

Incoming 3rd Grade Summer Reading

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

Picture Books

***A Different Pond* by Bao Phi, Illustrated by Thi Bui**

As a young boy, Bao Phi awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.

***Blue* by Nana Ekoa Brew-Hammond, Illustrated by Daniel Minter**

This picture book follows one color's journey throughout history--from ancient Afghan painters to 1905, when a chemical blue dye was created--and around the world, as it becomes the blue we know today.

***The Skull* by Jon Klassen**

In a big abandoned house, on a barren hill, lives a skull. A brave girl named Otilia has escaped from terrible danger and runs away, and when she finds herself lost in the dark forest, the lonely house beckons. Her host, the skull, is afraid of something too, something that comes every night. Can brave Otilia save them both?

***Watercress* by Andrea Wang, Illustrated by Jason Chin**

Embarrassed about gathering watercress from a roadside ditch, a girl learns to appreciate her Chinese heritage after learning why the plant is so important to her parents.

***We are Grateful: Otsaliheliga* by Traci Sorell, Illustrated by Frane Lessac**

The word otsaliheliga (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences.

Realistic Fiction

***Abby In Between: Ready or Not (Series)* by Megan E. Bryant**

Nine-year-old Abby McAdams grapples with changes in her home life, her body, and her perspective on the world as she navigates fourth grade.

***Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan**

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community. (*Amina's Song*)

J.D. and the Great Barber Battle (Series) by J. Dillard

It's the night before the start of third grade and J.D.'s mom has given him his first and worst home haircut. When the stream of insults from the entire student body becomes too much, he takes matters into his own hands. He discovers he's a genius with clippers and opens a barbershop from his bedroom. When Henry Jr., the owner of the official local barbershop, realizes he's losing clients to J.D., he tries to shut him down. J.D. decides to let the people decide in a great barber battle!

Juana and Lucas (Series) by Juana Medina

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place

Maya and the Robot by Eve L. Ewing, Illustrated by Christine Almeda

In desperate need of a friend--and a science project--Maya finds a robot named Ralph in Mr. Mac's convenience store, and once she gets him up and running, a new world of connection opens up.

Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey (Series) by Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol, who has a big imagination and likes to name inanimate objects, has a tree in her backyard named Peppina . . . but she's way too scared to climb it. Will Marisol find the courage to climb Peppina? Maybe

Nina Soni: Former Best Friend by Kashmira Sheth, Illustrated by Jenn Kocsmiersky (Series)

Organized but sometimes forgetful Nina has a lot to keep track of as she rushes to complete a school project, help with little sister Kavita's birthday party, and make up with best friend Jay.

Olga and the Smelly Thing From Nowhere by Elise Gravel (Series)

When Olga crosses paths with a weird creature and becomes the first kid to discover the species *olgamus ridiculus*, she is ecstatic! What does an *olgamus* eat? How does it poop? Why does its burp sound like the word rubber? With her trusty observation notebook and the help of a librarian, a shopkeeper, and some friends, Olga sets out to do science--learning the facts about her smelly, almost-furry pal and searching for him when he goes missing. The scientific method is the best way to discover anything!

Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet (Series) by Zanib Mian, Illustrated by Nasaya Mafiridik

Imaginative Omar goes through the ups and downs of starting a new school and making new friends with the help of his wonderful (and silly) Muslim family.

***Sadiq and the Desert Star* by Siman Nuurali, Illustrated by Anjan Sarkar (Series)**

Sadiq's father is going on a business trip, but before he goes he tells Sadiq a story of the Desert Star, which fits in perfectly with Sadiq's third grade class field trip to the planetarium, and inspires Sadiq to build a simple telescope to study the stars when his father returns.

***Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts (Series)* by Katie Tsang, Illustrated by Nathan Reed**

After an unfortunate (and very embarrassing) incident in the Space Museum, Sam goes on a mission to prove to the school bully, and all his friends, that he's not afraid of anything-just like the heroes on his favorite show, Space Blasters. And when it looks like his house is haunted, Sam gets the chance to prove how brave he can be.

***Too Small Tola (Series)* by Atinuke, Illustrated by Onyinye Iwu**

Presents three tales of an endearing and enduring character, Tola, who lives in an apartment in the busy city of Lagos, Nigeria, with her sister, brother and grandmommy.

Historical Fiction

***The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich (Series)**

Omakayas, a seven-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.

***Finding Langston* by Lesa Cline-Ransome**

Discovering a book of Langston Hughes' poetry in the library helps Langston cope with the loss of his mother, relocating from Alabama to Chicago as part of the Great Migration, and being bullied.

***Full of Beans* by Jennifer L. Holm**

Ten-year-old Beans Curry, a member of the Keepsies, the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West, Florida, engages in various schemes to earn money while "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C., arrive to turn rundown Key West into a tourist resort.

***Indian No More* by Charlene Willing McManus**

When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity as an Indian despite being so far from home

***Paper Wishes* by Lois Sepahban**

Near the start of World War II, young Manami, her parents, and Grandfather are evacuated from their home and sent to Manzanar, an ugly, dreary internment camp in the desert for Japanese-American citizens.

***Sugar* by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

In 1870, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky ten-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her friendship with Billy, the son of her former master, and the arrival of workmen from China.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

***The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids: Vampire Don't Wear Polka Dots (Graphic Novel Series)* by Pearl Low**

The hard-to-handle third graders at Bailey Elementary School wonder if their new teacher, Mrs. Jeepers, who just moved from Transylvania and has glowing green eyes, is a vampire.

***Diary of an Ice Princess: Snow Place Like Home (Series)* by Christina Soontornvat, Illustrated by Barbara Szepesi Szucs**

Princess Lina has a life any kid would envy. She lives in a massive palace in the clouds. Everyone in her family has the power to control the wind and weather. On a good day, she can even fly! There's just one thing Lina wants: to go to regular, non-magical school with her best friend Claudia. She promises to keep the icy family secret under wraps. What could go wrong? (EVERYTHING!)

***Dragons in a Bag (Series)* by Zetta Elliott**

In Brooklyn, nine-year-old Jax joins Ma, a curmudgeonly witch who lives in his building, on a quest to deliver three baby dragons to a magical world, and along the way discovers his true calling.

***Love, Sugar, Magic: A Dash of Trouble* by Anna Meriano (Series)**

Leonora Logrona discovers her sisters and mother are not just bakers but also witches and tries to prove herself as good as them by helping a friend.

***Unicorn Rescue Society: The Creature of the Pines (Series)* by Adam Gidwitz, Illustrated by Hatem Aly**

After encountering a Jersey Devil while on a field trip to the Pine Barrens, Elliot and his new friend Uchenna help their weird teacher Professor Fauna rescue the mythological creature from a pair of greedy billionaire brothers.

***Upside-Down Magic* by Sarah Mylnowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins (Series)**

Nory, Elliott, Andres, and Bax find their lives forever changed when they attend the Dunwiddle Magic School's Upside-Down Magic class.

Mystery & Adventure

The Bad Guys (Series) by Aaron Blabey

The Bad Guys, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha, want to be heroes, and they decide that the way to do it is free the 200 dogs in the city dog pound--but their plan soon goes awry.

The Buried Bones Mystery (Series) by Sharon Draper

After the neighborhood basketball court is vandalized, Ziggy and his friends decide to form a club called the Black Dinosaurs and build their clubhouse in Ziggy's backyard where they find a mysterious cache of buried bones.

Just Harriet by Elana K. Arnold

Harriet Wermer is unhappy about having to spend her summer with her grandmother on Marble Island until she discovers a mystery involving her dad from when he was a boy living on the island.

Total Mayhem: Monday Into the Cave of Thieves by Ralph Lazar (Series)

Getting into a Total Mayhem Situation before breakfast while still in his pajamas, Dash Candoo must take matters into his own hands in order to save the entire planet.

Shirley and Jamila Save Their Summer by Gillian Goerz

When ten-year-olds Shirley and Jamila meet, Jamila is simply hoping for a friend in her new neighborhood but Shirley is a detective and together they seek a missing gecko

The Unforgettable Logan Foster (Series) by Shawn Peters

Logan, an undersized twelve-year-old orphan with a photographic memory and no filter, discovers that his foster parents are superheroes in grave danger and only Logan's highly logical mind can save them.

NonFiction

Africa, Amazing Africa: Country by Country by Atinuke, Illustrated by Mouni Feddag

Explore the continent of Africa country by country: its geography, people, animals, history, resources, and cultural diversity

Deadliest: 20 Dangerous Animals by Steve Jenkins

Introduces various animals, insects, and fish that are considered to be dangerous and describes the most dangerous animal of all.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers

Looks at the significance of the Statue of Liberty's right foot.

***Hidden Figures: The Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly, Illustrated by Laura Freeman**

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as -human computers- used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, four African-American women who lived through the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country

***Kid Athletes: True Tales of Childhood From Sports Legends* by David Stabler, Illustrated by Doogie Horner (Series)**

Hilarious childhood biographies and full-color illustrations show how Tiger Woods, Gabby Douglas, Bruce Lee, Bille Jean King, and other budding sports champions faced kid-sized challenges growing up.

***Love is Loud: How Diane Nash led the Civil Rights Movement* by Sandra Neil Wallace, Illustrated by Bryan Collier**

A picture book biography of Diane Nash, a Civil Rights Movement leader at the side of Martin Luther King and John Lewis. Born in the 1940s in Chicago, Diane went on to take command of the Nashville Movement, leading lunch counter sit-ins and peaceful marches. Diane decides to fight not with anger or violence, but with love.

***Nano: The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small* by Jess Wade, Illustrated by Melissa Castrillon**

An acclaimed physicist takes readers into the cutting-edge world of nanoscience where they will learn about the tiny building blocks that make up the world around us.

***Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist* by Julie Leung, Illustrated by Chris Sasaki**

An inspiring picture-book biography of animator Tyrus Wong, the Chinese American immigrant responsible for bringing Disney's Bambi to life.

***The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom* by Lita Judge**

A lyrical and informational nonfiction picture book that tells the story of trees and the hidden ecosystems they create

***Your Place in the Universe* by Jason Chin**

A non-fiction introduction to the massive scale of the known universe