

RSU 21 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Incoming Second
and
Third Graders

Reading strategies to make summertime reading a success!

- **Set aside time each day for family and/or independent reading.**
- **Read to your children, even the older ones.**
- **Have your child read to you. (If it is a wordless book, let them create a story from the illustrations.)**
- **When traveling, bring an audio book for the whole family to listen to. (KFL and Graves Library have dozens of titles to choose from!)**
- **Let your child see you reading!**
- **Take advantage of the many summer activities your local library has to offer.**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RSU 21 is pleased to present our students with this Summer Reading Guide to provide them with a list of age appropriate (“just right”) books, in all genres, that we hope will appeal to readers of all ability levels. Reading fluency requires practice and time, just like any other activity, and the more children practice, the more confident readers they will become!

Students entering Second and Third Grades are expected to read at least three “just right” books this summer - one Fiction, one Non-Fiction, as well as one free choice. In addition to reading 25 minutes each day, students should record their completed books on the attached reading log. Although students are not required to choose books from this guide, they are strongly encouraged to do so. Furthermore, please feel free to take a look at our reading guides for the other grades.

Most of the books in this guide are available at the Kennebunk Free Library and Louis T. Graves Public Library in Kennebunkport, in addition to local and online booksellers. A few printed copies of this guide will also be available at both of the public libraries and the district’s Central Office, located within the Kennebunk Elementary School.



2ND-3RD SUMMER READING GUIDE

Fiction

Picture Books

***Beauty and the Beast* as retold by H. Chuku Lee.** In this remarkable retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*, award-winning illustrator Pat Cummings creates an enchanted fairy-tale world flavored by the art, architecture, and culture of West Africa, while writer H. Chuku Lee stays true to the story of this beloved classic.

***Deep in the Sahara* by Kelly Cunnane.** Lalla lives in Mauritania where the sun burns, the sands shift, and all answer the call to prayer. It is her wish to wear, like the women around her, a malafa, or airy, colorful cloth worn over clothes and covering the head.

***Journey* by Aaron Becker.** 2014 Caldecott Honor Book. Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination — and unexpected friendship.

***Mr. Wuffles!* by David Wiesner.** 2014 Caldecott Honor Book. Mr. Wuffles ignores all his fancy cat toys. Still sporting price tags, they line the hallway as he strolls by. But resting quietly among the feathers, balls, and mice is a tiny metal spaceship, and this catches his attention.

***Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson.** Can one good deed from an ordinary girl change the world? It can when she's Ordinary Mary, who creates a chain reaction that multiplies around the world.

Chapter Books

***The Bathing Costume or The Worst Vacation of My Life* by Charlotte Moundlic.** Eight-year-old Myron is about to spend his first vacation without his mother and he is already dreading the separation. Add in a 10-foot diving board, a stern grandfather, and his older brother's too large bathing suit and Myron's not sure how he's going to survive this adventure

Fiction

Chapter Books, continued. . .

***Hello, Nebulon!* by Ray O'Ryan.** Zack is worried about moving to Nebulon - what if his new teacher has two heads? What if the pizza comes with bugs instead of pepperoni? Cartoonish space-age illustrations depict Zack making a new friend, riding a hoverbike, and exploring his jazzy new house.

***Two and Only Kelly Twins* by Johanna Hurwitz.** Arlene and Ilene Kelly love being identical twins. No one, except their parents, can tell them apart. So when a group of triplets moves to their school, Arlene and Ilene are left wondering if being a twin is all that extraordinary after all.

***The Year of Billy Miller* by Kevin Henkes.** 2014 Newbery Honor Book. Meet second-grader Billy Miller in this fast-paced and funny story about friendship, sibling rivalry, and elementary school.

Series

***Boris* series by Andrew Joyner.** Meet Boris, an anthropomorphized warhog 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.

***Down and Sit* series by Lucy A. Nolan.** In a clever take on the dog story, these chapter books are told from the point of view of two canines who think they have a handle on the human world, but are amusingly mistaken.

***The Red Blazer Girls* series by Michael D. Beil.** With wit, cunning, snappy dialogue, and superior math skills, The Red Blazer Girls represent the best of girl-detectives while still feeling relatable and real.



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Graphic Novels

***Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires.** Binky is a space cat - at least in his own mind. He's really a house cat who has never left the family "space station." Unlike other house cats, Binky has a mission: to blast off into outer space (outside), explore unknown places (the backyard), and battle aliens (bugs).

***Robot, Go Bot: A Comic Reader* by Dana Meachen**

Rau. This Step 1 comic reader tells the story of a girl and a robot whose friendship is tested when one of them gets a bit bossy.

Poetry

***Follow Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems* by Marilyn**

Singer. This companion to *Mirror Mirror* (2010) offers another fairytale-themed collection of free verse poems, each paired with its "reverso," or the poem in reverse.

Non-Fiction/Informational

***And the Winner Is . . . Amazing Animal Athletes* by Etta Kaner.** In this unique facts book, animals compete in sporting events such as high jump, swimming, and weight lifting. Readers are encouraged to guess which animal will win before turning the page.

***Eight Dolphins of Katrina* by Janet Wyman Coleman.**

This account of the loss and rescue of eight dolphins from a destroyed tank at the Marine Life Oceanarium in Gulfport, Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina will intrigue readers.

***Eye of the Whale* by Jennifer O'Connell.** This book describes the incredible rescue of a humpback whale that was found tangled in lines from crab traps miles off the coast of San Francisco.

***Flight of the Honey Bee* by Raymond Huber.** Follow the flight of a honey bee as she searches for nectar to sustain her hive and, along the way, pollinates flowers to produce seeds and fruits.

Non-Fiction/Informational, continued. . .

***Hide and Seek Science: Animal Camouflage* by Emma Stevenson.** The stunning book looks at how animals use camouflage in seven distinct ecosystems spanning the globe.

***How Things Work in the Yard* by Lisa Campbell Ernst.** Ernst's newest book celebrates children's curiosity about the world around them and, specifically, the things found in any yard.

***Locomotive* by Brian Floca.** The 2014 Caldecott Medal Winner and Sibert Honor Book, *Locomotive* is a rich and detailed sensory exploration of America's early railroads.

***Parrots Over Puerto Rico* by Susan Roth.** Robert F. Sibert Information Book Award. A triumphant reminder of the inescapable connection between people's actions and the animals in the wild.

***Papa's Mechanical Fish* by Candace Fleming.** This creative book is a fictional account based on events in the life of eccentric inventor Lodner Phillips as told from the perspective of his daughter, Virena.

***Pluto's Secret: An Icy World of Discovery* by Margaret A. Weitekamp.** People, children especially, have been baffled, bewildered, and even outraged by the fact that Pluto is no longer called a planet. Through whimsical artwork and an entertaining dialogue format, *Pluto's Secret* explains the true story of this distant world.

***The Secret Pool* by Kimberly Ridley.** The secret pool is a vernal pond, also known as an ephemeral pool, for its temporary existence as a small, forest wetland habitat. This is an engaging look at a habitat not often covered in science curricula.



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Non-Fiction/Informational, continued . . .

Biography

***The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos* by Deborah Heligman.** Though eccentric mathematician Paul Erdos might seem an unusual subject for a picture book, his story makes for a memorable biography.

***Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World* by Elizabeth Rusch.** Thomas Edison's name may be better known, but as the man who made alternating current a practical means of delivering electrical power, Tesla has had a far greater influence on our world. Remote controls, fluorescent lights, X-rays, speedometers, cell phones, even the radio — all resulted from Nikola Tesla's inventions!

***Papa is a Poet: A Story About Robert Frost* by Natalie S. Bober.** Narrated by Frost's oldest daughter, Lesley, and based upon her childhood journal, it begins with the family's return home from two years in England, where they had lived so Frost could concentrate on writing poetry instead of farming. This biography wonderfully captures the poet's personality, his love for family, and the inner strength that allowed him to follow his dreams.

Non-Fiction/Informational, continued . . .

Biography continued. . .

***A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jennifer Bryant.** Born in Pennsylvania in 1888, Horace Pippin loved to draw and paint as a child. Painting subjects drawn mainly from observation, memory, family stories, and the Bible, this self-taught African American artist was eventually discovered by the art community.

***Tree Lady: The true story of how one tree-loving woman changed a city.* by H. Joseph Hopkins.** Unearth the true story of green-thumbed pioneer and activist Kate Sessions, who helped San Diego grow from a dry desert town into a lush, leafy city known for its gorgeous parks and gardens.

***Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell* by Tanya Lee Stone.** Women not able to be doctors? There's a crazy thought! Yet one woman had to be first. This is the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, who fought the scorn, the sneers, and the barriers on her way to becoming a physician.



New and Notable Reads the Entire Family will Enjoy!

***Bedtime Math* by Laura Decker**

***The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt.**

***GO: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* by Chip Kidd**

***Look Up! Bird Watching in Your Backyard* by Annette LeBlanc Cate**

***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry* by J. Patrick Lewis**

***Treasury of Egyptian Mythology* by Donna Jo Napoli**

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BOOKS I HAVE READ...

From this guide:	Books I found:	My Favorites:

We wish you all a wonderful and safe summer filled with adventures, both outdoors and within the covers of a good book!

Many thanks to the following people who have contributed both their time and expertise to create this guide:

Bernie Alie , Terri Bauld, Mary Cavagnaro, Jan Dixon, Julie Hoyle, Jamie Jenson, Ann Kennedy, Allison LaFlamme, Marty McGovern, Heather McLaughlin, Susan Mirisola, Kate Moxham, Suzanne O'Hara, Joy Russo, and Sheila Wells