

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, or ways 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 troubling 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 great suggestions as well. pic
bks: <http://slj.com/bestof2016/picturebooks.php>

3rd Grade Reading Suggestions -

Alki, GODS AND GODDESSES OF OLYMPUS

Long, long ago in ancient Greece, people began telling stories to explain the mysteries of life. These myths feature mighty beings who look human but who have amazing powers and live forever.

Atwater, Richard, MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar Regions.

Avi, THE GOOD DOG

Jack's malamute, Mc Kinley, is the top dog in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. His sedate, small town existence is interrupted by the appearance of Lupin, a

she-wolf that urges dogs to free themselves from the tyranny of domesticated life.

Barrows, Annie, *IVY AND BEAN TAKE CARE OF THE BABYSITTER*

The two girls hatch a plan to prove that Bean's big sister is the world's worst babysitter.

Bishop, Claire Huchet, *TWENTY AND TEN*

Twenty school children hide ten Jewish children from the Nazis occupying France during World War II.

Brock, Betty, *NO FLYING IN THE HOUSE*

A tiny talking dog arrives at the home of the rich Mrs. Vancourt and asks shelter for herself and her companion, a little girl.

Brown, Jeff, *FLAT STANLEY'S WORLDWIDE ADVENTURES #3: THE JAPANESE NINJA SURPRISE*

Flat Stanley mails himself to Japan to visit his hero, martial arts movie star Oda Nobu and becomes his personal ninja.

Bulla, Clyde Robert, *THE SWORD IN THE TREE*

Lord Weldon's son and wife, displaced by a wicked uncle, appeal to King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table to see justice done.

Burnford, Shelia, *THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY*

A Siamese cat, an old bull terrier, and a young Labrador retriever travel together two hundred fifty miles through the Canadian wilderness to find their family.

Byars, Betsy Cromer, *TORNADO*

As they wait out a tornado in their storm cellar, a family listens to a farm hand tell stories about a dog that was blown into his life by another tornado when he was a boy.

Byrd, Robert, *JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS: THE FIRST GREAT QUEST IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY*

Retells the story of Jason and his quest for the golden fleece, from his training as a child by Chiron the centaur and his gathering of famous Greek heroes for his journeys, to his battles with harpies, Stymphalian birds, and the sirens.

Cabot, Meg, *ALLIE FINKLE'S RULES FOR GIRLS: MOVING DAY*

When nine-year-old Allie Finkle's parents announce that they are moving from the suburbs into town causing a change in schools, she is sure her life is over.

Christopher, Matt, *SOCCER HERO*

When soccer player Rob Lasher saves the life of the team's coach not everything turns out well.

Cleary, Beverly, *MITCH AND AMY*

Mitch and Amy both think being twins is fun, but that doesn't stop them from squabbling.

Clements, Andrew, *FRINDLE*

When he decides to turn his fifth grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly move beyond his control.

Coatsworth, Elizabeth, *THE CAT WHO WENT TO HEAVEN*

The timeless fable of a cat that changes the life of a poor Japanese artist

Coville, Bruce, *JENNIFER MURDLEY'S TOAD*

When and ordinary-looking fifth grader purchases a talking toad, she embarks on a series of extraordinary adventures.

Creech, Sharon, *GRANNY TORRELLI MAKES SOUP*

With the help of a wise old grandmother, twelve-year-old Rosie manages to work out some problems in her relationship with her best friend, Bailey, the boy next door.

Dahl, Roald, *THE BFG*

Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), who spends his life blowing happy dreams to children, Sophie and he concoct a plan to save the world from nine other man-grabbing cannybull giants.

Dahl, Roald, *CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY*

Each of the five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his or her own way.

Danziger, Paula, *AMBER BROWN GOES FOURTH*

Entering fourth grade, Amber faces some changes in her life as her best friend moves away and her parents are divorced.

Davies, Jacqueline, *THE LEMONADE WAR*

Evan and his younger sister, Jesse, react very differently to the news that they will be in the same class for fourth grade. As the end of summer approaches, the battle it out through lemonade stands, each trying to be the first to earn 100 dollars.

Estes, Eleanor, *THE HUNDERED DRESSES*

Wanda faces mockery at school both because of her “funny” last name and her claims that she has 100 dresses at home even though she wears the same one to school every day.

Fleischman, Sid, *ESCAPE! THE STORY OF THE GREAT HOUDINI*

The rags to riches story of a poor Jewish boy named Ehrich Weiss who longed to be like his idol, the French magician Robert-Houdin. Houdini perfected tricks that involved illusion particularly escaping from restraints such as trunks, handcuffs, and straight jackets.

Gibbs, Stuart, *SPY SCHOOL*

Twelve-year-old Ben Ripley leaved his public middle school to attend the CIA’s highly secretive Espionage Academy, which everyone is told is an elite science school.

Graff, Lisa, *THE THING ABOUT GEORGIE*

Georgie’s dwarfism causes problems but he could always rely on his parents, his best friend, and classmate, Jeanie the Meanie’s teasing until a surprising announcement, a new boy and a class project shake things up.

Harper, Charise Mericle, *JUST GRACE AND THE SNACK ATTACK*

Grace’s third grade class is researching foods of the world so she decides to study unusual potato chips.

Howe, James, *BUNNICULA: A RABBIT TALE OF MYSTERY*

Though scoffed at by Harold the dog, Chester the cat, tries to warn his human family that their foundling baby bunny must be a vampire.

Kaye, M. M., *ORDINARY PRINCESS*

At her christening a princess is given the gift of “ordinariness” by a fairy, and the consequences of that wish eventually take her to a nearby palace where as the fourteenth assistant kitchen maid, she meets just the prince for her.

Lasky, Kathryn, *THE CAPTURE (GUARDIANS OF GA’HOOLE SERIES)*

After little Soren, a barn owl, finds himself pushed out of Mum and Da's nest, he is captured by two ruthless hench-birds and taken to St. Aegolius Academy for Orphaned Owls.

Lindgrin, Astrid, *PIPPY LONGSTOCKING*

Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey-but without any parents-at the edge of a Swedish village.

MacDonald, Betty, *MRS. PIGGLE-WIGGLE*

From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle issues her marvelous cures to parents for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put- Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism, and Fighter Quarrelitis.

Maguire, Gregory, *LEAPING BEAUTY AND OTHER ANIMAL FAIRY*

TALES Eight well-known fairy tales are recast with the aid of animal characters and outrageous puns into such stories as "Little Red Robin Hood" and "Cinderelphant."

Martin, Ann, *THE DOLL PEOPLE*

Annabelle Doll lives in a dollhouse with the rest of her family. They have lived there for over 100 years. Nothing very exciting happens, but just when Annabelle thinks she will die of boredom the Funcrafts move in.

Mass, Wendy, *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T RUN AWAY*

Struggling with looks that she thinks do not reflect her name, Beauty meets a gangly youth who lives in the shadow of his older brother and whom a witch enchants to assume the form of a beast until a girl willingly dances with him.

McDonald, Megan, *JUDY MOODY WAS IN A MOOD*

Judy Moody is grumpy. She hates the thought of summer ending and dreads the start of third grade, until her new teacher asks each student to create a "Me" collage to share with the class.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds, *SHILOH*

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs.

O'Connor, George, *ZEUS, KING OF THE GODS*

Retells in graphic novel format the exploits of the young Zeus and how he rallied an army and overthrew his father, Kronos, to become king of the gods.

Pennypacker, Sara, *TALENTED CLEMENTINE*

When her third grade class is scheduled to put on a talent show to raise money

for the school trip, Clementine is convinced that she doesn't have any talent.

Ringgold, Faith, *IF A BUS COULD TALK: THE STORY OF ROSA PARKS*

In this book a bus *does* talk, and on her way to school a girl named Marcie learns why Rosa Parks is the mother of the Civil Rights Movement.

Roberts, Willo Davis, *BABYSITTING IS A DANGEROUS JOB*

A babysitter and her three willful charges make a formidable team to outwit their surprised kidnappers.

Rockwell, Thomas, *HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS*

Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

Schlitz, Laura Amy, *THE NIGHT FAIRY*

All is not well in fairyland, at least for Flory a young night-fairy whose wings were broken in an encounter with a bat.

Scieszka, Jon, *THE NOT-SO-JOLLY ROGER*

Time traveling pals Fred, Sam, and Joe are cornered by Blackbeard, the meanest pirate ever, and must decide whether to join his crew or become shark munchies.

Sobol, Donald J., *ENCYCLOPEDIA BROWN SOLVES THEM ALL*

The town's ten-year-old walking encyclopedia again solves ten neighborhood mysteries.

Snicket, Lemony, *THE BAD BEGINNING*

When the Baudelaire children, Violet, Klaus, and baby Sunny, learn that their parents have perished in a fire at the family mansion, the children's rocky course is set for misery and misadventure.

Steig, William, *ABEL'S ISLAND*

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls, *LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS*

A year in the life of two young girls growing up on the Wisconsin frontier, as they help their mother with the daily chores, enjoy their father's stories and singing, and share special occasions when they get together with relatives or neighbors

