

A young person's reading brain is like a sailboat that needs wind to carry it forward. During the summer months without reading practice, those sails aren't filled and a reader not reading can stagnate in one place or even drift backward in their reading ability. Through your child's school vacation, it is important for him/her to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether a beginning reader or a fluent reader. Obviously, we could not include every book that a child in his grade might enjoy but here are some suggestions to try and hopefully make your school-aged child's summer full of literacy fun. The books on this list are available in e-book, paperback, or hardcover editions in bookstores as well as on library shelves. If you discover some treasures that we have overlooked, please tell the librarians in the fall. Happy Summer Reading!



Tips to help your child read.

Be a reader and writer

yourself. When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.

Set aside a consistent time each day

for reading. Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.

Read aloud to your reader. As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or

presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child.

Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities. Read your child books about camping, such as "Webster and Arnold Go Camping", before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help her learn important vocabulary and extend her understanding of experiences.

Allow your child to choose books for summer reading. While it is important for your child to complete reading required by his school, it is equally important for

him to read about topics that interest him, whether it is insects, dragons or a favorite fiction series.

Help your child select books at a comfortable level. Listen to your child read. If he reads smoothly, uses expression and can accurately tell you what he read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having trouble judging, consult your local children's librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the "rule of thumb" in selecting books: if he makes five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

Encourage your child not to limit summer reading to books. Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on her favorite baseball team or to read children's magazines such as Ranger Rick, National Geographic World and New Moon.

Read a book and watch the video together. When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including "Stone Fox", "Sarah, Plain and Tall" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," are available in movie versions.

Take books along on outings. Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.

Encourage your child to write this summer, too. From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about his own experiences. Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help him create a book about his experiences.

School Library Journal has suggestions as well.

picture books: <http://slj.com/bestof2016/picturebooks.php>

First Grade Reading Suggestions

Adler, David A., *YOUNG CAM JANSON AND THE MISSING COOKIE* Cam Jansen can find a mystery everywhere, even in the school lunchroom! When Jason opens his lunch and finds only cookie crumbs, Cam's amazing memory clicks into action.

Allard, Harry S., *MISS NELSON IS MISSING* The kids in Room 207 take advantage of their teacher's good nature until she disappears, and they are faced with a vile substitute.

Aliki, *DIGGING UP DINOSAURS* A brief introduction to various types of dinosaurs, explaining how scientists find, preserve, and reassemble the giant dinosaur skeletons seen in museums

Arnold, Tedd, PARTS A five-year-old boy thinks his body is falling apart until he learns that new teeth grow and hair and fingernails replace themselves.

Averill, Esther, THE FIRE CAT Pickles is a young cat with big paws who wishes to do big things with them. He gets his chance when he is adopted by the local firehouse.

Bang, Molly, THE PAPER CRANE In this ancient folktale, a restaurant owner gives a penniless stranger a meal. Afterward, the grateful man picks up a table napkin and makes it into a magic paper crane with which he pays for his supper.

Barrows, Annie, IVY AND BEAN The moment they first saw each other Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends, but when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide quickly, Ivy comes to the rescue.

Blume, Judy, THE PAIN AND THE GREAT ONE A six-year-old (The Pain) and his eight-year-old sister (The Great One) see each other as troublemakers and the best loved of the family.

Boelts, Maribeth, THOSE SHOES Jeremy, who longs to have the black high tops that everyone at school seems to have but his grandmother cannot afford, is excited when he sees them for sale in a thrift shop and decides to buy them even though they are the wrong size.

Brosgol, Vera, LEAVE ME ALONE! One day a grandmother shouts "Leave Me Alone!" and leaves her tiny home and very big family to journey to the moon and beyond for find peace and quiet to finish her knitting.

Brown, Jeff, FLAT STANLEY'S WORLDWIDE ADVENTURES #1: THE MOUNT RUSHMORE CALAMITY The whole Lambchop family is off to see Mount Rushmore. But when Flat Stanley and his brother Arthur team up with a scrappy cowgirl named Calamity Jasper, their vacation turns into the Wild West experience of a lifetime.

Carney, Elizabeth, CATS VS DOGS Ever since the first youngster in history had pet, cats vs dogs has been a hotly debated issue at recesses and lunch tables world wide. Which one's better, smarter, more loyal?

Creech, Sharon, A FINE, FINE SCHOOL When the principal loves his school so much he wants the children to attend classes every day of the year, it's up to his students to show him that free time is a good thing, too.

De la Pena, Matt, LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET A young boy, CJ, rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things.

Di Camillo, Kate, **BINK AND GOLLIE** In three humorous interconnected stories Gollie, a self-confident girl who lives in a fashionable, contemporary house, and Bink, her rumpled but lovable, impish friend, are adventure-seeking companions, each with her own strong will.

Donaldson, Julia, **THE GRUFFALO** A clever mouse uses the threat of a terrifying creature to keep from being eaten by a fox, an owl, and a snake only to have to outwit that creature as well.

Fox, Karen C., **OLDER THAN THE STARS** Stunning illustrations and lively verse tell the story of the cosmic connections that tie human beings to the beginning of the universe.

Green, Stephanie, **PRINCESS POSEY AND THE FIRST GRADE PARADE** Posey is very nervous about starting first grade and walking to school all by herself. Worst of all she has to do it without the one thing that makes her feel brave and special: the tutu that turns her into the Pink Princess.

Hale, Shannon, **THE PRINCESS IN BLACK** Perfect Princess Magnolia has a secret—her alter ego is the Princess in Black, a superhero figure who protects the kingdom

Henkes, Kevin, **PENNY AND HER DOLL** Penny loves her new doll. She is absolutely perfect from her head to her toes. But Penny's doll needs a name. What should Penny call her?

Himmelman, John, **TALES OF BUNJITSU BUNNY** Although she can throw farther, kick higher, and hit harder than anyone else at school, Isabel, aka Bunjitsu Bunny, never hurts another creature—unless she has to.

Hoberman, Mary Ann, **A HOUSE IS A HOUSE FOR ME** Lists in rhyme the dwellings of various animals and things.

Hoberman, Mary Ann, **SEVEN SILLY EATERS** Peter wants only milk, Lucy must have lemonade, and each new addition to the household brings new demands for special foods.

Hoff, Syd, **THE HORSE IN HARRY'S ROOM** Although no one else can see it, Harry is very pleased to have a horse in his room.

Kalman, Maira, **FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF THE JOHN J. HARVEY** A fireboat launched in 1931 is retired after many years of fighting fires but is saved from being scrapped and then is called into service again on September 11, 2001.

Kosara, Tori, **HIBERNATION** Explains how various animals prepare for hibernation by stuffing themselves with food and creating safe spots like dens and burrows so that they will be protected from predators as they sleep.

Kulling, Monica, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY'S STAR-SPANGLED BANNER Describes the man and the story behind the creation of America's national anthem.

Kuskin, Karla, THE PHILHARMONIC GETS DRESSED The 105 members of the Philharmonic get ready for a performance.

Lester, Helen, HOOWAY FOR WODNEY WAT All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he can't pronounce his name, but Rodney's speech difficulty drives away the class bully.

Lionni, Leo, SWIMMY A little black fish in a school of red fish figures out a way to protect them from all their natural enemies.

Lin, Grace, TING AND LING, NOT EXACTLY THE SAME Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.

Lobel, Arnold, DAYS WITH FROG AND TOAD Frog and Toad spend their days together but find that sometimes it's nice to be alone.

Marshall, James, LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD A little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest on the way to see her grandmother.

Mattick, Lindsay, FINDING WINNIE A woman tells her young son the true story of how his great-great-grandfather rescued a bear cub who became the inspiration for Willie-the-Pooh.

McDermott, Gerald, ANANSI THE SPIDER: A TALE FROM THE ASHANTI In trying to determine which of his six sons to reward for saving his life, Anansi the Spider, is responsible for putting the moon in the sky

Messner, Kate, MARTY MCGUIRE Marty McGuire would rather spend her recess catching frogs in a pond than playing dress-up with other girls in third grade. So when her teacher casts Marty as a princess in the class play, Marty's absolutely, positively sure there's been a big mistake.

Milne, A.A., WINNIE, THE POOH The adventures of Christopher Robin and his friends in which Pooh Bear uses a balloon to get honey, Piglet meets a Heffalump, and Eeyore has a birthday

Minarik, Else Homelund, NO FIGHTING, NO BITING Sometimes Rosa and Willy behave like the two little alligators in the stories Cousin Joan tells them.

Murphy, Frank, BEN FRANKLIN AND THE MAGIC SQUARE Benjamin Franklin, inventor, writer, and scientist created a puzzle called the magic square to keep from being bored while serving as a clerk for the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Munsch, Robert, THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS Princess Elizabeth is about to marry Prince Ronald when a dragon attacks the castle and kidnaps Ronald.

Osborne, Mary Pope, MAGIC TREE HOUSE #1: DINOSAURS BEFORE DARK Jack and his younger sister Annie find a tree house filled with books. When Jack wishes he could really see the Pteranodon pictured in one of them, it appears at the window. The children have been transported back to the Cretaceous period.

Potter, Giselle, THIS IS MY DOLLHOUSE A little girl who had made her own doll house from a box and her vivid imagination worries that it might not be good enough when her friend Sophie who has a perfect dollhouse and perfect dolls comes to visit.

Prelutsky, Jack, MY PARENTS THINK I'M SLEEPING A collection of humorous poems about bedtime.

Roy, Ron, A TO Z MYSTERIES: THE TALKING T-REX Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose investigate the theft of a great deal of money from the belly of a nearly life-size Tyrannosaurus Rex model that their friend Jud Wheat is using to raise money for a dinosaur museum.

Rylant, Cynthia, POPPLETON Meet Poppleton the new pig in town who lives in a charming house and goes to the library every Monday to read good books.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman, NATE THE GREAT Nate is a nine-year-old, pancake-eating, detective who solves neighborhood mysteries with the help of his faithful dog, Sludge.

Silverman, Erica, COWGIRL KATE AND COCOA Cowgirl Kate and cow horse Cocoa, who is always hungry, count cows, share a story, and help each other fall asleep.

Steig, William, SHREK! Horribly hideous Shrek leaves home and terrifies everyone he encounters in his search for his equally ugly bride.

Tarshis, Lauren, I SURVIVED THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC, 1912 Excited to board the Titanic with his aunt and little sister, ten-year-old George begins to explore the ill-fated ship's first class storage cabin when the ship is rocked by a collision with an iceberg and begins to sink.

Weitzman, Jacqueline Preiss, YOU CAN'T TAKE A BALLOON INTO THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM New York City and the Metropolitan Museum of Art provide the setting for a crazy collision of art and city life in this picture book about

a little girl's trip to the museum and the parallel journey of her runaway yellow balloon.

VWilliams, Vera, A CHAIR FOR MY MOTHER A child, her waitress mother, and her grandmother save dimes to buy a comfortable armchair after all their furniture is lost in a fire.

Zelinsky, Paul, RAPUNZEL A retelling of the German folktale in which a beautiful girl with long yellow hair is kept imprisoned in a lonely tower by a sorceress.