

## Keep Fit This Summer – Read!

Besides getting lots of fresh air and exercise to keep your body fit, take time this summer to keep your brain fit by reading regularly.

The following is a reading list for K-3 students. You are encouraged to read from this list but are not limited to these titles. Your interests and abilities will determine your selection, but don't be afraid to experiment with new authors or topics. The titles included are a sampling of the many available at bookstores and libraries. Take some time to look over the list with an adult and see which titles seem inviting. Enjoy this reading time together.

Keep a record of your summer reading. In September, school activities will focus on sharing summer reading experiences and an accurate list will help with recalling titles, authors, and story lines.

### Concept Books

Concept books provide young children with experiences and explanations that clarify abstract ideas about their world.

Gelman, Rita Golden. **Doodler Doodling**. A young doodler begins drawing some teachers teaching and allows her imagination to run free to a surprising conclusion.

Gibbons, Gail. **Whales**. Introduces different kinds of whales.

Jenkins, Steve. **Almost Gone**. Profiles animal species around the world that have gone extinct within human history, or that are at risk for extinction.

Pallotta, Jerry. **Dory Story**. While taking a bath with his new red toy dory, a boy imagines himself alone on the ocean getting a first-hand look at the ocean's food chain.

Pallotta, Jerry. **The Extinct Alphabet Book**. Each letter of the alphabet features information about a creature that no longer exists.

Reynolds, Peter. **The Dot**. Vashti believes that she cannot draw, but her art teacher's encouragement leads her to change her mind.

Schwartz, David. **How Much is a Million**. Text and pictures try to make possible the conceptualization of a million, a billion, and a trillion.

Wood, Audrey. **Alphabet Adventure**. On their way to school, the little letters of the alphabet have to rescue little "i" and then find his dot before they can proceed.

### Picture Books

Picture Books rely on illustrations to interpret the author's text. Most are designed for adults to read aloud to children.

Bang, Molly. **When Sophie Gets Angry: Really, Really Angry**. When Sophie gets angry, she goes outside and runs, cries, climbs her favorite tree--and then, calmed by the breeze, she is soon ready to go back home.

Cronin, Doreen. **Dooby Dooby Moo**. While Farmer Brown sleeps, his animals prepare for a talent show at the county fair.

Fox, Mem. **Wombat Divine**. Wombat auditions for the Nativity play, but has trouble finding the right part.

Fraee, Marla. **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever. (Caldecott Honor 2009)** Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation.

6/16/10

K-3

Summer Reading 2009

Henkes, Kevin. **Old Bear.** When Old Bear falls asleep for the winter, he has a dream that he is a cub again, enjoying each of the four seasons.

Henkes, Kevin. **Birds.** Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl is happy to discover that she and they have something in common.

Lies, Brian. **Bats at the Library.** Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.

Palatini, Marge. **Bad Boys.** Two hungry wolves in disguise attempt to raid a sheep farm.

McMullen, Kate. **I Stink.** A big city garbage truck makes its rounds, consuming everything from apple cores and banana peels to leftover ziti and zucchini.

Pinkney, Jerry. **The Lion and the Mouse. (Caldecott Medal Winner 2010)** In this wordless retelling of an Aesop fable, an adventuresome mouse proves that even small creatures are capable of great deeds when he rescues the King of the Jungle.

Shannon, David. **Duck on a Bike.** A duck decides to ride a bike and soon influences all the other animals on the farm to ride bikes too.

Sierra, Judy. **Mind Your Manners BB Wolf.** When B.B. Wolf, who now lives in the Villain Villa Retirement Residence, is invited to the library for a storybook tea, he is careful to follow the advice of his crocodile friend and impresses everyone with how polite he can be.

Stevens, Janet. **The Great Fuzz Frenzy.** After a dog drops a green tennis ball into a prairie dog burrow, the curious prairie dogs discover the fuzzy cover can be lots of fun and have lots of funny uses.

Watt, Melanie. **Chester.** A self-centered cat named Chester keeps interrupting his owner as she tries to write a story about a mouse.

### **Beginning Readers**

Beginning Readers, short on text and high on interest appeal, are designed for children to read on their own with some help.

Klein, Abby. **Ready Freddy (series).** Join Freddy and his friends for a great first-grade adventure! Content, humor, characters, and vocabulary are perfect for the chapter-book reader.

Krulik, Katie. **Katie Kazoo (series).** Read all about the adventures of Katie Kazoo in this series.

Marshall, James. **Fox Outfoxed.** Fox competes in a big race, gives away his comic books, and goes trick-or-treating on Halloween with his friends.

O'Connor, Jane. **Fancy Nancy at the Museum.** Although excited at the prospect of a fancy class trip to the art museum, the bumpy bus ride to get there leaves Nancy feeling anything but fancy.

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

Rylant, Cynthia. **Puppy Mudge Has a Snack.** Henry's puppy Mudge has a big appetite. Will Henry get anything to eat?

Willems, Mo. **I Love My New Toy!** Gerald and Piggie have a misunderstanding over Piggie's new toy, but soon realize friends are more fun to play with than toys.

## Chapter Books

These chapter books contain longer stories and are designed for fluent readers to read independently or for adults to read aloud to children.

Cleary, Beverly. **Muggie Maggie**. Maggie resists learning cursive writing in the third grade, until she discovers that knowing how to read and write cursive promises to open up an entirely new world of knowledge for her.

Clements, Andrew. **Jake Drake: Bully Buster**. Jake faces the challenge of cooperating with the school bully on a class project.

Colfer, Eoin. **Eoin Colfer's Legend of ... Spud Murphy**. When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

Gutman, Dan. **Miss Daisy is Crazy**. Miss Daisy's unusual teaching methods surprise her second grade students, especially reluctant learner A.J.

McDonald, Megan. **Stink (series)**. 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself.

Mills, Claudia. **7 x 9 = Trouble!** Third-grader Wilson struggles with his times-tables in order to beat the class deadline.

Roy, Ron. **A to Z mystery series**. Various stories where Dink Duncan and his two friends investigate mysteries of all kinds.

## Information, Folktales, and Poetry

Titles in this section include topics and formats of interest to young children and can be enjoyed as independent readers or read-aloud books.

Florian, Douglas. **Lizards, Frogs and Polliwogs: Poems and Paintings**. A collection of humorous poems about such reptiles and amphibians as the glass frog, the gecko, and the rattlesnake.

Greenstein, Elaine. **Ice Cream Cones for Sale**. Reveals who really invented the ice cream cone, even before the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair where five people claim they did so.

Hamm, Mia. **Winners Never Quit!** Mia must learn the hard way that being a team player is more important than winning or losing when she quits the soccer team because she couldn't score a goal.

Himmelman, John. **A Ladybug's Life**. Illustrations and simple text follow the daily activities of a ladybug through its lifecycle, from summer to fall.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **Opening Days: Sports Poems**. A collection of nineteen poems about various sports including baseball, skiing, karate, and tennis.

Maestro, Betsy. **Ferryboat**. A family crosses a river on the second oldest ferry in Connecticut and observes how the ferry operates.

Most, Bernard. **How Big Were the Dinosaurs?** Describes the size of different dinosaurs by comparing them to more familiar objects, such as a school bus, a trombone, or a bowling alley.

Scieszka, Jon. **Math Curse**. When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse.

Scieszka, Jon. **Science Verse**. Presents a story about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

**Citation:** Summary notes were taken from TITLEWAVE, a subsidiary of Follett Library Resources, Inc.

### **A Note to Parents:**

Your public library card is welcome at all public libraries in the state. Books may be borrowed and returned to any public library in Connecticut. If you go away for the weekend or the week -- visit a nearby library!

The suggested books on this list may be borrowed from the Milford Public Library after the close of school in June. Most of these books are also available in paperback through a co-operative effort with Borders at the Westfield Mall, and Barnes & Noble in Milford.

## **Statement of Compliance**

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