



# Richmond Heights Local Schools

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

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

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### Technology Integration Coach

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## Summer Reading

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

# Story elements

Name:

Date:

Story elements are the basic parts of a narrative story. They include things like the *main characters*, *setting*, *plot*, *problem*, *solution*, and *theme*. Identifying these elements helps you understand the story.

1. Write the name of the book and the author.
2. Fill in each of the story elements below.

## Title and author:

### Main characters

Who are the important characters in the story?

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### Setting

When and where does the story take place?

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### Problem

What is the problem in the story?

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### Solution

How is the problem solved?

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### Theme

What is the message or big idea the author wants to share?

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### Plot

What are the most important events that happen in the story?

Beginning:

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Middle:

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End:

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## Summer Reading Options Grades 3-6

\* Indicates availability as a free, ebook through Open eBooks - click [here](#) for directions to access

### **American Girl books\***

Learn what life might have been like in the past for different American Girls including, Samantha, Addie and Josefina

### **Any book of world records**

You can find collections of records published by Guinness World Records, Scholastic Inc., or National Geographic, Century (Ripley's Believe It or Not!)

### **Eyewitness Readers, Various Levels 1-4**

These nonfiction books combine informative text with bold visual images that entertain while they teach.

### **Adler, David - Cam Jansen mystery books\***

Can you match wits with 5th grade detective Cam Jansen? Solve the mystery before she does.

### **Applegate, Katherine - *Home of the Brave*\***

(consider other titles by Applegate)

Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – cold and unkind. In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means "family" in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.

### **Applegate, Katherine - *Wishtree***

Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. Red is an oak tree that is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with a crow named Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this wishtree watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is more important than ever.

### **Avi - *The Good Dog*\***

(consider other titles by Avi)

In the Colorado mountain town of Steamboat Springs there must be three hundred dogs. Jack's malamute, McKinley, is the leader of them all. But Jack, being human, has no way of knowing that. For him, his family's dog is just a great pal. And protector. When a new dog enters the scene, McKinley is faced with a decision to return to his genetic roots or stay by Jack's side.

### **Barber, Tiki and Ronde - *My Brother's Side*\***

(consider other titles by the Barber brothers)

Based on the childhood of NFL superstars Ronde and Tiki Barber, this inspiring book about the values of family, hard work, and determination is the story of what it takes to be a champion.

### **Broach, Elise - *Masterpiece*\*** (first in a series)

Marvin lives with his family under the kitchen sink in the Pompadays' apartment. He is very much a beetle. James Pompaday lives with his family in New York City. He is very much an eleven-year-old boy. After James gets a pen-and-ink set for his birthday, Marvin surprises him by creating an elaborate miniature drawing. James gets all the credit for the picture and before these unlikely friends know it they are caught up in a staged art heist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art that could help recover a famous drawing by Albrecht Dürer. If you want to just skip to book 2, watch a video of it being read aloud [here](#).

### **Brown, Jeff - *Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures***

**#6: *The African Safari Discovery*\*** (one in series)

When a flat skull is discovered in Africa, Stanley Lambchop decides to travel there with his brother, Arthur, and their father, George. Maybe studying the skull will give them clues to Stanley's flatness. But once in Africa, the Lambchops are in for more adventure than they bargained for. From lions to zebras to elephants, it's the safari of a lifetime!

### **Brown, Marc - *Arthur*\*** (first in series)

Follow the adventures of Arthur, Buster, Muffy, and all their friends in these short, easy chapter books.





## Summer Reading Options

## Grades 3-6

### **Brown, Monica - *Lola Levine is Not Mean!*\***

(first in a series)

Lola Levine likes writing in her diario, sipping her mom's cafe con leche, eating her dad's matzo ball soup, and playing soccer with her team, the Orange Smoothies. So what if she doesn't always fit in? Lola is fierce on the field, but when a soccer game during recess gets too competitive, she accidentally hurts her classmate Juan Gomez. Now everyone is calling her Mean Lola Levine! Lola feels terrible, but with the help of her family, her super best friend, Josh Blot, and a little "pencil power," she just might be able to turn it all around.

### **Christopher, Matt - *Mia Hamm: On the Field with...*\***

One of the top women's soccer players is Mia Hamm. Her speed, aggressive play, and ability to "read the field" have sparked every team she's ever played on. She helped the United States national team win two out of three Women's World Cups, first in 1991 and again in 1999. And as a member of the 1996 gold medal-winning Olympic team, she played an outstanding final game on a sprained ankle. The holder of the world record for most goals scored in a career, she is the hero of thousands of soccer fans worldwide.

### **Clements, Andrew - *Room One: A Mystery or Two*\***

(consider other titles by Clements)

Ted Hammond is the only sixth grader in his one-room school. His singular status gives him plenty of time to pursue his passion: solving mysteries.

### **Creech, Sharon - *Love that Dog***

(consider other titles by Creech)

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it, and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments, and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say.

### **Dadey, Debbie - *Battle of the Best Friends*\***

(one in a series)

Echo, Shelly Siren's best friend, is doing tail flips because she's going to see the hottest boy band around—The Rays! It's her classmate Pearl's birthday, and the Rays are going to perform at her exclusive party. Troublemaker Pearl has invited just about everyone—everyone, that is, except Shelly! Shelly urges Echo to go anyway, but Echo doesn't want to leave her friend out of the exciting celebration...so Shelly hatches a plan to make sure Echo sees her favorite group. And when the Rays do come to town (amidst plenty of under-the-sea, boy band drama), Echo returns the favor so that Shelly is included in the festivities—in the most unexpected of ways!

### **Dahl, Roald - *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***

(consider other titles by Dahl)

Charlie Bucket finds himself the proud winner of a Golden Ticket in a chocolate bar. This ticket provides for amazing adventures in Willy Wonka's miraculous chocolate factory.

### **DeVilliers, Julia - *Liberty Porter, First Daughter*\***

(first in a series)

In *Liberty Porter First Daughter*, eight-year-old Liberty Porter's father has just been elected President of the United States—and she's the new First Daughter! As Liberty moves into the White House, she vows to make herself indispensable to her country—but can she get past her run-ins with the Chief of Staff?

### **DiCamillo, Kate - *Because of Winn Dixie*\***

(consider other titles by DiCamillo)

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.



## Summer Reading Options

## Grades 3-6

### **Ellis, Tonya Duncan - *Sophie Washington: Queen of the Bee* (first in a series)**

Sign up for the spelling bee? No way!

If there's one thing 10-year-old Texan Sophie Washington is good at, it's spelling. She's earned straight 100s on all her spelling tests to prove it. Her parents want her to compete in the Xavier Academy spelling bee, but Sophie wishes they would buzz off. That's until her irritating classmate, Nathan Jones, challenges her. There's no way she can let Mr. Know-It-All win. Studying is hard when you have a pesky younger brother and a busy social calendar. Can Sophie ignore the distractions and become Queen of the Bee?

### **Gratz, Alan - *Ban This Book***

It all started the day Amy Anne Ollinger tried to check out her favorite book in the whole world, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*, from the school library. That's when Mrs. Jones, the librarian, told her the bad news: her favorite book was banned! All because a classmate's mom thought the book wasn't appropriate for kids to read. Amy Anne decides to fight back by starting a secret banned book library out of her locker.

### **Hautman, Pete - *The Flinkwater Factor*\* (first in series)**

Welcome to Flinkwater, Iowa, home of the largest manufacturer of Articulated Computerized Peripheral Devices in the world. If you own a robot, it probably came from Flinkwater. Meet Ginger Crump, the plucky, precocious (and somewhat sarcastic) genius who finds herself in the middle of a national emergency when Flinkwater's computers start turning people into vegetables. Mental vegetables, that is. In Ginger's words, they've been "bonked."

### **Kirby, Stanley - *Captain Awesome vs. Nacho Cheese Man*\* (one in a series)**

Eugene McGillicuddy and Charlie Thomas Jones are best friends. They are also supersecret superheroes and members of the Sunnyview Superhero Squad. It's Captain Awesome and Nacho Cheese Man to the rescue! MI-TEE! Easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, make these books easy to read.

### **Konigsberg, E.L. - *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*\***

(consider other titles by Konigsberg)

Claudia knew that she could never pull off the old-fashioned kind of running away...so she decided to run not from somewhere but to somewhere. That was how Claudia and her brother, Jamie, ended up living in the Metropolitan Museum of Art—and right in the middle of a mystery that made headlines.

### **Look, Lenore - *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things*\* (first in a series)**

Here's the first book in the beloved and hilarious Alvin Ho chapter book series, which has been compared to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and is perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers.

Alvin, an Asian American second grader, is afraid of everything—elevators, tunnels, girls, and, most of all, school. He's so afraid of school that, while he's there, he never, ever, says a word. But at home he's a very loud superhero named Firecracker Man, a brother to Calvin and Anibelly, and a gentleman-in-training, so he can be just like his dad.

### **Martin, Ann - *Rain Reign*\***

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different—not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. Told through the eyes of a young girl with autism.

### **McCormick, Patricia - *Sergeant Reckless***

The inspiring true story of Reckless, the brave little horse who became a Marine. When a group of US Marines fighting in the Korean War found a bedraggled mare, they wondered if she could be trained as a packhorse. They had no idea that the skinny, underfed horse had one of the biggest and bravest hearts they'd ever known. And one of the biggest appetites!





## Summer Reading Options

## Grades 3-6

### **McDonald, Megan - *Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid*\* (first in a series)**

Every morning, Judy Moody measures Stink and it's always the same: three feet, eight inches tall. Stink feels like even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then, one day, the ruler reads -- can it be? -- three feet, seven and three quarters inches! Is Stink shrinking? He tries everything to look like he's growing, but wearing up-and-down stripes and spiking his hair aren't fooling anyone into thinking he's taller. If only he could ask James Madison -- Stink's hero, and the shortest person ever to serve as President of the United States.

### **O'Neal, Shaquille - *Little Shaq*\***

When Little Shaq and his cousin Barry accidentally break their favorite video game, they need to find a way to replace it. That's when Little Shaq's science project inspires a solution: a gardening business. They can water their neighbors' gardens to raise money for a new game! Little Shaq and Barry make a great team both on and off the basketball court, but will their business be as successful as they hoped?

### **Obama, Barack - *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*\***

In this tender, beautiful letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation. From the artistry of Georgia O'Keeffe, to the courage of Jackie Robinson, to the patriotism of George Washington, President Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children, and within all of America's children.

### **Osborne, Mary Pope - *Dinosaurs*\***

When Jack and Annie got back from their adventure in Magic Tree House #1: Dinosaurs Before Dark, they had lots of questions. When did the dinosaurs live? What other animals lived at that time? Which dinosaur was the biggest? How do we know about dinosaurs? Find out the answers to these questions and more as Jack and Annie track the facts.

### **O'Shaughnessy, Tam - *Sally Ride: A Photobiography of America's Pioneering Woman in Space*\***

This is an intimate journey from her formative years to her final moments. Before she was an astronaut, Sally was a competitive tennis player who excelled at the game to such an extent that Billie Jean King told her she could play on the pro circuit. Before she earned a Ph.D. in physics, she was called an underachiever by her high school classmates. After her first historic space flight-she took a second in 1984-Sally continued to break ground as an inspirational advocate for space exploration, public policy, and science education, who fought gender stereotypes and opened doors for girls and women in all fields during the second half of the twentieth century.

### **Peter, Joseph - *The Book of Happiness: Africa*\***

In 2009, photographer Joseph Peter traveled through fifty African nations in seventy-five days and shot 150,000 images--mostly portraits of joyous, proud, glorious faces. He photographed presidents and heads of state, soldiers and workers, and children of all ages. He captured their smiles, their laughter, their humanity.

### **Spratt, R.A. - *The Adventures of Nanny Piggins*\* (first in a series)**

The three Green children are cared for by a nanny pig. Yes, a pig--a fabulously sassy and impeccably dressed pig, as a matter of fact! With her insatiable urge to eat chocolate (and feed chocolate to everyone she loves), her high-flying spirit, and her unending sense of fun, Nanny Piggins takes Derrick, Samantha, and Michael on a year of surprises, yummy treats, and adventures they'll never forget.



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## Summer Reading Options

## Grades 3-6

### **Telgemeier, Raina - *Guts***

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: friends, not-friends, and classmates who think the school year is just one long gross-out session. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away... and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on?

### **Watson, Renee - *Ways to Make Sunshine***

Ryan Hart has a lot on her mind--school, self-image, and especially family. Her dad finally has a new job, but money is tight. That means some changes, like selling their second car and moving into a new (old) house. But Ryan is a girl who knows how to make sunshine out of setbacks. As her brother says when he raps about her, she's got the talent that matters most: it's a talent that can't be seen, she's nice, not mean!

### **West, Tracey - *Home: The Chapter Book\****

When an alien race invades Earth, an unlikely friendship forms between Tip, a human girl, and Oh, a banished Boov in this chapter book retelling of the movie.

### **Winston, Sherri - *President of the Whole Sixth Grade\****

Brianna Justice is determined to raise enough money for the big class trip to Washington, D.C., but she's up against a lot: classmates who all pretend to be something they're not, a new nemesis determined to run her out of office, and the sinking feeling she's about to lose her two best friends for good. But just when she begins to lose hope, she comes to realize that sometimes surprises can turn out even better than the best-laid plans.

### **Woods, Brenda - *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond\****

Violet is a smart, funny, brown-eyed, brown-haired girl in a family of blonds. Her mom is white, and her dad, who died before she was born, was black. She attends a mostly white school where she sometimes feels like a brown leaf on a pile of snow. She's tired of people asking if she's adopted. Now that Violet's eleven, she decides it's time to learn about her African American heritage. And despite getting off to a rocky start trying to reclaim her dad's side of the family, she can feel her confidence growing as the puzzle pieces of her life finally start coming together. Readers will cheer for Violet, sharing her joy as she discovers her roots.

### **Yang, Kelly - *The Front Desk***

Mia Tang and her parents expected to work hard when they came to the United States, but they had no idea how difficult things would be. After a year or two struggling to make ends meet, they find themselves managing a motel for a cruel and exploitative owner. The work is exhausting and the problems are many, but the Tangs approach their new responsibility with determination, creativity, and compassion, making friends everywhere and sheltering a trickle of immigrants in worse straits than themselves. Ten-year-old Mia takes over the front desk, and makes it her own, while dreaming of a future as a writer.

### **Yarborough, Lori Leigh - *Xander's Cerebral Palsy Superpowers***

This book is written by a mom/pediatric physical therapist to open discussions about cerebral palsy and inclusion. It demonstrates how to be an advocate for your friends with cerebral palsy and how they are important and have so much value.



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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.

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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.



## 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.





## Summer Reading Options

## 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.



## Summer Reading Options

## 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?



## Summer Reading Options

## Grades K-2

### **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.

### **Munsón, 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.





## Summer Reading Options 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.