

New Canaan Public Schools
New Canaan, Connecticut

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Summer Reading

(For reading aloud *and* independent reading)

2017

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Children Entering Second Grade



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

Websites for more ideas:

<http://booksforkidsblog.blogspot.com>

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

<http://www.goodreads.com>

(Current reviews and recommendations)

<http://www.ala.org> (American Library Association)

<http://www.greatschools.org/cgi-bin/showarticle/624>

(Favorite Books for Second Graders)

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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. Hynde is out of his Mind!
Ms. Hannah is Bananas! and many more!

These websites are helpful in finding leveled books for independent reading:

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/>

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

<http://www.readinga-z.com/guided/>

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>
Veronika Charles	<i>Spooky Tales 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>
James Howe	<i>Pinkie and Rex</i>
Suzy Klein	<i>Horrible Harry and friends</i> <i>Song Lee books</i>
James Marshall	<i>Fox and Friends</i>
Daisy Meadows	<i>Rainbow Magic Fairy and Pet Fairy 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

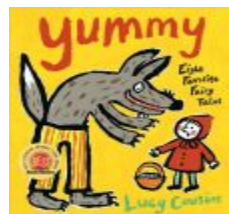
Roald Dahl

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!

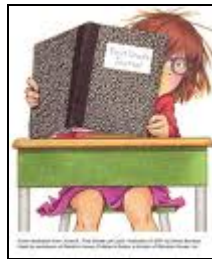
HOW TO BEHAVE

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



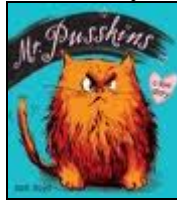
WORRYING

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



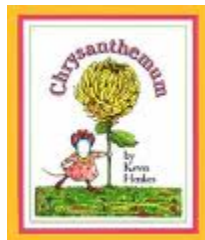
FRIENDS

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 . . .



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.)