

2011 Summer Reading List  
Elementary School Students

Summer provides many opportunities for parents and young children to enjoy unforgettable books together. Before entering each grade, students should read or hear at least four of the books listed for that grade. Parents of elementary students may consult one of the Read-Aloud Handbooks by Jim Trelease for additional selections. If substitutions are needed, parents should try other titles by the recommended authors.

**Before Entering Kindergarten**

***Read Alouds***

Aylesworth: Naughty Little Monkeys c2003 alphabet  
Bang: When Sophie Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry... c1999  
Crews: The Neighborhood Mother Goose c2004  
Ehlert: Pie in the Sky c2004 family fiction  
Kimmel: The Gingerbread Man c1993 fairy tale  
Penn: The Kissing Hand c1993 family life  
Pfister: Rainbow Fish animal stories  
Pinkney: The Lion & the Mouse c2009 wordless, fairy tale  
Prelutsky: Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young c1986 poetry  
Rosen: We're Going on a Bear Hunt c2003 animals, fiction  
Rosenthal: Duck! Rabbit! c2009 animals  
Shannon: David Goes to School c1999 humor  
Sierra: Counting Crocodiles c1997 counting, rhyming  
Sierra: Wild About Books c2004 animals, humor  
Slate: Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten c2003  
Taback: Joseph Had a Little Overcoat c1999 diversity  
Thompson: Little Quack c2003 animals  
Wood: Alphabet Adventure c2001 alphabet  
Wood: The Napping House c1984 sleep, fiction

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**Before Entering First Grade**

***Read Alouds***

Bailey: Stanley's Party c2003 dogs, humor  
Bloom: A Splendid Friend Indeed c2005 friendship  
Bourgeois: Franklin in the Dark c1986 fear, fiction  
Bruei: Bad Kitty c2005 alphabet  
Carle: Mister Seahorse c2004 animals, fiction  
Cousins: Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales c2009 fairy tales  
Cronin: Dooby, Dooby, Moo c2004 animal humor  
Ehlert: Market Day: A Story Told with Folk Art c2000 stories in rhyme, fiction  
Falconer: Olivia series pigs, fiction  
Lester: Hooway for Wodney Wat c1999 fantasy, abilities awareness  
Lionni: Swimmy c1991 fish stories  
McKinley: One Smile c2002 kindness  
Numeroff: Beatrice Doesn't Want To c2004 realistic fiction, humor  
Prelutsky: Me I Am c2007 poetry  
Rathmann: Ruby the Copycat c1991 school, fiction

Shannon: A Bad Case of Stripes c1998 individuality, fiction

### **Independent Reading**

Capucilli: Biscuit series dog stories

Gelman: More Spaghetti I Say c1993 stories in rhyme, humor

Johnson: Alphabet City c1995 alphabet

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### **Before Entering Second Grade**

#### ***Read Alouds***

Brett: Town Mouse, Country Mouse c1994 fable

Cannon: Crickwing, Pinduli, Stellaluna, Verdi, insects, fiction

Ernst: Sylvia Jean, Drama Queen c2005 fantasy animals, humor

Hoberman: You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together c2001 stories in rhyme

Hoffman: Amazing Grace c1991 diversity, fiction

Mayer: Little Critter stories fantasy, animals

McKissack: The Honest-to-Goodness Truth c2000 character, ethnic diversity

McNaughton: Once Upon an Ordinary School Day c2004 school story

Numeroff: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie and sequels c1985 cumulative tales

Orloff: I Wanna Iguana c2004 letters, fiction

Pallotta: Dory Story c2000 sea story, fiction

Peet: The Ant and the Elephant c1972 animals, fiction

Polacco: Aunt Chip and the Triple Creek Dam Affair c1996 TV, reading, fiction

Schachner: Skippyjon Jones c2003 humor

Steig: Brave Irene c1986 fiction

Stevens: And the Dish Ran Away With the Spoon c2001 nursery rhymes

Woodson: The Other Side c2001 friendship, ethnic diversity

#### ***Independent Reading***

Crews: Below c2006 fiction

Lionni: Little Blue and Little Yellow c1959 friendship, colors

Lobel: Frog and Toad stories classics

Rylant: Henry and Mudge stories family, dogs, humor

Sharmat: Nate the Great series mystery

Silverman: Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa series fiction

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### **Before Entering Third Grade**

#### ***Read Alouds***

Bridges: Ruby's Wish c2002 historical fiction, ethnic diversity

Curtis: The Bat Boy and His Violin c1998 sports, music, ethnic diversity

#### ***Independent Reading***

Adler: Bones series mystery  
Bourke: Christian the Lion: Based on the True Story of Anthony (Ace) Bourke, John Rendall and Christian the Lion c2009 nonfiction  
Bunting: One Green Apple c2006 historical fiction, ethnic diversity  
Cleary: Math is CATegorical series stores in rhyme, mathematics  
Cronin: Diary of a Fly c2007 animal fiction  
Dadey: Adventures of the Bailey School Kids series schools, fiction  
DeFelice: One Potato, Two Potato c2006 fairy tale  
DiCamillo: Mercy Watson series animal, fantasy, humor  
Foxworthy: Dirt On My Shirt c2008 poetry  
Holm: Babymouse series c2005 graphic fiction, friendship, imagination  
Hopkinson: Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend) c2008 historical fiction  
Johnson: Just Like Josh Gibson c2007 sports fiction, historical fiction  
Kerrin: Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff! c2005 fiction  
Pinkney: The Ugly Duckling c1999 fairy tale  
Sachar: Marvin Redpost series fiction  
Stilton: The Geronimo Stilton series mice, fantasy, mystery  
Tunnell: Mailing May c1997 historical fiction  
Warner: Only Emma c2005 fiction

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### **Before Entering Fourth Grade**

Abbot: Secrets of Droon series fantasy  
Birney: The World According to Humphrey c2005 fiction, humor  
Bruchac: The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales c2008 folklore  
Clements: Lunch Money c1994 school, humor  
Fleming: The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School c2007 fiction, school  
Grimes: Talkin' About Bessie c2002 biography, ethnic diversity  
Gutman: My Weird School school, humor  
Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat c2008 poetry  
Hurwitz: Fourth Grade Fuss c2004 school story  
Kehret: Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays c1999 animals, non-fiction  
Klingel: Go Fly a Kite! (And Other Sayings We Don't Really Mean) c2008 idioms, figures of speech  
Mazer: Amazing Days of Abby Hayes fiction  
Myers: Blues Journey c2003 poetry, ethnic diversity  
Noble: The Last Brother (Tales of Young America series) c2006 historical fiction  
Osborne: Magic Tree House series time travel, fiction  
Pennypacker: Clementine c2006 fiction, series  
Shelby: Adventures of Molly Whuppie and Other Appalachian Folktales c2007  
Van Draanen: Shredderman series fiction  
Wiles: Each Little Bird Sings c2005 family life, grief, fiction

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### **Before Entering Fifth Grade**

Alvarez: How Tia Lola Learned to Teach c2010 divorce, family life, fiction  
Clements: We the Children series c2010 mystery  
Collins: Gregor the Overlander c2003 fantasy  
DiCamillo: The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane c2006 fantasy  
Giff: Storyteller c2010 families, historical fiction  
Going: The Liberation of Gabriel King c2005 race relations, friendship  
Hahn: All the Lovely Bad Ones ghost stories  
Hawkins: The Year the Money Grew on Trees c2008 farm life, fiction  
Lowry: The Willoughbys c2008 family life, humorous stories  
Lupica: Two-Minute Drill c2007 dyslexia, football stories  
Maya Angelou c2007 poetry  
Nelson: Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, US Marshal c2009 biography, ethnic diversity  
Paulsen: Hatchet c1987 survival, fiction  
Pearson: Kingdom Keepers series suspense fiction  
Peck: A Year Down Yonder c2000 humor, historical fiction  
Smith: Bone c2004 graphic novel  
Stewart: The Mysterious Benedict Society c2007 fiction, adventure  
Thomas: The Kids Guide to Money Cent\$ c2004 , personal finance, nonfiction  
Various authors: 39 Clues series mystery  
Various authors: Dear America series historical fiction

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### **Before Entering Sixth Grade**

Blackwood: The Shakespeare Stealer c1998 historical fiction, mystery  
Broach: Shakespeare's Secret c2005 mystery  
Carbone: Stealing Freedom c1998 historical fiction, diversity  
Creech: The Wanderer c2000 adventure  
Cushman: The Ballad of Lucy Whipple c1996 historical fiction  
Di Camillo: The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup and a Spool of Thread c2003 fantasy  
Funke: Inkheart c2003 fantasy  
Giff: Nory Ryan's Song c2000 historical fiction  
Golding: The Secret Within c2002 realistic fiction  
Haddix: Double Identity c2005 mystery  
Hesse: Music of the Dolphins c1996 realistic fiction  
Holm: Penny from Heaven c2006 historical fiction Newbery Honor winner  
Isaacs: Torn Thread c2000 historical fiction  
Kehret: Abduction! c2004 adventure, contemporary realistic fiction  
Levine: Hana's Suitcase: A True Story c2002 biography  
Paratore: The Wedding Planner's Daughter c2005 humor, romance  
Ryan: Esperanza Rising c2000 historical fiction, diversity  
Selznick: The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures c2007 adventure, mystery Caldecott Medal Winner  
Smith: Peak c2005 adventure, coming-of-age  
Whelan: Angel on the Square c2001 historical fiction