

Summer Reading List for Incoming Third Grade Students

Fiction

Animal Tales

Cleary, Beverly. *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling. Also try the many other titles by the same author.

Geras, Adele. *The Cats of Cuckoo Square*. (series) Relates how two cats living on Cuckoo Square help their owners get rid of an unwelcome cousin and enter an art contest. Great for cat lovers.

Grahame, Kenneth. *The Wind in the Willows*. This children's classic explores spring and summer life from the point-of-view of some of the creatures of the forest and river. A wonderful choice for a book to read to the whole family, or to take turns reading together with a child. Great summer read aloud.

King-Smith, Dick. *Ace: The Very Important Pig*. The porcine hero of 'Babe, the Gallant Pig' (Crown) might be disappointed that his great-grandson isn't interested in shepherding, but Ace has his own gifts: he can understand Farmer Tubbs's every word. An author to explore further!

Smith, Alexander McCall. *Akimbo and the Elephant; Akimbo and the Lion; Akimbo and the Crocodile Man*. Wonderfully engaging realistic fiction about a young boy helping his father on a game preserve in Africa. Also by the same author: *Harriet Bean* (series) and *Max and Maddy* (series).

Fantastic Adventures

Baum, L. Frank. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz: A Commemorative Pop-Up*. Art by Robert Sabuda. Spectacular paper engineering and pop-up effects reminiscent of the original W.W. Denslow illustrations highlight this abridgement of Baum's classic fantasy. If you enjoy this, try reading the unabridged *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and others in the series.

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. "Alice was beginning to get very bored of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversations?'" Fear not, Alices everywhere, for this is a book chock full of pictures and conversations! A moment later down the rabbit

hole Alice goes and discovers a world of nonsensical and whimsical characters. Recently this classic has been revisited by the outstanding illustrators Helen Oxenbury and Lisbeth Zwerger—both editions are highly recommended, along with the traditional edition with illustrations by John Tenniel.

Doherty, Berlie. *The Famous Adventures of Jack*. In a magical land of giants and castles and beautiful princesses, Jill hears several tales about characters named Jack, then embarks on a fairy tale adventure of her own. A new take on some old tales.

Grey, Mimi. *Traction Man is Here!* As soon as the action figure Traction Man enters his new home as a gift to a young boy, he sees the evil that has gone unchecked all over the house. Luckily, he has come equipped with an outfit for every heroic occasion. Before long he is donning his Latex Space Suit to fight the Evil Pillows ("Ow!" they cry, and lumber away") and switching into his Jungle Pants and Sweaty Bandanna to save the Dollies from Wicked Professor Spade. Laugh out loud picture book!

Keller, Laurie. *The Scrambles States of America*. The states are bored at always being in the same place all the time on the map so they decide to have a party and mix things up a bit. A funny story that is also a great way to learn about the 50 states. (There is a board game by the same name).

Yolen, Jane. *Passager*. In this worthy introduction to Arthurian legend, a feral child who has forgotten where he came from and lost his ability to speak is captured and tamed by a kindly falconer, who helps him recover. In a moving conclusion, the boy remembers that his name is Merlin. If you enjoy this book, be sure to read the other two in the trilogy, *Hobby* and *Merlin*.

Stories about Friends and Families

Adler, David. *Cam Jansen*. (series) With a photographic memory, Camera (Cam for short) Jansen and her friends have many adventures while solving mysteries in the neighborhood.

Blume, Judy. *Fudge-a-Mania*. (series) Farley Drexel Hatcher, more commonly known as Fudge, is a definite source of amusement and annoyance to his older brother, Peter.

Danzinger, Paula. *Amber Brown is not a Crayon*. (series) Amber Brown has just entered third grade only to find that her best friend is moving away!

Erdrich, Louise. *The Birchbark House*. Omakayas, a 7-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847.

Horvarth, Polly. *The Trolls*. Eccentric Aunt Sally comes from Canada to babysit the Anderson children while their parents are on a trip to Paris and every night the bedtime story adds another piece to a very suspect family history. Also try *Everything on a Waffle* by the same author.

Mason, Simon. *The Quigleys*. (series) Four chapters introduce the Quigleys, a typical British foursome who embody the foibles and joys of modern family life. Mason captures with deadly accuracy the often-conflicting states of childhood and parenthood.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody*. (series) Judy, her friends, and her little brother, Stink, have lots of fun times together during her third grade year. Be prepared to read the whole collection- once you get started it is hard to not know what happens next to crazy Judy Moody! And now Stink has his own series as well!

Williams, Vera. *Scooter*. Elana Rose Rosen doesn't stay a stranger for long in the high-rise building in New York to which she and her mother have moved. Thanks to a rather dramatic accident on her scooter and her irrepressible personality, she is soon busy organizing all the neighborhood kids for the Borough-Wide Field Day.

School Stories

Hurwitz, Johanna. *The Adventures of Ali Baba Bernstein*. David is dismayed about the three other Davids in his third grade class and is impressed by *The Arabian Nights* in his search for a new name.

Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry Moves up to Third Grade*. (series) Harry has an interesting personality that is a combination of both gross and vulnerable that is easy for elementary readers to relate to in their move to third grade.

Lowry, Lois. *Gooney Bird Green* (series) Gooney Bird Green helps her fellow classmates learn to tell and write fantastic stories as she shares adventures from her own life. Don't forget *Gooney Bird Green and the Room Mother*- both are a must read!

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Shredderman: Secret Identity*. (series) Fifth grader Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity-- Shredderman!.

Nonfiction

Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes*. Ruby Bridges recounts the story of her involvement, as a six-year-old, in the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960. The authenticity of Ms. Bridges' voice is marked with understated charm and heroism.

Brown, Don. *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*. A picture book biography of Albert Einstein, focusing on his oddness throughout his childhood, his disinterest in school, and discussing the significance of his discoveries in physics.

Jenkins, Steve. *Actual Size*. This inventive, startling paper collage gallery allows readers to view almost twenty creatures (or as much of them that will fit on the page) at actual size. Also by the same author: *Prehistoric Size*.

Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*. A biography of Cesar Chavez, from his childhood on his family's ranch in Arizona, to age thirty-eight, when he led a peaceful protest against California migrant workers' miserable working conditions.

Morrison, Toni. *Remember: The Journey to School Integration*. Using archival photographs as inspiration, Toni Morrison imagines how children felt during the time of "separate but equal" schooling and the later 1954 ruling on Brown v. Board of Education that desegregated. Winner of a 2005 Coretta Scott King award for best nonfiction, pair this with Ruby Bridges' autobiography listed above for an interesting discussion about the role of children during the Civil Rights era.

Rumford, James. *Traveling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta, 1325-1354*. Battuta, a Moroccan boy, became a legendary traveler, journeying some seventy-five thousand miles by foot, camel, and ship. Rumford incorporates Battuta's own words, set down for him by a scribe, and condenses the adventure into a multilayered picture book. This blend of romantic adventure/biography/history is a fine account of wanderlust, offering tantalizing glimpses of the medieval world.

Sis, Peter. *The Train of States*. Employing his trademark pen-and-ink style, full of whimsical detail, Sis provides information about each state, including capital, motto, state tree, state bird, source of name, and date of statehood.

St. George, Judith. *So You Want to be President?* Entertaining trivia, intriguing scandals, and thought-provoking lessons embellish an overview of the presidency and the men who lead the country.

Folktales

Goode, Diane. *The Diane Goode Book of American Folk Tales and Songs*. Presents a collection of folk tales and songs from a variety of regions and ethnic groups in the United States.

Jaffe, Nina and Steve Zeitlin. *While Standing on One Foot: Puzzle Stories and Wisdom Tales from the Jewish Tradition*. A collection of seventeen stories featuring the use of superior wit invite the reader to guess the outcome of each piece, which usually involves solving a riddle or question. The graceful compendium will intrigue puzzle enthusiasts as well as those interested in Jewish folklore.

Lester, Julius. *How Many Spots Does a Leopard Have? An illustrated collection of twelve folktales that reflect Julius Lester's African-American and Jewish heritage, including, "What is the Most Important Part of the Body," "The Monster Who Swallowed Everything," and "The Town Where Sleeping Was Not Allowed."*

Reneaux, J. J., (Reteller.) *How Animals Saved the People: Animal Tales from the South*. Reneaux showcases the diversity of southern storytelling, both in origin (including Native American, Appalachian, and Creole tales) and type (from tall tale to trickster tale to ghost story to pourquoi tale), in these eight oft-told tales.

Ross, Gayle. *How Rabbit Tricked Otter, and Other Cherokee Trickster Stories*. Master storyteller Gayle Ross recounts the stories she first heard during her childhood about that irascible character, Rabbit.

Poetry

Franco, Betsy. *Mathmatickles!* Word lovers might stand a better chance of becoming math lovers if more math lessons were like these: "apples + worms = sweet tunnels." The four seasons provide the framework for a book made up of equations and graphs, each one encapsulating a seasonal sight or experience. The watercolor and gouache pictures show a little girl styled like a sixties cartoon character; the pages brim with joyfully bright color.

George, Kristine O'Connell. *Toasting Marshmallows: Camping Poems*. The pleasure and surprises of going camping are conveyed in eighteen brief poems. Familiar camping experiences--including pitching a tent, sleeping in a sleeping bag, and watching a chipmunk--are described, in addition to more unusual

experiences like walking through a field of mustard, seeing a moose, and discovering a cave.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Nathaniel Talking*. A stunning and unforgettable book of poetry that contains a variety of verse forms while simultaneously maintaining the sense of a single voice - that of nine-year-old Nathaniel B. Free. The sculptured, expressive black-and-white illustrations match the vitality and dynamism of the text.

Janeczko, Paul, selector. *Dirty Laundry Pile*. With both playful and kid-friendly elements, this anthology introduces persona, or mask, poems, "written in the voice of an object or an animal, as if that thing or creature were speaking." Youngsters, who are just finding their own voices, are thus given the unique opportunity to examine the characteristics of others'. Sweet's watercolors lightly decorate the pages, hinting at content but never interfering with interpretation.

Nye, Naomi Shihab, editor. *The Tree Is Older Than You Are: A Bilingual Gathering of Poems & Stories from Mexico with Paintings from Mexican Artists*. Illustrated with color reproductions of paintings by various artists, this extensive anthology conveys in vibrant words and pictures the buoyancy of the Mexican spirit.

Descriptions of books are edited from a variety of sources such as Horn Book Guide Online, Capitol Choices 2005, previous summer reading lists, and individual cataloging records.