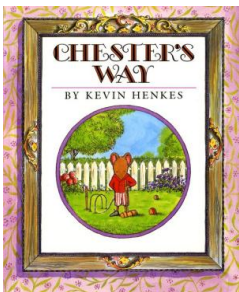


First Grade Summer Reading

Summer reading should be fun! Please do not feel that you have to purchase these books. We have a fabulous public library and both of these books are in their catalog. An integral part of first grade is learning to read and developing children's love of the written word. I realize that each child is in a different place on their journey to fluency and I do not want reading to be treated as punishment. That being said, please either have your child read these books to you, read the books to your child, or read these books together. I have planned some fun activities to go with these stories and will reread them in our class. I look forward to teaching, learning, and getting to know each of your precious children this coming school year. Happy Reading!

Mrs. Sarah Nolan and Mrs. Melinda Perronne

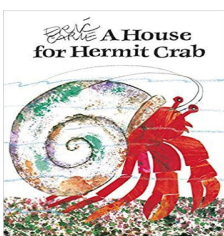
Required Summer Reading:



***Chester's Way* by Kevin Henkes**

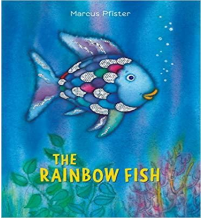
Written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes, the nationally bestselling and celebrated creator of *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *Kitten's First Full Moon*, and *Chrysanthemum*, *Chester's Way* is a classic picture book about friendship for kids ages 3-7. With sweet good humor and charming pictures, the book's themes of making new friends, accepting others, and trying new things resonate when curled up with a parent or at story time.

Suggested Reading:



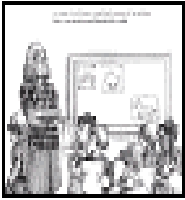
***A House for Hermit Crab* By Eric Carle**

Poor Hermit Crab! He's outgrown his snug little shell, so he finds himself a larger one -- and many new friends to decorate and protect his new house. But what will happen when he outgrows this shell, and has to say good-bye to all the sea creatures who have made Hermit Crab's house a home? Children facing change in their own lives will relate to Hermit Crab's story -- and learn a lot about the fascinating world of marine life along the way.



***The Rainbow Fish* By Marcus Pfister**

A delightful tale with the universal message at its heart about a beautiful fish who learns to make friends by sharing his most prized possessions.



***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)**

From the moment Alexander wakes up and finds gum in his hair, everything goes wrong! His brothers both get prizes in their cereal boxes, his best friend demotes him to third-best friend, there are lima beans for dinner, and there is kissing on TV. All kids experience this kind of day and will be glad to find they are not alone!



***The Bears' Picnic* by Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain**

The Berenstain Bears endure countless trials before finding a suitable picnic spot.



***Bedtime for Frances* by Russell Hoban, Garth Williams (illus.)**

It may be bedtime for Frances, but that doesn't mean Frances is ready to go to bed -- not by a long shot. First she must have a glass of milk and make certain Mother and Father have each kissed her good night (twice). Then she is ready to imagine there is a tiger in her room, and a giant, and ... each time Frances thinks up something new, off she goes to tell her ever-patient, if increasingly weary, parents. The familiar delaying tactics of Frances the song-singing badger have delighted fans young and old for more than three decades. Combining sympathetic understanding with gentle humor, Russell Hoban created in Frances a character at once immediately recognizable and eminently likable. In this new edition, the warmth of full color enriches Garth Williams's original artwork, bringing a fresh look to an enduring favorite.



***Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr., Eric Carle (illus.)**

Eric Carle's double-page tissue collages and Bill Martin's friendly chant unite to create this vibrant introduction to colors. The first line of the book is the title, to which a big brown bear responds, "I see a redbird looking at me." The redbird responds with another animal and so on, until a mother (or a teacher, depending on the edition) asks a group of children what they see. A wonderful read-aloud for either a group or individuals, this book is a favorite of teachers.



***Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys, and Their Monkey Business* by Esphyr Slobodkina**

A cap peddler wakes from a nap to find all his caps are gone -- a bunch of naughty monkeys have taken them up a tree. Angrily shaking his finger at the monkeys, the peddler demands his caps back, but the monkeys only shake their fingers and say "Tsz, tsz, tsz." No matter what the peddler does, the monkeys only imitate him. Finally, the peddler is so enraged he throws his cap on the ground -- and all the monkeys follow suit!



***Franklin Rides a Bike* by Paulette Bourgeois, Brenda Clark (illus.)**

At the beginning of spring, Franklin and all his friends have training wheels on their bikes. But soon Franklin is the only one who can't ride without them. Every time he tries he falls down, and he's beginning to get discouraged. His mom finally convinces him to keep with it, and Franklin finally rides on his own.



***Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume, Sonia O. Lisker (illus.)**

Nicky has freckles -- they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Once, sitting behind him in class, Andrew counted 86 of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty. One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. And, as luck would have it, who should overhear him but giggling, teasing Sharon. She offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe -- for 50 cents. That's a lot of money, but Andrew is desperate. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens. ...



***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)**

What happens if you give a mouse a cookie? Why, he'll need a glass of milk to go with it! He'll also need a straw, a napkin, a mirror -- each item prompts the need for another. When the mouse is hanging a picture from a refrigerator (how did he get there?), he's reminded that he's thirsty and needs a glass of milk (uh-oh). With this milk, it's absolutely necessary to have a cookie, of course! Bond's wonderful illustrations enliven this modern-day classic.

***The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, Ruth E. Harper, Nancy M. Leak**

In this contemporary classic Chester Raccoon seeks love and reassurance from his mother as he ventures out into the world to attend his very first day of school.



***The Listening Walk* by Paul Showers**

We're going on a Listening Walk. Shhhhh. Do not talk. Do not hurry. Get ready to fill your ears with a world of wonderful, surprising sounds. In this colorfully illustrated book a little girl and her father take a quiet walk and identify the sounds around them. This beautiful lesson in appreciating the extraordinary qualities found in the rhythm of everyday life entices readers to pay more attention to the world surrounding them.

***The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper, George Hauman (illus.), Doris Hauman (illus.)**

When the other engines refuse, the Little Blue Engine tries to pull a stranded train full of toys and good food over the mountain. This classic never loses its appeal or fails to teach its lesson.



***Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey**

This Caldecott Award-winning classic about Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their brood of ducklings has been a favorite since 1941. When Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings are stuck at a busy street in downtown Boston, their policeman friend Michael rushes in to stop traffic and make way for them. McCloskey's sepia illustrations are priceless, and a statue of Mrs. Mallard and her ducklings can be found in the Boston Common today.

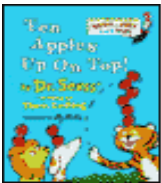
***Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish, Wallace Tripp (illus.)**

Amelia Bedelia, who knows very little about baseball, stands in for a sick player during a game. The result, as usual with literal-minded Amelia Bedelia, is hilarious.



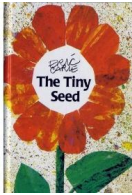
***Quick as a Cricket* by Audrey Wood, Don Wood (illus.)**

A joyful celebration of a child's growing self-awareness. This classic children's book is a teacher's favorite, with outstanding illustrations by Don Wood.



***Ten Apples Up on Top!* by Theodore LeSieg (Dr. Seuss), Roy McKie (illus.)**

A lion, a dog, and a tiger are having a contest -- can they get ten apples piled up on top of their heads? You better believe it! This first counting book works as a teaching tool as well as a funny story.



***The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle**

In autumn, a strong wind blows flower seeds high in the air and carries them far across the land. One by one, many of the seeds are lost -- burned by the sun, fallen into the ocean, eaten by a bird. But some survive the long winter and, come spring, sprout into plants, facing new dangers -- trampled by playing children, picked as a gift for a friend. Soon only the tiniest seed remains, growing into a giant flower and, when autumn returns, sending its own seeds into the wind to start the process over again.



***The Very Lonely Firefly* by Eric Carle**

In this classic and heartwarming story, a very lonely firefly finally finds the friends he is seeking at the end of a tireless search for belonging.

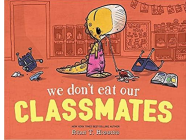
***There's an Alligator Under My Bed* by Mercer Mayer**

This sequel to *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* brings back that story's imaginative young hero for an even funnier nighttime adventure. All kids will identify with the realistic alligator who just happens to live you know where.



***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith
(illus.)**

In this highly acclaimed version, Alexander T. Wolf tells his never-before-heard version of the story. Is he the bad guy history has portrayed him as, or was the big, bad wolf framed? This outrageously funny version of a familiar nursery tale will leave readers grinning all the way to their chinny chin chin.



***We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins**

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all. . . . Readers will gobble up this hilarious new story from award-winning author-illustrator Ryan T. Higgins.

Also suggested:

Elephant & Piggie Books by Mo Willems

Fly Guy books by Ted Arnold

Biscuit books by Allyson Capucilli

Henry and Mudge books by Cynthia Rylant

Katy Duck books by Allyson Capucilli

Froggy books by Jonathan London

