

New Canaan Public Schools  
New Canaan, Connecticut

~

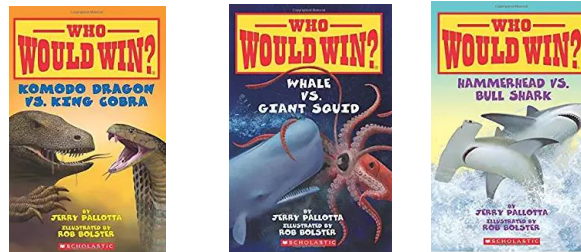
# Summer Reading

(For reading aloud *and* independent reading)

## 2018

~

## Children Entering Second Grade



Second graders love the *Who Would Win? Series* by Jerry Pallotta



Second graders love the *History of Fun Stuff* series by various authors

Websites for more ideas:

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/docs/default-source/reading-lists/childrens-choices/childrens-choices-reading-list-2018.pdf>

The Children's and Teen Book Awards are the only national book awards chosen by kids and teens

<http://booksforkidsblog.blogspot.com>

(A retired librarian's excellent children's book blog)

<https://www.hbook.com/2018/05/blogs/family-reading/2018-summer-reading-list/#>

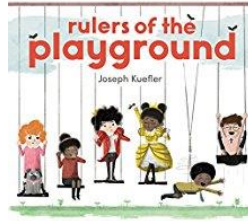
The Horn Book Children's Book Reviews

<http://www.readbrightly.com/>

Helping Parents Grow Lifelong Readers

Revised by Joanne Shulman, Language Arts Coordinator  
[joanne.shulman@ncps-k12.org](mailto:joanne.shulman@ncps-k12.org)

**NEW and NOTEWORTHY**  
(Books to Inspire Great Discussions)



*After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* by Dan Santat, 2017  
A modern take on the tale of Humpty Dumpty with a surprise ending that reminds us that life begins when you get back up.

*Rulers of the Playground* by Joseph Kuefler, 2017  
“Children struggling with tyrant (or the impulse to dictate) will find both laughter and comfort in Kuefler’s playground...” *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

*Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon* by Torben Kuhlmann, 2017. \*Starred Review. “This beautifully illustrated story is a feast for mind and eyes and a strong selection to complement STEAM curricula.”—*School Library Journal*

*Weekends with Max and His Dad* by Linda Urban, 2016  
“Urban’s touch is light throughout, and with likable characters...and a story just right for budding chapter-book readers, she’s off to a good start.—*Horn Book*

*Sarabella’s Thinking Cap* by Judy Schachner, 2017  
“This gentle book provides support for every child who daydreams in school and a wake-up call for her or his teachers...A lovely celebration of creativity and a different learning style.—*Booklist*

*A Different Pond* by Bao Phi, 2017  
A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book—“...a must read for our times...an unforgettable story about a simple event—a long-ago fishing trip.” —*Kirkus*

*King of the Sky* by Nicola Davies, 2017  
In this tale of a young boy, an old man, and a dauntless pigeon, a lyrical text and extraordinary illustrations offer a gorgeous meditation on loneliness, belonging, and home. —*Amazon*

*Lexie, the Word Wrangler* by Rebecca Van Slyke, 2017  
“Colorful language abounds in the clever, playful text...Highly recommended for reading aloud, just for the fun of it.”—*Booklist*, starred review

*A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars* by Seth Fishman, 2017  
“An imagination stretcher for younger audiences who enjoy marveling at mind-bending numbers.” —*School Library Journal*

*The Boo-Boos that Changed the World (A True Story of an Accidental Invention)*, 2018  
by Barry Wittenstein

## EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

(These are more advanced than easy readers, but not too long or difficult.)

HOPSCOTCH HILL SCHOOL SERIES by Valerie Tripp

BORIS series by Andrew Joyner

ARTHUR CHAPTER BOOKS by Stephen Krensky

JIGSAW JONES MYSTERIES by James Preller

JUNIE B. JONES SERIES by Barbara Park

MARVIN REDPOST SERIES by Louis Sachar

KIDS OF THE POLK STREET SCHOOL SERIES by Patricia Reilly Giff

NANCY DREW NOTEBOOKS series by Carolyn Keene

NATE THE GREAT SERIES by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

STINK series by Megan McDonald

SOCCER 'CATS series by Matt Christopher

ZACK FILES SERIES by Dan Greenburg

THE ADVENTURES OF THE BAILEY SCHOOL KIDS  
by Debbie Dadey and Marcia Thornton Jones

BEST ENEMIES and BEST ENEMIES AGAIN by Kathleen Leverich

STEPPING STONES books published by Random House

LITTLE HOUSE CHAPTER BOOKS adapted from  
Laura Ingalls Wilder

WEIRD SCHOOL series by Dan Gutman  
*Miss Small is off the Wall!*  
*Mr. Hyde is out of his Mind!*  
*Ms. Hannah is Bananas!* and many more!

## SERIES BOOKS THAT SECOND GRADERS LOVE

(For reading aloud and/or independent reading)

Tony Abbott	<i>Secrets of Droon</i>
David Adler	<i>Cam Jansen mysteries</i>
Jeanne Betancourt	<i>Pony Pals</i>
Dori Hillestad Butler	<i>King and Kayla series</i>
Veronika Charles	<i>Spooky Tales series</i>
Asia Citro	<i>Zoe and Sassafras series</i>
Paula Dansiger	<i>Amber Brown stories</i>
Judy Delton	<i>Pee Wee Scouts</i>
Kate DiCamillo	<i>Mercy Watson</i>
Kathleen Duey	<i>Unicorn's Secret series</i>
Rebecca Elliott	<i>The Owl Diaries series</i>
Elise Gravel	<i>The Disgusting Critters series</i>
J.C. Greenburg	<i>Andrew Lost series</i>
Abby Hanlon	<i>Dorrie Fantasmagory series</i>
James Howe	<i>Pinkie and Rex</i>
Suzy Klein	<i>Horrible Harry and friends</i> <i>Song Lee books</i>
Patricia MacLachlan	<i>Barkus series</i>
James Marshall	<i>Fox and Friends</i>
Daisy Meadows	<i>Rainbow Magic Fairy and Pet Fairy series</i>
Jamie Michalak	<i>Joe and Sparky series</i>
Kimberly Morris	<i>Disney Fairy series</i>
Mary Pope Osborne	<i>Magic Tree House</i>
Ron Roy	<i>A to Z Mysteries</i>
Cynthia Rylant	<i>Poppleton books</i> <i>Gooseberry Park series</i> <i>Cobblestreet Cousins series</i> <i>Henry and Mudge</i>
Geronimo Stilton	<i>Geronimo Stilton series</i>

## Summer Read-Alouds for the Whole Family!

THE WIZARD OF OZ, THE LAND OF OZ and sequels

L. Frank Baum

- These two books are the best read-alouds ever!

WINNIE THE POOH and THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER

A.A. Milne

- Read the original versions with their wonderful British humor!



PETER PAN

JM Barrie

PIPPY LONGSTOCKING

Astrid Lindgren (new edition!!!)

HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE

JK Rowling

BALLET SHOES

Noel Streatfield

ON THE BANKS OF PLUM CREEK and FARMER BOY

Laura Ingalls Wilder

MARY POPPINS and sequels

P.L Travers

- Not like the movie and play, but every bit as good!



JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

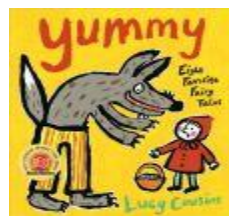
Roald Dahl

TALES OF A FOURTH GRADE NOTHING and sequels

Judy Blume

- Hilariously funny!

And don't forget anthologies of fairy tales. My favorite memories of summer were of sitting down at the end of a long and active day, listening to my mother's voice as she read classic tales from our old Grimm's fairy tale anthology or Andrew Lang's Fairy Book series.



## Books About Things that are Important to Kids!

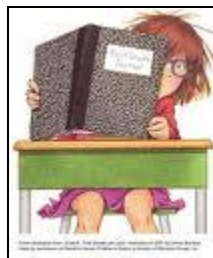
### HOW TO BEHAVE

STAGESTRUCK by Tomie DePaola  
THE ART LESSON by Tomie DePaola  
TROUBLE IN THE BARKER'S CLASS by Tomie DePaola  
LILY'S PERFECT PLASTIC PURSE by Kevin Henkes  
LILY'S BIG DAY by Kevin Henkes  
WEEKEND WITH WENDELL by Kevin Henkes  
BEATRICE DOESN'T WANT TO by Laura Numeroff  
WHAT ARE YOU SO GRUMPY ABOUT? By Tom Lichtensheld  
IT'S HARD TO BE FIVE: LEARNING HOW TO WORK MY CONTROL  
PANEL by Jamie Lee Curtis  
HOW DO DINOSAURS CLEAN THEIR ROOMS? By Jane Yolen  
HOW DO DINOSAURS GET WELL SOON? By Jane Yolen  
HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT? By Jane Yolen



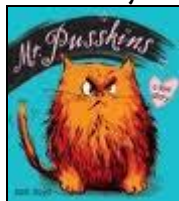
### WORRYING

WEMBERLY WORRIED by Kevin Henkes  
IRA SLEEPS OVER by Bernard Waber  
IRA SAYS GOODBYE by Bernard Waber  
THE KISSING HAND by Audrey Penn  
ALEXANDER, WHO'S NOT GOING TO MOVE by Judith Viorst  
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL by Marisabina Russo  
MEAN SOUP by Betsy Everitt  
SCAREDY SQUIRREL by Melanie Watt  
JUNIE B. JONES HAS A MONSTER UNDER HER BED by Barbara Park



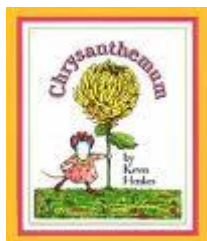
## FRIENDS

MY BUNNY DIARY by Dora Cottontail (Tracy Dockray)  
BEST FRIENDS FOR FRANCES by Russell Hoban  
A BARGAIN FOR FRANCES by Russell Hoban  
A SPECIAL FRIEND, INDEED by Suzanne Bloom  
ELLA THE ELEGANT ELEPHANT by Carmella and Steven D'Amico  
CHESTER'S WAY by Kevin Henkes  
TOOT & PUDDLE by Hollie Hobbie  
THE TREASURE TREE by John & Cindy Trent, Gary & Norma Smally  
MR. PUSSKINS by Sam Lloyd  
THE ENGLISH ROSES by Madonna  
THE PEANUT-FREE CAFÉ by Gloria Koster  
ENEMY PIE by Derek Munson  
PINKALICIOUS and PURPLICIOUS by Victoria Kann



## SCHOOL

YOKO books by Rosemary Wells  
HOPSCOTCH HILL SCHOOL books by Valerie Tripp  
CHRYSANTHEMUM by Kevin Henkes  
KINDERGARTEN ROCKS by Katie Davis  
THE SECRET SCIENCE PROJECT THAT ALMOST ATE THE SCHOOL  
By Judy Sierra  
MISS MALARKEY DOESN'T LIVE IN ROOM 10 by Kevin O'Malley  
ANNABELLE SWIFT, KINDERGARTNER by Amy Schwartz  
RECESS QUEEN by Alexis O'Neil  
THE BRAND NEW KID by Katie Couric



Finally, some important information about independent reading levels . . .

**Our current thinking about levels:** The leveling system was intended for teachers to use to guide *their* instruction. It isn't a number or letter to compare one student to another, and it should never be a label used to define your child's reading identity. The leveling system is not an exact science. Levels are about a set of book characteristics and a text's complexity. Levels can never capture the unique experiences and abilities that each reader brings to a book. Refer to levels for guidance, but also, please consider your child's interests, background knowledge, and motivation when selecting books for pleasure.



## When your child is reading at a G/H level:

### Characteristics of Level G/H books:

- Story concepts become more complex, many are somewhat unfamiliar to children
- Story vocabulary becomes more challenging
- 4-8 lines of text per page with smaller print and text location (top of page, bottom of page) may vary
- Sentences are longer in length and complex

### Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:

- Using both text and pictures to comprehend the story
- Figure out unknown words using their decoding strategies
- Can retell the story, including details, to demonstrate their understanding of the story
- Reading fluently (without frequent stops and with expression)
- Re-reading to check for understanding
- Reads a variety of fiction and nonfiction
- Makes connections between text and another text (“This reminds me the book \_\_\_\_\_ where the characters moved away.”)
- Makes connections between the text and themselves or their world (“I got hurt like the character in the story, and I was sad too.”)



### Some examples of G/H level books:

- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archabault
- *Super Fly Guy* by Tedd Arnold
- *Biscuit* by Alyssa Capucilli
- *Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert
- *More Spaghetti, I Say!* by Rita Gelman
- *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss
- *Put Me In The Zoo* by Robert Lopshire
- *The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree* by Gail Gibbons

(These titles are provided as a point of reference when choosing books at these levels.)





## When your child is reading at an I/J level:

### Characteristics of Level I/J books:

- Variety of fiction and nonfiction texts available
- The story structure is complex
- Pictures are available, but they are used to support the text (children cannot rely on the pictures for clues)
- Different points of view from different characters are evident
- Vocabulary continues to be more challenging and children need to use a variety of strategies to decode these words
- Some books at this level may be beginning chapter books

### Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:

- Ability to read fluently (with little stops and with expression)
- Child does not rely on pictures for clues, gets information from the text
- Figure out unknown words using their decoding strategies
- Can retell the story including details
- Able to stop reading a text, and then later continue reading without forgetting story
- Re-reading to check for understanding if needed
- Reads a variety of fiction and nonfiction
- Makes connections between the text they are reading and other texts, their world, or themselves



### Some examples of I/J level books:

- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Curious George* by H.A. Rey
- *Henry and Mudge* books by Cynthia Rylant
- *Are You My Mother?* By P.D. Eastman
- *Hattie and the Fox* by Mem Fox
- *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood
- *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn
- *Henny Penny* by Paul Galdone

(These titles are provided as a point of reference when choosing books at these levels.)



## When your child is reading at a K/L level:

### Characteristics of Level K/L books:

- Books are chapter-like, have long periods of text without pictures
- Pictures are available, but they are used to support the text (children cannot rely on the pictures for clues)
- Text has many different events that occur at different times, however those events are all related to the overall “plot” of the story
- Vocabulary is challenging
- Text often needs to be read over a period of time

### Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:

- Able to stop reading a text, and then later continue reading without forgetting story
- Can figure out unknown vocabulary by using a variety of strategies (re-reading, sounding out, recognizing word patterns, etc)
- Understand complex ideas
- Able to read a variety of genres (Fiction, non-fiction, etc)
- Able to retell the text with specific details
- Reading fluently (without frequent stops and with expression)



### Some examples of K/L level books:

- *If You Give a Pig A Party* by Laura Numeroff
- *Arthur* books by Marc Brown
- *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin
- *Alexander & the Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst
- *Amelia Bedelia* books by Peggy Parish
- *Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel
- *Nate the Great* by Marjorie Sharmat

(These titles are provided as a point of reference when choosing books at these levels.)



## When your child is reading at an M/N level:

### Characteristics of Level M/N books:

- Books are lengthy, often chapter books
- Smaller print
- Sophisticated vocabulary
- Child must use what they already know to understand/interpret more abstract concepts
- Story plot is complex

### Important behaviors to notice and support with your child:

- Uses decoding strategies and background knowledge to decode unknown words
- Reading in a fluent manner, as if talking, over longer stretches of text
- Reading silently
- Able to remember plots and characters over several days
- Demonstrates ability to understand/interpret different characters or plots
- Able to search for and find information in texts



### Here are some examples of M/N level books:

- *The Teacher From the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler
- *Magic Tree House* books by Mary Pope Osborne
- *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
- *Judy Moody Around the World in 8 ½ Days* by Megan McDonald
- *Junie B. Jones* books by Barbara Park
- *Jigsaw Jones* books by James Preller
- *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig
- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown

(These titles are provided as a point of reference when choosing books at these levels.)