



## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUMMER READING LIST



### STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 3-4

***Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Dinosaur Bones* by David A. Adler**

When she notices some bones missing from a dinosaur skeleton exhibited in the museum, a young girl with a photographic memory tries to discover who has been taking them and why. *Chapter Book; Lexile 490*

***Look to the Stars* by Buzz Aldrin, illustrated by Wendell Minor**

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin takes readers on a journey through the history of space exploration, offering the perfect introduction to everything space related, including the development of the first rockets, America's space race with Russia, details of all the Apollo missions, and the space station. *Nonfiction*

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

Learn how to read the secret language of animal tracks. Find out how to tell how fresh tracks are, which animals made them, how fast they might have been traveling, and more. *Nonfiction; Lexile 1040*

***A Rock is Lively* by Dianna Hutts Aston**

Introduces readers to rocks and minerals, describing how they are created, what they can be used for, and their different forms and types. *Nonfiction; Lexile 1110*

***Mr. Popper's Penguins* by Richard Atwater**

The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 910*

***The End of the Beginning* by Avi**

Avon the snail and Edward, a take-charge ant, set off together on a journey to an undetermined destination in search of unspecified adventures. *Chapter Book; Lexile 620*

***Chloe and the Lion* by Marc Barnett and Adam Rex**

Mac, the author, fires Adam, the illustrator, over their artistic differences about Chloe, the main character of their book, until Mac realizes both of their talents are needed and they must work together or their story about Chloe will never be finished. *Fiction*

***Ivy + Bean What's the Big Idea?* by Annie Barrows**

When all the second grade students must enter the science fair, which has global warming as its theme, best friends Ivy and Bean team up to create an unusual project. *Chapter Book; Lexile 550*

***Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans**

Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 480*

***On a Beam of Light A Story of Albert Einstein* by Jennifer Berne**

Follows the life of the famous physicist, from his early ideas to his groundbreaking theories. *Biography; Lexile 680*

***What Floats in a Moat?* by Lynne Berry**

While trying to cross a moat, Archimedes the Goat and Skinny the Hen learn why objects sink or float. *Picture Book; Lexile 400*

***Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume**

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 370*

***Happy Like Soccer* by Maribeth Boelts and Lauren Castillo**

For soccer games Sierra rides a bus out of the city to fields that are nicer than the "lot" in her neighborhood, but so her auntie can be at her last game, she asks Coach Marco if the team might play in her neighborhood on a day her aunt does not work. *Fiction*

***Violet Mackerel's Natural Habitat* by Anna Brandford**

As the youngest in her family, seven-year-old Violet identifies with small creatures in the natural world, but when she tries to help special ladybug, she learns an important lesson about animal habitats. *Fiction Chapter Book; Lexile 1080*

***The Adventures of Mark Twain* by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Barry Blitt**

An illustrated biography of American author Mark Twain, presented from the perspective of the Twain's famous literary character Huckleberry Finn. *Biography; Lexile 750*

***Wolfsnail A Backyard Predator* by Sarah Campbell**

Stunning photographs and a fact-filled story deliver a closeup look at a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected, predator—the seriously slimy wolfsnail. *Nonfiction*

***Odd Duck* by Cecil Castellucci and Sara Varon**

Theodora is a perfectly normal duck. She may swim with a teacup balanced on her head and stay north when the rest of the ducks fly south for the winter, but there's nothing odd about that. Chad, on the other hand, is one strange bird. Theodora quite likes him, but she can't overlook his odd habits. It's a good thing Chad has a normal friend like Theodora to set a good example for him. But who exactly is the odd duck here? Theodora may not like the answer. *Graphic Novel*

***Leo Geo and His Miraculous Journey Through the Center of the Earth* by Jon Chad**

Armed with scientific knowledge and a magic dagger, Leo is determined to outwit man-eating Quadclops giants and Malvisors and travel to the center of the earth. *Graphic Novel*

***The Year of the Baby* by Andrea Cheng**

Fifth-grader Anna is concerned that her baby sister Kaylee, adopted from China three months ago, is not thriving so she and her best friends, Laura and Camille, create a science project that may save the day. *Chapter Book; Lexile 640*

***Island A Story of the Galapagos* by Jason Chin**

An island is about to be born—one that in time will become the home of plants and animals that exist nowhere else on Earth. This book is the biography of a Galapagos island—from birth, through adolescence, to adulthood, and beyond. *Nonfiction; Lexile 900*

***If You Find a Rock* by Peggy Christian**

Celebrates the variety of rocks that can be found, including skipping rocks, chalk rocks, and splashing rocks. *Nonfiction; Lexile 930*

***Eight Dolphins of Katrina A True Tale of Survival* by Janet Wyman Coleman**

Recounts the true story of eight bottlenose dolphins and their trainers who survived the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. *Nonfiction; Lexile 710*

***Lexie* by Audrey Coulombis**

When ten-year-old Lexie goes with her father to the beach for a week, she is surprised to find that he has invited his girlfriend and her two sons to join them for the entire week. *Chapter Book; Lexile 600*

***The Trouble with Chickens* by Doreen Cronin**

A hard-bitten former search-and-rescue dog helps solve a complicated missing chicken case. *Fiction*

***Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl**

Three farmers, each one meaner than the other, try all-out warfare to get rid of the fox and his family. *Chapter Book; Lexile 600*

***Outside Your Window A First Book of Nature* by Nicola Davies**

Introduces the sights and sounds of the changing seasons, along city streets and in country meadows. *Poetry*

***The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers**

When Duncan arrives at school one morning, he finds a stack of letters, one from each of his crayons, complaining about how he uses them. *Fiction Nutmeg Nominee 2015*

***The Brixen Witch* by Stacy DeKeyser**

Twelve-year-old Rudi stumbles upon a witch's lair while out hunting, takes a gold coin he finds there but loses it again, then must deal with the witch's servant who promises to end the town's rat infestation only if he receives that gold coin, in a story reminiscent of The Pied Piper of Hamelin. *Chapter Book; Lexile 720*

***The Contagious Colors of Mumpley Middle School* by Fowler DeWitt**

When a mysterious illness sweeps through school, causing students to change color, sixth-grade scientist Wilmer Dooley tries to find the cause and cure. *Chapter Book; Lexile 720*

***The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes**

In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 870*

***Barnum's Bones How Barnum Brow Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World* by Tracey Fern**

Documents the work of an early twentieth-century paleontologist, named after the famous circus icon by his ambitious parents, who grew up to work for the American Museum of Natural History and discovered the first documented skeletons of the Tyrannosaurus Rex and other noteworthy species. *Biography; Lexile 1010*

***Locomotive* by Brian Floca**

Almost 150 years ago—just after the Civil War—the completion of the transcontinental railway radically changed both this country's landscape and the opportunity of its people. The book traces the advent of cross-country train travel, focusing on an early trip from Omaha to Sacramento. *Picture Book*

***Moonshot The Flight of Apollo 11* by Brian Floca**

Here is the story of the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon – a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away by steady astronauts in their great machines. *Nonfiction; Lexile 990*

***My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett**

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 990*

***R My Name is Rachel* by Patricia Reilly Giff**

Three city siblings, now living on a farm during the Great Depression, must survive on their own when their father takes a construction job miles away. *Chapter Book; Lexile 550*

***Trains!* by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by Michael J. Doolittle**

Provides information about the history of trains and introduces a variety of trains and their technologies. Step Into Reading series. *Nonfiction; Lexile 390*

***Tales From the Waterhole* by Bob Graham**

During the dry season, Morris the crocodile and his animal friends enjoy playing in and near the water hole. *Chapter Book; Lexile 490*

***Watch Out World, Rosy Cole is Going Green!* by Sheila Greenwald**

Rosie's team comes up with some creative ideas for the Read School Fall Fair, whose mission is to sell "green-themed" products. *Chapter Book; Lexile 760*

***In the Garden with Dr. Carven* by Susan Grigsby**

A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the reards of nature's bounty. Includes factual note about George Washington Carver. *Picture Book; Lexile 990*

***Zita the Spacegirl* by Ben Hatke**

When young Zita discovers a device that opens a portal to another place, and her best friend is abducted, she is compelled to set out to a strange journey from star to star in order to get back home. *Graphic Novel; Lexile 310*

***Emma Dilemma and the New Nanny* by Patricia Hermes**

Emma tries to help her parents understand that, although their beloved new nanny has made a few mistakes, no one can behave perfectly responsible all the time. Emma Dilemma series. *Chapter Book; Lexile 510*

***Strawberry Hill* by Mary Ann Hoberman**

Ten-year-old Allie's family moves from urban New Haven to rural Stamford, Connecticut, in the midst of the Great Depression. *Chapter Book; Lexile 610*

***Super Amoeba* by Jennifer L. & Matthew Holm**

Squish, a meek amoeba who loves the comic book exploits of his favorite hero, "Super Amoeba," tries to emulate him when his best friend is threatened by a bully. *Graphic Novel; Lexile 230*

***Flight of the Honey Bee* by Raymond Huber**

Demonstrates how Scout the bee searches for nectar to sustain her hive and pollinates flowers to produce seeds and fruits. *Nonfiction; Lexile 840*

***Sidney and Sydney Book One Third Grade Mix-Up* by Michele Jakubowski**

It is the first day of third grade and sassy Sydney and the new boy Sidney are not only neighbors, they are in the same class, so mix-ups are inevitable—but they soon find they share some common interests, including a love for Halloween. *Chapter Book*

***The Beetle Book* by Steve Jenkins**

An illustrated introduction to a variety of beetle species with information on unique characteristics and how these insects have adapted to survive. *Nonfiction; Lexile 980*

***Bones Skeletons and How They Work* by Steve Jenkins**

A guide to human and animal skeletons provides informative comparisons while sharing such facts as the number of bones in the human body and the ways that skeletal structures work. *Nonfiction; Lexile 980*

***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Brian Mealer**

When 14-year-old William Kamkwamba’s Malawi village was hit by a drought in 2001, everyone’s crops began to fail. His family didn’t have enough money for food, let alone school, so William spent his days in the library. He came across a book on windmills and figured out how to build a windmill that could bring electricity to his village. Everyone thought he was crazy but William persevered and managed to create a functioning windmill out of junkyard scraps. Several years later he figured out how to use the windmill for irrigation purposes. *Nonfiction; Lexile 910*

***Miracle Mud* by David A. Kelly and Oliver Dominguez**

Lena Blackburne loved baseball. He watched it, he played it, he coached it. But he didn’t love the ways players broke in new baseballs. Tired of soggy, blackened, stinky baseballs, he found a better way. Thanks to a well-timed fishing trip and a top-secret mud recipe, Lena Blackburne Baseball Rubbing Mud was born. For seventy-five years, baseball teams have used Lena’s magic mud to prepare baseballs before every game. Read the story of how Lena’s mud went from a riverbank to the major leagues and all the way to the Hall of Fame. *Biography*

***Me and the Pumpkin Queen* by Marlane Kennedy**

Although Aunt Arlene tries to interest her in clothing and growing up, ten-year-old Mildred is entirely focused on growing a pumpkin big enough to win the annual Circleville, Ohio, contest, as her mother dreamed of doing before she died. *Chapter Book; Lexile 790*

***The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* by Barbara Kerley**

The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built life-sized models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about these awe-inspiring ancient animals and what they were like. *Biography; Lexile 550*

***Hiss-s-s-s!* by Eric A. Kimmel**

When a Muslim American boy named Omar finally convinces his family that he should have a pet snake, it escapes and Omar learns why his mother is so scared of them. *Chapter Book; Lexile 540*

***Dying to Meet You* by Kate Klise**

In this story told mostly through letters, children’s book author, I. B. Grumply, gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer. *Chapter Book; Lexile 730*

***Muddy as a Duck Puddle and Other American Similes* by Laurie Lawlor**

A collection of 26 American similes—one for each letter of the alphabet—including notes on the origins and meanings of each. *Nonfiction*

***Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World* by Laurie Lawlor**

Retells the story of Rachel Carson, a pioneering environmentalist who wrote and published “Silent Spring,” the revolutionary book pointing out the dangerous effects of chemicals on the living world. *Biography; Lexile 890*

***The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf**

Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 710*

***The Tales of Uncle Remus* as told by Julius Lester**

A retelling of the Afro-American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 760*

***Please Bury Me in the Library* by J. Patrick Lewis**

An illustrated collection of fifteen poems about the joy of books and reading. *Poetry*

***Pippi Longstocking* by Astrid Lindgren**

Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey – but without any parents – at the edge of a Swedish village. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 870*

***Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan**

When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 560*

***Family Pack* by Sandra Markle**

A young wolf, taken from her pack in Canada to Yellowstone National Park, struggles along to master the skills of hunting and survival until she finds a lone male and begins a new pack with him. *Picture Book; Lexile 760*

***Judy Moody Saves the World* by Megan McDonald**

When Judy Moody gets serious about protecting the environment, her little brother Stink thinks she is overdoing it, but she manages to inspire her third grade class to undertake an award-winning, environment-saving project. *Chapter Book; Lexile 500*

***Lulu and the Dog from the Sea* by Hilary McKay**

Seven-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach. *Chapter Book*

***Marty McGuire Digs Worms!* by Kate Messner**

With help from her Grandma Barb, Marty builds a habitat for worms in her school cafeteria as part of the Save the Earth Project. *Chapter Book*

***Survival at 120 Above* by Debbie S. Miller**

Introduces the variety of animals who call the Australian Simpson Desert home and shows how they have adapted to survive extreme temperatures. *Nonfiction; Lexile 960*

***How Oliver Olson Changed the World* by Claudia Mills**

Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system. *Chapter Book; Lexile 730*

***Stay The True Story of Ten Dogs* by Michaela Muntean, K.C. Bailey, and Stephen Karmierski**

Meet Luciano Anastasini, a man who calls the circus home. Meet ten dogs that have no home. When fate brings man and dogs together, a remarkable story of belief and second chances unfolds. So step right up, and prepare to be amazed! *Nonfiction*

***Mama Miti Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya* by Donna Jo Napoli**

The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. *Biography; Lexile 710*

***Snook Alone* by Marilyn Nelson**

Through the power of faith, a monk named Abba Jacob and his loyal rat terrier, Snook, are reunited after being separated by a ferocious storm. *Picture Book; Lexile 890*

***Boys of Steel* by Marc Tyler Nobleman**

Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster, two misfit teens in Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent than Superman. They escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine tales. In 1934, they created the superhero, but it took 4 years to convince a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format—the comic book. *Nonfiction*

***The Secret of the Stone Frog* by David Nytra**

Siblings Leah and Alan wake one morning in the middle of an enchanted forest and encounter a strange and spectacular world filled with foppish lions, giant rabbits, and a talking stone frog for a guide. *Graphic Novel*

***Twelve Kinds of Ice* by Ellen Bryan Obed**

From the first ice, a thin skin on a bucket of water, through thickly-iced fields, streams, and gardens, a girl, her family, and friends anticipate and enjoy a winter of skating, ending with an ice snow. *Chapter Book; Lexile 870*

***The Spindlers* by Lauren Oliver**

Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother. Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the vilest of creatures—the spider-like spindlers. *Chapter Book*

***Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco**

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 590*

***Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold**

A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 790*

***The Secret of the Stones* by Robert D. San Souci**

When they try to find out who is doing their chores while they are working in the field, a childless couple discovers that the two stones they have brought home are actually two bewitched orphans. *Traditional Literature; Lexile 700*

***Grandfather's Journey* by Allen Say**

A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 560*

***Science Verse* by Jon Scieszka**

When the teacher tells his class that they can hear the poetry of science in everything, a student is struck with a curse and begins hearing nothing but science verses that sound very much like some well-known poems. *Picture Book*

***Out of This World Poems and Facts About Space* by Amy E. Sklansky**

Offers lyrically presented facts about space and with perspective illustrations and additional explanations in the margins. *Nonfiction Poetry*

***Abe Lincoln's Dream* by Lane Smith**

When a schoolgirl gets separated from her tour of the White House and finds herself in the Lincoln bedroom, she also discovers the ghost of the great man himself. *Picture Book; Lexile 390*

***Zig and Wikki in the Cow* by Nadja Spiegelman**

Two extraterrestrial friends land on Earth in the center of a farm ecosystem, where an argument forces them to separate, only to be brought back together in the stomach of a cow. *Graphic Novel; Lexile 270*

***Nanny Piggins and the Wicked Plan* by R. A. Spratt**

When Mr. Green announces his diabolical plan to remarry, his children are horrified at the thought of losing their beloved Nanny Piggins. Includes a story called “Nanny Piggins and the Tunnel to China.” *Chapter Book; Lexile 880*

***No Monkeys, No Chocolate* by Melissa Stewart**

When you think of chocolate, you might think of a candy bar, a birthday cake, or a glass of chocolate milk. But where does chocolate come from? This book tells about the coca bean, which grows in the tropical rain forests, and how the animals and other living things play an important part, even the monkeys. *Nonfiction; Lexile 740*

***Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet**

Everyone’s a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Who first invented these “upside-down puppets”? Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! In brilliant collage illustrations, Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy’s parade. *Biography*

***The Taxing Case of the Cows* by Iris Van Rynbach & Pegi Deitz Shea**

In the 1800s, Abby and Julia Smith refused to pay an unfair property tax. When the authorities confiscated their cows, the Smiths bought them back at auction, year after year, attracting the attention of women’s suffrage supporters across the country. *Nonfiction*

***Lulu and the Brontosaurus* by Judith Viorst**

Lulu’s parents refuse to give in when she demands a brontosaurus for her birthday and so she sets out to find her own, but while the brontosaurus she finally meets approves of pets, he does not intend to be Lulu’s. *Chapter Book; Lexile 910*

***Boy of the Deeps* by Ian Wallace**

James, the son of a coal miner, goes with his father for the first time to work in the mines of Cape Breton. *Picture Book; Lexile 690*

***Charlotte’s Web* by E. B. White**

Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer’s Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 680*

***Frankie Pickle and the Pine Run 3000* by Eric Wight**

Fourth-grader Frankie Piccolini’s vivid imagination does not help him advance in rank with the rest of his Possum Scout troop, but winning the Pine Run 3000 model car race would give him the points he needs. *Chapter Book*

***On the Banks of Plum Creek* by Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Laura and her family move to Minnesota where they live in a dugout until a new house is built and face misfortunes caused by flood, blizzard, and grasshoppers. *Chapter Book; Lexile 720*

***The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams**

By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 820*

***Rumpelstiltskin* by Paul O. Zelinsky**

A strange little man helps the miller’s daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. *Favorites & Classics; Lexile 740*

**Favorite Series**

***Amber Brown*** series by Paula Danziger

***Babymouse*** series by Jennifer L. Holm

***Bunnicula*** series by James Howe

***Frog and Toad*** series by Arnold Lobel

***Gooney Bird*** series by Lois Lowry

***Junie B. Jones*** series by Barbara Park

***Clementine*** series by Sara Pennypacker

***Calvin Coconut*** series by Graham Salisbury

***The Time Warp Trio*** series by Jon Scieszka

***Commander Toad*** series by Jane Yolen