



# Richmond Heights Local Schools

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

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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.