in a park is used in different ways by the human and animal inhabitants of a neighborhood.

Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake

Kaplan

From her first bite, young Betty Bunny likes chocolate cake so much that she claims she will marry it one day, and she has trouble learning to wait patiently until she can have her next taste.

Bats in the Band

Lies

Join this one-of-a-kind music festival as the bats celebrate the rhythm of the night, and the positive power of music.

Have You Seen My Dragon?

Light

Enter a fascinating, ornately drawn cityscape and help a boy find his dragon while counting objects from hot dogs to traffic lights.

Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding

Look

A Chinese American girl describes the festivities surrounding her uncle's Chinese wedding and the customs behind each one.

Hot Rod Hamster

Lord

A hamster, with the help of a canine junkyard dealer and his mouse assistants, builds a hot rod and drives it in a race against some very large dogs.

Swim, Duck, Swim

Lurie

A photographic tale about Duckling the reluctant swimmer finds him resenting the pressure exerted by his patient Mama and Papa Duck, preferring to stay dry and take a nap before eventually deciding to join his siblings in the pond.

Good News, Bad News

Mack

While on a picnic, Bunny and Mouse see everything that happens to them from opposite points of view--Bunny sees only the good, while Mouse sees only the bad.

Hurry Up and Slow Down

Marlow

Hare likes to hurry through the day, unlike Tortoise, but manages to slow down for his favorite bedtime story.

Tools Rule!

Meshon

In a messy yard, a team of tools gets organized, then spends a busy day building a shed.

Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg

Mortensen

Following increasingly chaotic attempts to give his dog a bath, Cowpoke Clyde discovers there is only one way to get Dawg into the tub.

The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School

Murray

A gingerbread man searches all over the school for the group of children that made him and then left him behind.

Hickory Dickory Dog

Murray

Zack and his dog, Rufus, are best friends. So when Zack goes to school, Rufus follows along. And once he's there, Rufus joins right in with painting, lunchtime, and even garden time — which makes for one messy pup when it's time to go home!

I Need My Monster

Noll

Ethan wonders how he will ever get to sleep now that Gabe, the monster under his bed, has left on a fishing trip.

If I Had a Raptor

O'Connor

Our heroine can't think of anything better than bringing home a baby raptor — all teensy and tiny, fluffy and funny. It would cuddle and play, stalk birds and dust bunnies, and curl up on laps. In short, it would be the perfect pet!

Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle

Raschka

A father teaches his daughter all about bicycle riding, from selecting the right bike to trying again after a fall.

Blackout

Rocco

When a busy family's activities come to a halt because of a blackout, they find they enjoy spending time together and not being too busy for once. 2012 Caldecott Honor book.

Dragons Love Tacos

Ruben

Explores the love dragons have for tacos, and the dangers of feeding them anything with spicy salsa.

Sophie Sleeps Over

Russo

Sophie is nervous and excited about her first sleepover, but when she meets her best friend Olive's other best friend, Penelope, Sophie wants nothing more than to go straight home.

Beekle: Unimaginary Friend

Santat

An imaginary friend waits a long time to be imagined by a child and given a special name, and finally does the unimaginable--he sets out on a quest to find his perfect match in the real world.

Mr. Duck Means Business

Sauer

Mr. Duck enjoys a quiet morning routine on his private pond every day until other animals mistakenly think he has invited them to join him.

Is There a Dog in This Book?

Schwarz

Can cats and dogs share the same turf? Revisit the age-old dilemma with a hide-and-seek romp among furry friends.

Tallulah's Tutu

Singer

Tallulah takes ballet lessons and eagerly awaits her coveted tutu, which, she learns, she must work hard to earn.

Madlenka, Soccer Star

Sís

Madlenka plays soccer in her city neighborhood--with the mailbox, a dog, a parking meter, and some cats. Includes a brief history of soccer and words for soccer around the world.

The Dark

Snicket

Laszlo is afraid of the dark which lives in the same big, creaky house as him, until one night the dark pays him a visit.

The Giant and the Beanstalk

Stanley

In this version of the traditional tale, a young giant chases Jack down the beanstalk to rescue his beloved hen and meets other Jacks from various nursery rhymes along the way.

Bear Has a Story to Tell

Stead

Bear, with the help of his animal friends, remembers the story he had hoped to tell before the onset of winter.

Bippity Bop Barbershop

Tarpley

A story celebrating a young African-American boy's first trip to the barbershop.

Part-Time Princess

Underwood

A girl escapes her annoying little brother and the drudgery of school and home life when she travels to a magical kingdom each night and embarks on a series of adventures.

Look! Look! Look!

Wallace

Three mice "borrow" a postcard which is a reproduction of a painting, and from it they learn about color, pattern, line, and shape.

Blue on Blue

White

Rhyming text and illustrations depict the swell and quieting of a storm.

Waking Beauty

Wilcox

Prince Charming tries all sorts of silly ways to wake Sleeping Beauty before he learns how he is really supposed to wake her up.

A Beach Tail

Williams

When his father tells him not to leave the lion he is drawing on the beach, a little boy starts making a very, very long tail--and a trail to follow back.