

**WANDELL SCHOOL**

# **Summer Reading Lists**

**Scroll down to find your grade level. Remember, assignments are posted on the Summer Reading Assignments link.**

# Entering PreK-4 Summer Reading List

Dear Future Pre-K 4 Parents,

Welcome to the wonderful world of learning at Wandell School. I look forward to meeting you and your child. He/she is about to embark on the exciting learning adventure known as Pre-K 4. To help your child prepare for a great year of learning, I have compiled a list of suggested books for you to share with your child during the summer. Children generally love having stories read to them and it is one of the first steps in learning how to read. Have fun, enjoy the stories and get ready for your son/daughter to have a fun-filled year of learning and prek experiences.

*What to Expect at Preschool* Heidi Murkoff  
*The Night Before Preschool* Natasha Wing  
*I Love You All Day Long* Francesca Rusackas  
*My Preschool* Anne Rockwell  
*The Kissing Hand* Audrey Penn  
*Teeny Tiny Mouse, A Book About Colors* Laura Leuck  
*The Crayon Counting Book* Pam Munoz Ryan & Jerry Pallotta  
*Clifford's ABC* Norman Bridwell  
*Ten Tiny Tadpoles* Debbie Tarbett  
*Big Fat Hen* Keith Baker

# Entering Kindergarten Summer Reading List

## Kindergarten Summer Reading List

*Nugget and Fang* by Tammi Sauer  
*The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?* by Mo Willems  
*The Mixed Up Chameleon* by Eric Carle  
*I Like To Be Little* by Charlotte Zolotow  
*It's Hard to be Five: Learning How to Work my Control Panel* by Jamie Lee Curtis  
*Incredible You! 10 Ways to let your greatness shine through* by Dr. Wayne Dyer  
*When I Get Bigger* by Mercer Mayer  
*Leo the Late Bloomer* by Robert Kraus  
*Just Me Books* by Mercer Mayer  
*Berenstain Bear Books* by Stan and Jan Berenstain  
*Are You My Mother?* by P.D.Eastman  
*Curious George* by H.A.Rey  
*Stephanie's Ponytail* by Robert Munsch  
*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat  
*The Gingerbread Boy* by Paul Galdone  
*3 Billy Goats Gruff* by Glen Rounds  
*A Bad Case of the Stripes* by David Shannon  
*Click Clack Moo: Cows the Type* by Doreen Cronin  
*Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin  
*It's Mine* by Leo Lionni  
*The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*Rosie's Walk* by Pat Hutchins  
*Fish Eyes* by Lois Ehlert  
*Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni  
*Each Orange Had Eight Slices: A Counting Book* by Paul Giganti Jr.  
*Rooster Off to See the World* by Eric Carle  
*Painting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert  
*The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns  
*Ten Little Fish* by Audrey Wood  
*26 Letters and 99 Cents* by Tana Hoban  
*A Color of His Own* by Leo Lionni  
*Bunny Money* by Rosemary Wells  
*The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton  
*Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans  
*Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily McCully  
*Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey

*Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel  
*Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown  
*Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens  
*James' Marshall's Mother Goose* by James Marshall  
*Tommie dePaola's Favorite Nursery Tales* by Tommie dePaola  
*John Henry* by Julius Lester  
*Rumpelstiltskin* by Paul Zelinsky  
*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina  
*Cinderella* by Marcia Brown  
*The Three Little Bears* by Paul Galdone  
*The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Peter Christen Asbornsen  
*The Three Little Pigs* by Rodney Peppe  
*The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen  
*The Hare and the Tortoise* by Brian Wildsmith  
*Who Will Be My Friends?* by Syd Hoff  
*We Are Best Friends* by Alike  
*Benjamin and Tulip* by Rosemary Wells  
*My Five Senses* by Alike  
*Cars and How They Go* by Joanna Cole  
*I Like Me!* By Nancy L. Carlson  
*Just Me* by Mercer Mayer  
*Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*Millions of Cats* by Wanda Gag  
*Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch  
*Who Will Be My Friends?* By Syd Hoff  
*Madeline* by Ludwig Bemans  
*Swimmy* by Leo Lionni  
*Chicken Little* by Steven Kellogg  
*The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach  
*Cars and How They Go* by Joanna Cole  
*The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen  
*My Five Senses* by Alike  
*Magic School Bus On the Ocean Floor* by Joanna Cole  
*Owen* by Kevin Henkes

**Entering  
1st  
Grade  
Summer  
Reading  
List**

## First Grade Summer Book List

### Books that can be found on the Wandell E-Readers:

Chuck's Truck -Peggy Anderson  
All You Need for a Beach -Alice Schertle  
Curious George Plays Mini Golf -Marcy Sacks  
Curious George The Perfect Carrot -Marcy Goldberg  
I'll Protect You From the Jungle Beasts -Martha Alexander  
Elmer and Rose -David McKee  
Elmer and Hippos -David McKee  
Time for a Bath -Steve Jenkins  
Tightrope Poppy, the High Wire Pig -Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen  
Time to Eat -Steve Jenkins  
Water, Water Everywhere -Julie Lundgren  
What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? -Steve Jenkins

### Other First Grade Book Choices :

#### (listed from easiest to most difficult)

Puppy Mudge Finds a Friend - Cynthia Rylant  
The Bike Lesson - Stan Berenstain  
Noodles: No Kisses Please - Hans Wilhelm  
"Biscuit Series" -Allyssa Satin Capucilli  
"Mitten Series" - Joan Holub  
"Splat the Cat Series" - Rob Scotton  
The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat -Nurit Karlin  
Tiny Goes Camping -Cari Meister  
When Tiny Was Tiny -Cari Meister  
Tiny the Snow Dog -Cari Meister



I love Rocks - Carl Meister

"Little Critter-I Can Read Series"-Mercer Mayer

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie -Laura Numeroff

If You Give a Pig a Pancake -Laura Numeroff

Morris the Moose - B. Wiseman

"First Grade Friends Series" - Grace Maccarone

"Little Bear Series"-Maurice Sendak

"Fly Guy Series"- Tedd Arnold

"Frog and Toad Series" - Arnold Lobel

**\*This reading list is just a suggested reading list. Your child does not have to choose all of his/her books from this list.\***

**Entering  
2nd  
Grade  
Summer  
Reading  
List**

## Suggested Books for Students Entering Second Grade

### Picture Books:

Getting Ready for Second Grade Amber Brown by Paula Danziger  
Dogku by Andrew Clements  
The Best Seat in Second Grade by Katharine Kenah  
Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin  
Diary of a Spider by Doreen Cronin  
Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner  
What If You Had Animal Teeth? by Sandra Markle  
The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume  
The Three Little Pigs and The Somewhat Bad Wolf by Mark Teague  
Once Upon A Time by Niki Daly

### Book Series:

Frog and Toad Series by Arnold Lobel  
Mercy Watson Series by Kate DiCamillo  
Ready Freddy Series by Abby Klein  
Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne  
Nate the Great Series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat  
Henry and Mudge Series by Cynthia Rylant  
Cam Jansen Series by David A. Adler  
Amelia Bedelia Series by Peggy Parish  
Junie B. Jones Series by Barbara Park  
Black Lagoon Series by Mike Thaler  
Fancy Nancy Series by Jane O'Connor  
Flat Stanley Series by Jeff Brown  
Notebook of Doom Series by Troy Cummings  
Rainbow Magic Series by Daisy Meadows  
Clementine's Letter Series by Sara Pennypacker

### **Nonfiction Books:**

National Geographic Kids

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine

Magic School Bus Series by Joanna Cole

My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World by Margriet Ruurs

Jackie Robinson: American Hero: Sharon Robinson

Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin by Gene Barretta

Wild Tracks! : A Guide to Nature's Footprints! by Jim Arnosky

Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs! by Kathleen V. Kudlinski,

Dear Children of the Earth by Schim Schimmel

Seeing Symmetry by Loreen Leedy

Castle: How It Works by David Macaulay

The Flyer Flew! The Invention of the Airplane by Lee Sullivan Hill

Nic Bishop Frogs by Nic Bishop

Nic Bishop Snakes by Nic Bishop

Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag by Bob Dacey

Fly Guy Presents: Sharks by Tedd Arnold

### **E Readers:**

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock by Eric A. Kimmel

Bat's Big Game by Margaret MacDonald

Cowboy Camp by Tammi Sauer

All About Seasons by Joanne Randolph

20 Hungry Piggies by Trudy Harris

Mike's Mystery by Marcie Aboff

Alexander Anteater's Amazing Act by Barbara DeRubertis

Book Speak: Poems About Books by Laura Purdie Salas

**Entering  
3rd  
Grade  
Summer  
Reading  
List**

## Third Grade

### Recommended Summer Reading List

## Suggested Books for Students Entering Third Grade

### **Recommendations:**

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Diva and Flea by Mo Williams

The Big Bad Detective Agency by Bruce Hale

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

The Magical MS. Plum by Bonny Becker

Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes

Ivy and Bean by Annie Barrows

The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps by Jeanette Winter

Violet Bing and the Grand House by Jennifer Paros

The Problem with the Puddles by Kate Feiffer

The Sky Painter: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

The Princess in Black by Shannon Hale

Lulu's Animal Adventures by Hilary McKay

Piper Green and the Fairy Tree by Ellen Potter

Waiting For Magic by Patricia MacLachlan

The Secrets of the Pied Piper by Matthew Cody

Like Bug Juice on a Burger by Julie Sternberg

Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet by Graham Salisbury

### **Book Series:**

Ready Freddy Series by Abby Klein

Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne

Nate the Great Series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat

Cam Jansen Series by David A. Adler

Amelia Bedelia Series by Peggy Parish

Junie B. Jones Series by Barbara Park  
Black Lagoon Series by Mike Thaler  
Flat Stanley Series by Jeff Brown  
Notebook of Doom Series by Troy Cummings  
Rainbow Magic Series by Daisy Meadows  
Clementine's Letter Series by Sara Pennypacker  
Judy Moody Series by Megan McDonald  
Upside Down Magic Series by Sarah Mlynowski  
Never Girl Series by Kiki Thorpe  
Recipe for Adventures Series by Giada De Laurentiis  
I Survived Series by Lauren Tarshis  
Dragon Slayers Academy Series by Kate McMullan  
Geronimo Stilton Series by Geronimo Stilton  
A to Z Mysteries Series by Ron Roy  
Stink Series by Megan McDonald  
Boxcar Children Series by Gertrude Warner  
Life of Humphrey Series by Betty Birney

### **Nonfiction Books:**

National Geographic Kids  
Magic School Bus Series by Joanna Cole  
My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around  
the World by Margriet Ruurs  
Jackie Robinson: American Hero: Sharon Robinson  
Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin by Gene  
Barretta  
Dear Children of the Earth by Schim Schimmel  
Seeing Symmetry by Loreen Leedy  
Castle: How It Works by David Macaulay  
The Flyer Flew! The Invention of the Airplane by Lee Sullivan Hill  
Stars and Stripes: The Story of the American Flag by Bob Dacey  
On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne  
Theodore by Frank Keating  
Becoming Babe Ruth by Matt Tavares  
Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa by Jeanette Winter

**Entering  
4th  
Grade  
Summer  
Reading  
List**



Dear Incoming Fourth Graders,

In fourth grade, you will expand on what you learned in Third Grade and become more knowledgeable in all areas. Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Language Arts are some of our favorite subjects and we hope you'll enjoy them too.

During the summer break, we would like you to read at least three books and respond to three of them. Your response should be typed. One book that everyone is required to read is Frindle by Andrew Clements. The two other books should be selected from different genres. A book list is attached.

Your responses are due on the first day of school. You will receive a grade for your work, so be sure to do your best work.

We are looking forward to reading your responses to the books you read. Happy Reading! Have a safe and healthy summer. See you in September!

**Fourth Grade Summer Reading List by  
Genre/Theme**

Adventure

The Cricket in Times Square  
Everything on a Waffle  
The Contest: Everest #1

George Seldon  
Polly Horvat  
Gordon Korman

Biographies/Autobiographies

*Amelia to Zora: Twenty-six Women  
Who Changed the World*  
*Clean Sea: Story of Rachel Carson*  
*Reaching for the Moon*  
*So You Want to be an Explorer?*  
The Adventures of Beanboy  
DK Life Stories series

*Polly Horvat*  
*Carol H Schlank*  
*Buzz Aldrin*  
*Judith St. George*  
Lisa Harkrader  
DK

Classic Childhood Favorites

*Homer Price*  
*The Wheel on the School*  
The Great Brain  
The Boy Who Painted Dragons  
Because of Winn Dixie  
Fudge-A-Mania

*Robert McCloskey*  
*Meindert DeJong*  
John D. Fitzgerald  
Demi  
Kate Dicamillo  
Judy Blume

Fantasy

Tuck Everlasting  
Phantom Tollbooth

Natalie Babbitt  
Norton Juster

Fiction E-Reader

\*Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs  
\*After School Ghost Hunters  
\*Campfire Mallory  
\*Dragon Rider  
\*The Race Across America  
\*Step Fourth Mallory

Megan McDonald  
Jurgen Banscheraus  
Laurie Friedman  
Cornelia Funke  
Geronimo Stilton  
Laurie Friendman

### Friendship

The Facts and Fictions of Minna Pratt  
*A Letter to Amy*  
*Friend or Fiend?*  
*How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World*  
Friend: Making Them and Keeping them  
How to Speak Dolphin  
The Friendship War

Patricia MacLachlan  
*Ezra Jack Keats*  
*Judy Blume*  
*Marjorie Priceman*  
Patty Kelley  
Ginny Rorby  
Andrew Clements

### Fun Book About Math

7X9= Trouble  
Esio Trot

Claudia Mills  
Roald Dahl

### Historical Fiction

*Great White Sharks*  
*Being Teddy Roosevelt*  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*  
*Molly's Pilgrim*  
*Dare to Dream*  
Keeping Score

*Sandra Murkle*  
*Claudia Mills*  
*Brian Sleznick*  
*Barbara Cohen*  
*Carl Sommer*  
Linda Sue Park

### History

*The American Story: 100 True Tales from A  
American History*  
Crazy Cars

*Jennifer Armstrong*  
Matt Doeden

### Humor

*Danny the Champion of the World*  
*Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger*  
Circle of Doom  
Sideways Stories from Wayside

*Roald Dahl*  
*Louis Sachar*  
Tim Kennemore  
Louis Sachar

### Mysteries

*Freddy the Detectives*  
*Lizard Music*

*Walter Brooks*  
*Daniel M. Pinkwater*

\* The Basketball Mystery  
Liar and Spy  
Rescue on The Oregon Trail

Gertrude C. Werner  
Rebecca Stead  
Kate Messner

Nonfiction

Humphrey the Lost Whale: A True Story  
*Baseball: How It Works*  
*Black Beard, The Pirate King*  
Deep in the Swamp  
Extreme Animals: The Toughest..  
Owen and Maze  
Quest for the Tree Kangaroo  
Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story  
of How Monopoly Was Invented

W. Tokuda  
*David Dreier*  
*Patrick J. Lewis*  
Donna M. Bateman  
Nicola Davies  
Hatkoff & Kuhumbu  
Sy Montgomery  
  
Tanya Lee Stone

Realistic Fiction

*Frindle*  
*Mapping Penny's World*  
*Love That Dog*  
Lunch Money  
Sahara Special  
There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom  
Dear Mr. Henshaw  
Fudge Series  
Wonder  
White Bird

*Andrew Clements*  
*Loreen McDonald*  
*Shareen Creech*  
Andrew Clements  
Esme Codel  
Louis Sachar  
Beverly Cleary  
Judy Blume  
RJ Palacio  
RJ Palacio

Series

Nancy Drew Notebooks  
Encyclopedia Brown  
*Boxcar Children*  
I Survived  
Guy's Read

Carolyn Keene  
Donald Sobol  
*Gertrude Warner*  
Lauren Tarish  
Jon Scieszka

Science and Nature

Great White Sharks  
*Polar Bears and the Arctic (Magic Tree House)*

Sandra Markle  
*Mary P. Osbourne*

*Storms*

The Down to Earth Guide to Global Warming  
Natural Disasters

\*100 Things You Should Know About Rocks  
and Minerals

\*Exploring Rocks and Minerals

The Neptune Project

What If You Had Animal Feet

*Seymour Simon*

David & Gordon

Claire Watts

Sean Callery

Cynthia Brown

Polly Holyoke

Sandra Markle

Sports

Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story of Nine Innings

Hey Batta Batta Swing! The Wild Old Days  
of Baseball

\*Dugout Rivals

\*Free Baseball

\*The New York Yankees

Deborah Hopkins

S. Cook & J. Charlton

Fred Bowen

Sue Corbett

Mark Stewart

**Entering  
5th  
GRADE  
Summer  
Reading  
List**

## Summer Reading Book List

***The Fourteenth Goldfish*** by Jennifer L. Holm                      208 pages

Eleven-year-old Ellie Cruz's life changes dramatically when her mother brings a teenage boy home one night and she learns it is her estranged grandfather. Melvin is a scientist who has figured out how to reverse aging and is now 13 again. Tensions are high between Melvin and his adult daughter, Ellie's mother, but Ellie feels like she now has the opportunity to really get to know her grandfather. Her interest in science blossoms, and she is eager to help Melvin retrieve the jellyfish specimen he used in his experiments so he can publish his discovery. Fascinated, Ellie learns about the work of Jonas Salk, Robert Oppenheimer, and Marie Curie. But as she learns more, she realizes that scientific discoveries often have unforeseen consequences. Readers are carried along with Ellie as she navigates old and new friendships in her first year in middle school with the added complication of her teenage grandfather at the same school. Short chapters keep the story moving at an engaging pace, and the interactions among the characters will easily hold readers' interest. Ellie's growing relationship with her grandfather helps her make discoveries about herself.

***Loot*** by Jude Watson    272 pages

Twelve-year-old March McQuinn has lived a life that many kids can only dream about—world travel, no school, and exciting hijinks—but it comes at a cost. He has always felt as though something, or someone, was missing from his life. So when his father, the notorious jewel thief Alfie McQuinn, falls to his death during a burglary, March is left completely alone. That is, until he is reunited with his long-lost twin sister Jules, who has been traveling with their aunt's street performance group. Following a quick stint in a group home and armed only with street smarts and Alfie's clues, the twins and their friends set out to finish Alfie's last heist before Alfie's rivals do.

***Finding Serendipity*** by Angelica Banks                      228 pages

Tuesday McGillycuddy's mom is the world-famous writer Serendipity Smith. If Serendipity is not off promoting herself on TV and radio, then she is holed away in her room working on her children's novels. Tuesday can't wait until her mom completes "Vivienne Small and the Final Battle" so they can spend more time together. Then Serendipity mysteriously disappears. Tuesday soon finds the words "The End" spelled out in shimmering, silver letters floating in the air above the keyboard and believes it's a clue to her mom's whereabouts. Typing her own story produces similar silvery words that entwine and carry her and her faithful dog Baxterr to a land where all books are created. Tuesday is convinced she will find her mom here. Though warned against doing so by a kindly librarian in this magical realm, Tuesday enters the world of her mother's book and soon embarks on exciting adventures with Vivienne Small. Threatened by

bloodthirsty pirates and menacing Captain Mothwood, Vivienne and Baxterr are in extreme danger and Tuesday's creative writing skills must save them from this dire predicament.

***Regarding the Fountain*** by Kate Klise 138 pages

When the principal asks a fifth-grader to write a letter regarding the purchase of a new drinking fountain for their school, he finds that all sorts of chaos results.

***The City of Ember*** by Jeanne DuPrau 270 pages

The City of Ember is dying. Twelve-year-old Lina and her friend Doon trade jobs on Assignment Day and work together to try to save their beloved but decaying city.

***The Island of Dr. Libris*** by Chris Grabenstein 265 pages

Billy is not thrilled to be spending the summer in a cabin on a lake in the middle of nowhere. His mom and dad aren't together, and he's worried this change may be permanent. Their cabin is owned by Dr. Libris, who also owns the mysterious island in the lake. With a lack of technology, and bullies as neighbors, Billy resorts to searching for a key to open the bookcase in Dr. Libris' study. What he unlocks brings classic books to life—when he reads the books, he hears the action somehow occurring on the island. Curious, he ventures out to the island to explore and discovers the unbelievable—somehow the stories he is reading are actually happening. When he meets Hercules, Zeus, Robin Hood, Tom Sawyer, and others, he becomes embroiled in their adventures and unwittingly causes the storylines to collide. When Billy brings his neighbors, Walter, and Walter's sister, out to the island, they all face treacherous foes including the giant from Jack in the Beanstalk and a space lizard from Walter's comic book. Billy is left trying to figure out whether Dr. Libris is behind everything, whether his own mind may be the culprit, and whether or not he can use the island to help save his parents' marriage.

***The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*** by Tom Angleberger 141 pages

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future. Includes instructions for making Origami Yoda.

***The Life of Me (Enter at Your Own Risk)*** by Henry Winkler 256 pages

When Ms. Adolf hurts her back in a tango contest and goes on long term leave, Mr. Rock (the music teacher) is called in as the sub. Hank is psyched . . . until Mr. Rock suggests that Hank attend an after-school reading program, which means he'll miss tae kwon do. But when Hank gets a crush on a girl in the reading program, and when Mr. Rock says that instead of writing his autobiography (a class assignment), Hank can present his life in scrapbook form, well . . . life's looking good. Then Hank finds out that his crush is actually the cousin of his nemesis, McKelty! **WANDELL E-reader SELECTION**



***Nothing's Fair in the Fifth Grade*** by Barthe DeClements 256 pages  
A fifth grade class, repelled by the overweight new student who has serious home problems, finally learns to accept her. **WANDELL E-reader SELECTION**

***George's Marvelous Medicine*** by Roald Dahl 96 pages  
George is alone in the house with his Grandma – the most horrible Grandma that ever was. She is grouchy and grizzled and grumpy. Luckily, George knows how to cure her of her bad attitude. He decides to brew up an extra-special remedy – a Grandma Medicine. He mixes together all sorts of things and creates the most marvelous medicine for his grouchy grandma. The problem is, George doesn't know exactly what his medicine will do. From growing into a gigantic ball of air, to growing so tall that she bursts through the ceiling, George's medicine has a number of amazing and hilarious results. In the meantime, George struggles to get the magical effects of his medicine under control.

***Fantastic Mr. Fox*** by Roald Dahl 96 pages  
Fantastic Mr. Fox lives with his wife and four little foxes. In order to feed his family, he steals food from the cruel, brutish farmers named Boggis, Bunce, and Bean every night. Finally tired of being constantly outwitted by Mr. Fox, the farmers attempt to capture and kill him. The foxes escape in time by burrowing deep into the ground. The farmers decide to wait outside the hole for the foxes to emerge. Unable to leave the hole and steal food, Mr. Fox and his family begin to starve. Mr. Fox devises a plan to steal food from the farmers by tunneling into the ground and borrowing into the farmer's houses.

***Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt 288 pages  
Another novel focused on kindness and being your true self, *Fish in a Tree* is the story of a girl named Ally who has mastered the art of hiding her inability to read...that is, until her new teacher, Mr. Daniels, figures it out and helps Ally see that she doesn't need to be ashamed of having dyslexia.

***The Tale of Despereaux*** by Kate DiCamillo 272 pages  
Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives.

***Maniac Magee*** by Jerry Spinelli 180 pages  
Maniac Magee is a folk story about a boy, a very excitable boy. One that can outrun dogs, hit a homerun off the best pitcher in the neighborhood, tie a knot no one can undo.

"Kid's gotta be a maniac," is what the folks in Two Mills say. It's also the story of how this boy, Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee, confronts racism in a small town, tries to find a home where there is none and attempts to soothe tensions between rival factions on the tough side of town. Presented as a folk tale, it's the stuff of storytelling. "The history of a kid," says Jerry Spinelli, "is one part fact, two parts legend, and three parts snowball." And for this kid, four parts of fun.

***Lawn Boy*** by Gary Paulsen            96 pages

Learning the workings of the free-market economy has never been more fun than in this tall tale of entrepreneurship set in Eden Prairie, MN. When the narrator's grandfather gives him an old rider mower for his 12th birthday, his life changes; he senses "some kind of force behind it." Almost as soon as he figures out how to run it, the boy is in business—by the second day he has eight jobs. When he mows the lawn of Arnold Howell, an aging hippie e-trader, the cash-poor man offers a stock-market account in lieu of payment. Arnold not only invests the money; he also offers business advice. Soon lawn boy has a partner, 15 employees, a lot of money invested in the market, and a prizefighter. Chapter headings suggest business principles behind what is happening. Throughout the tale, the narrator is innocent of his success as he rises early each morning to begin each job, eats lunch on the mower, and longs for a less-hectic summer vacation.

***Who Could That Be at this Hour?*** by Lemony Snicket            272 pages    CHALLENGE

In this "autobiographical" mystery, a teenaged Lemony Snicket recounts his early experiences as an apprentice to S. Theodora Markson, a pretentious woman who is not remotely as intelligent as she pretends. The two travel to the formerly seaside (but now not) town of Stain'd-by-the-Sea to investigate the theft of, what they are told, is a priceless heirloom. The identity of the culprit is obvious. Or is it? There's much more to this case than meets the eye. To uncover what's really going on, the inquisitive Snicket must figure out who he can trust and which questions to ask before it's too late. This fast-paced whodunit is likely to leave readers with questions of their own.

***Hatchet*** by Gary Paulsen            195 pages    CHALLENGE

Brian Robeson, 13, is the only passenger on a small plane flying him to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness when the pilot has a heart attack and dies. The plane drifts off course and finally crashes into a small lake. Miraculously Brian is able to swim free of the plane, arriving on a sandy tree-lined shore with only his clothing, a tattered windbreaker, and the hatchet his mother had given him as a present. The novel chronicles in gritty detail Brian's mistakes, setbacks, and small triumphs as, with the help of the hatchet, he manages to survive the 54 days alone in the wilderness. Paulsen effectively shows readers how Brian learns patience to watch, listen, and think before he acts as he attempts to build a fire, to fish and hunt, and to make his home under a rock overhang safe and comfortable.

