

## GSB summer reading suggestions for children entering first grade 2009

The single most important thing to ensure school success for a child is to be read to. Children of parents who read become readers themselves. Listed below are suggestions and possibilities for summer reading. These titles may be of help to you or to librarians and book store clerks as you choose books to read with your child. Please don't be limited to this list. Feel free to read what you and your child will enjoy.

### Picture Books and Easy Readers

Adler, David. **Young Cam Jansen** series. An easy reader version of the popular series about a young girl who solves mysteries with her photographic memory.

Allen, Jonathan. **I'm Not Cute!** Baby Owl gets upset when all the other animals think he is so cute.

Bang, Molly. **When Sophie Gets Angry - Really, Really Angry.** When Sophie gets angry she runs out and climbs her favorite tree. Different people handle anger in different ways.

Banks, Kate. **Max's Words.** When Max cuts out words from magazines and newspapers, collecting them the way his brothers collect stamps and coins, they all learn about words, sentences, and storytelling.

Bradley, Kimberly. **Ballerino Nate.** Two dog brothers disagree about ballet, but Nate's love of dancing only grows stronger.

Bruel, Nick. **Bad Kitty.** When a kitty discovers there is no cat food in the house, she decides to become very, very bad.

Bunting, Eve. **My Special Day at the Third Street School.** A school visit from a children's book author Amada Drake brings a day full of fun.

**That's What Leprechauns Do.** When leprechauns Ari, Boo, and Col need to place the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, they cannot help getting into mischief along the way.

Byars, Betsy. **Boo's Dinosaur.** Easy reader. Boo loves her dinosaur, but big brother Sammy is not always a fan.

Carle, Eric. **Mr. Seahorse.** After Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs on Mr. Seahorse's belly, he drifts through the water greeting other fish fathers who are taking care of their eggs.

- Chen, Chih-Yuan. **Guji Guji.** Guji Guji, a crocodile hatched and raised by a mother duck, must come up with a plan to save his family when a trio of bad crocodiles tries to convince him to serve up his relatives for their dinner.
- Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a Worm.** A young worm discovers day by day that there are some good things and some not-so-good things about being a worm.
- Danneberg, Julia. **Cowboy Slim.** Cowboy Slim can't rope, whip or ride, but he saves the herd - and his cowboy friends learn the power of poetry.
- DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride.** Mercy, a spoiled but charming pig decides she wants to drive her family's 1959 Cadillac.
- Dodds, Dayle Ann. **Minnie's Diner: a multiplying menu.** A rhyming tale of five boys and their father who enjoy Minnie's good cooking each doubling the order of the last.
- Dodson, Emma. **Badly Drawn Dog.** Badly Drawn Dog was tired of his scribbly, smudgy look so he asked an artist to redraw him better; but his new appearances began to cause him a series of problems.
- Donaldston, Julia. **Charlie Cook's Favorite Book.** A circular tale in which each new book character is reading about the next, beginning and ending with Charlie Cook.
- Freeman, Don. **Corduroy.** A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.
- Gag, Wanda. **Millions of Cats.** An old man sets out in search of a pet for his lonely wife and returns with millions of cats, all claiming to be the most beautiful of the bunch.
- Godwin, Laura. **Forest.** An easy reader about a girl who finds an abandoned fawn and brings it home to nurse.
- Graham, Bob. **Oscar's Half Birthday.** Oscar's family can't wait and celebrates his six-month birthday with a picnic. Everyone in the park joins the celebration.
- Harper, Isabelle. **Our New Puppy.** When a new puppy joins the family, two sisters see how their older dog reacts and learn what it is like having a being a younger sibling.
- Heide, Florence. **That's What Friends Are For.** All the elephant's friends give him advice but none can solve his problem until the opossum announces that friends are to help, not just give advice.

Hoban, Lillian. **Arthur** series. Arthur has various gentle adventures with his friends, at school, camping, at birthday parties.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. **You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Fairy Tales to Read Together.** Short retellings of familiar fairy tales, each told in two voices, especially for children and adults to read together.

Holwitz, Peter. **Stick Kid.** A stick figure boy grows up , eventually leaving home and starting a stick family of his own.

Joose, Barbara. **Papa, Do You Love Me?** A Masai father in Africa answers his son's questions, reaffirming his unconditional love for the boy.

Juster, Norton. **The Hello, Goodbye Window.** A little girl sees the kitchen window at her grandparents' home as a special gateway where important things happen.

Kuskin, Karla. **So, What's it Like to be a Cat.** A cat answers a child's questions about such things as how much and where it sleeps and whether it likes living with people.

Lee, Spike. **Please, Baby, Please.** A toddler's antics keep her mother busy as she tries to feed her, watch her on the playground, give her a bath and put her to bed.

Leopold, Niki. **K is for Kitten.** A rhyming alphabet book that follows an abandoned kitten to the family that adopts her.

Lobel, Arnold. **Frog and Toad Together.** Five short easy-to-read stories about two best friends.

Long, Melinda. **How I Became a Pirate.** Jeremy Jacob joins Braid Beard and his pirate crew and finds out about pirate language, pirate manners, and other aspects of their life.

Markle, Sandra. **Little Lost Bat.** What happens when the mother of a newborn Mexican free-tailed bat is eaten by a predator?

Martin, Rafe. **The Storytelling Princess.** Having survived a shipwreck, a princess tries to tell a prince a story whose ending he does not know and thus qualify for his hand in marriage.

McAllister, Angela. **Digory the Dragon Slayer.** Beginning chapter book. Digory would rather enjoy nature quietly but he is given the name "dragon slayer" and has to live up to it.

McClintock, Barbara. **Adele & Simon.** Little brother leaves a trail of lost possessions through 1800s Paris as older sister guides him home.

McMullan, Kate. **I'm Dirty!** A busy backhoe loader describes all the items it hauls off and all the fun it has getting dirty while it works.

McNulty, Faith. **If You Decide to Go to the Moon.** How to get to the moon, what to bring along, what to do after you arrive, and most importantly, how to get back.

Meister, Cari. **My Pony Jack.** Easy-to-read rhyming text follows Lacy as she spends a day with her pony.

Pitzer, Susanna. **Not Afraid of Dogs.** Comforting a dog that's afraid of thunder, Daniel learns to overcome his fear of dogs.

Rao, Sandhya. **My Mother's Sari.** A young girl describes all the things she does with her mother's sari. Includes simple instructions on how to wear a sari.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Martin's Big Words.** A picture book biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rylant, Cynthia. **The Great Gracie Chase.** Gracie is out of her yard and no one can catch her. How can such a quiet little dog cause such an uproar?

Sachar, Louis. **Monkey Soup.** With the help of her toy monkey, a girl prepares an all-encompassing soup full of Band-aids, tissues, and crayons for her father who is sick in bed.

Seuss, Dr. **The Cat in the Hat. One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish.**

Silverman, Erica. **Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa.** This easy reader tells the funny adventures of Kate and her horse Cocoa on a cattle ranch.

Wells, Rosemary. **Bunny Cakes.** Max makes an earthworm cake for Grandma's birthday and helps Ruby with her angel surprise cake.

Willems, Mo. **Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct.** An engaging dinosaur confounds all the evidence about her existence.

## Non-fiction, biography, poetry

- Barber, Tiki. **Game Day.** Brothers Tiki and Ronde Barber, two NFL superstars, tell their story and explain how loyalty, determination and the power of teamwork help all succeed.
- Bozzo, Linda. **My First Dog.** Simple text and photographs show how to care for a new dog; discussing choosing a breed, supplies, grooming, veterinarian visits, exercise, and bonding.
- Burleigh, Robert. **Home Run.** A poetic account of the legendary Babe Ruth as he prepares to hit a home run.
- Davies, Nicola. **Surprising Sharks.** Sharks come in all shapes and sizes. Species from the smallest to the scariest are described in this informative picture book.
- Demarest, Chris. **Firefighters A to Z.** An alphabetic look at a firefighter's day.
- Ditchfield, Christin. **Ice Hockey.** Explores in simple terms the history, basic rules, terms, and highlights of the sport.
- Florian, Douglas. **Bow Wow Meow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs.** A collection of 21 original poems and paintings about our favorite animal friends.
- George, Kristine. **Fold Me a Poem.** A collection of poems about origami animals.
- Gibbons, Gail. **Knights in Shining Armor.** Describes the skills needed to become a knight, their equipment and armor and their duties.
- Glassman, Jackie. **Amazing Arctic Animals.** This easy reader describes the physical characteristics and behavior of Arctic animals including the polar bear, arctic fox and arctic hare.
- Karas, G. Brian. **On Earth.** The earth and its cycles are simply and beautifully illustrated in this poetic text.
- Jenkins, Steve. **Biggest, Strongest, Fastest.** An introduction to the "world records" held by fourteen different animals; illustrated with cut-paper collages.
- Lakin, Patricia. **Harry Houdini: Escape Artist.** This easy reader explains how Houdini, born Ehrich Weiss, worked hard to become a great magician.
- MacLachlan, Patricia. **Once I Ate a Pie.** The personalities of different dogs are described in rhyme with impressionistic paintings.

- Milton, Joyce. **Mummies.** An easy reader that explains the Egyptians' beliefs about life after death, explains the process of mummification, and describes pyramids as burial places.
- Moss, Marissa. **Brave Harriet.** The first American woman to receive a pilot's license describes her April 1912 solo flight across the English Channel.
- Otto, Carolyn. **Our Puppies are Growing.** A dog's young owner describes the birth of her puppies and their first weeks of life.
- Paolilli, Paul. **Silver Seeds.** A collection of acrostic poems about nature.
- Parker, Victoria. **Life as a Frog.** A simple look at the life cycle and habits of frogs.
- Polin, C.J. **The Story of Chocolate.** This easy reader tells the history of chocolate from a drink of the ancient Olmec peoples to its farming and processing today.
- Prelutsky, Jack. **Awful Ogre's Awful Day.** In a series of poems, Awful Ogre rises, grooms himself, dances, pens a letter and goes through other daily activities.
- Prince. April Jones. **Meet Our Flag, Old Glory.** Rhyming text introduces our flag and some of the patriotic events with which it is associated.
- Rau, Dana. **Castle.** A very simple explanation of the architecture, construction and interior of a castle.
- Rosenthal, Amy. **Cookies: Bite-Size Life Lessons.** Cookies provide the framework for life lessons about sharing, cooperation, patience and regret.
- Smith, Maggie. **This is Your Garden.** A little girl with good tools and seeds begins to grow a garden that needs sun, water, weeding, and her encouragement.
- Troll, Ray. **Sharkabet.** A sea of sharks from A to Z.
- Wallace. Karen. **Duckling Days.** This easy reader describes how a mother duck builds her nest, lays and hatches six eggs, and teaches her ducklings about life on their own.
- Wild Baby Animals.** This easy reader describes some of the differences in the ways various baby animals behave and grow.
- Zolotow, Charlotte. **Seasons, a Book of Poems.** A collection of easy-to-read poems divided into the four seasons.