

## GSB Summer Reading Suggestions for children entering Third Grade in 2009

You may choose your summer reading from this list. Feel free to read other books by these authors or books not on this list. Please choose a minimum of **one** book from the Non-Fiction section. Keep a record of the books you read on the enclosed reading log you were sent. Bring it to school in September. Enjoy your summer and good reading!

### Fiction

Adler, David A. **Cam Jansen Mystery Series.** A mystery/adventure series about a girl who uses her photographic memory to solve mysteries.

Asch, Frank. **Star Jumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius.** Alex plans to leave planet Earth and his annoying little brother in Star Jumper, the spaceship he designed and built entirely of cardboard, duct tape, and old items from the basement.

Birney, Betty. **Friendship According to Humphrey.** When Humphrey the hamster returns to Mrs. Brisbane's class after the winter break, he finds a new class pet. *series*

Byars, Betsy Cromer. **Tornado.** As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to a farmhand tell stories about a dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

Christopher, Matt  
Many sports related stories with well developed characters.

Cleary, Beverly (not **Mouse on a Motorcycle**). **Henry Huggins.** When Henry adopts Ribsy, a dog of no particular breed, humorous adventures follow.  
**Ramona the Pest.** Ramona meets lots of interesting people in kindergarten class, like Davy whom she keeps trying to kiss and Susan whose springy curls seem to ask to be pulled.

Child, Lauren. **This is Me, Clarice Bean.** A girl describes the hectic life she leads among the members of her large family, and her search for a little peace and quiet. *series*

Conford, Ellen. **Annabel the Actress Starring in Gorilla My Dreams.** Annabel's first acting job is as a cake-carrying gorilla at a birthday party for a five-year-old boy. *series*

Dahl, Roald (not **Fantastic Mr. Fox**). **The BFG.** Kidnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant) who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-grabbing cannibal giants.

Danziger, Paula. **Amber Brown** series featuring grade-schooler Amber whose divorced parents share joint custody. In the course of the series Amber's best friend moves away, her mother considers remarrying, and she deals humorously but realistically with various school challenges.

DeYoung, C. Coco. **A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt.** Eleven-year-old Margo fulfills a class assignment by writing a letter to Eleanor Roosevelt asking for help to save her family's home during the Great Depression.

DiSalvo, Dyanne. **The Sloppy Copy Slipup.** Fourth-grader Brian Higman worries about how his teacher Miss Fromme--nicknamed The General--will react when he fails to hand in a writing assignment, but he ends up being able to tell his story, after all.

Duffey, Betsy. **Hey, New Kid!** Third-grader Cody dreads going to a new school when his family moves, so he decides to reinvent himself, hoping his new classmates will be impressed.  
**How To Be Cool In The Third Grade.** When Robbie York is marked as a target by a bully at school, he decides that the only way to survive the third grade is by being cool.

Finney, Patricia. **I, Jack.** Jack, a Labrador retriever, tells about his daily life of food, walks, and the "apedogs" and "funny-looking dogs" (cats) in his pack, as well as how everything changes when a pretty girl dog moves into the neighborhood. Includes explanatory footnotes written by the cats.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Dance with Rosie.** Wishing she could have gotten into Miss Dierdre's ballet class, Rosie tries to learn ballet anyway by spying on the class from the alley and practicing at home but fears she will never become a star.

Greene, Stephanie. **Owen Foote, Mighty Scientist.** Third grade best friends Owen and Joseph struggle to come up with a great science fair project, then something goes wrong and they have to change their plans two days before the fair. *series*

Greenwald, Sheila. **Write on, Rosy!** When Rosy realizes she does not have a life-long ambition like her best friend, she decides to become an investigative reporter. *series*

Grover, Wayne. **Dolphin Adventure: A True Story.** A diver describes how he encounters and gains the trust of a family of dolphins and saves the life of their baby.  
**Dolphin Freedom.** A diver and his friends rescue a family of dolphins from Bahamian poachers who are selling the dolphins to marine parks.

Haas, Jessie. **Birthday Pony.** Grandma Aggie tries to help her granddaughter Jane and the independent pony Popcorn, who were born on the same day, become riding partners. *series*

- Hobbs, Valerie. **Sheep.** After a fire destroys the farm where he was born, a young border collie acquires a series of owners and learns about life as he seeks a home and longs to fulfill his life's purpose of shepherding sheep.
- Howe, James (not *Bunnica*). **Howliday Inn.** While their family is away, Harold and Chester, a dog and a cat are boarded at Chateau Bow-Wow where Chester becomes increasingly alarmed by the strange behavior of his fellow guests and the sudden disappearance of one of them.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. **Oh, No Noah!** Noah struggles to impress the kids he meets when he and his family move to a new house.
- Jenkins, Emily. **Toys Go Out.** Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.
- Labatt, Mary. **Aliens in Woodford.** This book is part of the Sam: Dog Detective series, stories of fast-paced mysteries featuring Sam, the sheepdog sleuth and his friends.
- LeGuin, Ursula. **Catwings.** Four young cats with wings leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two children with kind hearts.
- Lin, Grace. **The Year of the Dog.** Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.
- Look, Lenore. **Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything.** Ruby Lu's life becomes challenging after her deaf cousin arrives from China.  
**Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School and Other Scary Things.** A young boy in Concord, Mass, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.
- Lowry, Lois (not *Number the Stars*). **See You Around Sam.** Sam Krupnik, mad at his mother because she won't let him wear his new plastic fangs in the house, decides to run away to Alaska.  
**Stay! Keeper's Story.** Separated early in life from his mother and siblings, Keeper, a dog, tells of his adventures with various human masters and his continual search for his little sister.
- Lubar, David. **Punished!** Because he was playing tag in the library Logan is punished by Professor Wordsworth who puts a spell on him, making him speak only in puns.
- MacDonald, Betty. **Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle.** From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle issues to parents her marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism and Fighter Quarrelitis.

- MacLachlan, Patricia (not **Sarah, Plain and Tall**). **Seven Kisses in a Row**  
Emma learns to accept “different strokes for different folks”, when her aunt and uncle come to take care of her and her brother.
- McDonald, Megan. **Judy Moody** series. Judy Moody works her way through the trials and tribulations of third grade in this humorous series.
- Paterson, Katherine. **The King’s Equal**. In order to wear the crown of the kingdom, an arrogant young prince must find an equal in his bride; instead he finds someone better than he.
- Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine**. While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.
- Rockwell, Thomas. **How to Eat Fried Worms**. Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.
- Scieszka, Jon. **Time Warp Trio** series. Three boys from the Bronx have amusing time travel adventures.
- Selden, George (not **Cricket in Times Square**). **Chester Cricket’s New Home**  
When two rather stout ladies sit on Chester Cricket's home in the Old Meadow, the worm-eaten stump collapses and Chester, aided by his friends, is forced to look for a new home.  
**Harry Kitten and Tucker Mouse**. A hungry mouse and a lonely kitten become friends and seek adventure and fortune together in the streets and subways of New York City
- Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown and the Case of the Two Spies**. The famous boy detective solves ten short mysteries. Readers can solve them along with him and find the answers in the back of the book. *series*
- Winkler, Henry. **The Zippity Zinger**. The pressure is on when Hank Zipzer is chosen as pitcher for the softball team at Public School 87's annual Olympiad, the most anticipated day of the school year.

## Non-Fiction, Poetry, Biography

- Adler, David A. **How Tall, How Short, How Faraway.** Introduces several measuring systems such as the Egyptian system, the inch-pound system and the metric system.
- Bonnors, Susan. **Why Does the Cat do That?** Describes how cats hunt, interact with their kittens, mark their pathways by spraying them with urine and other behavior.
- Castle, Kate. **My Ballet Book.** Introduces the world of ballet and presents its notable stories, techniques and routines.
- Clements, Andrew. **A Million Dots.** Illustrations and fun facts demonstrate what one million dots look like.
- Demarest, Chris. **Hurricane Hunters!** Describes a flight into a hurricane for the purpose of gathering information about the storm.
- dePaola, Tomie. **26 Fairmount Avenue.** Author and illustrator Tomie dePaola recalls his kindergarten year in 1938, when his family built a new house.
- Donkin, Andrew. **Going for the Gold.** Profiles notable Olympic athletes who overcome the odds to win gold medals, including Jesse Owens, Shelley Mann and Kerri Strug.
- Dooling, Michael. **Young Thomas Edison.** Presents a short illustrated biography of inventor Thomas Edison, and chronicles his childhood and early interest in science, as well as his many inventions.
- Florian, Doug. **Laugh-eteria.** More than 100 humorous poems on such topics as ogres, pizza, fear, school, dragons, trees, and hair.
- George, Jean Craighead. **How to Talk to Your Cat.** Describes how cats communicate with people through their behavior and sounds and explains how to talk back to them using sounds, behavior, and body language.
- Gibbons, Gail. **Caves and Caverns.** Text and labeled illustrations describe the formation and physical features of various kinds of caves, with a brief section on spelunking.  
**Marshes and Swamps.** Defines marshes and swamps. Discusses how conditions in them may change and examines the life found in and around them.
- Graham, Ian. **The Best Book of Spaceships.** How humans have tried to learn more about space and some of the equipment and vehicles used to do this.
- Herzog, Brad. **T is for Touchdown.** Full page illustrations highlight an alphabetical introduction to the nuts and bolts and history of football.

- Jenkins, Steve. **To the Top of the World: Climbing Mount Everest**  
Describes the condition and terrain of Mount Everest, attempts that have been made to scale this peak and general information about the equipment and techniques of mountain climbing.
- Lauber, Patricia. **About Fingers, Forks & Chopsticks.** A history of cooking, food habits, and good manners.
- Littlechild, George. **This Land is my Land.** Using text and his own paintings, the author describes the experience of Indians in North America in general, as well as his experiences growing up as a Plains Cree Indian in Canada.
- Markle, Sandra. **Outside and Inside Mummies.** Explores a variety of mummies and the new technologies developed to help study them.
- Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. **Snowflake Bentley.** Wilson Bentley, known as the world's expert on snow, spent his life photographing snowflakes.
- McCully, Emily. **Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor.** Margaret Knight's inventions ranged from foot warmers to the first paper bag machine and won her the title "Lady Edison."
- Pallotta, Jerry. **The Skull Book.** Asks the reader to identify, by learning functions of facial bones and teeth, the skull of an animal for each letter of the alphabet.
- Prelutsky, Jack. **The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Children's Poetry Treasury.** More than 200 poems introduce the best children's poets then and now.  
**It's Raining Pigs and Noodles.** A collection of humorous poems – for all ages.
- Pritchard, Louise. **My Pony Book.** Describes the characteristics, origins, and history of ponies and provides tips on their care and development.
- Squire, Ann. **Growing Crystals.** An introduction to growing crystals, describing different crystals and how they are made.
- Simon, Seymour. **Big Cats.** Describes the physical characteristics, habits and natural environment of various species of big cats.  
**Bones.** Outlines the many important roles that bones play in the healthy functioning of the human body.
- Stier, Catherine. **If I Were President.** Children imagine what their days would be like if they became President of the United States.
- Sullivan, George. **Quarterbacks.** Profiles some of the top-rated quarterbacks of all time including Fran Tarkenton, Troy Aikman, Sammy Baugh, Bart Starr, Dan Marino and Steve Young