



District Summer Reading List



Incoming Kindergarteners for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this optional summer reading list is to encourage students to read (or have read aloud) an approved book that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more.

Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below*. Happy reading!

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<p><i>The Little Engine That Could</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org</p>	<p>Watty Piper</p>	<p>Fiction: Fairytale</p>	<p><i>The Little Engine That Could</i> is an American fairytale used to teach children the value of optimism and hard work. In the tale, a long train must be pulled over a high mountain after its engine breaks down. Larger engines are asked to pull the train; for various reasons they refuse. The request is sent to a small engine, who agrees to try. The engine succeeds in pulling the train over the mountain while repeating its motto: "I-think-I-can".</p>
<p><i>Harold and the Purple Crayon</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org</p>	<p>Crockett Johnson</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>The protagonist, Harold, is a curious four-year-old-boy who, with his purple crayon, has the power to create a world of his own simply by drawing it.</p> <p>Harold wants to go for a walk in the moonlight, but there is no moon, so he draws one. He has nowhere to walk, so he draws a path. He has many adventures looking for his room, and in the end he draws his own house and bed and goes to sleep.</p>
<p><i>Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org</p>	<p>Melanie Watt</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>The book tells the story of Scaredy Squirrel in his latest adventure where he sets out to make The Perfect Friend. Once he's spotted a perfectly safe candidate (with no teeth), Scaredy's ready. Armed with a name tag, mittens, a mirror and a lemon, he's prepared to make The Perfect First Impression. But just when every detail is under control, Scaredy's Action Plan takes a surprising --- and "toothy" --- turn. Will he survive this ordeal? Will he find his kindred spirit? Will he discover the true meaning of friendship?</p>
<p><i>Z is for Moose</i> Online reading of book</p>	<p>Kelly Bingham</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p><i>Z is for Moose</i> is a story about a moose, a zebra, and the alphabet! Zebra wants to put on a show as simple as ABC, but Zebra's friend Moose has other (unexpected and hilarious) ideas! Zebra thinks the alphabet should be simple. A is for Apple. B is for Ball. Easy! But his friend Moose is too excited to wait his turn, and when M <i>isn't</i> for Moose (Moose gets the honor), the rest of the letters better run for cover. Exuberant and zany storytelling brings to life two friends and one laugh-out-loud comedy of errors that's about friendship, sharing, and compromise.</p>

<p><i>At the Supermarket</i> <i>Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account</i> https://archive.org</p>	<p>Anne Rockwell</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>On a special trip to the supermarket, a young boy helps his mom buy what they need. There are meats, fruits, and vegetables to put in the shopping cart; soap and toilet paper, too. But the most important ingredients are those needed to bake a birthday cake. Children love to help out at the grocery store.</p>
<p><i>If You Were a Penguin</i> <i>Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account</i> https://archive.org</p>	<p>Wendell and Florence Minor</p>	<p>Informational</p>	<p>In this simple, rhyming picture book, the youngest readers will learn about penguins. This is the perfect read-aloud for adults to share with young children as they imagine what life as a penguin is like.</p>

*Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school's novel selection process.

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District Summer Reading List



Incoming First Graders for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

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<i>The Rainbow Fish</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Marcus Pfister	Fiction	The story is about a fish with shiny, multi-colored scales named Rainbow Fish. The universal message at the heart of this simple story is about a beautiful fish, who learns to make friends by sharing his most prized possessions, that gives the book its lasting value.
<i>Clifford the Big Red Dog</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Norman Bridwell	Fiction	Imagine having a dog bigger than a house! In the original story that has sparked the imaginations of young readers for generations, a little girl gets a tiny puppy that grows up to be the biggest dog in the whole world. He's so big that he can fetch robbers...and their car! Most important, Clifford is a good friend who's always cheerful and ready to play and help.
<i>The Doorbell Rang</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Pat Hutchins	Fiction	<i>The Doorbell Rang</i> tells the simple story of Sam and Victoria, who were just about to sit down and enjoy fresh cookies when two friends arrive and the four children divide up the cookies four ways. Soon, the doorbell rings again, and then again, and each time the number of cookies per person dwindles.
<i>Hi! Fly Guy</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Tedd Arnold	Fiction	When Buzz captures a fly to enter in The Amazing Pet Show, his parents and the judges tell him that a fly cannot be a pet, but Fly Guy proves them wrong. Boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful friendship.
<i>A Tree is a Plant</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Clyde Robert Bulla	Nonfiction	In this book, readers will learn how a tree grows and how it gets food and water. You can also find out what happens to water after it travels through a tree's roots, branches, and leaves, and how to figure out a tree's age. Clyde Robert Bulla's simple and concise text and Stacey Schuett's lush illustrations follow a tree's continuous life cycle through spring, summer, winter, and fall.

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District Summer Reading List



Incoming Second Graders for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

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Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>Henry and Mudge: The First Book</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Cynthia Rylant	Fiction	The first book in the acclaimed Ready-to-Read series from Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant featuring Henry and his lovable 180-pound dog, Mudge. Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge.
<i>Amelia Bedelia</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Peggy Parish and Fritz Siebel	Fiction	From dressing the chicken to drawing the drapes, Amelia Bedelia does <i>exactly</i> what Mr. and Mrs. Rogers tell her to do. If things get a bit mixed up, well, that's okay. When Amelia Bedelia is involved, everything always turns out perfectly in the end!
<i>Arthur's Teacher Trouble</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Marc Brown	Fiction	On the first day of school Arthur discovers he's got the toughest teacher in the third grade! The pressure is on to study hard for the all-school Spellathon. Can Arthur beat last year's champion speller? Or will he let Mr. Ratburn d-o-w-n?
<i>Song and Dance Man</i> Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org	Karen Ackerman	Fiction	In this affectionate story, three children follow their grandfather up to the attic, where he pulls out his old bowler hat, gold-tipped cane, and his tap shoes. Grandpa once danced on the vaudeville stage, and as he glides across the floor, the children can see what it was like to be a song and dance man. Bespectacled, enthusiastic Grandpa clearly exudes the message that you're only as old as you feel, but the children respond--as will readers--to the nostalgia of the moment. (Caldecott Medal Winner)
<i>The Magic School Bus at the Waterworks</i>	Joanna Cole	Informational Fiction	Ms. Frizzle, an unflappable science teacher, drives the magical school bus into a cloud where the children shrink to the size of water droplets and follow the course of water through the city's waterworks system.

<p><i>Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account https://archive.org</i></p>			
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District Summer Reading List



Incoming Third Graders for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

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Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below*. Happy reading!

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<p><i>Rosie Revere, Engineer</i></p> <p><i>Free digital version is not available. It is available at the public library.</i></p>	<p>Andrea Beaty</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>Rosie may seem quiet during the day, but at night she's a brilliant inventor of gizmos and gadgets who dreams of becoming a great engineer. When her great-great-aunt Rose (Rosie the Riveter) comes for a visit and mentions her one unfinished goal--to fly--Rosie sets to work building a contraption to make her aunt's dream come true. But when her contraption doesn't fly but rather hovers for a moment and then crashes, Rosie deems the invention a failure. On the contrary, Aunt Rose insists that Rosie's contraption was a raging success. You can only truly fail, she explains, if you quit.</p>
<p><i>Freckle Juice</i></p> <p>Free download of Freckle Juice</p>	<p>Judy Blume</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>Nicky has freckles: they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Sitting behind him in class, Andrew once counted eighty-six of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty. One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. When know-it-all Sharon overhears, she offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe for fifty cents. It's a lot of money, but Andrew is desperate. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens...</p>
<p><i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i></p> <p><i>Borrow a digital copy of this book with a free sign up on Open Library. Just sign up for free, search for the book, and click borrow.</i></p>	<p>Patricia MacLachlan</p>	<p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>Set in the late nineteenth century and told from young Anna's point of view, Sarah, Plain and Tall tells the story of how Sarah Elisabeth Wheaton comes from Maine to the prairie to answer Papa's advertisement for a wife and mother. Before Sarah arrives, Anna and her younger brother Caleb wait and wonder. Will Sarah be nice? Will she sing? Will she stay? Sarah, Plain and Tall gently explores themes of abandonment, loss and love.</p>

<p><i>Dinosaurs Before Dark</i> (Magic Tree House #1) Online read aloud of book <i>It is available at the public library.</i></p>	<p>Mary Pope Osbourne</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>Jack and Annie's very first fantasy adventure in the bestselling middle-grade series—the Magic Tree House! Where did the tree house come from? Before Jack and Annie can find out, the mysterious tree house whisks them to the prehistoric past. Now they have to figure out how to get home. Can they do it before dark . . . or will they become a dinosaur's dinner?</p>
<p><i>Magic Tree House Fact Tracker #1: Dinosaurs: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #1: Dinosaurs Before Dark</i></p> <p><i>Free digital version is not available. It is available at the public library.</i></p>	<p>Mary Pope Osbourne</p>	<p>Nonfiction</p>	<p>When Jack and Annie got back from their adventure in <i>Magic Tree House #1: Dinosaurs Before Dark</i>, they had lots of questions. When did the dinosaurs live? What other animals lived at that time? Which dinosaur was biggest? How do we know about dinosaurs? Find out the answers to these questions and more as Jack and Annie track the facts.</p>
<p><i>The Boxcar Children</i> (Book 1) <i>Can be borrowed by signing up for a free account</i> https://archive.org</p>	<p>Gertrude Chandler Warner</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny are orphans. The only way they can stay together as a family is to make it on their own. So when the children find an abandoned boxcar in the woods, they decide to call it home—and become the Boxcar Children!</p>

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District Summer Reading List



Incoming Fourth Graders for the 2020 – 2021 School Year

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Happy Reading!

	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<p><i>The Tale of Despereaux</i> The Tale of Despereaux Download or Read Online</p>	Kate DiCamillo	Fiction: Fantasy	Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then?
<p><i>Stealing Home</i> <i>The Story of Jackie Robinson</i> Read Online</p>	Barry Denenberg	Nonfiction: Biography	<i>Stealing Home</i> is a moving and poignant account of a man who was determined to play baseball regardless of the color of his skin. This biography tells the story of Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play in baseball's major leagues in the United States. In his willingness to fight for his rights and the rights of others both on and off the baseball field, Jackie Robinson was not only a great ball player, but also a true American hero. He once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Robinson truly lived an important life, which still influences people today.
<p><i>The Secret Garden</i> The Secret Garden Read Online</p> <p>The Secret Garden Read Online or Download the PDF</p>	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Fiction: Children's Literature	The book tells the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled child raised in India but sent to live in her uncle's manor in Yorkshire after her parents' death. She is left to herself by her uncle, Mr. Craven, who travels often. The only person who has time for Mary is her chambermaid, Martha. It is Martha who tells Mary about Mrs. Craven's walled garden, which has been closed and locked since her death. Mary becomes intrigued by the prospect of the forgotten garden, and her quest to find out the garden's secrets leads her to discover other secrets hidden in the manor. These discoveries combined with the unlikely friendships she makes along the way help Mary come out of her shell and find new fascination with the world around her.

<p><i>Sideways Stories from Wayside School</i> Sideways Stories from Wayside School PDF</p>	<p>Louis Sachar</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p><i>Sideways Stories from Wayside School</i> is a book with 30 stories about a wacky school. When the school was being built the builder messed up big time. The school was supposed to be one story tall with thirty classrooms side by side. Instead the builder built it thirty stories high with one classroom on each story.</p>
<p><i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler</i> From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler Read Online</p>	<p>E. L. Konigsburg</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>This novel follows two children-12-year-old Claudia Kincaid and her brother Jamie-as they run away from home and hide out in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. The children become involved in researching the past of an angel statue sold to the museum by Mrs. Basil E. Frankenwiler, whom they eventually leave the museum to go find.</p>
<p><i>What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?</i> Borrow from Open Library – Free sign up (numerous books by this author to choose from)</p>	<p>Jean Fritz</p>	<p>Nonfiction: Biography</p>	<p>No matter how busy he was, Ben Franklin always found time to try out new ideas: a remote-control lock (so he could lock his door without getting out of bed), a rocking chair with a fan over it (to keep flies away), and a windmill (to turn his roast meat on its spit). Aside from being a mad of ideas, he was an ambassador to England, a printer, an almanac maker, a politician, and even a vegetarian (for a time, anyway).</p>
<p><i>Anne of Green Gables</i> Audible (Click the Audible link, click Start Listening, search for <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> and click it to begin listening.) Anne of Green Gables PDF</p>	<p>Lucy Maud Montgomery</p>	<p>Fiction: Novel</p>	<p>Set in the late 19th century, the novel recounts the adventures of Anne Shirley, an 11-year-old orphan girl, who is mistakenly sent to two middle-aged siblings, Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, who had originally intended to adopt a boy to help them on their farm in the fictional town of Avonlea on Prince Edward Island, Canada. The novel recounts how Anne makes her way through life with the Cuthberts, in school, and within the town.</p>

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