Summer Reading
(For reading aloud and independent reading)

2019

Children Entering Third Grade
“The energy and enthusiasm of third graders—for reading, and everything else—are contagious.”

https://www.weareteachers.com/best-3rd-grade-books/

Additional Websites for Suggested Book Titles


http://www.readingrockets.org/books/summer/2019

http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

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Revised June 2019 by Joanne Shulman, K-4 Reading Coordinator
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NEW and NOTEWORTHY
(Books to Inspire Great Discussions)

“A frolicking romp through the zany world of nonsense verse.”
~ Kirkus

Made for Each Other: Why Dogs and People are Perfect Partners by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, 2018. “A smorgasbord of dog facts and tidbits whose distinguishing value may be to inspire interest in readers to research further. (Nonfiction. 8-12)” ~ Kirkus

101 Small Ways to Change the World: (How you (yes, you) can make a difference!) by Aubre Andrus, 2018. “Every idea in this brightly illustrated, compact book is small, but the strategies within have huge potential.” ~ Kids’ Book Review

She Spoke: 14 Women Who Raised their Voices and Changed the World by Kathy MacMillan, 2019. “This collection of 14 half-page biographies of brave, influential women includes sound clips that readers can hear by pressing picture icons.” ~ Publishers Weekly

Mac Undercover: Mac B., Kid Spy Book 1 by Mac Barnett, 2018. “Rollicking spy adventure is loaded with humor.” ~ Common Sense Media

Midsummer’s Mayhem by Rajani LaRocca, 2019. “Can Mimi undo the mayhem caused by her baking in this contemporary-fantasy retelling of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream?” ~ Amazon

Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School by Julie Falatko, 2018. “Giggle-inducing shenanigans ensue when two loyal dogs hatch a plan to save their human boy from school.” ~ Kirkus

Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Start a Club by Accident (Volume 2) by Julie Falatko, 2019. “Hounds Waldo and Sassy are now fully integrated into life at Bea Arthur Memorial Elementary School.” ~ Kirkus

Ada Lace Take Me to Your Leader by Emily Calandrelli, 2018 (series). “Third grader and inventor extraordinaire Ada Lace likes nothing more than to tinker with mechanics like her robot, George.” ~ Penguin Random House

Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica Kensky, 2018. “Based on a real-life partnership, the heartening story of the love and teamwork between a girl and her service dog will illuminate and inspire.” ~ Candlewick Press

Classic Tales

- *Tales from the Odyssey*, Part I and Part II by Mary Pope Osborne
  This series provides an excellent introduction to the classic Greek myths. Not difficult to read, but makes a fine read-aloud as well.

- *Fairy Tales* by Hans Christian Andersen
- *Grimm’s Fairy Tales*
  Fairy tales make excellent read-alouds and are an important part of a child’s literary background. Choose the tales you read with care. You know your child best, and you’ll want to fit the tales to the listener. In the Grimm’s tales, especially, the bad characters get punished severely. This can be very satisfying to readers, but also scary to some. Get the versions of the tales that suit you and your child best.

- Aesop’s Fables
  There are so many versions of these fables that I would choose based on the illustrations and the readability.

There are many spinoffs of these classic stories that are very funny (like *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka.) The humor in satire is based on the assumption that the original story is known, so it’s very important that children know the original stories and don’t mistake the “fractured fairy tales” for the real thing. They will enjoy the funny versions more if they know where they came from!
FASCINATING NONFICTION

I Survived Series by Lauren Tarshis
This very popular series is published by Scholastic. They also have an I Survived website: http://www.scholastic.com/Isurvived/
Many children will want to find out more about these true life adventures!

Who Was? series (different authors)
Biographies of famous people

What Was? series
Historical events (like the battle of Gettysburg and the Boston Tea Party) in a kid-friendly format

Where Is? series
Places (like Mount Rushmore and the Great Wall of China)

Learn more at http://www.whowasbookseries.com/

Dirtmeister’s Nitty Gritty Planet Earth: All About Rocks, Minerals, Fossils, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, & Even Dirt! (National Geographic Kids)
by Steve Tomecek

Germs: Fact and Fiction: Friends and Foes
by Lesa Cline-Ransome

Made for Each Other: Why Dogs and People are Perfect Partners by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

The History of Fun Stuff Series by various authors is terrific nonfiction. Some examples:

- The Sweet Story of Hot Chocolate
- The Deep Dish on Pizza
- The Scoop on Ice Crea
- The Explosive Story of Fireworks
- The Stellar Story of Space Travel

These books are easy and fun for independent reading!
SERIES BOOKS THAT THIRD GRADERS LOVE
(For reading aloud and/or independent reading)

Tony Abbott
Secrets of Droon

David Adler
Cam Jansen mysteries

David Adler
Picture book biography series

Jeanne Betancourt
Pony Pals

Andrew Clements
Jake Drake series

Paula Dansiger
Amber Brown stories

Judy Delton
Pee Wee Scouts

Kathleen Duey
Unicorn’s Secret series

J.C. Greenburg
Andrew Lost series

Kristiana Gregory
Cabin Creek mystery series

James Howe
Pinkie and Rex

Suzy Klein
Horrible Harry and friends
Song Lee books

Gail Carson Levine
Princess Tales

J.B. Mason & S. H. Stevens
Princess School

Mary Pope Osborne
Magic Tree House

Harper Paris
Greetings from Somewhere (mystery series)

Ron Roy
A to Z Mysteries

Cynthia Rylant
Poppleton books
Gooseberry Park series
Cobblestreet Cousins series

George E. Stanley
Third Grade Detectives series
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kwame Alexander</td>
<td>Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Bush</td>
<td>Ferocious Girls, Steamroller Boys</td>
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| Doug Florian            | Laugh-eteria
Zoo’s Who
Summersaults
Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs |
| Kristine George         | Fold Me a Poem
Toasting Marshmallows: Poems about Camping                            |
| Michael Hague           | The Book of Fairy Poetry                                             |
| Chris Harris            | I’m Just No Good at Rhyming: and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups |
| Paul Janeczko           | A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms                |
| Alan Katz               | Take Me Out of the Bathtub
I’m Still Here in the Bathtub                                        |
| Patrick Lewis           | Keep a Pocket in Your Poem                                           |
| Carol Murray            | Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs                             |
| Jack Prelutsky          | My Dog May Be a Genius                                               |
| Shel Silverstein        | Where the Sidewalk Ends
The Light in the Attic
Falling Up
Don’t Bump the Gump and Other Fantasies |
| Marilyn Singer          | Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing             |
| Amy Ludwig Vanderwater  | Read! Read! Read!                                                    |
| Judith Viorst           | If I Were in Charge of the World
Sad Underwear                                                         |

Remember that children love, love, love poetry!
Reading poems over and over develops reading fluency and a love for lyrical language. Amaze friends and relatives by memorizing favorite poems to share at summer gatherings!
EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS

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

HOPSCOTCH HILL SCHOOL SERIES by Valerie Tripp
  Bright, Shiny Skylar
  Good Sport, Gwen
  Hallie’s Horrible Handwriting
  Teasing Trouble
  Thank You, Logan!

ARTHUR CHAPTER BOOKS by Stephen Krensky

FRANKLIN SCHOOL FRIENDS by Claudia Mills (e.g., Kelsey Green, Reading Queen)

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

PUPPY ACADEMY SERIES by Gill Lewis (Scout and the Sausage Thief)

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!

MERCY WATSON series by Kate DiCamillo

Read on to see the nominees for the Elementary (Grades 2-4) 2020 Nutmeg Award!
Alfie: (The Turtle That Disappeared) by Thara Heder

Nico has lost interest in his pet turtle, Alfie, until he goes missing on her 7th birthday. Readers then get to follow Alfie on a long journey and find out what he is really up to. When the two are reunited, there are a few surprises in store!

Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic by Mara Rockliff

The show must go on! Read the true story of Adelaide Herrmann, one of the first female magicians who shot out of a cannon, managed a magic show, and more. Let the fearless tale of the Queen of Magic shock and dazzle you!

Bolivar by Sean Rubin

Nyul’s eight foot tall neighbor with tiny arms and a long tail looks an awful lot like a dinosaur to her. Will any of the busy New Yorkers around her notice?

Book Uncle and Me by Uma Krishnaswami

Nine year-old Yasmin loves to read and Book Uncle, who runs a free lending library, offers her something new each day. When the mayor tries to shut Book Uncle down, can the community come together to save him?

A Boy Called Bat by Elana K. Arnold

Bobby Andenmo Taku, better known by his nickname Bat, struggles to make friends, get along with his sister, and make sense of his recently divorced parents with whom he splits his time living. When his mom, a veterinarian, brings home an orphaned newborn seun, Bat’s world becomes caring for the baby and proving the wild animal would make a good pet.

The Dinosaur Expert by Margaret McNamara

When you’re an aspiring paleontologist, what could be better than a field trip to the natural history museum? Kennedy is excited to share her knowledge with her classmates until she is told, "Girls aren’t scientists." With the help of her teacher, she learns an important lesson about herself and about opportunities for women in science.

Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems / Aleteo Y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales by Julie Pashkis

Written in both English and Spanish, this collection of poems accompanied by watercolor paintings describes various animals in their habitats.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers

Everyone knows her. She stands watch in New York Harbor, holding a light that stands for hope, welcome and refuge. But has anyone really stopped to look at her feet?

If Sharks Disappeared by Lilly Williams

Sharks are the top predators of the ocean, yet are in great danger. What would happen if these ocean hunters were gone?

Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

Children’s voices can change the world! Join thousands of African American children as they courageously march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to protest against racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. Despite many hardships, they learn that their voices and their actions are powerful tools for social change. Inspired by the events surrounding the Children’s Crusade of 1963.

Lola Levine is not Mean! by Monica Brown

Lola Levine likes writing in her diary, eating her mom’s cake, and watching soccer with her team, the Orange Smoothies. Get to know this seven-year-old aspiring writer’s family, friends, ups, and downs.

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere by Barb Rosenstock

In 1930, Otis Barton and William Beebe were determined to be the first pioneers to dive deep in the ocean and catch a glimpse of the unexplored life and landscape. This is the detailed story of the intense preparations, the trials and errors, and the precise calculations and engineering they made as they planned their dangerous mission that could prove deadly if they made mistakes.

Robins!: How They Grow Up by Eileen Christelow

A "Chirp- chirp, chirp- chirp!" of little known facts about our favorite springtime visitors! Follow a robin's life from that tiny blue egg to an adult on the hunt for worms.

The Story of Diva and Flea by Mo Willems

Flea is a street cat. Diva is a tea bag. When their worlds collide in a courtyard in Paris their lives are changed forever. Come along on a tale of unexpected adventure and friendship.

Trombone Shorty by Troy Andrews

Troy Andrews passion for music, practice, practice, practice propelled him from New Orleans to worldwide fame. In this autobiography, Trombone Shorty shares how his hometown influenced him and inspired him to mix different styles to create his own "música gumbo."
SPUNKY GIRLS!

There are many gutsy girl characters are out there. These books are a ton of fun for girls (and boys, too!)

Sara Pennypacker:
- *Clementine*
- *The Talented Clementine*
- *Clementine’s Letter*
- *Clementine, Friend of the Week*
- *Clementine and the Family Meeting*
- *Clementine and the Spring Trip*

www.sarapennypacker.com

Lois Lowry:
- *Gooney Bird Greene*
- *Gooney Bird Greene and the Room Mother*
- *Gooney the Fabulous*
- *Gooney Bird and the Room Mother*
- *Gooney Bird on the Map*
- *Gooney Bird and All Her Charms*

Megan McDonald’s Judy Moody series . . . also a movie two summers ago!
www.judymoody.com

Katie Kazoo books by Nancy E. Krulik

Jasmine Toguchi Series by Debbi Michiko Florence (e.g., *Jasmine Toguchi, Super Sleuth*)

Beatrice Zinker Series by Shelley Johannes
BOOKS FOR GREAT GUYS!

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These are guaranteed to captivate guys (and girls as well!)

- *Jake Drake* series by Andrew Clements
  *Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School* series by Andrew Clements
  [www.andrewclements.com](http://www.andrewclements.com)
- *The Bad Guys* series by Aaron Blabey
- *Stink* series by Megan McDonald
  [http://www.meganmcdonald.net/category/series/stink](http://www.meganmcdonald.net/category/series/stink)

- *The Zach Files* series and *The Secrets of Dripping Fang* series by Dan Greenburg

- Jake Maddox Sports Series by Jake Maddox
- *Marvin Redpost* series by Louis Sachar
  [http://www.louissachar.com/Marvin.htm](http://www.louissachar.com/Marvin.htm)
- *Hank Zipzer* series by Henry Winkler
  [www.hankzipzer.com](http://www.hankzipzer.com)
- *The Masterpiece Adventures* series by Elise Broach
- *Dog Man* series by Dav Pilkey
  These are in cartoon form, boys enjoy them and they are appealing to reluctant readers.

Also:

KAT KONG and DOGZILLA by Dav Pilkey *(These are hilarious picture books!)*
Dav Pilkey has a website that boys will love! (Warning—he wrote *Captain Underpants.*) [www.pilkey.com](http://www.pilkey.com)

There are lots of cartoons and games as well as information about the author.
For more ideas, go to [www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com)

*The following pages explain the characteristics of the reading levels that we find work well with second/third graders for independent reading.* . .
NARRATIVE NONFICTION/PICTURE BOOK BIOGRAPHIES

Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson’s Super Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark

Ordinary, Extraordinary Jane Austen by Deborah Hopkinson

Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor by Patricia Valdez

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus by Jen Bryant

Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge by Carrie Clickard

The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, the First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon by Frances Poletti

Schomburg - The Man Who Built a Library by Carol Boston Weatherford

Vincent Can’t Sleep: Van Gogh Paints the Night Sky by Barb Rosenstock
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 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 can be used as a point of reference when looking for 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 can be used as a point of reference when looking for books at these levels.)
When your child is reading at an O/P level:

**Characteristics of Level O/P books:**
- Books are lengthy, often chapter books
- Smaller print, less pictures to support text
- 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

**Some examples of O/P level books:**
- *Socks* by Beverly Cleary
- *Captain Underpants* by Dave Pilkey
- *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary
- *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* by Betsy MacDonald
- *Encyclopedia Brown* books by Donald J. Sobol
- *Babysitter’s Club* books by Ann Martin
- *Boxcar Children* books by Gertrude Chandler Warner
- *The Haunting of Grade Three* by Grace Maccarone
- *Pony Pals* books by Jeanne Betancourt
- *Ramona Books* by Beverly Cleary

(These titles can be used as a point of reference when looking for books at these levels.)