Incoming 2nd Grade Summer Reading

Please enjoy this list of books to read and share together as a family this summer.

Picture Books

Digestion! The Musical by Adam Rex, Illustrated by Laura Park

Despite being told that she is nothing but "empty calories," Candy is excited by her big break--being digested by the body, in this humorous exploration of the digestive system, presented as a Broadway musical.

Evelyn Del Ray is Moving Away by Meg Medina

Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend, her mejor amiga. But after today, everything will be different. Today Evelyn Del Rey is moving away. The two girls spend one last afternoon together in Evelyn's apartment, playing among the boxes, until the apartment is empty and it's time to say their goodbyes. They promise to visit and keep in touch, and though they will be apart, they know they will always be each other's first best friend, their numero uno

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett, Illustrated by Jon Klassen

With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

When Aiden Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff, Illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Aidan, a transgender boy, experiences complicated emotions as he and his parents prepare for the arrival of a new baby.

I Dream of Popo by Livia Blackburne, Illustrated by Julia Kuo

When a young girl and her family emigrate from Taiwan to America, she leaves behind her beloved popo, her grandmother. She misses her popo every day, but even if their visits are fleeting, their love is ever true and strong

I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott, Illustrated by Sydney Smith

When a child has a "bad speech day" at school, his father gives him a new perspective on his stuttering.

Llama Destroys the World by Jonathan Stutzman, Illustrated by Heather Fox

Eating too much pie causes Llama to rip his dancing pants, opening a black hole and threatening the entire universe.

Milo Imagines the World by Matt De La Peña, Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives.

A New Day by Brad Meltzer, Illustrated by Dan Santat

After Sunday quits being a day of the week, the other days of the week try out all sorts of candidates, until an act of kindness reminds them all that a little appreciation can go a long way.

The Ocean Calls: A Haenyo Mermaid Story Tina Cho, Illustrated by Jess X Snow

Dayeon wants to be a haenyeo just like Grandma. The haenyeo dive off the coast of Jeju Island to pluck treasures from the sea--generations of Korean women have done so for centuries. To Dayeon, the haenyeo are as strong and graceful as mermaids.

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero, Illustrated by Zeke Pena

When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her.

The Rough Patch by Brian Lies

Farmer Evan and his dog do everything together and, especially, in the garden but when his dog passes away Evan lets his garden fill with weeds until a pumpkin vine brings new hope.

The Tree and the River by Aaron Becker

The Tree and the River is an epic time-lapse reimagining of human civilization from a master of the wordless form, and a thought-provoking meditation on the relationship between two mighty forces: nature and humankind.

Where are you From? By Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, Illustrated by Luisa Uribe

When a girl is asked where she's from--where she's really from--none of her answers seems to be the right one. Unsure about how to reply, she turns to her loving abuelo for help

Chapter Books

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and other Scary Things by Lenore Look, Illustrated by Pham LeUyen (Series)

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol (Series) by Andres Medioso, Illustrated by Victor Rivas

Welcome to Kersville, a town with a spooky history and a collection of ghosts and spirits who are major mischief-makers. Most kids spend their days without ever seeing or dealing with a

ghost, but some kids get stuck with a haunt. When that happens, they call Desmond Cole Ghost Patrol. Desmond is the hall monitor of ghosts and monsters. There's no job too spooky, icky, or risky for Desmond.

Ellray Jakes is Not a Chicken! (Series) By Sally Warner, Illustrated by Jamie Harper

Eight-year-old EllRay Jakes's attempts to defend himself against the class bully always end up getting him in trouble, but he promises to do his best when his dad offers to take him to Disneyland if he can be good for an entire week--which may be a few days too long.

Fox + Chick: The Party (Series) by Sergio Ruzzier

Fox and Chick are unlikely friends, but somehow they seem to get along together, even though Fox is calm and thoughtful, and Chick is hyperactive and flighty

Geraldine Pu and Her Lunchbox, Too! (Series) by Maggie P. Chang

With encouragement from her supportive lunchbox, a young girl ignores a classmate's teasing and heartily enjoys yellow chicken curry, stinky tofu, and other tasty lunches prepared by her Taiwanese grandmother.

Ivy + Bean (Series) by Annie Barrows, Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Bean wasn't interested in making friends with Ivy, the new girl across the street, until she plays a trick on her sister and needs a place to hide out.

Jasmine Toguchi: Mochi Queen (Series) by Debbie Michiko Florence, Illustrated by Elizabet Vuko

Eager to do something her big sister has not done first, Jasmine Toguchi, eight, decides to pound mochi with the men and boys when her family gets together for New Year's.

Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-To-Be Best Friend (Series) by Dawn Quigley, Illustrated by Tara Audibert

Jo Jo Makoons Azure is a spirited seven-year-old who moves through the world a little differently than anyone else on her Ojibwe reservation. Even though Jo Jo loves her #1 best friend Mimi (who is a cat), she's worried that she needs to figure out how to make more friends. Because Fern, her best friend at school, may not want to be friends anymore

King & Kayla (Series) by Dori Hillestad Butler, Illustrated by Nancy Meyers

Adorable new series for young detectives and dog lovers--King, a lovable dog, helps Kayla, his human girl, solve mysteries.

Lola Levine: Drama Queen (Series) by Monica Brown

Lola Levine is given a non-speaking part after getting stage fright during her class play audition. She saves the play from a couple of obstacles with the help of her grandmother

Mia Mayhem is a Superhero by Kara West, Illustrated by Leeza Hernandez (Series)

Eight-year-old Mia Macarooney is delighted to learn she is from a family of superheroes, but her acceptance into the Program for In Training Superheroes requires she take a placement exam.

Marya Khan and the Incredible Henna Party (Series) by Sadia Faruqi, Illustrated by Ani Bushry

With her eighth birthday coming up, Marya claims she is having an epic henna party, so now she must convince her family to make it happen and work to pull it off, but everything Marya does seems to end in disaster.

Sofia Martinez: Abuela's Birthday by Jacquleine Jules, Illustrated by Kim Smith (Series)

Sofia and her cousins are making a pinata for their grandmother's birthday party, but when Bella the cat gets involved, chaos ensues.

Thirteenth Street: Battle of the Bad Breath Bats (Series) by David Bowles, Illustrated by Shane Clester

Cousins Malia, Ivan, and Dante are visiting their aunt Lucy for the summer. But on their way to Gulf City's water park, they get lost on 13th Street. Only it's not a street at all. It's a strange world filled with dangerous beasts! Will the cousins find their way back to Aunt Lucy's?

The Zach and Zoe Mysteries: The Half Court Hero (Series) by Mike Lupica, Illustrated by Chris Danger

Someone is secretly renovating the basketball court at the local park, and Zach and Zoe are determined to find out who.

Zoey and Sassafras (Series) by Asia Citro, Illustrated by Marion Lindsay

A girl, Zoey, and her cat, Sassafras, use science experiments to help a dragon with a problem

Non Fiction Books

Above The Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball by Jennifer Bryant, Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Though not as widely known as other basketball legends, hall-of-famer Elgin Baylor was one of the game's all-time greatest players--an innovative athlete, team player, and quiet force for change. A member of the early, scrappy NBA and one of the first professional African American players, Elgin (b. 1934) played in the late 1950s and early 1960s for the Minneapolis/Los Angeles Lakers, taking risks on and off the court.

Caves by Nell Cross Beckerman, Illustrated by Kalen Chock

Explores the geology and history of caves and provides basic information on splunking, or cave exploration.

Cougar Crossing: How Hollywood's Celebrity Cougar Helped Build a Bridge for City Wildlife by Meeg Pincus, Illustrated by Alexander Vidal

The story of how P-22, the famous 'Hollywood Cougar' brought awareness to the need for a wildlife crossing over the highway.

Fly Guy Presents: Space by Tedd Arnold (Series)

Join Fly Guy at the space museum as he learns about space and the history of space exploration.

The Indestructible Tom Crean: Heroic Explorer of the Antarctic by Jennifer Thermes

The Indestructible Tom Crean reveals the incredible true stories of Crean's adventures on the Discovery, Terra Nova, and Endurance expeditions. When the Endurance becomes trapped in the frozen sea and sinks, it is up to Crean and several others to go for help

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca

An illustrated account of the flight of Apollo 11 in 1969, the first manned mission to land on the moon.

North and South: A Tale of Two Hemispheres by Sandra Morris

Presents a global view of how animals adapt to the seasons and threats to their survival in their northern and southern hemisphere homes. Topics covered include habitats, life cycles, diets, and conservation statuses.

Summertime Sleepers: Animals that Estivate by Melissa Stewart, Illustrated by Sarah S. Brannan

Animals that hibernate estivate, with the word hibernate crossed out. ;Includes bibliographical references. Introduces young readers to animals that sleep in the summer instead of winter.

The Tide Pool Waits by Candace Fleming, Illustrated by Amy Hevron

A lyrical tour of the ecology of tide pools.