

Summer Reading Suggestions by Grade Level

A few things to note:

- These **grade level guidelines** are general, and students can read one or more grade level above or below their own, depending on their reading ability, maturity, and interests.
- I have placed books where I think that students could **begin** reading them (although for some it may be sooner), but the books would also be fine at higher grade levels.
- Don't forget about **non-fiction**! Kids love to learn about the world and people around them, so make sure you include **non-fiction and biographies** in your summer choices as well—either picture books or chapter books.
- **Some good non-fiction chapter book options are on page 8.**
- I have also included a list of **good parent read-alouds** for younger children on page 9.

Entering Grade 1

Amelia Bedelia by Herman Parrish

Annie and Snowball by Cynthia Rylant

Berenstain Bears by Sam and Jan Berenstain

Bible Belles (Adventures of Rooney Cruz) series by Erin Weidemann

The Courageous Series from VOM Books (Voice of the Martyrs)

Fancy Nancy by Jane O'Connor (picture books, early readers, and chapter books)

Fly Guy series by Tedd Arnold

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel

Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant

Houndsley and Catina by James Howe

Little Bear by Else Homelund Minarik

Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo

Otis picture books by Loren Long

Princess Parables series by Jeanna Young and Jacqueline Johnson

Questioners series by Andrea Beaty (picture books and chapter books)

Tales that Tell the Truth series from The Good Book Company (various authors-
all illustrated by Catalina Escheverri)

That's Nat series by Dandi Daley Mackall

Young Cam Jansen by David Adler

Young Cousins Mysteries by Elspeth Campbell Murphy

Books by: Tad Hills, Tony Dungy, Ryan T. Higgins, Laurie Keller, Ross Burach, Chris Van Dusen, Jan Brett, Cynthia Rylant, Max Lucado, Jory John, Dan Santat

Curious George, *Lyle the Crocodile*, and *Scaredy Squirrel* books

Fiction and Non-fiction/Biography picture books and leveled readers of all kinds

Great authors/books with fun websites:

Mo Willems: <https://mowillemsworkshop.com/>, <https://pigeonpresents.com/>

Pete the Cat series: <https://www.petethecatbooks.com/>

Entering Grade 2

A to Z Mysteries, Capital Mysteries, and Calendar Mysteries by Ron Roy

Absolutely Lucy series by Ilene Cooper

Betsy books by Carolyn Haywood

Boxcar Children series by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Cam Jansen series by David Adler

Critter Club by Callie Barkley

Cul-de-Sac Kids by Beverly Lewis

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Horrible Harry series by Suzy Kline

Humphrey's Tiny Tales by Betty G. Birney

The Last Firehawk series by Katrina Charman

The Littles series by John Peterson

Magic Bone series by Nancy E. Krulik

Magic Schoolbus (picture books and chapter books)

Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne

My First Little House books adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder

Nate the Great by Marjorie Sharmat

Owl Diaries by Rebecca Elliott

Perfectly Princess series by Alyssa Crowne

The Princess in Black series by Shannon Hale (Books 1-9)

Princess Posey series by Stephanie Greene

Puppy Place and *Kitty Corner* series by Ellen Miles

Sophie Mouse series by Poppy Green

Trouble at Table 5 by Tom Watson

Who Would Win (nonfiction series) by Jerry Pallotta

Zoe's Rescue Zoo by Amelia Cobb

Zoey and Sassafras by Asia Citro

Picture books and leveled readers of all kinds

Nonfiction and biographies of all kinds

Entering Grade 3

Amelia Bedelia chapter books by Herman Parrish

Animal Ark or Dolphin Diaries

Ballpark Mysteries by David A. Kelly

The Buddy Files by Dori Hillestad Butler

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo (and others by her)

Captain Awesome by Stan Kirby

Clementine series by Sara Pennypacker

Dead Sea Squirrels by Mike Nawrocki

Disaster Strikes by Marlane Kennedy

Ellray Jakes by Sally Warner

Gooney Bird Greene by Lois Lowry

Greetings from Somewhere series by Harper Paris

Imagination Station by Marianne Hering

Jake Maddox sports series by Jake Maddox

Judy Moody series and *Stink* series by Megan MacDonald

Lulu series by Hilary McKay

Magic Treehouse Fact Trackers (nonfiction companions to MTH fiction books)

Mallory series by Laurie B. Friedman

Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew by Carolyn Keene

Power Bible series from Green Egg Media

Rescue Princesses by Paula Harrison

Secret of the Hidden Scrolls by M. J. Thomas

Time Warp Trio by John Scieszka

Matt Christopher or Fred Bowen sports books

Beverly Cleary books (*Ramona*, *Henry Huggins*, *Ribsy*, *Mouse and the Motorcycle*)

Who Was... and other biographies

What Was... or *Where Was...* and other nonfiction

Entering Grade 4

Adventures of Max & Liz by Jenny L. Cote
11 Birthdays series by Wendy Mass
Baseball Card Adventures by Dan Gutman and other books by him
Baxter Family Children by Karen Kingsbury
Cupcake Diaries by Coco Simon
The Doll People series by Ann M. Martin and others by her
Hank the Cowdog series by John R. Erickson
Hank Zipzer series by Henry Winkler
Humphrey series by Betty G. Birney
I Survived series by Lauren Tarshish
Just Grace series by Cherise Mericle Harper
Little Pilgrim's Progress by Helen Taylor
Lucy series by Nancy Rue
Mandie Mysteries by Lois Gladys Leppard
My Life As... series by Bill Myers
National Park Mysteries by Carol Marsh
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall
Ranger in Time series by Kate Messner
Shakespeare's Secret by Elise Broach (and others by her)
Shiloh series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo (and others by her)
Sophie series by Nancy Rue
Sugar Creek Gang by Paul Hutchens
Vanderbeekers by Karina Yan Glaser and other by her
Whatever After series by Sarah Mlynowski

American Girl Doll books—historical and American Girl Today

Andrew Clements books

Chris Grabenstein books

S. D. Smith books (*The Green Ember* and others)

Entering Grade 5

Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink
Crispin series by Avi
Chasing Vermeer and sequels by Blue Balliett
Cooper Kids Adventures by Frank Perretti
Dear America or *Royal Diaries* series by various authors
Echo by Pam Munoz Ryan (and others by her)
Elsie Dinsmore series by Martha Finley
Emily Windsnap or *Philippa Fisher* series by Liz Kessler
The Guardians of Ga'Hoole series by Kathryn Lasky and others by her
The Kingdom Series or *The Knights of Arrethtrae Series* by Chuck Black
Kingdom Keepers series by Ridley Pearson
The League and the Lantern series by Brian Wells
Left Behind Kids by Jerry B. Jenkins and Tim LaHaye
The Lemonade War and sequels by Jacqueline Davies
A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (and others by her)
Lula Bell on Freakdom, Geekdom, and the Challenges of Bad Hair by C. C. Payne
Misty of Chincoteague and *King of the Wind* by Marguerite Henry (and others by her)
The Moffats/Ginger Pye series by Eleanor Estes
My Life as... series by Janet Tashjian
Mysterious Benedict Society series by Trenton Lee Stewart
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper and others by her
The Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
The Prince Warriors series by Priscilla Shirer
Ranger's Apprentice and *Brotherband* series by John Flanagan
Redwall series by Brian Jacques
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Secret Zoo series by Bryan Chick
The Sisters Grimm series by Michael Buckley
The Sixty-Eight Rooms and sequels by Marianne Malone
The Underland Chronicles by Suzanne Collins
The Warriors series and others by Erin Hunter
The Wingfeather Saga by Andrew Peterson
Wonder by R. J. Palacio

Recommended Authors of multiple books: Gordon Korman, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Nancy J. Cavanaugh, John Feinstein, Cornelia Funke, Linda Sue Park, N. D. Wilson, Carl Hiaasen, Richard Peck (not *Best Man*), Louis Sachar

Entering Grade 6

Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Candymakers, Every Soul a Star, or others by Wendy Mass

Dragon Slippers series by Jessica Day George

Enola Holmes Mysteries by Nancy Springer

Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus

The Hobbit and *The Lord of the Rings* series by J.R.R. Tolkien

Mean Girl Makeover series by Nancy Rue

The Mother-Daughter Book Club or *Pumpkin Falls Mystery* series

by Heather Vogel Frederick

Neil Flambe Mysteries by Kevin Sylvester

Peter and the Starcatchers series by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

Powerless and sequels by Matthew Cody

Princess Academy and sequels by Shannon Hale

Ranger's Apprentice series and *Brotherband Chronicles* by John Flanagan

Ruby Holler or *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech

Seven Sleepers or *Lost Chronicles* series by Gilbert Morris

Theodore Boone books by John Grisham

Time Traveling Fashionista by Bianca Turetsky

Track series by Jason Reynolds (*Ghost*, etc.)

Warriors series by Erin Hunter (and others—*Seekers, Bravelands, Survivors*)

Young Samurai series by Chris Bradford

Jonathan Auxier fantasies

Joan Bauer realistic fiction books

Bryan Davis fantasies

Jennifer A. Nielsen fantasy and historical fiction

Gordon Korman and John Flanagan

Mike Lupica sports books

Tim Green sports books

Wayne Thomas Batson fantasies

James Ponti mysteries

Brandon Sanderson fantasy/sci-fi books

Narrative Nonfiction Chapter Books

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat

Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado (young readers' edition)

Blizzard! By Jim Murphy

Blizzard of Glass by Sally Walker

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy (Student Edition) by Eric Metaxas

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson (caution for sensitive readers)

The Boys in the Boat: The True Story of an American Team's Epic Journey...

(young readers' edition) by Gregory Mone

Christian the Lion by Ruth Knowles

Cold Case Christianity for Kids: Investigate Jesus with a Real Detective

by J. Warner Wallace

The Closer: My Story by Mariano Rivera (Young Readers' Edition) by Sue Corbett

Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story by Vicki Myron

Don't Check Your Brains at the Door by Josh McDowell

Finding Gobi: The True Story of One Little Dog's Big Journey by Dion Leonard

Game Changer by Kirk Cousins

Grace, Gold, and Glory by Gabby Douglas

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy

Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine

He Chose You by Max Lucado

Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know by Alexandra Horowitz

Irena's Children by Tilar J. Mazzeo

Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan

Soul Surfer by Bethany Hamilton

Through My Eyes by Tim Tebow (Young Readers' Edition)

Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina by Michaela DePrince

Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive

(Young Readers' Edition) by Laura Hillenbrand

Unshakeable Hope by Max Lucado (young readers' edition)

Unstoppable: True Stories of Amazing Bionic Animals by Nancy Furstinger

Lee Strobel books-*The Case for Christ, The Case for Faith*, etc.

(Kids or Student edition depending on age)

Chris Morpheu books—*How Do We Know that Christianity is Really True?* Etc.

Christian Heroes Then and Now series by Janet and Jeff Benge

Guts and Glory series

Magic Treehouse Fact Trackers (companions to fiction series)

National Geographic Kids Chapters

Playing with Purpose sports series

Ten True Tales series

Who Was, What Was, Where Is, What Is... series

I Survived nonfiction books by Lauren Tarshis

Great Parent Read-Alouds for Younger Children

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Betsy-Tacy books by Maud Hart Lovelace

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White (and others by this author)

Cottonmouth series by C. S. Fritz

Dangerous Journey by Oliver Hunkin (retelling of *Pilgrim's Progress*)

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine (also shorter *Princess Tales* by this author)

The Green Ember by S. D. Smith

Homer Price by Robert McCloskey

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis (and other Narnia books)

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder (and other Little House books)

Little Pilgrim's Progress by Helen Taylor

Mary Poppins by P. L. Travers

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

Mrs. Piggle Wiggles by Betty Bard MacDonald

Paddington by Michael Bond

Wayside School series by Louis Sachar

The Wind and the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Winnie-the-Pooh by A. A. Milne

Beverly Cleary books—*Ramona*, *Henry Huggins*, *Ribsy*, *Socks*, *Mouse* and *the Motorcycle...*

Cynthia Rylant chapter books