



WW-P Summer Reading Suggestions 2014

Here is a list of some summer reading suggestions. We have included a range of books, listed by author's name. These authors are recognized as excellent choices for children in grades K-4 and all of them have written a variety of titles that you and your children can enjoy reading and sharing together. If you find an author that your child enjoys, please choose many of the other titles that are available by that same author.

Summer is a great time for leisurely and entertaining reading. A vacation should find us looking forward to reading and help us to remember that reading is fun as well as informative. Research tells us that the more children read, the better they read. We want children to continue reading during the summer and to consider reading enjoyable and not a chore. Giving children time to read is crucial if we want them to become lifelong readers and learners. Summer gives us the time, we have provided the author and title suggestions, and so the rest is up to you! Relax - and enjoy a fun-filled summer of READING!!!

List chosen by the West-Windsor Plainsboro K-3 Media Specialists:
Sue Ferguson (Maurice Hawk School), Nancy Hunter (Town Center School), Carol Willie (Dutch Neck School), and Tracy Brown (Wicoff School).

PICTURE BOOKS

Fleischman, Paul. Matchbox Diary

Follow a girl's curiosity of her great-grandfather's collection of matchboxes and small mementos that document his poignant immigration journey from Italy to a new country.

Freeman, Don. Corduroy

A toy bear in a department store wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all.

Hodgkinson, Leigh. Goldilocks and Just One Bear

In this sequel to the traditional Goldilocks story, Little Bear is all grown up and Goldilocks is a distant memory. One day, Little Bear wanders out of the woods and finds himself lost in the Big City. Will he find the city too noisy? Too quiet? Or just right? And what are the chances of him bumping in to someone who remembers exactly how he likes his porridge?

Latimer, Alex. The Boy Who Cried Ninja

A young boy named Tim is accused of lying when he tells his parents that a ninja ate the last piece of cake and a sunburned crocodile landed on the roof, so he figures out a way to prove that he is telling the truth.

McGhee, Alison. The Case of the Missing Donut

A little boy in a sheriff's hat and his dog deputy are bringing home a dozen donuts when the "Sheriff" is unable to resist getting rid of a slightly squished powdered donut, then wonders how everyone knows he ate it. The illustrations also provide evidence of the sheriff's crime, to which he is amusingly oblivious.

Metzger, Steve. The Dancing Clock

When the bronze animals on the Delacorte Clock start to "dance," Milo, a snow monkey in nearby Central Park Zoo, longs to join them. After his cage is left open he gets his chance; he's then horrified to learn he's been locked out. At the end of the book, there's a brief informational section about the dancing clock located in New York City's Central Park Zoo.

Moore, Eva. Lucky Ducklings

When Mama Duck takes her five ducklings for a walk from the park into a nearby town, she passes easily over the grate of a storm sewer, but each of the five ducklings trailing behind her falls, one by one, through the grate. Three firefighters and a bystander with a pickup truck and cable work together to remove the grate and rescue the ducklings, and the brood continues on its way. Based on a true event that happened in Montauk, NY in 2006.

Pederson, Laura. Unplugged: Ella Gets Her Family Back

Upset that her family is so focused on the screens of their various electronic devices that they no longer talk, laugh, and play games together, Ella takes away all of their chargers and small devices.

Pizzoli, Greg. The Watermelon Seed

Crocodile has devoured watermelon since babyhood and eats it every chance he gets. One day, however, he swallows a seed. This sends him into a panic. Will it grow inside him and come out of his ears? Will he grow larger and turn pink? The poor crocodile is so worried until he burps up the seed. He vows to never eat watermelon again, but will he be able to resist?

Stein, David Ezra. Interrupting Chicken

Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story, but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale.

Stewart, Sarah. The Gardener

A series of letters relating what happens when, after her father loses his job, Lydia Grace goes to live with her uncle Jim in the city but takes her love for gardening with her.

Taback, Simms. Joseph Had a Little Overcoat

A very old overcoat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments.

Watt, Melanie. Scaredy Squirrel.

Scaredy Squirrel is afraid to leave his tree, but one day he leaps into the great unknown. (Part of a series)

Willems, Mo. That is Not a Good Idea

Inspired by the evil villains and innocent damsels of silent movies, Willems tells the tale of a hungry fox who invites a plump goose to dinner. As with the beloved Pigeon books, kids will be calling out the signature refrain and begging for repeated readings. The funny details in the full-color illustrations by three-time Caldecott Honoree Mo Willems will bring nonstop laughter to story time.

FICTION

Applegate, Katherine. Never Glue Your Friends To Chairs

Roscoe Riley, upset with the notion that his teacher could get in trouble, comes up with a plan to keep the bee antennae on the first graders' heads, and help the drummers stay in their seats for the open house play. (First in series)

Birney, Betty G. Mysteries According to Humphrey

After learning about Sherlock Holmes, Humphrey the classroom hamster follows clues to try to discover why Mrs. Brisbane is gone and Mr. E, a fun but not very educational substitute, is taking her place in Room 26 at Longfellow School. (Part of a series)

Brown, Jeff. Flat Stanley

After a bulletin board falls on Stanley while he is sleeping, he finds that being flat has its advantages. A classic that has been made into a series.

Butterworth, Oliver. The Enormous Egg

Young Nate Twitchell is surprised when one of the hens on his family farm lays a giant egg. After a painstaking wait, Nate is even more surprised when it hatches and out pops a baby triceratops that he names Uncle Beazley! But when Nate decides to keep the dino and raise it on his own, he has no idea what he's getting himself into.

Clements, Andrew. Frindle

When Nick learns some interesting information about how words are created, suddenly he's got the inspiration for his best plan ever...the frindle. Who says a pen has to be called a pen? Why not call it a frindle? Things begin innocently enough as Nick gets his friends to use the new word. Then other people in town start saying frindle. Soon the school is in an uproar, and Nick has become a local hero.

Clements, Andrew. No Talking

It's the boys against the girls; who can win the no talking bet? But as silence falls over the school, chaos ensues!

Davies, Jacqueline. The Lemonade Crime

When money disappears from fourth-grader Evan's pocket and everyone thinks that his annoying classmate Scott stole it, Evan's younger sister stages a trial involving the entire class, trying to prove what really happened. A real-life courtroom is created - with a judge, witnesses, a jury of their peers - and surprising consequences. (Part of a series)

Hale, Bruce. The Chameleon Wore Chartreuse: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye

When hired by a fellow fourth-grader to find her missing brother, Chet Gecko uncovers a plot involving a Gila monster's revenge upon the school football team. (First in series)

Joyner, Andrew. Boris On the Move

Boris is an anthropomorphized warthog who dreams of adventure. He longs to travel and perform acts of derring-do, just like Captain Clive, the hero of his favorite book. He lives in a bus with his parents in Greater Hogg Bay, but the bus never goes anywhere, and neither does Boris. Until one day, it does.

Kelly, David A. The San Francisco Splash

A hit soars over the walls of the San Francisco ballpark on the bay and drops into the water. But then Mike and Kate hear another, much larger splash nearby . . . and this time it's not a baseball. It's a man overboard! And when he's pulled from the water, the old-time ballplayer discovers his World Series ring is gone! Is it at the bottom of the bay? Or was it somehow stolen by a rival from long ago? Part of the Ballpark Mystery series.

Kerrin, Jessica Scott. Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff!

Contains three stories in which a boy's plans for a rocket, a bus driver, and an old hamster go wrong. (First in series)

London, Jack. The Call of the Wild

The adventures of an unusual dog, part St. Bernard, part Shepard, that is forcibly taken to the Klondike gold fields where it eventually becomes the leader of a wolf pack.

Norton, Mary. The Borrowers

The Borrowers are tiny people hidden away in houses and safe places, living off what they borrow from "Human Beans". Pod and Homily want daughter Arriety to be safe and never seen, but she feels lonely and trapped. The Boy visiting Great Aunt Sophy brings doll furniture in exchange for Arriety reading, until mean housekeeper Mrs Driver calls the rat-catcher.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. The Night Fairy

What would happen to a fairy if she lost her wings and could no longer fly? Flory, a young night fairy no taller than an acorn and still becoming accustomed to her wings, is about to find out. She loses her wings during a run-in with a bat and discovers that the world is a big, dangerous place.

Sheth, Kashmira. No Dogs Allowed Rule

Third-grader Ishan Mehra wants his family to get a dog, but his efforts to convince his parents often get him into trouble. Very funny situations that kids will enjoy.

Tolan, Stephanie S. Wishworks Inc

Third-grader Max is having a tough time. New in school and the victim of bullies, he retreats into an imaginary world, where a big handsome dog, King, protects him and where dragons and other beasts fight his battles. Real life is the problem. One day, when Max imagines a shop called Wishworks, a place where wishes come true, his life takes a surprising turn.

NON-FICTION

Adler, David. Millions, Billions and Trillions: Understanding Big Numbers

Simple text and illustrations explain the concepts of very large numbers.

Adler, David A. A Picture Book of Harry Houdini

A captivating biography of one of the most celebrated escape artists and magicians in history.

Aston, Dianna Hutts. Dream Something Big: the Story of the Watts Towers

Between 1921 and 1955, Italian immigrant Simon Rodia transformed broken glass, seashells, pottery, and a dream to "do something big" into a U.S. National Landmark. Readers watch the towers rise from his little plot of land in Watts, California, through the eyes of a fictional girl as she grows and raises her own children. Chronicled in stunningly detailed collage that mimics Rodia's found-object art, this thirty-four-year journey becomes a mesmerizing testament to perseverance and possibility.

Burleigh, Robert. Look Up! Henrietta Leavitt, Pioneering Woman Astronomer

Henrietta Levitt was the first person to discover the scientific importance of a star's brightness—so why has no one heard of her? Learn all about a female pioneer of astronomy in this picture book biography.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. You read to me, I'll read to you: very short fables to read together

Aesop's fables as you've never seen them before!

Jenkins, Steve. Bones: Skeletons and How They Work

In this book, kids will come face-to-face with some head-to-toe boney comparisons, many of them shown at actual size. Here you'll find the differences between a man's hand and that of a spider monkey; the great weight of an elephant's leg, paired with the feather-light femur of a stork; and rib-tickling info about snakes and sloths.

Kimmel, Eric. Anansi and the Talking Melon

A clever spider tricks elephant and some other animals into thinking the melon in which he is hiding can talk.

Klise, Kate. Stand Straight, Ella Kate

Ella Kate Ewing was born in 1872. She started out small, but she just kept on growing. Soon she was too tall for her desk at school, too tall for her bed at home, too tall to fit anywhere. Ella Kate was a real-life giant, but she refused to hide herself away. Instead, she used her unusual height to achieve her equally large dreams.

Meltzer, Brad. I am Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart refused to accept no for an answer; she dared to do what no one had ever done before, and became the first woman to fly a plane all the way across the Atlantic Ocean. This book follows her from childhood to her first flying lessons and onward to her multi-record-breaking career as a pilot.

Mitton, Jacqueline. Once Upon a Starry Night: a Book of Constellations

Take an illuminating ride through the starry night sky, and learn the Greek and Roman myths associated with ten constellations, from Cassiopeia to Argo. Each double-page spread illustrates its constellation, with figures surrounding the foil silver stars embedded in a night sky. Additional information at the end, includes maps of the northern and southern skies.

Morley, Jacqueline. You Wouldn't Want to Explore With Lewis & Clark!

It's 1803, and two adventurous young army officers are about to lead an expedition right across the North American continent, through the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. They will explore lands that few Europeans have ever seen, and will make many scientific discoveries. Do you have what it takes to go with them?

Obama, Barack. Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters

In this tender, beautiful letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation. From the artistry of Georgia O'Keeffe, to the courage of Jackie Robinson, to the patriotism of George Washington, President Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children, and within all of America's children.

Prelutsky, Jack. Stardines Swim High Across the Sky and Other Poems

A collection of poems describing imaginary creatures such as Bluffaloes, Swapitis, and Stardines.

Seeger, Pete. Abiyoyo

Banished from the town for making mischief, a little boy and his father are welcomed back when they find a way to make the dreaded giant Abiyoyo disappear.

Silverman, Buffy. Can You Tell a Dolphin from a Porpoise?

Photographs and text help readers decipher the differences between dolphins and porpoises, describing the physical features, behaviors, habitats, and other unique attributes of each species. Part of a series that helps students identify animals that are similar.

Wardlaw, Lee. Won-Ton: a Cat Tale Told in Haiku

A cat arrives at a shelter, arranges to go home with a good family, and settles in with them, all the while letting them know who is boss!