

June 2008

Cambridge Friends School Library

**Summer Reading Suggestions
for
Beginning Readers**

**Recommended for Students
Entering Grades 1 - 2**

Please note that there is a wide variety in interests and abilities among readers; you may also be interested in our other reading lists, which you can find on our website www.cfsmass.org/Library.htm. "Summer Reading Suggestions for Younger Readers" includes many chapter books for family read-alouds.

There is a wide range of books for beginning readers. Many publishers have series that target specific levels of reading ability. This list includes new and noteworthy books*, a list of recommended favorite and classic beginner books, a list of series and publishers, and books in graphic format

Also, remember to include picture books, folktales, biography, poetry and nonfiction when choosing books for reading this summer.

Happy Reading!

Contents

New and Noteworthy
Favorites and Classics
Series and Publishers
Books in Graphic Format

* Some annotations have been adapted from publishers' information and book reviews.

New and Noteworthy:

Ada, Alma Flor. Extra! Extra!: Fairy-Tale News from Hidden Forest

When the residents of Hidden Forest wake up and open their morning papers, they are in for a surprise. An enormous beanstalk has mysteriously sprouted outside of Jack Blake's house, and Jack is nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, Pinocchio and Half-Chicken have set out on adventures of their own, and Tortoise and Hare are off to the races. Will they all find their happy endings?

Adler, David. Bones (series)

Young Detective Jeffrey Bones solves mysteries in this delightful series.

Arnold, Tedd. Hi! Fly Guy (series)

Boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful and funny friendship.

Baker, Keith. Meet Mr. and Mrs. Green

In a three-chapter format, this book includes Mrs. Green's less-than-lucky day fishing, her latest portrait of Mr. Green, and an eventful day at the park.

Beaumont, Karen. Move Over, Rover!

The cumulative text in "Move Over, Rover!" is expanded by illustrations containing context clues to tell the story of creatures from Squirrel to Skunk seeking shelter by squeezing into Rover's doghouse.

Cazet, Denys. Will You Read to Me?

Hamlet enjoys books and poetry, not playing in the mud and fighting over supper like the other pigs, but he finally finds someone who appreciates him just as he is.

Chaconas, Dori J. Cork and Fuzz (series)

From their first meeting in a hollow log to playing pin-the-tail-on-the-turtle, Cork the muskrat and Fuzz the possum are always up to something unusual. The gentle humor and simple story are just right for beginning readers.

Cole, Joanna. Monster Manners

Distressed over their daughter's lack of bad manners, Mother and Father Monster insist that she misbehave.

Egan, Tim. Dodsworth in New York

When Dodsworth sets out for adventure, including a stop in NYC before going to London, Paris and beyond, he does not expect a crazy duck to stowaway in his suitcase.

Ellis, Andy. Scaredy Dog

Dudley the dog has quite an imagination, and when it runs wild, he turns into Scaredy Dog. When he and Daphne come face-to-face with Attila, the mean, crazy dog from next door, what will happen?

Friend, Catherine. The Perfect Nest

A flustered cat is on the verge of crying fowl in a farmyard story that's rich in detail with a sweet final twist that will crack young readers up.

Giovanni, Nikki and Johnson, Cathy Ann. The Girls in the Circle

Three girls have fun playing dress-up at their grandmother's house in this high-spirited, rhyming story.

Hay, Samantha. Creepy Customers

Much to his surprise, Steve finds that helping out at his dad's pharmacy is anything but boring. Odd characters keep coming into the store -a witch, a vampire, a werewolf, and finally a man carrying his head in his arms. He decides that working in a drugstore is not so boring after all.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. Skinny Brown Dog

A charming story about an unlikely friendship between a baker and a dog that hangs around his bakery.

Howe, James. Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise (series)

Houndsley and Catina are dog and cat friends. Houndsley is sad because he doesn't know when his birthday is. All of a sudden Catina is sad, too, but it won't be long before the very best of friends discover a way to brighten even the saddest day.

Keller, Holly. Help!: A Story of Friendship

Mouse and Snake are friends, but when Mouse hears a rumor that snakes are dangerous to mice, he runs away from Snake and falls down a hole. Mouse soon learns that friendships are forever and rumors are just that.

Kvasnosky, Laura McGee. Zelda and Ivy: The Runaways (series)

The fabulous fox sisters return! Whether Zelda and Ivy are combating the injustice of cucumber sandwiches for lunch, deciding what to leave the children of the future in their time capsule, or solving Zelda's writer's block, they are sure to amuse.

McKissack, Robert L and Cepeda, Joe. Try Your Best

When Ann worries that she is not good enough to participate in Sports Day, her teacher encourages her to try her best.

Madison, Alan. Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly

It's hard to be Velma entering first grade. That's because everyone has marvelous memories of her two older sisters, who were practically perfect first graders, and no one even notices Velma. But all that changes on a class trip to the butterfly conservatory, a place neither of her sisters has been.

McMullan, Kate. Fluffy Goes to School

His name may be Fluffy, but the guinea pig in Ms. Day's class is determined to prove how mighty and brave he is by captaining a stormy boat, driving a police car, and flying a spaceship.

Moon, Nicola. Alligator Tales and Crocodile Cakes

Alligator and Crocodile star in two short stories. First, Alligator's long tail makes him easy to find during a game of hide-and-seek, and Crocodile has the same problem. In the second story, Alligator tries to help Crocodile bake a cake but ends up making a mess.

Nishimura, Kae. Bunny Lune

A big-city rabbit named Bunny Lune wants more than anything to go to the Moon. His friend Pyonko has told him about the Japanese tradition that rabbits live there. How can Bunny Lune manage this incredible trip?

Ormerod, Jan. Ballet Sisters: The Duckling and the Swan

Two sisters like to put on dress-up clothes and dance. The older girl (the swan) is a slightly bossy school-age child who takes ballet lessons. Sylvie (the duckling) admires and often imitates her, but clearly has a mind of her own.

Portis, Antoinette. Not a Box

Spare line drawings and minimal text show a bunny playing with, in and on a cardboard box. Beginning readers will delight in discovering the rabbit's unlimited imaginative play in this square brown book.

Ries, Lori and Dormer, Frank W. Aggie and Ben: Three Stories

After choosing a new dog, Ben describes what the pet Aggie can do and should not do around the house.

Rylant, Cynthia. Mr. Putter & Tabby Bake the Cake (series)

Mr. Putter and his fine cat, Tabby, decide to bake a fine, airy Christmas cake for their neighbors. It will be a cinch. Or will it?

Rylant, Cynthia. Poppleton Forever (series)

Poppleton the pig makes a friend, reads a library book about adventure, and helps a sick friend get better.

Schwarz, Viviane. Timothy and the Strong Pajamas

After Timothy's mother fixes his favorite pajamas with Patches of Power and Buttons of Bravery, he acquires amazing super strength. But when the pajamas rip and his strength disappears, Timothy finds his true power in his friends.

Taylor, Sean and Lewis, Jan. Small Bad Wolf

Small Bad Wolf wants to be bad to the bone like his father, Big Bad Wolf, but when the lazy older wolf gives lessons involving chickens, little piggies, and children, the training does not turn out as planned.

Wells, Rosemary and Wheeler, Jody. Bubble-Gum Radar (series)

Mrs. Jenkins' class has two Franks who hurt, bother, tease, trick, act up, bully, and joke their way through the day. One in the Yoko & Friends School Days series.

Willems, Mo. Today I Will Fly! (series)

While Piggie is determined to fly, Elephant is skeptical, but when Piggie gets a little help from others, amazing things happen. Also, My Friend is Sad: When Gerald the Elephant is sad, Piggie is determined cheer him up, but finds after many tries that it only takes the simplest thing to change Gerald's mood. In the new I'm am Invited to a Party!, Piggie is invited to her first party. What will she wear? Gerald, the party expert, will help.

Yee, Wong Herbert. Abracadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole (series)

After Mole is disappointed to learn that magic tricks are more trick than magic, Mouse tries to show him the "real" magic that takes place all around them in nature.

Ziefert, Harriet. I'm Going to Boston to Visit the Ducks

A young boy and girl discuss visiting Public Gardens in Boston, petting the ducks and viewing the swan boats. Also, I'm Going to New York to Visit the Lions: it's a trip to New York City, and Nate and Kate are going to see the lions.

Favorites and Classics:

Bang-Campbell. Little Rat (series)
Byars, Betsy. My Brother, Ant (series)
Cosby, Bill. Little Bill (series)
Howe, James. Pinky and Rex (series)
Johnston, Tony. Sparky and Eddie (series)
Lobel, Arnold. Frog and Toad (series)
Minarik, Elsa. Little Bear (series)
Parish, Herman. Amelia Bedelia (series)
Rylant, Cynthia. Henry and Mudge (series)
Seuss, Dr. Cat in the Hat (and many others)
Sharmat, Marjorie. Nate the Great (series)
Tripp, Valerie. Hopscotch Hill School (series)
Van Leeuwen. Oliver the Pig (series)

Series and Publishers:

All Aboard Reading Series – Grosset & Dunlap
Brand New Readers – Candlewick Press
Dorling Kindersley Readers
Hello Reader Series - Cartwheel Books
I Am Reading – Kingfisher
I Can Read – Harper Trophy
I Can Read It All By Myself Books - Scholastic
I'm Going to Read! – Sterling Publishing
My First Reader - Scholastic
Puffin Easy-To-Read Series – Simon & Schuster
Ready-To-Read – Aladdin Books
Step Into Reading - Random House
Usborne Beginners (non-fiction) – Usborne Publishing Ltd.

This year, many graphic format stories for younger readers have been published. Here are some favorites:

Bullock, Mike. Lions, Tigers and Bears: Volume 1 Fear and Pride

Follow Joey Price on the adventure of a lifetime through the Stuffed Animal Kingdom in this epic odyssey. When Joey's worst fears, The Beasties, come crawling out of his closet in the middle of the night, he finds out his new stuffed animals, the Night Pride, are more real and more needed than he ever could have imagined.

Grahame, Kenneth. The Wind in the Willows

A graphic format version of the story of the four animal friends who live along a river in the English countryside - Toad, Mole, Rat and Badger.

Holm, Jennifer. Baby Mouse (series)

Meet Babymouse, a sassy young mouse who dreams of glamour, excitement, adventure, straight whiskers, being queen of the world, and of course, being invited to Felicia Furrypaws's oh-so-exclusive party.

Lechner, John. Sticky Burr: Adventures in Burrwood Forest

Sticky Burr is on the verge of getting kicked out of his village in Burrwood Forest because he isn't prickly enough to suit some of the other burrs, but when the village is attacked by wild dogs, Sticky Burr and his friends come to the rescue.

Morse, Scott. Magic Pickle (series)

Magic Pickle is a secret weapon developed in a secret military lab under little JoJo Wigwam's bedroom floor. The fearless, flying kosher dill superhero meets his match in this feisty eight-year-old.

Runton, Andy. Owly (series)

Owly is an owl, but he's the quintessential gentle soul, the rare altruistic good guy who looks out for the little guy and overcomes any obstacle to win.

Yeh, Phil. Dinosaurs Across America

Patrick Rabbit makes a bet with the literacy dinosaurs that he knows more geography than they do. Using comic-book magic, they walk into a map of the U.S.