Below are recommended summer reading choices for students entering third grade. We know that your child may want you to read some of these books to him/her. Reading to a child is special, and we highly recommend it.

Students entering third grade are not required to do a book report, but it is important that they practice their reading skills as well as listen to adults read.

Symbol Key

<table>
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<tr>
<th>+</th>
<th>Available in audio formats (CD, Playaway, and/or MP3 File). Some are available from Audible.</th>
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<tr>
<td>(e)</td>
<td>Available as a Kindle or another e-book</td>
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(Please note: When a series is listed, we recommend any book from the series.)

Early Chapter Books


Birney, Betty G. *Humphrey's Creepy-Crawly Camping Adventure*, 2015. (New Humphrey's Tiny Tales series). Birney’s popular Humphrey series now includes early chapter books for younger readers.

Joyner, Andrew. *Boris Gets a Lizard*, 2013. (Series) Boris, a young warthog, tries to add a komodo dragon to his pet collection, but will he be successful? Other format: (e)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. Nate the Great, 1972. (Mystery Series) Nate the Great, a young detective, solves mysteries for his friends.

Willems, Mo. Elephant & Piggie Books (Series). Example: My Friend is Sad, 2007. These are humorous, easy-to-read books that most kids love. They are fun to act out.

Fiction - Chapter Books - Series

The 39 Clues - various authors, 2008-2014. (Mystery Series) Amy and her younger brother hunt for the 39 clues that will reveal what really happened to their parents as well as other family secrets. Other Formats: (e) + (The Infinity Ring series is another choice).

Barrows, Annie. Ivy & Bean, 2006. (Realistic Series) Two unlikely friends share excitement and fun. Other formats: (e) +

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks, 2005. (Realistic Series) Four spirited sisters spend a summer with their widowed father in a cottage on a beautiful estate. They become fast friends with Jeffrey, the boy who lives there. But his stuck-up mother tries to discourage the friendship. (National Book Award winner.) Other formats: (e) +

Birney, Betty G. The World According to Humphrey, 2004. (Animal Fantasy Series) Humphrey, a hamster, shares his adventures as he learns about life inside and outside the classroom. He even helps the janitor find love. Other formats: (e) +

Butler, Dori Hillestad. The Case of the School Ghost, 2012. (Buddy Files Series; Mystery) Buddy, a dog, goes to the fourth grade sleepover with Connor. Strange things happen, and Buddy wonders if the rumor about the school ghost is true. Other format: (e) (Butler’s The Haunted Library series is also a good choice.)

Cheng, Andrea. The Year of the Book, 2012. (Realistic Series) Fourth-grader Anna Wang is having a tough year - her best friend has made new friends, and she gets left out. It’s easy for Anna to hide in books. But over the year, Anna learns about friendship. Other format: (e)
DiCamillo, Kate. *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride*, 2006. (Humorous Series) Mercy, a loveable pet pig, has many unusual adventures including driving a car. Other formats: (e) *

English, Karen. *Skateboard Party*, 2014. (Realistic Fiction, Series: The Carver Chronicles) Richard is a great skateboarder with new tricks, and he can’t wait to show them off at his friend’s birthday party. But will he even get to go? The note from his teacher won’t help. Other format: (e)

Hale, Shannon. *The Princess in Black*, 2014. (Fantasy Series) Princess Magnolia wears pink and is dainty and feminine. But when the monster alarm rings, she changes into black and fiercely fights crime. Nosy Duchess Wigtower suspects something and noses around Princess Magnolia’s house. Other format: +

Klise, Kate. *Dying to Meet You: 43 Cemetery Road, Book 1*, 2009. (Humorous Series; Ghosts) Suffering from writer’s block, author I.B. Grumpy moves into a quiet, mysterious old mansion to solve his problem. However, a boy and a possible ghost have other ideas. This witty tale is told through letters, emails, and newspaper articles. (Klise’s *The Show Must Go On* series also is a good choice.)

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking and Other Natural Disasters*, 2009. (Humorous Series) Alvin’s fears are ignited when his father suggests a camping trip. Alvin’s escapades are a riot. Other formats: (e) +

McKay, Hilary. *Lulu and the Duck in the Park*, 2011. (Realistic Series) Lulu and Mellie are cousins and best friends. Their teacher, Mrs. Holiday, is unhappy when Lulu brings her dog to class, and she warns Lulu not to bring any more animals to school. But an emergency arises. Other format: (e)

Mlynowski, Sarah. *Whatever After: Fairest of All*, 2012. (Fantasy Series) What if you had a magic mirror hidden in your house? What if the mirror could transport you to the middle of a fairy tale so that you should change events. Would you? Should you? Other format: (e)

Nolan, Lucy. *Bad to the Bone*, 2008. (Humorous Series) Told from a dog’s point of view, Down Girl shares how she and her friend teach their masters to provide more attention. Other format: (e)

Osborne, Mary Pope. *Haunted Castle on Hallows Eve*, 2003. (Magic Tree House Series) Jack and Annie are transported to King Arthur’s time to solve a mystery about a stolen diamond. Other formats: (e) +
Prineas, Sarah. _The Magic Thief_, 2008. (Fantasy Series) Young Conn, a petty thief with unknown magical talents, becomes the apprentice of the wizard Nevery. Conn often knows more than his master. Other formats: (e) +

Roy, Ron. _A to Z Mysteries_, 1997. (Mystery Series) These 26 books feature a title for each letter of the alphabet. Other formats: (e) +

Salisbury, Graham. _Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet_, 2009. (Realistic Series) Fun and funny Calvin has a knack for finding exciting adventures and trouble. Other format: (e)

Sternberg, Julie. _Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie_, 2011. (Realistic Series) Eleanor is upset because her favorite babysitter, Bibi, is moving away. Everything reminds her of Bibi. But new beginnings unfold. Other format: (e)

Warner, Sally. _EllRay Jakes is Not a Chicken_, 2011. (Humorous Series) Although he is short, EllRay has a big personality, which is helpful in third grade, especially when there’s a class bully. Can EllRay ignore the bully and be good for a whole week so his father will take him to Disneyland? Other format: (e)

**Fiction - Chapter Books - Individual Titles**

Applegate, Katherine. _The One and Only Ivan_, 2012. (Animal Fantasy) Ivan, a silverback gorilla, lives and performs with his friends at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. They are soon joined by Ruby, a baby elephant, and Ivan wants a better life for the confused youngster. He makes a promise to her, but can he keep it? (Newbery Medal.) Other formats: (e) +

Henkes, Kevin. _The Year of Billy Miller_, 2013. Billy starts second grade with a bump on his head and many worries, but the year and his relationships get better as he develops more insight. (Newbery Honor Book.) Other formats: (e) +

MacLachlan, Patricia. _Waiting for the Magic_, 2011. (Realistic) Four dogs and a cat help a family heal and become whole. This former Texas Bluebonnet nominee is an excellent read by an award-winning author. Other format: (e)

Wissinger, Tamera Will. _Gone Fishing: A Novel in Verse_, 2013. (Realistic, Poetic Verse). Sam and his father have a fishing trip planned, but somehow his little sister, Lucy, convinces Dad to include her. What’s even worse, Lucy begins catching
more fish than Sam!! Other format: (e)

**Fiction - Picture Books for Older Readers**

Daywalt, Drew. *The Day the Crayons Quit*, 2013. Duncan receives letters from all his crayons with complaints about how and how much he uses them. What’s an artist to do? Other format: (e)


Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*, 1998. Trisha loves school but has difficulty learning to read and feels dumb. In fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem. Other formats: (e) *

Reagan, Jean. *How to Babysit a Grandpa*, 2012. Grandpa thinks he’s babysitting, but we know otherwise. Other format: (e)

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Each Kindness*, 2012. Chloe is busy with her own friends and ignores new-girl Maya’s attempts to be friends. Maya plays alone, until one day, she no longer attends that school. Chloe regrets her behavior. Other format: *

**Nonfiction**

Berne, Jennifer. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein*, 2013. Readers see Einstein as a boy and then a man who delights in being curious and posing thoughtful questions. Other formats: (e) *

Keating, Frank. *Theodore*, 2006. Theodore Roosevelt overcomes many obstacles as a boy, including serious illness. His determination makes him a man who loves adventure, enjoys each day, and becomes the youngest President to date. Print format only.

Rappaport, Doreen. *Helen’s Big World: The Life of Helen Keller*, 2012. We learn about Helen’s life from birth through her years with Annie Sullivan and into adulthood. Readers see how Annie’s innovative instruction helps open the world for Helen who goes to college and fights for women’s rights and opportunities for the disabled. Print format only.
Tavares, Matt. *Becoming Babe Ruth*, 2013. Ruth comes from family with many problems, and the young boy is frequently in trouble. At seven, his father brings him to St. Mary's Industrial School for Boys, and the people he meets and the school discipline change his life. He later becomes a star player for the New York Yankees. Print format only.

Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*, 2008. After being educated in the US, Wangari returns to Kenya and is saddened to see that the land has been destroyed and trees are scarce. Beginning with nine trees, she spends the rest of her adulthood revitalizing the land. Other format: (e)

**Folk Tales**

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale*, 2007. It is time for Martina to find a husband. Her grandmother advises her to give each suitor a “coffee on the shoes” test. Who will pass the test? Other format: +

Divakaruni, Chitra B. *Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale*, 2013. An elderly woman outwits a bear, a tiger, and a fox when she travels through the jungle to visit her daughter. Other format: (e)

Montes, Marisa. *Juan Bobo Goes to Work: A Puerto Rican Folktale*, 2000. Juan Bobo can’t seem to follow directions. But in these hilarious episodes, he does well despite his confusion. Print format only.

Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms*, 1995. Short on money, Mr. Rabbit agrees to work Bear’s land while Bear sleeps. Rabbit outsmarts lazy Bear over and over. Other format: (e)