



*"It's a New Day for the  
Richmond Heights Way"*

# Richmond Heights Local Schools

447 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights, OH 44143 • Phone: 216-692-0086 • Fax: 216-692-2820

Summer Reading 2022

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May 27, 2022

Dear Spartan Families,

Summer is here! Many will be taking fun family trips and visiting exciting new places. Whether you are traveling far away or just taking time to relax at home, the Richmond Heights Elementary School wants you to experience the world through reading a book. Our summer reading options have expanded this year and we are encouraging all students to read at least 1 book over the summer. We suggest taking a trip over to the new Cuyahoga County Library located right on our campus to find the book of your choice from our recommended summer reading list.

A list of recommended books for students in grades K-2, and 3-6 can be found on our district website at [richmondheightsschools.org](http://richmondheightsschools.org). The Richmond Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Library also has a copy of the list and can help you find the book of your choice. You will also need a copy of the graphic organizer to complete your summer reading fun.

Once your child has read the book of their choice they should complete the graphic organizer that supports their thinking, comprehension and learning while reading. Feel free to read as many books as you would like. Students who read and complete the graphic organizer can turn it in to their teacher in the fall for extra credit. We hope that you take advantage of the privilege and opportunity to READ...it's amazing the places you can go for FREE with a book.

Please contact the school office at (216) 692-0099 if you have questions or need assistance.

Your Partner in Education,

Elizabeth Taylor  
Principal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Story Elements



Directions- After reading your story, fill out the chart.

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Characters:**

(Who the story is about)

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**Setting:**

(Where the story takes place)

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**Plot:**

(What happens in the story-beginning, middle, and end)

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## Summer Reading Options

## Grades K-2

### **Ahmed, Roda - *Mae Among the Stars***

Inspired by the story of Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman in space"--Dust jacket flap. "Little Mae is a girl with big dreams, a supportive loving family, unbounded passion, and all the right stuff to dance among the stars. Against all odds, she will overcome any obstacle to become an astronaut one day.

### **Allberg, Allan - *Previously***

The adventures of various nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters are retold in reverse sequence with each tale interrelated to the other. The book includes the tales of Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk, Jack and Jill, Frog Prince, and Cinderella.

### **Allen, Debbie - *Dancing in the Wings***

Sassy worries that her too-big feet, her too-long legs, and even her big mouth will keep her from her dream of becoming a ballerina.

### **Aronson, Billy - *Melia & Jo***

Melia is scientific and loves to create things in her backyard laboratory, but something is missing. Her inventions just aren't quite right. Enter Jo, her new friend with an artistic spirit. When you add the arts to sciences, something magical happens!

### **Barnes, Derrick - *The King of Kindergarten***

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone—and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterward, he can't wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements—and then wake up to start another day.

### **Beaty, Andrea - *Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants: The Questioners Book #2***

Ada is a curious girl who sets out on fact-finding missions and elaborate scientific experiments. This story is full of wonder and possibilities.

### **Becker, Helaine - *Counting on Katherine***

The story of Katherine Johnson, an African-American mathematician who worked for NASA during the space race and was depicted in the film *Hidden Figures*.

### **Bender, Mike - *The Book About Nothing***

This book has nothing to do with rainbows, rocket ships, or wizards. Instead, it's full of zip, zilch, diddly-squat, bupkus. But don't worry, reading this book isn't all for nothing, because sometimes nothing is actually something.

Like if you pick up all the toys in your room, what will be on the floor? NOTHING.

When you take a bath, what are you wearing? NOTHING.

And when you shut the lights off to go to bed, what do you see? NOTHING.

### **Bernstrom, Daniel - *Gator, Gator, Gator!***

In Daniel Bernstrom's follow-up to the critically acclaimed *One Day in the Eucalyptus*, Eucalyptus Tree, a fearless little girl, takes off in search of a giant gator—but she's not going into that swamp alone! No way! She wants YOU, the reader, to come along. Off you go, peering through the lush landscapes, looking for that gator! But each time you think you see it? Oops! Just a fox. Or some ducks! Or a snake. Maybe you'll never find the gator, gator, gator!

### **Briere-Haquet, Alice- *Nina : jazz legend and civil-rights activist Nina Simone***

With beautiful black-and-white illustrations and moving prose, readers are introduced to Nina Simone, jazz-music legend and civil-rights activist. Shared as a lullaby to her daughter, a soulful song recounts Simone's career, the trials she faced as an African American woman, and the stand she took during the Civil Rights Movement.



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## Summer Reading Options

## Grades K-2

### **Carle, Eric - Any book by this author**

Read any of his colorfully illustrated and thoughtful stories.

### **Cherry, Matthew - *Hair Love***

This endearing story will have you smiling and crying as this young family celebrates a special day. Watch this movie short to learn more about the characters.

### **Chin-Lee, Cynthia - *Amelia to Zora***

An ABC book using first names of women from around the globe who have made impressive contributions to the world.

### **Cornwall, Gaia - *Jabari Jumps***

Working up the courage to take a big, important leap is hard, but Jabari is *almost* absolutely ready to make a giant splash.

### **Curtis, Jamie Lee - *Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods That Make My Day***

This colorful, energetic book uses comedy to promote an understanding of common emotions.

### **De Paola, Tomie - *Now One Foot, Now the Other***

This story sensitively provides understanding of a grandparent's illness.

### **Derting, Kimberly - *Cece Loves Science***

Cece loves science. In this STEM-themed book, Cece asks one of life's most important questions: Do dogs eat vegetables? Cece and her best friend, Isaac, head to the lab to find out.

### **Diakite, Penda - *I Lost My Tooth in Africa***

This story recounts a child's visit to Mali, where she loses her tooth. After she hides it under a calabash, she waits for the African Tooth Fairy to replace it with a chicken.

### **DiCamillo, Kate - *Mercy Watson Books***

Enter the comical and delightful world of this domesticated pig, Mercy Watson, who seeks adventure in each of these early chapter books.

### **Ehlert, Lois - *Under My Nose***

Author and illustrator of books for young people, Lois Ehlert, shares how she interweaves her creative process with her daily routine. Imagine this as a virtual author visit.

### **Ehrenberg, Pamela - *Queen of Hanukkah Dosas***

In this sweet and humorous picture book, *Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas*, a multi-cultural family (Mom's Indian; Dad's Jewish) celebrate Hanukkah while incorporating traditional Indian food.

### **Ellis, Sonica - *Kindness Rocks***

A touching children's book about the power of kindness and how small things can inspire, motivate and uplift others in tremendous ways.

### **Fletcher, Jane Cowen - *Mama Zooms***

A young boy's mama takes him zooming everywhere with her, because her wheelchair is a zooming machine.

### **Fowler, Allan - *How Do You Know? Series of books***

This series presents the answers to many questions a young learner might have about our world.

### **Fox, Mem - *Whoever You Are***

Despite the differences between people around the world, there are similarities that join us together, such as pain, joy, and love.

### **Freeman, Don - *Dandelion***

Dandelion dresses up to fool his friends into thinking he is someone else and discovers just being yourself proves to be the best.

### **Guidroz, Rukhsanna - *Leila in Saffron***

A colorful journey of self-discovery and identity, this sweet, vibrant picture book follows young Leila as she visits her grandmother's house for their weekly family dinner, and finds parts of herself and her heritage in the family, friends, and art around her.





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## Grades K-2

### **Hale, Shannon & Dean - *The Princess in Black***

Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

### **Hatkoff, Isabella - Owen & Mzee: *The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship***

The inspiring true story of two great friends, a baby hippo named Owen and a 130-yr-old giant tortoise named Mzee (Mm-ZAY).

### **Henkes, Kevin - *A Parade of Elephants***

Up and down, over and under, through and around . . . five big and brightly colored elephants are on a mission in this picture book for young children by Caldecott Medalist Kevin Henkes. Where are they going? What will they do when they get there? It's a surprise!

### **Henkes, Kevin - *Wemberly Worried***

A mouse named Wemberly, who worries about everything, finds that she has a whole list of things to worry about when she faces the first day of school.

### **Hobbie, Holly - *Toot and Puddle***

Friends, Toot and Puddle, spend a year apart. Toot tours the world and sends monthly postcards, keeping Puddle aware of his adventures.

### **Hoose, Phillip - *Hey, Little Ant***

An ant tries to convince a boy not to squish him because although they are different, in many ways they are alike.

### **Hurley, Jorey - *Ribbit***

From tadpole to froglet to frog, there is more to a frog's life that can be clearly seen. Filled with stunning illustrations and only one word on each spread, Jorey Hurley's vibrant picture book tells the story of a day in the life of a frog family, above and below the pond.

### **Katz, Jon - *Meet the Dogs of Bedlam Farm***

Welcome to Bedlam Farm! Meet Rose, Izzy, Frieda, and Lenore, four dogs that work hard on the farm doing various jobs. They're good friends now, but it wasn't always this way. Just as each dog has a different role on the farm, each has a unique story. Filled with his captivating photographs, bestselling author Jon Katz's heartwarming account of his dogs' lives on Bedlam Farm is unforgettable.

### **Keats, Ezra Jack - *The Snowy Day***

A true classic that captures the magic of the first snowfall. Peter takes a quiet walk through his neighborhood and feels all that is possible.

### **Lamothe, Matt - *This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from around the World***

An illustrated take on how seven real kids from different countries go about a typical day. Each spread introduces a new topic (family, teachers, chores, dinner, play, etc.) and dedicates a panel to each child, identified by country, with glossary words underlined ("Iran: I live in a second-floor apartment in the city of Gorgan, close to the Caspian Sea.").

### **Lears, Laurie - *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism***

A sister experiences everyday things in a different way when she takes her autistic brother for a walk.

### **Lester, Helen - *Tacky the Penguin***

Tacky the Penguin does not fit in with his sleek and graceful companions, but his odd behavior comes in handy when hunters come with maps and traps.

### **Lin, Grace - *A Big Mooncake for the Little Star***

As a Caldecott Honor Book, this picture book is special. Little Star loves the delicious mooncake that she bakes with her mother. Share the importance of the Asian holiday Mid Autumn Moon Festival.

### **Lobel, Arnold - *Frog and Toad books***

Frog and Toad are always there for each other --just as best friends should be.



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## Grades K-2

### **Love, Jessica - *Julian is a Mermaid***

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julian notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julian gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes--and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julian sees himself?

### **Maillard, Kevin Noble - *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story***

A wonderful story for young children of a modern Native American family that colorfully shares the connection between food and identity.

### **Martinez-Neal, Juana - *Alma and How She Got Her Name***

What's in a name? For one little girl, her very long name tells the vibrant story of where she came from — and who she may one day be.

### **Mayer, Gina and Mercer - *Just a Little Different***

A new kid has moved in next door to Little Critter and his family. He's just a little bit different: his mother is a rabbit and his father is a turtle.

### **McAnulty, Stacy - *Earth! My first 4.54 Billion Years***

Hi, I'm Earth! But you can call me Planet Awesome. I've been around for almost 4.6 billion years. Someone needs to give you the facts, and I'm the best planet for the job. Take a look inside and explore the world of--well, the world! "Earth! is filled to the brim with eye-opening, kid-friendly facts about our planet, all brought to life with vibrant art by award-winning illustrator David Litchfield.

### **McCarthy, Meghan - *All that trash : the story of the 1987 garbage barge and our problem with stuff***

A garbage barge that can't find a place to welcome it sparks a recycling movement in the United States in this smart and smelly picture book from the author of *Earmuffs for Everyone*.

### **McCully, Emily Arnold - *Caroline's Comets***

The true story of Caroline Herschel who was the first woman professional scientist and one of the greatest astronomers who ever lived. She was born the youngest daughter of a poor family in Hanover, Germany. She and her brother, William, left for England and with their shared passion for stars, they built the greatest telescope of their age. Using their telescope, Caroline discovered fourteen nebulae and two galaxies, was the first woman to discover a comet, and became the first woman officially employed as a scientist--by no less than the King of England.

### **McKee, David - *Elmer***

All the elephants of the jungle were gray except Elmer, who was a patchwork of brilliant colors until the day he got tired of being different and making the other elephants laugh.

### **Messner, Kate - *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt***

Up in the garden, the world is full of green--leaves and sprouts, growing vegetables, ripening fruit. But down in the dirt there is a busy world of earthworms digging, snakes hunting, skunks burrowing, and all the other animals that make a garden their home. In this exuberant and lyrical book, discover the wonders that lie hidden between stalks, under the shade of leaves...and down in the dirt.

### **Mora, Oge - *Thank You, Omu!***

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?



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### **Morris, Richard T. - *A Bear Came Along***

Once there was a river flowing through a forest. The river didn't know it was capable of adventures until a big bear came along. But adventures aren't any fun by yourself, and so enters Froggy, Turtles, Beaver, Raccoons, and Duck. These very different animals take off downstream, but they didn't know they needed one another until thankfully, the river came along. This hilarious picture book and heartfelt message celebrates the joy and fun that's in store when you embark together on a ride of a lifetime.

### **Muhammad, Ibtihaj - *The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family***

A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school--and two sisters on one's first day of hijab--by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

### **Munsinger, Lynn - *Hooway for Wodney Wat***

All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he can't pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's unique speech that drives away the class bully.

### **Munson, Derek - *Enemy Pie***

Hoping that the "special" pie which his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps him make a new friend.

### **Musgrove, Margaret - *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions***

Each letter of this exquisitely illustrated alphabet book represents a different African culture.

### **Newson, Karl - *I am a Tiger***

This is a story about a mouse with BIG ideas. Mouse believes he is a tiger, and he convinces Fox, Raccoon, Snake, and Bird he's one, too! After all, Mouse can climb a tree like a tiger and hunt for his lunch, too. And not all tigers are big and have stripes. But when a real tiger shows up, can Mouse keep up his act?

### **Nickle, John - *The Ant Bully***

Lucas learns a lesson about bullying when he is pulled into the ant hole he has been tormenting.

**Osborne, Mary Pope - *The Knight at Dawn*** (and additional Magic Tree House chapter books)  
Annie and Jack enter the Middle Ages and learn about knights, castles and foods of the times.

**Parr, Todd - *It's Okay to Be Different*** (and additional titles)

Children celebrate differences in a simple and fun way.

### **Perkins, Useni Eugene - *Hey Black Child***

This title is an adaptation of the poem previously published in *Black Fairy and Other Plays*, by Useni Eugene Perkins, in 1993. "A ... poem that celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young ones to dream big and achieve their goals.

### **Richards, Dan - *Once Upon a Goat***

Once upon a time, a very prim and proper king and queen begged their fairy godmother for a child. They'd prefer a boy, with glowing skin, bright eyes, and two roses for lips . . . but any kid will do. When they find themselves gifted with a baby goat (also known as a kid) instead, they can't imagine how he'll fit into their lives. But of course, it isn't long before he's part of the royal family.

### **Robbins, Dean - *The astronaut who painted the moon : the story of Alan Bean***

As a boy, Alan wanted to fly planes. As a young navy pilot, Alan wished he could paint the view from the cockpit. So he took an art class to learn patterns and forms. But no class could prepare him for the beauty of the lunar surface some 240,000 miles from Earth. In 1969, Alan became the fourth man and first artist on the moon. He took dozens of pictures, but none compared to what he saw through his artistic eyes. When he returned to Earth, he began to paint what he saw. Alan's paintings allowed humanity to experience what it truly felt like to walk on the moon.





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## Grades K-2

### **Roman, Carole - The Big Book of Silly Jokes for Kids: 800+ Jokes!**

This book is chock-full of knock-knock jokes, riddles, tongue twisters, and silly stats for endless hours of hilarious entertainment.

### **Rylant, Cynthia - *Henry and Mudge* (and additional titles)**

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.

### **Scieszka, Jon - *The Time Warp Trio series***

Each volume of this series engages the reader in time travel to some of the most pivotal events in history.

### **Sendak, Maurice - *Where the Wild Things Are***

Each volume of this series engages the reader in time travel to some of the most pivotal events in history.

### **Seskin, Steve and Allen Shamblin - *Don't Laugh at Me***

Through powerful illustrations, this picture book encourages kindness toward others and the celebration of differences.

### **Sill, Cathryn - *About Birds: A Guide for Children***

This beginner's guide offers a first glimpse into the natural world of birds.

### **Sis, Peter - *Robin***

Robin and his friends are planning to dress up as pirates for their school's annual costume party, but instead his mother creates a Robinson Crusoe costume for him, and while the adults love it, his friends are less welcoming.

### **Spires, Ashley - *The Most Magnificent Thing***

A little girl and her canine assistant set out to make the most magnificent thing. But after much hard work, the end result is not what the girl had in mind. Frustrated, she quits. Her assistant suggests a long walk, and as they walk, it slowly becomes clear what the girl needs to do to succeed.

### **Springman, I. C. - *More***

Can a team of well-intentioned mice save their friend from hoarding too much stuff? With breathtaking illustrations from the award-winning Brian Lies, this book about conservation wraps an important message in a beautiful package.

### **Stilton, Geronimo - *Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye* (and additional Geronimo Stilton chapter books)**

Geronimo and his sister Thea search for a hidden treasure in Book #1. Look for the other 76 titles, too!

### **Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah - *Mommy's Khimar***

A young girl plays dress-up with her mother's headscarves, feeling her mother's love with every one she tries on. Charming and vibrant illustrations showcase the beauty of the diverse and welcoming community in this portrait of a young Muslim American girl's life.

### **Truss, Lynn - *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!***

You don't need to be a grammar nerd to enjoy this one...who knew grammar could be so much fun?

### **Walters, Tristan - *Safari Readers: Cheetahs* (and additional Safari Readers Books)**

The *Safari Readers* non-fiction books have been specially designed to motivate and teach young children by taking them on an inspiring journey around the natural world.

### **Yousafzai, Malala - *Malala's Magic Pencil***

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.