

**Friends School Haverford**  
**2016**  
**Summer Reading for Students Entering Grade 1**

We feel it is important for your child to be read to regularly over the summer. This list suggests just a few good books and authors. This is only the tip of a wonderful iceberg, so explore further on your own! You'll find a lot to share and enjoy with your child.

When reading aloud, try to choose books you like, perhaps your old favorites. Encourage your child to reach for a book when in need of quiet recreation. Be sure to discuss the books together.

**PICTURE BOOKS**

Alexander, Lloyd: **The Fortunetellers**. With your help, your child will see that the "fortunes" told in this book are nothing of the kind! The funny plot and the wonderful illustrations, set in Cameroon, make this book special.

Bachelet, Gilles: **My Cat, the Silliest Cat in the World**. What is so silly about the cat? It's actually an elephant, but the noodle-headed artist is keeping it as a house pet and doesn't seem to realize it isn't actually a cat!

Brett, Jan: **Trouble with Trolls**. The heroine outwits the mountain trolls who want to steal her beloved dog.

Cannon, Janell: **Stellaluna**. The little fruit bat is separated from her mother. Her adventures while her mother searches for her are always a hit with children.

Child, Lauren: **I Will Never NOT EVER Eat a Tomato**. Lola states that she will not eat tomatoes, or carrots, or peas – but when her brother Charlie makes them sound glamorous with new names, that's a different story!

Cooney, Barbara: **Miss Rumphius**. Miss Rumphius wonders all her interesting life what to do to make the world a better place, and finally does something in her old age. This fine story gently urges children to want to make the world better themselves.

Crews, Donald: **Bigmama's**. Crews tells about his childhood summers at his grandparents' farm.

Demas, Corinne: **Always in Trouble**. Toby the dog is always doing something horrible – chewing the furniture, getting into the garbage, etc. – until the family finally manages to reform him.

Graham, Bob: **Max**. Max is the child and grandchild of superheroes, who all keep hoping that he will start to fly – but it doesn't happen, until Max sees someone who really needs his help.

Havill, Juanita: **Brianna, Jamaica, and the Dance of Spring**. Brianna loves her ballet class, and is excited to have the chance to dance an important role at the recital – until she becomes sick. This very real disappointment, and how Brianna deals with it, make this book worthwhile.

- Havill, Juanita: **Jamaica's Find**. Jamaica finds a stuffed toy at the park, and decides to keep it - but her conscience won't let her, and she returns it to the lost and found. Her delight when the real owner comes in and is reunited with her toy shows her that doing the right thing can be rewarding.
- Himmelman, John: **Katie Loves the Kittens**. Katie the dog is too noisy and excited, and she scares the kittens she wants to play with until she can learn some self-control.
- Jackson, Ellen: **Earth Mother**. Gloriously illustrated by the Dillons, this book shows that you can't please everyone - and also that ecosystems are interconnected, in an age-appropriate way.
- Kimmel, Eric: **Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins**. This slightly spooky traditional trickster tale isn't just for Hanukkah. Children love the illustrations, and love to hear how Hershel outwits the foolish goblins.
- King-Smith, Dick: **I Love Guinea Pigs**. Facts about guinea pigs, and anecdotes about the author's own experiences with them. Whether you own a guinea pig or not, you will enjoy this book.
- King-Smith, Dick: **Puppy Love**. Like *I Love Guinea Pigs* above, this book contains general facts about puppies alongside anecdotes of the author's own experiences, and is a truly charming book.
- McCloskey, Robert: **Burt Dow, Deep Water Man**. This tall tale, set in Maine, is a big favorite both with young children and their parents.
- McFarland, Lyn: **Widget**. Widget is a little lost dog who wants a family. But to find a home, he'll have to pretend to be a *cat*.
- McLerran, Alice: **Roxaboxen**. Children make an elaborate play town together, using rocks and found objects.
- Meddaugh, Susan: **Martha Speaks**. Martha the dog gains the power of speech when she eats alphabet soup. This leads to situations that are partly good, partly bad, but always funny.
- Munsch, Robert: **The Paper Bag Princess**. When Princess Elizabeth's home is burnt by a dragon, she outwits the dragon to save her fiancé.
- Munsch, Robert: **David's Father**. David's neighbor really wants to play with him, but she's a little worried about David's father - who turns about to be a (very nice) giant!
- Nolen, Jerdine: **Raising Dragons**. What happens when a little girl on a farm hatches a dragon? Only good things, in this pleasant adventure.
- Peet, Bill: **The Wump World**. The vile little Pollutians take over the Wump World, but in the end they leave, and the Wumps can return.
- Pilkey, Dav: **Dogzilla**. Children never get tired of this ridiculous book, with the author's mild corgi starring as the terrible monster in the photograph illustrations.
- Reynolds, Peter: **Ish**. Ramon learns that your art doesn't have to look *exactly* like what you're drawing to be worth saving.

- Rocco, John: **Blackout**. A beautiful, award-winning story about not only coping with, but actually celebrating a power outage, and enjoying the unusual simplicity that it brings to a city family's evening.
- Santore, Charles: **A Stowaway on Noah's Ark**. The little mouse hero stows away with Noah. Outstanding illustrations.
- Schwartz, David: **How Much Is a Million?** If your child is fascinated by big numbers, try this entertaining book.
- Seuss, Dr.: **The Lorax**. Children seem to like this story more than most of the more nonsensical Seuss books, probably because it has a more involved plot. The greedy Onceler wreaks havoc on a local ecosystem with the help of his relatives and big goofy machines.
- Singer, Marilyn: **On the Same Day in March: a Tour of the World's Weather**. Each page shows a different place in the world and describes what the inhabitants are doing on the same day.
- Steig, William: **Amos and Boris**. This tale of the friendship between a mouse and a whale, and of how they save each other's lives, deserves its high stature in children's literature.
- Sturgis, Philemon: **Bridges Are To Cross**. Great illustrations and short, informative text about different kinds of bridges.
- Underwood, Deborah: **A Balloon for Isabel**. Porcupine children don't get balloons at their school graduation, but Isabel really wants one. This story of creative problem-solving is a recent favorite.
- Van Dusen, Chris: **If I Built a Car**. What would you put in, if you could have a car with *everything*?
- Willems, Mo: **Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct**. Edwina is a favorite with all her neighbors, except the one boy who knows she shouldn't even be there!
- Willems, Mo: The **Elephant and Piggie** books. Children adore these short, funny, easy-to-read books.
- Williams, Karen Lynn: **Four Feet, Two Sandals**. Two girls living in a refugee camp want the same pair of donated sandals, and decide to share.
- Winter, Jeanette: **Elsina's Clouds**. Elsina, a Basotho girl living in southern Africa, tells about her family's life and how she paints the walls of their house as a prayer for rain.
- Wormell, Chris: **George and the Dragon**. The dragon is a real terror, but he's afraid of just one thing – mice!
- Wormell, Chris: **The Wild Girl**. The wild girl lives alone in the wilderness with her faithful dog. They depend on each other, but they seem a little lonely – until something unexpected shows up at their cave.

## CHAPTER BOOKS

Adler, David: **The Many Troubles of Andy Russell**. Andy's troubles are all things that first graders can relate to!

Baum, L. Frank: **The Wizard of Oz**. There are few read-alouds that 4-6 year olds enjoy more than the unabridged Wizard of Oz. If you want to begin reading longer stories with fewer pictures to your child, or if you want to read to an older sibling and your first grader at the same time, this is a fine choice.

Brown, Jeff: **Flat Stanley**. The amusing adventures of a flat boy.

Cameron, Ann: **The Stories Julian Tells**. Julian's adventures with his little brother, Huey.

Cleary, Beverly: **Ramona** series.

De Paola, Tomie: **26 Fairmount Avenue**. The author's true and very amusing memoir, this book works well with a wide range of ages.

DiCamillo, Kate: **Mercy Watson** series. Mercy Watson is the pet pig belonging to a very silly couple, and her adventures will amuse children and parents alike.

Gannett, Ruth: **My Father's Dragon**. An adventure story about a boy who rescues a dragon from enslavement by other animals.

Hurwitz, Joanna: **Busybody Nora**. Nora's adventures with her neighbors in her big apartment building.

Kingfisher (publisher): **Treasury of Stories for Six Year Olds**. This collection and others like it are surprisingly good. The stories may not seem particularly appealing to grown-ups, but they really do appeal to their target audience; and they're a fine transition to longer, less-illustrated fiction.

King-Smith, Dick: **Dick King-Smith's Animal Friends**. True, short vignettes about animals the author has owned in his life, beautifully illustrated.

Lewis, C.S.: **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**. Don't be tempted by those who tell you to read *The Magician's Nephew* first. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is meant for a younger audience than the other books in the series, and works best for 5-7 year olds.

Lovelace, Maud: **Betsy-Tacy**. A classic story about the friendship between two little girls.

Warner, Gertrude: **The Boxcar Children**. This mystery about four orphans is an excellent read-aloud for 5-7 year olds.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls: **Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie, Farmer Boy**. These three books in the Little House series are very accessible to younger children, who may want to hear them over and over.

## **WORDLESS BOOKS**

Wordless books are a great transitional step for early readers. Have your child tell the plot to you, and let him/her turn the pages.

Baker, Jeannie: **Home.**

Bang, Molly: **The Gray Lady and the Strawberry Snatcher.**

Day, Alexandra: **Good Dog, Carl.**

Mayer, Mercer: **A Boy, a Dog, and a Frog.**

Rathmann, Peggy: **Good Night, Gorilla.**

Rodriguez, Beatrice: **The Chicken Thief.**

Schories, Pat: **Breakfast for Jack.**

Turkle, Brinton: **Deep in the Forest.**

Weitzman, Jacqueline: **You Can't Take a Balloon into the Metropolitan Museum.**

Wiesner, David: **Tuesday.**

## **MAGAZINES**

**Click.** In my opinion, this is absolutely the best magazine for this age group. Each issue focuses on a non-fiction topic (such as rain, or working animals, or islands), and contains fiction and non-fiction about the topic. Very pictorial, very informative, very entertaining.

**Ladybug.** Poems, stories and songs for 3-6 year olds. If your child is beginning to get tired of **Ladybug**, try **Spider**, for 6-9 year olds.

**Ranger Rick.** Nature magazine for the young.