

## Keep Fit This Summer – Read!

Besides getting lots of fresh air and exercise to keep your body fit, take time this summer to keep your brain fit by reading regularly.

The following is a reading list for K-3 students. You are encouraged to read from this list but are not limited to these titles. Your interests and abilities will determine your selection, but don't be afraid to experiment with new authors or topics. The titles included are a sampling of the many available at bookstores and libraries. Take some time to look over the list with an adult and see which titles seem inviting. Enjoy this reading time together.

Keep a record of your summer reading. In September, school activities will focus on sharing summer reading experiences and an accurate list will help with recalling titles, authors, and story lines.

### Concept Books

Concept books provide young children with experiences and explanations that clarify abstract ideas about their world.

Brisson, Pat. **Beach is to fun: A book of relationships.** A day at the beach is the occasion for this rhyming look at the relationships between things.

Gelman, Rita Golden. **Doodler Doodling.** A young doodler begins drawing some teachers teaching and allows her imagination to run free to a surprising conclusion.

Gibbons, Gail. **Check it out!: The book about libraries.** Discusses what is found in a library and how different libraries serve their communities.

Lobel, Anita. **One Lighthouse, One Moon.** While following the activities of a cat and people around a lighthouse, readers count from 1 to 10, learn the days of the week and months of the year and the names of colors.

McLimans, David. **Gone wild: An endangered animal alphabet book.** Presents the alphabet in capital letters designed to look like endangered animals, and lists facts on each species, covering their habitats, geographic ranges, threats to survival, and statuses.

Pallotta, Jerry. **Dory Story.** While taking a bath with his new red toy dory, a boy imagines himself alone on the ocean getting a first-hand look at the ocean's food chain.

Pallotta, Jerry. **The Extinct Alphabet Book.** Each letter of the alphabet features information about a creature that no longer exists.

Williams, Rozanne Lanczak. **The Coin Counting Book.** A counting book using everyday coins to depict counting as well as simple math concepts.

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## **Picture Books**

Picture Books rely on illustrations to interpret the author's text. Most are designed for adults to read aloud to children.

Cronin, Doreen. **Diary of a fly.** A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Cronin, Doreen. **Duck for president.** When Duck gets tired of working for Farmer Brown, his political ambition eventually leads to his being elected President

Funke, Cornelia Caroline. **The Princess Knight.** Princess Violetta, raised by her widowed father, the king, to ride and joust just like her brothers, is horrified when he announces plans to hold a tournament, the winner of which will win her hand in marriage.

Johnson, Donald B. **Henry Hikes to Fitchburg.** While his friend works hard to earn the train fare to Fitchburg, young Henry walks the thirty miles through woods and fields, taking the opportunity to enjoy nature. Includes biographical information on Henry David Thoreau.

McDonald, Megan. **Insects are my life.** No one at home or school understands Amanda Frankenstein's devotion to insects until she meets Maggie.

O'Neill, Alexis. **The Recess Queen.** Mean Jean is the biggest bully on the school playground until a new girl arrives and challenges Jean's status as the Recess Queen.

Polacco, Patricia. **Thunder Cake.** A young girl, while hiding under a bed during a storm, is encouraged by her grandpa to gather ingredients for a thunder cake.

Shannon, David. **A Bad Case of Stripes.** In order to ensure her popularity, Camilla Cream always does what is expected, until the day arrives when she no longer recognizes herself.

Stevens, Janet. **The Great Fuzz Frenzy.** After a dog drops a green tennis ball into a prairie dog burrow, the curious prairie dogs discover the fuzzy cover can be lots of fun and have lots of funny uses.

Kay, Verla. **Iron Horses.** A rhyming text tells the story of the race to build railroads across the U.S. during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Weisner, David. **Flotsam.** The 2007 Caldecott Medal winner features a science minded boy who goes to the beach to collect things that float and discovers a camera with some unusual pictures on the film.

Yolen, Jane. **How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?** Mother and child ponder the different ways a dinosaur can say goodnight, from slamming his tail and pouting to giving a big hug and kiss.

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## **Beginning Readers**

Beginning Readers, short on text and high on interest appeal, are designed for children to read on their own with some help.

Brown, Jeff. **Flat Stanley**. Stanley Lambchop is just a normal boy, with a normal younger brother named Arthur, and two normal parents. That is, until a bulletin board falls on him during the night and flattens him to half an inch thick

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin. **Biscuit**. Biscuit, a little yellow dog, continues to want just one more thing before he will go to sleep.

Cushman, Doug. **Inspector Hopper**. Inspector Hopper and his perpetually hungry assistant McBug solve three mysteries for their insect friends.

Kline, Suzy. **Horrible Harry (series)**. Harry and his friends have great times in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Marshall, James. **Fox Outfoxed**. Fox competes in a big race, gives away his comic books, and goes trick-or-treating on Halloween with his friends.

Parish, Peggy. **Amelia Bedelia**. A literal-minded housekeeper causes a ruckus in the household when she attempts to make sense of some instructions.

Rylant, Cynthia. **High Rise Private Eyes: the case of the missing monkey**. Meet the High Rise private eyes. Bunny is the brains, Jack is the snoop and together they crack cases wide open.

Rylant, Cynthia. **Mr. Putter and Tabby**. Mr. Putter and his favorite cat, Tabby enjoy adventures together.

Rylant, Cynthia. **Puppy Mudge has a Snack**. Henry's puppy Mudge has a big appetite. Will Henry get anything to eat?

## Chapter Books

These chapter books contain longer stories and are designed for fluent readers to read independently or for adults to read aloud to children.

Abbott, Tony. **Secrets of Droon: 1-The Hidden Stairs & the Magic Carpet.** Eric and his friends find entry into the world of Droon by using a staircase in Eric's basement.

Cleary, Beverly. **Muggie Maggie.** Maggie resists learning cursive writing in the third grade, until she discovers that knowing how to read and write cursive promises to open up an entirely new world of knowledge for her.

Clements, Andrew. **Jake Drake: Bully Buster.** Jake faces the challenge of cooperating with the school bully on a class project.

Colfer, Eoin. **Eoin Colfer's legend of ... Spud Murphy.** When their mother starts dropping them off at the library several afternoons a week, nine-year-old William and his brother dread boredom and the overbearing librarian, but they are surprised at how things turn out.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Mercy Watson to the Rescue.** After Mercy the pig snuggles to sleep with the Watsons, all three awaken with the bed teetering on the edge of a big hole in the floor.

Hurwitz, Johanna. **Class Clown.** Lucas Cott, the most obstreperous boy in the third grade, finds it very hard to turn over a new leaf when he decides to become the perfect student.

McDonald, Megan. **Judy Moody.** 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Judy Moody is in a first day of school bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself.

Mills, Claudia. **7 x 9 = Trouble!** Third-grader Wilson struggles with his times-tables in order to beat the class deadline.

Roy, Ron. **A to Z mystery series.** Various stories where Dink Duncan and his two friends investigate mysteries of all kinds.

Stilton, Geronimo. **Geronimo Stilton (series).** Newspaper journalist and adventurer Geronimo Stilton has many exciting experiences.

## **Information, Folktales, and Poetry**

Titles in this section include topics and formats of interest to young children and can be enjoyed as independent readers or read-aloud books.

Greenstein, Elaine. **Ice Cream Cones for Sale.** Reveals who really invented the ice cream cone, even before the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair where five people claim they did so.

Hamm, Mia. **Winner's Never Quit!** Mia must learn the hard way that being a team player is more important than winning or losing when she quits the soccer team because she couldn't score a goal.

Himmelman, John. **A Ladybug's Life.** Illustrations and simple text follow the daily activities of a ladybug through its lifecycle, from summer to fall.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **Opening Days: Sports Poems.** A collection of nineteen poems about various sports including baseball, skiing, karate, and tennis.

Lee, Milly. **Earthquake.** A young Chinese girl and her family survive the disaster of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

Lithgow, John. **Micawber.** A squirrel fascinated by art, Micawber leaves a museum with an art student and secretly uses her supplies to make his own paintings.

Maestro, Betsy. **Ferryboat.** A family crosses a river on the second oldest ferry in Connecticut and observes how the ferry operates.

Most, Bernard. **How Big Were the Dinosaurs?** Describes the size of different dinosaurs by comparing them to more familiar objects, such as a school bus, a trombone, or a bowling alley.

Scieszka, Jon. **Math Curse.** When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse.

Scieszka, Jon. **Science Verse.** Presents a story about a teacher who tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything and a student is struck with a curse where he hears nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom.** A fictional account of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery to freedom in Philadelphia, where she leads others along the Underground Railroad.

**Citation:** Summary notes were taken from TITLEWAVE, a subsidiary of Follett Library Resources, Inc.  
**A Note to Parents:**

Your public library card is welcome at all public libraries in the state. Books may be borrowed and returned to any public library in Connecticut. If you go away for the weekend or the week -- visit a nearby library!

The suggested books on this list may be borrowed from the Milford Public Library after the close of school in June. Most of these books are also available in paperback through a co-operative effort with Words to Grow On at 50 Broad Street in Milford, Borders at the Westfield Mall, and Barnes & Noble in Milford.

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